



Constitution and By-Laws

August 2018

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKPORT, TEXAS

COVENANT

Having been led by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and on the profession of our faith and baptism in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God and this congregation most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another in unity with Christ.

We, therefore, encourage one another to walk with the Holy Spirit in Christian love (Galatians 5:22-26), to strive for the advancement of First Baptist Church of Rockport in knowledge, holiness and comfort (2 Peter 3:18; Matthew 6:33), to promote its growth and spirituality (Colossians 1:9-11), to support its worship (Joshua 22:27), ordinances [Baptism and Lord's Supper] (Matthew 3:13-17 26:26-30), doctrines and discipline (Titus 2:1-10, Hebrews 12:7-11), to contribute cheerfully and regularly with time, talents and material goods in support of the ministry and expenses of the church and needs of the poor (Leviticus 27:30-32, Matthew 23:23, Acts 4:32-35, Romans 12:6-13), and to spread the gospel through all the nations (Matthew 28:19).

We also encourage one another to develop the habit of reading God's Word and praying, to teach our children the Bible and its message, to introduce our families and friends to Christ that they might have a relationship with the Savior, to live as Christlike examples in all areas of our lives as outlined in scripture (Proverbs 20:1, Romans 13:13-14, Matthew 18; Ephesians 4:32), to treat our bodies as "temples of the Holy Spirit" and to work towards the fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19).

We agree to encourage one another, to pray for each other, to share with those in need, to help each other in times of illness, sorrow and trouble. Knowing that "a kind word turns away wrath," we ask God to inspire us to become ministers of reconciliation, slow to anger, ready to believe the best of others (Ephesians 4:29-32, II Corinthians 5:18), and eager to promote harmony and unity within our families, church and community (Romans 15:1-7, Philippians 4:6-8).

We also encourage one another to unite with some other congregation where the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word can be carried out as soon as moving from First Baptist Church of Rockport.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKPORT, TEXAS CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the congregation in an orderly manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual congregation member and the freedom of action of this congregation in relation to other congregations.

ARTICLE I : Name

This congregation shall be known as *First Baptist Church of Rockport*, located at Rockport, Texas.

ARTICLE II : Purpose

The purpose of First Baptist Church of Rockport is to love God and to love one another, and to be a worshiping, ministering congregation of believers in Christ, operating under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and to proclaim the Good News of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, and to teach the essentials of Christian life as revealed in God's Holy Word. It is also to nurture Christian growth and service through worship, praising, training and fellowship and to cooperate with other Christians in ministering to the needs of our community and our world.

ARTICLE III : Statement of Basic Beliefs

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired word of God and the basis for our beliefs. This congregation subscribes to the doctrinal statement of The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963.

We voluntarily band ourselves together as a congregation of baptized believers in Jesus Christ personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to lost mankind. The ordinances of the church are believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper. (See Article V of the Bylaws.)

The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of 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. 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. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ.

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. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

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 loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

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 the demands and necessities of human nature and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His 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, partaking of the nature of God and of man, and 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.

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. 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 assurance of God to 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.

Man

Man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of His 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, and as soon as they are capable of moral action become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfil 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 man possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

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, sanctification, and glorification.

1. 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. 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 into a relationship of peace and favor with God.
2. 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 perfection through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.
3. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, 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 a 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, 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.

The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. This church is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In such a congregation members are equally responsible. Its Scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages.

Baptism & 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.

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 be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private, and by refraining from worldly amusements, and resting from secular employments, work of necessity and mercy only being excepted.

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.

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.

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. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

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.

Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the greater 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 co-operate 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 co-operation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Co-operation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such co-operation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

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.

Marriage

The Bible describes marriage as an institution established by God. Marriage is a covenant between one man and one woman to be in a committed, faithful, Christ-revealing, one-flesh relationship for life.

ARTICLE IV : Polity

The government of First Baptist Church of Rockport shall be vested in its membership. It is subject to no other ecclesiastical organization or body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist Churches. First Baptist Church will cooperate with and support other organizations as the Lord leads.

ARTICLE V : Membership

The membership of this congregation shall consist of persons who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and who have obeyed Him in believer's baptism.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, ROCKPORT, TEXAS
BY-LAWS

Article I : Church Membership

Section 1. Qualifications

The membership of this congregation shall consist of such persons as confess Jesus Christ to be their Savior and Lord, who (1) come by promise of letter from other congregations of the same faith and order or make a statement of faith, (2) have been accepted by vote of the congregation, (3) and having obeyed the ordinance of believer's baptism, (4) enter into its covenant.

