

Article I

Name and Organization

Name: The name of this organization shall be The First Baptist Church of Witch Lake, Michigan.

Organization: The organization took place April 26, 1956.

Incorporation: The organization was incorporated in the state of Michigan, January 14, 1957.

Article II

Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to provide a spiritual fellowship among New Testament believers of Witch Lake and vicinity. (Eph 4:12-16; Heb 10:24-25)

To maintain a place of worship and prayer, with faithful recognition of the New Testament doctrines and ordinances. (Heb 10:25)

To provide a center of training for the whole family in Bible knowledge and Bible doctrine.

To give training and incentive to a program of continuous witnessing under the direction of the Holy Spirit. (2 Tim 2:2)

To teach and give example of faithful stewardship in time and money.

To faithfully support missionary endeavor at home and across the seas. (Mark 16:15)

To give faithful acknowledgment to all that is contained in our New Testament covenant, herewith included. (Acts 2:41-42)

Our Church Covenant

Having been led, by the Spirit of God, to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and to confess Him as Lord, and on confession of this faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully covenant with one another, as one body in Christ, to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him.

We promise by the aid of the Holy Spirit to forsake the ways of sin and to walk together in Christian love and in the paths of righteousness. With this in view we engage to strive together for both the peace and purity of this church; to sustain its worship steadfastly to cherish and hold its ordinances, disciplines, and doctrines, to contribute, as faithful stewards, such time, talent, and money, in the measure that God prospers each of us, that the responsibility for the work of the local church and the world-wide ministry of spreading the gospel be faithfully and effectively discharged.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotion; to teach the Bible to our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to be just in our dealings and faithful in our deportment; to avoid unkind words and unrighteous anger; To abstain from drunkenness both in public and private, and from every form of evil; to combine zeal and knowledge in our efforts to advance the cause of our Savior; to make Christ first in all things both spiritual and temporal.

We further engage to give and receive admonition with meekness and affection; to remember each other in prayer, and to aid each other in case of sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take **offence** offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and, mindful of the Scriptures, to seek it without delay; to encourage one another in the blessed hope of the Lord's return.

We moreover engage that when we move from this place we will as soon as possible unite with some local church of like precious faith where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of the Word of God. (Eph 4:1-3; 5:1-21)

Article III

Affirmation of Faith

1. The Word of God

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. and that the word of God has been preserved to use though faithful translations such as the KJV; NKJV; NASB; ESV; NIV (2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21)

2. The Trinity

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption. (John 10:29-38; John 14:10-11; John 15:26; Col 1)

3. God the Father

We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that he concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (Rom 6:23; John 3:16; Matt 6:5-13; Matt 11:27)

4. Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth. (John 3:16; Matt 1:23; 2 Cor 5:21; Matt 1:18; 1 Cor 15:3-4; John 14:3; 1 Tim 2:5)

5. The Holy spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit permanently indwells every believer in Christ at the mo-

ment of salvation and seals him until the day of redemption, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide. (1 Cor 3:16; Eph 1:13-14; John 16:8)

6. Regeneration

We believe that all men are sinners by nature and by choice and are; therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ alone as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit. This salvation is by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ apart from any merit or effort of our own. (John 14:6; Rom 3:23; Rom 6:23; Acts 4:12; Rom 10:9-10; Eph 2:8-9)

7. The Church

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe God gifts each believer with spiritual gift(s) at the time of conversion. A spiritual gift is a divine enablement of ability given to believers for the purpose of doing works of service in and for the body of Christ. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship of God; building up of the believers through teaching, training, and fellowship; and the evangelizing of the lost. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world. (Eph 1:22-23; Eph 4:12-16; Rom 12:4-5; Mark 16:15; 1 Cor 12:4-27; Rom 12:3-9)

8. Christian Conduct

We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well being of his fellowmen; that his conduct should be blameless before the world; that he should be a faithful steward of his possessions; and that he should seek to realize for himself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. (Rev 4:11; 1 Cor 4:1-2; Eph 2:10; 1 Cor 6:19-20; Rom 12:1-2)

