

The Constitution and Bylaws of Zion Hill Baptist Church

January 17, 1980

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Zion Hill Baptist Church, putting our faith wholly in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation, and believing in the inspired Word of the living God having affiliated ourselves with one another as a body of immersed believers, and in order to function more efficiently and effectively, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Zion Hill Baptist Church of Spotsylvania, Virginia.

ARTICLE I – NAME

This body shall be known as the Zion Hill Baptist Church, of Spotsylvania, located in Spotsylvania County, Virginia.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this church are to glorify God by conducting the local church in accordance with His Word, to give visible form to the faith and fellowship to which God has called His people; to promote the worship of our God; edify believers; teach the whole counsel of God; administer the ordinances and biblical discipline; seek to win the lost to Christ through personal witnessing and the preaching of the Gospel; and minister to human needs in the name of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE III – STATEMENT OF BASIC BELIEFS

Section 1 – We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God and the basis for our beliefs.

Section 2 - We voluntarily band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ, personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to lost mankind.

Section 3 – The Ordinances of the church are believer's baptism (by immersion) and the Lord's Supper.

Section 4 – We further believe in the articles of faith that are outlined in **A Baptism Church Manual**, by J. Newton Brown, D.D. Thirty fifth printing, 1978, Judson Press.

ARTICLE IV – CHURCH ORDINANCES

Section 1 – Baptism

Those professing faith in Christ shall, upon authorization of the church be immersed in water by the Pastor or someone else appointed by the church. Only those shall be baptized who are being received into the church membership.

Section 2 – The Lord’s Supper

The Lord’s Supper shall normally be served to the assembled church by the Pastor, or some other person authorized by the church, on the fourth Sunday of each month unless otherwise scheduled by Pastor and Deacons or by the church. The Pastor and Deacons shall administer the Lord’s Supper; the Deaconesses are responsible for the preparation of the elements.

ARTICLE V – CHURCH 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 engage, 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, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses 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 devotions; 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, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; 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.

SCRIPTURAL BASIS OF THE COVENANT

Salvation and Baptism - (John 1:11-12; Matt. 28:19-20)

Duties to the Church

- To walk together in Christian love (John 13:34-35).
- To strive for the advancement of the church and promote its prosperity and spirituality (Phil. 1:27; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Cor. 7:1; 2 Peter 3:11).
- To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrine (Heb. 10:25; Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; Jude 3).
- To give it pre-eminence in my life (Matt. 6:33).
- To contribute cheerfully and regularly (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8: 6-7).
- To carry my membership when I move and be active in church work wherever I live (Acts 11:19-21; 18:24-28).

Duties in Personal Christian Living

- To maintain family and secret devotions (1 Thess. 5:17-18; Acts 17:11).
- To religiously educate the children (2 Tim. 3:15; Deut. 6:4-7).
- To seek the salvation of the lost (Acts 1:8; Matt. 4:19; Psalm 126:5-6; Prov. 11:30).
- To walk circumspectly in the world, and to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment (Eph. 5:15; Phil. 2:13 – 14; 1 Peter 2:11-12).
- To avoid gossip and excessive anger (Eph. 4:31; 1 Peter 2:21; Col. 3:8; James 3:1-2).
- To abstain from sale or use of liquors (Eph. 5:18; Hab. 2:15)
- To zealous in our efforts for Christ (Titus 2:14).

Duties to Fellow Members

- To watch over one another in love (1 Peter 1:22).
- To pray for one another (James 5:16).
- To aid in sickness and distress (Gal. 6:2; James 2:14-17).
- To cultivate sympathy and courtesy (1 Peter 3:8).
- To be slow to take offense, always ready for reconciliation (Eph. 4:30-32).

ARTICLE VI – POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1 – The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it.

Section 2 – Person duly received by members shall constitute the membership.

Section 3 – All internal groups created and empowered by the church shall report to and be accountable only to the church, unless otherwise specified by church action.

Section 4 – This church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, and it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches.

Section 5 – Insofar as practical, this church will cooperate with and support the Mattaponi Association, The Mattaponi District Women’s Missionary and Sunday School and BTU Convention and the national conventions.

