



**Constitution and Bylaws  
of  
First Baptist Church  
Cameron, Missouri**

**[Proposed June 14, 2020]**

First Baptist Church is incorporated in 1866 under the name First Baptist Church of Cameron, Missouri, Inc., in Clinton County, as a nonprofit religious and charitable organization under the provision of section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States.

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## Preamble

We believe that a church is a body of baptized believers organized for worshiping God, evangelizing the lost, and discipling believers. When a church develops a constitution, it helps clarify its purpose, provides the foundation for building an effective church, and defines its structure. A constitution also gives our members and potential members a better understanding of what the church is about and how the church functions. This constitution of First Baptist Church of Cameron (FBC) contains the fundamental principles that govern its operation. The bylaws establish the specific rules of guidance by which FBC is to function.

We believe the basic advantages of a constitution and bylaws are:

- First, to promote effectiveness, a church must have some type of organization. Bylaws specify a church's governing structure, such as defining the roles of pastor, deacon, and other leaders; and specifically, to stipulate the requirements for membership. In other words, bylaws require "all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner" (1 Corinthians 14:40).
- Second, to provide direction, a church needs to articulate its mission and methodology. The bylaws of a church are useful in setting parameters for fundraising, outreach, ordination, expenditures, and the support of missions.
- Third, to preserve unity and maintain its testimony, a church should agree on certain issues of Christian living and separation, including theological beliefs and doctrine.
- Fourth, to protect itself from liability, a church should have written policies on church discipline, screening volunteers for children and youth ministries, etc. Having established bylaws can help the church avert calamity in a crisis. The needs of a church will change over time, and it is important that the constitution and bylaws are kept up to date to reflect the changes in our church.

## Mission Statement

We live to worship, proclaim, and become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

## Objective

As a fellowship of maturing Christians empowered by the Holy Spirit, the church shall be the fulfillment of Jesus Christ's ministry in our world today.

## Relationship

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

## Statement of Faith

The doctrinal statement known as the Baptist Faith and Message, adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000, represents the doctrinal beliefs of the members of FBC. We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. The Bible is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. The Bible 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. The Bible 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. *Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.*

## Position Statements

### Sexuality

We affirm God's plan for marriage and sexual intimacy – one man and one woman, for life. Homosexuality is not a "valid alternative lifestyle." The Bible condemns homosexuality as a sin. It is not an unforgivable sin. The same redemption available to all sinners is available to homosexuals. FBC will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the Pastors of FBC shall only participate in weddings and perform marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Finally, regarding weddings, the facilities and property of FBC shall only host weddings between a biological man and a biological woman.

### Sanctity of Life

Procreation is a gift from God, a precious trust reserved for marriage. At the very moment of conception, a new being enters the universe, a human being, a being created in God's image. This human being deserves our protection, whatever the circumstances of conception. We are, therefore, called to defend, protect, and value all human life.

## Church Covenant

Since we have received the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and have been baptized, we now, before God and His church, covenant to:

- Walk together in Christian love as one body in Christ
- Worship and pray together
- Faithfully attend worship services

- Be willing to help in all church work
- Give cheerfully our tithes and offerings for the work of the church and the spreading of the Gospel to “all nations”
- Help those in need in our church and in our community
- Lead family devotions
- Teach our children about Jesus Christ
- Witness to members of our family, friends, and to strangers in “all nations”
- Be honest and faithful in all our dealings
- Stay away from all types of immorality in our thoughts, our speech, and in our actions
- Speak only that which is true and helpful
- Be slow in anger and quick to forgive

**Oh God, help us by Your Power to keep these covenant promises. Amen.**

*2 John 1:6, John 15:12, Acts 2:42-46, Hebrews 10:24-25, Titus 2:7-8, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, 2 Corinthians 9:7, Malachi 3:10, Luke 10:25-37, Romans 12:9-13, Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:19-20, Colossians 3:1-8, Ephesians 5:3-5, James 3:1-12, Ephesians 4:25-29, Romans 14:19.*

## **Church Membership and Qualifications for Membership**

### **Basis for Membership**

Followers of Jesus Christ are members of the body of Christ and are, therefore, positional members of the universal Church. It is the belief of FBC that such positional membership in the universal church is not defined or limited to a single corporate church organization, denomination, or congregation. Local bodies of believers, actively partnering together, become the basis for accomplishing the mission and ministry of the universal church. Therefore, membership at FBC is an expression of partnership between like-minded believers whose intent is to fulfill this purpose together.