9. The Ordinances

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church, baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the triune God. We believe that baptism is not a saving agent; rather, it is an outward testimony of an inward reality of one's faith in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for remembrance of His death and the proclamation of His immanent return. The bread and the cup are symbolic of the Lord's body and blood; therefore, we reject the false doctrine of transubstantiation. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 11:23-32; Luke 22:14-22; Matt 28:19-20; Acts 2:38)

10. Religious Liberty

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; however, we will not allow our liberty to become a stumbling block to others. We believe that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority. (1 Peter 2:9-10; 1 Cor 10:23-24)

11. Last things

We believe in the rapture of the Church, the return of Christ to meet His bride, the Church, in the air. We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth and the establishment of His kingdom. At the end of this time Satan will meet his final doom, all unsaved will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment and cast into the Lake of Fire and all born again believers will spend and enjoy eternity in the presence of God. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the unbelievers. (1 Cor 15:51-52; 1 Thes 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Luke 16:19-26; 1 Thes 5; Rev 20-22; 2 Cor 5:6-10)

Article IV

Membership

The following priority for admission of members shall be followed without exception unless approved by two-thirds of the members present at a regular business meeting called by the Pastor or Official Board.

By Letter

Members of other Baptist churches and fundamental evangelical churches, may be received by virtue of their letter of good standing and having given satisfactory testimony before the Board of Deacons, and, if requested by a member, the membership assembled. Their letter shall certify their baptism by immersion. This means of admission shall be pursued first with the others being used only when this means is not applicable.

By Baptism

Any person confessing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, giving evidence of regeneration, and adopting the views of faith and practice held by this church, may, upon baptism by immersion be received into this membership. If the candidate has previously been a member of any church, effort shall be made to secure a letter of recommendation.

By Restoration

A former member of The First Baptist Church of Witch Lake, Michigan, whose membership has lapsed, due to self-negligence or exclusion, may be restored to fellowship on confession of guilt and confession of faith in Christ before the Deacon board, who recommends to the church for membership.

Application for Membership

All applicants for membership in this church, having read the Affirmation of Faith, The Church Covenant, and the Constitution, and desiring to be governed by these principles, shall appear before the board of Deacons for consultation and examination. The names of all applicants for membership recommended by the board of Deacons shall be presented to the membership. The applicants having given their testimonies and answered questions, shall be voted upon by the assembled membership at any regular meeting. No applicant shall be presented to the membership without the recommendation of the Pastor and the majority of the Board of Deacons.

Dismissal of Members

To other Baptist churches and fundamental evangelical churches

Upon request from another Baptist church or fundamental evangelical church, a letter shall be furnished, certifying the candidate's standing with this church.

Self-Dismissal by negligence

Any member who fails to attend First Baptist Church of Witch Lake within a three month period unless hindered by unavoidable circumstances (as determined by the Board of Deacons Elders) will be removed from the membership rolls and placed on a separate list to be known as the "Prayer List." Such members may not be given church letters without satisfactory explanation and restoration to the church.

Exclusion

Any member aggrieved by another is to follow the instructions which have been laid down in Matthew 18:15-17. If this is not done, any other mode of seeking redress will be regarded as walking disorderly. Any member knowing any other member to have brought reproach upon the church by conduct unbecoming to a Christian, or who is contentious to the unity, friendship, and fellowship of the church, shall report such case to the Pastor and/or Board of Deacons having first endeavored to induce the offender to voluntarily confess and reform. Any such case shall be dealt with according to Matthew 18:15-17. If the member evidences no penitence and shows no disposition to be different, he shall be dropped from the membership roll, by action of the church. Restoration shall be considered if appropriate.

Active/Inactive Membership Roll

The Board of Deacons and the clerk shall annually update the membership roll, the resident active membership roll, and the inactive membership roll. The following shall be considered inactive: Those who meet the qualifications of active membership but who are not permanent

residents of this area, such as students or missionaries who may hold regular membership elsewhere, or those who no longer have residence in this area but still desire to hold membership in this church. Inactive members will be allowed to teach, participate in a similar ministry, attend business meetings, but shall not have the right to vote while in the area. Inactive members may be moved back to the Active membership roll when back in the area for an extended period of time. The updated list shall be approved by the church.

