

CHURCH CONSTITUTION
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
PALM BAY, FLORIDA

ARTICLE I.

The name of this organization shall be FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH.

ARTICLE 11. PURPOSE

The purpose of this church is to glorify God through salvation of the lost and edification of believers. We believe that all who are born have an equal opportunity for salvation. John 3:16

1. Promotion of spiritual worship. John 4:24; II Timothy 4:1-5.
2. Teaching and preaching of the word of God to all the world. Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8; Galatians 1:8-9.
3. Administration of the ordinances of the Church. Matthew 28:19-20; I Corinthians 11:2'1-24.
4. Defense of the faith once for all delivered unto the saints. Jude 3; Hebrews 10:23.
5. We reserve the right to establish educational ministries and institutions as a part of the ministry of Faith Baptist Church. II Timothy 2:15

ARTICLE III. ARTICLES OF FAITH

Section 1. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally inspired and is the product of spirit-controlled men, and therefore has truth without admixture of error for its matter. We believe that it is the true center of Christian union and the only infallible rule for all human conduct, creeds and opinions. II Peter 1:19-21; II Timothy 3:16-17. We, as a Church adhere to the teachings of the King James Version.

Section 2. Of the True God

We believe that there is only one living and true God, infinite in every excellence; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three personal distinctions; the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT; one in substance and equal in every Divine perfection. Exodus 20:2-3; I Corinthians 8:6; I John 5:7; I Timothy 3:16; Revelation 4:11.

We believe in the absolute Deity of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, that He was Divine as no other man can be, being very God of very God, existing from all eternity co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit; that He never ceased to be God for one instant and that His humiliation did not consist in laying aside His Deity; that as a man He was miraculously begotten of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary. John 1:1-2; I John 5:20; Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:26-38.

we believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the Agent in the new birth; that He seals, endures, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer. John 14:16-17; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Genesis 1:1-3; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5-6; Ephesians 1:13-14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Romans 8:14, 16, 26, 27.

Section 3. Of the Devil or Satan

we believe that Satan is a distinct personality; that he is the god of this age, author of all the powers of darkness and sin, and that he is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the Lake of Fire. Matthew 4:1-3; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10.

Section 4. Of the Creation

we accept the Genesis account of creation and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution. Genesis 1 and 2; Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3.

Section 5.

we believe that man, in the person of the first Adam, was created in innocence but by voluntary transgression, fell into sin thus plunging the whole race into condemnation and death, so that now all mankind is born in sin and shapen in iniquity and become willful sinners with the first expression of personal choice and so are without excuse before God. Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 5:10-19; Romans 1:18, 32.

Section 6. Of the Virgin Birth

we believe that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born of woman, and that He is both the Son of God and God, the Son. Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:4.

Section 7. Of the Atonement for Sin

we believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who, by appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin; honored the Divine Law by His personal obedience, and by His death made full and vicarious atonement for our sin; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but by voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree, having risen from the dead is now enthroned in Heaven, uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with Divine perfection and that He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and all-sufficient Savior. Ephesians 2:8; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24-25; John 3:16; Matthew 18:11; Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 2:14; Isaiah 53:4-7; I John 4:10; I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21.

Section 8. Of Grace in the New Creation

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the Divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that it is solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with the Divine truth, and our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life. John 3:3; II Corinthians 5:17; I John 5:1; John 3:6-7; Acts 16:30-33; II Peter 1:4; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1; II Corinthians 5:19; Colossians 2:13; John 3:8.

Section 9. Of Justification

We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification.

- (a.) That Justification includes the pardon of sin and the gift of eternal life, on principles of righteousness.
- (b.) That it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but that solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood His righteousness is imputed to us. Acts 13:39; Isaiah 53:11; Zechariah 13:1; Romans 8:1; Romans 5:1, 9.

