

Constitution
Bible Baptist Church

Article I Name:

The name of this assembly shall be the “Bible Baptist Church”

Article II Purpose:

The purpose of establishing the *Bible Baptist Church* is to bring glory, honor, and praise to God the Father and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. As an Independent Baptist church we shall accomplish this by: (1) Our gathering together as an assembly of believers to preach, teach, sing, and fellowship around the Bible and the Savior. (2) Exhorting one another to a Godly holy life that we may please our heavenly Father and be effective witnesses, true Christianity in our community and world.

Article III Character

This shall be and shall remain an independent, sovereign, self governing body of believers responsible only to our Lord and His word the King James Authorized Version 1611 Bible. We will not be subject to the control of, any other ecclesiastical body or organization. This church shall maintain a separatist position toward all modernistic and unbiblical organization and ecclesiastical groups and shall never join, nor obligate itself as a member of any world council, nor council of churches, ecumenical movement or convention.

Article IV Historic Baptist Principles

Being in agreement with the historical doctrinal position of Independent Baptist Churches, we choose to be called a “Baptist Church”, until this name shall be wholly associated with apostasy, heresy, and teachings other than those historical Baptist principles listed below:

- 1 . The pre-eminence of Christ: as our Divine Lord and Master, submitting to no religious official claiming rule over several churches.
2. The supreme authority of the Bible and its sufficiency as our only rule of faith and practice.
3. The competency of the individual soul to approach God and to interpret the Word of God according to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
4. The absolute separation of church and state, but obeying magistrates and governors in all secular matters that do not annul scriptural Christian responsibility.
5. A regenerate Church membership, based upon faith in Christ as God’s only way of salvation.
6. The beautiful symbolic ordinance of believers immersion in water as a figure of the salvation experience, a testimony of dying to self and the

world, and spiritual submission to the pastor of the local church.

7. The complete autonomy of entire local congregation, but; also its interdependence in associated fellowship with other Baptist: churches of like faith.

8. The pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ to establish and reign over a 1 ,000 year kingdom on this earth.

9. A world wide program of missionary fervor and evangelism in accordance with Pauline ministry and doctrine.

Article V Church Covenant

Having been led by the holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus as Saviour and on the public confession of our faith, having been immersed in water in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit , we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as we are one body in Christ, so shall we be one in this local assembly.

We purpose, therefore, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the growth of this church in all knowledge, holiness, service and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to attend its services regularly; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines, to give it a pre-eminence over all institutions of human origin; to give faithfully of time and talents in its activities; to contribute cheerfully as God has prospered us, to support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor members, and the spread of the gospel throughout all nations by supporting missions and missionaries directly. We also purpose to maintain family and private devotions; to train our children according to Gods Word; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in our conduct; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our conduct; to avoid all gossip, backbiting and unrighteous anger; to abstain from all forms of fleshly or worldly activities which dishonor our Lord Jesus Christ, cause stumbling to a fellow believer or hinder the winning of a soul to Christ; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the cause of Christ, our Saviour; and to give Him pre-eminence in all things.

We further propose to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lords return; 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 feelings and courtesy in speech; **to be slow to take offense,** but always ready for **reconciliation,** and mindful of the rules of our Saviour, to seek it without delay.

We moreover purpose that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible unite with some other church of like faith and order where we can carry out the Spirit of this covenant and the principles of Gods Word. In the event

there is no such church, we shall seek, with the Lords help, to establish one.

Article VI Articles of Faith

I. The Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible, as originally written, was verbally inspired and the product of Spirit filled men and has been divinely preserved to date in the Authorized Version of 1611, and therefore, is the truth without any admixture of error for its matter. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried. We believe the Bible to have only one interpretation which may be revealed to any believer by the Holy Spirit.

a. By “The Holy Bible”, we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which as written and preserved in the Authorized Version of 1611, does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but is the Word of God without error, without contradiction and that it is infallible.

b. By “Inspiration,” we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and preserved, free from error as no other writings have ever been or ever will be. II Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; John 17:17; Psalm 12:6-7.

c. Whereas there are a number of other versions of the Bible in circulation, all of which are not reliable due to their omission of words and their being translated from corrupt manuscripts, we consider it, therefore, a necessity and privilege to use only the King James A.V. 1611 in our pulpit and in our classrooms. Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:5-6; Revelation 22:18-19.

d. All the miracles of the scriptures are truly supernatural and do not have some so called scientific explanation that tries to explain away these happenings.

