

**FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH**

**2111 Kuser Road  
Trenton, New Jersey**

**CONSTITUTION**

**CONTENTS**

Article I Name & Location ..... 3

Article II Purpose..... 3

Article III Doctrine ..... 3

Article IV The Church Covenant..... 6

Article V Associations ..... 7

Article VI Membership..... 7

Article VII Officers..... 9

Article VIII Committees ..... 14

Article IX Ordinances ..... 16

Article X Meetings ..... 16

Article XI Finances..... 17

Article XII Missions ..... 18

Article XIII Church Ministries ..... 18

Article XIV Amendments and By-Laws ..... 18

# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I Name & Location

The name of this organization shall be the FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH, located in Hamilton Township, New Jersey.

## ARTICLE II Purpose:

The purpose of this Church shall be to promote the worship and glory of God by the preaching of the Word at home and abroad in order that sinners will be converted and believers edified.

### Our Vision:

We exist to be a community of disciples who glorify God by loving Him supremely AND by loving others sacrificially.

## ARTICLE III Doctrine:

The doctrine held shall be those expressed in the following Confession of Faith and that which is generally accepted by Baptist churches.

### 1. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible, as originally written, was verbally inspired (II Timothy 3:16-17) and the product of Spirit controlled men (II Peter 1:19-21), and therefore, has truth without any error (John 17:17). We believe the sixty-six books of the Bible to be the true center of Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions, shall be tried (Jude 1:3).

### 2. Of the True Godhead

We believe that there is only one living and true God (Deuteronomy 6:4; I Timothy 2:5), infinite in every excellence; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons -- the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit -- yet one in substance and equal in every divine perfection (Isaiah 48:16; Matthew 28:19), and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of creation (Genesis 1:1) and redemption (John 3:16).

**a. Father:** We believe in God the Father, not as being the one God, but merely one distinction of the True God. The Son has voluntarily elected to do the will of the Father in dependence upon the Spirit. He is the Father of creation (Malachi 2:10), Israel (Exodus 4:22), Jesus Christ (John 20:17) (not a relationship of derivation or inferiority), and the believers (Romans 8:15-16).

**b. Son:** We believe that Jesus Christ, the second member of the Trinity is co-equal with God the Father, and all the attributes of God are manifest in Him (John 1:1). When the fullness of time was come, Christ became incarnate by a supernatural conception and virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14) for the purpose of becoming "the sacrifice for sin". By His

vicarious death, He made possible a reconciliation of depraved man with a holy and just God (Hebrews 10:12). We further believe that He physically died and arose from the grave. Upon completing His post-resurrection ministry, He ascended on high where He is presently interceding for the believers (Hebrews 7:15), and shall subsequently return for the believers (I Thessalonians 4:15-17) and set up His earthly kingdom (Luke 1:33).

**c. Spirit:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person (John 16:13), equal with the Father and Son and of the same substance and nature; that He convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment (II Corinthians 13:14), bears witness to the truth (John 14:16), is the Agent of the New Birth (John 3:6), and that He seals, endues (I Corinthians 12:7), guides, teaches, witnesses to, sanctifies, and helps the believer, indwelling every true Child of God (Romans 8:14-27).

### **3. Of Angels**

Angels are created (Colossians 1:16; Psalm 148:5), spirit-beings of various rank and order. This company of everlasting beings is super-human in intelligence and strength. They were created holy and good (Genesis 1:31), but due to sin many fell from their holy state and are now confirmed in wickedness (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28). Those who preserved their integrity are God's messengers (Hebrews 1:14), whereas the fallen angels execute Satan's desires in hindering God's work and afflicting God's people.

We believe in the distinct personality of Satan (Matthew 4:1-3), that he is the unholy god of this age (II Corinthians 4:4), author of all powers of darkness and sin, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire (Revelations 20:10).

### **4. Of the Creation**

We believe that God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1-2), including all life (Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3), "each after its own kind" (Genesis 1:24), by direct act, and not by the process of evolution (Psalm 33:6).

