

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
of the
Heritage Baptist Church of Memphis, Tennessee

PREAMBLE

Relying wholly on the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation, and trusting only in the enabling power of the Holy Spirit for guidance, we, the members of Heritage Baptist Church of Memphis, Tennessee, do ordain and establish the following articles, to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLE 1 – NAME

This independent, fundamental, premillennial, evangelistic Baptist church shall be known as Heritage Baptist Church of Memphis, Tennessee.

ARTICLE 2 – PURPOSE

The purpose of this church shall be:

1. To win the unsaved to Christ; 2. To build up the saved in the teaching of Scripture through regular preaching services, prayer services, revival meetings, and Bible study; 3. To promote the objectives set forth in the Church Covenant; 4. To give particular emphasis to the fundamentals of the Faith in earnestly contending for the Faith, and to New Testament methods of personal evangelism; and, 5. To extend this same ministry throughout the world by the support of soulwinning missionaries.

ARTICLE 3 – CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Holy Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, and, upon the profession of our faith having been baptized in the name of the Father, and in the name of the Son, and in the name of the Holy Spirit, 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 contribute cheerfully, regularly and liberally to support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the missionary work thereof and when necessary, the relief of the poor.

We also most solemnly pledge to maintain family and secret devotion; to spiritually train our children; to seek diligently and untiringly the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, 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 all intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the whole cause of our Lord Jesus Christ in every sphere of our lives.

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, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour, to secure it 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 Holy Word.

ARTICLE 4 – STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testaments as verbally and plenary inspired by God and without error in the original writings; that the Bible is reliable in science, history, and every other matter it discusses; and that the Bible is of supreme and final authority in faith and life. II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:19-21.
2. We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three Persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. Exodus 20:2, 3; I Corinthians 8:6; I John 5:7; Matthew 28:19, 20; II Corinthians 13:14.
3. We believe in God, the Father, perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power; that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that he hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from eternal death and from hell all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. Psalm 22:3; John 17:11; Psalm 147:5; I John 3:20; Matthew 19:26; John 3:16; Matthew 6:26, 28-30; Psalm 65:2; Hebrews 11:6; Romans 5:8; I Timothy 2:5; John 14:6.
4. We believe in the absolute Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ; His eternal existence as God, equal with the Father, and the Holy Spirit; His incarnation by means of the virgin birth; His sinlessness; His vicarious death through the shedding of His blood as an atonement for the remissions of our sins; His literal bodily resurrection from the dead; His ascension; His present high priestly ministry in heaven for believers; and His personal return to earth. I John 5:20; John 1:16; John 14:9; Hebrews 1:8; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-35; I Peter 2:22; Romans 3:25; Hebrews 9:14; Luke 24:36-43; Acts 10:40, 41; Acts 1:9; Luke 24:51; Hebrews 8:1, 2; I John 2:1; Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:16.

5. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, equal with the Father and the Son and of the same substance and nature; that He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; that He bears witness to the Truth; that He is the Agent of the new birth; that He baptizes all true believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sanctifying all of them, sealing and thus securing them unto the day of redemption, that He endues, guides, teaches and helps believers; and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit, the evidence being soulwinning power and not speaking in tongues. Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14; Acts 5:3, 4.
6. We believe that God created the heavens and the earth, including all life, each after its own species, by direct act and not by the process of evolution. Genesis 1 and 2; Colossians 1:16, 17; John 1:3.
7. We believe that man, in the person of the first Adam, was created in the image of God, in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by reason of his voluntary sin, fell from his high and holy state; that as a result the whole race plunged into condemnation and death, so that now all human beings are born with a sinful nature; and that all who reach the age of moral responsibility become willful sinners in thought, word and deed, and so are without excuse before God. Genesis 1:26, 27; Genesis 3; Romans 5:10-19; Psalm 51:5; Romans 1:18-32; Romans 3:10-23.
8. We believe that the justification of sinners is wholly of grace through faith in the blood sacrifice, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ; that all who receive Him are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and become children of God; that no rite, ceremony or work can avail one whit for the sinner's salvation or make the believer's salvation more secure; that Christ is the only and all sufficient Saviour; and that all who are truly saved are kept forever. Ephesians 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5-7; John 5:24; John 1:12; Romans 10:9-13; Acts 16:31; Acts 4:12, II Timothy 1:12; John 10:28, 29; Romans 8:35-39; Philippians 1:6.
9. We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel, which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation. John 3:16-21; I Timothy 1:15; Hebrews 7:25; Revelation 22:17; Ezekiel 33:11; John 5:40; II Peter 3:9; I Timothy 2:3, 4.
10. We believe that every saved person possesses two natures; that he has the old nature for the duration of his earthly life; but that provision is made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Romans 7:15-25; Romans 6:11-14; Philippians 4:7-14; Philippians 3:7-14; II Corinthians 12:7-10.
11. We believe that sanctification for the believer is immediate, upon acceptance of Christ as Saviour, and progress, continuing to the end of earthly life; and that the progressive phase of sanctification is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the continual use of the appointed means, especially study of God's Word,

