

# Constitution and By Laws FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

*LEWISPORT, KENTUCKY*

**Revised July 5, 2017**

**Changes are Highlighted In Yellow**

## **Article I — GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Section 1. NAME.** The name of this church shall be First Baptist Church, located in Lewisport, Kentucky.

**Section 2. PURPOSE.** The purpose of this church shall be the administration of the ordinances of the New Testament; the spiritual growth of its members; ministering to its own community; and the spread of the gospel in all the earth, meaning the winning of lost souls to Jesus.

**Section 3. PRACTICE AND POLICY.** No person and no organization of the church shall engage in any practice or policy contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws of this church.

## **Article II — CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, 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 doctrine; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to support of the ministry and 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 personal devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealing, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating beverages; to avoid all appearances of evil; to avoid all worldly practices which might bring reproach to the cause of Christ and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

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 in speech; to be slow to take offense. 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 where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

## **Article III — ARTICLES OF FAITH**

**Section 1. THE BIBLE.** We believe that the Bible, consisting of sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, was given by divine Inspiration and is the Word of God (II Tim. 8:16-17, II Peter 1:19-21, I Thes. 2:13). It reveals man's state by nature, and presents the only means of his salvation (Romans 3:10-12, Acts 4:12). It constitutes the only perfect rule and final authority in all matters pertaining to Christian faith and practice (Acts 17:11, Isa. 8:20), and sets forth the principles by which man will be judged (Romans 2:1-3).

**Section 2. GODHEAD.** We believe there is only one living and true God, Jehovah (Ps. 83:18, Ex. 6:2.3). He is perfect, infinite and eternal (Matt. 5:48, I Kings 8:27, Ps. 90:2); and is unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, love and truth (Mal. 3:16, I Tim. 1:17, Gen. 17:1, Isa. 8:3, Ps. 19:9, Ex. 34:6, Jn. 3:18). He is the Creator, Preserver, and Ruler of the Universe (Gen. 1:1, Heb. 11:3, Neh. 9:6, Heb. 1:23, Eph. 1:11). He exists in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who are equal in their divine perfection and harmonious in the execution of their distinct offices (Matt. 28:19, Jn. 5:17, 14:17, 15:26, Eph. 2:18, I Jn. 5:7).

**Section 3. THE FATHER.** We believe God is the Father of Jesus Christ His only begotten Son (Jn. 20:17, 3:16); and spiritual Father of the nation Israel (I Chron. 29:10), and all believers in Christ. God the Father made the supreme sacrifice in giving His beloved Son Jesus Christ as a propitiation for the sins of the whole world (Matt. 3:17, Romans 3:24-25, I Jn. 2:2).

**Section 4. THE SON.** We believe that in the fullness of time, the Son humbled Himself and assumed man's nature by being born of the virgin Mary, thus uniting organically and indissolubly the divine and human natures in their completeness in the one unique person of Jesus Christ (Isa. 9:6, Matt. 1:18-25, Ju. 1:14, I Tim. 3:16, Heb. 2:14). By becoming man, He was made near kin to us (Ruth 3:12-13) and having a body, He could offer it as a sacrifice for us (Heb. 10:9-10). Being eternally Jehovah God (Jn. 1:1-14, 8:58) without sin (II Cor. 5:21, Heb. 4:15), the sacrifice He made on Calvary was infinite in value (Jn. 1:29, I Jn. 2:1-2).

**Section 5. THE HOLY SPIRIT.** We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, equal in all aspects with the Father and the Son (Matt. 28:19, Es. 17:17, Heb. 3:7-9, I Cor. 3:18). He proceedeth from the Father and Son (Jn. 15:26). His principal ministry since His advent at Pentecost is to reprove or convict the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment (Jn. 16:8-11); to restrain the progress of evil until God's purposes are accomplished (II Thes. 2:7); to bear witness to the truth preached (Acts 5:30-32); to regenerate those who repent of their sins and exercise faith in Christ (Jn. 3:3-8, Titus 3:5); to instruct, comfort and guide God's children (Jn. 14:16-18, Jn. 26:16), to sanctify them (II Thes. 2:13, I Peter 1:1-13); to empower them for life and service (Romans 8:2, Acts 1:8, Eph. 3:16, I Cor. 2:14, I Thes. 1:5); and to quicken their mortal bodies (Romans 8:11).

