

# **Constitution and Bylaws** *(as approved by the church on January 28, 2007)*

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Temple Baptist Church  
CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

In order to accomplish the commission given to us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to do so decently and in order and in a manner worthy of Him, and to provide a means for this church to function effectively as individuals and as a body in the world, we establish this constitution.

I. Name:

The incorporated name of this church is Temple Baptist Church of Worcester, Massachusetts.

II. Church Covenant:

At the time of this church's organization, the charter members entered into a covenant with one another. The spirit of their covenant still guides this church today. (See copy attached as adopted by the church at its organization on July 21, 1972.)

III. Articles of Faith:

At the time of this church's organization, the charter members unanimously accepted two articles of faith: one short statement and one long statement. (See copy attached as adopted by the church at its organization on July 21, 1972.)

IV. Character of the Church:

Section 1. Polity: This is an independent Baptist church and, as such, all matters related to governing this church shall be vested in its assembled membership.

Section II. Authority: The Scriptures, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is the final authority for this church on all matters relating to faith and practice.

V. Purpose:

The purpose of this church shall be to join God in His mission of revealing Himself to the world through His Son Jesus Christ and through His body, the church. In order to accomplish this purpose, this church is committed individually and corporately, to: (1) Pattern our lives and ministry after Biblical instructions, principles, and examples, and to submit willingly to the Biblical authority of our church and its leaders; (2) Accurately represent Christ in the world by living holy lives, loving one another as Christ loves us, and working together to maintain our unity in Christ; (3) Regularly worship, pray, baptize new believers, share the Lord's Supper, fellowship, and study God's Word together as a body of believers; (4) Become faithful witnesses for Christ to our families, friends, neighbors, associates, and all that the Lord brings across our paths or leads us to seek out; (5) Equip believers of every age and stage of life to effectively fulfill their God-given roles in the family, in the church, and in society; (6) Train believers to take leadership roles in ministry, and to ordain qualified men who have been called by God to serve Him as pastors and missionaries; (7) Send believers who are set apart by the Holy Spirit and called by Him to carry out God's mission in other locations and cultures; (8) Carry out whatever business is deemed necessary to accomplish these things.

VI. Dissolution:

In the event of the dissolution of this church, all remaining assets, after payment of all liabilities, shall be turned over to the Baptist Bible Fellowship International, its successors, or its assignors.

Temple Baptist Church

BYLAWS

Article I. Membership

Section 1. - Membership in this church may be acquired in the following manner:

- A. BAPTISM: Any person who evidences a change of attitude toward God, and by faith in Jesus as the Son of God who died and shed His blood on the cross to atone for his sins, accepts Him as his own Savior, and with all his heart is willing to obey Him and His Word, may by vote of the church and by baptism (immersion in water) be received into membership.
- B. LETTER: Any person to whom the ordinance of baptism by immersion has been administered by authority of a New Testament church may, by a satisfactory statement of faith and letter of recommendation from a sister Baptist church, be received into membership upon the vote of the church.
- C. EXPERIENCE: Any person to whom the ordinance of baptism by immersion has been administered by authority of a New Testament Baptist church may, by a satisfactory statement of faith in Christ, be received into membership upon the vote of the church.
- D. RESTORATION: Any person whose membership has been terminated may, upon public confession of his or her sins or errors, and six months' faithfulness in attendance, Christian Spirit, and liberality in stewardship, call for a special meeting with the pastor and deacons (which is the Discipline Committee), wherein it shall be frankly and fully discussed as to the individual's future intentions and relationship to the church. Should the results of said meeting be satisfactory, the pastor may recommend this person to the church for membership, and upon the vote of the church (see paragraph E below), shall be received into membership. No restored member shall hold office for a period of six months following restoration.
- E. NO PERSON shall be admitted to membership of this church to whom three members object, casting their votes in the negative. Such voters shall, at the time, or in a later meeting, state the reasons for such objections. If the objections are not valid, said person may be again presented for membership.