self-denial, faithfulness in and through a fundamental local church, prayer, and soulwinning. I Corinthians 1:2; I Corinthians 6:11; Hebrews 10:10, 14; I Thessalonians 3:12, 13; I Thessalonians 4:1-12; II Peter 3:18; Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 10:25.

12. We believe that the saved are called into a life of separation from religious apostasy, and from all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations. Romans 12:1, 2; I Thessalonians 5:22; I John 2:15-17; II Corinthians 6:14-18; Romans 16:17, 18; II John 7-11; Ephesians 5:11.
13. We believe that the local New Testament church is composed of regenerated baptized believers, voluntarily united together for the purpose of worship, edification, observing the ordinances, fellowship, and service; that the officers of the local church as pastors and deacons, whose qualification, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures; that the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity in the local community and unto the uttermost parts of the earth; that the local church has absolute right of self-government; free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organization, religious or political; that the one and only superintendent is Christ, through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel, with each local church as the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; and that all matters of membership, policy of government, discipline, benevolence, the will of the local church is final. Acts 2:41-47; Romans 1:7; Colossians 1:2; I Corinthians 1:2; Acts 4:4; Hebrews 10:25; Acts 20:7; Acts 11:26; Philippians 1:1; I Timothy 3:1-16; Titus 1:5-8; Hebrews 13:7, 17; I Peter 5:1-5; Acts 6:1-8; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 1:22, 23; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:23-26; Acts 15:1-27; Acts 11:29, 30; Acts 13:1-4; Philippians 4:14-16; Acts 20:28, 31; I Corinthians 5:1-6, 11.
14. We believe that Bible baptism is the burial of a believer in water, thus setting forth in symbol his union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection; that every believer should be baptized because of the example of our Lord and because of the command given by our Lord; and that while there is not saving power in water baptism, it is an act of obedience by those who are already saved to picture that they are dead, buried, and raised spiritually with Jesus Christ by faith in Him. We reject infant baptism as unscriptural. Romans 6:3-5; Mathew 3:13-17; Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 8:36-39; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5; John 5:24.
15. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the Lord's death until He comes again; and that, in this ordinance, the Lord's table should be open to all regenerated persons living in fellowship with, and in obedience to Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 11:23-32; Luke 22:14-20.
16. We believe in the literal, bodily, personal pre-millennial and imminent coming of our Lord into the air to catch away all believers unto Himself before the tribulation period; also, in the personal, visible and glorious return of Christ to the earth, with believers, at the close of the tribulation period to judge the living nations and to set up His millennial

kingdom on earth. Acts 1:11; John 14:3; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 4:1; Matthew 24:42-44; II Thessalonians 2:7, 8; Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 19:11-21; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:1-6; Hebrews 12:22-24.

17. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, the saved to everlasting blessedness at the coming of Christ, and, one thousands years later, the lost to the judgment at the Great White Throne and then to everlasting conscious punishment in the Lake of Fire. John 5:21-30; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:42-52; Philippians 3:20, 21; Revelation 20:5, 6, 11-15.
18. 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; and that the souls of the lost remain after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection. II Corinthians 5:6-8; Philippians 1:23, 24; Luke 16:19-31.
19. We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 13:1-7; Genesis 9:5, 6; Exodus 18:21; I Timothy 2:2, 3; Acts 4:19, 20; Acts 5:27-29.
20. We believe that in this Age of Grace, the Lord's Day, which is the first day of the week, the day of our Lord's resurrection, is the proper day for Christian worship and service; and that it ought to be kept sacred to spiritual purposes, by abstinence from all unnecessary secular labor and other activities unbecoming to such a Day. Acts 23:7; I Corinthians 16:1, 2; Colossians 2:13-17; Hebrews 10:25; John 20:1, 19, 26.
21. We believe that God's covenant people, Israel, shall be redeemed and regathered to Palestine from their world-wide Dispersion and under the personal and millennial reign of Christ upon David's throne in Jerusalem shall become the head of nations. Genesis 12:2, 3; Genesis 13:14, 15; Jeremiah 7:7; Deuteronomy 28:63-66; Deuteronomy 30:1-6; Ezekiel 36:22-28; 37:11-28; Romans 11:25-27; Luke 1:30-33; Jeremiah 23:3-6; Jeremiah 33:14-17; Acts 3:19-21; Revelation 20:4-6.
22. We believe that Satan, a fallen angel, is a distinct and real personality, the god of this age, the adversary of Christ and all believers, and that his destiny is eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire. Ezekiel 28:1-19; Job 1:6-9; I Peter 5:8; Matthew 4:1-11; I Timothy 3:7; James 4:7; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10.

ARTICLE 5 – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 – ADMISSION

- A. Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour, giving satisfactory evidence of having been born again and assurance of his desire to live a consistent Christian life, and showing evidence of a satisfactory attitude

toward this church's doctrinal standards and covenant, and who has been baptized, shall be eligible for membership.

- B. Members may be received by:
 - 1. Satisfactory profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, followed by scriptural baptism; or,
 - 2. Transfer of membership from another church of like faith; or
 - 3. Statement, if not holding membership elsewhere, or if it is impossible or inadvisable to obtain a letter of dismissal from their previous church because of peculiar circumstances; or,
 - 4. Restoration, if having been excluded from the membership of this church, and upon satisfactory statement and evidence of repentance.
- C. All new-member candidates will be officially received during our monthly business meeting.
- D. Where it is deemed expedient, the candidate shall appear before the Pastor and Deacons for advice and instructions before the name is present for membership.

SECTION 2 – MEMBERSHIP RULES

- A. Active Members: All those who show their interest in the welfare of the Church and the Kingdom of our Lord by regular attendance and financial support and those who because of sickness or infirmities are unable to attend services or contribute financial support to the work shall be classed as active members.
- B. Non-Resident Members: All those who live too far removed from the city of Memphis to maintain active membership, but who prefer to remain as members and do keep in touch with the Church by keeping the clerk informed as to their address and making an offering at least once a year for the support of the Church, unless they are dependent, shall be classed as non-resident member.
- C. Inactive Members: All those who do not classify as non-resident members, who without reasonable excuse, do not attend the regular services of the Church for a period of six months and all members who fail to communicate with the Church for a period of one year may be placed on an inactive list. Names on the inactive list shall not be counted in any statistical reports. Any members on the inactive list shall automatically become active members upon their resumption of regular attendance and financial support.

SECTION 3 – DUTIES

- A. To themselves: The acquisition of Scriptural knowledge; constant progress in spirituality; and consistency in external conduct.
- B. To their pastor: To honor, esteem, and love him; to pray for him fervently and often; to submit to him the Scriptural exercise of his official authority; to attend constantly upon his ministrations; to manifest a tender regard for his reputation; and to contribute to his support in proportion to their ability.
- C. To other members: to cultivate and cherish brotherly love for all of them; to show this love by using all proper measures to promote their spiritual benefit and prosperity as set forth in the Church Covenant; and, as nearly as possible, refrain from being party to cliques or groups whose spirit is manifestly selfish and not in the interest of "all other members."

- D. To the church: To be faithful in all the spiritual duties of the church essential to the Christian life; to attend habitually the services of the church; to give regularly to its support and its charities; and to share in its activities. Those members who have moved away are expected to report to this church, through the pastor, deacons, or clerk at least once a year and to contribute to its support, if able, until they cease to be members.
- E. To those not connected with the church: To be exact in fulfilling obligations and performing promises; and to commend the gospel of Christ unto them.

SECTION 4 – RIGHTS

- A. To vote: All members of the church who are sixteen years of age and older shall be allowed to vote; excepting such as may be on the inactive roll or under discipline.
- B. To hold office: A person must be a member of the church and must also qualify scripturally and spiritually for any office in this church.