### **Qualifications for Membership**

Each person desiring to become a member of FBC shall:

1. Profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
2. Have been or is willing to be baptized by immersion.
3. Complete a New Members Class approved by the Pastors and or Deacons.
4. Regularly participate in corporate worship (unless physically unable).
5. Provide systematic financial support to the mission of FBC.
6. Serve in the church’s organized work.

## Membership Self-Examination

Because membership is an expression of an active partnership in ministry, each member shall annually examine themselves with a spiritual development assessment. The church will annually refresh their minds with the Church Covenant and membership qualifications.

## Voting Rights of Membership

Adult members (ages 18 and above) who are faithful in their commitments to the church body and who do not come under the corrective discipline of the church, shall be considered members in good standing and entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership in the church (Acts 2:37-47). In recognition of the reality of age-appropriate responsibilities and privileges in the Christian life (1 Corinthians 13:11), non-adult members will enjoy all the privileges and responsibilities of membership except for voting and holding office.

Every adult church member, (except those members under the process of church discipline) shall have the right to one vote on the following matters. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

1. Adoption of the annual general operating budget of the church
2. Election of Pastors and Deacons
3. Acquisition of real property
4. Obtaining any indebtedness
5. Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and Bylaws of the church
6. Calling or removing Pastoral Staff
7. Any matters in which the Pastors and or Deacons feel led to seek the members' advice, counsel, and approval

## Removal of Partnering Members

Partnering Members shall be removed from the Church roll for the following reasons:

- Death
- Transfer of Membership to another church
- Personal request of the Member
- Uniting with another church without first obtaining a letter of transfer shall be automatically dropped from the roll
- Failure to comply with ongoing qualifications to be a member

## Church Discipline

The purpose of church discipline is to:

- Glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Corinthians 5:6)
- Edify believers by deterring sin (1 Timothy 5:20)

- Promote the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Galatians 6:1)

Partnering Members who engage in habitual conduct that violates the Membership Covenant or who act in a manner that undermines the reputation of this church shall be subject to Church Discipline as determined by the Pastors and or Deacons, up to and including the possibility of dismissal.

The guidelines explained in Matthew 18 should prayerfully be followed by each Partnering Member of this church.

1. It shall be the duty of any member of this church who has knowledge of the erring individual's heresy or misconduct to warn and correct such erring individual in private, seeking his or her repentance and restoration.
2. If the erring individual does not heed this warning, then the warning member shall again go to the erring individual, seeking his or her repentance, but accompanied by two to three individuals who shall confirm that the sin has occurred or is continuing to occur and/or that the erring individual has been appropriately confronted and has refused to repent.
3. If the erring individual still refuses to heed this warning, then it shall be brought to the attention of the Pastoral staff. If the Pastoral staff determines, after thorough investigation, that there is corroborating evidence that the erring individual has sinned or is continuing to sin, that he or she has been appropriately confronted, and that he or she has refused to repent, then the Pastors shall inform the congregation at a regularly scheduled worship service in order that the church may call the erring individual to repentance with an attitude of love and humility following the council the Lord prescribed in (Matthew 7:1-5).
4. If, however, the erring individual does not repent in response to the church in its collective call to repentance, then he or she shall be publicly dismissed from the fellowship and/or membership of the church.
5. If the erring individual, after such dismissal, heeds the warning, demonstrates repentance and requests reinstatement before the Pastoral staff, then he or she may be publicly restored to all the rights, duties, privileges and responsibilities of fellowship and/or membership.

## Denial of Membership

Membership will be denied if, after meeting with a prospective member, it is determined that:

1. The applicant does not confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
2. The applicant does not otherwise meet the qualifications for membership.
3. The applicant lacks evidence of a godly lifestyle.
4. The applicant is found to be under the restorative discipline of another church.

## Church Ordinances

The ordinances of the church are baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper.

- **Baptism.** A person who accepts Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith, who confesses Him publicly at any worship service, and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord, shall be received for baptism. Baptism shall be by immersion in water. Baptism shall be administered by one of the Pastors or one designated by the Pastors. Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship in any of the worship services of the church.
- **The Lord's Supper.** The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby Christians, through partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine, remember the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate His second coming. The Pastors and Deacons shall be responsible for the administration of the Lord's Supper. The Pastors will decide the appropriate times.