2. The True God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the Creator and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth;

inexpressively glorious in holiness, arid worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit--equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. Isaiah 44:6; 57:15; I Cor. 8:6; Rev. 4:11; 1 John 5:7

3. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in our preaching and testimony; that He is the agent of the New Birth; that He seals fills, leads, intercedes, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and comforts the believer. II Cor. 3:17; John 14:16-17; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:16-26; Luke 1:35; John 1:12-13; Genesis 1:1-3; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5-8; Ephesians 1:13-14; John 1:33; Romans 8:14-16; Romans 8:26-27; I Cor. 6:11; I Cor. 6:11; I Cor. 2:10-13; I Cor. 12:13.

4. Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, and that He is both completely man and completely God. He was subject to temptation, yet was without ANY sin. He is the Messiah for Israel, the Saviour of the world, the only way any man can come to God the Father for forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. He is to be worshiped and glorified as the LORD. Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; Luke 1:31-35; Matt. 4:1-11; Heb. 4:15; I Peter 2:22; John 4:42; 14:6; John 20:28; Luke 24:52; John 16:14; Phil. 2:9-11.

5. Satan or the Devil

We believe he was created perfect, as a Cherub called Lucifer, in the original creation, and because of pride, rebelled against God and became the author of sin. After the recreation of Heaven and earth, he appeared as an angel of light to Eve in the garden of Eden and tempted her to willfully disobey Gods command, resulting in the fall of mart. We believe he was then cursed, to be henceforth referred to as a serpent, or the dragon. Now as a great red dragon he abides in the great deep and as the devil he appears on earth and in Heaven as the god of this world to fulfill the ultimate will of God in judging, killing, deceiving, hindering, tempting, and accusing. During the fulfillment of Daniels 70th week, of the Great Tribulation, he will come down to earth to indwell the antichrist. After the anti-Christ is destroyed, he will be loosed to assemble an

army of sinners for his last attempt to overthrow God. He and his army will be destroyed and he will be cast into the lake of fire forever. Ezek. 28:12-19; Isaiah 14:12-15; 11 Peter 3:3-7; Gen. 1:1-3-28; II Cor. 11:14; Gen. 3:1-6; 14-19; Romans 5:12; Rev. 12:3-9; Job 41:31-34; Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7; II Cor. 4:3-4; Jer. 51:20-25; John 8:44; I Thess. 2:18; II Thess. 2:3-9; Rev. 19:11-20; Rev. 20:1-10.

6. The Creation

We believe the Genesis account of creation as being neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God in the person of Jesus Christ without any evolutionary process; that man made up of the Spirit, soul and body, was created by a direct work of God and nor from previously existing forms of life; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race.

Gen. 1 -2; Col. 1:16-17; Matt. 19:4; John 1:3.

7. The Rebellion of Man

We believe that man was created in a state of innocence as a free moral agent under the law of his maker; but by voluntary transgression Adam fell from his sinless and happy state, as a result of which all men are totally depraved (excluding the will), are partakers of Adams fallen nature, and are sinners by nature and by conduct; and therefore, are under just condemnation without defense or excuse. Gen. 2:17; Gen. 3:1-6; Psalm 51:5; Rom. 3:10-19; 5:12; Ezra 7:13.

8. Christ's Atonement

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the media tonal offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him a body of flesh, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins by his death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinners place, the just dying for the unjust; Christ, the lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that having risen bodily from the dead, He is now seated at the right hand of God in heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderness sympathies with divine perfection. He is every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and all sufficient Saviour and only High Priest for the believer. We believe this atonement is not limited but effectual to any sinner accepting it by faith.