SECTION 5 – DISMISSAL

- A. By death.
- B. By letter of recommendation, when in good and regular standing, or by letter of dismissal, when on the inactive list, to unite with a church holding the evangelical faith. All applications for such letters should be made by the persons desiring the letter, be considered by the pastor and deacons, and by them be recommended to the church.
- C. By erasure: Any member who unites with another church thereby automatically ceases to be a member of this church and the church clerk shall drop the name from the church roll on recommendation of the pastor and deacons.
- D. By exclusion.

SECTION 6 – DISCIPLINE

See: Matthew 18:15-17; Revelation 2:2; II John 10, 11; Titus 3:10, 11; Romans 16:17; II Thessalonians 3:6-14; I Corinthians 5:11-13; Galatians 6:1.

- A. The church may (using Scriptural procedure) censure, reprimand, or exclude any member who becomes an offense to the church and its good name for the following reasons:
 1. Unchristian conduct, the persistent disregard of the Church covenant obligations;
 2. Holding or teaching doctrines subversive to those held and preached by this church, whether such teaching is done in the church's building or in some by-the-way class or fellowship;
 3. Calling, holding, or participating in a secret or unauthorized church meeting with members of the church;
 4. Unbridled tongue, as defined in the Church Covenant;
 5. Active and continuous opposition to the policy or leadership of the church or conduct calculated to cause or create dissention or division within the church;
 6. Gross immorality;
 7. Misdemeanor in office.

- B. Charged by a member, or members, against the character or Christian standing of any member must be presented to the pastor and deacons in writing and the person submitting such charges must be prepared to support the same with reliable witnesses. Action by the deacon board shall not be taken until the accused has been notified by registered letter and given ample time to prepare a defense. Failure to appear for such defense will ordinarily be considered supporting evidence of the charges advanced.
- C. The primary purpose of disciplinary action shall be the remedying of any weakness in the Christian lives of members; and proper contacts shall be made with the individual, when possible and advisable, before disciplinary steps are taken.

ARTICLE 6 – OFFICERS OF THIS CHURCH

SECTION 1

The officers of this church shall be as follows: Pastor, Deacons, Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent, Trustees. All officers of the Church, all officers, teachers, and leaders of the Sunday School, and all teachers and staff members of Thrifhaven Baptist Schools shall: (1) Be faithful to all public services of the Church; (2) Be loyal to the pastor and the Church-approved program; (3) Be separate from worldliness.

SECTION 2 - PASTOR

- A. Overseer: The leadership of the church, all departs being subject thereto, resides in the Scriptural office of the Pastor (also called in the Scriptures “Bishop” or “Elder”), who is appointed by the Holy Spirit as the overseer of the flock. No other officer or member of this church can consider work any more important than being assistants to and co-laborers with the pastor. See Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:1, 2; Hebrews 13:7, 17.
- B. Qualifications: The qualifications of bishop in I Timothy 3:1-7 are accepted as the proper standard for this church.
- C. Duties:
 1. The pastor shall have the general oversight of the spiritual life, regular services, and ministration of the ordinances of the church; shall be a member of all boards and committees connected with the church or any of its organizations; shall act as moderator, when present, in all meetings for the transaction of business except when the action distinctly concerns himself; and shall conscientiously perform the various other duties incumbent on his office.
 2. The pastor shall consider and decide upon all pulpit supplies and special pulpit features, and may confer with the deacon board on these matters as needed.
 3. The pastor shall supervise the teaching ministry of the church and may disqualify any teacher for spiritual or moral reasons that would hinder the teaching ministry of the church.

4. The pastor shall have the control of the music and of the broadcasting, by radio or other public media, of any church services, subject when necessary to the approval of the church.
 5. The pastor shall appoint several men from the church to make up the School Board, the majority being deacons. The pastor shall be chairman of the School Board.
 6. Any assistant pastor, or pastors, or any employee of this church shall perform such duties as may be designated by the pastor and deacons (or its authorized representative).
- D. Election and Terms of Office
1. The pastor shall be elected at a specially announced business meeting by a three-fourths vote of the active members present and voting. Voting shall be by ballot. He shall be elected for an indefinite period of time unless specifically stated otherwise in the agreement. Announcement of such a meeting shall be made at least one week prior to it.
 2. Only candidates who are of the same doctrinal position as this church and in full accord with the Church Covenant are to be considered.
 3. Only one candidate shall be presented to the church and voted upon at a time.
 4. The relationship between pastor and church may be terminated by his resignation or by request of the church. At least one month's notice shall be given in either case. A majority vote of the active members present and voting shall be required for the dismissal of a pastor and such a meeting shall be given public announcement the preceding Lord's Day.
 5. If, at any time, after a fair and impartial trial it is found that the personal belief, preaching, teaching, or practice of the pastor are not in full accord with the Doctrinal standards of the church, his services shall be terminated abruptly by the required vote and without his consent, and the matter of any further salary shall be decided at that time by the church.

SECTION 3 – DEACONS

- A. Servants: The term "deacon" means servant. They have no authority over the pastor or church. Deacons, if required by the church or pastor, may serve as a committee to recommend action by the church, but deacons have no more authority than other members.
- B. Qualifications: the qualifications of deacons in I Timothy 3:8-16 and Acts 6:1-7 are accepted as the proper standard for this church.
- C. Duties: It shall be a duty of the Board of Deacons to meet once each month. They shall select a chairman and a secretary from among their own number. The Secretary shall keep a record of the minutes and proceedings of all meetings. The Chairman of the Board of Deacons shall act as Moderator of the Church in the absence or removal of the Pastor. The Pastor and the Board of Deacons shall constitute a standing committee for the purpose of examining questionable applications for membership and to which all matters of discipline shall be referred. They shall have general supervision of all the departments. It shall be a duty of the Deacons to seek out such members of the church who need pecuniary assistance and to use the alms of the church for their relief, to visit the sick, to

prepare and distribute the elements of the Lord's Supper, to have general supervision of the spiritual interest of the Church, to provide for the Service of Worship, and to cooperate with and assist the Pastor in performance of his duties. The Board of Deacons shall recommend the Pastor's remuneration and all items of Missionary Payments to the Church. The Board of Deacons shall act in an advisory capacity concerning all matters of Church business, and in the employing and dismissing of Staff Members. The Deacons shall act as a pulpit committee when the church is without a pastor.

SECTION 4 – CLERK

The Clerk shall keep a complete record of all the official acts of the church. He (she) shall affix the church seal to and certify all documents upon order of the Church. He (she) shall keep a complete and accurate registry of the active and inactive members.

SECTION 5 – TREASURER AND ASSISTANT TREASURER

- A. Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer – It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer to ensure that a financial report is presented to the Church each month at the regular business meeting. It shall further be the responsibility of the Treasurer to ensure that an annual financial report is prepared for each fiscal year. It shall be the duty of the Assistant Treasurer to serve under the direction of the Treasurer in any or all matters pertaining to the office of Treasurer.
- B. Chairman of the Finance Committee – It shall be the responsibility of the Chairman of the Finance Committee to ensure that all monies received by the Church are counted, recorded, and deposited to the bank account of the Church. It shall also be the responsibility of the Chairman to acquire two signatures from designated members of the Finance Committee on all authorized checks.

SECTION 6 – SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

- A. The Sunday School superintendent shall be elected at the annual business meeting of the Church for a term of one year.
- B. The Superintendent shall, in cooperation with and under the leadership of the Pastor, be responsible for the administration and promotion of the Sunday School.
 - 1. The Superintendent and Pastor shall appoint all other officers and teachers of the Sunday School.
 - 2. They shall be responsible for the selection of the literature for the Sunday School.

SECTION 7 – TRUSTEES

The Trustees shall be composed of at least two Deacons selected annually by the Deacons and approved by the Church. They shall act in an advisory capacity in all matters concerning legal transactions and Church properties and will sign documents in behalf of the Church when directed by the Church. The chairman of the Deacons will act as chairman of the Trustees and shall be President of the Corporation.

SECTION 8 – NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

The Pastor and Deacons shall act as a nominating committee.

ARTICLE 7 – TERM OF OFFICE

SECTION 1

The Pastor shall be elected for an indefinite term which shall terminate upon thirty days written notice by either the pastor or the Church. The pastorate shall terminate immediately upon the pastor's refusal to affirm the Statement of Faith as herein set forth.

SECTION 2

Members of the Board of Deacons shall serve a regular term of three years.

SECTION 3

All other officers shall serve a regular term of one year.

SECTION 4

All terms of office, except the pastorate, shall terminate December 31.

ARTICLE 8 – GOVERNMENT AND AFFILIATIONS

SECTION 1

The government of this New Testament church is vested, under the leadership of Christ, in its membership and facilitated through its officers, and in all matters pertaining to its teachings, affiliations and policy is sovereign and responsible only to Jesus Christ, its recognized Head; the said sovereignty of the church residing within the local church.

- A. All officers of this church are the servants of the church and at all times shall be amenable to the church.
- B. All members of the church who are sixteen years of age or older shall be allowed to vote; excepting such as may be on the inactive roll or under discipline.
- C. Five percent of the active membership present and voting or fifty active members shall constitute a quorum, except in matters of business where this Constitution states otherwise. See Article 15, Section 1.
- D. All questions shall be decided by the vote of a majority, excepting the cases mentioned in other sections of this Constitution.
- E. The rules of order contained in Robert's Manual shall govern the church meetings in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Charter of this Church.

SECTION 2 – AFFILIATIONS

- A. Scripturally a New Testament church cannot “join” anything outside itself but only affiliate therewith on grounds of fellowship. Therefore, this church shall be actually and absolutely independent in the exercise of its churchly rights, privileges, and prerogatives; independent of all other churches, individuals, and organizations of men whatever; and is under law to Christ alone.
- B. The church recognizes its privilege and responsibility to fellowship with other churches of like faith and principle where it is mutually advantageous in contending for the Faith and evangelizing. However, at no time shall this church affiliate, fellowship with, or support any group, organization or convention in which there is evidence of modernism, apostasy, or religious compromise. Rather, it shall take a strong open stand against these evils as the occasion demands, wherever they may be found.
- C. The Church shall not be officially represented at any religious gathering or church function, such as church singings, associations, conventions, revival services, or youth meetings without the approval of the pastor, or in his absence, the deacons, or church body. This is to prevent our church from being represented at a modernistic or compromise gathering where our church would not be in agreement in doctrine or principle and thus bring reproach on the church and the name of Christ.

ARTICLE 9 – PROPERTY

SECTION 1

All church property, both real and personal, shall remain in the control of its members.

SECTION 2 – Dissolution Clause

Upon dissolution or liquidation of this corporation, after payment of its debts, all of its assets (save and except only any assets hereafter conveyed to the corporation upon condition requiring return, transfer or conveyance, which condition occurs by reason of the dissolution of the corporation) shall be transferred or conveyed to one or more organizations recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as tax exempt and as being organized exclusively for religious, charitable, or educational purposes, the same to be a Baptist organization holding the doctrinal position set forth in this corporation’s constitution and also to be separate from the control, jurisdiction or domination of any other religious body, denomination or organization in the same manner as set forth in this corporation’s charter; and in no event shall any of the assets of this corporation be distributed so as to inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

ARTICLE 10 – ORGANIZATIONS

SECTION 1 – THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

- A. It shall be the purpose of the Sunday School to teach its constituency, both young and old, in the truths of God's Word. It shall, as an organization of the church, seek to carry out the great mission of the church of evangelizing.
- B. It shall be under the complete control of the government of the church.
- C. All teachers and workers of the Sunday School shall be appointed as provided in Article 6 Section 6b, of this Constitution. No teacher shall be appointed who is not separated from the world and living a consecrated life unto the Lord. No teacher shall be appointed or permitted to remain in office unless in absolute harmony with the ministry of the church.
- D. All mixed classes or male classes from the Juniors up shall be taught by men teachers. I Corinthians 14:33-38; I timothy 2:11-15.

SECTION 2 – OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- A. There may be other organizations as the most efficient prosecution of the church's objectives shall demand, but none shall be started without the majority consent of the church.
- B. These organizations shall be amenable to the church through her regularly elected officers.
- C. No subsidiary organization of this church shall engage in any practice or policy contrary to the general position of the church itself.

ARTICLE 11 – MEETINGS

SECTION 1 – SERVICES. Meetings for public worship shall be held each Lord's Day.

SECTION 2 – COMMUNION. The Lord's Supper shall be observed every fifth Sunday and other times at the wish of the pastor.

