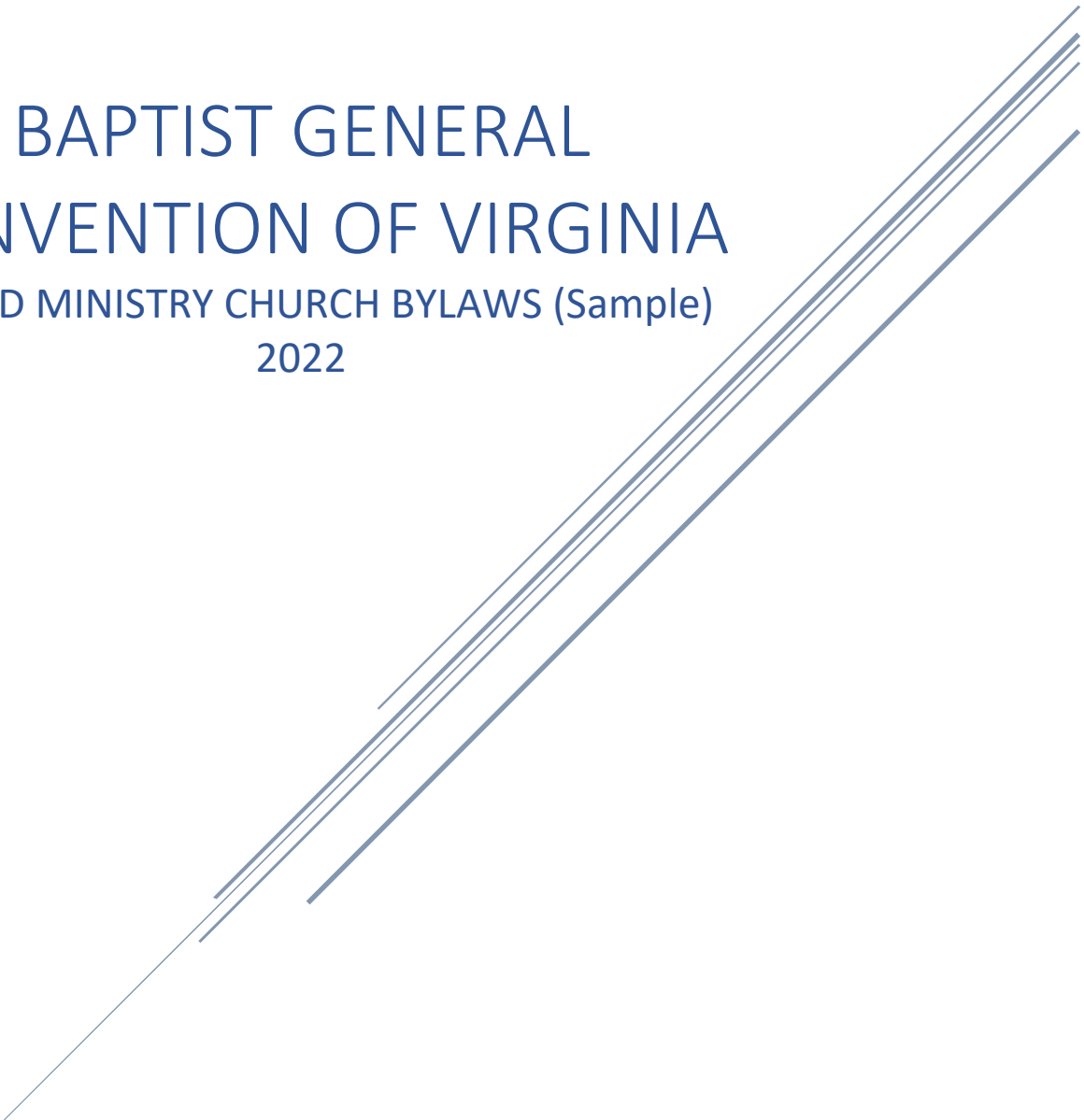




BAPTIST GENERAL  
CONVENTION OF VIRGINIA  
HYBRID MINISTRY CHURCH BYLAWS (Sample)  
2022



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# Baptist General Convention of Virginia

## HYBRID MINISTRY CHURCH BYLAWS (Sample)

for the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church, Virginia

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## Article I – Membership

**Section 1. Members-** \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church is comprised of **virtual** and in-person believers who have...