Section 2. - Membership in this church may be dissolved in the following ways:

- A. Death
- B. Letter of Dismissal to Sister Baptist Churches
- C. Delinquency:
  - 1. It is the duty of every member to be faithful in attendance at all services when it is humanly possible to do so. Should a member however, fail to be present, or fail completely in making any financial contribution to this church (see Church Covenant as referenced in Item II of the Constitution) for a period of one year, unless they are providentially hindered, the name of said member will then be removed from the active church roll and placed on the inactive church roll. No action of the church shall be necessary to make this change; it shall be deemed routine business of the church and taken care of by the Discipline Committee.
  - 2. An inactive member automatically forfeits his or her vote in any church business.
  - 3. A member who has surrendered his or her voting rights by said absenteeism, has not contributed for twelve months, and has been placed on the inactive church roll, may remain on the inactive roll for a period not to exceed twelve months. Then he/she shall be dropped or dismissed from the inactive roll and will by this action completely severed from this church and shall not be considered a member in any regard. (I John 2:19)

4. An active church roll status may be regained any time within 12 months after having forfeited the same by attending services and contributing to the welfare of the church for four consecutive Sundays.

D. Removal from the church roll by the Membership Committee for:

1. Unchristian conduct – constant violation of their part of the adopted and established instrument of this church known as the church covenant.
2. Holding or teaching doctrines subversive of those held by this church, whether such teaching is done in this church's buildings or elsewhere.
3. Calling, holding, or participating in secret and unauthorized meetings with members of the church.
4. Unbridled tongue – vulgar or profane language, backbiting, tale bearing (this does not mean the bringing of information to the proper authorities), lying, excessive violent anger, etc.
5. Active opposition to the policy or leadership of the church, or conduct calculated to cause or create dissension or division with the church (1 Cor. 5:11).

### Section 3. Duties of members

General duties of the members of this church shall be to acquire Bible knowledge, to progress spiritually, to put away questionable habits, and to live a life that would honor the Lord Jesus Christ and strengthen His church.

- A. It is the duty of the members to cultivate brotherly love (John 13:35) for all the other members of the church and to show this love by using all proper measures to promote their spiritual benefit and prosperity.
- B. It is the duty of members to honor and highly esteem their pastor (I Thess. 5:12,13); to pray for him (II Thess. 3:1-2); to submit to him in the scriptural exercise of his Holy Spirit-given authority (Acts 20:28, Heb.13:7,17); to guard his reputation; and to contribute toward his support regularly according to their ability.
- C. Toward those outside the membership, it is the duty of members to be exact in fulfilling obligations, keeping promises, and, as opportunity enables, to commend the gospel of Christ to them.
- D. It is the duty of members upon removing from this church, to unite with another church of like faith and practice, and to ask said church to obtain their letter of recommendation or dismissal from Temple Baptist Church. Should a non-resident member wish to continue his or her membership, he/she shall communicate and make a contribution at least once yearly to the church.

### Section 4. Members' complaints

If any member of this church has a cause for any complaint against the leadership and management of said church, he shall be required to take same complaint to the pastor first. Then, if it is necessary, the complaint shall be taken to the Discipline Committee.

## Article II. Church Officers

### Section 1. Pastor:

#### A. Qualifications

1. The word pastor means (Webster), a shepherd or spiritual overseer. The scriptures refer to the office commonly called pastor as elder or bishop. I Tim. 3:1-5; I Pet. 5:1-4; I Tim. 5:17; I Thess. 5:12-13;

Acts 20:28; and Heb.13:7,17 are examples of such and also show clearly that the pastor is to oversee and supervise the affairs of the church. He shall not only have the general supervision of the church but shall have unrestricted liberty in presenting any matter he deems necessary to the church for its consideration and instruction.