Section 10. Of Faith and Salvation

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. Acts 16:31

Section 11. Of Sanctification

We believe that sanctification of the Believer is the Divine setting apart of the individual unto God, accomplished in a threefold manner: first, an eternal act of God based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the Believer in a position of holiness at the moment he trusts the Savior; second, a continuing process in the saints as the Holy Spirit applies the word of God to life; third, the consummation of this process at the Lord's return. Hebrews 10:10-14; Hebrews 3:1; John 17:17; Ephesians 5:27; II Corinthians 3:18; I Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 5:25-26; I Thessalonians 4:3-4, 5:23-24; I John 3:2; Jude 25:25; Revelation 22:11.

Section 12. of the Church

We believe in the unity of all true Believers in the Church - the Body of Christ - which was established on the Day of Pentecost; and that all Believers from Pentecost to the Rapture, both Jew and Gentile, are added to this Church by the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that this Church is manifested through the local church, which is a congregation of born-again and immersed believers associated by covenant of faith and fellowship in the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ and governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word, and that its officers should include pastors and deacons whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scripture.

we believe the true mission of the Church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity.

we hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with one another in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of such cooperation; and that in all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, and of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. Ephesians 3:1-6; I Corinthians 12:12-13; Acts 2:41-42; I Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:11; Acts 20:17-28; I Timothy 3:1-7; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 3:23-24; Acts 13:13-18.

Section 13. Of Separation

We accept the Scripture command to separate from worldliness, modernism, and apostasy, and from any individual or group that threatens or interferes with the Church's ministry to glorify Jesus Christ. II Corinthians 6:14-17; I Timothy 6:3-6; Romans 16:17-18; I John 9:11; I Timothy 4:1-2; II Chronicles 19:2; Matthew 7:15-20; Acts 20:28-31; Revelation 18:4; II Thessalonians 3:6-14.

Section 14. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

we believe that there are two Church Ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the single immersion of a Believer in water, and is properly called "Believers Baptism". It depicts in a beautiful and solemn way our faith issuing in death to sin and resurrection to a new life. Baptism is a prerequisite to church membership. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration of our Lord's death until He comes and our continual fellowship with Him, and should logically be preceded by Baptism and always by careful self-examination. Acts 8:36; Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 11:23-32.

Section 15. Of the Security of the Saints

we believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6; John 10:28-29; Romans 8:35-39; Jude 1.

Section 16. Of the Righteous and the Wicked

we believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only those who through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Spirit of our God are truly righteous in His esteem, while all who continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse; that this distinction holds among men both in and after death in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. Malachi 3:18; Genesis 18:23; Romans 6:17-18; I John 5:19; Romans 7:6; Romans 6:23; Proverbs 14:32; Luke 6:25; Matthew 25:34-41; John 8:21.

Section 17. Of Civil Government

we believe that civil government is of Divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth. Romans 13:17-; II Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21-22; Acts 23:5; Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:29; Acts 4:18-20; Daniel 3:17-18.

Section 18. Of Israel

we believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, and that she will be completely regathered in the Holy Land after the completion of the Church and will be saved as a nation at the Second Advent of Christ. Genesis 13:14-17; Romans 11:1-32; Ezekiel 37.

Section 19. Of Last Things

- (a.) The Second Advent of Christ: We believe in the "Blessed Hope" - the personal, imminent, pretribulation and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones, and in His return to earth after the tribulation, with His Saints to establish His millennial Kingdom. I Thessalonians 4:13-18; II Thessalonians 1:6-12; Revelation 20:1-6.
- (b.) The Judgment Seat of Christ: We believe that every saved person will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ to be judged by the Lord in regard to faithful service. I Corinthians 3:11-13; II Corinthians 5:10.
- (c.) The Eternal State: We believe in the bodily resurrection of All men - the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment; 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, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be forever glorified with the Lord; that the souls of the unbelievers after death remain in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with spirit, soul and body reunited they shall appear before the Great White Throne to be judged and cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment. Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:4b; John 5:28-29; Philippians 1:23; II Corinthians 5:8, 10; Revelation 20:1-6, 12-15.
- (d.) The Millennial Kingdom: We believe that the Millennial Kingdom on earth will be ruled by Jesus Christ from the throne of David. Luke 1:32; Acts 2:21, 30; Isaiah 9:6-7.

