

Constitution and Bylaws First Baptist Church Fairview, Tennessee



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CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FAIRVIEW

In order to conduct and handle the affairs and property of the First Baptist Church, Fairview, Tennessee, we, the members of said church, in a business meeting duly called, held and assembled, have adopted the following Bylaws:

ARTICLE I - NAME

Said Church is (1) a general welfare corporation having a charter by the corporate name of First Baptist Church of Fairview, which charter is dated _____ and recorded in Book _____, page _____, Office of Secretary of Tennessee, and also recorded in Book _____, page _____, Register's Office of Williamson County, Tennessee.

(ON OCTOBER 21, 1974 IN AN EFFORT TO COMPLETE THE ABOVE BLANKS BOTH THE STATE AND COUNTY RECORDS WERE CHECKED, AND IT WAS FOUND THAT OUR CHURCH WAS NEVER CHARTERED. THEREFORE, THE ABOVE ARTICLE IS INCOMPLETE.)

ARTICLE II - PROPERTY

A certain tract or parcel of land in the First District of Williamson County, State of Tennessee, described as follows, to-wit: Beginning on Overbey Road and on the east side at a point 110 feet south of Dora Green southwest corner line and running south on and parallel with Overbey Road for a distance of 384 feet; thence east at a right or 90 degree angle for a distance of 384 feet; thence west at a right or 90 degree angle for a distance of 340 feet to the starting point on Overbey Road, total area in this tract to be approximately 3 acres.

Being the same property conveyed to the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Nashville, by a deed from J. F. Denney and wife, Mamie L. Denny, dated September 30, 1955 and of record in Deed Book No. 161, page 534 the Register's Office of Williamson County, Tennessee.

ARTICLE III - CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, 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.

Adopted July 31, 2005

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; and, 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 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 Saviour.

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; and, to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour 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.

ARTICLE IV -ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. Of the Scriptures

We believe: (1) that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; (2) that it has God for its author and salvation for its end; (3) that it has truth without any mixture of error for its matter; (4) that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and, (5) therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union and (6) the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried. Places in the Bible where taught:

- (1) 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Samuel 23:2; Acts 1:16; Acts 3:21; John 10:35; Luke 16:29-31; Psalm 119:111; Romans 3:102
- (2) 2 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 1:10-12•, Acts 11:14; Romans 1:16; Mark 16:16; John 5:38-39
- (3) Proverbs 30:5-6; John 17:17; Revelation 22: 18-19; Romans 3:4
- (4) Romans 2:12; John 12:47-48•, 1 Corinthians 4:3-4•, Luke 10:10-16; Luke 12:47-48
- (5) Philippians 3:16; Ephesians 4:3-6; Philippians 2:1-2; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Peter 4:11
- (6) 1 John 4: 1 ; Isaiah 8:20; I John 4:6; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Acts 17:11; Psalm 119:59-60; Jude 3:5•, Ephesians 6:17

2. Of the True God

We believe: (1) that there is one, and only one living and true God, an infinite, intelligent

Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth, (2) expressively glorious in holiness, and (3) worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; and, (4) that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, (5) equal in every divine perfection, and (6) executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. Places in the Bible where taught:

- (1) John 4:24; Psalm 147:5; Psalm 83: 18; Hebrews 3:44; Romans 1 :20; Jeremiah 10: 10
- (2) Exodus 15:1 1; Isaiah 6:3; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Revelation 4:6-8
- (3) Mark 12:30; Revelation 4:11; Matthew 10:37
- (4) Matthew 28: 19; John 15:26; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 1 John 5:7
- (5) John 10:30; John 5:17; John 15. •4-5•, John 17:5-10•, Acts 5:3-4•, 1 Corinthians 2: 10-11; Philippians 2:5-6
- (6) Ephesians 2:18; 2 Corinthians 13: 14; Revelation 1:4-5; Compare Revelation 2: 7

3. Of the Fall of Man

We believe: (1) that Man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker, (2) but by voluntary transgression fell from the holy and happy state, (3) in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, (4) not by constraint but choice, (5) being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, (6) without defense or excuse. Places in the Bible where taught:

