

**CONSTITUTION
OF THE
BLESSED LIFE CHURCH
BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON
ARTICLE I - NAME AND PURPOSE**

Section 1 - Name

This organization shall be known as the Blessed Life Church, located in Bellevue, Washington, and affiliated with the American Baptist Churches in the United States of America, which includes the American Baptist Churches of the Northwest.

Section 2 - Purpose Statement

Blessed Life Church exists as a body of committed believers to glorify God by:

- A. Exalting the Creator,
- B. Edifying the church and
- C. Evangelizing the Chinese community in Bellevue.

"Exalting the Creator" is to glorify God through worship and godly lifestyle. (Matt. 28:18, I Cor. 10:31)

"Edifying the church" is to equip the believers to grow as disciples of Christ through the teaching and practical application of God's Word and loving fellowship with Christ and one another. (Matt. 28:19-20; Eph. 4:11-16; Jn. 13:34-35)

"Evangelizing the Chinese community in Bellevue" is to go and win disciples for Christ through the proclamation of the Gospel. (Matt. 28:19-20)

Section 3 - Statement of Faith (Appendix A)

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ARTICLE II - CHURCH COVENANT

The Blessed Life Church affirms the need of every person to respond in faith to Jesus Christ, to own Him as Lord, to bear witness to Him in word and deed, and to grow in grace through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit according to sacred Scripture which is our final authority in Christian faith and life. Those who receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior will joyfully enter into the fellowship of the Blessed Life Church and will work and worship together as one body to promote and spread the work of Christ our Lord.

We pledge, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, mutual encouragement, and Christian service; to promote its spirituality; to be present at its services of worship as regularly as possible; to observe its ordinances; to maintain its discipline; to contribute cheerfully, proportionately and regularly of our means as the Lord has prospered us; and to support the missionary outreach and evangelism of the church at home and abroad.

We furthermore pledge to read the Bible daily; to witness for Christ; to be faithful in our work, careful of our conduct, and zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior. We furthermore pledge to care for others in love; to remember others in prayer; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; and to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation.

Finally, we will strive to fulfill the above pledges and put our total trust in God knowing that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. (Phil. 4:13)

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ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Members

The membership of the church shall consist of baptized believers in Christ who take the Holy Bible as their supreme rule of faith and practice.

Section 2 - Admissions

Persons may be received into membership in one of the following ways and upon fulfilling the procedure in Section 3:

- A. By confession of faith in Jesus Christ as divine Savior and Lord, followed by baptism by immersion.
- B. By letter of transfer from, a letter verifying membership with another evangelical Christian church where the candidate for membership is then a member. Any form of believer baptism is acceptable as a membership requirement.

Section 3 - Procedure

The process by which an individual may become a member of this church is as follows:

- A. A candidate for membership shall receive instruction in church doctrine, history, organization, and the meaning of membership from an Inquirers or Membership class.
- B. To become a member, a candidate shall be interviewed by the Deacon Board. The Deacon Board shall determine whether the candidate is accepted to be baptized or transferred as a member.

Section 4 - Categories of Membership

A. Members in Active Standing

A member in active standing is one who sincerely endeavors to be obedient to Christ's call to Christian commitment and life style, as set forth in the Church Covenant, and who faithfully participates in the regular worship services and other activities of the church. A member in active standing has voting privileges in all church membership meetings. Each member is expected, as the Lord leads, to fill his or her place in the church by:

- 1. Attending its meetings;
- 2. Faithfully serving in its activities;
- 3. Contributing to its financial support; and
- 4. Partaking in Communion regularly.

B. Members in Inactive Standing (Without Voting Privileges)

A member in inactive standing is one who has not attended regular church services or supported the work of the church for a period of one (1) year or more unless he or she has

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been hindered by reason that is accepted by Deacon Board. A member in inactive standing does not have voting privileges in any church membership meetings.

Section 5 - Determination of Membership Status

The Deacon Board shall review and maintain a listing of membership status.