### **Section 6. MAN.**

a. **His Creation.** We believe that man was created by an immediate act of God and not by a process of evolution; that he was created in the image and likeness of God, possessing personality; that he was endowed with power of rational and responsible choice between good and evil; and that the purpose of his creation was to glorify God (Gen. 1:27, Col. 3:10, Acts 17:24-28).

b. **His Fall.** We believe man was subject to trial in the Garden of Eden in order to test his loyalty to his Maker (Gen. 2:15-17). Under trial he lost his estate; was alienated from God; and became depraved physically, mentally, morally and spiritually by voluntarily transgressing His positive command and yielding to the enticement of Satan. In consequence of this act of disobedience the entire human race became involved. In every heart there is by nature that evil disposition which eventually leads to responsible acts of sin, and to just condemnation (Gen. 3:1-6, Rom. 5:12-18, 3:10-12, 23, 1:19-31, Eph. 4:18, I in. 1:8-10).

c. **His Redemption.** We believe that God has provided redemption for all men through the mediatorial work of Christ. He voluntarily offered Himself on Calvary as a perfect sacrifice for

sin, the just suffering for the unjust. He was made sin for us, bearing sin's curse, (II Cor. 5:21, Gal. 3:13, Heb. 2:9, I Tim. 2:5-6).

**Section 7. SALVATION, REGENERATION, AND JUSTIFICATION.** We believe that salvation is wholly of grace, but conditional solely on repentance to God and acceptance of Christ by faith (Eph. 2:8-9, Titus 3:5, Acts 4:12, 16:31, II Cor. 7:10). When the sinner has met these requirements God regenerates and justifies him. Regeneration makes the believer a new creation in Christ Jesus (II Cor. 5:17). By the operation of the Holy Spirit through the word, he is given a disposition to obey God (Jn. 3:3-5, 1:1243, I Pet. 1:23). This experience is witnessed to by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16). Justification is a judicial act of God whereby the believer is declared righteous on the basis of Christ's punishment on the cross (Rom. 5:1-9, 4:4-5, Acts 13.39).

**Section 8. SANCTIFICATION.** We believe that sanctification is one aspect of the experience known as baptism with the Holy Spirit. It has to do primarily with separation, cleansing, and setting apart unto God. Every believer at regeneration receives the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9), is sealed (Eph. 1:13), baptized (I Cor. 12:13), and sanctified by the Holy Spirit (I Thes. 2:13, 1 Pet. 1:2). The measure of the Holy Spirit rests with the believer, for he is told not to grieve (Eph. 4:30), nor to quench (I Thes. 5:19), but to yield to (Rom. 6:13, 19), and be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18).

**Section 9. ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER.** We believe that a person once saved can never be lost, for he is born of incorruptible seed (I Pet. 1:23). He is given everlasting life (Jn. 5:24, 10:27, 29), sealed unto the day of redemption (Eph. 4:30), and hid with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). He *is* given knowledge and assurance of eternal life. He is assured of no condemnation nor separation from God (Rom. 8:1, 35-39).

**Section 10. THE CHURCH.** We believe that the church, invisible and universal, is an organism composed of all those who are called out of the world, separated from sin, and vitally united by faith to Christ, the living head and ruler (I Pet. 2:9, Jn. 15:18, Eph. 1:22-23, 4:15-16, I Cor. 12:12-27). The church, local and visible, is an organization made up of a company of professed believers in Christ, voluntarily joined together and meeting at stated times for worship, and instruction in the Word, observing the ordinances, and administering discipline (Acts 2:46,47.20:7). It is the duty of the church to give the Gospel as a witness to all men (Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 5:42), to build itself up in the most Holy faith (Jude 20:21, Eph. 4:11, 12, 16. Acts 20:32), to minister to the widows, orphans, sick, and afflicted (Acts 6:1-9, James 1:27), and to glorify God (I Pet. 4:11).