- (1) Genesis 1 :27; Genesis 1:31; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Acts 15:26; Genesis 2:16
- (2) Genesis 3:6-24; Romans 5:12
- (3) Romans 5:19; John 3:6; Psalm 51 :5; Romans 5:15-19; Romans 8: 7
- (4) Isaiah 53:6; Genesis 6:12; Romans 3:9-18
- (5) Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 1:18; Romans 1:32; Romans 2:1-16; Galatians 3: 10; Matthew 20: 1 5
- (6) Ezekiel 8:19-20; Romans 1:20; Romans 3:19; Galatians 3:22

4. Of the Way of Salvation

We believe: (1) that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, (2) through the Mediatorial offices of the Son of God, (3) who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, (4) honored the divine law by His personal obedience, without sin, and (5) by His death made a full atonement for our sins; and, (6) that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven, and (7) uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest

sympathies with divine perfections, He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and all-sufficient Saviour. Places in the Bible where taught:

- (1) Ephesians 2:5; Matthew 18:11; 1 John 4:10; 1 Corinthians 3:5-7; Acts 15:11
- (2) John 3:16; John 1:1-14; Hebrews 4:14; Hebrews 12:24
- (3) Philippians 2:6-7; Hebrews 2:9,14; Galatians 4:4-5; Romans 3:21
- (4) Isaiah 42:21; Philippians 2:8; Galatians 4:4-5; Romans 3:21
- (5) Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 20:28; Romans 4:25; Romans 3:21-26; John 4: 10; 1 John 2:3; 1 Corinthians 15:1-3; Hebrews 9:13-15
- (6) Hebrews 1 Hebrews 1:3; Hebrews 8: 1; Colossians 3:1-4
- (7) Hebrews 7:25; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 8; Hebrews 7:26; Psalm 89: 1 9; Psalm 45

5. Of Justification

We believe: (1) that the great Gospel blessing (2) which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification; (3) that Justification includes the pardon of sin and (4) the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; (5) that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; (6) that by virtue of which, His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; and, (7) that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity. Places in the Bible where taught:

- (1) John 1:16; Ephesians 3:8
- (2) Acts 13:39; Isaiah 3:11-12; Romans 8: 1
- (3) Romans 5:9; Zechariah 13: 1; Acts 10:43; Matthew 9:6
- (4) Romans 5:17; Titus 3:5-6; I John 2:25; Romans 5:21; I Peter 3: 7
- (5) Romans 4:4-5; Romans 5:21; Romans 6:23; Philippians 3:7-9
- (6) Romans 5:19; Romans 3:24-28; 1 John 2: 12; Romans 4:23-25
- (7) Romans 5:1-2; Romans 5:3; Romans 5: 1 1; 1 Corinthians 1:30-31; Matthew 6:33; 1 Timothy 4:8

6. Of The Freeness of Salvation

We believe: (1) that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; (2) that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial penitent and obedient faith; and, (3) that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel, (4) which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation. Places in the Bible where taught:

- (1) Isaiah 55: 1; Revelation 22-17; Luke 14: 1 7
- (2) Romans 16:26; Mark 1:15; Romans 1:15-17

- (3) John 5:40; Matthew 23:37; Romans 9:32; Proverbs 1:24; Acts 13:46; Romans 9:32
- (4) John 3: 19; Matthew 1 1:20; Luke 19:27; 2 Thessalonians 1:8

7. Of Grace In Regeneration

We believe: (1) that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; (2) that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; (3) that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with Divine Truth, (4) so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and, (5) that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life. Places in the Bible where taught:

- (1) John 3:3; John 3:6-7; I Corinthians 1:14; Revelation 8:7-9; Revelation 21:27
- (2) 2 Corinthians 5: 1 7; Ezekiel 36:26; Deuteronomy 30:6; Romans 2 28-29; Romans 5:5; I John 4: 7
- (3) John 3:8; John 1:13; James 1 : 16-18; I Corinthians 1:30; Philippians 2:13
- (4) I Peter I :22-25; I John 5: 1; Ephesians 4:20-24; Colossians 3:9-11
- (5) Ephesians 5:9; Romans 8:9; Galatians 5: 16-23; Ephesians 3:14-21; Matthew 3:8-10; Matthew 7:20; 1 John 5:4,18