2. I Tim. 3:1-6 and Titus 1:7-9 give the qualifications of the pastor. The life of the pastor and his family should be an example of godliness and spirituality. They should not indulge in worldly or sinful practices which would tend to weaken the testimony of this church (I Thess. 5:22). No one who is addicted to the use of intoxicating liquors, drugs or tobacco in any form; or who brings disrepute upon his ministry through sinful language, practice, or associations shall be considered for pastor or having fallen into such be retained as pastor, if such course is persisted in. (Rom.12:1-2; II Cor. 6:11-18).
3. No man who has more than one living wife shall be pastor of this church.
4. No man shall be considered for the office nor serve as pastor of this church whose beliefs and teachings are not in accordance with the Articles of Faith as set forth in Instrument Number II or who will not declare himself to be in his doctrine Fundamental (Webster-Fundamentalism), Pre-Millennial, Independent, Baptist.
5. No man shall be considered for the office nor serve as pastor of this church who maintains any connection with the National Council of Churches or any of its agencies or conventions, or with any other ecclesiastical body or bodies.
6. No woman shall be considered for, nor serve as, pastor of this church.
7. Because of the office, the pastor shall be counted worthy of double honor (I Tim. 5:17). No accusation shall be accepted against him without two or three witnesses (I Tim. 5:19)

#### B. Duties

1. He has the right to participate as an official member of all the committees and organizations, which includes the privilege of voting; He shall be in charge of the pulpit, and be responsible for supplying speakers. In legal matters, he shall act as president.
2. It shall be the duty of the pastor to preach regularly at the church, to administer the ordinances of the gospel and to perform the various duties incumbent on his office.
3. It shall be the duty of the pastor to represent the church at any monthly or annual fellowship meeting, or any other special meeting that directly contributes to the spiritual well-being of this church and furtherance of the gospel.
4. The pastor has the final authority and responsibility for appointing or dismissing all volunteers as deemed necessary for the functioning of the church.
5. All employee positions must have the approval of the church, but the pastor will have the privilege to select or reject all such workers, as this will enable the church to carry on its work with harmony and oneness of spirit and conviction.
6. The pastor shall meet with the deacons on a regular basis to:
  - a. Pray with them regarding the ministry of the church;
  - b. Discuss with them any important business before the church;
  - c. Inform them regarding issues impacting the church's ministry;
  - d. Respond to their questions regarding the church's ministry.

#### C. Call of

Whenever it is necessary by the death, resignation, or dismissal of the pastor, the church shall, without necessary delay, proceed to secure a new pastor in the following manner:

1. A "Pulpit Committee" shall be formed to facilitate the call of a new pastor. This committee shall consist of seven unrelated men who have been members of the church for more than one year. They shall be selected in this manner:
  - a. The deacons shall nominate seven or more qualified men to the church for this committee (they may recommend themselves);
  - b. The church shall vote on those nominated; a three-fourths majority is required for election;
  - c. The seven nominees receiving the highest vote will serve on the committee.
2. The Pulpit Committee shall elect one of its members to serve as chairman. The committee shall prayerfully seek a qualified candidate for pastor who shall be able to carry out effectively the duties of the office (see Article II. Section 1. A. & B. and the Articles of Faith). No person shall be recommended to the church as a candidate for the office without the consent of a majority of the Pulpit Committee members. The Pulpit Committee shall have the authority to call a Special Business Meeting for the church to consider the call of a pastor in accordance with the procedure outlined in Article IV Section 6 C.
3. When the committee is prepared to recommend a candidate to the church, they shall:
  - a. Invite the candidate to visit and to preach;
  - b. Notify the church at least a week in advance of his visit that he is being recommended to the church as a candidate;
  - c. Call a Special Business Meeting for the purpose of voting to extend a call to the candidate.
4. When a duly authorized quorum is present, a three-fourths-majority of the members present and voting shall be necessary for calling a pastor.
5. The duties of the Pulpit Committee shall cease when a candidate accepts the church's call.