**Section 11. ORDINANCES.** We believe that Christian ordinances are outward rites appointed by Christ to be administered in each church, not as a means of salvation, but as visible signs and seals of the facts and realities of salvation.

**a. Baptism.** We believe that baptism by immersion in water is the public confession of Christ as Savior and Lord. It is a symbol of one's union, by faith with Christ in death, burial, and resurrection. Therefore, it is to be administered only to those who have given evidence of faith in Christ as their personal Savior (Matt. 28:16-19, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38-41, Rom. 6:3-5, Col 2:12, Acts 8:23-26). **b. The Lord's Supper.** We believe that the Lord's Supper should be observed by all believers in obedience to the command, "This do in remembrance of Me." It symbolizes the death of Christ for the remission of our sins. The Lord's table should be open to all believers who are in right relationship with God (Matt. 26:26-30, Luke 22:19-20, I Cor. 10:16, 11:23-26).

**Section 12. CHRIST'S SECOND COMING.** We believe in the personal, visible, premillennial and imminent return of Christ (Jn. 14:1-3, Acts 1:10, 11, Mark 13:34-37). This will be accomplished in two stages, the rapture and the revelation. The Rapture is Christ's coming for His saints. He will descend into the air to catch away His waiting bride, the church (I Thes. 4:14-18, 1 Cor. 15, Rev. 3:11). The Revelation is Christ descending with His saints (Jude 14, Rom. 8:16-19, Col 3:4, Rev. 19:14), to establish the long promised kingdom, and to reign on the earth for a thousand years (Dan. 7:3, 14, Luke 1:82, 38, Rev. 5:9-10, 20:4-6). Between these two stages, the tribulation judgments are visited upon the apostate and rebellious world (Matt. 24:21, II Thes. 1:3-10, Rev. 6:19).

**Section 13. RESURRECTION AND IMMORTALITY.** We believe that at the return of the Lord (the Rapture), the righteous dead will be raised, and the living believers will be changed. They both will have literal, spiritual, and immortal bodies like unto Christ's own glorious body (Rom. 8:23, I Cor. 15:1-58, I Thes. 4:16-17, Phil. 3:20-21, Luke 24:36-43).

**Section 14. JUDGMENTS.** We believe that the believer's sins are judged in Christ on the cross (II Cor. 5:21, Gal. 3:13, Jn. 5:24); and that His work will be judged for rewards at the judgment seat of Christ immediately following the rapture (I Cor. 3:8-15, I Cor. 4:5, II Tim. 4:8). We believe that the impenitent wicked will be judged at the Great White Throne, judgment after the millennium. The wicked will be consigned to the Lake of Fire, to suffer forever and ever together with the devil and his angels (Eccl. 12:14, Matt. 10:28, Mark 9:48-49, Rom. 2:8-9, Heb. 9:27, Rev. 20:10-15, 14:9-11).

**Section 15. THE ETERNAL STATE.** We believe that after the enemies of God are consigned to their place of punishment, the present order of things will be dissolved. The new heaven, the new earth and the New Jerusalem, dwelleth righteousness, shall be brought in as the final state in which the righteous shall dwell forever (II Pet. 3:10-13, Rev. 21:1-22).

**Section 16. SATAN.** We believe in the reality of Satan. He is a personality who is the unholy prince of this world, the author of all powers of darkness, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the Lake of Fire (Matt. 4:1-3, II Cor. 4:4, Rev. 20:10).

**Section 17. ATTITUDE TOWARD CIVIL GOVERNMENT.** We believe that civil government is ordained of God for the punishment of evil doers and for the protection of the good (Rom. 13:1-7). We therefore consider it our duty to pray for rulers and magistrates (I Tim. 2:1-3). We are to be submissive and obedient to their authority, except in things opposed to the will of God (Titus 3:1, Acts 4:19, 5:29, 1 Pet. 2:13-14, Matt. 23:10), and separation of church and state.