Section 6 - Transfer to another Church

A member may request the Deacon Board to issue a letter of transfer or verification of prior membership to the fellowship of another church. Upon issuance of the letter, the member's name shall be removed from the membership roll.

Section 7 - Discipline and Dismissal

Any member violating his or her Christian obligations or the Church Covenant or conducting himself or herself in any manner as to bring reproach upon the church shall be dealt with in accordance with Matt. 18:15-20, not forgetting Gal. 6:1 and I Cor. 10:12 to restore him or her into Christian Fellowship. Initiation of discipline shall be the responsibility of the Pastors and the Deacon Board.

Failing to receive satisfactory evidence of repentance and reformation, they shall determine the individual to be dismissed from the membership roll and inform the church.

Section 8 - Voluntary Membership Termination

A member may make request to the Deacon Board that he or she be removed as a member of the church. The Board may contact the individual and provide any necessary counseling, guidance or assistance before removing him or her from the membership roll.

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ARTICLE IV - LEADERSHIP

Section 1 – General Qualifications

- A. All positions of church leadership require spiritual maturity and a commitment to following Christ which is exemplary. Recognizing that no one is perfect, all should be striving continually towards Christlikeness in all areas of living. The fruit of the Spirit, as listed in Galatians 5:22-23, should be evident in the lives of all church leaders.
- B. Elders shall have the spiritual qualifications of I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. They shall be familiar with the Church Constitution.
- C. All pastors shall have either Elder or Deacon qualification with formal theological training.
- D. Deacons shall strive to meet the qualifications of a deacon as in I Timothy 3:8-13.
- E. All other church members serving in a leadership or ministry capacity must be born again Christian with a heart to serve God.

Section 2 - Staff

A. Pastoral Staff

1. Senior Pastor

In order to fulfill its stated purpose, this church shall call a Senior Pastor. His primary responsibility shall be the preaching and teaching of God's Word (II Timothy 4:2), administering the ordinances (Matthew 28:19-20; I Corinthians 11:23-26), overseeing the teaching ministry of the church (I Timothy 4:13), supervising the pastoral and church staff, and nurturing the spiritual growth of this church and its members (I Timothy 5:17; I Peter 5:2-3). In January of each year, the Senior Pastor shall, in conjunction with the Elder Board, present to the congregation a general outline of the goals and objectives for the upcoming year and division of responsibilities of the pastoral staff.

The Senior Pastor shall be an experienced ordained minister. He shall become a member of this church and be in full accord with its Statement of Faith. By virtue of his office, he shall have power of address, be the Chairperson of the Elder Board with voting privileges.

2. Pastor

A Pastor may be called to minister to specific areas of the church ministry. It is the responsibility of the Senior Pastor, or his designee(s) on the pastoral staff, to recommend staff positions and personnel, in communication and concurrence with the Elder Board. The Pastor shall be subject to the leadership and supervision of the Senior Pastor.

The Pastor shall be experienced in Christian ministry. The Pastor shall become a member of this church and be in full accord with its Statement of Faith. The Pastor may become a member of the Elder Board with voting privileges or, if not a member, be an ex-officio member without voting privileges.

3. Calling of a Senior Pastor or a Pastor

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Each pastor shall be called for an indefinite period by the Elder Board. In case of a Senior Pastor, he needs to be ratified by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of a membership quorum at a regular membership meeting or a meeting held especially for the calling of Senior Pastor.

4. Resignation or Dismissal of Pastor

A pastor can submit resignation to the Elder Board and resigns upon acceptance by the Elder Board.

Dismissal of Senior Pastor, please refer to the removal of Elder.

Other pastor may be dismissed by this church only upon approval by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Elder Board, at a board meeting convened for the particular purpose of approval to dismiss a pastor.

B. Ministerial Staff

Ministerial staff may be called by the Elder Board, as need arises for specific areas of the church ministry. Such positions may include Youth Director, Music Director, Ministerial Assistant, and others. Ministerial staff job descriptions and terms are subject to the Senior Pastor's review, in conjunction with the Elder Board.