Article V

Officers of the Church

The officers shall be:

1. Pastor Preaching Elder (1)
2. Shepherding Elders (3)
3. Deacons (5) when appropriate
4. Deaconesses (5) when appropriate
5. Trustees (3) (0)
6. Treasurer (1)
7. Financial secretary (1)
8. Clerk (1)
9. Superintendent of Sunday School (1) should come under the Elders.

Official Board

The Official Board shall consist of Elders, Deacons.

Nomination Committee: (5) members; (2) Deacons,
(1) Deaconess, (1) Church at large.

The Church Chairman will receive nominations from the congregation starting three months prior to the annual business meeting. All Nominees must be active members in good standing. All nominations should be submitted in written form directly to the chairman for the committee's review. The Committee will review the Nominees for qualifications and approved candidates will be presented to the congregation for election. No nominations will be received from the floor or after the final nomination committee meeting prior to the annual meeting.

Auditing Committee: (3) members to be appointed by the
Elders.

The chairman shall be the moderator of the church and of the official board. In the chairman's absence the Deacon Chairman or another Deacon shall serve as moderator.

The official board shall hold regular quarterly meetings if appropriate. Special meetings may be called by the Pastor or chairman of the church.

The official board shall be empowered to consider all situations regarding the general welfare of the church and all activities of the church.

The official board shall be empowered to spend up to \$500.00 without approval of the membership. This authority shall be rescinded when the church general fund is below \$1,000.00.

Officer functions

Pastor/ Teacher/ Elder

The Pastor/ Teacher/ Elder (S) shall be an established and experienced Christian. He must have the ability to teach, rebuke, exhort, and comfort. He shall preach the Word of God and be faithful in administering the ordinances in accordance with the Holy Scriptures

Changed to:

The Qualifications of Shepherds / Elders

The character and effectiveness of any church is directly related to the quality of its leadership. That's why Scripture stresses the importance of qualified church leadership and describes specific standards for evaluating those who would serve in these two sacred positions of Elder and Deacon.

The Elder Shepherd

The qualifications for elders are found in 1 Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1:6-8. According to these passages,

1. An elder must be above reproach,
2. The husband of one wife,
3. Temperate,
4. Prudent,
5. Respectable,
6. Hospitable,
7. Able to teach,
8. Not addicted to wine,
9. Not combative,
10. Gentle,
11. Uncontentious,
12. Free from the love of money,
13. Not fond of sordid gain,
14. A good manager of his household,
15. One who has his children under control with dignity,
16. Not a new convert,

17. One who has a good reputation outside the church,
18. Self-controlled,
19. Sensible,
20. Able to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict,
21. Above reproach as God's steward,
22. Not self-willed,
23. Not quick-tempered,
24. Loving what is good, just, and devout.

The single, overarching qualification of which the rest are supportive is that he is to be "above reproach." That is, he must be a leader who cannot be accused of anything sinful because he has a sustained reputation for blamelessness. An elder is to be above reproach in his marital life, his social life, his business life, and his spiritual life. In this way, he is to be a model of godliness so he can legitimately call the congregation to follow his example (Phil. 3:17). All the other qualifications, except perhaps teaching and management skills, only amplify that idea.

In addition, the office of elder is limited to men. First Timothy 2:11-12 says, "Let a woman quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet." In the church, women are to be under the authority of the elders, excluded from teaching men or holding positions of authority over them.

Here are four duties that are central to the elder's job description. While this list is not exhaustive, I believe if lay elders devoted themselves to these four things, they would excel as shepherds.

1. Teach

An elder must be "an able teacher" (1 Tim. 3:2; see 5:17). He must hold "to the faithful message as taught, so that he will be able both to encourage with sound teaching and refute those who contradict it" (Tit. 1:9). Jesus' under-shepherds feed Jesus' sheep with Jesus' word.