#### D. Termination

1. The term of pastor shall be for an undesignated period of time and shall be left in the hands of the pastor. The pastor must give one month's written notice before his resignation becomes effective.
2. In the case of allegations of sinful conduct and/or unscriptural teaching by the pastor, or of the pastor's inability to continue to effectively fulfill the duties of the office, the deacons shall independently investigate all such allegations to determine their truthfulness, and make a recommendation regarding the same to the church as needed.
  - a. These investigations should not be seen as adversarial between the pastor and the deacons, but a cooperative effort to establish the truth regarding the allegations.
  - b. The pastor shall not seek to direct, or interfere with, such investigations, though he may offer suggestions.
  - c. Every effort shall be made to assure fair treatment of the pastor, and every reasonable opportunity given to the pastor to respond to the allegations made.
  - d. The deacons shall notify the pastor in writing of their decision to formally investigate such allegations, and note the date when that decision was made.
  - e. All such investigations shall be completed and a determination regarding the allegations reached by the deacons within 60 days of their decision to formally investigate.
  - f. The deacons shall have the authority to temporarily remove all or part of the duties, responsibilities, authority, and privileges of the pastor if they deem it necessary for the well being of the church. Such removal, in part or in whole, shall not exceed 45 days. If such removal would be evident to the congregation (e.g. not preaching, not attending, etc.), the deacons shall officially notify the church of their action at a regularly scheduled service within 7 days of having taken it. Otherwise, the deacons may proceed without notifying the congregation, in order to protect both the pastor's and the church's reputations should such allegations prove unfounded.

- g. At the end of 60 days, or at the completion of the investigation, whichever comes first, the deacons shall either:
    - 1. Close the investigation as unwarranted;
    - 2. Discuss their conclusions with the pastor and reach a mutually agreeable resolution of the issues involved;
    - 3. Make recommendations to the congregation in a duly called special business meeting regarding a course of action to resolve the issues raised by the allegations or;
    - 4. If they determine the pastor is no longer qualified to hold the office, to recommend his dismissal to the congregation in a duly-called special business meeting and give a full presentation of all proven allegations as the basis for the call to dismiss.
  - h. If the deacons recommend to the church that the pastor be dismissed, a simple majority is required, when a duly authorized quorum is present, to pass that recommendation.
  - i. If the deacons do not recommend the pastor's dismissal, any subsequent, constitutionally valid motion(s) to dismiss the pastor would require a two-thirds majority, when a duly authorized quorum is present, to pass the motion(s).
3. If the pastor is dismissed by the congregation, his dismissal shall officially take effect 30 days later, unless a longer time was determined by the congregation in the meeting where his dismissal was voted. During that time, his duties, responsibilities, authority, and privileges shall be determined by the deacons, with the exception of his compensation which will continue in force for the full 30 days.

## Section 2. Deacons - duties and qualifications of:

- A. The word means, servant, attendant, aid, waiter, etc. In Acts 5:1-4 the first servants were chosen by the church, and were appointed to their tasks by the overseers of the church for the purpose of performing tasks as would free those in charge of the services for prayer and the study of the Word. Therefore, because this church accepts the scriptures, rather than tradition, as final authority, the office of deacon shall not in any way be taken to mean authority over the church and pastor, except when they act on behalf of the church in dealing with allegations against the pastor.
- B. The general duties of a deacon, aside from appointed tasks, shall be to assist the pastor in building up the church numerically, financially, and spiritually; to visit the sick, the sorrowing, and the needy; to personally strive to win the lost to Christ; to guard and protect the reputation of the church and pastor against gossip, lies and false accusations; to contact and encourage absent members and to endeavor to remedy any spiritual weakness in the lives of its members; to cooperate with the pastor in the care, operation, and repair of the physical property of the church. Duties toward the pastor shall be to pray for him earnestly and continually; to act as a host and friend on behalf of the church; to see that his material and physical needs are taken care of; to strive in every way to help him in the performance of scriptural duties.
- C. 1 Tim. 3:8-13 gives the qualifications of deacon and wife, and they shall by the help of God, try to live thereby. The life a deacon and his family should be one of godliness and spirituality. They should not indulge in worldly and sinful practices which would tend to weaken the testimony of this church (I Thess. 5:22). No one who is addicted to intoxicating liquors, drugs, or tobacco in any form; or who brings disrepute upon the church through sinful language, practice, or associations shall be considered for deacon or having fallen into such practices and persisting in same, be retained. In keeping with the scriptures, gossiping, tattling, backbiting, undermining, holding grudges, violent uncontrolled temper, etc., are unbecoming of the office of deacons and if indulged in by either a deacon or his wife, shall be grounds for dismissal.
- D. No man shall be considered for the office of deacon who has more than one living wife.
- E. No woman shall serve as deacon or deaconess in this church.
- F. No man shall be elected to the office of deacon who has not been a faithful member of the church for a period of one year or more (I Tim. 3:10).