ARTICLE IV. CHURCH COVENANT

Having received the Lord Jesus Christ as our own personal Savior, and on the Public testimony of our faith in Him - having been immersed, we do now covenant with each other as one body in Christ and by the aid of the Holy Spirit the following:

To walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its spirituality and prosperity; to sustain scriptural worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to give the Church sacred pre-eminence over all institutions of human origin; 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 throughout all nations. We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions, to educate our children in the Lord, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to work circumspectly in the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our manner of living, to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior. We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress, to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offence but always ready for reconciliation, mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay. Moreover, we engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can live out the spirit of this covenant and the principles and practices of the New Testament.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Present Membership

All those whose names appear on the rolls of this Church are members, but only those on the "Active" list are considered in good and regular standing. Those whose names appear on the "Inactive" list have no right of franchise and may not be granted a letter of "good and regular standing". Members must have reached their eighteenth birthday in order to have the right of franchise.

Section 2. Candidate for Church Membership

- (a.) Candidates may become members of the Church in one of four (4) ways:
- (1) By Baptism.
 - (2) By letter from an acceptable Church of like faith and order as this.
 - (3) By statement of Christian experience having been previously baptized.
 - (4) By restoration.
- (b.) Anyone professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, giving evidence of a change of heart and declaring himself (or herself) in accord with the principles, practices and doctrines of this Church, may become a candidate for Church membership. Candidates must make their requests for church membership known publicly before the church body.

- (c.) After making his request for Church membership known publicly, the candidate shall appear personally before the Pastor and deacons who shall pass upon his qualifications and prescribe any restrictions they may deem advisable for the best interests of the Church. The deacons will then make a recommendation to the church for its approval or rejection of a candidate. In most cases it is highly recommended that the new candidates be required to attend a membership class to be taught by the Pastor or someone appointed by him.

Section 3. Dismissal of Members

- (a.) Dismissal shall be by death, letter, or exclusion.
- (b.) Letters of dismissal may be granted any member in good and regular standing. Such letters must be addressed to a particular Church of like faith and order as this and sent by the clerk to the Pastor or clerk of the Church to which he is applying for membership. Such letters shall be valid only for six months from date and the member dismissed shall remain subject to the discipline of this Church until notification has been received of the acceptance by the Church addressed. No letter shall be granted except to a designated Church of like faith and order.
- (c.) A letter of dismissal shall not be granted to a member not in good and regular standing nor to one desiring to unite with a church not of like faith and order; however, a personal letter should be written, giving his standing to date.

Section 4. Discipline of Members

- (a.) The matter of discipline of members shall be in the hands of the deacons, assisted by the Pastor, and their action by a three-fourths vote shall be final, except in cases of expulsion. Approval of expulsion shall be by a majority vote of the Church after recommendation from the Board of Deacons. No member shall be expelled until every effort has been made, including, if physically possible, personal visits to reclaim him (or her) for Christ and the Church.
- (b.) Members failing to support the Church by their interest and participation for a period of six (6) months without a legitimate excuse (such "support " and "excuse" to be defined by the deacons), may be placed on the "Inactive" list thereby depriving them of their right of franchise. Names continuing on the "Inactive" list for more than six (6) months may be removed from the Church membership roll subject to paragraph (a) of this Section, having been visited by two people if possible, if physically able, and notified by the Church Clerk.

Section 5. Obligation of Members

- (a.) The Church Covenant sets forth the obligations assumed by every member of this Church. Frequent reading of the covenant is recommended to every member.

- (b.) Loyalty to Christ and the Church requires that every member shall attend regularly the services of worship; shall maintain honorable business relations with all men; shall make regular contributions as the Lord has prospered him (I Corinthians 16:2), toward the expenses and the Missionary interests of the Church. Furthermore, it shall be the duty of members to honor and esteem their Pastor; to pray for him fervently and daily, in love, manifesting a tender regard for his welfare and reputation.
- (c.) Any member desiring a meeting with the Pastor and deacons shall be granted that privilege upon written request which includes a summary of the purpose of the meeting.

ARTICLE VI. ORDINANCES

Section 1. Baptism

Those professing saving faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior shall, by the Pastor or some person authorized by the Church, be immersed in water in accordance with the Scriptural teaching. Immersion shall be prerequisite to Church membership. This Church recognizes only "Believers Baptism" as valid.