THE BY-LAWS OF ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

ARTICLE I – CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Admission of Membership

Persons desiring to become members of the above named church shall be presented to the church at any regular church service for membership in any of the following ways:

- (a) By baptism (immersion) following salvation;
- (b) By promise of a letter of recommendation from another Baptist church;
- (c) By confession of faith (Christian experience) having been saved and immersed;
- (d) By restoration.

Section 2 – Members Rights and Privileges

- a) Every member of this church is entitled to vote at all elections, and on all questions submitted to the church in conference provided the member is present and in good standing.
- b) Every member of this church is eligible for consideration by the membership as a candidate for elective office in the church.

Section 3 – Types of Membership

a) Full Member

A full member shall be one who has professed faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord; who has experienced baptism by immersion; who is in harmony with the faith and practices of this church, and has expressed a willingness to comply with the church Covenant.

b) Watch-Care Member

A Watch-Care member shall be in temporary residence, for a period not to exceed six (6) months, or, pending the arrival of a letter.

c) Inactive Member

A person shall be placed on the Inactive List if he moves and the church is unable to locate him for a period of one year. After missing four (4) consecutive worship services, a member is to be contacted by letter or visitation from the Deacon Board and if full satisfaction is not given, placed on inactive status.

Section 4 – Termination of Members

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways:

- 1) Death;
- 2) Demission to another Baptist church;
- 3) Exclusion by action of this church; or
- 4) Erasure upon request or proof of membership in a church of another denomination.

If it becomes necessary for the church to take action to exclude a member, two-thirds (2/3) of the members present is required; and the church may proceed to declare the person to be no longer in the membership of the church. All such proceedings shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance.

The letters that are written shall be valid only six months after its date, unless renewed, and this restriction shall be stated in the letter.

Section 5 – Restoration to Membership

It shall be the practice of this church to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. Should serious condition exist which would cause a member to be a liability to the general welfare of the church, the Pastor and Deacons will take every reasonable measure to resolve the problem in accord with Matthew 18:15-17

The church may restore to membership any person previously excluded upon the request of the excluded person and by a vote of the church upon evidence of the excluded person's repentance and reformation.

Section 6 – Discipline

All members (*Full and Watch-Care*) must be spiritually responsible, exhibiting a regenerated heart, and willing to be governed by the rules and regulations of the church. They shall assume financial responsibility according to the plan of the church as described below:

- a) All members of the church shall support the work of the Lord through tithes and/or offerings.
- b) Willful failure to comply with the above will be considered in violation of “a member in good and regular standing”, and will render such person’s ineligible for continuing in an office. Official notice from the office of the clerk shall be sent to any ineligible member after the expiration of three months.
- c) Members who reside in other cities, and who for reasons do not wish to sever their relationship with this church, shall contribute a minimum of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per year.
- d) Disposition of matters pertaining to discipline which should not be publicly discussed, and especially those involving moral infringements, shall be made by the Pastor, Deacons, and Deaconesses.

Section 7 – New Member Orientation

The church shall provide a mechanism by which new members will receive orientation to the church functions, methods and philosophies.

ARTICLE II – CHURCH OFFICES AND COMMITTEES

All who serve as officers of this church and those who serve on church committees shall be members of this church. Church officers are those people who have sufficient authority to act on behalf of the church.

Section 1 – Church Officers

The Officers this church shall be the Pastor, Deacons, Deaconesses, Trustees, Treasurer, Clerk, Superintendent of the Sunday Church School, Chairman of the Music Committee, President of the Missionary Union, President of the Brotherhood, and Financial Secretary.

Section 2 – Organizational Officers

Organizational officers are those persons elected by each operating group, and approved by the church to give necessary leadership to achieve predetermined goals. Organizational officers of this church shall be heads of the following operating groups and committees.

Board of Deacons, Board of Deaconesses, Board of Trustees, Budget Committee, Committee on Nominations, Finance Committee, Sunday Church School, Brotherhood, Women’s Missionary Union, Ministry of Music, Senior Usher Board, Junior Usher Board, Youth Fellowship Council, and the Nurses’ Unit.

A new position or officer may be established and/or any existing one may be discontinued that the church deems necessary to effectively carry out its adopted goals and programs. (The Pastor and Deacons will make the recommendation for processing to the Committee on Nominations.)

