

GOSPEL BAPTIST CHURCH
CONSTITUTION
As last amended October 2, 2016

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of preserving and making secure the principles of our faith, and so that this body may be governed in a decent and orderly manner, we declare and establish this constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLE 1

NAME

The congregation of believers shall be known as the Gospel Baptist Church of Archdale, North Carolina (Randolph County). The mailing address is presently 9042 U.S. Highway 311, Archdale, NC 27263. The congregation shall be an autonomous, self-governing body.

ARTICLE 11

PURPOSE

- A. This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing, maintaining and operating of churches, schools, parsonages, chapels, day care centers, camps, and any other ministries that the Church may be led of God to establish.
- B. The purpose of this body shall be to evangelize the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; sustain the ordinances, doctrines, and ethics set forth in the New Testament, nurture its members through Bible study and teaching; channel its offerings to

the support of the Gospel and other worthwhile ministries; and engage in any other ministry that the Church may decide to pursue in obedience to the will of God.

ARTICLE III STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION A – STATEMENT OF FAITH

I. The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible, and God-breathed, and therefore are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning. We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. We recognize the Authorized Version (KJV) of the Bible as most suitable for the pulpit and teaching ministry of Gospel Baptist Church and School (Eph. 3:2-10; II Tim. 3: 16-17; II Pet. 1:20-21).

2. The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, sovereign, holy, eternally existing in three persons-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deut. 6:4 ;Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; John 14:10,26).

3. The Person and Work of Christ

- A. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, became man, without ceasing to be God, lived a sinless life in order that he might reveal God and redeem sinful men (Isa.7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2; 14:2; II Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8).
- B. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; I Pet. 2:24; Eph.1:7; I pet. 1:3-5).
- C. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; Rom. 8:34; I John 2:1-2).

4. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

- A. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person of the Godhead who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and that He is the supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling, guiding and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 12:12-14; II Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14).
- B. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who assists all believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 1:17-18; 5:18; I John 2:20-27).
- C. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the

assembly in order that they can do the work of the ministry (Rom.12:3-8; I Cor. 12:4-11; Eph. 4:7-12).

- D. We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing, were temporary. We believe that speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the holy Spirit and that ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing (I Cor. 1:22; 12:8; 14:21-22).

5. The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and has become alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Gen.1:26-27; Rom.3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19).

6. Salvation

- A. We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who offered His blood as an atonement to save man from the guilt and condemnation of sin; the means being repentance toward God in sincere contrition (John 1:12; Acts2:38; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; I Pet. 1:18-19).
- B. We believe the result of the heart acceptance of Jesus Christ is justification , whereby pardon is secured and we are brought into a state of peace and favor with God (Eph. 1:17; Rom. 4:4-5; 5:1).
- C. We believe the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel, resulting in a holy disposition in mind and heart, and is made effective through the choice of man's will (John 1:12-13; 6:44; Eph. 1:4; Rom. 10:13).

7. The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

- A. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; I Cor. 1:4-8; I Pet. 1:4-5).
- B. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

8. Sanctification and Separation

- A. We believe that sanctification is the process by which the regenerate gradually attain to moral and spiritual perfection through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in their hearts. It continues throughout the earthly life, and is accomplished through personal discipline and the application of the Word of God (John 17:15-17; Rom. 6:3-7; II Cor. 3:18; Gal. 5:16-26).
- B. We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and that separation from all religious apostasy, all oathbound secret societies, all illegal use of drugs, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded of God (Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; II Cor. 6:14-7:1; II Tim 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11).

9. Giving

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving but that every Christian should also give offerings sacrificially

and cheerfully to the support of the Church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-27; I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; I Tim. 5:17-18; I John 3:17).

10. The Church

- A. We believe that the local church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born again persons (I Cor. 12:12-14; II Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27).
- B. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local Churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; I Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).
- C. We believe in the autonomy of the local Church free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1,4; I Cor. 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; I Pet. 5:1-4).
- D. We recognize Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the Church in this age (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42, 18:18; I Cor. 11:23-26).