- G. A deacon is to be faithful in all things (I Tim. 3:11). Therefore, absenteeism from business meetings or six weeks of church attendance without a legitimate excuse shall disqualify said deacon, and his office shall be declared vacant.
- H. There shall be a maximum of seven deacons.
- I. Election and term of office
  - 1. Deacons shall be elected at the annual business meeting for a two-year term, and may subsequently be re-elected.
  - 2. As nearly as possible, one-half of the deacons shall be elected each year. In order to accomplish this, the pastor and the deacons are authorized, as needed, to cause some deacons to be elected for a one-year term. The length of term for which each deacon is being elected shall be clearly indicated on the ballot.
- J. No one shall be considered for, nor serve as deacon, who is not in accordance with the Articles of Faith of this church.

### Section 3. Trustees

There shall be three trustees, male members of the church in good standing. The term of office shall be for one year. Duties shall be to sign legal papers for the church and to aid the pastor by suggesting care and repair of properties.

### Section 4. Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer

Treasurer – qualifications, term of office, duties

- A. The treasurer shall be a male member of the church, whose Christian life and conduct shall be beyond reproach in the community.
- B. Election and term of office
  - 1. The treasurer shall be elected at the annual business meeting for a one-year term and may be re-elected.
- C. The duty of the treasurer will be to receive and count all money, to oversee payment of all bills by order of the church and/or the pastor. He shall be able to give a weekly, monthly, or quarterly financial report to the church and shall, therefore, keep a true and fair book of accounts of said finances. He shall also oversee the deposit of the money and sign checks.

Assistant Treasurer - qualifications, term of office, duties

- A. The assistant treasurer shall be a male member of the church in good standing.
- B. Term of office shall be one (1) year and elected annually.
- C. His duties shall, with the treasurer, help in counting all the money and making deposits and other jobs assigned by the treasurer. He shall co-sign all checks with the treasurer. In case of the resignation or death of the treasurer, the assistant treasurer shall act as treasurer for the remaining term.

### Section 5. Church Clerk - duties

- A. The clerk shall be a member of the church and may be either male or female.
- B. Election and Term of Office
  - 1. The clerk shall be elected at the annual business meeting for a one-year term and may be re-elected.

- C. It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep first-hand records of the proceedings of the church, and all legitimate business of the church, to keep a register of all members of the church, and those coming by invitation.

#### Section 6. Attendance requirements

In order to promote a high spiritual standard of this church, all officers will be required to attend all regular services of the church, unless they are sick or providentially hindered, and the office shall be declared vacant.

#### Section 7. Statement of officers to church

Before any officers of this church shall be officially authorized to perform their duties, they shall stand before the church and declare that they have read the statements adopted by the church pertaining to their offices, and that they will perform their duties to the best of their ability.

#### Section 8. Holding more than one office

Any two or more offices may be held by the same person if that person is qualified, except the offices of both treasurer and trustee, since trustees are members of the Auditing Committee.

### Article III. Superintendents, teachers, and workers

#### Appointment:

They shall be appointed, changed, or removed by the pastor in accordance with the provisions in Article II, Section 1, B. 4.

