

Constitution

and

By-Laws

of

First Baptist Church

of Lavonia

Ratified Sunday, April 21, 1968

Revised April, 23, 2006

Preamble

For the more certain preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the accepted tenets of the Missionary Baptist Denomination, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this Church and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith, we do hereby declare and establish this constitution.

DR. LARRY FINGER

Pastor

LAVONIA, GEORGIA

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Section 7. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE – The Chairman of the Deacons and the Pastor and one Member-at-Large appointed by the nominating committee shall recommend to the Church the Budget and Finance Committee to serve for a term of one year.

Section 8. STANDING COMMITTEES – The Church of Trustees shall be elected to hold office: one-third for one year, one-third for two years and one-third for three years. The vacancies as the terms expire shall be filled for terms of three years. No member of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election after the expiration of his term of service until he has been in retirement for at least one year. The Committee will consist of six members.

The Trustees shall, as provided by law and the action of the Church, hold in trust the title of all property of the Church and shall represent the Church in all matters of legal responsibility regarding the purchase, improvement and disposal of Church property. They shall execute all legal papers relating to the Church and to the community as the Church may direct. They shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer any property of the Church without a specific vote of the Church authorizing such action. Any recommendation regarding Church property shall be a joint recommendation of the Deacons and the Trustees.

The Church Planning Committee shall be elected to hold office: one-third for one year, one-third for two years, one-third for three years. The vacancies, as the terms expire, shall be filled for terms of three years. No member of the committee shall be eligible for re-election after the expiration of his term of office until he has been in retirement from the committee for at least one year. The Committee shall consist of nine members.

Section 9. SPECIAL COMMITTEES – Special Committees shall be recommended to the Church by the Nominating Committee.

Article IV – By-Laws

Section 1. QUORUM -- The presence of fifty members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum.

Section 2. ELECTIONS – All elections shall be by a show of hands unless otherwise specified.

Section 3. AUTHORITY – The authority on all parliamentary questions shall be Roberts' Rules of Order.

Section 4. AMENDMENTS – The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any regular business meeting of the Church by a two-thirds vote and read to the Church, provided the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing at a previous meeting, but any article herein may be temporarily suspended to meet an extreme emergency by a unanimous vote of the conference.

Section 5. MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENT GIFTS – The Benevolences of the Church shall be the interests fostered by the Georgia Baptist Convention and such other causes as the Church may elect.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Of
First Baptist Church of Lavonia
Lavonia, Georgia

Article I - Members

Section 1. ADMISSION – Persons may be admitted into the fellowship of this Church by baptism upon a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus, by letter from a Church of like faith, by restoration, or by statement of their baptism by immersion.

Section 2. DISMISSION – The Church may dismiss a member by the granting of a transfer of their letter upon request, or by exclusion. Two-thirds vote shall be necessary for exclusion.

Section 3. LETTERS – Letters of dismission may be granted to any business meeting of the Church.

Article II – Meetings

Section 1. PUBLIC WORSHIP – The regular meetings of the Church for public worship shall be on Sunday morning and evening and a mid-week meeting.

Section 2. MEMORIAL SUPPER – The Memorial Supper of our Lord shall be observed at least once in each quarter of the year.

Section 3. BUSINESS MEETINGS – The regular Church conference shall be held on the third Sunday of each month. The Church may vote to postpone a meeting if necessary.

Section 4. CALLED CONFERENCE – In the event of an emergency, a called conference of the Church may be held by the Pastor of the Chairman of Deacons with the common consent of the members present.

Section 5. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING – At the annual business meeting the Church letter will be presented to the Church.

Article III – Officers and Committees

Section 1. PASTOR – A Pastor shall be chosen and called by the Church whenever a vacancy occurs. His election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one week's notice shall be given by bulletin, letter or press. A pulpit committee shall be appointed by the Church to seek out a suitable pastor, and their recommendation will constitute a nomination, though any member has the privilege of making other nominations. The committee shall bring to the consideration of the Church only one man at a time. Election shall be by secret ballot, two-thirds of the votes cast by members present being necessary to a choice. The pastor, thus elected, shall serve until the relationship is terminated. The pastor

shall have in charge the welfare and oversight of the Church. He shall preside at all meetings of the Church, except as hereinafter provided.

Section 2. DEACONS – a. The deacons shall be twelve (12) members elected by the Church, one-third of whom shall be chosen annually for a term of three years.

b. No deacon shall be eligible for re-election until one full year has elapsed following a full term of service.

c. Two weeks prior to the election of deacons, a list of all male members twenty-one (21) years and over shall be published in the weekly church bulletin.

d. One week prior to the election of deacons, a list of all male members twenty-one (21) years and over shall be published in the weekly church bulletin.

e. The four retiring deacons shall act as tellers and will select the type of ballot to be used for voting.

f. On the day of the election, the tellers will distribute the ballots to every member present at the beginning of all morning worship services.

g. The members of the Church will vote immediately for the four deacons of their choice, and the tellers will collect them and retire to count them immediately.

h. No announcement will be made on the date of election as to who received the highest number of votes.

i. If it is determined by the tellers that one or more of the four receiving the highest number of votes does not wish to serve as deacon, then the nominee receiving the fifth highest number of votes, and willing to serve will be substituted therefore. The same procedure shall be followed if more than one of the four shall not agree to serve.

j. The names of the deacons so elected shall be published in the bulletin the week following their selection.

Section 3. RECOMMENDATIONS – The Deacons shall make recommendations to the Church with reference to any matters which they may consider in the interest of the Church.

Section 4. PROPERTY AND FUNDS – It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Deacons to authorize the expenditure of the funds of the Church for purposes provided in the Budget, and for the maintenance and upkeep of the property of the Church, and in general, to look after the business affairs of the Church. All designated monies are to go for designated purposes.

Section 5. GENERAL OFFICERS AND WORKERS – All general officers and workers of the Church shall be elected annually for the term of one year. These officers and workers shall be given written explanation of their duties.

Section 6. NOMINATING COMMITTEE – The nominating committee shall be recommended to the Church by the Deacons.