Section 3 – Operating Groups

The church will operate through the committees and official groups, the heads of which are designated under Article II, Section 2 of the By-Laws.

Section 4 – Church Council

- a) The Church Council shall be composed of the Pastor, and all elected officers mentioned in Article II, Section I of the By-Laws.
- b) The plans for the ongoing activities originating in any organization, department, committee, or group shall be presented to the Church Council, plans thus submitted, if accepted, shall be transmitted to the church for final approval.
- c) The Church Council shall meet at least six (6) times each year on the Friday night before the third Saturday of the month or more often upon call of the moderator, or upon petition of five (5) members of the Council.

ARTICLE III – PASTOR

Section 1 – The Pastor shall preach the Gospel, administer the ordinances, watch over the membership, and have charge of the spiritual welfare of the congregation and the stated services of public worship. The Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all boards, committees of the church, and its auxiliary organizations. The Pastor shall be the Moderator and shall preside at all business meetings of the church except when good taste dictates otherwise.

Section 2-When it is necessary to call a Pastor, the church shall select a representative pulpit committee of five (5) members. It shall be the duty of this committee to take the necessary steps to secure a Pastor. The committee shall investigate the merits of any candidate under consideration in regard to personal character, education, ministerial record, and preaching ability in determining his fitness for said pastorate. When a suitable candidate is found, the committee shall recommend that person to the church for consideration.

Section 3 – The call of a Pastor shall come before the church at a regularly called business meeting, notice of such meeting and its purpose having been read from the pulpit on two (2) successive Sundays. A vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and qualified to vote shall be necessary to extend a call. Only one candidate shall be presented to the church at any one regular meeting. The vote shall be by written ballot.

Section 4 – The Pastor shall be called for an indefinite period of time. The salary shall be fixed at the time of the call and may be changed by vote of the church at any regular business meeting, provided that such a change has been considered by the Board of Deacons and Board of Trustees in a joint meeting. The Pastor shall be given an annual vacation of not less than four (4) weeks with pay.

Section 5 – A Pastor's term of office may be ended upon thirty (30) days of notification on the part of the Pastor or church by mutual consent. Termination of the office shall be voted on at a regularly called business meeting, notice of such meeting and its purpose having been read from the pulpit on two (2) successive Sundays. A vote of a majority of the members present and qualified to vote, shall make a valid termination of said office. The Moderator for the meeting shall be the Chairman of the Deacon Board.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS AND THEIR DUITES

Section 1 – Pastor. See Article III, Section 1 of these By-Laws.

Section 2 – Deacons

Deacons shall be elected by the church upon recommendation of the Pastor and Board of Deacons. There shall be a board of five (5) or more Deacons. The Deacons shall be ordained to their work according to Acts 6:1-8 and I Timothy 3:8-13. All appointed to the Board of Deacons shall serve a one-year probationary period before ordination; such may be extended at the discretion of the Pastor.

It shall be the duty of the Deacons to assist the Pastor in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church; to be his helpers and counselors; to exercise prudent watchcare over the church membership; to seek out such members as need alms; to visit the sick; to examine with the Pastor candidates for church membership; to assist at baptisms; and to distribute the Lord's Supper.

There shall be no obligation to constitute as an assigned Deacon one who has been a Deacon in another church. In the absence of the Moderator, the Chairman of the Deacon Board shall preside.

The tenure of office for the Chairman of the Deacon Board is three (3) years.

Section 3 – Deaconesses

The Board of Deaconesses shall consist of five (5) or more members. The Board of Deaconesses shall assist the Pastor in developing the spiritual life of the women and girls of the church for the best possible Christian service. It shall cooperate with the Pastor and the Board of Deacons in visiting the members; in the care of the sick, needy, and distressed members of the church; and in the preparation of the observances of the ordinances of the church.

The tenure of office for the Chairman of the Deaconess Board is three (3) years.

Section 4 – Trustees

The Board of Trustees shall be elected by the church upon the recommendation of the Pastor and Deacons. The church shall elect three (3) or more Trustees to serve as legal officers for the church. The Board shall hold in trust all property belonging to the church and shall take all necessary measures for its protection, management, and upkeep. It shall determine the use of the church buildings for all extra or secular purposes, but it shall have no power to buy, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property without specific vote of the church authorizing such action. It shall designate the bank where the funds of the church shall be deposited. It shall, when so instructed by the church, secure the services of a custodian at such salary as is authorized by the church, and secure from him/her acceptable service. It shall perform such other duties as are imposed upon it by the church and state.