We believe this atonement is eternal and, therefore, covers all sins, past, present, and future of the redeemed. Therefore, any individual under this atonement is eternally saved from eternal condemnation because of the atonement of Jesus Christ. Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24-26; John 3:16; II Cor. 5:18-21; Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14; Isa. 53:4-7; I John 4:10; I Cor. 15:3-4; II Cor. 5:21; I Tim. 2:5; I John 2:2; Heb. 9:14; John 5:24; Rom. 5:8-11.

9. The New Birth

We believe that the new birth (being born again) is the regenerative act of the Holy Spirit upon a sinner when he repents of his sins and believes the Gospel according to the Scriptures, receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. As a result of the new birth, the sinner is made a new creature in Christ Jesus, partaking of the divine nature and receiving eternal life as a free gift of God. Regeneration of the spirit, resulting in the “new man” and consequently partaking of the divine power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth. John 3:3; & 6-8; II Cor. 5:17; I John 5:1; John 1:12-13; I Cor. 4:15; I Peter 1:23; II Peter 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1; Col. 2:13; Eph 2:15; 4:24; Titus 3:5.

10. Justification

We believe that justification is the judicial act of God whereby He declares us to be just and righteous through faith in Christ Jesus; that justification includes the pardon of sin and the imputation of God's righteousness; that is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood. Acts 13:30; Isa. 53:11; II Cor. 5:18-21; Rom. 3:24-28; 5:1-9.

11. Salvation

We believe that the salvation of a soul requires a belief in God, repentance toward God which involves genuine sorrow for sin and willingness to turn from it; and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that this salvation is thereafter permanent and eternal to the believer. Heb. 11:6; Acts 20:21; II Cor. 7:9-10, I Thess. 1:9; Acts 16:31; John 3:16; Eph. 1:13; Eph. 4:30.

12. Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer unto God accomplished in a threefold manner; first, an eternal act of God,

based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the believer's spirit, or "new man" in a position of holiness at the moment he trusts the Savior; second, a continuing process in the soul of the saint as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to the inner man; third, the final accomplishment of this process at the Lord's return when the body, or old man, will then be changed and transformed into a perfect sinless body in the image of Christ. I Cor. 6:11; Heb. 10:10-14; I John 3:9; Eph. 4:24; John 17:17; II Cor. 3:18; II Cor. 4:16; I Cor. 1:30; Eph. 5:25-26; I Thess. 4:3-4; I Thess. 5:23-24; Phil. 3:21; I Cor. 15:51-54; I Thess. 4:13-17; Rom. 8:29; I John 3:2.

13. Adoption

We believe that adoption is the gracious act whereby the Father, for the sake of Christ, places new believers into the honored position of mature sons, in contrast with regeneration whereby the believer receives the nature of God and becomes a child of God. The full benefit of the position accorded by the Lord and the redemption of the body. Eph. 1:5; Gal. 4:1-7; Eph. 1:13-14; I John 3:1-2; Rom. 8:15-23.

14. Priesthood of Believers

We believe in the Priesthood of all believers that Christ is our great High Priest and through Him every born again person has direct access into the presence of God without the need of a man priest; that the has the right and responsibility to personally study and interpret the scriptures guided by the Holy Spirit. Heb. 2:9-18; Heb. 3:1; Heb. 4: 14-16; Heb. 5:1-9; Heb. 6:17-20; Heb. 7:26; Heb. 8:1; I Tim. 2:5; Rev. 1:4-6; I Tim. 2:15; I Cor. 2:9-14.

15. Souls

a. We believe that the souls of the saved at death immediately leave the body and go to be with Christ in Heaven; that at the rapture their bodies will be resurrected, reunited with their soul and glorified. Then their work will be judged and rewards determined at the judgment seat of Christ. I Cor. 5:1-8; Rev. 6:9-11; I Thess. 4:13-14; II Thess. 3:13; 1 Cor. 15:51-57; Phil. 3:20-21; I John 3:1-3; II Cor. 5:9-10; I Cor.3:9-15.

b. The souls of the unsaved at death immediately descend into hell until the Great White Throne Judgment at which time their bodies will be reunited with their souls to be judged by God according to their works, then along with death, hell shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, the place of final

and everlasting punishment, the second death. Luke 16:19-31; Isa. 66:23-24; Rev. 20:11-15; Rev. 21:8.