- A. Professed a personal faith and belief in the Lord Jesus Christ
- B. Received baptism in a church according to the New Testament
- C. Actively follow the Lord Jesus Christ in discipleship.
- D. Complete the New Members Class of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church. (See *Membership and Leadership as One Church, One Doctrine, One Polity on page 4 of the Church Constitution.*)

**Section 2. Active Membership-** is based on the fulfillment of three (3) criteria;

- 1. Ministry Group Involvement – being involved in at least one ministry of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church
- 2. Monthly, financial support toward the ministry expenses of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church
- 3. A regular presence of not less than once a month in the worship services of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church.

Whereas \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church accepts **virtual** membership and does not take “attendance” in worship and Bible studies, involvement in and support of \_\_\_BC ministries and ministry groups is emphasized and prioritized over the counting of attendance.

**Section 3. The Spirit of Membership** – As members of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church, we desire and covenant with God and each other to serve in the spirit of love, harmony, unity, and peace according with the Word of God, the Baptist Church Covenant, and the Baptist Articles of Faith. (see *Our Church Constitution Spirit* on page 3 of the Church Constitution.)

**Section 4. Voting Rights of Members** – As members of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church, we are entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the church conference, providing the member is present. Proxy voting (one member voting on behalf of another) is prohibited. However, electronic voting is permitted.



**Section 5. Rights of Members-** In addition to voting rights as listed in Section 4, every member of the church is also eligible for consideration by the membership as candidates for the elective offices in the church. Every member of the church may participate in the ordinances of the church as administered by the church.

**Section 6. Virtual Membership** - Believers are permitted and encouraged to join the membership of \_\_\_\_\_ either in-person or by becoming a part of our virtual congregation. members share the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities as in-person members with exception of holding leadership within an in-person ministry. All virtual members desiring to hold office of any type within \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church are required to worship in-person within \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church at least once a quarter.

**Section 7. Receiving of Members** - A person shall be considered a member of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church upon approval of the church membership and fulfillment of Section 1 of the Church By-Laws. A person may be received for membership by any of the following ways:

A . By Baptism - Believers who publicly confess their personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, give evidences of a repentant heart, and a personal covenant to following the Constitution and Bylaws of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church, shall upon baptism in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, become members of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church.

**Virtual/remote baptisms** are also a part of the Christian ordinances of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church with the Pastor or designee conducting the service in one location and the believer being emersed by another believer in a body of water (i.e. bathtub, swimming pool, river, etc.) in another location.

B. By Christian Experience - Believers who have been baptized in a church of like faith and order as \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church, but do not possess a letter of prior membership from a church of may be become members of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church upon evidence of a repentant heart and a personal covenant to following the Constitution and Bylaws of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church.



## **Section 7. Receiving of Members (cont'd.)**

C. By letter - Believers who have been baptized in a church of like faith and order as \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church and possess a letter that respective church may be received into membership upon receipt of letter of transfer from their prior church.

Membership may be offered to believers who have joined by one of the aforementioned methods of membership and completed the New Member Orientation Class of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church. Believers who profess a personal faith and belief in the Lord Jesus Christ and actively follow the Lord Jesus Christ as their Redeemer and Savior, but have been baptized by any method other than immersion in another church must be immersed to become a member of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church.