9. Of God's Purpose and Grace

We believe: (1) that Election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; (2) that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; (3) that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; (4) that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy; (5) that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; (6) that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; (7) that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and, (8) that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence. Places in the Bible where taught:

- (1) 2 Timothy 1:8-9; Ephesians 1:3-14; I Peter 1:1-2; Romans 11:5-6; John 15:16; 1 John 4:10; Hosea 12:9
- (2) 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; Acts 13:48; John 10:16; Matthew 20:16; Acts 15:14
- (3) Exodus 33: 18-19; Matthew 20: 15; Ephesians 1 : 1 1; Romans 9:23-24; Jeremiah 3 1 :3; Romans 11:28-29; James 1:17-18; 2 Timothy 1:9; Romans 1 1:32-36
- (4) I Corinthians 4:7. I Corinthians 1:26-31; Romans 3:27; Romans 4:16; Colossians 3:12; 1 Corinthians 3:5-7; I Corinthians 15:10; 1 Peter 5:10; Acts 1:24; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 2:9; Luke 18: 7; John 15:16; Ephesians 1:16; 1 Thessalonians 2: 12
- (5) 2 Timothy 2:10; 1 Corinthians 9:22; Romans 8:28-30; John 6. •37-40•, 2 Peter 1:10

- (6) I Thessalonians 1:4-10
- (7) Romans 8:28-30, Isaiah 42: 16; Romans 1 1:29
- (8) 2 Peter 1:10-11; Philippians 3:12; Hebrews 6:1 1

10. Of Sanctification

We believe: (1) that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness; (2) that it is a progressive work; (3) that it is begun in regeneration; and, (4) that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means -especially, the Word of God, self examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer. Places in the Bible where taught:

- (1) 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; I Corinthians 7: 1; 2 Corinthians 13:9; Ephesians 1 :4
- (2) Proverbs 4: 18; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Hebrews 6: 1 ; 2 Peter 1:5-8; Philippians 3:12-16
- (3) John 2:29; Romans 8:5; John 3:6; Philippians 1:9-11; Ephesians 1:13-14
- (4) Philippians 2:12-13; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Peter 2•2•, 2 Peter 3:18; Corinthians 13:5; Luke 1 1 :35; Luke 9:23; Ephesians 4:30; Ephesians 6:18; Matthew 26•41

11. Of The Perseverance of Saints

We believe: (1) that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; (2) that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; (3) that a special providence watches over their welfare; and, (4) that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. Places in the Bible where taught:

- (1) John 8:31; 1 John 2:27-28•, 1 John 3:9•, 1 John 5:18
- (2) 1 John 2:19; John 13:18; Matthew 13:20-21•, John 6:66-69•, Job 17:9
- (3) Romans 8:28; Matthew 6:30-33•, Jeremiah 32:40•, Psalm 121 :3•, Psalm 91:11-12
- (4) Philippians 1:6; Philippians 2:12-13; Jude 1:24-25; Hebrews 1:14; 2 Kings 6:16; Hebrews 13:5; 1 John 4:4

12. Of The Harmony Of The Law And The Gospel

We believe: (1) that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; (2) that it is holy, just, and good; (3) that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; and, (4) that to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel and the Means of Grace connected with the establishment of the visible church. Places in the Bible where taught:

- (1) Romans 3:31; Matthew 5:17; Luke 16:17; Romans 3:20; Romans 4:15

- (2) Romans 7:12; Romans 7:7;14;22; Galatians 3:21; Psalm 119
- (3) Romans 8:7-8; Joshua 24: 19; Jeremiah 13:23; John 6:44; John 5:44
- (4) Romans 8:2-4; Romans 10:4; 1 Timothy 1:5; Hebrews 8:10; Jude 1:20-21; Hebrews 12:14; Matthew 16:17-18; 1 Corinthians 12:28

13. Of A Gospel Church

We believe: (1) that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, (2) associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, (3) observing the ordinances of Christ, (4) governed by His laws, and (5) exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; and, (6) that its only scriptural officers are Bishops or Pastors and Deacons, (7) whose qualification, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

Places in the Bible where taught:

- (1) I Corinthians 1:1-13; Matthew 18:17; Acts 1:1; Acts 8:1; Acts 9:3-1; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Corinthians 14:23; 3 John 1:9; 1 Timothy 3:5
- (2) Acts 2:41-42; 2 Corinthians 8:5; Acts 2:47; 1 Corinthians 5:12-13
- (3) I Corinthians 1:1-2; Thessalonians 3:6; Romans 16:17-20; I Corinthians 1:1:23; Matthew 18:15-20; I Corinthians 5:6; 2 Corinthians 2:7; I Corinthians 4:11
- (4) Matthew 28:20; John 14:15; John 15:12; 1 John 4:21; John 14:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:2; 2 John 1:6; Galatians 6:2; All the Epistles
- (5) Ephesians 4:7; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Philippians 1:1:27; I Corinthians 12:14
- (6) Philippians 1:1; Acts 14:23; Acts 15:22; 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1

14. Of Baptism and The Lord's Supper

We believe: (1) that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, (2) into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost, (3) to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and our resurrection to a new life; and, (4) that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation, and to the Lord's Supper, (5) in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, (6) preceded always by solemn selfexamination. Places in the Bible where taught:

- (1) Acts 8:36-39•, Matthew 3:5-6•, John 3:22-23; John 4:1-2; Matthew 28: 19; Mark 16: 16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8: 12; Acts 16:32-34; Acts 18:8
- (2) Matthew 28: 19; Acts 10:47-48•, Galatians 3:27-28
- (3) Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; I Peter 3:20-21
- (4) Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 28: 19-20; Acts and Epistles
- (5) 1 Corinthians 11:26; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25•, Luke 22:14-20
- (6) I Corinthians 11:28; I Corinthians 5:1-8; I Corinthians 10:3-32; John 6:26-71

15. Of The Christian Sabbath

We believe (1) that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath; (2) that it is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, (3) by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations, (4) by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and (5) by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God. Places in the Bible where taught.

- (1) Acts 20:7•, Genesis 2:3•, Colossians 2:16-17; Mark 2:27; John 20: 19; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
- (2) Exodus 20:8; Revelation 1:10; Psalm 1 18:24
- (3) Isaiah 58: 14: 14; Isaiah 56:2-8
- (4) Psalm 118:15
- (5) Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 1 1:26; Acts 13:44; Leviticus 19:30; Exodus 46:3; Luke 4: 1 6; Acts 17:2-3•, Psalm 26:8•, Psalm 37:3
- (6) Hebrews 4:3-11

16. Of Civil Government

We believe: (1) that Civil Government is of Divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; and, (2) that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, (3) except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, (4) who is the only Lord of the conscience and the Prince of the kings of the earth. Places in the Bible where taught:

- (1) Romans 13:1-7; Deuteronomy 16: 18; 2 Samuel 23:3; Exodus; Jeremiah
- (2) Matthew 22:21; Titus 3:1•, 1 Peter 2:13; 1 Timothy 2:1-8
- (3) Acts 5:29; Matthew 10:28; Daniel 3:15-18; Daniel 6:7-10; Acts 4: 18-20
- (4) Matthew 23:10; Romans 14:4; Revelation 19:16; Psalm 72: 11 ; Psalm 2; Romans 14:9-13

17. Of The Righteous and The Wicked

We believe: (1) that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; and, (2) that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem, (3) while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse, and (4) this distinction holds among men both now and after death. Places in the Bible where taught:

- (1) Malachi 3:18; Proverbs 12:26; Isaiah 5:20; Genesis 18:23; Jeremiah 15:19; Acts 10:34-35; Romans 6:16
- (2) Romans 1:17; Romans 7:6; 1 John 2:29; 1 John 3: 7; Romans 6:18,22; 1 Corinthians 11:32; Proverbs 11:31; 1 Peter 4: 17-18
- (3) 1 John 5:19; Galatians 3:10; John 3:36; Isaiah 57:21•, Psalm 10:4•, Isaiah 55:6-7

- (4) Proverbs; Luke 16:25; John 8:21-24; Proverbs; Luke 12:4-5; Luke 9:23-26; John; Ecclesiastes 3:17; Matthew 22:13-14

18. Of the World to Come

We believe: (1) that the end of this world is approaching; (2) that at the Last Day, Christ will descend from heaven, (3) and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; (4) that a solemn separation will then take place; (5) that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment and the righteous to endless joy; and (6) that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness. Places in the Bible where taught:

- (1) 1 Peter 4:7•, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31•, Hebrews 1: 10-12; Matthew 24:35•, 1 John 2:17; Matthew 23:20; Matthew 13:39-40•, 2 Peter 3:3-13
- (2) Acts 1:11; Revelation 1: 7; Hebrews 9:28; Acts 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- (3) Acts 24: 15; 1 Corinthians 15:12-59; Luke 14:14; Daniel 12:2; John 5:23-29; John 6:40; John 1 1:25-26•, 2 Timothy 1:10; Acts 10:42
- (4) Matthew 13:49; Matthew 13:37-43•, Matthew 24: 30-31; Matthew 25:31-33
- (5) Matthew 25:35-41; Revelation 22:11; I Corinthians 6:9-10; Mark 9:43-48; 2 Peter 2:9; Jude 1 : 7; Philippians 3:19; Romans 6:22; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11; John 4:36; 2 Corinthians 4:18
- (6) Romans 3:5-6; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-12; Hebrews 6:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:5; Acts 17:31; Romans 2:2-16•, Revelation 20:11-12; 1 John 2:28; 1 John 4:17

SEEING THEN THAT ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE DISSOLVED, WHAT MANNER OF PERSONS OUGHT TO BE IN ALL HOLY CONVERSATION AND GODLINESS, LOOKING FOR AND HASTING UNTO THE COMING OF THE DAY OF GOD?

2 Peter 3:11-12

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Receiving Members. The Church shall receive members as follows:

- (1) By statement of experience and baptism.
- (2) By letter of commendation from other Baptist churches of like faith and order.
- (3) By restoration.
- (4) By statement of Christian experience indicating previous compliance with either 1, 2, or 3.

Section 2. Termination. The church shall dismiss members as follows:

- (1) By letter of recommendation. Only members in good standing shall be entitled to a letter of dismissal. Members shall be considered in good standing until charges are brought and sustained by the Church.

Adopted July 31, 2005

- (2) Letters shall be granted to churches with which this church is in fellowship, and not to individuals.
- (3) If and when a member of this church unites with another church of a different faith or denomination, he shall, upon uniting with said church, ask the church to write this church (First Baptist Church, Fairview, Tennessee) asking for a letter of dismissal from the fellowship of this church.
- (4) If the member who does join with another church of a different faith or denomination and does not comply with number three (3) and a member of the church (First Baptist Church, Fairview, Tennessee) has knowledge of a member uniting with another church of different faith or denomination, he or she shall inform the deacons of this church and the deacons shall obtain written proof of this matter from the member who has violated number three (3) or from the church of which he or she has united. Then by a majority vote of members present at a duly called Business Meeting, this member shall be dismissed from the fellowship of this church.
- (5) It shall be the duty of all members moving to another community to request letters as soon as possible.
- (6) Support of the church: A member may have his membership terminated by our church if he consistently fails to support our church within his talents, financial means and with a loving attitude.
- (7) Exceptions of termination of membership regulations: Special consideration shall be given to those members of the Extension Department of our Sunday School, Military Service, temporary nonresident members where there is no Baptist Church, if the member sends his financial support or if there are extenuating circumstances not covered in the above requirements.
- (8) The church may terminate membership of persons who become an offense to the church and to its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, or by persistent breaks of his covenant vows, or non-support of the church, but only after due notice and hearing, and after faithful efforts have been made to bring such members to repentance and amendment.

\ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

Organization and Meetings

- Section 1. For worship and work of the Church for meetings and organization as follows:
- (a) For worship, preaching, instruction and evangelism regular meetings for the entire body and for all people each Lord's morning and evening and each Wednesday evening; these meetings to be particularly under the direction of the pastor.
 - (b) A Sunday School to be conducted each Lord's Day morning for all people; to be under the direction of a Superintendent, who shall be a regular officer of the Church.
 - (c) The members and recent converts shall be organized into the Baptist Training Union for training, experience, and growth with meetings on each Lord's Day evening,

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preceding the evening preaching service, and supervised by a Director who shall be a regular officer of the Church.

(d) The regular morning and evening periods of worship each Lord's Day above provided for shall not be dispensed with nor said periods be used by any person or organization for any other purpose than the regular and customary service for worship, unless permission has first been obtained by a majority vote at a regular service prior thereto, or by the sanction of majority of Deacons.

