

BYLAWS

First Baptist Church

308 E. Broadway

Gainesville, Texas

FBCG

Founded May 14, 1871

Current as of

September 27, 2015

INDEX

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP	Page 3
ARTICLE II. CHURCH OFFICERS	Page 4
ARTICLE III. MINISTRY DIRECTORS	Page 8
ARTICLE IV. COORDINATING GROUPS	Page 9
ARTICLE V. CHURCH MINISTRY PROGRAMS	Page 11
ARTICLE VI. CHURCH MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS.....	Page 11
ARTICLE VII. ORDINANCES	Page 12
ARTICLE VIII. CHURCH MEETINGS	Page 13
ARTICLE IX. CHURCH FINANCES	Page 14
ARTICLE X. CHURCH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	Page 15
ARTICLE XI. AUTHORIZATIONS	Page 16
ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENT HISTORY	Page 16

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

A. GENERAL

This is a sovereign and democratic Baptist church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the exclusive right of self-government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this church.

FBCG membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of the church and the conditions of such membership.

The membership of this church shall be composed of individuals who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. We affirm that the Holy Bible was written by divinely inspired men; and it is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. We also affirm that the church constitution and these bylaws, subordinate to God's Word, shall be the governing local authority of FBCG.

B. CANDIDACY

Any person may request to be a candidate for membership in FBCG. All such candidates shall be presented to the church membership body and voted upon at any regular business meeting. Membership may be attained in any of the following ways:

1. By profession of faith in Jesus Christ, followed by baptism according to church ordinance;
2. By promise of a letter of recommendation from another Baptist church that required a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and baptism as a prerequisite to church membership;
3. By statement of a prior profession of faith in Jesus Christ and a New Testament baptism when no letter is obtainable; and
4. Restoration of membership in accordance with procedures in these bylaws (Article I, F.3.)

C. NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

All new church members shall participate in the church's new member orientation program administered by the **Education Committee**.

D. VOTING RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

Every member of the church over the age of twelve is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the church in conference regardless of their position in the church, provided the member is present or a provision has been made for absentee balloting.

E. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways:

1. Death of a member;
2. Member's request of transfer by letter to another Baptist church;
3. Exclusion of member by FBCG based on Article I.F.2 of these bylaws; and
4. Written request by member to be removed from the church roll.

F. DISCIPLINE

1. FBCG shall emphasize to our members that every reasonable measure be taken to assist any troubled member. The Senior Pastor, other members of the church staff, and deacons shall be available for counsel and guidance. Redemption, rather than punishment, shall be the guideline which governs the attitude of one member toward another;
2. Should some serious condition exist which causes a member to become a liability to the general welfare of our church, every reasonable measure shall be taken by the Senior Pastor and the deacon body to resolve the matter. All such proceedings shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance. However, finding that the welfare of our church shall best be served by the exclusion of the member, the church may take this action by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at a meeting called for this purpose; and the church may proceed to declare the offender to be no longer in the membership of the church; and
3. Any person whose membership has been terminated may, upon his/her request and upon the recommendation of the Senior Pastor and deacon body, be restored to membership by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present during a regular business meeting or a called meeting.

ARTICLE II. CHURCH OFFICERS

A. SENIOR PASTOR

The Senior Pastor shall lead FBCG to function as a New Testament church, give spiritual instruction, provide strategic administrative leadership, and conduct church ordinances and functions of worship. The Senior Pastor shall work with the deacon body, church committees, church teams, and congregational membership to:

1. Proclaim and preach the gospel to believers and unbelievers;
2. Establish the vision and general direction of the church;
3. Minister to church members and persons in the community;
4. Oversee the teaching of the Word of God;
5. Work with, and seek the counsel of, the deacons, committees, and teams in a manner consistent with the purpose of the Church; and

6. Provide administrative leadership, supervise the ministerial/vocational staff, and conduct annual performance reviews as required.

When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a prospective Senior Pastor shall be chosen and called in accordance with procedures defined in the church *Personnel Handbook*. The Senior Pastor shall follow his calling by the Holy Spirit and continue to serve the church until he is led by God to do otherwise. Should there be some serious condition which would cause his church leadership to be questioned, as with any member, every reasonable measure must be taken by the church leadership to resolve the conflict. However, finding that the welfare of the church will best be served by his dismissal, the church may take action to do so, following the church *Personnel Handbook* guidelines.