Section 2. Types of Membership

The membership of this congregation shall consist of the following:

1. Resident Members: Those members who live in the area served by First Baptist Church of Rockport.
2. Non-resident Members: Those members who live outside of the area served by First Baptist Church of Rockport and desire to maintain their membership in this congregation.
3. Watchcare Members. Those members in need of a church home, but not desiring to become voting members, may offer themselves for watchcare membership and may be accepted as watchcare members upon the majority vote, of the congregation assembled, taken after appropriate examination of those offering themselves for membership. Such persons should have had a genuine conversion experience and membership in another congregation and should agree to live within the framework and Covenant of this congregation. Watchcare members are not eligible to be elected as church officers, deacons, committee chairpersons or to vote in transactions of the congregation, but they shall otherwise be fully admitted to the fellowship of the congregation. No church letter will be granted to watchcare persons who unite with another congregation.

Section 3. New Member Orientation

In order to facilitate Christian growth, we encourage all new members to take advantage of our orientation program for service, fellowship and worship.

Section 4. Rights of Members

1. Every member of this congregation, regardless of age, is entitled to vote at all elections on all questions submitted to the church in conference, provided the member is present or provision has been made for absentee ballot at a called business meeting.
2. Every member of the congregation is eligible for consideration by the membership as candidates for elective offices in the church with the exception that watchcare

members are not eligible to serve as noted in definition. (Article I, Section 2, subsection 3)

Section 5. Termination of Membership

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways:

1. Death of the member,
2. Transfer of letter to another congregation,
3. Exclusion (2/3 vote of the members present) at a meeting of this congregation, or
4. Erasure upon written request or proof of membership in a church of another denomination.

Section 6. Discipline

It shall be the practice of this congregation to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The pastors and members of the church staff, and the deacons are available for counsel and guidance. The attitude of members toward one another shall be guided by a concern for reconciliation rather than punishment.

Should some serious condition exist which would cause a member to become a liability to the general welfare of the congregation, the pastors and the deacons will take every reasonable measure to resolve the problem in accord with Matthew 18.

ARTICLE II : Church Officers

The officers of this congregation shall be the Senior Pastor, Church Clerk, Treasurer, Agent, and Trustees. All who serve as officers shall be full members of the congregation.

Section 1. Senior Pastor

1. Call

The congregation shall call a Senior Pastor to be under shepherd and the spiritual leader of the congregation.

2. Search Committee

This Search Committee shall consist of the members of the congregation elected by a written ballot without nomination. Such an election shall be in a Sunday worship service within four weeks of the resignation of the Senior Pastor, unless otherwise agreed upon by the congregation at a called business meeting.

The committee should be balanced as closely as possible with men and women.

The committee shall elect its own chairperson. The committee shall consist of an odd number of people, and the number of those serving will be determined by the congregation at the time the committee is installed.

The function of the Search Committee shall be to investigate and recommend a person to the congregation to serve as Senior Pastor. When the Search Committee is ready to make its recommendation of a prospective Senior Pastor, the congregation shall be notified at a Sunday Worship service that on the following Sunday the Search Committee will recommend to the congregation the name of the prospective Senior Pastor. Notification will also be made to the membership at least (3) three business days before the date the prospective Senior Pastor will come in view of a call. Biographical information of the prospective Senior Pastor will also be made available before the prospective Senior Pastor comes in view of a call.

On the designated day, at the designated time, the recommendation of the Search Committee shall be received together with the reasons for its recommendation. After motion is made and seconded that the recommended person be called as Senior Pastor and after a full discussion a vote shall be taken by secret ballot. Under no circumstances shall a call be extended if less than seventy-five percent (75%) of those present and voting vote affirmatively. The wisdom of the call after balloting shall be left to the discretion of the Search Committee.

If a call is not extended by the congregation to the person recommended by the Search Committee as above provided or if the person called by the congregation declines to accept such a call, then the Search Committee shall begin anew its investigation and come before the congregation in the same manner with its second recommendation. This method shall proceed until a Senior Pastor has been secured by the congregation.

(These paragraphs describing the Search Committee and its function also explain the procedure for calling ministers other than the Senior Pastor.)

3. Duties

The Senior Pastor shall serve as the spiritual leader of the church and shall promote all the interests of the church. His job description shall be defined by the Personnel Committee and stated in the church's Personnel Policies and Procedures. The Senior Pastor shall be the executive officer of the church and shall be an ex-officio member of all church organizations and committees.

4. Termination

The Senior Pastor may terminate his service with the congregation by resignation, or he may be terminated by dismissal. Recommendation for dismissal shall require seventy-five percent (75%) of votes cast against at a special church business meeting called for that purpose. Notice of the time and purpose of such meeting shall be made by the Church Clerk in writing to the entire church membership and be postmarked at least seven (7) days prior to any meeting at which the action of dismissal is to be taken.