Section 2. Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper (Communion) shall be served to the assembled church body by the Pastor (or some person designated by the Church) and the deacons on the first Sunday of each month, and/or at the discretion of the deacons. Since it is the Lord's Table, none who are His shall be barred, but the Pastor shall frequently state the scriptural order, which places baptism as a prerequisite to Communion, and shall explain the meaning of the ordinance.

ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS AND OTHER POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Section 1. Titles

The officers of the Church shall be Pastor and deacons. Philippians 1:1.

Section 2. Election

- (a.) A pastor may be called by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the voting membership present at a meeting of the Church, announced for this purpose two consecutive previous Sundays. He shall continue in office until he resigns, by giving the Church notice in writing not to exceed thirty (30) days and not less than fifteen (15) days. The Church may, by a majority vote, accept his resignation and declare the pulpit vacant. Should the Church desire (by majority vote) the Pastor may be granted three (3) weeks salary in lieu of notice, in which case the pulpit will be vacated immediately.
- (b.) The deacons shall be elected annually from the membership of the Church in December and their terms of office shall begin on the first of January. Said election(s) shall be in accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 6 of this Article. Persons desiring the office of Deacon shall have been a member of this Church for a period of at least one (1) year.

Section 3. Other Positions of Responsibility in the Church

Other positions of responsibility shall consist of Clerk, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Sunday School Superintendent - all of whom shall have been a member of this Church for a period of at least one (1) year before being placed in nomination; and their terms of office shall begin on the first of the month following the annual business meeting. Retiring persons shall hold office until the terms of the newly elected persons begin. Other minor positions may be created from time to time as may be deemed necessary. No member on the "Inactive" list is eligible to hold any position in this Church or any of its organizations.

The Pastor shall serve as Ex officio Member of all committees and boards of the Church. No meeting of the Board or Committees shall be legal unless the Pastor has been notified of such meeting.

It shall be the duty of the Pastor to minister the word, administer the Ordinances, and to exercise the general oversight of Church interest.

Section 4. The Pastor

(a.) when calling a Pastor, the following procedure shall be followed:

- (1) The prospective Pastor will visit, caning as a supply Pastor, and if approved by the Pulpit Committee, they will invite him back as a candidate, bringing his family with him. It should be understood that the candidate will preach a minimum of four (4) times during these two (2) visits.
- (2) If he has served in other Churches, his ministry there should be explored with a bona fide attempt to determine that he meets the qualifications set forth for a Pastor in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Letters of recommendation will be requested from any (all) Churches he has served in during the past five (5) years.
- (3) He shall be required to state in writing his acceptance of and adherence to the Articles of Faith, the Constitution and the Covenant of this Church. He shall be required to state in writing his beliefs regarding the "Five Points of Calvinism" and/or Grace, and the Charismatic Movement.
- (4) He shall also state in writing any differences which he holds regarding or relating to any groups and associations with which this Church is in fellowship. Further, he shall be required to state in writing all associations he has been affiliated with during the past two (2) years.
- (5) The Pulpit Committee shall present only one (1) man at a time for consideration and vote by the Church.

(b.) A call to the Pastor shall be extended at a meeting of the Church that has been called for that purpose and announced from the pulpit two (2) Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting. Voting shall be by ballot. A written call and agreement shall be presented to the prospective Pastor, setting forth in detail Church-Pastoral relationship, including salary, housing/car allowance, insurance, vacations, etc. after these matters have been discussed with the Pastor and approved mutually.

- (c.) If the conduct of the Pastor justifies immediate termination of his ministry, such as proven guilt of immorality or inexcusable dishonesty in his business affairs, the Church shall declare the pulpit vacant by majority vote of the Church.
- (d.) Other workers, such as Christian Education Director, Youth or Music Director, may be called by the Church, but are to be individuals fully approved by the Pastor and deacons and shall work under their direction. Such persons shall become members of the Church at the time of their calling.
- (e.) The Pastor shall have three (3) weeks annual vacation, which shall not exceed two Sundays, with pay, - the time to be agreed upon by the Pastor and the deacons. At the end of two years of his ministry, the annual vacation will be increased to four (4) weeks, not to exceed three (3) Sundays. The Pastor shall be free to conduct meetings outside the Church as the Lord leads, but not more than three Sundays per year excluding vacation time, except with the consent of the Board of Deacons. At such times the Pastor and deacons will obtain a speaker for the Sunday services, remuneration to be determined by the deacons.
- (f.) The Pastor's salary shall be reviewed and determined at least once a year, giving consideration to rising costs of living.