16. The Church

We believe in the unity of all true believers in the Church which is the Body of Christ, which was established on the day of Pentecost, and that all believers, from Pentecost to the rapture, both Jews and Gentiles, are added to this Church by the baptism of the Holy Spirit at the exact time that they trust in Jesus Christ as Savior. We believe that this Church is manifested through the local church which a congregation of immersed believers associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws in accordance with the Pauline revelation, exercising the gifts, right and privileges invested in them by His Word; and that its officers are pastors, also called elders, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the scripture. We believe the true mission of the church is for the edification, perfection, exhortation and comfort of its members in spiritual matters; the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations ; that the one and only head and shepherd of the local church is the God-called and Spirit-filled pastor, just as Jesus Christ: is the Head and Chief Shepard over the entire church; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; and that on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. Eph. 1:10-23; Eph. 3:1-6; Gal. 3:26-28; I Cor. 12:12-13; Acts 1:5; Acts 2:41-47; I Cor. 11:2; Titus 1:5-7; Eph. 4:11-16; Acts 10:17-28; I Tim. 3:1-7; I Peter 5:1-4; Heb. 13:7-17; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23-24; Acts 15:13-18.

17. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water, under the authority of the local church, to show forth in a like figure or emblem our submission to and faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, through whom we died to sin and rose to a new life; that this baptism is to be administered by the under shepherd or the pastor whatever church he may be in; that only one baptism is necessary in the life of any believer; that baptism is prerequisite to the privileges of church member-

ship.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His Death until He comes, and should be preceded always by serious self-examination and confession. Acts 8:36-39; Rom. 6:3-5; I Peter 3:21; I Tim. 1:1-6; Acts 9:18; I Cor. 9:25; I Cor. 10:1-2; I Cor. 11:23-32; Matt. 28:19-20.

18. Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment: for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming King of Kings. Rom. 13:1-7; I Peter 2: 13-16; I Tim. 2:1-2; Matt. 22:21; Acts 5:29; Acts 4 :19-20.

19. Spiritual Gifts, Miracles, Signs and Wonders

We believe the gifts of the Spirit in I Corinthians 12 are given, today, for the ministry to all parts of the body of Christ with the exception of those gifts which are specifically called "signs". Those gifts which are signs, wonders, or miracles, were given by the Spirit during the beginning of the church in the book of Acts for these purposes:

(1) to identify an "apostle"

(2) to get the Jews to listen to the gospel or to believe a new revelation.

(3) to confirm the Word of Scripture that was being spoken by the apostles, but not yet written as we have the Scriptures today. Since there are NO apostles present today and that the gospel ministry is almost totally to the gentile and we have a complete Bible, we reject "speaking in tongues", "spiritual healing" as found in the apostolic ministry (we believe God heals today in accordance with His Word and divine will through faith and confession and any other "sign or wonder" as heresy 'and "lying signs and wonders" produced by satanic power in these last days to deceive the whole world. I Cor. 1:21-22; I Cor. 14:21-22; I Cor. 12:1-11; Mark 16:20; Heb. 2:3-4; Mark 16:17-18; Acts 2:4,5-43; Acts 3:7-12; Acts 5:12; II Cor. 12:12; James 5:14-16; I Cor. 11:30-32; II Thess. 2:8-9; I Tim. 4:1-2; Matt. 24:5,11-24.

20. Israel

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant

people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, and that she is being re-gathered to Palestine and, after the rapture of the church, will be saved as a nation at the second advent of Christ. Gen. 13:14-17; Rom. 11:1-32; Ezek. 37.