### **5. Of Man**

We believe that man in the person of the first Adam, was created in Innocence but by voluntary transgression fell into sin (Genesis 3), thus plunging the whole race into condemnation (Romans 5:12) and total depravity (Ephesians 2:1) in consequence of which all men are born sinners and are directed by their sin natures to willful acts of sin. Thus having knowledge of their sin and the manifestation of the power of God, are without excuse before God (Romans 1:18-2:1). Apart from God's work of grace all men would be on their way to eternal torment (Revelation 20:15). God enabling some men to receive the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, they are then passed from death to eternal life forever secure in Heaven (John 10:28-29; Romans 8:29-39).

### **6. Of Salvation**

We believe that the only escape from the condemnation of sin is through the redemption wrought by Jesus Christ, when He voluntarily took upon Him a human body and nature, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15), and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement sufficient for all sin (I John 2:2), that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr,

but a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust (I Peter 3:18).

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again (John 3:3), that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and receives eternal life, the free gift of God (John 3:16; Romans 3:24); and are eternally secure in Christ. The new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life (II Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:8).

## **7. Of the Church**

We believe that the true spiritual church is a New Testament institution unknown to the Old Testament prophets (Matthew 16:18); established by Jesus Christ, who is its sole Head (Ephesians 1:22-23); revealed through the holy Apostles; empowered and perpetuated by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8); His "body" for service (I Corinthians 12:13-28); and His "bride" for glory. It began with Pentecost, after the ascension of Christ and will be consummated at the coming of Christ in the Rapture (I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

We believe that a local church is an organized congregation of immersed believers (1 Corinthians 1:1-13), associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel (Acts 2:41-42); observing the ordinances of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:2, 23-24); governed by His laws (Matthew 28:20; John 14:15, 21); and exercising the gifts, rights, and privilege invested in them by His Word (1 Corinthians 12:14; Ephesians 4:7); that its officers are pastors and deacons, godly men whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures (Acts 14:23, 15:22; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1).

We believe that there are two church ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water and is properly called "Believer's Baptism" (Acts 8:36-39). It sets forth in a beautiful and solemn way our faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with the effects of that faith in our lives as it produces death to sin and resurrection to a new life (Romans 6:3-5). Baptism is a prerequisite to the privileges of church relation (Acts 2:41). The Lord's Supper is the commemoration of our Lord's death until He come and our continual fellowship with Him, should be preceded by baptism and always careful self-examination (I Corinthians 11:23-32).

## **8. Of Last Things**

We believe in the bodily (Acts 1:4), personal (John 14:3), premillennial return of Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:11-20); that He will come before the seven year tribulation period (Revelation 3:10; I Thessalonians 5:9) to catch away His church, and that He will come with his church at the close of the tribulation to judge the living nations (Matthew 25:31-46) and to set up His kingdom on earth (Luke 1:33).

We believe in the resurrection of the bodies of the dead (I Corinthians 15:12-58) that believers who die in Jesus will be raised at the coming of Christ for His church and caught up with transformed living saints to meet the Lord in the air (I Thessalonians 4:13-18) and that the wicked dead will be raised at the close of the Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 20:4-5), and stand

in their bodies at the Great White Throne of judgment to receive their final doom (Revelation 20:11-15).

Note: We do expect you to believe the Historical Christian view that 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. What differentiates us even from some Bible believing Baptist Churches is our position on the timing of the rapture and second coming of Christ. Members may disagree on this timing, but not on these events.

## **9. Of Civil Government**

We believe that the civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society (Romans 13:1); and the guarantee of liberty of conscience. This guarantee consists of absolute constraint of the government to the civil realm, not interfering or influencing in the spiritual realm of the Church. For the believer to see that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed (Matthew 22:21); except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 5:29; 4:19-20) who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming prince of the Kings of the earth.

## **10. Of Marriage and Sexuality**

We believe that God created men and women in the image of God (Gen. 1:27) and that marriage, as God ordained, has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman spiritually and physically, in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Matt. 19:4-6). Men and women are uniquely designed to display the Glory of God in the gospel through marriage. God creates marriage (Gen. 2:18-25) and Paul tells us that when we embrace biblical headship and submission, we help to illustrate the gospel. As husbands and wives together pursue this gospel picture of Christ and the church, they personally pursue Christlikeness (Eph. 5:22-33). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman, as determined biologically at birth, within the confines of marriage (1 Cor. 7:2). We believe that sexual immorality, such as adultery, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex at birth, is sinful and offensive to God (Gen. 1:27, 31; Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Heb. 13:4).