Section 2. The Lord's Supper shall be duly observed on the first Lord's Day of each quarter unless otherwise ordered by vote of the Church or at the request of Pastor and Chairman of Deacons.

Section 3. Church Business

(1) The time for the regular business meeting of the church shall be set by the majority vote of members present at a business meeting.

(2) Ten per cent of the resident membership of the Church who are 18 years of age and older shall constitute a quorum. No business shall be transacted when a quorum is not present.

(3) All members of the church shall be eligible to vote. Those not voting shall not be counted for or against a motion. A majority of votes cast shall rule.

(4) Any regular business meeting may be postponed or omitted by a majority vote at any business meeting. In case of postponement, members shall be notified of the new date by bulletin.

(5) The deacons shall have the authority to call a special business meeting to consider urgent business. In which case the membership shall be notified at least three days in advance, stating the nature of the business to be considered. One letter or card to a family, or a notice in the Sunday bulletin shall be deemed sufficient notice. No other business shall be transacted at a special meeting than that stated in the bulletin or notice.

(6) The Pastor, by virtue of his office, shall be the moderator and shall preside at all business meetings. In case of the absence or illness of the pastor, the chairman of the Deacons shall preside. In case of his absence or illness, the members shall elect a temporary moderator.

(7) A two-thirds vote shall be required to (a) Discipline a member, (b) Vacate the pulpit, or (c) Change the Bylaws.

(8) A written ballot shall be required to (a) Discipline a member, (b) elect deacons, (c) any election in which more than one candidate is involved for the same office, (d) Calling a Pastor and vacating the pulpit, (e) If a majority of the members present require it.

(9) In case of a tie vote the motion is lost. The moderator does not cast the deciding vote.

(10) The moderator may suspend the regular order of business by common consent.

(11) Motions, if requested by the chair, must be in writing. All resignations of general church officers should be in writing and a copy given to the church clerk for the records sake.

(12) A motion to be entertained by the chair must be seconded, and moved as well as the seconder must rise and be recognized by the chair.

(13) Any member having made a motion can withdraw it by consent of his second' but a motion once debated cannot be withdrawn except by a majority vote.

(14) Anything not covered by these Bylaws shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS

Section 1. Pastor

(a) Whenever a vacancy occurs, the Church shall elect a Pulpit Committee, consisting of not less than three (3) and not more than five (5) persons at a business meeting duly called, held and assembled, and said Committee shall seek out a suitable pastor, and their recommendation, after consulting with the Deacons shall constitute a nomination. The committee shall bring to the consideration of the Church, only one (1) person at a time.

(b) After the Pulpit Committee has agreed on a nomination and before a meeting of the Church is held for the purpose of considering the nominee, the Deacons shall contact the prospective pastor for the purpose of reaching tentative terms of agreement. This agreement shall be presented by the Chairman of the Deacons at the time the nomination is placed before the church. This agreement shall stipulate the amount of salary, vacation, sick leave, number of revival meetings to be held annually in other churches, arrangements and agreements for those who supply the pulpit in the absence of the pastor, and any other duties and obligations of the contracting parties.

(c) An affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present and voting shall be necessary to approve the calling of a pastor.

(d) It shall be the pastor's duty to conduct the worship services of the church; preside at all meetings of the church, except special meetings where another person is elected to serve; visit regularly the membership of the church and particularly the sick and distressed; visit prospective members to extend to them an invitation to join the church; and, cooperate fully with the

Deacons, Trustees, Finance Committee, Sunday School Superintendent, Training Union Director and all other church officers and committees. The pastor shall be ex-officio member of all committees and organizations of the church, and his counsel and leadership is to be recognized in all of them, but he shall not be entitled to vote.

(e) When the pastor expects to be absent from the pulpit he shall notify the Deacons, and if possible, secure a suitable pulpit supply. In the event of the absence of the pastor by reason of serious illness or other emergencies, the deacons shall secure a pulpit supply. In

event of a vacancy in the office of pastor, an interim pastor shall be secured by the pulpit committee and accepted by the church by majority vote at a duly called business meeting. He (the interim pastor) will lead in all worship services of the church during the period in which the church is without a pastor but he shall not be ex-officio member.