21. The Resurrections, Judgments, Pre-Millennial Return of Jesus Christ and Related Events.

a. We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. Matt. 28:6-7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; 1 Cor. 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6.

b. The ascension of Jesus Christ. Acts 1:9-11; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19.

c. The imminent pre-tribulation resurrection of all born again believers at the end of this dispensation. Phil. 3:20; I Thess. 1:10; I Thess. 5:6-11; Titus 2:13; Rev. 4:1; I Thess. 4:13-17; 1 Cor. 15:51-53.

d. The judgment seat of Christ after the rapture of the church, before the throne of God, where believer's works and motives for service will be tested by fire, with the promise of literal rewards and inheritance during the millennial reign. Rom. 14:10; II Cor. 5:10; II Tim. 4:1; I Cor. 4:5; I Cor. 3:9-15; Gal. 3:23-24; II Tim. 2:10-12; Luke 19:11-26.

e. The future conclusion of Daniel's 70th week, called the Great Tribulation, determined on the nation of Israel, involving the coming world church, a one-world government both of which will be dominated by the Anti-Christ. Dan. 9:24-27; Matt. 24:4-26; Rev. 6-19.

f. The personal visible return of Jesus Christ to this earth to destroy the Anti-Christ and all his enemies either as Armageddon or the judgment of the nations and then to establish the 1,000 year reign with the Jew in Palestine as the head of the nations, the earth regenerated, and Himself the King of the earth ruling with a rod of iron on the throne of David in Jerusalem. Rev. 19:11-21; Acts 1:10-11; Rev. 16:12-16; Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 20:1-6; Rom. 11:25-27; Deut. 28:13; Matt. 19:28; Isa. 11:1-10; Isa. 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33; Isa. 24:23.

g. The Last Judgment, or Great White Throne Judgment, involving all the uncovered or unbelief since Adam. This judgment will only determine the extent or degree of their damnation and eternal destruction in the Lake of Fire. Rev. 20:11-15; Rev. 20:5-6; Matt. 23:14; Rev. 14:10-11; Rev. 21:8.

h. The new Heavens and earth, eternal bliss and life of believers of all dispensations. Rev. 21:1-22:5; Psalm 16:11; John 3:16.

22. Education

Christian education is necessary to complete spiritual program for every Christian. For the Christian there is no alternative, but to be taught and trained in a Christian environment where the God of Glory is manifest daily, and the curriculum is based upon Biblical and spiritual concepts. Education must start with Bible truth and progress outward into the various branches of learning.

The Word of God must be the trunk and other fields of study must be the branches. Education is not Christian where this is not the paramount thesis of the academic environment. There are three basic precepts, all of which must be evidenced in Biblical Christian education.

(1) God created everything, including man. All reality therefore, sprang from God. Our environment was furnished by Him in His infinite wisdom and power.

(2) Man, a responsible being, failed a simple test of faith relative to his environment. Now, mankind and his environment rest under a curse for which there is no remedy except God's provision for salvation. That provision is in the person of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and exists by virtue of His life, death, burial and resurrection.

(3) Man is responsible for appropriating by faith that provision, and for arranging the elements of his time and resources in such a way as to glorify God. Deut. 6:1-10; Josh.1:8; Job 28:28; Ps. 1:1-6; Ps. 119:11; Prov. 22:6; Isa. 54:13; Jer. 10:2; Matt. 28:19-20; Eph. 4:11-16; Eph. 6:4; Phil. 4:8; Col. 2:8&9; I Thess. 5:22; II Tim. 2:15; II Tim. 3:14-17; James 1:5; James 3:17; John 4.

Article VII--Membership

Reception of Members

a. This church shall be composed of members who profess to be saved by grace, through faith in Christ, by immersion in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

b. All persons desiring to unite with this church shall meet with the pastor and shall give testimony of conversion and Christian experience, and affirm acceptance of and adherence to the articles of faith, constitution, and covenant of this church.

c. All members are expected, first of all, to be faithful in all the spiritual duties essential to a successful Christian life (i.e., prayer, Bible reading, witnessing, etc.) second to attend regularly the services of the church, to tithe 10% of income and give regularly to its support and to its charities, “as the Lord hath prospered,” and to share in its organized work when possible.

d. Upon recommendation of the pastor, prospective members shall be presented to the church. If there is no opposition to their membership by any member present, then they will be received into our fellowship immediately.

e. Members may be received in one of four ways:

- (1) By water baptism following salvation, per pastor
- (2) By letter from a church of like faith and order
- (3) By confession of faith (when impossible to secure a letter from prior church)
- (4) By restoration

a. Letters of recommendation may be granted to any member in good standing for the purpose of uniting with another Baptist Church; providing the request comes from that church.