The Senior Pastor shall receive an annual performance review by the **Personnel Committee**.

The Senior Pastor's role of leadership in the church shall in no way diminish the congregational authority of the church.

B. CHURCH STAFF

The church shall call or employ such staff members as it shall need. A job description shall be written by the **Personnel Committee** for each position. Vocational staff members shall be employed in a manner outlined in the *Personnel Handbook*.

C. DEACON BODY

1. **Office** The office of a deacon shall be recognized as an office ordained by the church in God's name, but its honor is acquired from service rather than position. As in the New Testament, it shall exist for the aid of the Senior Pastor in the spiritual ministry of the church.
2. **Organization** The deacon body shall consist of qualified men selected and voted upon by the church. As the number of church families increase, the deacon body shall likewise be increased by one member for each 15-20 families.
3. **Duties** The deacon body shall maintain and be guided by the *Deacon Manual* with regard to general duties, meetings, nomination, election, deacon transfer, deacon emeritus, training, and other matters related to deacon ministry.

In accordance with the meaning of the work and practice of the New Testament, deacons are to be servants of the church. The task of a deacon is to serve with the Senior Pastor and staff in performing pastoral ministry tasks; proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers; care for church members and other persons in the community as outlined by the Deacon Family Ministry Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

This task of servant and the giving of service to the church shall include giving counsel and advice on actions that impact:

- a. The reputation of the church or its standing/obligation to the broader community;
- b. Church unity, protecting the overall welfare of the church, promoting Jesus as both the source and reason for coming together as one body; and/or
- c. The congregation at its broadest inclusion (total active membership).

These actions of the deacon body shall *not* carry veto power. A recommendation bound for the congregation shall advance to the congregation as intended. Therefore, the deacon body may provide a response of *Recommended, Caution, or No Comment*.

D. MODERATOR

The Moderator shall serve as presiding officer of business meetings, and in cooperation with other church leaders, develop the meeting agendas. The Moderator shall recuse himself or herself from presiding over any matter that would present an appearance of impropriety due to a direct personal interest in the outcome of the proceedings. The Moderator shall be elected annually from a list of nominees supplied by the **Church Council** and may be elected to serve successive terms, not to exceed three consecutive years. The Moderator shall be familiar with the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, revised* and be able to conduct business meetings in an effective, efficient, and orderly manner. If training is required, it should be completed prior to assuming the duties of Moderator.

In the absence of the Moderator, the Vice-Moderator shall preside; or in the absence of both, the Chairman of Deacons shall preside.

E. VICE-MODERATOR

The Vice-Moderator shall perform the duties of the Moderator in the absence of the Moderator. The Vice-Moderator shall be elected annually from a list of nominees supplied by the **Church Council** and may be elected to serve successive terms, not to exceed three consecutive years. The Vice-Moderator shall automatically become one of the nominees for Moderator when that position becomes vacant.

The Vice-Moderator shall be familiar with *Robert's Rules of Order, revised* and be able to conduct business meetings in an effective, efficient, and orderly manner. If training is required it shall be completed prior to assuming the duties of this office. The Vice-Moderator shall serve as President of the Corporation.

F. PARLIAMENTARIANS

The Church shall vote to elect a primary and a secondary Parliamentarian from nominees supplied by the **Church Council**. The secondary Parliamentarian shall substitute for the primary Parliamentarian as needed. These Parliamentarians shall each serve a three-year term. Successive terms are allowed. The Parliamentarians shall advise the church moderator, deacon chairman, committee chairs, and others who preside over meetings using *Robert's Rules of Order, revised*. The parliamentarians must be Registered Parliamentarians (RP), qualifying him or her on the proper use of *Robert's Rules of Order, revised*. Training must be completed prior to assuming duties and shall be at FBCG expense.

G. CLERK

The Clerk shall keep, or supervise the keeping of, all records of official church actions as follows:

1. Record the minutes during regular and special business meetings and provide to church Moderator for inclusion in the next business meeting agenda;
2. Maintain a register of the names of members, with dates of admission, baptisms, transfers, or death;
3. Issue letters of transfer voted on by the church. As necessary, request letters for new members;
4. Preserve on file all communications and written official church reports; and
5. Prepare an annual report to the Baptist General Convention of Texas and other organizations as requested.