Section 2. Deacons. (a) Duties. In accordance with the meaning of the word and the practice of the New Testament (1 Timothy 3:3-13), deacons are to be servants of the church.

1. They must be zealous to guard the unity of the Spirit within the church in the bonds of peace.
2. They are to serve as a council of advice and conference with the pastor in all matters pertaining to the spiritual and material welfare and work of the church.
3. They are to maintain personal oversight of all the membership of the church. They are to seek to know the physical needs and the moral and spiritual struggles of the brethren and sisters, and to serve the whole church in relieving, encouraging, and developing all who are in any such needs.
4. The Deacons shall serve as a General Finance Committee or they may recommend to the Church the election of a separate Finance Committee composed of members from each of the organizations and activities of the church. In planning and raising the annual church budget, the Church may follow the Forward Program of Church Finance, and if such plan is used, the Finance Committee shall be a sub-committee under such plan and shall prepare and recommend a budget to the church.

The Finance Committee, if recommended by the Deacons and elected by the Church, shall approve all contracts for supplies, materials or services in which the credit of the church is involved, and all items involving expenditure in excess of \$50.00, shall also be approved by the Deacons and by the Church.

5. The Deacons shall at their first meeting following the annual church meeting, elect a chairman and a clerk, and appoint such committees of its own number as are necessary.
6. In counsel with the pastor they are to have oversight of the discipline of the church. They are to be guided by principles set forth in Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; and I Thessalonians 5:12-14.
7. Each deacon shall freely confer with the pastor about all matters and cases of discipline which in his judgment would be most wisely and spiritually handled in private.
8. Generally, the function of the deacons shall be twofold: First, to consider all matters pertaining to the welfare of the church, its individual members, and to make recommendations to the church; and second, to execute instructions given them by the church.
9. Any Deacon who has reached the age of sixty-five (65) and who has served five (5) or more years as a Deacon in this church, who requests retirement from the active group, may, upon recommendation of Deacons and approval of the Church, receive the designation of Deacon emeritus in recognition of loyal service; or any Deacon who has served and

becomes incapacitated by reason of ill health or other causes, may upon recommendation of the Deacons and approval of the church, receive the same title. The members holding such title shall have the right to actively participate in all ordination services; upon assignment may serve during observance of the Lord's Supper; and, shall have all the other privileges of a Deacon, except that of voting in the deliberations of the Deacons.

Section 3. Church Clerk. The clerk shall keep a faithful record of all business transacted by the church. He (or she) shall receive all reports and place them on file, keep an up-to-date alphabetical list of members with necessary information concerning them, attend to correspondence with other churches, issue letters of dismissal, and consider it a part of his (or her) responsibility to promote loyalty and efficiency in church life.

Section 4. Church Treasurer. The church shall have one (1) treasurer. It shall be his (or her) duty to receive all money received in the usual collections and to deposit same in a local bank. Payment of all local bills shall be made promptly, and by check only. All funds received for denominational or other cause shall be remitted at least monthly. Funds collected for specific purposes must go as designated, unless the church authorizes otherwise.

The treasurer shall make written detailed monthly reports to the church at each regular business meeting, and similar report at the annual business meeting. The treasurer shall consider it a part of his (or her) duty to promote in every proper way scriptural giving on the part of the entire church membership.

Section 5. Officers of Church Organizations. All organizations of the church shall be under church control, all officers being approved by the church and reporting regularly to the church. It is understood that the pastor is ex-officio head of all the organizations named, and his leadership is to be recognized in them all.

(a) Nominating Committee. Four months before the close of the church year, a committee (nominating committee) shall be elected by the church to nominate the General Superintendent of the Sunday School; and the Superintendents of the various departments of the Sunday School; the Director of Training Union and the Leaders of the various Training Unions.

(b) General Officers. After these have been accepted by the church in a regular business meeting, they shall become members of the nominating committee. This committee shall then compose a committee to nominate the general officers, except officers needed to in an organized class or a Training Union. Following their election a public installation service may be held. The duties of these officers and teachers shall be those ordinarily designated in the approved Denomination Standards. This committee shall make such recommendations to the Church at least one month before the close of the church year.