Section II Discipline of Members

a. The matter of discipline of the membership shall be totally under the authority and direction of the pastor and assisted by any spiritually mature adult member. The scriptural principles of Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1, 1 Tim. 5:20, Titus 3:9-11, II Thess. 3:6,14; and I Cor. 5:1-7 shall be closely adhered to in all matters of disciplinary action.

c. Members failing to attend and/or support the church, without a legitimate excuse, within a period of 6 months will be dropped from the membership at the discretion of the pastor, after he has attempted to restore them.

Article VIII--Offices

Section I Officers

a. The officers of the church shall be pastor, deacons, trustees, clerk/treasurer, Sunday School superintendent, teachers, and other office deemed necessary by the pastor. All officers shall be appointed and dismissed by the authority of the pastor in accordance with the spiritual welfare of the church. All officers of the church and all subsidiary organizations including the Sunday School, shall be members of this church, in good standing and shall be required to subscribe to the Articles of Faith of the church. Upon refusal to subscribe, his office shall be declared vacant.

Section II Qualifications

Any church member approved by the pastor who will agree to enter into covenant of Section III of this Article is entitled to hold office in this church.

Section III Covenant

The following covenant shall be subscribed to by all officers of the church

In assuming this office, I agree to be loyal to the interests of the church, to seek its purity and prosperity, and to be subject to its discipline. Furthermore, I cheerfully accept and subscribe to the following rules for officers:

1. All officers and teachers must be members of this church in good standing according to Article vii of this Constitution.
2. All officers must be in full agreement with the doctrinal position of the church.
3. All officers must be in harmony with the administration of the church as long as that administration is in consistent with God's Word.
4. All officers are expected to be total abstainers from the use of tobacco and alcoholic beverages.
5. All officers must agree to abstain from all forms of fleshly or worldly activities which dishonor our Lord Jesus Christ, cause stumbling to a believer, or hinder the winning of souls to Christ.
6. All officers must not belong to, and must sever all connections with any worldly organization or secret societies that are in opposition to the basic doctrines of the Bible or the spiritual welfare of the Christian.
7. As the work of the church is dependent upon prayer; each officer is expected to conscientiously attend and participate in the regular prayer meeting of the church unless providentially hindered.

8. If at any time officers find that they can no longer comply with the rules, it is their duty to report it to the pastor and surrender office.

Section IV Pastor or Bishop

a. The pastor shall meet the scriptural qualifications laid down in I Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, and provide the balanced ministry demanded in Eph. 4:11-13, I Peter 5:1-4, II Tim. 2:1-6 II Tim. 4:1-5, I Tim. 6:11-20. He shall be afforded all scriptural support and authority given him by the Word of God in I Cor. 9:7-14, I Thess. 5:12-13, I Tim 5:17, and Heb. 13:7-17. Although he is the leader of the church should likewise follow the Pauline example of being a servant of the Lord for the needs of the flock.

b. The pastor shall continue in office until he resigns or has lost full support of 75% of the membership, after which they pray diligently and humbly ask the pastor to resign, at which time his ministry will be terminated immediately. If at that time he has no visible means of support the church will be obligated to continue his salary 30 days from resignation, unless he finds another means of support within that period.