The Trustees execute all necessary legal papers in the name of the church. Trustees shall always be subject to the church, and shall make regular reports.

The tenure of office for the Chairman of the Trustee Board is three (3) years.

Section 5 – Treasurer

The church shall elect annually a church Treasurer as its financial officer. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive, preserve and/or deposit, and pay out, upon receipt of voucher, approved and signed by authorized personnel, all money or things of value paid or given to the church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts, and disbursements and making regular reports to the Church Council and at regular church business meetings.

The Treasurer shall deposit all receipts received in such bank or banks as may be designated by the church on recommendation of the Trustee Board, as soon as practicable after receipt thereof.

The Treasurer's reports and records shall be audited annually by an auditing committee or public accountant.

The Treasurer shall be bonded. The church shall pay for the bond. Upon rendering the annual account at the end of each year and its acceptance and approval by the church, the records shall be delivered by the Treasurer to the Church Clerk, who shall keep and preserve the account as a part of the permanent record of the church.

Section 6 – Clerk

The church shall elect annually a Clerk. The Clerk shall keep a complete record of the transaction of all business meetings of the church. This shall be read for approval at the next following business meeting. The Clerk shall keep a record of the names and addresses of members, with dates and manner of admission, and termination a record of baptisms, and a list of those suspended. The Clerk shall notify all officers, committee members, and delegates of their election and appointment.

The Clerk shall issue letters of termination and recommendation voted by the church preserve on file all communications and written reports, and give legal notice of all meetings where such is required by this Constitution and By-Laws. The Clerk shall assist in preparing denominational reports. The Clerk shall deliver immediately to his or her successor, all books, and records for which he or she has been responsible as clerk.

Section 7 – Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary shall be elected at each annual meeting to serve for one (1) year. It shall be the Financial Secretary's duty: To furnish each member of the church envelopes for contribution to church funds; to collect all monies contributed; to keep a correct account thereof between the church and its members; to give out personal statements to all members once a year, listing their gifts; to submit his or her records upon receipt of the church to the auditors at the annual meeting.

Section 8 – Superintendent of the Sunday Church School

The Sunday Church School Superintendent shall have as the chief objective, making known the meaning and purpose of the Sunday Church School and its relationship to the total church program. Among the duties assigned shall be the general supervision of and planning for the operation of the Sunday Church School. Supervision will include the comprehensive planning for the operation of the Sunday Church School.

Supervision will include the comprehensive planning for Bible-based Christian Education, preparation for workshop activities as well as the recruitment of capable Christian personnel. The Superintendent shall at all times present an image of a true spiritual leader. Such a person shall be elected to office for a term of one year but shall be eligible for re-election.

The aim of the Sunday Church School shall be the winning of souls through careful study of the Bible. The detailed operation of the Sunday Church School shall be in conformance with the written regulations as determined by that body and approved by the church.

The Sunday Church School shall be the basic organization for the Bible program. Its tasks shall to teach the biblical revelation, reach persons for Christ and church membership, perform the functions of the church within its constituency, provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and denomination.

The Sunday Church School shall be organized by departments and/or classes, as appropriate for all ages, and shall be conducted under the direction of the Superintendent of the Sunday Church School elected by the church.

The tenure of office for the Superintendent of the Sunday Church School is three (3) years

Section 9 – Chairman of Music Committee

The Chairman of the Music Committee's tasks shall be to make sure that adequate music is provided for the church and to find persons who would train members in leading songs, singing and playing music. The Music Committee shall consist of not less than five (5) members.

The Music Committee shall be responsible for the administration and supervision of the musical program of the church. It shall coordinate the over-all ministry of music, receiving and consolidating reports from the musical organizations, and disseminating information policies from the Church Council to those organizations.

This Committee, when requested by the Church Council, shall recommend to the church, through the council, the employment of musical personnel, and subject to approval by the Trustee Board, the salaries to be paid to each.

The Tenure of office for the Chairman of the Music Committee is three (3) years.