11. Missions

We believe that God has given the Church a Great Commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; II Cor. 5:20).

12. The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in that “blessed hope”, the personal, imminent return of Christ Who will rapture His Church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return, with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the Nation of Israel (Ps. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; I Thess. 1:10; 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6).

13. The Eternal State

A. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matt: 25:46; John 5:28, 29; John 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13).

B. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; I Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20-4-6).

C. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment (Matt. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; II Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15).

14. The Personality of Satan

We Believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

15. Creation

We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin (Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11).

16. Human Sexuality

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. (Gen. 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-19; I Cor. 5:1; 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).

17. Marriage

Based upon the Word of God, we believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one biological man and one biological woman. (Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; I Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)

Gospel Baptist Church ministers or facilities will not be involved in, neither will the Church recognize, same sex unions. No facility or grounds maintained by Gospel Baptist Church shall be used for any purpose that is contrary to this definition of marriage.

18. Divorce and Remarriage

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 5:32, 19:3-12; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18; Rom. 7:1-3).

19. Abortion

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the preborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of preborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable (Job 3:16; Psalms 51: 4; 139: 14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1,5; Jer.1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).

19. Lawsuits Between Believers

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the Church to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander (I Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32).

20. Civil Government

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: a) the home; b) the Church; and c) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the Church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God (Rom. 13:107; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13: 17; I Pet. 2:13-14).

SECTION B – AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members.

SECTION C – 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 Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into the 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 private 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 of, and use of, intoxicating drinks as a beverage; 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 one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling

and Christian 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.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A – QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Upon a majority vote of the members present at any Church service or meeting, membership shall be extended to all who have had and whose lives evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; who renounce sin; who endeavor to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord; who fully subscribe to the Statement of Faith contained herein; and who enter into the Church Covenant contained herein; and upon compliance with any one of the following conditions:

1. By baptism (immersion) as a true believer in Christ Jesus as personal Savior;
2. By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing Baptist Church of like faith and practice, or other written statement of good standing from the prior Church if the applicant has been baptized by immersion subsequent to a profession of faith;
3. By testimony of faith, having been baptized by immersion; or
4. By restoration, if having been removed from membership, upon majority of vote of the congregation after confession is made publicly before the Church membership of

the sin or sins involved, and satisfactorily evidencing repentance to the Pastor (or the Board of Deacons if the office of Pastor is vacant).

SECTION B – DUTIES OF A MEMBER

On becoming a member of this church in addition to the covenant contained in Article III, Section A, each one further endeavors to honor and esteem the office of Pastor; to pray for him, and to recognize his authority in spiritual affairs of the Church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the Church; to support the Church in prayer, tithes, offerings, and with other financial support as the Lord enables; and in accordance with Biblical commands, to affirm through a lifestyle and walk the beliefs and practices of the Church.

SECTION C – PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

This congregation functions, not as a pure democracy, but, as a body under the Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the Pastor as the undershepherd with the counsel of the Board of Deacons. Membership in this Church does not afford those individuals with any property, contract, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government.

Determinations of the internal affairs of this Church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the Church's own rules and procedures. The Pastor shall oversee and/or conduct all aspects of this Church. The Board of Deacons shall give counsel and assistance to the Pastor as requested by him. The membership of the Church has certain limited areas of exercising a vote. Members must be 16 years of age or older to vote. Members may not vote to initiate any Church action, but rather the vote of a member is to confirm and ratify the direction of the Church as determined by the Pastor and the Board of Deacons.

SECTION D – DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER

1. There shall be a Discipline Committee consisting of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons. These men shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statement of Faith and violations of the Church Covenant. If the Pastor or a Deacon is the subject of the disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a member of the Discipline Committee. He shall be entitled to the same steps as other Church members and be subjected to the same discipline.
2. Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.
3. If reconciliation is not reached, a second member, either a deacon or the Pastor is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination, and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.
4. If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (2) and (3) have been taken, the Discipline Committee, as the Church representatives biblically responsible for putting down murmuring, shall hear the matter. If the matter is not resolved during the hearing before the Discipline Committee, the Committee shall recommend to the members of the Church that they, after self-examination, make an effort personally to go to the offending member and seek that member's restoration.