(This paragraph also describes the procedure for termination of called ministers other than the Senior Pastor.)

Section 2. Church Clerk

1. Election

The Church Clerk shall be nominated by the Church Council and elected annually by the majority of members present at a regular or called business meeting of the congregation.

2. Duties

The Church Clerk shall be responsible for keeping a suitable record of all the Official actions of the congregation, except as otherwise provided. The clerk shall be responsible for keeping a register of names of members, with dates of admission, dismissal, death, or erasure, together with a record for baptisms. The clerk shall be responsible for issuing letters of dismissals, preserving on file all communications and written official reports, and giving required notice of all meetings where notice is necessary. The clerk shall be responsible for preparing the annual letter of the congregation to the Association.

The congregation may delegate these clerical responsibilities to a church secretary who will assist the elect clerk or may elect the church secretary as clerk. All congregational records are church property and shall be kept in the church office when an office is maintained.

Section 3. Church Treasurer

1. Election

The Church Treasurer shall be nominated annually by the Church Council and elected by the majority of members present at a regular or called business meeting of the congregation.

2. Duties

It shall be the duty of the treasurer to (1) serve as an advisor to the Finance Committee and to the Financial Secretary, (2) oversee the collection of all regular or special offerings, (3) oversee the tellers and deposit procedures, (4) attend Finance Committee meetings serving an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee, (5) be on the bank signature card for all church accounts, and (6) make recommendations to the Finance Committee concerning church finance. The church treasure shall also be responsible for any other duties agreed upon at the regular church business meeting.

All congregational records are church property and shall be kept in the church office when an office is maintained.

Section 4. Trustees

1. Election

The Church Council shall nominate and the congregation shall elect three (3) Trustees to serve as corporate officers for the Congregation. Trustees shall serve on a rotating basis, with one new trustee being elected every year.

2. Duties

Trustees shall hold in trust the church property. Upon a specific vote of the congregation authorizing each action, they shall have the power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, rent or transfer any church property. When the signature of trustees are required, they shall sign legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchase, lease, rental or transfer of property, or other legal documents related to congregation-approved matters.

Section 5. Agent

1. Selection

The Agent shall be the Executive Pastor. In the event that the position of Executive Pastor is vacant, the Church Council shall nominate someone to fill the office of Agent, who will then be elected by the majority of members present at a regular or called business meeting of the congregation.

2. Duties

The Agent will be listed on the Articles of Incorporation for the church filed with the State of Texas. The Agent is authorized to act on behalf of the church to sign business contracts.

ARTICLE III : Committees & Church Council

1. Committees

The church shall have any and all committees it deems necessary to conduct the work of the church, including standing, ad hoc, search, and special committees. All descriptions of and procedures pertaining to committees and their functioning shall be described in the church's Organization and Ministry Manual.

2. Church Council

The Church Council gives guidance, support, and assistance to the Ministerial Staff to coordinate the work of the church to accomplish its mission of leading all people to be shaped by the love of Christ. In addition, the Church Council will enlist and nominate Church Officers and Trustees to the church for approval; assist the Ministerial Staff to enlist and nominate teachers and ministry leaders to the church for approval; and enlist and nominate church members to fill vacancies to all standing and ad hoc church committees.

In all its meetings the Church Council represents the church and acts with the authority of the church on all matters except those needing to go before the church in a regularly or called business meeting. Those matters needing to go before the church in a business meeting would include, but not be limited to:

- Approval of church members to serve on committees
- Approval of church members to serve as teachers, church officers, ministry leaders, etc.
- Buying or selling of property
- Major renovation or development of existing church property.
- Major changes to existing written policies and procedures.
- Calling or dismissing ministerial staff members.
- Approval of an annual budget or spending plan or increases to an existing budget or spending plan.
- Conferring ordination on ministerial or deacon candidates.

The Church Council will consist of a combination of church staff, committee chairpersons, the Deacon Chairman, and church members chosen by their Life Groups who serve three year terms. Each Adult Life Group may elect one representative who will serve on the Church Council. The Youth, Children, and Preschool Life Groups may select one representative from each of their areas.

All Life Group representatives, committee chairpersons, and the Deacon Chairman will serve as voting members of the Church Council.

All Ministerial Staff members, including the Children's Ministry Director, the Church Secretary, and the Office Manager will serve as non-voting members of the Church Council.