2. Lead

Just as shepherds lead their flocks, so elders lead local congregations. The biblical writers also call elders “overseers,” a title that highlights their role as leaders (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 3:1; Tit. 1:5, 7). Hebrews instructs Christians to “obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account” (Heb. 13:17).

Elders, be brave and lead your church. Don’t hide among the baggage like King Saul. When you see challenges in your church, face them proactively and plot a course forward.

Elders bring the flock to green pastures and still waters when they help members know Jesus more and increasingly reflect his glory together.

3. Model

Most importantly, elders lead by example. Shepherd the church “not [by] lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock” (1 Pet. 5:3). Not surprisingly, the New Testament lists of elder qualifications focus predominantly on character (1 Tim. 3:1-7, Tit. 1:5-9; 1 Pet. 5:1-4). An elder’s most basic job is to say “Imitate me as I also imitate Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1).

The mandate to model maturity carries two critical implications. First, modeling means you must guard your godliness: “Pay close attention to your life and your teaching” (1 Tim. 4:16). Continue to live close to the Lord, nurture your wife and children well, resist sin, and love people. Open your life to the loving accountability of the other elders. Modeling maturity is a team project.

That leads to a second implication: modeling requires elders to be among the people. It only works if people see you up close. So open your life to church members. Invite them into your home, your hobbies, and your ministry. People need a firsthand experience of how you handle stress, relate to your wife, respond to difficult people, and humbly admit when you blow it.

4. Pray

Finally, elders should take up the apostolic shepherding mantle and say, “we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the preaching ministry” (Acts 6:4). Ultimately elders are powerless in themselves to mature anyone in Christ; only the Holy Spirit can do that through God’s Word. The sooner an elder realizes this, the sooner he will hit his knees and plead for a continual work of grace among church members, as well as in his own life.

SHEPHERD LIKE JESUS

Maybe we could sum up an elder’s job description this way: shepherd the church members like Jesus shepherds his disciples.

Like Jesus, make teaching central to your ministry, and make Jesus and the gospel the primary content of your teaching. In every decision, lead your people toward knowing and trusting Jesus. Let them see the character of Jesus exemplified in your life. And just as Jesus often turned aside to pray, so you as an elder should join Jesus in interceding for his people.

The under-shepherds of Jesus are at their best when they reflect Jesus, the Chief Shepherd.

Deacon

The church shall have six deacons if enough qualified men can be found. In case of death or resignation, the office shall be declared vacant by the official Board and they will recommend to the Church their choice for that office.

It shall be the duty of the Deacons to visit the sick, take general supervision of the spiritual work of the church, assist the Pastor in the performance of his duties, and help prepare male candidates for baptism.

In the absence of a Pastor the chairman shall have charge of the church leadership, with Deacons acting as advisors.

In the interim periods between Pastors it will be the responsibility of the chairman to provide guest speakers.

THE BIBLICAL OFFICE OF DEACONS

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS

The only passage that mentions the qualifications for deacons is 1 Timothy 3:8–13. In this passage, Paul gives an official but not exhaustive list of the requirements for deacons.

The similarities of the qualifications for deacons and elders/overseers in 1 Timothy 3 are striking. Like the qualifications for elders, a deacon must not be an addict (v. 3), not greedy for dishonest gain (v. 3), blameless (v. 2; Titus 1:6), the husband of one wife (v. 2), and an able manager of his children and household (vv. 4–5). Furthermore, the focus of the qualifications is the moral character of the person who is to fill the office: a deacon must be mature and above reproach. The main difference between an elder and a deacon is a difference of gifts and calling, not character.

Paul identifies nine qualifications for deacons in 1 Timothy 3:8-12:

Dignified (v. 8): This term normally refers to something that is honorable, respectable, esteemed, or worthy, and is closely related to “respectable,” which is given as a qualification for elders (1 Tim. 3:2).

Not double-tongued (v. 8): Those who are double-tongued say one thing to certain people but then say something else to others, or say one thing but mean another. They are two-faced and insincere. Their words cannot be trusted, so they lack credibility.