#### Qualifications:

All superintendents, teachers, and workers in this church:

- A. Must be members of the church in good standing who faithfully attend the services of the church;
- B. Shall not engage in activities that may damage the credibility of the church or be a stumbling block to others;
- C. Are expected to attend meetings pertaining to their ministry;
- D. Are expected to be examples of godliness and spirituality and to fulfill the obligations of their positions to the best of their ability.

### Article IV. Church Business

#### Section 1. Real estate

- A. The church shall not purchase real estate, nor sell, mortgage, exchange, or otherwise dispose of real estate, unless authorized so to do by a majority vote of the members of the church present at any meeting duly called for that purpose.
- B. Availability of church facilities for activities and events
  - 1. All such activities must have the approval of the pastor.

2. The pastor shall maintain and have available on request a policy regarding usage of the church building and property.

## Section 2. Annual business meeting

### A. Meeting Dates

The annual meeting for the election of officers and the reading of annual reports, shall be held on any stipulated date within the month of January, and must be announced at least two Sundays in advance. All retiring officers shall relinquish their positions and all newly elected officers shall assume their responsibilities at 12:01 a.m. on the eighth day following the annual election. These dates may be changed temporarily by a majority vote of the church at any business meeting.

### B. Moderator and nominations

The pastor and deacons shall select a church member to act as moderator. This member may be (but is not limited to) either the pastor or one of the deacons.

The moderator shall cause to be elected, or, if authorized by the church, may appoint a nominating committee of three or more male members, not related, in advance of the annual election of officers.

This said committee shall meet with the pastor prior to the election, and after prayer, shall select persons from among the membership who meet the requirements and who will cooperate with the leadership in fulfilling the duties of the several officers. It is recommended that they be visited personally before their names are placed on the ballot or read before the church prior to the voting. The membership of the church shall be given the opportunity of nominating additional names to the ballot, prior to voting, providing the nominees meet with stated requirements and qualifications and will accept the nomination. Persons must be nominated and their names placed on the ballot in order to be elected at the annual election. Vacancies may be filled at any regular or special meeting of the church by means other than ballot. After the election, the nominating committee (if used) will be automatically dissolved.

### C. Reports.

1. The church clerk or church secretary shall bring the membership roll up to date prior to the annual election, and give a report to the church at that time of the number received and dismissed and the number of the roll. The report shall be checked by the Membership Committee at least ten days prior to the meeting.
2. The church treasurer shall give the financial report of the total receipts, expenditures, and indebtedness of the church: such reports and records shall have been examined by the Auditing Committee at least ten days prior to said meeting.
3. All other committees appointed or elected shall give a report if called upon to do so.

## Section 3. Manner of conducting business.

### A. The meeting shall be opened and closed by prayer.

B. Motions: All business must be presented to the church by a motion. Properly the motion should be made by one member and seconded by another. No second motion shall be presented to the church until the one under consideration has been resolved except a motion to amend, to substitute, to commit, to postpone, to lay on the table, for the previous question, and to adjourn.

### C. Speaking rights:

1. The moderator may speak upon any subject under consideration.
2. Every active member wishing to speak shall rise and respectfully address the moderator. No member shall speak more than twice upon the same subject. Discourteous language or remarks shall be ruled "out of order" and shall forfeit the speaker's right to the floor.
3. Any speaker who introduces any matter foreign to the subject under discussion shall be ruled "out of order."

- D. Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed with respect to all procedural issues not otherwise specified in these bylaws.
- E. All questions shall be decided by a simple majority vote unless other portions of this instrument stipulates otherwise for some special vote.

#### Section 4. Eligibility of voters (See Article I, Section 2.C )

- A. Legal voting age for any active church member shall be eighteen (~~18~~) years of age.
- B. Only active members who are present at time of business meeting are eligible to vote.