#### **Article IV — MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. MEMBERSHIP.** All members of First Baptist Church at the acceptance of this constitution are members.

ADDED: (With the understanding that they have professed Christ and followed in believer's baptism. Such members are eligible to participate and vote in the transactions of the church).

All members are encouraged to be faithful in all aspects essential to the Christian Life; to faithfully attend the services of the church; to contribute through tithes and offerings to her support; to willingly share in her organized work and to pray and participate in winning our community to Christ.

(ADD) Scripture teaches that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, incest, or pornography is sinful and offensive to God.

**Section 2. ADMISSION OF MEMBERS.** New members may be admitted to the membership if they can give a good testimony of salvation (Jn. 3:3-5, I Pet. 1:23), and if they have been immersed after being saved (Acts 2:38-41). The procedure followed in admitting members is as follows:

- a. The candidate shall be interviewed by the Pastor.
- b. The candidate shall be voted upon by the membership.
- c. The candidate shall be accepted into the membership by a 3/4 vote.
- d. The candidate shall be publicly welcomed into the church.

**Section 3. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.** Transfer of Membership:

a. A church letter of transfer and recommendation may be granted to any member in good standing who wishes to unite with another gospel preaching Baptist Church of like faith and practice. The letter may be granted at a monthly business meeting by a 3/4 vote. The letter is to be sent directly to the Pastor or clerk of the church to which the person is being transferred.

b. Discipline of Members:

1. The pastor and deacons shall constitute a committee of discipline.
  2. The committee shall always use kindness, consideration, and Christian love in their dealings.
  3. Any member in good standing may prefer charges in writing to the committee against any member who has violated this Constitution.
  4. In the case of personal differences between members, Matthew 18:15-17 shall be followed.
  5. If the charge cannot be settled, the accused member will be summoned in writing, to appear before the committee. Failure to do so will place the member in a position in which he can be voted out of the membership.
  6. The committee, having met with the accused member, will vote to quit or convict the accused. If convicted, the committee will recommend that the accused be dropped from the membership. The action taken by the membership is final.
  7. The accused will have the right to appeal the decision at a regular monthly business meeting.
- c. Death: If a member dies, his name is automatically dropped from the membership.

**Section 4. RESTORATION OF MEMBERS.** Any excluded member may be restored to the membership after having dealt with his fault. He then must meet with the deacons and testify of his repentance and desire to live for Christ. Upon their recommendation to the membership, the individual will give testimony of his repentance and desire to live for Christ and be voted on.

## Article V — CHURCH BUSINESS

**Section 1. MEETINGS.**

- a. Public service shall be held at stated times every Sunday, and at least once during the week for prayer.
- b. Business meetings shall be held the first Wednesday after the first Sunday of **the month**. Yearly business meeting shall be held in **June** at which time new officers and teachers are elected and

their term will begin in July.

c. Special business meetings may be called at anytime providing a two day notice has been given to all active members.

ADDED: d. Sunday evening services shall be cancelled on such holidays as: Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Christmas Eve or Christmas Day if they fall on Sundays.

**Section 2. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE.** We shall follow the procedure as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

**Section 3. QUORUM.**

a. A quorum of 60% of the qualified voting members shall be required when calling or dismissing a pastor, buying or selling property, incurring church indebtedness, and amending this constitution.

ADDED: b. Members present would be considered a quorum of qualified voting members.

**Section 4. VOTING.** All matters of business must pass by a 2/3% majority vote. Voting to be done by the raising of hands/verbal, but ballots may be used upon request.