Not addicted to much wine (v. 8): A man is disqualified for the office of deacon if he is addicted to wine or other strong drink. Such a person lacks self-control and is undisciplined.

Not greedy for dishonest gain (v. 8): If a person is a lover of money, he is not qualified to be a deacon, especially since deacons often handle financial matters for the church.

Sound in faith and life (v. 9): Paul also indicates that a deacon must “hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.” The phrase “the

mystery of the faith” is simply one way Paul speaks of the gospel (cf. 1 Tim. 3:16). Consequently, this statement refers to the need for deacons to hold firm to the true gospel without wavering. Yet this qualification does not merely involve one’s beliefs, for he must also hold these beliefs “with a clear conscience.” That is, the behavior of a deacon must be consistent with his beliefs.

Blameless (v. 10): Paul writes that deacons must “be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless” (v. 10). “Blameless” is a general term referring to a person’s overall character. Although Paul does not specify what type of testing is to take place, at a minimum, the candidate’s personal background, reputation, and theological positions should be examined. Moreover, the congregation should not only examine a potential deacon’s moral, spiritual, and doctrinal maturity, but should also consider the person’s track record of service in the church.

Godly wife (v. 11): It is debated whether verse 11 refers to a deacon’s wife or to a deaconess. For the sake of this discussion, we will assume the verse is speaking about the qualifications of a deacon’s wife. According to Paul, deacons’ wives must “be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things” (v. 11). Like her husband, the wife must be dignified or respectable. Secondly, she must not be a slanderer or a person who goes around spreading gossip. A deacon’s wife must also be sober-minded or temperate. That is, she must be able to make good judgments and must not be involved in things that might hinder such judgment. Finally, she must be “faithful in all things” (cf. 1 Tim. 5:10). This is a general requirement which functions similarly to the requirement for elders to be “above reproach” (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6) and for deacons to be “blameless” (1 Tim. 3:10).

Husband of one wife (v. 12): The best interpretation of this difficult phrase is to understand it as referring to the faithfulness of a husband toward his wife. He must be a “one-woman man.” That is, there must be no other woman in his life to whom he relates in an intimate way either emotionally or physically.

Manage children and household well (v. 12): A deacon must be the spiritual leader of his wife and children.

In general, if a moral qualification is listed for elders but not for deacons, that qualification still applies to deacons. The same goes for those qualifi-

cations listed for deacons but not for elders. For example, a deacon should not be double-tongued (v. 8, ESV). Paul does not explicitly say this about elders, but no doubt it applies to elders since Paul has said that elders must be “above reproach,” which would include this prohibition.

Deaconess

The church shall have five Deaconesses if enough qualified women can be found. It shall be the duty of the Deaconesses to visit the sick, to help prepare female candidates for baptism, to prepare for the Lord’s Supper, and provide flowers for various occasions.

Changed to:

Treasurer

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to account for money deposited by the Financial Secretary, pay all financial obligations by check, keep an accurate book of accounts, and at the end of each quarter shall prepare a statement of all money received and paid out, copies to be disbursed at the quarterly business meeting.

Financial secretary

The Financial Secretary shall receive and deposit all money; shall keep a record of envelope cash contribution, and be prepared to send a financial statement to each cash contributor at the close of the calendar year.

The Financial Secretary shall be responsible to provide and to distribute offering envelopes to contributors of the church if asked for.

Clerk

The clerk shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the church in their meetings for business, take charge of all the records of the church, and keep an accurate register of all the members of the church, said records to be transmitted to the successor to this office.

The clerk shall present the membership register for review at the annual church business meeting.

Terms of Office

Each of the above officers (excluding Pastor, Deacons, Deaconesses, and Trustees) shall be elected for a term of one year. The Deacons, Deaconesses and Trustees shall be elected for three year terms with terms staggered. The Pastor's term of office shall be indefinite (See Article VII). No other officer shall serve in any one office for more than three years unless no other qualified person is found to fill the position.

Article VI

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of this church shall be from April 1 to March 31 inclusive.

Article VII

Pastoral Relations

It shall be required perpetually that no person shall hold office as Pastor of the Church who does not wholeheartedly subscribe to the affirmation of faith herein stated and accept the scriptures to be the Word of God without reservation.