Section 10 – President of Women's Missionary Union

The President of the Women's Missionary Union must be a person of outstanding Christian character, whose leadership and ability will cause others of consecration to have confidence in her and in the program to which she gives leadership.

The President's greatest aim shall be to deepen spirituality, promote religious intelligence, cultivate fellowship, and stimulate missionary activity among the members of the church, to enlarge benevolences, to seek in a Christian and earnest way to lead lost souls to Christ, and to cooperate in the promotion of the total program of the church.

The Women's Missionary Union shall put forth every effort to awaken a zeal for and to foster an interest in missionary enterprise through careful planning, study, and other necessary disciplines.

The tenure of office for the President of the Women's Missionary Union is three (3) years.

Section 11 – President of Brotherhood

The President of the Brotherhood must be a man of genuine spirituality and also one possessing high qualities of leadership. He must be a man in whom other men believe, and whose judgment they respect.

Upon the President falls the responsibility of guiding the cause of the movement. He must plan and promote the program of the movement, utilizing the talents surrounding him in all of his policies. He shall seek in a Christian and earnest way to lead lost souls to Christ, and to cooperate in the promotion of the total church program in the enlistment of men in the work of the church. All male members of the church are eligible for membership.

The tenure of office for the President of the Brotherhood is three (3) years.

ARTICLE V – CHURCH PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1 – Board of Deacons

(See Article IV Section 2 of these By-Laws)

Section 2 – Board of Deaconesses

(See Article IV Section 3 of these By-Laws)

Section 3 – Board of Trustees

(See Article IV Section 4 of these By-Laws)

Section 4 – Sunday Church School

(See Article IV Section 8 of these By-Laws)

Section 5 – Ministry of Music

(See Article IV Section 9 of these By-Laws)

Section 6 – Women’s Missionary Union

(See Article IV Section 10 of these By-Laws)

Section 7 – Brotherhood

(See Article IV Section 11 of these By-Laws)

Section 8 – Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee coordinates the staffing of all leadership positions filled by volunteer workers, unless otherwise specified herein.

The Nominating Committee cooperating with the organizations of the church and using the church Constitution and By-Laws adopted by the church as a guide shall have the authority to recommend to the church as nominees persons it considers suitable and qualified for office.

The tenure of office for the Chairman of the Nominating Committee is three (3) years.

Section 9 – Budget Committee

It shall be the duty of this Committee to prepare a budget in conformance with the financial program, as determined by the Pastor and church. This budget, after adoption by the church, shall be the sole guide involving financial matters.

The Budget Committee shall analyze the budgets submitted by the operating groups to determine their accuracy and feasibility and make recommendations to the church for their adoption. The Committee shall also make a mid-year review of the budget and recommend such adjustments, as it deems necessary and proper.

The tenure of office for the Chairman of the Budget Committee is three (3) years.

Section 10 – Finance Committee

The Finance Committee working in closest cooperation with the Trustee Board shall have supervision of all matters relating to the accounts and financial administration of Zion Hill Baptist Church and its auxiliaries.

All purchases shall be made through requisitions, prepared and signed by the official designated by the group or organization, which submits them. The Treasurer after checking, the organization's account shall issue the check. All checks shall be signed by the Treasurer and any one of the following officials: Chairman of Finance Committee or Chairman of Trustee Board.

The tenure of office for the Chairman of the Finance Committee is three (3) years.

Section 11 – Senior Usher Board

The Senior Usher Board shall include both male and female members. Individuals will be under the direct supervision of the President of the Board when actively engaged in performance of their duties.

The chief function of usher shall be to serve the church as doorkeepers. In carrying out this function, they will in addition to other duties, perform the following: be alert to recognize strangers, visitors, and members making their way into the church, and extend to each a warm, friendly, welcome; escort worshippers to appropriate seats and sections; notify proper persons of the arrival of expected guests; assist in the collection or distribution of things such as bulletins, fans, song books; etc; assist in providing the proper environment form comfort of the worshippers; be alert to emergencies and assist professionals in the management of some seeking to avoid disturbances at all times; be ever on guard for the abatement of noise while assisting in the preparation of worshippers for the message.

The tenure of office for the President of the Senior Usher Board is three (3) years.

Section 12 – Junior Usher Board

The Junior Usher Board shall be composed of young people who are members of the church and in good standing. A supervisor and assistant supervisor shall be chosen from among Senior Usher Board members to give instruction and supervision to these young people.