## **ARTICLE IV The Church Covenant**

As believers in Christ, we are bonded together for worship and work by the following Covenant:

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith; having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We by voluntary consent and mutual agreement, confederate together by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of

the ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion, to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings; faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment to avoid all tattling, back-biting, and excessive anger; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

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

## **ARTICLE V Associations**

We recognize the autonomy of the local church and that Christ is the sole Head over the church; but further acknowledge the need to strengthen the bonds of Christian fellowship and stand together in these days of apostasy with those of like faith and practice.

## **ARTICLE VI Membership**

### **Section A. Present Membership**

All whose names appear upon the rolls of this Church are members, but only those who appear on the Active list are considered in good and regular standing.

If a member is delinquent from the services of this Church for a period of three (3) months without giving just cause during spiritual counsel (thus violating their covenant obligations) he/she may be placed on the Inactive list. The one being in question shall be moved by action of the deacons and duly informed of this action. To be restored to the Active status, he/she must meet with the deacons and fulfill their recommendations. Those who fail to give satisfactory reason for their absence may be removed from the membership role after six (6) months on the inactive list.

#### **Par. a.**

Those individuals desiring to unite with this church shall declare their desire to a Pastor. A Pastor or deacon shall then hear and examine their testimony and inform the candidate on the duties of membership (section B). Upon the candidate's agreement with these duties, members of the deacon board shall meet with the candidate for the purpose of examining the qualifications of such.

Having been recommended by the deacons, the names of candidates shall be announced and posted at least one (1) week prior to the membership vote. Members having objection should so state said objection to a Pastor or deacon for their investigation prior to the vote. A three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members in attendance constitutes acceptance. Any name rejected may be submitted again for further consideration.

**Par. b**

Individuals may become candidates of this Church in one of four ways: (1) by Baptism, (2) by Letter from another Baptist church of like faith, (3) by Statement of Christian experience, (4) by Restoration.

**Par. c**

The candidates to become members of this Church shall:

- (1) have received and confessed Christ as their Savior, and
- (2) have been Scripturally baptized, and
- (3) have read and agreed to the FBC Confession of Faith (Article III), and
- (4) have appeared before the Pastor and deacons, and
- (5) have been accepted by vote of the congregation

**Par. d**

It shall be deemed proper to consider candidates at any business meeting of the Church.

**Section B. Duties of Members**

It will be expected of each member that they shall pray for and respect the Pastor (as a person and shepherd of the flock), and officers of the Church cooperating with them to the best of their ability for the advancement of the work. They will be expected to abide by the constitution and by-laws of the Church, and believe the statement of faith. They will likewise be expected to live the Church Covenant.

All members are enjoined to abstain and avoid all worldly practices and associations which are detrimental to the honor of Christ and His Church. All things which have for their purpose the exaltation of the flesh, the excitement of the lusts, and the appeal to the pride are in opposition to the revealed will of God (I Thessalonians 5:6-23). Christians are exhorted to shun them, and to abstain from all appearance of evil. Every Christian is his brother's keeper, as explicated in the Covenant, and is to conscientiously keep himself from any action or appearance that will cause his brother to stumble (Romans 14:12-23).

**Section C. Voting Qualifications**

Only those members above eighteen (18) years of age whose names appear on the Active list are qualified voters..



## **Section D. Dismissal of Members**

Dismissal shall be by letter, discipline, or death.

### **Par. a**

Any member in good and regular standing may receive a letter of transfer sent to another Baptist church of like faith and order. This letter is valid for six (6) months.

### **Par. b.**

Any member may at his own request be given a letter of dismissal to unite with another church.

### **Par. c.**

Members failing to support the Church by their attendance within a period of six (6) months without legitimate excuse (such support and excuse to be defined by the deacons) may be dropped from the Inactive membership list. (Note Article VI, Section A). Final action will be taken by the Church upon recommendation of the deacons.

### **Par. d.**

All disorderly members shall be dealt with according to the New Testament procedure as recorded in Matthew 18:15-17 and II Thessalonians 3:6-15; Titus 3:10; and governed by the Articles of Faith, Church Covenant and Constitution. The board of deacons shall examine each situation, and make a suitable recommendation to the Church for final action. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of members voting will constitute the dropping of such an one from the roll.