The **Church Council** shall nominate the church Clerk and present to the church for approval in September of each year. This nominee may be one of the church's administrative assistants. All church records are church property and shall be filed in the church office or maintained on the church's computer system. The church Clerk will also serve as Secretary of the corporation.

H. TREASURER

The Treasurer represents the church in its financial management. The Treasurer will assist the Finance Committee and the church staff in preparing an annual budget proposal. He or she shall be elected by the church in September of each year, upon nomination by the **Church Council**, and may be elected to serve successive terms. The Treasurer shall be the leader of the Tellers Team, serve as ex-officio member of the Finance Committee, and serve as Treasurer of the corporation.

I. TRUSTEES

Three Trustees, nominated annually by the **Church Council** and elected by the church, shall hold in trust the church property. Trustees shall serve on a rotating basis, with one new trustee being elected each year. The Trustees shall function in those matters that specifically require them to act on behalf of the church. The Trustee signatures shall be in their capacity as Trustees, *not as individuals*. Upon a specific vote of the church authorizing each action, the Trustees shall have the power to buy, sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, transfer, and otherwise dispose of all or any part of the church's property. All three signatures will be required to validate all authorized transactions.

No church employee or employee's relative may serve as a Trustee. No church member may serve as trustee while a relative currently is serving as trustee. For the purpose of the Trustees, relative means "husband, wife; parents of either husband or wife; children of the husband or wife; or siblings of the husband or wife."

The Trustees shall also serve as the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

ARTICLE III. MINISTRY DIRECTORS

A. WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION (WMU) DIRECTOR

The WMU Director is nominated by the **Education Committee** and presented to the church for approval in September of each year. The WMU Director is responsible to the church for planning, conducting, and evaluating the work of the WMU. She shall work with the professional staff for counsel and leadership in the area of mission education and mission action and serve as an ex-officio member of the Education Committee.

B. MEN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

The Men's Ministries Director is nominated by the **Education Committee** and presented to the church for approval in September each year. The Director is responsible to the church for planning, conducting, and evaluating the men's ministry program. He will work with the professional staff for counsel and leadership in the area of men's bible study, visitation, community involvement, and serve as ex-officio member of the Education Committee.

C. WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

The Women's Ministries Director is nominated by the **Education Committee** and presented to the church for approval in September each year. The Director is responsible to the church for planning, conducting, and evaluating the work of the Women's Ministries programs. She will work with the professional staff for counsel and leadership in the area of women's ministries and serve as ex-officio member of the Education Committee.

D. LIBRARIAN

The Librarian is nominated by the **Church Council** and presented to the church for approval in September of each year. The church Librarian shall promote the use of reading material in the church and shall serve as Co-chair of the Library Team.

E. SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS AND DISCIPLESHIP LEADERS (and their substitutes)

Sunday School workers and discipleship leaders shall be nominated by the **Education Committee** and elected by the church. They shall have been a member of this church for at least one (1) year. Substitutes must be approved by the **Education Committee**.

ARTICLE IV. COORDINATING GROUPS

Recognizing that the spiritual and material programs of the church cover many diversified activities, committees or teams shall be elected to provide, through creative thought and thorough

discussion, more effective ways for carrying on the work of the church. It shall also create opportunities for Christian orientation and growth by sharing in the work of the church and generate a broader base of leadership and involvement than would be otherwise possible. These groups shall provide information intended to assist the congregation in making decisions. When considering candidates as members of committees/teams, special attention shall be given to selecting persons who have the knowledge, abilities, and/or special training for the related field of interest.

A. CHURCH COUNCIL

1. General

The Church Council shall exist to provide guidance and counsel to the church membership. All matters agreed upon by the Council, calling for action not already authorized, shall be presented to the church as a recommendation.

2. Membership

The membership of the Church Council shall consist of the following;

- a. Church Senior Pastor
- b. No more than three (3) other church ministerial staff members
- c. WMU Director
- d. Men's Ministries Director
- e. Women's Ministries Director
- f. Deacon Body Chairman
- g. Education Committee Chairman
- h. Finance Committee Chairman
- i. Committee on Committees and Teams Chairman
- j. Missions Committee Chairman
- k. Personnel Committee Chairman
- l. Properties Committee Chairman

Additionally, the Church Council shall have six (6) at-large members, taken from FBCG membership, with each member serving three-year terms. Two (2) members shall rotate off each year and be replaced by members nominated by the Deacon Body and approved by the Church in September each year. The at-large members may not include ministerial staff or their spouses, support staff or their spouses, or the spouses of the committee chairs or directors.