C. Other Church Staff

Other church staff may be employed by the Administration Committee, in coordination and concurrence with the Deacon Board, as need arises for such assistance. Such services shall include accounting, secretarial, janitorial and maintenance, musical, child care, and others. Support staff job descriptions are subject to the Administration Committee's review and do not require approval by the Deacon Board.

Section 3 – Elder Board

A. Membership

There shall be an Elder Board of at least three (3) members, which shall compose of those pastors and members of the church who satisfy the qualifications, as stated in Section 1 of this Article, and are elected to serve in that capacity.

An Elder, other than Senior Pastor, shall be an active member of this church for at least two (2) years and has served in the ministry of this church. A pastor, other than the Senior Pastor, shall be eligible for nomination as a full member to this Board after one year of service.

Senior Pastor shall be the chairperson of the Elder Board. In the absence of a Senior Pastor, in the beginning of each ensuing year and prior to ratification of the new board, a new chairperson shall be nominated from within the Board to serve as a chairperson in the new Board. The vice-chairperson shall be selected in the first meeting of the new Board.

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B. Responsibilities

In accordance with I Timothy 5:17, James 5:14, and I Peter 5:2-3, the Elder Board shall oversee all church matters. The New Testament church leaders are charged to shepherd the local church - to lead the people, protect them from false teaching, admonish them, teach them, counsel them, rebuke them, care for them, oversee their spiritual well-being, and even go to their bedsides to pray.

Specifically, the Board shall be responsible:

1. For the spiritual guidance, Biblical instruction, and protection of the congregation.
2. To ensure operations of this church are transacted efficiently and in keeping with sound Christian principles.
3. To establish basic church policy, provide general fiscal direction, and work with the pastors and deacons in the planning of church goals and objectives.
4. To assist the pastors in their ministries including communion and baptism.
5. To discipline and/or remove a pastoral staff, a member of the Elder Board, or any other church leader in the event that the leader ceases to fulfill the qualifications of the office.
6. To approve matters pertaining to the calling of new pastoral staff, acquisition or disposition of real property, and to present changes of the Church Constitution to Church Membership Meeting.

C. Election of Elders

Recognition of qualified individuals to serve as Elders is the responsibility of the whole church. The Elder Board shall present candidates to the church for office and shall seek the prayer and counsel of the church, after which they shall be ratified at a meeting convened for that purpose.

Elders may be elected to office by the following process:

1. Nominations - the existing Elder Board shall receive the names of possible Elders from the current Deacon Board.
2. Interview - The current Board shall meet with the Elder nominees for clarification of roles and responsibilities. The nominees may share openly their personal testimony and desires to serve in this capacity. The Board shall evaluate the nominee in accordance with the qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7.
3. Appointment - The final appointment of each new Elder shall be made at least a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote by the current Board, and ratified by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of a membership quorum at a regular membership meeting or a meeting held especially for the ratification of Elders. Names of Elder nominees who have been approved by the current Board shall be posted in a conspicuous location for at least two (2) weeks prior to the membership meeting for ratification. The current Board shall validate any accusations concerning a nominee, such as would render the individual ineligible for the office, and shall either confirm or remove the nominee for ratification.

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D. Term of Service

Each member of the Elder Board shall be elected for a term of six (6) years. In the event of resignation, death, or the removal of an Elder, the Board may fill the vacancy with a qualified individual until the next year. No person shall be eligible to serve on the Board for more than two (2) consecutive terms. Pastoral staff shall not be restricted by the aforesaid terms.

E. Meetings

1. Regular meetings of the Board shall be held as deemed necessary.
2. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.
3. A majority of the Board present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn any meeting to another time and place.
4. A three-fourths (3/4) consent of those present shall be required to adopt any vote or resolution.