A Church Council member will:

- Be a member of FBC Rockport
- Contribute to the work of FBC Rockport through time, talents, and/or offerings.
- Commit to encourage, support, and assist the Ministerial Staff in leading the church to accomplish its mission
- Communicate to the Church Council the concerns of the Life Groups and Ministry areas represented
- Communicate the needs of the church to the Life Groups and Ministry areas represented
- Attend scheduled meetings.

Quorum at Church Council meetings will consist of 50% of the voting members of the Church Council. All votes taken by the Church Council require a super-majority (two-thirds) to pass. Church Council meetings will be open to all church members unless stated

otherwise. The Senior Pastor will serve as the Chairperson of the Church Council and will plan and lead the meetings.

ARTICLE IV : Messengers

The number of persons to serve as messengers from this congregation shall be determined by the rules of the association or convention concerned. Messengers shall be elected by the congregation from those who have notified the church office and indicated they plan to attend the association or convention. If more than the allowable number have registered, a vote shall be taken by the congregation and those receiving the highest number of votes shall serve as messengers. Nominations from the floor may be presented at the time of election, if the consent of the nominee has been obtained. The Senior Pastor shall be encouraged to serve as a messenger.

ARTICLE V : Baptism & The Lord's Supper

(Church Ordinances)

Section 1. Definitions (*The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted in 1963*)

1. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is a holy, symbolic act, the only baptism, depicting the believer's faith in a crucified, buried and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin nature, the burial of the old man, and the resurrection to walk in the newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Baptism is a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ.
2. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience where members of the Body of Christ, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, are reminded of what Jesus did for us on the cross and in anticipation of His second coming.

Section 2. Administration

1. Baptism

- a. Baptism shall be by immersion in water.
- b. The Senior Pastor, or whomever the Senior Pastor or congregation shall authorize, shall administer baptism. The deacons shall assist in the preparation for, and the observance of, baptism.
- c. Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship during any worship service of the church.

2. Lord's Supper

- a. The congregation shall observe the Lord's Supper quarterly. The Senior Pastor and deacons shall determine the dates and items for the observance of the Lord Supper.
- b. The Senior Pastor, or someone designated by the Senior Pastor or the congregation, and the deacons shall administer the Lord's Supper, the deacons being responsible for the physical preparations.

ARTICLE VI : Meetings

Section 1. Worship Services

The congregation shall meet regularly for worship at times and locations designated by the Senior Pastor.

Section 2. Regular Business Meetings

The congregation shall hold regular business meetings, by agenda, at a time designated by the congregation.

Section 3. Called Business Meetings

The congregation may conduct called business meetings to consider matters of special nature and significance. Meetings may be called by the Senior Pastor, Agent, or Church Council. Notice of called business meetings will be made to the entire resident membership at least three (3) business days before the meeting. The notice shall include the subject, date, time and place of the meeting.

Section 4. Quorum

The quorum consists of those members who attend the business meeting, provided it is a regularly scheduled meeting or one that has been properly called.

Section 5. Parliamentary Rules

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

Section 6. Moderator

The Senior Pastor shall serve as the moderator of all business meetings. In the absence of the Senior Pastor a member of the Ministerial Staff or the Chair of Deacons shall act as moderator in his place. (Amended 7-19-06)

Section 7. Voting

As stated previously (Article I, section 4, subsection 1), every member of this congregation, regardless of age, is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the church in conference, provided the member is present or provision has been made for absentee ballot at a called business meeting. Absentee voting will be allowed at the discretion of the Moderator and/or the Church Council.

Section 8. Cancellation of Services

In case of bad weather or other extenuating circumstances where deemed necessary, for any service, the Senior Pastor will have the authority to cancel services for that time. Announcements will be made using appropriate media. It will be the responsibility of the people to check for information on cancellation. If the Senior Pastor is out of town, the Executive Pastor or the Chair of Deacons shall act in his place.

ARTICLE VII : Church Finances

It is understood that membership in this church involves financial obligations to support the congregation and its causes with regular, proportionate tithes and gifts.

The Finance Committee is responsible for the controls to protect the assets that are relative to the financial resources and obligations of the church. An accounting system that safeguards the financial resources and expenditures of the church will be the responsibility of the Finance Committee. (Amended 10/17/2012)

ARTICLE VIII : Amendment

Changes in the Constitution and Bylaws may be made at any regular business meeting of the congregation provided each amendment shall have been presented in writing at a previous business meeting and copies of the proposed amendment shall have been furnished to each member present at the earlier meeting. Amendments to the Constitution shall be by two-thirds vote of the congregation present and voting except for watchcare members. Amendments to the Bylaws shall have a concurrence of a majority of the congregation present and voting except for watchcare members.