## **Article VI— CHURCH OFFICERS**

**Section 1. PASTOR.**

a. Qualifications: Must be a born again, Bible believing, Baptist pastor who is ordained, or will agree to be ordained within a year. (1 Tim. 8:1-7, Titus 1:5-9).

b. Calling: The deacons or pulpit committee shall announce a candidate two Sundays in advance. The candidate shall speak in the morning and evening services, meet with the committee, during the afternoon and with the members prior to the evening service. His family should be present with him that day. One candidate at a time is to be considered. If called, and he accepts, he becomes a member and Pastor of the church.

c. Service: The pastor shall serve for an unlimited period of time, until he resigns or is dismissed by church vote. In either case, a two-week notice shall be given. He shall be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees of the church.

ADDED :Duties of the Pastor:

The duties of the pastor are pre-eminently spiritual. The pastor is expected to devote himself to "Prayer and the ministry of the Word" (Acts 6:3-4). He is, first and foremost, a preacher and teacher of the Word of God (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:1-4). He is to lead the church in evangelism (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:5). He is to be an equipper for lay ministry, seeking out and training leaders (Ephesians 4:11-16, 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:2). He is to seek God's direction for the church and to communicate it to the Body (Hebrews 13:7, 17). The pastor shall conduct the worship services and oversee the two ordinances of the church. He shall preside at meetings of the church, serve as moderator in all business meetings in keeping with the rules of order authorized in these bylaws. He is the leader and supervisor of the church staff. He shall serve as an ex-officio member of the administrative council, all committees, and all teams.

The Pastor shall be guided by the principles set forth in 1 Timothy 3. He shall be called by God, dedicated to the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, and a man of spiritual discernment and insight.

He shall be evangelistic in his preaching, visitation, programs, and missionary in spirit, seeking to lead the church in every area to carry out the “Great Commission” (Matthew 28:19-20). His theological education shall be such as to provide him with the ability to exercise intellectual and spiritual leadership for the congregation.

**Section 2. DEACONS:**

- a. Qualifications: The qualifications for deacons are listed in Acts 6:1-6 and I Timothy 3:8-13.
- b. Election: Deacons may be elected by recommendation from the deacons or the membership. They are servants and will serve a lifetime unless they disqualify themselves. At the first deacons meeting following the annual meeting, they shall elect a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary. The chairman shall appoint necessary committees.
- c. Responsibilities of Deacons:
  1. They shall be the legal statuatio officers of this corporation. All legal documents shall be signed in the name of the corporation by the chairman and the secretary, of the deacons.
  2. They shall supervise the care of all church property. They shall not buy, sell, or mortgage without the authorization of the membership.
  3. They shall have charge of a safe deposit box for the safe keeping of all important papers.
  4. They shall actively engage in all the spiritual work of the church; examine candidates for church membership, visit the sick, encourage those in spiritual need, assist in the Lord’s Supper and baptism, and assist the pastor in any other possible way.
  5. They shall be in charge of prayer meeting in the pastor’s absence.
  6. They, together with the pastor, shall provide pulpit supply.
  7. They shall make a report of their work at any business meeting, when requested to do so.

ADDED: They shall serve as a council of advice and conference with the pastor in all meetings pertaining to the welfare and work of the church. With the pastor, they are to consider and formulate plans for the constant effort and progress of the church in all things pertaining to the saving of souls, the development of Christians, and the extension and growth of the kingdom of God.

ADDED: Section 3. MODERATOR. The moderator shall be elected annually and shall serve for one calendar year. In the absence of the elected moderator, the chairman of the deacons shall preside; or in the absence of both, the clerk shall call the church to order and a moderator pro-tem shall be elected.

**Section 3. CHURCH CLERK.** The church clerk shall keep exact records of the minutes of the business meetings. The church clerk shall also notify all officers, members of committees, and delegates of their election or appointment. Additionally, the church clerk will give legal notice of all meetings where such notice is necessary, as indicated in these bylaws. The clerk shall consider it a part of their responsibility to promote loyalty and efficiency in church life

**Section 4. CHURCH TREASURER.** The church treasurer shall be responsible for banking the church offerings, keeping accurate records of receipts disbursement, making payments by check, giving church monthly financial report, and meet with deacons when requested to do so.