#### Section 5. Regular church business

- A. Business meetings of the church or its various committees shall be called by the pastor for acting upon the business of the church.
- B. The standing committees of this church shall be:
  - 1. The pastor and deacons shall act as the Missionary Committee.
  - 2. The pastor and trustees shall act as the Auditing Committee.
  - 3. The pastor and deacons shall act as the Membership Committee.
  - 4. The pastor and deacons shall act as the Discipline Committee.
  - 5. The pastor, deacons, trustees and treasurer shall act as the Finance Committee.
- C. No business beyond that of routine weekly affairs shall be carried on in the absence of the pastor (including his vacation).
- D. The buying and selling of real estate shall be done only by the vote of the church. Indebtedness of over one-hundred and fifty dollars or the mortgaging of the church property shall not be permitted except by vote of the church.

#### Section 6. Special business meetings

- A. Special meetings for business may be called at any time by the pastor when such meetings fall on regular times of service, provided such meetings do not include major business, such as selling of church property, amending the constitution and by-laws, and mortgaging of property.
- B. The pastor may call special business meetings falling on a time other than the regular church services provided it be announced in at least one regular service prior to the date of the meeting; except it be for the purpose of selling of church property, or amending the constitution and by-laws:
- C. Special business meetings for the purpose of selling of church property, or amending the constitution and by-laws or other major business, may be called by the pastor provided said proposition or amendment has been posted and read from the pulpit, and the date and time of the meeting announced for at least two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting and no other business except that which has been announced shall be taken care of at said meeting. Such business shall require an attendance of a duly authorized quorum at the business meeting, and a three-fourths majority of those present and voting to pass a motion.
- D. A special meeting may be called by any active member of the church in the following manner:
  - 1. A petition stating clearly the purpose, date, and time of the meeting and the name or names of the petitioners, shall be drawn and signed by the church clerk;
  - 2. Said petition shall then be signed by five elected officers of the church, plus a majority of the regular Sunday school teachers, plus three members at large who are twenty-one years old or older and who are not related to each other nor to the petitioner;
  - 3. Said petition shall then be posted by the church clerk and read from the pulpit for two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting.

## Section 7. Organizations within the church

Every organization or society within this church will be an integral part of the church and not an entity to itself. They shall therefore have as their aims and objectives that of assisting the church in discharging the obligations and responsibilities which it has imposed upon itself, rather than having separate aims and objectives which act as divisive forces. They must have the approval of the pastor and he may preside over all such organizations or societies.

## Section 8. Quorum and voting

- A. A quorum to transact any church business shall consist of twelve voting members, except when considering the following issues: In matters pertaining to a pastor, or the mortgaging or selling of church property, or the amending of the constitution and by-laws, the proper number of voting members for a quorum shall consist of one-fourth the previous month's average attendance of voting-age adults attending Sunday morning Bible study (not including visitors).
- B. A simple majority vote of the voting members present and voting at a constitutionally-called business meeting shall be required, except when otherwise specified in these bylaws.

## Section 9. Finance

- A. Scriptural giving is an expression of love to the Lord Jesus Christ; therefore, it shall be a voluntary and free-will offering uninfluenced by any consideration of material or worldly reward. No solicitation, sales, or bazaars shall be permitted in the name of this church. Tithes and offerings brought into the general treasury of the church is the only method of finance found in the scriptures; therefore it shall be the duty of the members to bring their tithes and offerings into the general treasury of the church (I Cor.16:2).
- B. Not less than ten percent of the income of the church (building and special offerings exempted) shall be given to missions.

## Section 10. Amendments

Amendments to this constitution and by-laws may be introduced in writing through formal motion at any business meeting but shall not be acted upon by the church until a later business meeting. At such time, when a duly authorized quorum has been met, an affirmative seventy-five percent of voting members present shall be required for acceptance; provided, however, that in the meantime, members of the church have been duly informed of the proposed amendment. At no time can any amendment be adopted that would be contrary to the clear teachings of the scriptures and to historic Baptist beliefs and practices. No amendment shall ever be voted on the Church Covenant as referenced in Item II of the Constitution, Articles of Faith as referenced in Item III of the Constitution.

\*END\*