F. Removal of Elders

Qualification for leadership implies possibility of disqualification. An individual must not only meet the requirements for election into the office, but must maintain those qualifications while serving in the position. Not only will failure to meet biblical standards disqualify a person from serving as an Elder, but failure to perform the task of shepherding and overseeing the flock are also reasons for disqualification. When an Elder is found to be unqualified, it is the Elders, as leaders of the congregation, who are primarily responsible to see that such an Elder is removed from church oversight.

Elders may be removed from office by one of the following ways:

1. Withdrawal from active membership;
2. Voluntary resignation;
3. Expiration of serving terms;
4. A three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the Elder Board and ratified by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of a membership quorum at a meeting concerning the accusation of sin against one of its members (I Timothy 5:19-20). The Elder in question shall not vote.

Section 4 - Corporate Officers

A. Membership

The officers of this church as a corporation shall be the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of this corporation shall be selected from the non-pastoral members of the Elder Board by the Elder Board and the Secretary and Treasurer are appointed by the Elder Board.

B. Responsibilities

1. The Chairperson shall act as, and be the President of the Corporation. The Chairperson shall preside at all church membership meetings. The Chairperson shall represent the church in all matters dealing with the public, and be the administrative head of the church.
2. The Vice-Chairperson shall act as, and be the Vice-President of the Corporation. The Vice-Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson in assuming his duties in the Chairperson's

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absence or at the direction of the Chairperson. In the absence of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson, the Elder Board shall appoint an Elder to act in their place.

3. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all church membership meetings, carry on correspondence as necessary, maintain a registry of the membership, and give official notice of all church membership meetings.
4. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the receiving and disbursements of church funds. The Treasurer shall make regular financial reports to the Elder Board and Deacon Board, at the church membership meeting, to the membership.

Section 5 – Deacon Board

General Structure

1. Structure

A board consists of five (5) standing committees. Special committees may be formed within a board, as deemed necessary, to carry out specific short-term tasks. The board meets at least once a month for goal setting and ministry evaluation, as well as coordination among various ministries that the board oversees.

2. Members

Board members include all Elders, all Pastors, and other Deacons elected by the Elder Board and presented at the annual church membership meeting. Each Deacon shall be elected for a term of three (3) years.

The board shall select its chairperson and vice-chairperson within one (1) month from the annual church membership meeting.

Committee membership consists of a Deacon serving as a chairperson, vice-chairperson (if needed), and any number of members. Each member of the committee or sub-committee shall be elected by Deacon Board for a term of one (1) year.

3. Accountability

The Deacon Board is primarily accountable to the Elder Board. Each committee is held accountable to the Deacon Board, and is responsible for carrying out its ministry, in accordance with the decisions made by the Deacon Board.

Deacon Board shall:

- a. Have full knowledge of the planning, program, activities, and issues of each committee;
- b. Ensure that the committees work together on programs, activities, or matters which require the collaboration of different committees;
- c. Assist each committee to resolve problems and issues; and
- d. Approve and/or submit to the Elder Board for ratification any major committee decisions or policies, if deemed necessary.

A. Worship Committee

1. Functions

The Worship Committee is responsible for planning and coordinating all corporate worship services, which include Worship, Music and Ushers.

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a. Worship

The Committee on Worship exercises supervision, in conjunction with the pastor(s), over worship services and special meetings, including music, program, ushering and welcoming; prepares communion and baptism. Worship teams may be formed to plan, coordinate, and execute the aforesaid functions.

b. Music

The Committee on Music is responsible for the total music ministry of the church; plans special musical programs and training, as part of the total church ministry; encourages the congregation to make music a meaningful part of the worship service; responsible for hymn books, organists, pianists, church choir and its director; maintains all musical instruments and choir robes.

c. Ushers

The Committee on Ushers welcomes and seats the congregation, records the attendance, and monitors the church ground during worship services and special meetings.

B. Watchcare Committee

1. Functions

The Watchcare Committee is responsible for planning and coordinating all ministries for watchcare of members and visitors.

a. Watchcare

The Committee on Watchcare promotes care and concern for all church members, as well as the greater church family; ensures hospitality and fellowship for all who attend the church; has as its concern the welfare of the church membership and friends; and plans and implements a process and activities for the assimilation of new members. Visitation teams may be formed to carry out regular and special visitation activities to members, friends and new comers.