### **Par. e.**

It shall be deemed proper to issue letters at any business meeting of the Church.

## **ARTICLE VII Officers**

### **Section A. Officers**

#### **Par. a.**

The officers of the Church shall be: Pastor(s), three (3) or more Deacons, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Church Secretary, Sunday School Superintendent, Head Usher, Nursery Director and Assistant Nursery Director. Other

offices may be created upon recommendation of the deacons. Each officer except the Pastor(s), shall be elected from the Active membership roll, being on such for a period of three (3) months and at least twenty-one (21) years of age.

#### **Par. b.**

All newly elected officers shall take office the first Sunday of the month following the annual business meeting, except for the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Financial Secretary, who will take office January 1. Any officer unable or unwilling to fulfill the duties of his office shall resign. No officer shall hold more than two (2) major offices at one time. No officer shall hold an office for more than three (3) successive years, except in the case there are none qualified to fill the vacancy. In this case, the officer may fill the vacancy for the year and then be eligible to be elected to serve for three (3) successive years.

**Par. c.**

All officers shall be of spiritual Christian character, loyal to the Word of God, dedicated and devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to the spiritual welfare of this Church. They shall also be faithful and diligent in attendance and participation in both regular and business meetings of the Church. No member of a secret religious society shall hold any office of the Church. The moral conduct of each officer shall be free from carnal indulgences such as the use of intoxicating liquors, tobacco, and other controlling substances (Romans 14:21, Galatians 5:19-21). In light of I Timothy 3, home and family relationships must be considered as well as the individual qualifications.

**Par.d.**

Officer Job Descriptions shall be added as an addendum to the Constitution to assist with the nomination process and onboarding of new officers. These Job Descriptions shall be reviewed and revised annually, or as needed, by the Deacons as deemed appropriate to currently reflect the nature of the position.

**Section B. Pastor**

**Par. a**

The Pastor shall be elected for an indeterminate term. He shall be chosen by a threefourths (3/4) vote of the qualified Church voters present and voting upon the recommendation of the pulpit committee.

- (1) Each candidate shall be voted upon at the mid-week prayer service of the week in which he candidates.
- (2) Only such a man as is fully qualified by Christian character, ability, and education, at the discretion of the pulpit committee, shall be a candidate for Pastor of this Church (I Timothy 3:1-7).
- (3) The candidate shall agree with and abide by the Articles of Faith, Covenant, and Constitution of the Church.
- (4) Be it resolved that Faith Baptist Church has taken the position that no one seeking the position of pastor at Faith Baptist Church will be considered if he has been divorced for any reason. We believe that the position of pastor biblically requires that the pastor be the husband of only one wife, with only the exception of the death of a previous wife (I Timothy 3:2).

(5) Be it resolved that Faith Baptist Church has taken the position that no woman will be considered for the position of pastor at Faith Baptist Church (I Timothy 3:1-5).

(6) Be it resolved that Faith Baptist Church has taken the position that anyone seeking the position of pastor at Faith Baptist Church MAY be considered if his wife has been divorced, on a case by case basis, after some reasonable understanding as to the facts of the situation and the years of faithful marriage since the divorce.

**Par. b.**

The Pastor shall give the Church a notice in writing sixty (60) days prior to his intention to discontinue as a pastor. The Church may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at a regularly called meeting declare the pulpit vacant, provided a notice of not less than (60) days from the time this action is taken be given the pastor occupying the pulpit to vacate the same. The term of office may be ended by mutual consent.

**Par. c.**

The Pastor shall be considered the administrator and have spiritual oversight of this democratic congregation. He shall preach the Gospel; shall have in his charge the stated services of public worship, shall administer the ordinances; and perform the usual duties of a Baptist minister (calling, etc.). The Pastor shall be a regular member of the Deacons, and a member ex-officio of all other committees of this Church.

**Par.d.**

Each Pastor shall on a yearly basis affirm his belief in and support of the Church's Purpose (ARTICLE II), Doctrine (ARTICLE III) and The Church Covenant (ARTICLE IV) by signing an Affirmation Statement in the presence of two or more Deacons, or typically at the first Deacons meeting of the new year. The Secretary of the Deacon Board shall retain all signed statements and keep them with the meeting minutes. The Affirmation Statement template shall be added as an addendum to the Constitution and shall be reviewed and revised annually, or as needed, by the Deacons as deemed appropriate.