Section 6. Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall be determined by the Church at the end of each year. Any person desiring use of any of the church property for special or unusual occasions shall secure permission from the Trustees.

Section 7. With respect to the employment of a Pastor, Music Director, or any and all other paid personnel of the church, the terms of employment of such persons shall provide that either party may terminate the employment at any time, upon thirty (30) day's notice, or by mutual consent with or without cause.

Section 8. That the Church, upon recommendation of the Deacons, may elect or appoint such other officers and committee as may be necessary to effectively promote the work of the church.

Section 9. These Bylaws shall become effective after the close of the meeting at which they are adopted and shall supersede all previous rules or motions that would effect this constitution.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS

These By Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the church members present and voting at any regular business meeting of the church, or at any meeting specially called for that purpose, provided written notice of such meeting and the consideration of the proposed amendments have been printed in Church Bulletin two weeks in advance of such meeting.

No change shall be made in the Article relating to the status and title of church property, at any time, this provision having been adopted as a perpetual provision in order to safe-guard the church' s property.

July 31, 2005

Deacon Election Procedure

This procedure shall become part of the by-laws of First Baptist Church

Announcement: For two Sundays announcements will be made concerning the date of the deacon election. A list of all men who are resident members 21 years of age or older, and have been a member of First Baptist Church for at least one year will be published. Should any wish to remove their names from the ballot, they are welcome to inform the church office.

Election: A mailing will be sent to every family unit in the resident membership. It will contain a cover letter listing New Testament qualifications for deacons, a list of men, and a numbered ballot for every member of the family who is a church member.

We will ask that each person pray about this matter, and write the number of names on the ballot that is needed. The deacons will determine the number of new deacons needed according to the needs of the church.

Tabulation: A three person committee, chairman and vice chairman of deacons plus a church member to be selected by the deacon chairman, will tabulate the votes. They will in turn write a letter to those chosen by the church asking them to pray about the matter and be prepared to respond within the week. Should all say yes, these persons will be presented to the church as the new deacons. Should someone feel inclined not to serve, the committee will move to the next highest person. When the number is reached, they are announced to the church. The list will be kept should there be a need to replace a deacon in the course of the year due to death or members moving to another town.

Ordination: If all of the persons elected by the membership are previously ordained in a Baptist church, no ordination service is necessary. If they have not been ordained, our church will set a date for an ordination service.

Summary: We feel that this above procedure will simplify as well as maintain the privacy and sanctity of the selection of our deacons. The church membership will choose those who they feel God would have to serve. Those chosen must commit to upholding the New Testament qualifications of deacons. We then move on to do the work of the Lord as members, deacons, and leadership.

February 27, 1994

Adopted July 31, 2005

The Schedule and Procedures for DEACON ELECTION

1. This schedule and procedures for nominating and electing deacons shall become part of the bylaws of First Baptist Church.
2. Each person being considered as a nominee must have been a church member for one year, be in regular attendance, and be in support of the programs of the church.
3. The list of eligible candidates will be published the second Sunday in August, and will be presented along with the qualifications to each church member. Anyone wishing to remove their name from the list may do so at this time.
4. Nominations will be received on the second Sunday in September of each year. There will be a called business meeting after the morning worship service.
5. Nominations will be counted by active members of the Deacon Body immediately following the called business meeting when nominations are received.
6. The deacons will determine the number of new deacons needed according to the needs of the church. The Pastor and active deacons will contact by phone each nominee who has been previously ordained. The Pastor and Chairman of Deacons will contact by personal visit the nominees who have not previously been ordained. They will begin by contacting the person with the most nominations and continue in descending order until the ballot is filled.
7. Those nominated, and who are willing to serve as a deacon, will be presented to the church members on a ballot. Each nominee will be voted on individually. The election will take place at the next regularly scheduled church business meeting.
8. To be elected to the office of deacon one must receive at least 50% of the votes cast.
9. After the election, all non-ordained deacons will work with the Pastor and the deacons currently serving to set a date for ordination.
10. If a deacon is unable to complete their term for any reason, the deacon body should follow the procedures listed below:
 - A. A determination can be made on whether anyone needs to fill the term. This may depend on the time left in the church year.
 - B. Nominations can be received from the church again.
 - C. An inactive deacon can be asked to fill the term.