The Watchcare Committee shall maintain a listing of membership status.

b. Follow-up

The Committee on Follow-up provides new believers and friends programs for the church members, which includes leadership training and new believer follow-up programs. The sponsored programs are to be one-on-one or small group oriented, rather than class instruction oriented as the Sunday School classes.

C. Discipleship Committee

1. Functions

The Discipleship Committee is responsible for developing mature Christians and able leaders for the church through edification, training, and fellowship. The Committee is responsible for training programs for the church members, which includes leadership training.

2. Structure

The Discipleship Committee consists of five(5) sub-committees; they are Children Ministries, Youth Ministries, English-speaking Ministries, Chinese-speaking Ministries, and Literature.

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With the exception of Literature, each ministry is put in charge of both the Sunday school, fellowship and small groups of the respective age/language groups, and is supervised by the Pastor-in-charge and/or Deacon(s). Each ministry is responsible for recruiting its own teachers and helpers and promoting Sunday school, planning and providing teaching materials, training and supporting the teachers. The committee shall appoint a Sunday School Superintendent to supervise and coordinate the different committees in relation to Sunday school.

3. Special Membership Guidelines

Committee membership includes the Sunday School Superintendent and representatives from different age and language groups (English or Chinese/bilingual).

4. Sub-Committees

Sub-Committee membership consists of one representative of all small groups and ministries under the sub committee. All members must be members of this church.

a. Children Ministries

The Sub-Committee on Children Ministries' main objective is to evangelize children and train them up in the fear of the Lord. It will be in charge of Sunday school for children, and other ministries such as AWANA and VBS. The committee members are the chairpersons of the various children ministries: Nursery, Early Childhood, Elementary, Children Church, AWANA, and VBS.

b. Youth Ministries

The Sub-Committee on Youth Ministries' objective is to promote spiritual growth through Sunday school, small group, evangelism, and Christian service. It will run the youth Sunday school, coordinate the ministries of the small groups, and be in charge of planning youth related church-wide joint programs such as the Youth Retreat. Representative from the youth small group to the sub-committee shall be selected from the youth group leaders.

c. English-speaking Ministries

The Sub-Committee on English-speaking Ministries' objective is to promote spiritual growth through Sunday school, fellowship, evangelism, and Christian service. It will run the English-speaking Sunday school, coordinate the ministries of the fellowships, and be in charge of planning church-wide English-speaking joint programs such as the Bible Conference and Adult VBS.

d. Chinese-speaking Ministries

The Sub-Committee on Chinese-speaking Ministries' objective is to promote spiritual growth through Sunday school, fellowship, evangelism, and Christian service. It will run the Chinese-speaking Sunday school, coordinate the ministries of the fellowships, and be in charge of planning church-wide Chinese-speaking joint programs such as the Chinese-speaking Evangelistic Meeting.

e. Literature

The Sub-Committee on Literature promotes spiritual growth of the church members by providing Christian literature and media services, which includes printed and audio/visual materials. Ministry includes the church library, recording of worship services or special meetings, newsletter and other church publications. The committee also assists the Deacon Board in appointing the church librarian and historian. The

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librarian is responsible for organizing and maintaining the church library. The historian is responsible for collecting and archiving church records and other articles of historical value or interest to the church. The librarian and the historian are ex-officio members of the committee.

D. Missions Committee

1. Functions

The Missions Committee is responsible for out reaching non-believers in the local community through different missistries; creating and maintaining missionary interests in the church membership; approving the recommended distribution of missionary financial support for local, national, and international missions; encouraging and supporting members to do short and/or long term missions; all matters of Christian social concerns consistent with Biblical teachings, and bringing them to the attention of the church membership.