**Section C. Deacons**

**Par. a.**

The number of Deacons shall be determined by the need of the Church and by the number of men available who meet the qualifications listed in I Timothy 3. The number serving shall be in multiples of three (3) serving three (3) years, and their election shall be so arranged that one-third (1/3) of their number are elected annually.

**Par. b.**

It shall be the duty of the Deacons to:

- (1) Assist the Pastor in promoting the spiritual welfare of the Church.
- (2) To function as trustees (agreeable with the provision of the "Act of Incorporation" and the laws of the State of New Jersey); having general oversight of the secular business of the Church and property (repair and preserve the same). They shall not have any authority to sell, lease, or dispose of in any manner, Church property to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3000.00); nor to mortgage or encumber the same with debt to exceed the above amount only as the Church shall so order by a corporate act.
- (3) To exercise special and prudent watch care over Church members and seek out such as need assistance.
- (4) To inquire into the fitness and qualifications of applicants for Church membership.
- (5) To visit the sick and delinquent members.
- (6) To supervise the preparation and distribution of the elements of the Lord's Supper.
- (7) To act with the Pastor as a discipline committee.
- (8) To function in securing pulpit supplies; and on the pulpit committee to recommend candidates for the pastorate.
- (9) They, with the Pastors, shall appoint and oversee such committees and persons as are called for in the general function of the Church (Article VIII, Section F).
- (10) They shall appoint a chairman and secretary from their number, keeping permanent record of their monthly meetings.
- (11) The Deacon Secretary shall handle all letters of transfer and dismissal as authorized by the Church. He shall maintain the membership roll of the Church in good order and with the assistance of the Pastor and deacons, keep the membership roll up to date as provided in the constitution.

**Par. c.**

In order to provide a consistent yearly procedure for presenting a recommendation to the congregation, the following policy shall be the responsibility of the deacon board:

- (1) A yearly review of Pastoral compensation shall be conducted by a subcommittee of the deacon board.
- (2) The deacon board subcommittee will review the present compensation, along with the possible input from all or some of the Pastors, Associate Pastors, Assistant pastors and any related position on our salary chart, and along with

input from one or more possible members at large, both at the subcommittee's best discretion.

(3) That review will result in a recommendation, which shall be voted upon by the entire deacon board before the establishing of the yearly budget.

(4) That recommendation may be to change or to maintain the present compensation.

(5) That recommendation shall then be presented to the congregation at its annual Financial Business Meeting for approval or amendment by the congregation. **Section D. Church Secretary**

**Par. a.**

The Church Secretary shall be elected annually at the annual business meeting.

**Par b.**

The Church Secretary shall have charge of all records, minutes of regular and special business meetings of the Church; and any correspondence necessary to the fulfillment of the duties of the office.

**Par. c.**

Upon his/her retirement or removal from office, he/she shall deliver to his/her successor or the Chairman of the Board of Deacons all records, files, and/or other papers belonging to the Church, and shall present the same with all contents complete to the date of surrender of such documents.

**Section E. Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall be elected for a term of three (3) years. He/she shall keep an accurate record of all moneys received and the disbursement of the same. He/she shall initiate the payment of all bills, maintain the church bank accounts and financial interests and payment of Church staff salaries. The Treasurer shall also provide the Deacons with monthly, and Church with quarterly, and annual reports of the financial condition of the Church.

The Treasurer shall certify annually, to the bank, the names of officers who are authorized to sign the checks for disbursement of funds.

**Section F. Assistant Treasurer**

The Assistant Treasurer shall be elected for a term of three (3) years. He/she shall assist the Treasurer in conducting the financial business of the Church. It will be the obligation of the Assistant Treasurer to assume the duties of Treasurer when necessary.

## **Section G. Financial Secretary**

The Financial Secretary shall be elected for a term of three (3) years. He/she shall maintain the envelope system; annual disbursement of envelopes; keep an accurate record of all money received through the envelope system; and assist the Treasurer and/or Assistant Treasurer in counting and recording all moneys received at church services. The Financial Secretary shall give those using the envelope system a yearly statement of their gifts. The Financial Secretary shall have the authority to sign checks or conduct the financial business of the Church as deemed necessary by the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer.

