

# Bible Baptist Church



By-Laws

# CHURCH CONSTITUTION

## PREAMBLE

So that things may be done decently and in order in accordance with the accepted tenets of other churches of like precious faith, and that we may more readily help each other in our Christian service, we declare and establish this constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

## ARTICLE I

### NAME AND PURPOSE

#### SECTION 1 - NAME

This congregation of believers shall be known as the Bible Baptist Church.

#### SECTION 2 - PURPOSE

- (A) This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building, maintaining and operating of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, day-care centers, camps, nursing homes, and cemeteries, and any other ministries that the church may be led of God to establish.
- (B) The church shall also ordain and license men to the Gospel ministry; evangelize the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; educate believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; maintain missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country; and engage in any other ministry that the church may decide, from time to time, to pursue in obedience to the will of God.

# ARTICLE II

## STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

### SECTION 1 - STATEMENT OF FAITH

#### (A) The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible and God-breathed, and therefore are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning. The King James 1611 Authorized Version of the Bible shall be the official and only translation used by the church (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21).

#### (B) Dispensationalism

We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these dispensations-the law, the church, and the kingdom-are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture (Gen. 1:28; 1 Cor. 9:17; 2 Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. 1:10; 3:2-10; Col. 1:24-25, 27; Rev. 20:2-6).

#### (C) The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each coeternal in being, coincidental in nature, coequal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 14:10, 26).

**(D) The Person and Work of Christ**

- (1) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8).
- (2) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through his death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; 1 Peter 2:24; Eph. 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5).
- (3) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2).

**(E) The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit**

- (1) We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14).
- (2) We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 1:17-18; 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27).
- (3) We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order that they can do the work of the ministry (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12).

- (4) We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing, were temporary. We believe that speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit and that ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing according to James 5:14, 15 (1 Cor. 1:22; 13:8; 14:21-22).

#### **(F) The Total Depravity of Man**

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19).

#### **(G) Salvation**

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18-19). We believe Christ died for all men.

#### **(H) The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers**

- (1) We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1,38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet. 1:4-5).
- (2) We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

#### **(I) The Church**

- (1) We believe that the local church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons (1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27).

- (2) We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17,28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).
- (3) We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1,4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- (4) We recognize water baptism and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the church in this age (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:18; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

### **(J) Separation**

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God (Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11).

### **(K) The Second Advent of Christ**

We believe in that "blessed hope," the personal, imminent return of Christ Who will rapture His Church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the nation of Israel (Ps. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; I Thess. 1:10; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6).

### **(L) The Eternal State**

- (1) We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28, 29; 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13).

- (2) We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; I Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6).
- (3) We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment (Matt. 25:41-46; Mark. 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15).

### **(M) The Personality of Satan**

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

### **(N) Creation**

We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin (Genesis 1-2; Ex. 20:11).

### **(O) Civil Government**

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home; 2) the church; and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-14).

**(P) Human Sexuality**

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom 1: 26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).

**(Q) Divorce and Remarriage**

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6).

**(R) Abortion**

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable (Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).

**(S) Missions**

We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20).

**(T) Lawsuits Between Believers**

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander (1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32).

**(U) Giving**

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17). We believe all gifts of time, as the tithe, are voluntary and therefore considered to be donated for the Glory of God and without compensation or expectation of monetary compensation unless under written contract with Bible Baptist Church Trustees.

**(U) Dress Code**

We believe that a Christian (Male or Female of any age) should dress modest at all times, but especially in the Church services and at Church activities.

Dress Code for Church Services: men and boys should wear shirts that cover from the neck line down and long pants (no shorts) to all services. Women and girls should wear a modest dress or skirt (no pants) to all Church services. The dress or skirt should cover the knee while sitting or standing. Shirts or sweaters should cover from the neck line down.

Dress Code for Outside Church Activities: should be the same as the dress code for Church Services unless otherwise authorized by the Pastor. ***We feel this manner of modest dress shows proper Reverence for God and His House!***

**SECTION 2 - AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH**

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing statement of faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members.

**SECTION 3 - COVENANT**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of our Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred, acquaintances, and all others; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful to our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from worldly amusements such as attending ungodly movies, gambling, rock music, and dancing; to be free from all oath-bound secret societies and partnerships with unbelievers; to abstain from narcotic drugs, or intoxicating drink as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior (I Cor. 6:19, 20).

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy of speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure reconciliation without delay.

We moreover engage, that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible, unite with some other church of like faith where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

# ARTICLE III

## MEMBERSHIP

### SECTION 1 - QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Persons interested in joining Bible Baptist Church as the pastor feels led to open the doors of the church for membership will be placed under a 90-day watchcare. They must prove their sincerity and faithfulness to the church and church covenant (Article 2, Section 3) during the watchcare period unless extenuating circumstances occur or convalescing from an existing injury or illness. While on watchcare, the prospective member will **not** have voting privilege. The pastor and board of deacons shall determine if the member has been faithful during the watchcare period, and if so, will then recommend them to the church for membership.