Section 5. The Deacons

- (a.) The deacons shall be responsible for all the necessary business of running the Church.
- (b.) Agreeable to the provisions of the "Act of Incorporation", and the laws of the State of Florida, the Board of Deacons shall act as trustee, representing the Church as its agent.
- (c.) It shall be the duty of the deacons to:
 - (1) Engage actively in all the spiritual work of the Church.
 - (2) Seek out such members as need special help and encouragement.
 - (3) Visit the sick.
 - (4) Inquire into the fitness and qualifications of prospective members, to the Church such as they consider eligible.
 - (5) Prepare and distribute the elements of the Lord's Supper.
 - (6) Assist the Pastor in the evangelistic program of the Church.
 - (7) Advise and aid the Pastor in all the interests of the Church.
 - (8) Act as the Pulpit Committee either in the absence of the regular Pastor, or when the pulpit shall be vacant.
- (d.) The Board of Deacons shall not have authority to sell, lease, give away or dispose of Church property in any manner to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) in value nor to mortgage or encumber the same with debt to exceed the above amount except as the Church shall order in the same by a corporate act.

- (e.) The Board of Deacons shall appoint all committees of the Church except those listed in Article X; subject to Church approval.
- (f.) The Board of Deacons shall appoint the Sunday School Superintendent, Head Usher and Financial Secretary subject to the Church's approval within thirty (30) days at a called business meeting.

Section 6. Term of Office of Deacons

- (a.) The number of deacons shall be determined by their spiritual qualifications and to be determined by an election of the congregation. Said election to be held in December.
- (b.) The term of office shall be three (3) years and be so arranged so that approximately one-third of the board shall be elected annually. The deacon shall be elected to his office by a majority vote of those present at the election.
- (c.) In case of any vacancy occurring on the Board, the unexpired term shall be filled by a special election at a meeting called by the Church, of which at least two (2) weeks public notice shall be given from the pulpit.
- (d.) No deacon shall succeed himself, except in an emergency.

Section 7. Church Clerk

- (a.) The Church Clerk shall have charge of the official correspondence and shall keep a record of all business meetings of the Church, entering the minutes of the meetings in a book. The clerk shall keep in a bound book a record of all the membership, of baptisms and of the reception and dismissal of members. The clerk shall perform such other duties as properly belonging to the position, making monthly and annual reports to the church. The clerk shall keep on a separate list the names of those on the "Inactive" list as received from the Board of Deacons.
- (b.) The Church Clerk shall provide the Treasurer with a transcript of the minutes of each church business meeting promptly in which authority is granted for the disbursement or transfer of funds.
- (c.) The clerk shall certify annually to the bank, names of persons who are authorized to have access to the safety deposit boxes and to sign the checks for disbursement of funds.
- (d.) Upon retirement or removal from position, the Church Clerk shall deliver to the Chairman of the Board of Deacons, all records, files, and/or other papers belonging to the Church, and shall present the same with all contents complete to the date of surrender of such documents.

Section 8. Financial Secretary

- (a.) It shall be the duty of the Financial Secretary, together with one or more deacons, to count and record in a permanent record all monies received in the offerings of the Church.
- (b.) The Financial Secretary shall be responsible for depositing all funds in the bank, including monies received from organizations within the Church or from individuals.

- (c.) The Financial Secretary shall provide the Treasurer and Pastor with a record of all monies received and deposited, specifying the distribution into various funds, as indicated by the donors or by special offerings. We encourage gifts designated through the Church to be given to approved agencies sanctioned by Faith Baptist Church. All exceptions should be approved by the Pastor and Board of Deacons.
- (d.) The Chairman of the Board of Deacons shall assume the duties of the financial Secretary in the absence of the latter, except that he may not assume the duties of the Treasurer as outlined in Section 9 simultaneously.