2. Ministries

a. Outreach

The Committee on Outreach shall organize all outreach programs for non-believer, provide and encourage church members to outreach personally,

b. Missions Support and Involvement

The Committee on Missions Support and Involvement shall determine local, national, and international missionaries and/or Christian organizations to be supported by the church through monetary means; keep in correspondence with the missionaries and organizations and report to the congregation on their activities and needs; coordinate with the various missions organizations for displays/participation for the Church Missions Conference; be the focal/representative for the church to the American Baptist Churches. The committee shall sponsor the Church Missions Conference; coordinate/advertise various missions conferences; coordinate short term missions opportunities for church members; encourage and support church members doing short (less than one year) and long term missions; encourage and coordinate individual or groups to get involved/participate in local organizations to do missionary outreach.

c. Christian Social Concerns

Christian Social Concerns is responsible for all matters of Christian social concerns consistent with Biblical teaching and shall bring them to the attention of the church membership. The committee shall seek to make Christianity and Christian ethic felt in the community, nation and the world. The committee may assemble or participate in task forces to address specific issues or concerns such as refugee program, food banks/emergency feeding program, and nursing homes.

E. Administration Committee

1. Functions

The committee is responsible for overall administrative aspects of the church by providing spiritual support and guidance in the coordination of various functions of the committees.

2. Structure

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The Administration Committee consists of four (4) sub-committees; they are Facilities, Finance, Personnel and Hospitality.

a. Facilities

The Sub-committee is responsible for the care, maintenance, and inventory of the church property, including arranging or supervising needed repairs, routine maintenance, and authorized remodeling, alternations, and additions. Facilities shall prepare guidelines for the usage of the physical properties, insurance coverage, and custodian duties.

b. Finance

The Finance sub-committee must include the Treasurer and a Financial Secretary. The Financial secretary shall be elected within the sub-committee for book-keeping. The sub-committee shall supervise all matters pertaining to the budgets for current expenses and beneficence. It shall foster pledges annually from the membership and at the annual meeting present for adoption detailed budget for the ensuing year. The sub-committee shall present a detailed monthly report of receipts and expenditures at the regular Deacon Board meetings. The sub-committee shall assist the Elder Board in appointing the Church Auditor.

The Sub-Committee is also responsible for the management of specific financial funds, such as special gifts, investments and properties, which provide long-term strength to the church. The sub-committee shall 1) establish criteria for acceptance of special contributions from church members and friends; 2) develop guidelines concerning methods and procedures to invest and manage such funds in a prudent and ethical manner to insure optimum return; and 3) make recommendations to the church through the Administration Committee on the allocation of endowment income.

c. Personnel

With the exception of the ministerial staff, the Personnel sub-Committee shall 1) develop personnel policies; 2) interview and recommend the hiring of staff; 3) conduct annual performance evaluations; and 4) make any changes in salary, benefits and related personnel matters as required for all paid church staff positions.

As for ministerial staff, the sub-committee shall work with the Elder Board to develop personnel policies, and recommend to the Elder Board any changes in salary and benefits.

d. Hospitality

The Sub-Committee on Hospitality shall nourish and promote the fellowship and social life of the church. The committee is responsible for preparing or arranging food for the major church meetings including the regularly scheduled church membership meetings and special occasions. The committee shall coordinate the use of the church kitchen and its supplies.

F. Special Committee

Special committee may be formed by resolution of the Deacon Board, when deemed appropriate and in order to assist the Board in the discharge of its responsibilities. Member of committees may include members from the pastoral staff, Elder Board, Deacon Board, or the congregation.

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ARTICLE V - CHURCH MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 1 - Annual Church Membership Meeting

The Annual Church Membership Meeting shall be held each year on the fourth Sunday in January, unless changed by the Elder Board. The agenda of the meeting shall include the ratification of Elders; annual reports of boards, committees, and organized church groups; and adoption of budget.

Section 2 - Special Meetings

Special Church Membership Meetings may be called by the Elder Board; or twenty-five (25) members or 10% of members in active standing, whichever is higher.