Upon a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at any church service or meeting, membership shall be extended to all whose lives evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; who renounce sin; who endeavor to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord; who fully subscribe to the statement of faith contained herein; and who enter into the church covenant contained herein; and upon compliance with any one of the following conditions:

- (A) By baptism (immersion) as a true believer in Christ Jesus as personal Savior;
- (B) By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing church of like faith and practice, or other written statement of good standing from the prior church if the applicant has been baptized by immersion subsequent to a profession of faith;
- (C) By testimony of faith, having been baptized by immersion; or
- (D) By restoration, if having been removed from membership, upon two-thirds majority vote of the congregation after confession is made publicly before the church membership of the sin or sins involved, and satisfactorily evidencing repentance to the pastor and board of deacons (or the board of deacons if the office of pastor is vacant).

**SECTION 2 - DUTIES OF A MEMBER**

On becoming a member of this church, in addition to the covenant contained in Article II, Section 3, each one further covenants to love, honor, and esteem the pastor; to pray for him; and to recognize his authority in spiritual affairs of the church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the church; to support the church in prayer, tithes, offerings and with other financial support as the Lord enables; and in accordance with Biblical commands to support through a life-style walk affirmation of the beliefs and practices of the church. Each member shall show his/her dedication by faithfulness to all services and functions of the church except when extenuating circumstances exist which shall be determined by the pastor and board of deacons.

**SECTION 3 - PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP**

This congregation functions, not as a pure democracy, but as a body under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the pastor as the undershepherd with the counsel of the board of deacons. Membership in this church does not afford those individuals with any property, contract, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Determination of the internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church's own rules and procedures. The pastor shall oversee and/or conduct all aspects of this church. The board of deacons shall give counsel and assistance to the pastor as requested by him. The membership of the church has certain limited areas of exercising a vote. Only members sixteen years or older shall be entitled to vote on matters pertaining to the disciplining of church members, the purchase or sale of real property, and the dismissal or calling of a pastor. Members may not initiate any church action, only the pastor and deacons, but rather the vote of a member is to confirm and ratify the direction of the church as determined by the pastor.

**SECTION 4 - DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER**

(A) There shall be a discipline committee consisting of the pastor and the board of deacons. These men shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the statement of faith and violations of the church covenant. If the pastor or a deacon is the subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a member of the discipline committee. He shall be entitled to the same steps as other church members and be subject to the same discipline.

- (B) Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.
- (C) If reconciliation is not reached, a second member, either a deacon or the pastor is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination, and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.
- (D) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the church upon a two-thirds majority vote of the membership present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering disciplinary action.
- (E) No matter may be heard by the church unless the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, except in the case of a public offense.
- (F) If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the church membership, all contact with him from that point forward must be for the sake of restoration (except family members).
- (G) If the disciplined party is removed from the church membership, we cannot recommend the individual to the membership of another church, as they will no longer be a member of Bible Baptist Church.

## **SECTION 5 - TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP**

Members, not under the disciplining process of Section 4, may request that letters of transfer be sent to another church.

**SECTION 6 - INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP STATUS**

A member may be placed on inactive status if he/she is absent from church services without sufficient reason for a period of 90 consecutive days. At this time the member will be notified he/she is being placed on inactive status which will render that member ineligible to vote until they have once again proved faithfulness for 90 days. If at the end of 180 days no effort has been made to restore that members faithfulness to the church, he/she shall be dropped from Bible Baptist Church roll at which time no recommendation for membership to another Bible Believing church can be made on their behalf.

**SECTION 7 - TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

- (A) The membership of any individual member shall be automatically terminated without notice if the member in question has not proven faithfulness to a regular worship service of the church in the preceding six months. Upon good cause being shown to the pastor, this provision for termination may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the pastor.
- (B) No member of this church may hold membership in another church, If any member unites in membership with another church, that person is automatically terminated without notice from membership in this church.
- (C) A member may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such resignation, except at the discretion of the pastor

# **ARTICLE IV**

## **OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 1 - CHURCH OFFICERS**

The church officers are pastor (see Article V, Section 1), deacon (see Article V, Section 2), church clerk (see Article V, Section 3), secretary/treasurer (see Article V, Section 4), Sunday school superintendent (see Article V, Section 5), and ushers (see Article V, Section 6). One person may hold two or more offices, except that of pastor. The pastor, from time to time as he deems appropriate, may appoint other church officers, subject to a confirmation vote of the church membership.

### **SECTION 2 - DESIGNATION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS**

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church the pastor shall serve as president of the corporation; the church clerk shall serve as secretary of the corporation; the secretary/treasurers(s) shall serve as treasurer of the corporation; and a representative of the board of deacons shall serve as vice president of the corporation.