Section 9. Treasurer

- (a.) The treasurer shall be responsible for the recording of all financial transactions in permanent records and shall make monthly and annual reports to the Church.
- (b.) The treasurer shall pay the bills of the Church. He shall write, sign, record and mail all checks. Checks shall be countersigned by a person authorized by the Board of Deacons. The Chairman of the Deacons shall assume the responsibility of signing the checks in the Treasurer's absence, except that he shall not perform the duties of the Financial Secretary as outlined in section 8 simultaneously.

Section 10. Sunday School Superintendent

- (a.) The Superintendent shall have general supervision over the Sunday School, teachers, and officers. He shall carry out the program established by the Board of Deacons and shall report monthly and annually to the Church.
- (b.) The Board of Deacons, in consultation with the Pastor and Sunday School Superintendent, shall appoint all teachers and officers for the Sunday School. Only members may be selected to fill these positions.

Section 11. The Director of Music

The director of music shall be responsible to administer the music program of the Church. He will appoint the pianist(s), organist(s), and any other song leaders with the approval of the Pastor and Deacons. The Director of Music will have the responsibility for the direction of the choir. Only members of the Church may participate in the choir ministry. The Director of Music shall be a member of the Music Committee.

ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Budget Committee

- (a.) The Budget Committee shall consist of two (2) deacons (appointed by the Board of Deacons), the Financial Secretary, the Treasurer and two (2) other members of the Church to be approved by the Church.
- (b.) The duties of the committee shall be to prepare the budget for the ensuing year for presentation to the Church for its approval at the annual meeting.
- (c.) The committee shall function throughout the year to recommend budget revisions to the Church as may be deemed necessary.

Section 2. The Auditing Committee

- (a.) This committee shall consist of at least two (2) members elected at the annual election, or the Church may vote to authorize the audit by a professional auditing firm, rather than by a committee.
- (b.) It shall audit all accounts of the Church and its organizations and certify same, reporting at the following annual business meeting.

Section 3. The Missionary Committee

- (a.) This committee shall consist of the Pastor, the Chairman of the Board of Deacons, president of the missionary organization, and two other members of the church to be appointed by the Pastor and the deacons.
- (b.) It shall recommend the missionary projects to be supported by the Church and auxiliary organizations. Suggestions from such organizations may be submitted to the committee for consideration and recommendation.
- (c.) It shall draft an annual missionary budget to be submitted to the Budget Committee for its action at least six (6) weeks before the annual meeting of the Church.
- (d.) It shall maintain contacts with missionaries supported by the church, and encourage prayer for, and church-wide interest in these and other missionaries.

Section 4. The Music Committee

The Music Committee shall consist of four (4) persons: The Director of music plus three (3) other Church members. The three (3) other Church members will serve a three (3) year term- One new member being elected each year. The Music Committee will be responsible for the scheduling of special music for the Church services. It will be responsible for ensuring that the presentation of all music is appropriate and in keeping with Biblical principles.

Section 5. The Pulpit Committee

The Pulpit Committee shall consist of the Board of Deacons and two (2) other members elected by the Church.

Section 6. The Ushers Committee

This committee shall consist of the chairman, appointed by the Board of Deacons, who shall appoint his assistants. They shall have charge of the seating of the congregation, taking of the offerings, and welcoming of visitors.

Section 7. Vacancy in Positions

- (a.) If any member of these boards or committees shall absent himself three (3) successive regular meetings without a reason satisfactory to the Board of Deacons, his place may be declared vacant by them. A successor shall be elected to serve out the unexpired term of position at the next regular business meeting of the Church. Each person shall hold his position until a successor is elected.
- (b.) If any person holding a position, serving on a board or committee desires to resign his position, he shall do so in writing to the board of Deacons. A successor shall be elected as above.

- (c.) Vacancies shall be filled as possible in accordance with ARTICLE VII, Section 3. Successors shall be elected to serve only until the next annual election.