## Church Business Meetings

The primary purpose for church business meetings is to communicate what God is doing and specific decisions that need to be made at First Baptist Church Cameron.

1. Remembering that FBC is a church family, the moderator (who shall be the Chairman of Deacons or appropriate designation) may make rulings as necessary to expedite a meeting. Roberts Rules of Order will only be used as a guide when and if needed in business meetings.
2. At all meetings of the members, when proper notification has occurred, whether regular or special, the members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
3. The church clerk will record minutes of all business meetings.
4. In general, each year, when convenient, a business meeting shall be held on the first or second Sunday in March, June, September, and December. During the December meeting, reports on business and activities of the past year shall be presented as well as a budget report for the current year. The budget for the upcoming year shall also be presented and voted on by the church members during the December business meeting.
5. The Pastors or Deacons may call for a special business meeting any time an issue requires the approval of the church members.
  - a) Members may request by verbal petition to the Pastors or Deacons at a regularly scheduled church meeting that a special business meeting be conducted. The decision to conduct such a meeting will be at the discretion of the Pastors or Deacons.
  - b) Members must be given at least a one-week notice (verbal from the pulpit and written on screen / bulletin) prior to a special called business meeting.

**Example issues requiring special meetings are as follows:**

1. Changes and/or amendments made to these bylaws; and at the time of notice regarding the special business meeting to amend this document, copies must be made available to the church members for their review.

2. The call or dismissal of the Senior Pastor
3. The affirmation or dismissal of an Elder or Deacon
4. Property purchase, sale, or building expansion

## Church Government

### Head of the Church

FBC acknowledges only the Lord Jesus Christ as its Head and receives the Holy Scriptures as the only infallible and inerrant guide in matters of faith, church order, and discipline. The government of this church, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, is entrusted jointly in the body of believers who compose its membership and the Pastors and Deacons who shall have the authority to direct the daily affairs of the church.

### Leadership

FBC and its ministries are led by Pastors, along with Ministerial Staff, Deacons and Ministry Teams. Deacons function as servants of the ministries of the church. Other leaders include Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer. All church leaders must be members of FBC. All these leaders come under the general oversight of the Pastors. The church governance of FBC is congregational. Unless indicated, these leaders will be recommended by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church and shall take office at the start of the church calendar year.

### Pastors

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

The pastors are responsible for leading the church in functioning as a New Testament church. They will guide the congregation, church organizations and the church staff in performing their tasks. The major concern of the pastors is to perform pastoral and shepherding responsibilities (James 5:14; Acts 20:28). The pastors are the leaders of the worship, proclamation, education, and pastoral ministry. The pastors are an ex-officio member of all church appointed committees. The pastors shall administer the ordinances of the church.

#### Calling Pastors

The full time Pastors of this church shall be ordained by a Southern Baptist Church as a minister of the Gospel and a member of the Southern Baptist Convention denomination. A pulpit committee shall be appointed by the church to seek out a suitable pastor whenever a vacancy occurs. Any member has the privilege of making other recommendations to the search committee. The committee shall bring to the consideration of the church only one man at a time and their recommendation will constitute a nomination.

The Pastor's election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least 10 days of notice shall be given prior to the meeting date in the church newsletter or special mailing. Election shall be by ballot, an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the number needed from a meeting quorum for election of the pastor. The pastor, thus elected, shall serve until the relationship is terminated by his request or the church's request. There shall be thirty-days of notice given by either party to the other prior to termination.

### **Termination of Relationship**

Pastors shall serve an indefinite term of office subject to his own calling and the will of the church. His term shall expire; upon his death in office; his resignation; his retirement; or by the affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of those present at a special called meeting for the purpose of removal. Thirty days of notice shall be given by either party to the other prior to termination. The timing and details of the departure shall be determined by the deacons in cooperation with the Personal Committee. Pastors shall only be removed from office, for one or more of the following reasons:

1. Moral Failure (Exodus 20:14; 1 Timothy 3:1-13).
2. Failure to Shepherd the Flock (John 21:15-17).
3. Lying, Deceiving or Misleading the Congregation (Romans 9:1; and 2 Corinthians 11:31).
4. Teaching doctrines inconsistent with the Bible; the Baptist Faith and Message; and/or neglecting to consistently share the GOSPEL (Jeremiah 6:14; Ezekiel 13:10; and 1 Timothy 4:1-11).