Annually, at the beginning of the church year, **Church Council** members shall nominate and elect a chairman, vice-chairman, and a recorder, as officers from its membership, by written ballot. All officers may serve successive years if re-elected.

3. Functions

The primary functions of the Church Council shall be to:

- a. Recommend the church objectives and goals to the congregation;
- b. Review and coordinate program plans recommended by church officers, organizations, and committees;
- c. Assign and recommend to the church membership for approval, a ministry leader to each church ministry program as needed. This may result in multiple assignments to church ministry staff;
- d. Evaluate church programs in terms of church goals and objectives;
- e. Assist the Senior Pastor in planning revivals and other evangelistic emphases;
- f. Promote the annual stewardship campaign;
- g. Evaluate and make recommendations to the church regarding any changes to starting and ending times of church worship services as defined in Article VIII.A, of these bylaws;
- h. Provide and maintain the church *Policies and Procedures Handbook*, making a presentation to the church for approval when any change is made;
- i. Provide a list of three (3) qualified nominees for Moderator and three (3) nominees for Vice-Moderator to the church for election in September of each year;
- j. Provide qualified nominees for primary and secondary parliamentarians to the church for election in September of each year;
- k. Upon recommendation from the deacon body, nominate two (2) rotating members to serve on the Committee on Committees and Teams, and present to the church for approval in September of each year;
- l. Nominate the church Clerk and present to the church for approval in September of each year. This nominee may be one of the church's administrative assistants;
- m. Nominate the church Treasurer and present to the church for approval in September of each year. This nominee may be elected to serve successive terms; and
- n. Nominate a church Trustee as a rotating member and present to the church for approval in September of each year.

4. Meetings

The Church Council shall have regular meetings no less than four (4) times a year, once each quarter, with the time and place set by the Church Council. The Church Council Chairman shall call special meetings when requested to do so by three (3) or more council members. The Church Council Recorder shall report all minutes of meetings to the church membership at the next church business meeting following the Church Council meeting.

B. COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE AND TEAMS

The Committee on Committees and Teams shall consist of six (6) church members, each serving three-year terms, with two (2) members rotating off and replaced by two (2) members each year nominated by the **Church Council** as per Article IV.A.3.k of these bylaws.

This committee shall provide and maintain a handbook entitled *Committee and Team Handbook*. This handbook shall define and describe all other church committees and teams, stating their

purpose, defining their membership requirements, describing their method of membership nomination and election, specifying their member's term of service, stating their organizational requirements, and listing their duties. Any changes to this handbook must be church approved. All church committees and teams shall be governed by the church *Committee and Team Handbook* and, where applicable, shall be further guided by their own individual policy manuals subordinate to the *Committee And Team Handbook*, these bylaws, and the Church Constitution.

C. OTHER COMMITTEES

FBCG shall have additional church committees and teams as defined in the *Committee and Team Handbook*. A committee may be required to maintain a manual stating committee-related rules, procedures, and/or policies. Revisions to these manuals must be made and approved by the sponsoring committee, and presented to the church membership for approval, in a regularly scheduled business meeting.

ARTICLE V. CHURCH MINISTRY PROGRAMS

FBCG shall have church ministry programs defined in the Church general operating budget as *Programs*. These may include, but are not limited to: Pastoral Ministry, Congregational Care Ministry, Worship and Music Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Children's Ministry. These shall be administered and controlled by FBCG. All ministry officers shall be elected by the church and assigned to ministry programs as directed by *Article IV.A.3.c* of these bylaws. Each elected officer will report regularly to the church.

ARTICLE VI. CHURCH MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS

A. SUNDAY SCHOOL

There shall be a Sunday School, divided into departments and classes for all ages and conducted under the direction of the **Education Committee** for the study of God's Word. The tasks of the Sunday School shall be to teach Biblical revelation; reach unsaved persons for Christ; encourage prospective church members to join our fellowship; perform the functions of the church within its constituency; and provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and the denomination.

B. DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

There shall be a discipleship training organization, divided into departments for all ages and conducted under the direction of the **Education Committee**. The tasks of the organization shall be to orient new church members; train church leaders; teach Christian theology, Christian ethics, Christian history, and church polity and organization; and provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and the denomination.

C. WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION (WMU)

There shall be a WMU organization with officers and organization as needed and shall be under the direction of the **Education Committee**. Its tasks are to teach missions; engage in mission

activity and action; support world missions through praying and giving; and provide and interpret information regarding the involvement of the church and the denomination in missions.

D. MEN'S MINISTRY

There shall be a men's ministry with organization and officers as needed and shall be under the direction of the **Education Committee**. Its tasks are to teach missions; engage in mission action; support world missions through praying and giving; and provide and interpret information regarding the involvement of the church and denomination in missions.

E. WOMENS MINISTRY

There shall be a women's ministry with the organization and officers as needed and shall be under the direction of the **Education Committee**. The tasks are to lead Bible studies, prayer groups, support groups, social/family issue groups, and other women's events that are not included in another program.

ARTICLE VII. ORDINANCES

A. BAPTISM

A person who receives Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith, who professes Him publicly at any worship service and indicates commitment to follow Christ as Lord, shall be received for baptism.

1. Baptism shall be by immersion in water, an act of obedience in accordance with Scripture;
2. Baptism shall be administered by the Senior Pastor or someone approved by him under the direction of the church. The Baptism Team shall assist the Senior Pastor in the preparation for, and observance of baptism. When the church is without a pastor, it shall designate a person to fill this capacity upon the recommendation of the **Church Council**;
3. Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship during any worship service; and
4. A person professing Christ and failing to be baptized after a reasonable length of time shall be counseled by the Senior Pastor. If negative interest is ascertained, they shall be deleted from those awaiting baptism.

B. THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine, commemorate the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate his Second Coming. All members of FBCG and any visiting Christians may participate.

1. The Lord's Supper shall be observed quarterly, preferably the first Sunday of the quarter, or as otherwise scheduled;
2. The Senior Pastor and deacon body shall be responsible for the administration of the Lord's Supper; and
3. The **Lord's Supper Team** shall be responsible for the physical preparation of the Lord's Supper.

ARTICLE VIII. CHURCH MEETINGS

A. WORSHIP SERVICES

The church will meet regularly on Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening. This schedule may temporarily change because of special events or holidays. Any permanent schedule change must be recommended by the **Church Council** and approved by the church in a regularly scheduled business meeting. Any change to the starting and ending times of these services shall be approved by church vote upon recommendation from the **Church Council**.

The purpose of these services is for preaching, instruction, evangelism, and for the worship of Almighty God. These worship services shall be open for attendance by all people and shall be conducted under the direction of the Senior Pastor, or as assigned by the church.

B. SPECIAL SERVICES

Special church worship services, essential to the advancement of church objectives, may be scheduled and shall be placed on the church calendar. These special services must be approved by the **Church Council**.

C. REGULAR BUSINESS MEETINGS

Regular business meetings shall be held monthly unless temporarily changed due to special events or holidays, or permanently changed by the church in a regularly scheduled business meeting. Notice of the meeting and its subject matter shall be made by announcement, supplemented by publication of its agenda and other relevant documents, on a date which is at least seven (7) days prior to the business meeting. Items not included on the agenda for a business meeting may be brought up during the meeting for the purpose of discussion only, and may not be acted upon (voted on) at that meeting except as follows: upon the affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the members present and voting on a motion to add an item which was not included on the agenda for the meeting; such item will be added to the current agenda and may be acted upon (voted on) at that meeting. Only Church members may participate in the voting process at any business meeting, as per *Article I, D* of these bylaws.

D. SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS

A special business meeting may be called to consider special matters of significant nature upon the request of the Senior Pastor, Chairman of the Deacons, or chair of a committee. Notice of the meeting and its subject matter shall be made by announcement, supplemented by publication of its agenda and other relevant documents on the church website, and by letter, telephone message,

email or other electronic means, on a date which is at least seven (7) days prior to the special business meeting. An announcement of the special business meeting shall be made during all regular Sunday morning worship services. Thus, the earliest a special meeting can be held will be on the next Sunday immediately following the Sunday on which the notice is given. If an extreme urgency renders such an advance notice impractical, then by a majority vote of both the deacon body and the Church Council, the advance notice may be waived. The agenda shall be made available by the best available means, and shall always be available at the church office and distributed at the time of the special meeting. In any case, only matters within the purpose or purposes described in the notice of the meeting shall be discussed or acted upon at the specially called meeting.