Section 3 - Qualification of Voters

A. All members in active standing may vote on the following matters of the church:

<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Vote Required</u>
1. Voting Elders	2/3 majority
2. Budget Adoption	simple majority
3. Church Covenant or Affirmation of Faith	2/3 majority
4. Amendments to this Constitution	2/3 majority

B. All elections and decisions shall be made or conducted by voice vote, show of hands, or written ballot.

Section 4 - Notice

Notice of Church Membership Meeting shall be announced from the pulpit and in the worship service bulletin or program during all regular worship services on the two (2) Sundays immediately preceding the meeting.

Section 5 - Procedures

All meetings shall open and close in prayer. In addition, the following order of business shall be observed:

- 1) Minutes of the previous meeting
- 2) Reports from the ministry, boards, and committees
- 3) Reports from any other group
- 4) Unfinished business
- 5) New business
- 6) Adjournment

Seventy-five (75) members or 50% of members in active standing, whichever is lower, constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Church Membership Meetings.

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ARTICLE VI: ORDINANCES

Section 1 - Communion

The communion service shall be observed on a regularly scheduled basis, preferably on the first Sunday of every month. All believers, regardless of denominational affiliation, are invited to partake in this service. The order given to the church shall be followed, as stated in I Cor. 11:23-33.

Section 2 - Baptism

Believing that water baptism by immersion to be an outward witness of an inward regeneration, the baptismal service shall be observed on a regularly scheduled basis (Rom. 6:3-6; I Peter 3:21; Matthew 28:19-20). All believers, who have confessed by faith and have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, shall be encouraged to take this step of obedience in their Christian life.

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ARTICLE VII - ORDINATION

Section 1 - Candidate

When in the judgment of the Elder Board, any person is convinced that he/she is called of God to the Christian ministry and has personally requested the ordination, or the church that he/she is serving has requested the ordination, it shall be the prerogative of the Elder Board to call a council of ordination and conduct an examination of the candidate.

Section 2 - Council

The Senior Pastor, or an Elder appointed by the Elder Board, shall serve as chairperson of the council. The procedures for calling and conducting a council of ordination shall be those set forth by the American Baptist Churches in the USA.

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ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended at any Church Membership Meeting upon the approval of a two-thirds (2/3) of the members in active standing present and voting, provided, however, that notice of the amendment is given in one of the following ways:

1. The proposed amendment is read from the pulpit during all regular worship services on the two (2) Sundays immediately preceding the meeting.
2. An announcement that an amendment will be proposed is made from the pulpit and in the worship service bulletin or program during all regular worship services on the two (2) Sundays immediately preceding the meeting. The announcement shall include an indication that copies of the proposed amendment are available and where copies may be obtained.

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STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. The Bible

We believe the 66 books which comprise the Old and New Testaments to be the verbal plenary inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed.
II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21; Matt. 5:18

2. The Godhead

We believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son, Holy Spirit - co-equal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfection.
Deut. 6:4; II Cor. 13:14

3. The Person and Work of Christ

- a. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. John 1:1-2, 14; Lu. 1:35
- b. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. Rom. 3:24-25; I Peter 2:24; Eph. 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5
- c. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; Rom. 8:34; I John 2:1-2

4. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption.
John 16:8-11; II Cor. 3:6; I Cor. 12:12-14; Rom. 8:9; Eph. 1:13-14

5. Salvation

- a. We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- b. Man is lost and cannot merit any favor with God. Eph. 2:8-10; John 1:12; I Peter 1:18-19

6. Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever.
John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; I Cor. 1:4-8; I Peter 1:5

7. Church Ordinances

- a. We believe that baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, to show forth in a beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life in Christ. Matt. 28:19-20; I Peter 3:21
- b. Other modes of believer's baptism are accepted but we will only practice immersion.
- c. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes. I Cor. 11:23-32
- d. We believe that both of these ordinances are to be practiced in this present church age until His coming for the church.

8. The Second Coming of Christ

We believe in the literal, physical return of Jesus Christ back to earth to establish His Millennial kingdom.
I Thess. 4:13-18; 1:10; 5:9; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6