### **Employees**

The church shall employ such additional employees as needed. A job description shall be written by the Personnel Committee in consultation with the committee or supervisor responsible for the employee. The Personnel committee shall seek out a person for the position and employ them after consultation with the appropriate committee or supervisor.

### **Deacons**

#### **Requirements**

The church shall strive to maintain enough ordained deacons to minister to all the resident church families. The Deacon Body and Pastors will be responsible for the process of selecting deacons. Eligible Deacons shall then be voted on at the annual business meeting of the church for purpose of electing church officers. Deacons will meet requirements as set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3 and shall be ordained in accordance with scripture. Deacon candidates who have not been previously ordained will be elected for a one-year term to serve in training in an unofficial capacity. At the end of one year, after consultation with the pastor and the deacon body and the if the candidate agrees, his name will be added to the list presented to the church body at the annual election of officers.

## **Purpose**

In accordance with the meaning of the work and the practice of the New Testament, deacons are to be the servants of the church. The task of the deacon is to serve with the pastor and staff in performing pastoral ministries tasks; proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers; care for the church members and lead the church to engage in a fellowship of worship, witness, education, ministry and application.

## **Organization**

The deacons shall elect a chairman, vice chairman and secretary. They shall be organized for the consideration of their needs related to their work. They may organize themselves into committees or teams to serve the church in the specific areas of baptism, Lord's Supper and benevolence, and other teams as may be needed, and shall perform such duties in absence or inability of the pastor. It shall be the responsibility of this body to see that the pulpit supply is taken care of in the absence of the pastor or when the church is without a pastor. The deacons shall meet monthly as is convenient and keep records of all business discussed and recommendation made to the church body.

## **Inactive Status**

Those deacons having requested, for whatever reason, to be removed from the active deacon list will be placed on an Inactive Deacon status until they request to be re-activated and voted upon by the Deacon board.

## **Emeritus**

The deacon body may recommend to the church that a deacon be designated the status of Deacon Emeritus. This designation is intended for a deacon who has served his church as deacon faithfully for many years and desires to retire from the deacon ministry. This person has the privilege to attend deacon functions and may be used in an advisory capacity.

## **Term**

Once ordained, the serving deacon shall serve as an active deacon until such time he shall elect to be placed on inactive status.

## **Treasurer**

The treasurer will be an ex-officio member of the Finance Team. The treasurer shall be authorized to co-sign checks. All checks shall be signed and co-signed by authorized persons selected by the Nominating Committee. The treasurer will work with the Financial Secretary in accordance with the budget and policies established by the church and as directed by the Finance Team. The Treasurer and Financial Secretary will prepare regular financial reports to be presented at church business meetings.

## Financial Secretary

The financial secretary shall be employed by the church. The financial secretary shall be responsible for recording all financial transactions of the church, keeping an itemized record of all receipts and disbursements. The financial secretary shall report directly to the Pastors and functionally to the Treasurer and Finance Team.

## Clerk

The clerk shall be responsible for taking minutes in church business meetings and keeping records of all official actions of the church. At the end of each calendar year, the clerk shall see that the minutes for the year are bound. The clerk will also maintain the church membership roll. This membership roll will include names, dates of admission, death, and a record of baptisms. This person shall be responsible for preparing the annual church profile of the church and transmitting it to the Association. The church may delegate some or all the clerical responsibilities to a paid church secretary who will assist the elected clerk. All church records are church property and shall be maintained by the church office.

## Finances

- Finances necessary for supporting the vision of FBC shall be obtained through voluntary offerings and from income derived from church owned investments and/or capital reserves. Additional appeals for funds, budgeted or non-budgeted, may be made as deemed advisable by the Pastors and Deacons. Church-approved programs will be financed out of the treasury of the church.
- This church shall have the power to buy, sell, receive, acquire, hold, possess, manage, dispose of, and convey such real and personal property which it has now or may hereafter acquire for the use and benefit of the church or institutions which the church may own, maintain, or operate.
- Church finances shall be under the ultimate direction of the congregation. The Finance Team shall be responsible for having reports to the church.
- The fiscal year shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.
- During October of each year, the Finance Team shall begin the budget making process, drawing on the input of all the ministries and teams of the church.
- Separate persons shall be responsible for having custody of church monies (the collecting, counting, and depositing of funds to be done by selected tellers), authorizing transactions (the Finance Team), and recording transactions (Treasurer/Financial Secretary).
- No one person shall have custody of church monies at any time. A minimum of two people, church members and employees are required to collect, count, and deposit funds.