Members of this Board will be considered in training and are expected to attend regularly scheduled meetings for nurturing and instruction. They shall function at a time designated by the Senior Usher Board and the church.

The functions of an usher shall be taught the members of the Junior Usher Board, the same as are taught the Senior Ushers.

Officers other than supervisors and assistant supervisors shall be chosen from among the young people.

The tenure of office for the President of the Junior Usher Board is three (3) years.

Section 13 – Nurses’ Unit

The Nurses’ Unit shall be composed of those members who have a sincere interest in first aid and who are willing to complete a course in first aid which is updated by a refresher course at least every five (5) years. The Nurses’ Unit shall undertake to render immediate first aid to those worshippers who require such attention.

The Nurses’ Unit must maintain a first aid kit, making sure that adequate supplies are on hand at all times and are easily accessible.

The Nurses’ Unit will cooperate with other organizations of the church in providing experience which will increase the awareness of first aid procedures.

The tenure of office for the Chairman of the Nurses’ Unit is three (3) years.

Section 14 – Youth Fellowship Council

The Youth Fellowship Council shall establish a forum for youth growth and development through greater involvement in the life of the church, community activities and fellowship with other Christian youth. The age group for the youth involved is 12 to 19.

The tenure of office for the Chairman of the Youth Fellowship Council is three (3) years.

ARTICLE VI – CHURCH PROGRAM SERVICES

The Church shall maintain media center services and recreation services for the purpose of enriching and extending the ministries and programs of the church.

Section 1 – The media center services will be the resource center for the church. Its personnel will seek to provide and promote the use of printed and audiovisual resources.

Section 2 – The church recreation service will seek to meet the recreational needs of members and groups. Its personnel will provide recreation activities, consultation, leadership assistance, and resources.

ARTICLE VII – ELECTIONS

Section 1 – **Time** – All officers shall be elected at the annual business meeting, which shall be held in January.

Section 2 – **Qualifications of voters** – All members in good standing are entitled to vote.

Section 3 – **Procedure** – The Nominating Committee shall review the eligible persons for offices and submit them to the church at the annual meeting in January. A majority of the votes cast is necessary for the election of any officer.

Section 4 – **Vacancies** – Vacancies occurring during the year may be filled for the unexpired term at any business meeting. The Nominating Committee shall present to the church nominees for the vacancy to be filled.

ARTICLE VIII – CHURCH MEETINGS

Section 1 – Worship Services

Public worship services shall be held regularly each Sunday. Prayer, praise, preaching, instruction, and evangelism shall be among the ingredients of these services. Under extremely hazardous conditions due to natural causes, or other conditions that might endanger life and limb of the congregation, any of these meetings may be canceled by the Pastor, after consultation with the Chairman of the Deacon and Trustee Boards. The Pastor shall use any media available to him to publicize such cancellation. At least once a week there shall be a meeting for prayer and praise.

Section 2 – Special Services

Revival services and any other church meetings essential to the advancement of the church's objectives shall be placed on the church calendar.

Section 3 – Business Meetings

The church shall hold regular business meetings on a quarterly basis at 6:00pm., the first Saturday of the month. The months of the meeting are January, April, July and October.

Section 4 – Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings may be called at any time, providing public notice be given of the meeting on the preceding Sunday. Special meetings may be called by the Pastor, the Board of Deacons or by five (5) members in good standing who are qualified voters. Notice of the meeting shall include the subject, the date, and time and place; and it must be given in such a manner that all resident members have opportunity to know of the meeting.

ARTICLE IX – RULES OF ORDER

Section 1 – The New Directory for Baptist Churches by Edward T. Hiscox shall be used to govern church polity.

Section 2 – The rules contained in Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised shall govern the business proceedings of this church in all cases where they are not inconsistent with this Constitution.

ARTICLE X – CHURCH YEAR

The fiscal year of the church shall be the calendar year.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

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

Committee on Constitution and By-Laws

Deacon Paul Lewis
Deacon Wiley Lunsford
Sis. Ida Richardson Jenkins
Sis. Ruby W. Comford
Sis. Carletta Carter
Sis. Delma C. Robinson
Sis. Beatrice Woodward