

CONSTITUTION

Rock Spring Baptist Church

34 Rock Springs Church Road
Louisburg, North Carolina

INDEX

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CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

This constitution is to establish and preserve the principles of our faith and to govern the body in an orderly manner, consistent with Biblical teaching. This constitution will secure the liberties of each member and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other bodies in Christ. (1 Corinthians 14:40)

I. NAME:

This body of believers shall be known as Rock Spring Baptist Church, Inc. located at 34 Rock Springs Church Road, Louisburg, North Carolina.

II. OBJECTIVES:

To be a church whose purpose is to be Christlike in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment of life, personality, and possessions to the lordship of Christ. (Ezekiel 36:27, John 15:5)

To be a dynamic, spiritual organization empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Christ with as many people as possible in our church, community, and throughout the world. (Luke 14:23)

To be a church that nurtures believers through sound Bible teaching to grow in faith, knowledge and fellowship with God. To be a church that ministers unselfishly to persons in the community and world in Jesus' name. (John 13:34-35, 8:31-32)

III. RELATIONSHIPS:

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches. Insofar as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the association and state convention affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

IV. STATEMENT OF FAITH:

1. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

2. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

3. Man

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of

God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

4. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

A. *Regeneration*

Regeneration or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Savior.

B. *Justification*

Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

C. *Sanctification*

Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

D. *Glorification*

Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

5. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

6. The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

7. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

8. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

9. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

10. Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

11. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

12. Education

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

13. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

14. Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

15. The Christian and the Social Order

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

16. Peace and War

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war. The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

17. Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

18. The Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as

Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

19. Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Genesis 1:26-27) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Genesis 2:18-25) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, use of pornography, and attempting to change one's biological sex or otherwise acting upon any disagreement with one's biological sex is sinful and offensive to God. (Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13; Romans 1:18, 24-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Rock Spring Baptist Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Rock Spring Baptist Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Rock Spring Baptist Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Rock Spring Baptist Church.

V. CHURCH COVENANT:

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord, Jesus Christ, as our Savior and Lord, and, on the profession of our 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 enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and

spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; 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 through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our conduct; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from anything that would hinder the cause of Christ; 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 one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

BYLAWS

I. MEMBERSHIP:

Section 1: General

The membership of this church shall be composed of individuals who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and affirm the tenets of the Rock Spring Baptist Church, Inc., and who offer evidence, by their confession of faith and their conduct, that they are living in accord with biblical principles, their affirmations of the Constitution and Bylaws, Statement of Faith, Church Covenant, and are actively pursuing and continuing in a vital fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is a sovereign and autonomous Baptist church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the exclusive right of self-government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this church. The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.

Section 2: Candidacy

Candidates shall be presented to the church at a regular church service for membership in any of the following ways:

1. After profession of faith and baptism according to the policies of this church.
2. By letter from another Baptist church, or church of like faith which practices baptism by immersion.
3. When no letter is obtainable, upon a statement of prior conversion experience and baptism by immersion.

And upon completion of the New Member Orientation Class.

A 100% approval of those church members present and voting shall be required to elect a candidate to membership. Should there be any dissent concerning a candidate, such dissent shall be

referred to the pastor and the deacons for investigation and the making of a recommendation to the church within thirty (30) days.

Section 3: Voting Rights of Members

Every member of the church, in good standing and eighteen (18) years of age and older, is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the church in conference. There will be no absentee balloting.

Section 4: Termination of Membership

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways:

1. A member's death.
2. A member's desire to unite with another church.
3. Exclusion by disciplinary action of this church.
4. Being absent from the church services for more than one year without medical leave, military leave, missionary placement or incarceration. No member shall be removed from membership until an effort has been made to restore active participation.
5. The name of any member will be removed from the Church roll if they are no longer willing to affirm the Rock Spring Baptist Church Constitution and Bylaws, Statement of Faith and Church Covenant.

Section 5: Discipline

It shall be the basic purpose of the Rock Spring Baptist Church, Inc. to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. All disciplinary steps will follow the guidelines set forth in Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11; Galatians 6:1-2; 1 Timothy 5:17-21 and Titus 3:9-11.

II. CHURCH OFFICERS:

The officers of a New Testament Church are two: Elders and Deacons. The Senior Pastor shall be a member of the Elders, fulfilling the role of Teaching Elder or Pastor-Teacher.

Section 1: Elders

Qualifications

The New Testament uses interchangeably three terms that identify those who lead the local church: Elder, Overseer, and Pastor. The word used most often in the New Testament is Elder.

Elders, other than those on the ministerial staff, may be chosen from among the male members of the Church who meet the qualifications prescribed for their office in Acts 20:20-38; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:7 & 17; and 1 Peter 5:1-4.