## Authority to Legally Obligate the Church

The Executive Board of the church shall consist of the pastor and the three deacon officers. The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the church between its business meetings. They are the only officers who have authority, in accordance with these By-Laws, the Church Constitution, and any applicable laws, to execute legal documents relating to real estate, church property, and church finances as directed by the church in properly convened business meetings. The Executive Board shall be subject to the orders of the church and shall report all actions taken by the Board to the church for ratification; none of its acts shall conflict with the provisions of this constitution and bylaws of the church.

## Ministry Teams and Church Programs

### General

Every church has a spirit and philosophy that permeates its people and ministries. It is the atmosphere in which all of church life is carried out, as well as the vision for what kind of church we want to be. All teams and organizations of First Baptist Church Cameron shall be under church governance. All Pastors, deacons, officers, teachers, and team and ministry leaders must be members of FBC Cameron, and they will report regularly to the congregation with open communication. There will be four standing teams: Missions and Evangelism, Personnel, Finance, and Trustees. FBC Cameron will have as many teams as necessary to fulfill its ministry goals, such as: Church Ushers, Hospitality, Worship, Benevolence, Bereavement, Baptismal, Memorial, Kitchen, Worship, Insurance, etc., including all Age Group Discipleship Teams.

## Missions and Evangelism Team

**Principle Function:** One of the most important responsibilities that any mission team has is how they lead the congregation in its missionary responsibility. Jesus told us that we *would* be his witnesses (Acts 1:8). The only question is, *“What kind of witnesses will we be?”* The missions’ team is charged with answering that question.

### Responsibility:

- Promote missions (local, associational, state, North American and international) and increase congregational participation through prayer support.
- Plan special worship services or emphases on missions in consultation with the Pastors.
- Recommend mission trips and necessary support to the church.
- Make recommendations to the budget (Finance Team) as to the needed money for mission support for the annual church budget.
- Recommend mission involvement and leadership policies and guidelines to the church.

- Serve as the church's experts on missions by studying biblical and missiological issues and learning about areas of the world.
- Elevate the church's awareness of the biblical basis for missions, the need for world evangelization, and current events in missions.
- Stimulate prayer for missionaries and world missions.
- The Chairman of this team will serve on the Church Council.

**Membership:** Nominating Team will chose as needed. An Elder will be an ex-officio member.

**Meetings:** This team shall meet as needed.

## Finance Team

**Principle Function:** This team will help provide an efficient church financial operation.

**Responsibility:**

- Review the financial results from the prior month(s) compared to the budget. Receive and approve/disapprove requests for budgeted expenditures and other non-budget requests that may be presented.
- Review any budget line items that are approaching or have exceeded the approved budget. Consider options for discussing and working with persons/teams responsible for the budget line items.
- Formulate an operational budget each year, to be effective January 1 of the following year
- Recommend having or not to have an audit or a review of the financial records by an independent financial professional.
- The Chairman of this team will serve on the Church Council.

**Membership:** Nominating Team will chose as needed. An Elder will be an ex-officio member.

**Meetings:** This team shall meet as needed.

## Personnel Team

**Principle Function:** This team will help assist the church in matters relating to personnel administration and management, including such areas as employment, salaries and benefits.

**Responsibility:**

- Survey the need for additional or reduced Church staff positions.
- Develop and recommend to the church, policies and procedures for employed personnel. The Personnel Policy Manual should be updated as needed.
- Develop and recommend salaries and benefits for employed personnel.
- Provide each staff member with a written copy of personnel policies, staff benefits, and job description.
- The Chairman of this team will serve on the Church Council.
- Review all evaluations of pastoral and church staff.

**Membership:** Nominating Team will chose as needed. An Elder will be an ex-officio member, except where matters pertaining to the position of Pastor are under discussion unless the team requests that the Pastor be present.

**Meetings:** This team shall meet as needed.

## Trustees

**Principle Function:** This team shall be responsible for the proper maintenance, enhancements, and improvements of all the Church's facilities and grounds.

**Responsibilities:**

- Develop, recommend, and implement policies regarding the enhancements, improvements, and proper maintenance of all the Church's facilities including the buildings, grounds, gardens, and parking areas.
- Make an annual inspection of the buildings and grounds and make a written report to the Church as to the overall condition of the buildings and grounds; make recommendations of required maintenance, improvements, and enhancements for the current year to maintain the appearance and function of the church property. The Team is also responsible for continuous periodic inspections to ensure that the facilities are functioning properly.
- Prepare an annual budget to be submitted to the Finance Team.
- Examine, award, and/or renew all the Church's maintenance contracts, supervise all contracted personnel, and prepare and present reports to the Church regarding these contracts.
- The Chairman of this team will serve on the Church Council.

**Membership:** Nominating Team will chose as needed. An Elder will be an ex-officio member.

**Meetings:** This team meets monthly with special meetings as needed.

## Church Nominating Team

**Function:** The function of the Church Nominating Team is to discover, interview, enlist, and recommend people to fill positions of leadership and service in the various functioning teams of the Church.

**Responsibility:**

- To nominate, in harmony with Church practice and state law, if required church officers, and other Church team members, including teachers.
- To spread the leadership responsibilities as widely as possible and limit the members of teams so that one person will serve on no more than two teams in the Church (except where they serve by virtue of office).
- To fill any vacancy on a church team caused by resignation, death, or removal from the Church roll.

**Membership:** This team will consist of the Pastors and Deacon body.

**Meetings:** This team shall meet as needed.

## **Church Council**

The primary function of the church council shall be to serve as an advisory council to the Pastors; to suggest objectives and church goals; to review and coordinate program plans recommended by church teams and organizations, including calendar dates and other resources; and to evaluate program achievements of church goals and mission. The Church Council will include the Pastors and specific team Chairpersons and Ministry Leaders.

## **Administrative Provisions**

1. **Records:** The church shall keep at its principal or registered office copies of its current Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws; correct and adequate records of accounts and finances; minutes of the proceedings of its members; records of the name and address and classes of each member; and such other records as may be necessary or advisable. All records of the church shall be open at any reasonable time for inspection by any member of at least three months standing (excluding private personal information).
2. **Accounting Year:** The accounting year of the church shall be twelve months starting January 1<sup>st</sup> and ending December 31st.

## **Amendments**

This Constitution and accompanying Bylaws may be amended by three-fourths of those present and voting members present at a meeting specially called for that purpose. No change shall be made in the Statement of Faith except by a three-fourths vote of all the active members of the church present entitled to vote, said proposed change having been laid before the church in writing at a business meeting not less than one month before the time of the proposed action, and read from the pulpit on the Lord's Day succeeding such proposal.

## **Dissolution of Church**

"Dissolution" means the complete disbanding of the Church so that it no longer functions as a congregation or as a corporate entity. Dissolution of the church shall occur if the church, by official action, votes to dissolve as a church. Upon the dissolution of the corporation and after paying or making full provision for the payment of all debts and liabilities of the corporation, the net assets of the corporation shall be transferred to the Missouri Southern Baptist State Convention.

## Bible - Conflict Resolution

**Matthew 5:23-24** “So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

**Matthew 18:15-17** “If your brother sins against you, go and rebuke him in private. If he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he won’t listen, take one or two more with you, so that by the testimony of two or three witnesses every fact may be established. If he pays no attention to them, tell the church. But if he doesn’t pay attention even to the church, let him be like an unbeliever and a tax collector to you.”

**Galatians 6:1-2** “Brothers, if someone is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual should restore such a person with a gentle spirit, watching out for yourselves so you won’t be tempted also. Carry one another’s burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

**2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15** “Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother who walks irresponsibly and not according to the tradition received from us... And if anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take note of that person; don’t associate with him, so that he may be ashamed. Yet don’t treat him as an enemy but warn him as a brother.”

**James 5:19-20** “My brothers, if any among you strays from the truth, and someone turns him back, he should know that whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his life from death and cover a multitude of sins.”

**Jude 1:22-23** “Have mercy on some who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; on others have mercy in fear, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.”

**Luke 6:42** “First take the log out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck in your brother’s eye.”

**Titus 3:10-11** “Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning, knowing that such a person is perverted and sins, being self-condemned. “

**1 Timothy 5:19** “Don’t accept an accusation against an elder unless it is supported by two or three witnesses.”