ADDED: The church treasurer shall be elected annually by the church for a term of one (1) year. The church treasurer shall be responsible for counting, depositing, and recording of the church income. The treasurer shall cause prompt and timely payment of all expenses and the



disbursement of all funds received for denominational causes by check. Maintain accounting records of all receipts and disbursements in an itemized ledger. Render to the church an annual report of total receipts and itemized account disbursements. Insure all financial records and accounts remain the property of the church. Record individual contributions, in confidence. Allow an individual to review their personal contribution record at any time. Mail annual statements to all contributors. The Church Treasurer shall also be required to serve on the Benevolence, Budget, and Church Council Committees.

b. The Assistant Treasurer shall be elected annually by the church for a term of one year. Insure the collections are secured in a safe keeping device until counted and deposited. Record individual contributions, count and deposit all collections into their proper accounts. Directly submit collections to the treasurer. May sign checks in the absence of the treasurer or in case of an emergency.

**Section 5. SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.** The superintendent shall be in charge of the general oversight of the Sunday School.

**Section 6. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT.** The assistant shall assist and serve in the absence of the superintendent.

**Section 7. SUNDAY SCHOOL SECRETARY.** The secretary shall keep an accurate record of Sunday School attendance and order Sunday School material.

**Section 8. HEAD USHER.** The head usher is responsible for ushering. He shall appoint and schedule ushers who are male members with a good testimony.

**Section 9. TRUSTEE.** The trustee is elected by the church for the maintenance and up-keep of the church properties.

ADDED: The trustees are to be elected by the church for the maintenance and up-keep of the church properties. The trustees shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer any property without a specific vote of the church authorizing such action. The trustees are designated to sign legal documents on behalf of the church only after a vote has been approved by the church. The trustees shall oversee insurance on all buildings, properties and vehicles owned by the church. The trustees shall be responsible for issuing building and vehicle keys to those authorized and maintain records of their issue.

a. A Grounds Keeper shall be elected by the church. He shall mow and/or trim each week so the grounds look inviting to others for weekend services. The team shall be responsible for maintaining the parking lot, trimming trees, weed eating, and keeping the lot accessible to traffic.

b. Custodial service to provide church cleaning and keep church treasurer informed of needed supplies.

**Section 10. VACANCIES.** In the event there is a vacancy in an office, the church shall elect someone who is qualified to complete the term of office.

**Section 11. LENGTH OF TERM.** Except for pastor, deacon, and trustee, all terms of office shall be for one year.

**Section 12. QUALIFICATIONS.** All church officers, teachers, and officers of auxiliary departments shall be born again Christians, qualified church members in good standing, and living a life separated from the world.

**ADDED: Section 13. MEMBERSHIP CLERK.** The membership clerk shall keep a complete up-to-date register of members with dates of admission, dismissal, or death, together with a record of baptisms. The membership clerk shall issue letters of dismissal voted by the church, preserve or file communication and written official reports.

## **Article VII— CHURCH DEPARTMENTS**

**Section 1.** Sunday School, women’s fellowship, and any other church organization shall be organized and operated as the majority determines.

**Section 2.** No group shall organize without the permission of the membership. All activities and decisions of the departments shall be in accordance with this constitution.

## **Article VIII — COMMITTEES**

**Section 1. NOMINATION COMMITTEE.** It shall be elected at the March business meeting. It shall be composed of one deacon, the pastor, Sunday school director and two members of the church at large. They shall nominate at least one person for each office, shall check with the nominees, and post a list on the bulletin board two meeting days prior to the annual meeting.

**ADDED: Section 2. W.O.M. DIRECTOR.** The Baptist Women Representative shall be elected by the church to serve annually. This person shall be responsible for promoting special mission offerings through the various mission groups. This person shall be a representative on the Church Council.

**ADDED: Section 3. BROTHERHOOD DIRECTOR.** The Baptist Men Representative shall be elected by the church to serve annually. This person shall be responsible for correlating the Men Mission activities. He shall be a representative on the Church Council.