## **Section 8. Termination of Membership-**

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways:

- A. Death
- B. Transfer by letter to another church
- C. Verbal confirmation from the member of their desire to be removed from membership
- D. Inactive Status of membership for more than three (3) months (see Article I – Section 2)
- E. Excommunication by action of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church (see Article I – Section 9)

## **Section 9. Excommunication by Action of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church**

Excommunication of a believer from the membership of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church can only be considered after the Pastor and Deacons have made efforts to redirect the actions of the believer. If the believer in question is a lady (female), the Deaconesses shall also be involved in this effort. Spiritual guidance from the Pastor, professional counseling from a licensed counselor (paid for by \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church), and mentoring by a Deacon (Deaconess if the believer is female) shall all be considered.



## **Section 9. Excommunication (cont'd.)**

After the aforementioned efforts have been exhausted, if the believer's conduct consistently and intentionally causes discord, division, and distractions to the Spirit of Christ within \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church, the believer may be excommunicated from the membership of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church by a majority vote of the Deacons, Deaconesses, and Trustees during a duly called, combined meeting of the three boards.

## **Section 10. Reinstatement of Membership -**

**Reinstatement Option A:** Believers whose membership has been excommunicated by \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church, but desire to have their membership reinstated must make their desire known in writing to the Pastor and Deacons of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church. If the Pastor and Deacons collectively agree to reinstate the believer's membership, the Pastor and Deacons shall recommend the same to the Deacons, Deaconesses, and Trustees during a duly called, combined meeting of the three boards. A majority vote of the three boards is required for reinstatement of the believer's membership. The believer must then request membership by "Christian Experience" according Section 3B of these Bylaws.

**Reinstatement Option B:** [No reinstatement option indicating that forgiveness of transgressions is offered, but reinstatement of an excommunicated membership back into the membership of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church is not.]

## **Article II – Church Leadership**

**Section 1. Leaders Defined:** Leaders of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church are those who have...

- A. Fulfilled the criteria for \_\_\_ BC membership
- B. Exemplified the *Spirit of Servanthood* in the past as recorded in the Word of God.



## Section 1. Leaders Defined (cont'd.)

- C. Continued to exemplify the *Spirit of Servanthood* in their current life and leadership.
- D. Been elected/appointed to serve as a leader of a ministry/board by and within \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church.

## Section 2: Biblical Mandate for Church Leadership

The Bible is clear that church leaders are not expected to be perfect. However, it does state that leaders of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church are those who, though not perfect, do not use their words, position, and authority to hurt and distract \_\_\_BC members from focusing on and being led the Spirit of Christ.

## Section 3: Servant Leader Covenant

Persons desiring to hold positions of any type within \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church must enter into covenant with God, angels, and this assembly (Baptist Church Covenant) to the following Servanthood Standards from within the Word of God.

- A. I will pursue righteousness, faith, love, along with those who call on the Lord (2 Tim 2:22)
- B. I will not engage in foolish arguments and start arguments and quarrels (2 Tim 2:23) understanding that the cause of all arguments is the desire to have what we do not have; the things we covet and desire, but are unable to obtain. (James 4:1-3)
- C. I will be kind to everyone even those who may be unkind to me. (2 Tim 2:24)
- D. When I sense a feeling of resentment growing within me, I will pray about the situation and attempt to resolve the issue. (2: Tim 2:24)
- E. I will be forgiving and will not to hold grudges against others. (2 Tim 2:24)
- F. I will not be rude when confronting others, but will be gentle in my instruction and correction of others and do so through and in love. (2 Tim 2:25)
- G. I will not hold any record of wrongs. (1 Corn 13:5 and 2 Tim 2:22)
- H. I will guard my tongue and watch my speech so that my words will not offend others even those who are offensive to me. (James 3:9-12)