c. In the event the church is without a pastor, the associate pastor supply the pulpit and oversee the pulpit committee until the church calls another pastor according to guidelines set forth in Article Section IV. If the occasion arises and there is no associate, the deacon board will preside. If the associate is being considered candidate for the pastorate, then the chairmen of the deacons will oversee the committee. The committee shall consist of deacons and other chosen men by them if necessary. The head deacon shall assume the role of considering all efforts made to call a new pastor and the officers of this committee shall assist him. Both the office and head deacons are to carry this duty out quickly as possible because the church that is without a pastor is like a headless body a body without a head lacks direction. If he has served in other churches, his ministry there should be checked out and be explored. He shall be required to state his acceptance of and adherence to the Articles of Faith, Constitution and Covenant of the church. Any differences which he holds concerning these documents should be submitted to the pulpit committee in writing. He shall also state in writing any differences which he holds concerning groups and associates with which this church might be in fellowship. The pulpit committee shall present only one man at a time for the consideration and acceptance by 75% of the membership.

d. A call to a pastor shall be extended at a meeting of the church congregation for that purpose and announced from the pulpit for two Sundays immediately proceeding the date of the meeting. A Three-fourths

majority of those present and voting shall be necessary for a call. Voting shall be by secret ballot. A written call and agreement shall be presented to the prospective pastor, giving details of church-past relationship, including salary, housing and car allowances, insurance, vacations, etc. after these matters have been discussed with the prospective pastor and approved mutually. The pastor shall have charge of the welfare of the church, which includes appointing and overseeing all church offices, boards and committees; he shall preach the gospel, teach the Word and have charge of the services of the church; he shall administer the ordinances and perform the usual duties of a scriptural pastor.

Section V Deacons

As the need arises, the pastor shall prayerfully choose and ordain from the congregation to the office of deacon. The scriptural qualifications of a deacon are laid down in Acts 6:3-5 and I Tim. 3:8-13. The duties of the deacon are to assist the pastor in promoting the spiritual and material well being of the church in whatever areas the pastor deems necessary. Since the deacons are chosen and ordained by the pastor, the length of their service will be determined by the needs of the church and their qualifications to fulfill the demands of the office and assist to the pastor. In accordance with these statements, the pastor may any time relieve a deacon of his office and duties.

Section VI Trustees

- a. The pastor shall, in accordance with secular law, choose an adequate number of trustees to fulfill the legal obligations. Their length of office is at the discretion of the pastor.
- b. The trustees shall be responsible for attending to the physical and legal aspects of all the church under the guidance of the pastor.
- c. The pastor shall designate which of the trustees shall be responsible for signing all legal papers, etc.

Section VII Treasurer

- a. The pastor shall select from the membership a spiritual and responsible member to fill the office of treasurer until terminated by resignation of the treasurer or discretion of the pastor. The treasurer shall receive all monies of the church and apply the same as directed by the pastor; keep true and fair record of accounts.

b. The treasurer will need the pastor's signature, (when needed) or anyone so delegated along with his own signature, on any check used in the rightful distribution of church funds.

Section VIII Church Clerk/Secretary

a. There shall be one clerk/secretary chosen by the pastor.

b. It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep an accurate record of the business meetings of the church, to keep as accurate register of the membership of the church, to record the date and manner of admission and dismissal of members, and to perform such other duties as usually pertain to this office.

Section IX Financial Secretary (trustee)

a. There shall be one Financial Secretary chosen by the pastor.

b. It shall be the duty of the financial secretary to count all offerings with the treasurer and maintain an independent cash receipts record. In the event of the treasurer's absence, he shall take charge of the offerings and secure one of the officers to count the offerings with him or her.

Section X Sunday School Superintendent

a. There shall be one Sunday School Superintendent chosen by the pastor, when necessary.

b. It shall be the duty of the SSS to take general charge of all matters pertaining to the Sunday School for the young people and lower grades. He shall strive to make the Sunday School as scriptural and beneficial to the people as possible.

c. The Superintendent shall appoint teachers of the Sunday School. His appointments must be in turn subject to the approval of the pastor to whom he shall be directly responsible. Teachers shall be evaluated yearly by the superintendent and pastor.

Section XI Miscellaneous Offices

Other offices will be established at the discretion of the pastor in rela-

tion to the needs of the church.