### **SECTION 3 - ELIGIBILITY FOR CONTINUANCE IN OFFICE**

- (A) All church officers shall affirm their agreement with the statement of faith (as set forth in Article II).
- (B) All church officers must be approved initially by the pastor and church in order for them to commence or continue in their offices.
- (C) Only church members are eligible for election or appointment to any church office or position.
- (D) Officers are expected to be faithful to all functions of the church. An officer is any members who serves the church in any capacity.

**SECTION 4 - TERMS OF OFFICE**

The length of terms of office shall be as follows:

- (A) The relationship between the pastor and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party by the giving of a month's notice, or less by mutual consent. The severance of the relationship between the pastor and the church may be considered at any regular church administration meeting, provided notice to that effect shall have been given from the pulpit to the church two Sundays prior to said regular church administration meeting. A three-fourths majority of the members present and voting shall be required to decide the matter. Disciplinary removal of the pastor from office automatically terminates his membership. A restoration to membership after disciplinary removal will be subject to the requirements of Article II, Section 1(D).
- (B) A vacancy occurring in any office or board, except in the case of the pastor, may be filled at any regular church administration meeting.
- (C) All elected and appointed officers shall serve in their respective offices until their successors are duly elected or appointed.

**SECTION 5 - PASTORAL OVERSIGHT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF**

- (A) Subject to the approval of the church membership and on the condition that they shall become a member of the church upon assuming their duties, the pastor may hire associates and assistants to assist the pastor in carrying out his God-given responsibilities.
- (B) All church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the pastor who has the sole authority to hire, appoint, or dismiss the same upon the approval of the church. The pastor may temporarily suspend any member of the church staff or officers without notice if he deems it an immediate concern and appropriate until a meeting can be called to address the problem with the church.

# **ARTICLE V**

## **DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 1 - THE PASTOR**

- (A) The pastor shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him. He shall administer the ordinances of the church, act as moderator at all church meetings for the transaction of church matters, supervise the teaching ministries of the church, and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership.
- (B) The pastor shall recommend the members of the various offices as necessary at any church administration meeting. He shall serve as the president of the corporation. He shall publicly inform all newly elected officers of the particular function and the responsibilities of their respective offices. He shall extend the right hand of fellowship to all new members and perform such other duties as generally appertain to such a position. The pastor shall be free to choose the means and methods by which he exercises the ministry that God has given him.

### **SECTION 2 - THE BOARD OF DEACONS**

- (A) The board of deacons shall assist the pastor, in such manner as the Word of God teaches, in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church, in conducting the religious services, and in performing all other work of the church. They shall make provision for the observance of the ordinances of the church. They shall, if requested by the pastor, consider applicants for church membership. They may, in cooperation with the pastor, disburse benevolence as needed up to \$250.00 per deacon. They shall assist the pastor in visitation and all other evangelistic efforts of the church. They shall provide the pulpit supply and act as leaders for church meetings if the office of pastor is vacant. The board of deacons shall assist the pastor in caring for the administrative needs of the church's various ministries as requested by the pastor.

(B) The board of deacons shall constitute the board of trustees of the corporation. The board of trustees shall exercise only the following specific powers:

- (1) to purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the church;
- (2) to sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of the church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges.
- (3) to exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation, if such action is mandated by a vote of the church membership.

### **SECTION 3 - THE CHURCH CLERK**

The church clerk shall keep a record of church proceedings, of the membership roll, of all baptisms, of certificates of ordination, licenses and commissions as directed by the church, and preserve all documents, papers, and letters coming into his hands during his term of office. All records are to be kept in the church office, and delivered to any successor upon leaving office. The church clerk shall also serve as the secretary of the corporation.

### **SECTION 4 - THE SECRETARY/TREASURER**

The secretary/treasurer shall account for all funds contributed to the church and shall disburse the same as ordered by the church. He/she shall present a written report of itemized disbursements quarterly. All expenditures of the church except miscellaneous petty cash disbursements shall be paid by check. The secretary/treasurer shall also serve as treasurer of the corporation.

**SECTION 5 - THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT**

The Sunday school superintendent shall supervise the Sunday school. In consultation with the pastor he shall recommend the appointment of the teachers of the Sunday school. He shall preside at the teachers' meetings, and report on the condition of the Sunday school and keep records as needed.

**SECTION 6 - THE USHERS**

The pastor, shall appoint a sufficient number of men to care for the work of ushering and extending the official hospitality of the church to its members and visitors. Their duties include attending to the seating of members and visitors, pass out visitor cards, take attendance, and assist with offerings and special offerings.

**SECTION 7 - ASSOCIATE PASTORS**

Under the direction and guidance of the pastor, the associate pastors of the church shall assist the pastor in carrying out the ministries of the church.