E. QUORUM

At all business meetings, the quorum shall be those church members attending the business meeting. If conditions exist which excessively hinder assembly, the Moderator, with the caucus approval of the **Church Council**, may declare a quorum has not been met.

F. PARLIAMENTARY RULES

Rules of Order: The most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, revised* shall govern all business and committee meetings of the church.

Standing Rules (as per *Robert's rules of Order, revised*): these are rules or guidelines that can be affected by a simple majority vote at any regularly scheduled or special business meeting, and that stand until changed by a similar vote. They are recorded in and/or listed in the records of the church Clerk. They have to do primarily with the way things are done in the organization to facilitate its work, excepting that they in no way replace or conflict with the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules of Order.

ARTICLE IX. CHURCH FINANCES

A. FINANCIAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The **Church Finance Committee** shall define and institute financial policies that establish a clear Biblical basis in handling the financial resources God has provided the FBCG's congregation. These financial policies shall be those used in prudent standard accounting practices when managing the business of a corporation. These shall define the church policies that help the church comply with federal and state government guidelines in operating a nonprofit organization.

The **Church Finance Committee** shall create and maintain a manual, *Financial Policies and Procedures*, defining these policies and procedures. Revisions must be presented to the church membership for approval during a regularly scheduled church business meeting. A copy of the manual will be kept in the church office at all times.

No officer of the church, committee; organization, auxiliary, or member shall have the power to create a debt or other obligation for FBCG outside the budget, except for such purposes and in such manner as shall be authorized by a vote of the church in conformity with the provisions of these policies.

ARTICLE X. CHURCH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. GENERAL

All Church policies and procedures will be contained in the *Church Policies and Procedures* manual and shall be maintained by the Church Council Recorder under the direction of the **Church Council**. Any changes or revisions must be presented by the Church Council to the church membership for approval at a regularly scheduled business meeting. This manual shall be located in the church office and will be available to all interested parties during regular church office hours.

This manual shall contain, but is not limited to, the following FBCG policies:

1. Wedding Policy
2. Funeral Policy
3. Special Events Policy
4. Church Calendar Scheduling Policy

B. RECOGNIZED GUIDING DOCUMENTS

1. *Constitution*
2. *Bylaws*
3. *Personnel Handbook*
4. *Committee and Team Handbook*
5. *Financial Policies and Procedures*
6. *Deacon Manual*
7. *Church Policies and Procedures*

ARTICLE XI. AUTHORIZATIONS

First Baptist Church of Gainesville, Texas was incorporated on May 20, 1998 in keeping with Section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and Article 2.14(c) of the Texas Non-profit Corporation Act. Its policies and procedures shall be in accord with such laws. The corporation shall have the following officers and directors:

1. President of the Corporation: Church Vice-Moderator
2. Secretary of the Corporation: Church Clerk
3. Treasurer of the Corporation: Church Treasurer
4. Corporation Board of Directors: Church Trustees

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENT HISTORY

A. AUGUST 23, 2015

FBCG bylaws were approved as amended by vote of its membership during a regular business meeting. This revision was to these bylaws, **ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP, B. CANDIDACY**, and its first paragraph as follows;

*Any person may request to be a candidate for membership in FBCG. All such candidates shall be presented to the church membership body and voted upon at any regular ~~church service~~ **business meeting**.*

B. SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

FBCG bylaws were amended as approved by vote of its membership during a regular business meeting with two revisions:

This revision was to these bylaws, **ARTICLE VI. CHURCH MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS**, delete the preliminary paragraph where in it states:

All church ministry organizations shall be under church jurisdiction, all directors being nominated by the Church Council elected by the church membership, and given guidance by the Education Committee. They include the following:

This revision was to these bylaws, **ARTICLE IV, COORDINATING GROUPS, A. CHURCH COUNCIL, 2. MEMBERSHIP**, add two positions to Church Council, Personnel Committee Chairman and Education Committee Chairman. In addition, the Deacon Body is to nominate at large members to Church Council where in it states:

*Additionally, the Church Council shall have six (6) at-large members, taken from FBCG membership, with each member serving three year terms. Two (2) members shall rotate off each year and be replaced by members nominated by the ~~Church Council~~ **Deacon Body** and approved by the church in September each year.*