Responsibilities and Authority

Elders are responsible to seek the mind of Christ through the guidance of the Holy Spirit on the basis of the Word of God as they carry out the work of overseeing the ministry of the Church. The Biblical responsibilities outlined for the Elders are:

1. To shepherd the flock of God (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:5; 1 Peter 5:2)
2. To be an example to the flock (1 Peter 5:3)
3. To teach and exhort, thereby equipping the flock for ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9)
4. To refute those who contradict the truth (Titus 1:9, 11)
5. To manage the church by giving oversight to the various ministries (1 Timothy 3:5; 5:17)
6. To pray for the sick (James 5:14-15)

Section 2: Deacons

Qualifications

In accordance with the meaning of the work and the practice of the New Testament, deacons are to be servants of the church. They shall strive by God's grace to live and serve in keeping with the standards for their particular office as found in the Word of God in Acts 6:1-7; and 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

Responsibilities and Authority

The task of the deacons is to serve with the pastor and staff in performing various ministerial tasks; to proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers; to care for church members and other persons in the community; and to lead the church to achieve its mission.

The deacon body shall serve as the board of directors for the church corporation with the chairman and vice chairman serving as president and vice president respectively. The deacon secretary will serve as corporate church secretary. The chairman of the deacons, or his designee, will preside over all the business meetings.

Should the deacons feel the pastor is not performing his duties appropriately they will consult with him on the matter. If the consultation is not sufficient to solve the problem the deacons will recommend to the church that the pastor be removed.

III. Church Staff:

Section 1: Ministerial Church Staff

This church shall call or employ such staff members as the church shall need. A job description shall be written when the need for staff members is determined.

Senior Pastor

A pastor shall be chosen and called by the church whenever a vacancy occurs. His election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least a two week public notice has been given.

A Pastor Search Committee shall be appointed by the church to seek out a pastor, and its recommendations will constitute a nomination. The Search Committee will be composed of a cross section of the church body and it will have a 2/3/gender ratio, with at least one active deacon. The Committee shall bring to the consideration of the church only one name at a time. The candidate shall provide an opportunity for the church body to interview him prior to the church vote. Elections shall be

by ballot on the Sunday of the trial sermon, an affirmative vote of three-fourths of those members present being necessary to extend a call to the candidate.

Other Ministerial Staff

The Church may call additional ministerial staff members when it is in the best interest of the ministry of the Church. These may include but are not limited to: 1) Associate Pastor and 2) Youth Minister.

Section 2: Non-ministerial Church Staff:

This church shall call or employ such non-ministerial staff members as the church shall need. Non-ministerial staff members will not be hired from within the current membership of the church.

Section 3: Other Church Positions

Clerk

The elected clerk of the church shall keep in a suitable book a record of all actions of the church. The clerk is responsible for keeping a register of the names of members, with dates of admission, dismissal, or death, together with a record of baptisms. The clerk shall issue letters of dismissal voted by the church; preserve on file all communications and written official reports, and give legal notice of all meetings where such notice is necessary. The church may delegate some of the clerical responsibilities to a church secretary. All church records are church property and should be filed in the church office.

Treasurer

The church shall elect annually a church treasurer. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to pay all expenses, and to maintain an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to render to the church at each regular business meeting an itemized report of the receipts and disbursements for the preceding months. The church treasurer may not serve more than four (4) consecutive one-year terms without at least a one-year sabbatical.

IV. COMMITTEES AND COORDINATING GROUPS:

Section 1: General

All church committees and their members shall be recommended by the Nominating Committee or other leadership bodies and elected by the church. Such committees may include but are not limited to: 1) Nominating, 2) Finance, 3) Hospitality, 4) Building and Grounds Committees.

All motions brought before the church body from committees must be approved in committee meetings with at least 50% of elected members in attendance. In the event 50% of members are not present, all absent members must be contacted by the chairperson on the issue. Committee meetings must be announced in advance, preferably in the bulletin. Motions must be approved by 2/3 of the committee present. Committee members who have a conflict of interest should excuse themselves before discussion and vote on the motion. Robert's Rules of Order, revised edition, will be the guideline for the handling of all motions.

V. ORDINANCES:

Section 1: Baptism

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

1. Baptism shall be by immersion in water.
2. Baptism shall be administered by the pastor or whomever the church shall authorize.
3. Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship.

Section 2: The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby believers in Christ, through partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine, commemorate the death of Jesus Christ, celebrate the unity of the church and anticipate His second coming.

1. The Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly.
2. The pastor and deacons shall be responsible for the administration of the Lord's Supper.

VI. CHURCH MEETINGS:

Section 1: Worship Services

The church shall meet regularly for preaching, praying, instruction, evangelism and the worship of Almighty God.

Section 2: Discipleship Groups

There shall be discipleship groups for all ages. The purposes of our discipleship groups are to worship, fellowship, serve, witness and disciple others for the glory of God.

Section 3: Regular Business Meetings

Business meetings shall be held regularly throughout the year.

Section 4: Special Business Meetings

A specially called business meeting may be held to consider special matters of significant nature. A two week notice of the subject, date and time must be given for the specially called business meeting, unless extreme urgency renders such notice unfeasible.

Section 5: Parliamentary Rules

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, is the authority for parliamentary rules of procedure for all business meetings of the church.

VII. CHURCH FINANCES:

Section 1: Budget

The Finance Committee shall prepare and submit to the church for approval a comprehensive budget.

Section 2: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the church shall be the calendar year, January 1 to December 31.

VIII. CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS:

Changes in this Constitution and Bylaws may be made at any regular business meeting of the church, provided each amendment has been presented in writing at a previous meeting and that copies of the proposed amendment be furnished to each member present. Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws shall be by two-thirds vote of all members of the church present.

NOTES