**SECTION 8 - DUTIES OF ALL OFFICERS**

- (A) All records are the property of the church and must be kept in the church office.
- (B) Any officer who neglects his duties as outlined in the constitution may be removed from his/her office at the discretion of the pastor and church and another may be appointed by the pastor to serve the unexpired term.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **MEETINGS**

**SECTION 1 - MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP**

Unless otherwise determined by the pastor, the church shall meet each Sunday for public worship both morning and evening and at least once during the week for Bible study and prayer except when circumstances forbid it, the ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed as God leads the pastor. (I Corinthians 11:25)

**SECTION 2 - MEETINGS FOR CHURCH ADMINISTRATION**

The church will call meetings as necessary through the pastor and deacons. A quorum shall consist of the active members present.

**SECTION 3 - SPECIAL MEETINGS**

(A) The pastor or deacons may call a special meeting at any time they deem it needful to the church. A meeting for election of a pastor may be called by the deacons at any regular church meeting at least two weeks in advance.

(B) Bible conferences, missionary conferences, and revivals may be held as the pastor deems beneficial.

**SECTION 4 - FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the church shall begin January 1st and end December 31st.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**SECTION 1 - PURPOSE**

The church believes that it is to provide the members' children with an education which is based upon and consistent with Biblical teachings. The church believes that the home and church are responsible before God for providing a Christian education. To this end, the church shall engage in ministries in education in keeping with the following dictates:

**SECTION 2 - CHURCH PARTICIPATION**

All educational programs or courses of instruction formulated and offered by the church shall be primarily for the benefit of the members of the church; however, the pastor may permit nonchurch members to participate in church educational programs or courses of instruction if he deems it in the best interest of the church.

**SECTION 3 - STAFF MEMBERSHIP**

All instructors, teachers, and administrators shall be members of this church. This provision shall not apply to visiting missionaries, evangelists, or preachers engaged for the purpose of delivering sermons, conducting revivals, or other special meetings on a temporary basis.

**SECTION 4 - STATEMENT OF FAITH ACCORD**

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be taught and presented in full accord with the statement of faith of the church.

**SECTION 5 - UNITY**

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted in unity with the Statement of Faith and Covenant and shall be considered a fundamental and steadfast (inseparable) ministry of the church.

**SECTION 6 - TEACHING**

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted consistent with the teaching of the inerrant Word of God. Any assertion or belief which conflicts with or questions a Bible truth is a pagan deception and distortion of the truth which will be disclaimed as false. It is the responsibility of every instructor or teacher to present the inerrant Word of God as the sole infallible source of knowledge and wisdom (See article 2, section A).

**SECTION 7 - CHRISTIAN WALK**

All administrators, instructors, and teachers shall continue or adopt a lifestyle consistent with the precepts which they teach, whether in or out of the classroom.

# **ARTICLE VIII**

## **UNAUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES**

All expenditures must be authorized by the pastor or deacons subject to the provisions in Article V, Sections 1 and 2.

# **ARTICLE IX**

## **ORDINATION**

### **SECTION 1 - ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS**

Any member of this church or its mission churches, who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry and possesses the qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, may be ordained as a minister of the Gospel.

### **SECTION 2 - ORDINATION PROCEDURE**

- (A) Upon a conference with the pastor and after the pastor has approved the candidate for ordination, the pastor shall call an ordination council to examine and pass on the qualification of the candidate.
- (B) If the candidate is found worthy of the ordination by the council, the ordination council may ordain the candidate on behalf of the church.
- (C) The pastor and deacons shall arrange for the ordination service.

# **ARTICLE X**

## **TAX-EXEMPT PROVISIONS**

### **SECTION 1 - PRIVATE INUREMENT**

No part of the net earnings of the church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered under written contract and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article I, Section 2 hereof.

### **SECTION 2 - POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT**

No substantial part of the activities of the church shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The church shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

### **SECTION 3 - DISSOLUTION**

Upon the dissolution of the church, the trustees shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the church, dispose of all of the assets of the church to such organization or organizations formed and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the trustees shall determine. Assets may be distributed only to organizations which agree with the church's statement of faith.

### **SECTION 4 - RACIAL NONDISCRIMINATION**

The church shall have a racially nondiscriminatory policy and therefore shall not discriminate against members, applicants, students, and others on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS**

From time to time the church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the pastor and the board of deacons. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Article I, Section 2.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be revised or amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular church administration meeting, provided that said revision or amendment has been submitted in writing and announced from the pulpit fourteen (14) days before the vote is taken.

#### **ADOPTION**

This constitution was adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly-called meeting of the church in which a quorum was present.

This constitution and bylaws supersedes any other constitutions and/or by-laws of \_\_\_\_\_ Bible Baptist Church \_\_\_\_\_ Church.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Minister of Records