Section XI Missions

a. It shall be policy of this church to support only missions principally in evangelization. They shall be known to be in agreement with our confession of faith, both in doctrine and practice.

b. The support of the poor shall also fall under “Missions”, as it is also a scriptural mission of the church. This may also include support to other churches of like faith who need financial help to start or continue. The support of the poor shall be based on Bible standards. They must be saved, faithful in Christian responsibilities, church attendance and good works such as given in I Tim. 5:3-16; Rom. 15:25-27 and II Thess. 3:6-14.

Section XII Selection and Funds

a. The ministry of those to be supported shall be known to the church by having the missionary or pastor involved to speak and present his work. The pastor, based on the reaction and financial condition of the church, shall then determine whether or not to support the work.

b. Mission support shall come from the giving of the members over and above the regular giving (i.e. tithe). Each member may participate in Faith Promise giving as the Lord directs.

Article X--Ministries of the Church

All ministries of the church, functions and operations though given identifying names or titles are none the less integrally and wholly a part of Bible Baptist Church and shall be under the supervision of the pastor and shall be operated by those members appointed by the pastor.

The fiscal year shall begin on January 1st and end on the following Dec. 31st. No financial obligation shall be placed upon the church without evidence that it will be duly dispatched. All financial obligations shall have the approval of the pastor and the support of the majority of the deacon board. All general offerings shall be received by the method established when the church began.

Article XII--Business Meetings

The pastor shall call all business meetings with one week notice. He

may call an emergency meeting when deemed necessary foregoing the one week notice. In case the church is without a pastor, the head deacon or the associate may call meetings as needed to transact church business.

Article XIII--Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a three-fourths vote of the members present at any called business meetings, provided that notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given from the pulpit for one week prior to the meeting at which action is desired.

Article XIV--Associate Membership

The purpose of Associate members is to provide the opportunity for saved people to serve in the church that are seasonal attendees, or to allow family members to serve that are not able to join.

Reception of Associate Members

a. This church shall be composed of members and associate members who profess to be saved by grace, through faith in Christ, by immersion in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

b. All persons desiring to be an associate member with this church shall meet with the pastor and shall give testimony of conversion and Christian experience, and affirm acceptance of and adherence to the articles of faith, constitution, and covenant of this church. At the discretion of the pastor, they will be received as a associate member of the church. When the time comes they are able to become a full member, they will be presented before church to be voted on.

c. All associate members are expected, first of all, to be faithful in all the spiritual duties essential to a successful Christian life (i.e., prayer, Bible reading, witnessing, etc.) second to attend regularly the services of the church, to tithe 10% of income and give regularly to its support and to its charities, "as the Lord hath prospered," and to share in its organized work when possible. ***If you are a family member that is not the head of the house, giving should be at the head of the house's guidance.***

Liberties

a. Associate members shall have the opportunity to teach and to

hold positions of leadership as the Lord leads the pastor to appoint. The length of time in a given position is up solely to the pastors discretion.

b. Associate members shall not have the right to vote but are allowed to attend the business meetings.

Article XV--Homosexuality and Same Sex Marriage

Article 1

We, the membership of BBC being a part of the body of believers, who maintain and follow the ordinances and moral laws of God, set forth in God's Holy Word, the Bible which states clearly, in Romans 1:24-28 that same sex marriage is an abomination before God; therefore, we believe and hereby agree that any marriage on any property of building held by BBC must be between a man and a woman only.

Article 2

The pastor, being set aside and voted upon by the membership of BBC, is obligated to oversee the Christian conduct and adherence to the laws as set forth in the articles of faith of the membership and to maintain and enforce the laws of God according to God's Holy Word, the Bible; therefore, not subject to the current or future man made laws of the State and/or Government, which declare that same sex marriages are legal.

Article 3

The pastor has the absolute sole right to perform or deny marriage to any person or persons, whom after careful and prayerful examination, he determines they do or do not meet the requirements of God, contained in God's Holy Word, the Bible, (KJV)(2 Corinthians :14), which God, Himself, instituted and ordained.

Date of meeting with the Pastor:_____

Date of joining the church:_____

Additional things to remember: