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## Central Fellowship Baptist Church

### Constitution and By-Laws



### PREAMBLE

We declare and establish this constitution for the preservation and security of the principles of our faith and that this body may be governed in an orderly manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual member of this church and the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other churches.

### ARTICLE 1: NAME

**Section 1: Name** - The name of this church shall be called Central Fellowship Baptist Church, Inc.

**Section 2: Location** - The location of the principal office of said church shall be 8460 Hawkinsville Road, Macon, GA. 31216.

### ARTICLE 11: PURPOSE AND COVENANT

**Section 1: Purpose** - This church is a congregation of baptized believers in Christ, united by covenant for the worship of Almighty God, and associated in the faith and the fellowship of the Gospel to practice its precepts, to obey Jesus Christ as their supreme law-giver and ruler, and to take the Bible and the Bible alone as the standard by which all matters of belief and conduct are to be tried. We are an independent church whose purpose is to win the lost, instruct believers in how to live successful Christian lives, and operate educational and other institutions as we feel led by the Holy Spirit.

**Section 2: Covenant** - As a Bond of unity among us, this church accepts for its members the following covenant:

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and on profession of our faith in Him, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ we promise that we will watch over and counsel one another in the Spirit of brotherly love, that we will remember one another in our prayers, and that we will aid each other in sickness and distress. We further agree, 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; and 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 further covenant to maintain family and secret devotions, to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to live carefully in this present 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 everything that will cause our brother to stumble or that will bring reproach upon the cause of Christ. To strive to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, that amidst evil and good report we will humbly and earnestly seek to live to the honor and glory of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. 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 principles of God's Word.

**The church shall adhere faithfully to the following Statement of Faith and Policy:**

A. We believe in **THE HOLY SCRIPTURES**: accepting fully the writings of the Old and New Testaments as the very Word of God, verbally inspired in all parts and therefore wholly without error as originally given of God, altogether sufficient in themselves as our only infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice.

**II Timothy 3:16**

B. We believe in **THE ONE TRIUNE GOD**: who is personal in spirit, and sovereign; perfect, infinite, and eternal in His being, holiness and love, wisdom and power; absolutely separate and above the world as its creator, yet everywhere present in the world as the Upholder of all things; self-existent and self-revealing in three distinct Persons, The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, each having a distinct ministry in God's relation to His creation and people.

**Matthew 28:19**

C. We believe in **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**: who is the second Person of the Triune God, the Eternal Word and Only Begotten Son; that without change in His divine

Person, He became man by miracle of the Virgin Birth, thus to continue forever as both true God and true Man, one Person with two natures; that as man He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin; that as the perfect Lamb of God He gave Himself in death upon the cross, becoming there the sin of the world, and suffering its full penalty of divine wrath in our stead; that He arose bodily from the grave and was glorified; that as our great High Priest He ascended into Heaven, there to appear before the face of God as our Advocate and Intercessor.

John 1:1-3; II Corinthians 5:21; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Hebrews 9,10

D. We believe in **THE HOLY SPIRIT**: who is the third person of the Trinity and the Divine Agent in nature, revelation, and redemption; that He convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment; that He regenerates, indwells, baptizes, seals, and anoints all who become children of God through faith in Christ; that He further empowers, guides, teaches, sanctifies, and fills believers who daily surrender to Him..

John 16:7-11; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; Romans 8:1

E. We believe **ALL MEN ARE BY NATURE AND CHOICE SINFUL AND LOST**: that man was the direct creation of God, made in His image and likeness; that by personal disobedience to the revealed will of God, man became a sinful creature, the father of a fallen race which is universally sinful in both nature and practice, thus alienated from the life and family of God, under the righteous judgment and wrath of God, and has within himself no possible means of salvation.

Genesis 1:26; Romans 5:12

F. We believe in **SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN THE SHED BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST**: that salvation is the perfect gift of God, neither merited nor secured in part, or in whole by any virtue or work of man, but received only by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom all true believers have as a present possession the gift of eternal life, a perfect righteousness, sonship in the family of God, deliverance and security from all condemnation, every spiritual resource needed for life and godliness, and the divine guarantee that they shall never perish; that this salvation affects the whole man; that apart from Christ there is no possible salvation.

Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6; Romans 8:16; I Peter 1:5; John 5:24; Ephesians 1:3-14

G. We believe in the **POWER AND PRINCIPLE OF PRAYER**: our means of communication with God; but that unconfessed sin breaks the believer's fellowship with God and hinders answered prayer. Christ prayed often, in public and in secret, and taught His disciples to pray in His name and without ceasing.

Luke 22:40-46; I Thessalonians 5:17; Mark 11:24

H. We believe in **RIGHTEOUS LIVING AND GODLY WORKS**: not as a means of salvation in any sense, but as its proper evidence and fruit; therefore as Christians we should obey the Word of our Lord, seek the things which are above, walk as He walked, accept as our solemn responsibility the duty and privileges of bearing the Gospel to a lost world; remembering that a victorious and fruitful Christian life is possible only for those who in gratitude for the infinite and undeserved mercies of God have presented themselves wholly to Christ.

Galatians 5:22-23

I. We believe in **THE EXISTENCE OF SATAN**: who originally was created a holy, perfect being, but through pride and wicked ambition rebelled against God, thus becoming utterly depraved in character, the great adversary of God and His people, leader of all other evil angels and spirits, and deceiver and god of this present world; that his powers are vast, but strictly limited by the permissive will of God who overrules all his wicked devices for good; that he was defeated and judged at the cross and therefore his final doom is certain; that we are able to resist and overcome him only in the armor of God, by the blood of the Lamb, and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 14:12-15; Luke 10:18; I Peter 5:8; James 4:7; Ephesians 6: 10-18

J. We believe in the **SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**: that His return from Heaven will be personal, visible and glorious, a blessed Hope for which we should constantly watch and pray, the time being unrevealed, but always imminent; that when He comes He will first, by resurrection of the dead and translation of the living, remove from the earth His waiting church, then pour out the righteous judgment of God upon the unbelieving world, afterwards descend with His church and establish His glorious and literal kingdom over all the nations for a thousand years.

Revelation 20:4; I Thessalonians 4:13-18

K. We believe in **FUTURE LIFE, BODILY RESURRECTION AND ETERNAL JUDGMENT**: that the spirit and soul of the saved at death go immediately to be with Christ in Heaven, that their works shall be brought before the Judgment Seat of Christ for the determination of rewards which will take place at the time when Christ comes for His own; that the spirit and soul of the unsaved at death descend immediately into Hades where they are kept under punishment until the final day of judgment, at which time their bodies shall be raised from the grave, and they shall be judged and cast into the lake of fire, the place of final and everlasting punishment.

Romans 2:5-11; I Corinthians 3:12-17; Revelation 20:11-15

L. We believe in **THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE**: with each having definite and distinct spheres of responsibility.

Matthew 22:21

M. We believe in **THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS**: that Christ is our Great High Priest and through Him every born-again person has direct access into God's presence without the need of a human priest; that the believer has the right and responsibility to personally study and interpret the Scriptures guided by the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 10:19-25; II Peter 1:20; II Timothy 2:15

N. We believe in **THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST**: that He alone is the Head of the Body of Christ into which all true believers are immediately baptized by the Holy Spirit; that all members of this one spiritual body should assemble and identify themselves in local churches.

Colossians 1:18; I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47; Hebrews 10:24-25

O. We believe in **THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH**: that a New Testament church is a local assembly of born-again, baptized believers united in organization to practice New Testament ordinances, to meet together for worship, prayer, fellowship, teaching, and a united testimony, and to actively engage in carrying out the Great Commission.

Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-47

P. We believe in **THE INDEPENDENCE AND AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL**

**CHURCH:** that each New Testament church is free to govern itself without ecclesiastical interference, and should cooperate with other New Testament churches as the Holy Spirit leads; that it is responsible to follow the pattern of the New Testament church and is directly accountable to God.

Acts 13:14; Galatians 2:5-6

Q. We believe the **ORDINANCES GIVEN TO LOCAL CHURCH ARE TWO:** that baptism is by immersion of believers, thus portraying the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ; that the Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and cup by the believer as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ.

Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 11:2, 23-34

R. We believe in **MISSIONS**, both home and foreign, and shall maintain a consistent program of support for such true, Bible-believing missionary efforts, as deemed possible and worthy.

Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20

S. We believe in a **BIBLICAL VIEW OF HUMAN SEXUALITY.** God has commanded in His word that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in, outside of a marriage relationship involving 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. We believe that God rejects any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church.

Genesis. 2:24; 19:5,13; 26:8-9; Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; I Corinthians 7:10; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 5:22,23; Colossians 3:18; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; I Timothy 2:8-15; 3:4-5,12; Hebrews 13:4

**Section 1: Description** - In accordance with the New Testament pattern, this body shall be an unaffiliated, Independent Baptist Church.

**Section 2: Association** - it shall not be affiliated with any convention or organization which could infringe on this local congregation. This article can never be amended or changed as long as Central Fellowship Baptist Church is in existence. If this church ceases to exist, any assets must be distributed, upon the wishes of the majority of the congregation, to another church or mission organization of like faith and order.

## **ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1: Requirements for Membership**

- A. A personal salvation experience whereby the person knows without any doubt that he is saved.
- B. The person shall have been baptized by immersion after his salvation.

### **Section 2: Reception of Members**

- A. Upon his testimony of salvation and baptism.
- B. By transfer of letter from another Baptist Church.
- C. Upon the statement of his salvation and baptism by immersion after salvation in accordance with proper purpose and authority.
- D. A person requesting membership in any of these ways shall be accepted into our fellowship by a welcoming vote of the church.

### **Section 3: Discipline of Members**

- A. That members who are absent from the services for a period of three (3) months without reason such as service for our country, sickness, or by some act of God may not have a vote or say in the business meetings of the church. These members shall be reinstated by being faithful for a continuation of three (3) weeks to the services of the church.
- B. That members who are absent from the services for a period of six (6) months

without reason such as service for our country, sickness, or by some act of God will be placed on an inactive role after counsel. These members shall be reinstated by a personal testimony of a repentant heart and after personal counsel with the pastor or chairman of deacons.

C. That member who is accused of such acts as described in the Word of God as requiring discipline will be brought to the attention of the deacons for proper action (*I Corinthians 5*). The person guilty will be dealt with prayerfully and in accordance with *Gal. 6:1-2 and Matt. 18:15-17*. Everything possible will be done to get the person to repent. However, should this fail, the deacons shall submit a letter to the person giving the date which his name shall be brought before the church for action of dismissal. The disciplined member may appear at the meeting to present his defense. The defense shall not be based on comparison to other members.

#### **Section 4: Transfer of Members**

A member uniting with another church shall, upon request of that church, be granted a letter of transfer in accordance with their present standing with the church and if it be a church of like faith.

### **ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND DUTIES**

#### **Section 1: Names of Officers**

A. In addition to the Pastor and his Associates, the officers of said church shall consist of the Deacons, Trustees, School Board, Treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent, Sunday School Teachers and other such officers as the church may desire.

B. Qualifications for Church Officers are that they are faithful (*at least 80%*) in attendance and participation in the church program; that they are active in soul winning, visitation, and sharing; that they have a teaching knowledge of the Scriptures; and that, they are guided by the Scriptures in their personal lifestyles.

#### **Section 2: The Senior Pastor**

A Senior Pastor may be called at any regular conference upon nomination by proper committee and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the members present and voting. He is expected to perform his duties in leading the church as outlined in the New Testament.



A. The terms "*Bishop*" and "*Elder*" mean "*Overseer*". The Senior Pastor is not a servant of the church, strictly speaking, but is the overseer and God's appointed leader of God's people. His call to the church should always be an indefinite call, that is, for an indefinite period of time.

B. The Senior Pastor shall serve during the pleasure of the church. It is also understood that a thirty (30) day notice shall be given by either party in case of desired separation. The thirty days notice may be dispensed with mutual consent of pastor and church. The pastor shall receive such compensation for his service as the church may determine.

C. The Senior Pastor is the director of all activities of the church. He is the pastor of every phase of church life. He is to participate in all activities possible and shall be granted at least two (2) weeks vacation each year with pay, to be taken as he desires, in cooperation with the church program.

D. The Senior Pastor shall be the spiritual leader of the church and give general oversight to the church. He is to "*feed the flock*" and to be a watchman of the congregation to see that false doctrine or unbiblical actions or attitudes do not creep into the congregation. Other full-time/part-time ministerial staff and support staff shall be added as the Senior Pastor and church deems necessary. With the approval of the church, the Senior Pastor serves as a search committee to find a candidate to present to the church to fill the position available. He shall recommend to the church who the staff member shall be. If a positive vote ensues, the Senior Pastor and Trustee Board together, will make a recommendation concerning the salary and other financial matters to the church. The staff of this church shall be under the direction of the Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor shall have the authority to dismiss all personnel of church staff.

E. The Senior Pastor shall be granted at least one day off each week to be taken as he desires.

F. The Senior Pastor is not expected to schedule more than four week long speaking engagements or conferences per calendar year that would require him to be away from the daily activities of the church.

G. All agreements reached by the Pulpit Committee and Senior Pastor with presentation to the church for approval, shall be added to the above list.

H. The election of the Senior Pastor shall be by "*Secret Ballot*".

### **Section 3: The Deacon Board**

A. The role of a deacon, as outlined in Acts 6, is to be a helper to the pastor. In serving the pastor, he is a servant to the people. His work is under the direction of the pastor. The deacons shall serve as the Benevolence Committee and the Missions Committee.

B. Nominations are to be taken from the church body. All men nominated and qualified, have the opportunity to decline or consider serving. The pastor will serve as a screening committee based on the qualifications of the Word of God and the clarification's voted on by the church. The candidates meeting approval and willing to serve, are then presented to the church for a final vote by secret ballot.

C. The Scriptural qualifications of a deacon are taken from I Timothy 3:8-13.

D. The clarification's are that he be a faithful husband of one living wife; a tither to Central Fellowship Baptist church; faithful to all services; abstains from use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, illegal drugs and other questionable activities that are in direct conflict with the Word of God; and a member of Central Fellowship Baptist Church for one (1) year. His wife is to also meet these qualifications and the qualifications in I Timothy 3.

E. He serves for three years. Then after three (3) years at least two will rotate off each year.

### **Section 4: Trustee Board**

A. Trustees do not fill a scriptural office but a legal office. Therefore, their role shall be to represent the church in all legal matters. Neither they, nor their estate is liable for action by them on behalf and approval of the church. The board shall be composed of the pastor, and at least seven (7) men if possible.

B. The trustees will hold in trust all real and personal property of the church and shall execute all deeds, debentures, mortgages, liens, transfers, leases, contracts, and other legal documents for and on behalf of the church, but shall have no authority to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or encumber any property of the church without an affirmative note of the church membership at a duly constituted meeting.

C. All deeds, mortgages, transfers, assignments, leases, contracts, and all other legal documents for and on behalf of the church shall be executed by the chairman of the Board of Trustees and at least one other trustee under seal.

D. The trustee board will prepare a suggested budget presented to the congregation, which shall be voted on two weeks after presentation.

E. The trustees shall monitor the budget bimonthly.

F. The trustees shall guard against deficits in any accounts by calling to attention the church's financial status at the bimonthly church conference.

G. The trustees shall be the custodians of all physical properties of the church and all trust funds belonging to said church and to have general supervision and maintenance of buildings and grounds.

H. The trustees shall purchase all permanent equipment and furnishing as authorized by the church. They shall be empowered by the church authority to sign all deeds, mortgages, or other conveyances.

I. The trustees shall serve as the counting committee.

J. Nominations are to be taken from the church body. Each man nominated and qualified, shall have the opportunity to decline or consider serving. The pastor will serve as a screening committee based on the qualifications of the Word of God and the clarification's voted on by the church. The candidates meeting approval and willing to serve, are then presented to the church for a final vote by secret ballot. The trustee board's service shall be for two (2) years at least 2 will rotate off each year,

K. The qualifications are that he be proven, spiritual, and faithful to all services.

L. The clarifications are that he be a tither to Central Fellowship Baptist Church abstain from use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, illegal drugs and other questionable activities that are in direct conflict with the Word of God; and a member of Central Fellowship Baptist Church for one year.

## **Section 5: Pulpit Committee**

A. The committee is to consist of seven (7) members representative of the church

program. These shall proceed to bring before the church at the earliest date a man for church consideration (*when church is without a pastor*). Only one name shall be submitted for vote until disposed of.

B. All supply pastors and special guest speakers shall be remunerated accordingly.

C. Nominations are to be taken from the church body.

D. Qualifications are that they be proven, spiritual, and faithful to all services.

E. Clarification's are that they be a tither to Central Fellowship Baptist Church; abstain from use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, illegal drugs and other questionable activities that are in direct conflict with the Word of God; and a member of Central Fellowship Baptist Church for one year.

F. Elections are to be by "*Secret Ballot*".

## **Section 6: The School Board**

A. The Board shall consist of a president who shall be the Senior Pastor of the church and at least seven (7) other members (if possible) elected by the church.

B. Each year the two senior members positions shall be vacated unless vacancy or vacancies have occurred during the last church year.

C. Nominations are taken from the church. Each man nominated and qualified, shall have the opportunity to decline or consider serving. The pastor will serve as a screening committee based on the qualifications of the Word of God and the clarification's voted on by the church. The candidates meeting approval and willing to serve, are then presented to the church for a final vote by secret ballot.

D. The Board shall recommend the policy of Central Fellowship Christian Academy to the church for approval.

E. The Board shall have the responsibility to oversee the general operation of the academy and ensure that the directives of the church are followed; to present a proposed budget to the church for approval in August of each year prior to school starting; to monitor the budget each month.

F. Qualifications are that they be proven, spiritual, and faithful to all services.

G. Clarification's are that they be a tither of Central Fellowship Baptist Church; abstain from use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, illegal drugs and other questionable activities that are in direct conflict with the Word of God; and a member of Central Fellowship Baptist Church for one year.

H. The Board may consist of up to 3 board members that are not members of Central Fellowship Baptist Church.

1. These prospective Board Members will be recommended by the sitting board.
2. They must be faithful members of a Bible-believing Baptist Church and meet the qualifications of the above criteria.
3. They must provide a recommendation from their pastor.
4. Their names will be presented to the church for a final vote by secret ballot.
5. These outside board members are not eligible for Officer positions. (*Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer*)

## **Section 7: The School Administration**

### **A. The Administrator**

1. The Administrator of Central Fellowship Christian Academy shall be a member of Central Fellowship Baptist Church under the direction of the Senior Pastor as a member of the pastoral staff. He is hired to this position by the pastor with the approval of the School Board and church leadership. He shall be a member of the School Board in an advisory capacity without voting privileges. He shall be responsible for carrying out the policies set by the church and for the general operation of the Academy in the effective education of its pupils. He shall instruct the teachers as to their duties and shall see that these duties are performed. He shall present a report of the Academy to the School Board, which shall, in turn, present a brief *bi-monthly* report to the church.

2. The clarifications are that he be a faithful husband of one living wife; a tither to Central Fellowship Baptist Church; faithful to all services; abstains from use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, illegal drugs and other questionable activities that are in direct

conflict with the Word of God. His wife is to also meet these qualifications and the qualifications in I Timothy 3:8-13.

## **B. Other Administrative Staff**

1. Other Administrative Staff such as Comptroller, Assistant Administrator, High School Principle, Elementary Principle, Athletic Director and etc., shall be added as the Senior Pastor and Administrator deem necessary, with approval of the School Board.

2. The clarifications are that they be faithful to all services; abstains from use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, illegal drugs and other questionable activities that are in direct conflict with the Word of God.

## **Section 8: Clerk**

A. The clerk shall keep the minutes of all conferences of the church and record the same in suitable books and shall be custodian of the records and papers of the church. The clerk shall record in a suitable book the Charter, the Covenant, By-Laws, Constitution, Corporation papers, and all amendments to the same; together with a list of the church property, mortgages, liens, and insurance policies. The clerk shall have due report of same when required.

B. The clerk shall be appointed by the pastor.

C. The clerk shall record in a suitable book, the names and addresses of all the members, the date and manner of joining; also marriages, deaths, the date and manner of dismissals, so far as ascertained. The clerk shall write for and grant all letters in accordance with the Constitution.

## **Section 8: Treasurer**

A. The treasurer shall be the custodian of all the funds of the church, and shall receive and pay out money as ordered by the church. He will work in conjunction with the Church's Financial Secretary. The Financial Secretary will present the bimonthly reports for the trustees and deacons as to the condition of the treasury.

B. The Financial Secretary shall submit the financial information to a Certified Public Accountant for a yearly compilation of reports as to the activities, cash flow and financial position of Central Fellowship Baptist Church. The reports will be in accordance with

Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Upon completion, the reports will be made available to our church body and our financial institutions.

C. The treasurer is authorized to disburse funds only as set forth in the budget unless directed to do otherwise by an affirmative vote of the members of the church at a duly constituted meeting.

D. The treasure shall be elected annually by the Trustee Board.

## **ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS**

**Section 1: Conference** - The regular meeting of the church for conference shall be the last Sunday night of every other month.

**Section 2: Special Meetings** - Special meetings of the church for the transaction of business may be called by the pastor, chairman of deacons, or on a written request signed by not fewer than 10 members, and that special announcement be made one service preceding called meetings.

**Section 3: Worship Services** - The church shall meet regularly every Lord's day for the public worship of Almighty God.

**Section 4: Ordinances** - The ordinances of the Lord's Supper shall be observed by the church at least once each quarter or at such times as the church may appoint.

**Section 5: Prayer Meeting** - Once each week, at least, it shall be the duty of the members to meet for mid-week services for prayer and testimony and Bible study.

**Section 6: Election of Officers** - The annual meeting of the church for the election of officers shall be held in connection with the regular conference meeting in August of each year.

## **ARTICLE VII: TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**Section 1: Tithing** - As a church, we follow the biblical system of proportionate giving as set forth in the Old and New Testament. (*Malachi 3 and I Cor.16: 1-3*)

**Section 2: Offerings** – Each Lord's Day, morning and evening, there shall be a public

offering for the regular expenses of the church and for the support of the church's missionary program.

## **ARTICLE VIII: DUTIES OF MEMBERS**

**Section 1: Pastor** - it shall be the duty of the members to honor, to esteem and love their pastor, to pray for him, and to manifest a tender regard for his reputation. (*Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24*)

**Section 2: Meetings** - it shall be the duty of the members of the church to attend its regular meetings appointed by its authority and to observe the church covenant adopted by the church.

**Section 3: Giving** - The church recommends to each and every member that they enter into the Lord's blessing by giving Him the tithe (*Malachi 3:7-10*) through the church.

## **ARTICLE IX: TRANSACTING BUSINESS**

**Section 1: Quorum** - Fifty (50) members of voting age shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**Section 2: Moderator** - The moderator shall be the pastor of the church, and at his absence, the chairman of the deacons shall serve or at the absence of both, any brother the church may appoint, shall act as moderator in all meetings for the transaction of business.

**Section 3: Procedure** - The business of the church shall be transacted according to the rules of Robert's Parliamentary Practice.

**Section 4: Voting Age** - All voting members must be at least 16 years of age.

**Section 5: Absentee Ballot** - All members of voting age, who cannot be at a meeting because they are providentially hindered, may vote an absentee ballot; it must be signed, sealed and delivered to the church clerk prior to the meeting.

## **ARTICLE X: AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS**

**Section 1: Rules** - All auxiliary organizations must be authorized by the church at a regular conference and must be subject to its supervision.



**Section 2: Reports** - All auxiliary organizations shall, unless otherwise ordered, make full written reports to the church bimonthly, and an annual report in August.

## **ARTICLE XI: LICENSING AND ORDAINING**

**Section 1: Licensing** - Any member who in the judgment of the church gives evidence, by his piety, zeal and "aptness to teach" that he is called of God to the work of the ministry, after having preached in the hearing of the church, may be licensed to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, provided  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the members present at any regular conference shall agree thereto.

**Section 2: Ordination** - if the church unanimously decides that a man possesses the spiritual qualifications for full ordination, it shall call a council of ministers and brethren to examine the qualifications of the candidate, to which council the propriety of ordaining, shall be wholly referred.

## **ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1: Vote** - The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any regular conference meeting of the church by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the active members present.

**Section 2: Notice** - Notice of such change must be made to the church at least one week previous.

## **ARTICLE XIII: FINANCE**

**Section 1: Manner of Giving** - Each member of this church shall be encouraged to support the work by Scriptural giving, and every new member shall be taught to give as the Lord prospers him/her.

**Section 2: Budget** - This Church and Academy shall operate under a budget which shall be adopted for the fiscal year at the regular annual business meeting. After adoption, the budget may be changed only after a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the members present at a regular or special conference. The fiscal year for the Church and Academy will begin August 1 and end on July 31.

The Trustee Board shall vote on any project which is not clearly provided for in the Church Budget. For situations not provided for in our budget, the church would

empower the trustees to authorize disbursement of up to 1% of the previous year's budget...not more than two instances in a fiscal year. *(Currently 1% is \$3,023 based upon 2000/2001 budget of \$302,314)* Any expenditure which is in excess of the 1% shall be presented to the church in a regular scheduled meeting or special conference.

The School Board shall do likewise with said Academy with the following exception; the percentage will be .50% of the previous year's budget. *(Currently .50% is \$11,180 based upon 2000/2001 budget of \$2,237,165)*

#### **ARTICLE XIV: DISMISSAL OF THE PASTOR**

If the need should arise to remove the Pastor from office, the following procedure shall be followed:

- A. A special meeting shall be called by the chairman of deacons to discuss with the pastor the problems at hand and the possibility of solution.
- B. After sincere discussion and prayerful consideration of the problems at hand, the board of deacons may call for the resignation of the pastor by unanimous vote.
- C. If the pastor should reject the request of the board of deacons, the case shall be presented to the church, in a special called meeting by the board of deacons, for solution. Three-fourths (3/4) majority vote is needed to remove the pastor from office.
- D. In the event the people desire the dismissal of the pastor, they may exercise Article VI, Section 2 of our Constitution. Dismissal of the pastor can then be discussed. If a three-fourths (3/4) majority ensues, the pastor will be asked to resign.

**LAST REVISION ON JUNE 10, 2007**