Calling a Pastor

When it is necessary to call a Pastor, the church shall select a representative Pulpit Committee of at least three members. It shall be the duty of this committee to take the necessary steps to secure a pastor. The committee shall investigate the merits of every man under consideration in regard to his personal character, education, ministerial record, and preaching ability, in deter-

mining his fitness for said pastorate. When a suitable man is found the committee shall recommend him to the church for consideration. The call of a Pastor shall come before the church at a specially called business meeting, notice of such meeting and its purpose having been from the pulpit on two successive Sundays. A vote of three-fourths of the members present, provided there are present and voting at least one-half of the resident active membership, shall be necessary to extend a call. Only one candidate shall be presented to the church at one time. The voting shall be by secret ballot. The pastor shall be called for an indefinite period of time; the salary fixed at the time of the call, but may be changed by the vote of the church at any regular business meeting, provided that change has been considered by the Official Board. The Pastor shall be entitled to an annual personal vacation of at least three weeks with full salary.

Termination of Pastorate

The term of office may be ended upon sixty days notification on the part of the pastor or the church. The question of dissolution of relationship shall be considered at any time by the church, on presentation of the Pastor's resignation; or, where grievance exists against the Pastor, by recommendation of the Board of Deacons, based on petition signed by at least one-fourth of the membership in good standing. In this case the pastoral relationship will be dissolved by ballot at a business meeting by a majority of the active membership, notice of which shall be given to the members and Pastor in writing at least one week before the business meeting, the object of the meeting being stated in the notice. In the event of doctrinal or moral defection the Pastor's services may be terminated immediately by action of the Church Board to be ratified by the majority of the Church vote within thirty days.

Article VIII

Business Meetings

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the church shall be held as near April 20th as possible.

Business Meetings

For the receiving of members and granting of letters of transfer, business meetings may be called at any time.

For the calling of a Pastor, notice must be given on two consecutive Sundays with the purpose of the meeting stated. (See Article VII)

For amendments to the Constitution, one month advance notice must have been given and that the members must have been duly informed of the proposed amendment on at least three consecutive Sundays and that a copy of the proposed amendment shall have been posted on the church bulletin board for the same period of time. (See Article XI)

For the purchase, sale or mortgage of real estate, notice of the meeting must have been read from the pulpit on at least three consecutive Sundays.

Notice of all other business meetings must have been given from the pulpit on the previous Sunday.

No member shall be entitled to vote or hold office until 14 years of age.

Quorum

A quorum shall consist of one-fourth of the active membership as determined annually (or at the request of the Pastor and the official board) by the Deacons and the Clerk.

Roberts Rules of Order shall be followed.

Article IX

Disposition of Property

Division

In case of organic division of the church membership, the Church property shall belong to those members who abide by the constitution.

Consolidation

Should conditions arise where consolidation with another church of the same denomination be advisable, the Board of Trustees shall be authorized by the church to negotiate, but not implement, the terms of such a consolidation insofar as the property is concerned. An affirmative vote by the majority of the members in good standing, who abide by the constitution, shall be required for the disposal of church property.

Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the corporation, the assets will be distributed only to other charitable and religious corporations which enjoy exempt status for tax purposes under the then current provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States. The decision for the distribution of the assets to be determined by the majority of the total membership at the time.

Article X

Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any church business meeting called by the Chairman or the official Board upon one month advance notice, at which time an affirmative vote of the majority of the active membership, including absentee votes, shall be required for acceptance; provided, however, that the members have been duly informed of the proposed amendment by announcement from the pulpit on at least three consecutive Sundays\ mornings and that notice has been posted on the church bulletin board for the same period of time. At no time can any amendments be adopted that would be contrary to historic Baptist belief and practices.

Article XI

Meeting of the Church

1. The church shall meet regularly every Lord's Day, for the public worship or the eternal God, and the proclamation of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2. Prayer or Conference meetings shall be held weekly
3. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed once each month or at such other times as the Deacon Board shall designate