- I. I will continue to pray and ask the Lord to give me a humble spirit and to recognize that all that I accomplish comes from the Lord. (James 3:13)
- J. I will ask the Lord to set a guard over my mouth and keep watch over the door of my lips. (Psalm 141:3) When I feel envy, bitterness or selfish ambition growing in my heart I will pray and ask the Lord to remove it. (James 3:14)
- K. When I feel envy, bitterness or selfish ambition growing in my heart I will pray and ask the Lord to remove it. (James 3:14)
- L. I will strive to maintain an impartial attitude when engaging in disagreements and strive for peace in MY HOME, with the body of Christ, and in my community. (James 3:17-18)
- M. If I fall short of this covenant and am unkind to anyone, in an effort to reconcile with them, I will first ask forgiveness from God and then, from those whom I have offended. (James 3:9-11)

#### **Section 4: Servant Leader Covenant Scriptures**

**2 Timothy 2:22-26** **22** Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. **23** Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. **24** And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. **25** Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, **26** and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

**James 3:9-15** **9** With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. **10** Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. **11** Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? **12** My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. **13** Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. **14** But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. **15** Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.



## **Servant Leader Covenant Scriptures (Cont'd.)**

### **James 3:16-18**

**16** For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. **17** But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. **18** Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

**James 4:1-3** What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? **2** You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. **3** When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

**1 Corinthians 13:5** It (love) does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrong.

**Psalms 141:3** Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.

**Section 5: Leadership Circle Responsibilities** – The Leadership Circle is the collective body of all officers and leaders of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church which regularly meets quarterly for the purpose of strengthening, improving, and sometimes, redirecting the spirituality of \_\_BC leaders.

**Section 6: Leadership Circle Meetings** - are regularly scheduled, quarterly, 90-minute “spiritual accountability” support meetings for \_\_BC church leaders and officers. Leadership Circle gatherings are mandatory for all persons desiring to hold or continue holding office or a leadership position within \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church.



**Section 7: Leadership Circle Meeting Focus** - The focus of each Leadership Circle meeting is to...

- A. Teach and emphasize the importance of coming together as leaders to abide by the Word of God, the Baptist Church Covenant, the Articles of Faith, the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church Constitution, and the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church By-Laws.
- B. Ask and discuss, “How are we collectively doing as the spiritual leaders of \_\_BC in abiding by the spiritual documents listed in #1.
- C. Ask and discuss, “How is my individual leadership and the collective leadership of \_\_BC leaders impacting my worship and spiritual growth at \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church.

[BGCVA staff is available to facilitate 30 to 45 minutes of your Leadership Circle gatherings allowing the remaining of the time to be private session discussion within the leadership of \_\_\_\_ Baptist Church.]

**Section 8: Congregational Responsibility to the Leaders of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church** – The members of the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church have the responsibility of appointing/electing leaders based on the spiritual lives they have lived and not on their relationships with other members nor the talents and experience they can offer.

*Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. (James 3:1 NIV) Don't be in any rush to become a teacher, my friends. Teaching is highly responsible work. Teachers are held to the strictest standards. (James 3:1 Message Translation)*

*All of us often make mistakes. (James 3:2a GNB) And none of us is perfectly qualified. We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths. (James 3:2a Message Translation) But if a person never makes a mistake in what he says, he is perfect and is also able to control his whole being. (James 3:2b GNB)*



## **Section 8: Congregational Responsibility to the Leaders (cont'd.)**

As the governing Body of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church, the congregation is to always be concerned about the impact of a leader's wayward leadership on the leader's relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ as the Bible teaches that "teachers [leaders] are held to the strictest standards" by God. (James 3:1) The congregational, governing body of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church should expect and require that all \_\_\_BC leaders will...

- A. Commit to the Servanthood Standards in their Leadership (see Servanthood Standards in Article II)
- B. Teach, promote, and abide by the Word of God, the Baptist Church Covenant, the Articles of Faith, the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church Constitution, and the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church By-Laws.
- C. Come together as the Leadership Circle to address matters that hinder and distract the harmony and spiritual focus of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church.
- D. Provide Leadership Circle reports during Church Business Meetings to to the congregation regarding how it plans to handle hindrances and distractions to the harmony and spiritual focus of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church. All proposals made by the Leadership Circle must be approved and voted upon by the congregation as the governing body of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church.

In the unfortunate event that a leader is not willing to abide by the Word of God, Baptist doctrine, or the spiritual principles set forth within the Constitution and By-Laws of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church, the church should hold a greater concern to the leader's salvation than it does any service he/she may offer.

## **Section 9: Safeguarded Ministries**

\_\_\_\_\_ contains ministries that can easily be targeted for abuse, mistreatment, and misuse of \_\_\_BC members and funds. This includes, but is not limited to...

- A. Children's Ministries (Children's Church, Nursery, Children's/Youth Choir, and any other ministry that involves children, babies, or youth.)



## **Section 9: Safeguarded Ministries (cont'd.)**

- B. Women's Ministry or any ministry where ladies gather in or at the request of \_\_\_\_ Baptist Church.
- C. Senior's Ministry or any gathering of the seniors of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church
- D. Trustees – or any area that oversees legalities and legal representation on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church.
- E. Finance – any area of the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church ministry that involves the handling and oversight of \_\_\_\_ BC funds.
- F. Transportation – any area of the \_\_\_\_ BC ministry that involves driving or the transporting of members on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church.
- G. Facilities or anyone one that has key, codes, access to, or management of the property and facility of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church.

## **Section 10. Background Checks for Perspective and Current \_\_ BC Leaders**

Persons desiring to serve in any capacity of leadership within the aforementioned ministries must have a new, full background check done through the local state police department to include a local and national Criminal records search as well as a local and national Sex-Offender search. The background check results are to be mailed by the State Police department to the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church care of \_\_\_\_\_, Background searches that are hand delivered by the perspective volunteer cannot be accepted. New background checks for persons serving in the aforementioned ministries must be done by January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

## **Section 11. Driving History and Insurance Coverage**

Only members of \_\_\_\_ Baptist Church are permitted to drive church owned vehicles and transport \_\_\_\_ BC members for \_\_\_\_ BC events. All drivers of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church vehicles must provide the following information to the Business Office/Trustees not later than January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

- A copy of your newest driver's license
- A new driving history report

Additionally, all drivers must be individually added to the church's vehicle insurance.



## Section 12: Leadership Waiting Period

New members to \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church are encouraged to develop relationships with Christ and then with the church family and leaders of \_\_\_BC before assuming leadership responsibilities within the church.

- A. Persons desiring to serve in any capacity of leadership within \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church must be a member of \_\_\_BC for not less than 12 months and fulfilled the Membership requirements as stated in Article I; Sections 1 & 2 of these By-Laws before beginning their volunteer service within the Safeguarded ministry. Active participation in at least one \_\_\_BC ministry during this period of time is also required.
- B. Persons desiring to serve in any capacity of leadership within a Safeguarded Ministry of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church must be a member of \_\_\_BC for not less than 18 months and fulfilled the Membership requirements as stated in Article I; Sections 1 & 2 of these By-Laws before beginning their volunteer service within the Safeguarded ministry. Active participation in at least one \_\_\_BC ministry during this period of time and commitment to Servant Leadership is also required.
- C. Deacon, Deaconess, Trustee, & Finance Positions  
Persons desiring to be considered for the position of Deacon, Deaconess, Trustee, or finance related positions within \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church must be a member of \_\_\_FBC for not less than 24 months and fulfilled the Membership requirements as stated in Article I; Sections 1 & 2 of these By-Laws before beginning their ministry leadership service. Additionally, active participation in at least one \_\_\_BC ministry during this period of time and commitment to Servant Leadership are both required.

## Section 13. Staff and Officers

The officers of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church shall be as follows:

- A. Deacons
- B. Deaconesses
- C. Church Clerk
- D. Trustees
- E. Treasurer



## **Article III – \_\_\_BC Clergy**

### **Section 1. The Pastor**

When a vacancy occurs in the position of pastor a Search Committee is to be formed by the nomination of nine (9) persons representing the following ministries of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church. One Deacon, One Deaconess, One Trustee, One Youth, One Young Adult, and two at-large members. The committee will present only one candidate at a time. For election, a candidate must receive 85 percent of the votes casted.

### **Section 2. Dismissal of the Pastor or Ministerial Team Member**

Should dismissal of the pastor of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church become necessary, a majority vote will be necessary. This consideration can only be done when all possible attempts at reconciliation have been exhausted. Proper notice of this vote will be made known to members of the congregation at least two (2) weeks in advance of the vote. 85 percent votes of all persons in attendance at the called meeting is needed for the removal of the Pastor.

Regarding the dismissal of a Ministerial Team Member, the Pastor has the authority to dismiss, reassign, delegate (or not delegate) work to Ministerial Team Members as he/she deems necessary.

### **Section 3. Ministerial Team Members**

Ministerial Team Members (staffed ministers) will be recommended by the pastor to the Deacons and appropriate committee for consideration. The individual will be called with an 85 percent vote of deacons and appropriate committee members. The work of all ministerial team members shall be coordinated and supervised by the Pastor of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church.



## **Section 4. The Associate Minister**

As licensed ministers in the Gospel Ministry, the Associate Minister's responsibility is to assist the pastor in the Ministry of Word and Sacrament (preaching, praying, teaching, and visiting the sick as assigned by the Pastor). \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church Associate Ministers are not "members" of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church. As licensed ministers, the Associate Ministers of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church serve at the discretion and under the leadership of the Pastor providing spiritual guidance and promoting unity and harmony within the Body of Christ.

## **Article IV – Church Employees**

The Pastor of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church is responsible for the hiring, supervising, and terminating of all office/ministry related support staff and vendors. The Trustees shall be responsible for the hiring, supervising, and terminating all facilities/grounds related staff and vendors.

## **Article V – Governance Meetings**

**Section 1. Virtual/Hybrid Ministry** \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church is a hybrid ministry that involves both in-person and virtual platforms of ministry. All meetings, worship services, and activities are presented in such a manner that \_\_\_\_\_ members and guests worship and participate in the method of ministry that is most convenient to them. On-line viewing and listening to worship services and activities is available using the church's website or Facebook page. The Zoom platform is available for persons desiring to participate/speak in the church's meetings.

**Section 2. Regular Business Meetings**-Regular business meetings shall be held quarterly on the second Wednesday night of the month. The Pastor, as Moderator is responsible for determining which items shall be listed on agenda for each Business meeting. The congregation shall be made aware of all matters of importance not less than seven (7) business days prior to the scheduled Business Meeting. Questions that are to be presented to the Pastor during the Business Meeting must be submitted to the Pastor via email not less than 48 hours prior to the Business Meeting date. Questions presented to the Pastor during the Business Meeting that were not submitted prior to the same will be received as information to allow the Pastor time to discern the correct response.





**Section 3. Special/Call Business Meetings** - A specially called business meeting may be held to consider matters of a significant nature. The Pastor and/or Deacons may call special business meetings as needed. Notice of the subject, date, time and location must be published for two consecutive Sundays in the church newsletter or bulletin for each call business meeting. Additionally, the call meeting shall be announced during the two Sunday services prior to the call business meeting.

**Section 4. Executive Team Meetings** – In case of an emergency that requires immediate actions sooner than the two-week scheduling process for a call Business Meeting, the Pastor may call a meeting of the Executive Team to determine how best to proceed. The Executive Committee shall consist of the...

- The Pastor
- Deacon Chair and Vice-Chair
- Deaconess Chair and Vice-Chair
- Trustee Chair and Vice-Chair
- Finance Committee Chair and Vice-Chair
- Three “Members-at-Large” to include one (1) youth, one (1) young adult, and one (1) senior adult

The Executive Team shall have the authority to vote upon, act upon, and address matters of emergency on behalf of the congregation of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church, but shall only be convened for matters that do not allow for the two-week Special/Call Meeting process. Minutes of all Executive Team meetings must be recorded and kept and then read as a part of the following, regularly scheduled Business Meeting. All Executive Team matters shall be straight-forward, transparent, and non-controversial matters that have arisen in between regular Business Meetings AND must be handled before the two-week scheduling process for a special call meeting. In the event that any two Executive Team members object to the purpose of the Executive Team meeting, the matter at hand shall either be postponed until the next regular meeting or a special meeting must be convened.



**Section 5. Virtual Business Meetings** – In times when physical meetings are not available or when virtual meetings are preferred, \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church may arrange to meet and conduct business by electronic video and/or audio teleconference. The same protocol utilized for calling and conducting in-person business meetings is to be used for the calling and conducting of virtual meetings. The spirit and conduct of all electronic/virtual meetings for/within \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church shall reflect the spiritual and doctrinal disciplines as provided in the Church Constitution of \_\_\_\_\_ BC. Governance of the meetings shall be conducted using the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order. All other guidelines for calling/holding in-person business meetings (i.e. quorums, recording of minutes, etc.) shall be followed when conducting electronic meetings.

### **Section 6. Electronic/Virtual Voting**

All members of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church must have the opportunity to cast their vote as a part of any method of meeting (i.e. in-person or virtual) regardless of whether they are attending virtually or in-person. In the event of electronic voting, if there are any three members of the Executive Committee that object to the electronic or telephone procedure and if electronic voting is the only method of casting the vote at that time, then in that case the decision shall either be postponed until the next regular meeting or a special meeting must be convened.

### **Section 7. Virtual Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of teleconference meetings shall be treated as official minutes, must be approved by the congregation its next physical or electronic meeting, and shall be kept and forwarded in the same way as minutes of physical meetings.

**Section 8. Quorum**-A quorum shall be 65% of the current, active membership on roll and be all church business meetings or special business meetings.



**Section 9. Parliamentary Rules-**The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be the authority for parliamentary rules of procedure for all business meetings of the church in areas not addressed by this Constitution and Bylaws.

## **Article VI – Ordinances**

**Section 1. Baptism-**Baptism is a symbolic act of obedience. A person who receives Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith, who professes Him publicly at any worship service, and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord, shall be received for baptism. All baptisms of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church shall be...

- A. By immersion in water.
- B. Administered by the pastor or whomever the Pastor shall authorize.
- C. Administered as an act of worship during any worship service as scheduled by the Pastor.
- D. Done as soon as possible after the believer's public confession of faith, but does not have to occur during a regularly schedule worship service.
- E. Done in-person if possible, but can be done virtually/remotely if needed or preferred by the Pastor.

**Section 2. 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 fruit of the vine, reflect upon the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate His second coming. The Lord's Supper shall be...

- A. Observed on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month and any other time as discerned as needed by the Pastor.
- B. Administered to the congregation by the Pastor, Deacons, and Deaconesses.
- C. Administered in person, but can be done virtually/remotely if needed or preferred by the Pastor. Virtual/remote communion services are done with the Pastor or designee conducting the communion service in one location and the believer in another using a form of bread and juice as the communion elements.



## **Article VII – Special Services**

From time-to-time, \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church may desire to hold special service that celebrate God in the lives of believers (i.e. weddings, baby dedications, and eulogies as a part of funerals). Whenever possible, such services can be held in-person. However, special services can also be done virtually either by the Pastor or someone appointed/designated by the Pastor.

## **Article VIII – Affiliations**

All religious, organizational/denominational affiliations of the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church must be of the Baptist faith. The changing of the doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church or the affiliation of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church with non-Baptist organizations is not permitted.

- Local Baptist Association
- Local Baptist Sunday School Conference/Ushers' Union
- Local Baptist Ministers' Conference
- State Convention: The Baptist General Convention of Virginia
- National Convention of the Church's Choosing. However, the national convention must be affiliated with the Baptist faith.