SECTION 3 – PRAYER MEETING. At mid-week prayer meeting it shall be the duty of members to meet, if possible, for united prayer and praise and for such other appointments as the interests of the church shall demand.

SECTION 4 – SPECIAL MEETINGS OR SERVICES. Revival or evangelistic meetings and missionary services shall be an important part of this church's program.

SECTION 5 – BUSINESS MEETINGS.

- A. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting for the election of officers shall be held at the mid-week service during the week following the second Sunday in January.
 - 1. Only active members of the church are eligible to vote on any church matter.
 - 2. Voting for the election of officers must be by ballot. Voting on other matters may be by voice or a show of hands.

- B. Annual Budget Meeting. The annual budget meeting will be held during the regular June monthly business meeting. A budget for the fiscal year starting in July will be adopted by the Church.
- C. Special Meetings. Special business meetings may be called at any time by the pastor. In case of his resignation, absence, or refusal to act, the deacon chairman shall call such meetings on a written request signed by twenty adults, active members, sixteen years and older, and the notice shall be publicly given from the pulpit on the Lord's Day preceding. The purpose of the meeting shall in all such cases be stated in the call and no business shall be transacted at that time other than that for which the meeting was called.
- D. Monthly Meetings. Meetings to take action on recommendations from the pastor or board of deacons, the reception of new members, the dismissal of members, the temporary filling of any vacancies due to resignation or removal of any church official, or the discipline of members, will be held on the Wednesday following the second Sunday of each month, following the regular mid-week service.

ARTICLE 12 – LICENSING AND ORDAINING

SECTION 1 – LICENSING. Any member of this church who in the judgment of the church gives sufficient evidence of his piety, zeal, and aptness to teach, and feels that he is called of God to the work of the Christian ministry may, upon recommendation of the board of deacons, be licensed to preach, provided that three-fourths of the members of the church present at any regularly called business meeting shall agree thereto.

SECTION 2 – ORDAINING

- A. Upon recommendation of the board of deacons, the church may vote to call a council to consider the propriety of ordaining to the full work of the Christian ministry any licensed member of this church. A three-fourths vote of those present at any regularly called meeting shall be required.
- B. No one shall be ordained who is addicted to the use of intoxicating liquor, drugs or tobacco in any form; or who belongs to a secret society; or who is dishonest in meeting his obligations; or one who brings disrepute upon his ministry through worldly practices and associations.
- C. It shall be within the providence of the church to discipline, even to revoking the ordination credentials of any minister ordained under this Constitution, if the said minister is found guilty of any of the above practices after an impartial trial conducted in the ministry of I Corinthians 13. The minister under trial shall have the privilege of appealing his case within 60 days after the decision has been made.

ARTICLE 13 – FINANCES

SECTION 1 – CHURCH YEAR. The fiscal year of the church shall begin on July 1 and end on June 30.

SECTION 2 – POLICY.

- A. Tithes and offerings shall be the means of supporting this church.
- B. The church shall receive a financial statement showing disbursements each month during the monthly business meeting.

SECTION 3 – PASTOR’S SALARY. The pastor’s salary is to be determined by the church. His salary shall be reviewed once each year by the deacons and trustees and recommendations made. He shall also be given a two-week paid vacation each year with additional time, if desired, to attend a Bible or Missionary Conference of his choice. His sixth year on he will be granted a three-week paid vacation.

SECTION 4 – SPECIAL SPEAKERS. Every due consideration will be taken concerning evangelists, missionary speakers, supplies, and other special speakers that will be ethical and just in our reimbursing the servants of the Lord for their labors in this church.

SECTION 5 – This church shall use Christian ethics and earnestly seek to maintain a good testimony in meeting its financial obligations.

ARTICLE 14 – MISSIONS

It shall be the policy of this church to support each missionary work as is known to be in agreement with our Statement of Faith, both in doctrine and in practice.

ARTICLE 15 – AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1 – This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the qualified voting members present and voting at any regularly called business meeting, provided that one-third of the qualified voting members are present, and providing that notice of the proposed amendment shall be given at the regular service on two Sundays immediately preceding the said meeting. Exceptions are noted in Section 2.

SECTION 2 – The Statement of Faith Article 4, the Church Covenant Article 3, the independency of this church as stated in this Constitution, and the uncompromising stand as stated in Article 8 Section 2 shall not be infringed upon.