Section 8. The Maintenance Committee

The Maintenance Committee shall consist of the Chairman of the Board of Deacons, and eight (8) other men of the Church to be appointed by the board of Deacons and to be approved by the Church. The committee shall perform responsibilities as they relate to the overall maintenance of the building and grounds such as:

1. Minor repairs and installations.
2. Producing and carrying out a preventative maintenance schedule.
3. Organize work days as needed.
4. Coordinating annual fire inspections.
5. Oversee contractors' work; e.g., lawn work, etc.
6. Open and close up buildings, turn on/off all lights, air conditioning, etc. for all services and functions.

Section 9. The Nursery Coordinating Committee

The Nursery Coordinating Committee shall consist of the chairman, appointed by the Board of Deacons and approved by the Church, who shall appoint assistants. The purpose of the Nursery Coordinating Committee is to organize and operate the Church Nursery. The Nursery Coordinating Committee will be responsible to:

1. Organize the Nursery Workers.
2. Publish a monthly Nursery Workers Schedule.
3. Maintain the general cleanliness of the nursery. (i.e., bedding, toys, soiled diapers, etc.)
4. Inform Parent/Guardian when a child is believed to be ill, and place the child in the Parent/Guardian Custody.
5. Ensure that children are released to the Parent/Guardian following services.

All committees shall report annually unless otherwise instructed.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

Section 1. Public worship

- (a.) Public worship services shall be held regularly, morning and evening, on the Lord's Day. These services shall not normally be given over to anything but prayer, preaching, and teaching of the word; with an appropriate musical ministry. Any other special presentation shall be subject to approval by the Pastor and the deacons. Neither shall they be merged into union services with other denominations.
- (b.) At least once each week there shall be a meeting for prayer and praise.

Section 2. Business Meetings

- (a.) The official church year shall begin the first day of January and close the thirty-first day of December.

- (b.) The Annual Meeting shall be held the third Wednesday in January, following a period of prayer. In case of any omission in the holding of elections, the meeting shall be called and held on the earliest date thereafter.
- (c.) The Monthly Business Meeting shall be held on the second Wednesday after the first Sunday. Financial reports will be presented.
- (d.) The day for business meetings may be changed by the Church.
- (e.) Special meetings may be called by the Pastor, with the consent of the deacons, by the deacons, or by thirty (30) percent of the voting membership who request such of the clerk. Notice of meetings must be given at two (2) regular worship services prior to the meeting date; the particular object or objects of the meeting must be stated clearly in the notice and no other business shall be transacted in any special meeting.
- (f.) A quorum shall be thirty (30) percent of the voting membership.
- (g.) All new business coming before the Church shall be tabled until the next regular meeting.
- (h.) All business meetings shall be conducted decently and in order; according to Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE X. CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. Sunday School

- (a.) The purpose of the Sunday School is to win each student to the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, and to instruct him in the word and in Christian living, including Church attendance and membership.
- (b.) All officers and all teachers of the Sunday School shall be appointed annually and shall be members of this Church in good standing. Anyone whose conduct or teaching is considered injurious to the class or Church shall, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, be referred to the Board of Deacons for necessary action.
- (c.) All teachers and officers must first be approved by the Deacons, in consultation with the Pastor and Superintendent. All literature shall be approved by the Pastor, Superintendent, and Board of Deacons.

Section 2. Bible Training Fellowship

- (a.) The purpose is to train Christian young people and adults for Christian service.
- (b.) All officers, Junior High age and above shall be members of this Church.
- (c.) All counselors, as well as the literature, must be approved by the Board of Deacons.

Section 3. Other Organizations

- (a.) There shall be other organizations as considered advantageous, but none of these shall be started without the consent of the Board of Deacons. No subsidiary organization of the Church shall engage in any practice or hold any policy contrary to the general position of the Church itself. All officers and all teachers shall be members of the Church.
- (b.) All such organizations are self-governing but are subject finally to the control of the Church in accordance with its Constitution and voted-Church policies.