## **Section H. Children's Sunday School Superintendent**

The Children's Sunday School Superintendent shall be elected for a term of up to three (3) years. He/She with the Pastors shall have general supervision of all Sunday School activities (up through 5th grade).

## **Section I. Head Usher**

The Head Usher shall be elected at the annual business meeting for a term of up to three (3) years. The Head Usher shall oversee all ushering related responsibilities as needed by the church.

## **Section J. Nursery Director**

The Nursery Director shall be elected at the annual business meeting for a term of up to three (3) years. The Nursery Director shall oversee all nursery related responsibilities as needed by the church.

## **Section K. Assistant Nursery Director**

Up to two (2) Assistant Nursery Directors may be elected at the annual business meeting for a term of up to three (3) years. The Assistant Nursery Director shall assist the Nursery Director in conducting the nursery of the Church. It will be the obligation of the Assistant Nursery Director to assume the duties of Nursery Director when necessary.

# **ARTICLE VIII Committees**

## **Section A. Budget Committee**

The Budget Committee shall consist of one (1) Deacon, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and three (3) active members selected at the October business meeting. It shall have the duty to prepare the budget for the ensuing year and present to the Church for approval at the Financial Business Meeting held the first Sunday in December.

## **Section B. Audit Committee**

Three (3) active members selected at the October business meeting shall compose the Audit Committee. They shall carefully examine all records of the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Financial Secretary upon the close of the fiscal year, and report their findings at the annual

business meeting. Members selected shall not be related or in a relationship that could pose a conflict of interest. At least one (1) active member selected shall have served on this committee previously.

### **Section C. Nominating Committee**

This committee shall be composed of one (1) Deacon and two (2) members elected at the October business meeting. They shall submit a list of nominees for all offices to be filled at the Financial Business Meeting and the annual business meeting. This list shall be posted two (2) weeks prior to the annual meeting having had the approval of each nominee. (This list shall not prohibit nominations from the floor, providing the individual has been contacted and will accept the nomination). Nominees for the Financial Officers shall not be related or in a relationship that could pose a conflict of interest.

### **Section D. Faith Christian School Education Committee**

The Faith Christian School (FCS) Education Committee shall consist of one (1) Deacon Representative, the FCS Principal, the FCS Administrator, and eight to twelve (8-12) active members of Faith Baptist Church who are voted in by the Church Congregation at the July business meeting. The term of office shall be for three years arranged so one third is elected annually. Each board member may be elected to only one full three year-year term in succession. The Deacon Representative may be a member of the Committee if voted in at the business meeting. Nomination of members is by the Nominating Committee composed of the Deacon Board and the existing Education Committee. Nominations can be made on the floor providing the individual has been contacted in advance and will accept the nomination per Article VIII, section C, of this Constitution. It shall be the responsibility of the Education Committee to supervise and coordinate the general teaching programs and the hiring of Faith Christian School teachers and the Principal; and also, to establish and administer all affairs of the school and the policy of the school within the bounds of this Constitution and the FCS Constitution. The FCS has its own operating constitution which is subject to review and approval by the Deacon Board and the Church Congregation. Changes may be made to the FCS Constitution by Deacon recommendation and Church vote.

### **Section E. Pulpit Committee**

The Pulpit Committee shall consist of the Deacon Board and two (2) members elected from the active church roll. It shall be the work of this Committee to seek out men for consideration and possible candidates for Senior Pastor of this Church. (If at all possible, this Committee shall seek to hear the men in their own pulpit before further investigation.) Such men shall be asked questions pertaining to their qualifications, doctrine, experience, education, personal and business references.

Bathing each step in prayer and trusting God to work through circumstances, the Committee shall invite the man whom they feel the Lord is directing to consider as a possible candidate. After preaching in the morning worship service and personal interview with him in the afternoon, the Committee shall then decide if the man in question is to be presented to the Church as a candidate at the evening service. Each man presented shall be voted upon individually (cf. Article VIII, Section B, Par. a).