**ADDED: Section 4. BAPTISMAL COMMITTEE.** Shall be composed of two members, one (1) man and one (1) woman elected by the church annually. They duties will be to assist the person being baptized; and assist the pastor when needed.

**ADDED: Section 5. LORD’S SUPPER COMMITTEE.** This person or persons shall be elected by the church to serve annually. They shall be responsible for the preparation and conduct of the observance of the Lord’s Supper. They shall make sure all supplies are available when needed.

**ADDED: Section 6. BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE.** Shall be composed of the Treasurer and two (2) lay members and they shall be elected to serve annually. **And will follow church guide lines voted on by the church.**

**ADDED: Section 7. DECORATION COMMITTEE.** Shall be composed of one (1) to three (3) persons. They shall be elected annually by the church. They shall be responsible for displaying flowers or other appropriate decorations in the church. They shall coordinate and/or assist with appropriate decorations for special occasions such as Christmas, Easter, etc. They shall be responsible for removing the decorations after the special occasion has past. They shall coordinate and/or assist with appropriate outside decorations.

**ADDED: Section 8. FLORIST COMMITTEE.** Shall consist of one (1) or two (2) persons elected annually by the church. They shall send flowers or other appropriate items to members of the church in time of death. Flowers should be sent only for the death of a parent (mother or father), a child or a spouse (husband or wife) or a sibling (brother or sister).

**ADDED: Section 9. CARD SENDER.** Shall consist of one (1) or (2) persons elected annually by the church. They shall send cards to all members for birthdays, anniversaries, and deaths.

**ADDED: Section 10. PUBLICITY.** This person shall be elected by the church annually. This person shall announce in the paper any and all events of interest pertaining to the church.

**ADDED: Section 11. CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE.** This committee shall consist of three (3) to five (5) persons elected by the church on a 3 year basis. The purpose of this committee is to keep constant surveillance on the fundamental truths and principles in the constitution, covenant, articles of faith and bylaws held by the members of this church. They must have a working knowledge of the church Constitution and Bylaws. The committee shall recommend the addition and updating of such guidelines which will allow the church to accurately relate to her members and to others. This committee will formulate and recommend changes and present the changes to the church body.

**ADDED: Section 12. CHILD CARE REPRESENTATIVE.** The child care representative shall be elected by the church to serve annually. The representative shall coordinate the September Food Round-Up and deliver the food to the Baptist Building. Coordinate the November offering for the Baptist Home for Children. The representative shall maintain a file or notebook of activities, to give to the next representative. The representative shall also advise the church of accomplishments of the Baptist Home for Children in the Association and the State Convention.

**ADDED: Section 13. HOSTESSES COMMITTEE.** The Hostesses committee shall be composed of four (4) or more members elected by the church annually. A chairperson shall be elected. The committee is responsible for preparing the fellowship hall for church fellowships. They will decorate the tables if or when needed. Maintain a high standard of cleanliness by making sure the refrigerator, stove, cabinets and floors are kept clean. The chairperson shall oversee the purchase of all supplies needed for the kitchen: (plates, cups, bowls, forks, napkins, coffee, tea, creamer, sugar table coverings, etc.) and cleaning supplies (floor cleaners, trash bags) when necessary. The Hostess Chairperson shall serve on the Church Council to stay informed of church activities involving the Fellowship Hall.

**ADDED: Section 14, CHURCH COUNCIL.** The church council shall serve the church by leading in planning, coordinating, and evaluating the ministries and programs of the church and its organizations. The primary functions of the church council shall be to recommend to the church and correlate a church calendar of activities so that all organizations can work in cooperation, and to evaluate achievements in terms of church objectives and goals.

**Added: Section 15 - Budget Committee**

This committee is responsible for bringing to the church an annual budget to be approved by the church. After a budget has been adopted by the church, the Budget Committee is to act as a budget control committee and to administer the church's finances according to the budget, or as the church directs in its business meetings. If at any time it appears to the committee that there is needed any adjustments to the budget, the committee should report this to the church at its next business meeting. The Budget Committee is responsible for all financial programs and promotions; they are also responsible for all stewardship programs and promotions. The Treasurer and two at large members shall make up this committee.

**Article IX CHURCH POLICIES**

**Section 1. THE CHOIR.** Those participating in the adult choir of the church shall observe the following:

- a. All choir members must be saved and faithful in attending all services and choir practices.

**Section 2. MONEY RAISING.** Money for the support of this church and its ministries shall be supplied by the tithes and free-will offerings of the members and attendees. And Church Council approved sponsored event.

**Section 3. USE OF CHURCH.** This building has been dedicated to God for His use. Therefore, the building and property shall be used only for those things honoring to Him. The pastor and deacons will authorize the use of the building. It is not to be used by lodges, political organizations, and other organizations. Weddings of nonmembers in this church shall have to be approved by the membership, and follow section four guidelines.

**SECTION 4. DEFINING MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY**

As a matter of faith, doctrine, and governance, we believe as follows:

A) God instituted marriage as a sacred covenant relationship between one man and one woman.

B) Scripture teaches that sexual intimacy should only occur between a man and a woman

who are married to each other and that a man and woman should not engage in intimate sexual activity outside of marriage

C) Scripture requires that every person should be shown compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity; and

D) God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ

### **Section 5 Weddings At First Baptist Church**

Your wedding is one of the great occasions of your life and it is our desire to help you make it everything it ought to be. The wedding is one of the services of the church before God; the church is vitally concerned with the symbolism and propriety of the service. You must both know Christ as personal Savior and at least one of you must be a member. Wedding ceremonies are spiritual acts of worship of God. Weddings on church property officiated by a minister shall be subject to the following:

A) All wedding ceremonies on church property or officiated by a minister of the church shall be for the union between one man and one woman

B) All wedding ceremonies on church property shall be officiated by one or more ordained ministers of the Gospel

C) Any ordained minister who is not an employee of the church and who is officiating a wedding ceremony on church property shall be in agreement with Article IX section 4 and meet with the senior pastor

D) The church may decline to make its facilities or ministers available for any wedding if it is determined in the discretion of the Senior Pastor, or Chairman of the Deacons in the absence of the Senior Pastor, that the marriage is not consistent with Article IX section 4.

E) Before you set the date, consult with the pastor and receive a copy of the church guidelines

F) There is no charge for the use of the church facilities, but we ask that you be responsible for cleaning up the church afterward and any damage done to the facilities

G) There will be no smoking or drinking in the building at any time

**Article X. ORDINATION.**

This church shall reserve the right to license or ordain such male members who feel they are called of God to the public ministry. This matter shall be voted on by the church.

**Article XI. COMMISSIONING.**

Any individual going into full-time missionary service who is a member of this church shall be commissioned by the church at a special public service. This shall be determined by the vote of the church.

**Article XII. AMENDMENT**

This constitution may be amended at any business meeting of the church, provided a written notice and the proposed amendment be posted on the church bulletin board for two Sundays prior to the meeting, and the meeting shall be announced in the church bulletin for two Sundays prior to the meeting.

**Article XIII. DISSOLVING THE CORPORATION.**

This corporation can be dissolved by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of the active membership at a specially called meeting announced in writing to each voting member four weeks in advance. A 60% quorum shall be required at this meeting. The assets must be given to some nonprofit organization chosen by the membership.

**ADDED : Article XIV Directors**

**VBS Director** – Is responsible for planning and directing the Bible school program each year. Will meet with interested individuals to select materials, date, time, and make sure VBS is handled as smoothly as possible.

**MOVIE PRESENTATION DIRECTOR** - Is responsible for choosing a date and time to show a movie presentation to the entire church. Will also supervise getting equipment and anything else needed for presentation. Will work with the church council to decide which movie to view that follows the guidelines in the church video license agreement. Will see that the church video license agreement is renewed annually.