ARTICLE XI. MISSIONS

It shall be the policy of this Church to support only missions engaged principally in evangelization and establishment of Baptist Churches (schools, hospitals and similar ministries must be kept subordinate to the primary objectives). They shall be known to be in hearty agreement with our Confession of Faith, both in doctrine and practice. They shall normally be Baptist in both name and practice. Christian schools and social agencies, such as homes for the aged, children's homes, etc., shall be considered an appropriate part of the missionary program.

Any exceptions to the above must have the approval of the Missionary Committee and the Board of Deacons.

ARTICLE XII. GENERAL

Section 1. Use of the Church Property and Name

- (a.) Use of the property for other than regularly-scheduled meetings shall first be approved by the Board of Deacons.
- (b.) All gatherings off the Church property held in the name of the Church shall be subject to approval of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons.
- (c.) No Pastor, pulpit orator or representatives of any society or organization will be permitted to preach in the Church who fails to confess clearly the fundamentals of the faith once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Any visiting speaker must have the approval of the Pastor and the board of Deacons.

Section 2. Monetary Principles

- (a.) The systematic giving of money for the support of the work of the Lord is worship as well as duty. It must be kept on the plane of voluntary, free-will offerings, untarnished by any hope of material gain. All members are expected to give regular systematic financial support to the Church according to the leading of the Holy Spirit and teachings of the word of God. No monies shall be raised for the support of the Church and its various activities by any but the Biblical plan of tithes, offerings and gifts. Any other method of fund raising shall be approved by the Board of Deacons.
- (b.) A statement of each donor's account shall be given to him at the end of each year by the Financial Secretary. Numbered envelopes will be provided to enable proper records to be kept.

Section 3. Legal Provisions

- (a.) This Church shall have the right to own, buy, or sell tangible properties both real and personal, in its own name and through properly-elected officers, when authorized by a vote of the Church.
- (b.) No profit shall ever accrue to the benefit of any individuals from assets, holdings or other transactions in which this corporation may become involved.
- (c.) In the event of the dissolution of this corporation, all of its debts shall be fully satisfied. None of its assets or holdings shall be divided among the members or other individuals, but shall be irrevocably designated by corporate vote prior to dissolution to such other non-profit religious corporations as are in agreement with the letter and spirit of the Articles of Faith, adopted by this Church, and in conformity with the requirements of the United States Internal Revenue Service Code of 1954 (Section 501 C3).

Section 4. Watch Care Membership (Associate Membership)

This membership is offered to born again Believers who are only here for a portion of the year. Because the Church has many seasonal visitors, it is necessary for these people to have a Church away from home that can minister to their needs. It offers the same advantages as regular Church membership but without right of franchise. Candidates for Watch Care membership must meet the same qualifications as regular members as outlined in ARTICLE V.

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS AND BYLAWS

This Constitution may be amended, altered or revised at a specially-called business meeting for that purpose by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members present and voting, provided such proposed changes shall have been submitted in writing not later than the preceding regular monthly business meeting.

The Church may adopt from time to time such bylaws in amplification hereof as may be necessary or desirable, and shall provide therein for amendment of the same.

ARTICLE XIV. NEW TESTAMENT DISTINCTIVES OF A BAPTIST CHURCH

Section 1. The Authority of the Scriptures for Faith and Practice

We are to organize and operate our Church according to the word of God and not by traditions or man-made creeds. II Timothy 3:16-17.

Section 2. The Soul Liberty of the Believer

Each believer is directly accountable to God and is subject to the word of God. No man can force his beliefs on another person or Church without being contrary to God's word, except in matters wherein that person's actions affect the local church, and then he is under the discipline of the local Church. Acts 5:29; Romans 14:5.

Section 3. The Priesthood of the Believer

Each believer as a priest can draw near to God in full assurance of faith in our tasks for God, prayer, in worship, and in confession of sins.
I Peter 2:5.

Section 4. A Regenerate, Baptized Membership

The word of God clearly indicates that only regenerate, immersed believers should be received into the local Church. Acts 2:41; 8:36, 37, 38.

Section 5. Autonomy of the Local Church

Each Church is independent and governed by the people. Acts 2:42.

Section 6. The Separation of the Church and State

God's word gives no indication of one having authority over the other, but each one's duties or authority is given separately. Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 13:1.