## **Section F. Miscellaneous Committees**

Other committees and persons to serve may be appointed by the Pastor and Deacons (Article VII, Section C. Par. b (9)) such as: Advertising, Flower, Music, Hospitality, Transportation, etc., as the need arises. Each chairman will be instructed as to his duties and shall give reports to the Church as instructed by the Pastor and Deacons. Building and/or Building-Financial Committees if needed shall be elected by the Church.

## **ARTICLE IX Ordinances**

### **Section A. Baptism**

Those professing saving faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior shall, by the Pastor or some ordained person authorized by the Church, be immersed in water in accordance with the Scriptural teaching (Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:3-5). Immersion shall be prerequisite to church membership.

### **Section B. Lord's Supper**

The Lord's Supper (communion) shall normally be served to the assembled Church by the Pastor (or some person designated by the Church) and the Deacons once a month. Since it is the Lord's Table none who are His shall be barred, but the Pastor shall frequently state the Scriptural order, which places baptism as a prerequisite to Communion, and shall explain the meaning of the ordinance (I Corinthians 11:17-34). The materials used shall be unleavened bread and grape juice.

## **ARTICLE X Meetings**

### **Section A. Public Worship Par.**

#### **a**

Public worship services shall be held regularly, morning and evening on the Lord's Day. These services shall normally be given over to the preaching of the Word. Neither shall they be merged into union services with other denominations.

#### **Par. b.**

At least once each week there shall be a meeting for prayer and praise, and Bible study.

#### **Par. c.**

It shall be the practice of this Church to observe the Lord's Supper at least once a month, previous to which it would be appropriate that the Covenant be read.

### **Section B. Business Meetings**

#### **Par. a.**



The annual Business and Corporate Meeting of the Church shall be held on the third Sunday of the month of January. Election of officers by closed ballot will take place. Any other proper business shall be brought before the congregation. Members selected to count the ballots shall not be related to, or in a relationship that could pose a conflict of interest with, each other or any of the nominees.

**Par. b.**

Quarterly meetings shall be held normally following the third Sunday evening service of April, July, and October. (Committees appointed in October as per Article VIII, Section A,B,C).

**Par. c.**

The Financial Business Meeting shall be held the first Sunday in December to elect the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Financial Secretary and present the ensuing years budget for approval.

**Par.d.**

Special business meetings may be called at any time, provided public notice be given of the same on the Lord's Day preceding; except that those for calling or dismissing a Pastor and or corporate business meetings shall be given public announcement for two (2) preceding Sundays. At all meetings, thirty (30%) per cent of the qualified membership shall constitute a quorum. Routine business may be transacted when necessary at any stated meeting of the Church without special announcement. Special meetings may be called by the Pastor, the Board of Deacons, or any ten (10) active members of the Church who request such of the Church Secretary, providing the particular object, or objects, of the meeting are clearly stated in the notice.

**Par. e.**

The Pastor, his appointee, or in his absence anyone whom the Board of Deacons may select, shall serve as moderator at all business meetings of the Church.

**Par. f.**

The ordinary rules of deliberate assemblies shall be observed in the transaction of business.

## **ARTICLE XI Finances**

### **Section A.**

The Fiscal year shall begin on January 1 and end on the following December 31st.

### **Section B.**

No moneys shall be raised by the Church or an auxiliary organization except by free-will giving.

## **Section C.**

No financial obligation shall be placed upon the Church either as a mortgage, note, or outstanding bill, or in any other form unless money is in hand to meet the same, except as stated in Article VII, Section C, Par.b. (2), or by Corporate Act of the Church.

### **ARTICLE XII Missions**

The Missions Committee of FBC shall make recommendations to the Church as to missionary support and projects.

### **ARTICLE XIII Church Ministries**

No ministry of the Church shall engage in any practice or hold any policy contrary to the general position of the Church itself. All regular officers, teachers, and leaders shall be active members of the Church.

Any ministry that is felt needed must be approved by the Pastors. Literature for such shall be approved by the Pastors.

### **ARTICLE XIV Amendments and By-Laws**

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at any annual business meeting, or at a called business meeting, providing that notice of proposed amendment shall have been given from the pulpit for the two (2) Sundays prior to the meeting at which action is desired.

The Church may adopt from time to time such by-laws in amplification hereof as may be necessary or desirable by two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present and shall provide therein for amendment of the same.