5. If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (2), (3), and (4) have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the Church upon a majority vote of the membership present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering disciplinary action.
6. No matter may be heard by the Discipline Committee or the Church unless the steps outlined in subsections (2) and (3) have been taken, except in the case of a public offense.
7. If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the Church membership, all contact with him from that point forward should be for the sake of restoration (except family members).

SECTION E – TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Members, not under the disciplining process of Section D, may request that letters of transfer be sent to another church.

SECTION F – TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

1. The membership of any individual member shall be automatically terminated without notice if the member in question has not attended a regular worship service of the Church in the preceding six months. Upon good cause being shown to the Pastor and/or Board of Deacons, this provision for termination may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the Discipline Committee.
2. No member of this Church may hold membership in another Church. If any member united in membership with another Church, that person is automatically terminated without notice from membership in this Church.

3. A member may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such resignation, except at the discretion of the Pastor and/or Board of Deacons.

ARTICLE V CHURCH OFFICERS

SECTION A – OFFICERS

The officers of this Church shall be a Pastor, and other vocational leadership as needed, deacons, trustees, clerk, treasurer, and such other officers as shall be required for the work of the Church in any of its departments or organizations. All of these shall be elected or approved by the Church and shall be members in good standing. One person may hold two or more offices, except that of Pastor.

SECTION B – ELECTION AND DUTIES

1. PASTOR

- A. Whenever a vacancy occurs, a Pastor shall be called by the Church to serve until the relationship is dissolved at the request of either the Pastor or the Church. The call of the Pastor shall take place at a regular Sunday service of which at least one week's notice has been given to the membership. The election shall be upon the recommendation of a pulpit committee composed of five active deacons and two other members presently serving as an officer or Sunday School teacher. The pulpit committee shall seek out and nominate as Pastor, a minister of the Gospel whose Christian character described in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 qualify him for the office of Pastor of this church. The Board of Deacons will invite Church staff and officers to sit in on interview sessions. The committee shall bring only one name at a

time for consideration by the Church, and no nomination shall be made except that of the committee. Election shall be by secret ballot with an affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present and voting necessary for a call. Should the one recommended by the committee fail to receive a three-fourths vote, the committee will be instructed to seek out another minister, and the meeting shall be adjourned without debate.

- B. In the case of resignation or non-disciplinary removal, at least 30 days notice shall be given of termination of the relationship, unless otherwise by mutual consent, with both Pastor and the Church seeking to follow the will of God and the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Disciplinary removal of the Pastor from office automatically terminates his membership and does not require any notice.

- C. The Pastor shall have in charge the welfare and oversight of the Church. All church staff, including the staff of Gospel Baptist Beginners School, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the Pastor. He shall be ex-officio member of all organizations, departments, and committees. He may call a special meeting of the Board of Deacons or any committee according to procedures which may be set forth in the By-Laws. He shall conduct religious services on stated and special occasions, administer the ordinances, minister to members of the Church and community; and perform other duties that usually pertain to that office. The Pastor shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him. He shall have special charge of the pulpit ministry of the Church. The Pastor shall be free to choose the means and methods by which he exercises the ministry that God has given him. In cooperation with the Board of Deacons, he shall provide for pulpit supply when he is absent, and also, arrange for workers to assist in revival meetings and other special services. He shall be the administrative head of the Church and shall preside at all meetings of the Church except as otherwise provided for in the By-Laws.

2. BOARD OF DEACONS

- A. Men shall be elected from among those members whose Christian character described in I Timothy 3:8-12 qualify them for the office of Deacon. Whenever Deacons are to be elected, the names of all nominees shall be placed on a ballot; and the Church will then proceed to elect the required number from the list. Nominees shall be provided by the Pastor and Deacons. The Deacons shall elect annually their own chairman. The rotation system will be used with at least one Deacon coming off the board through rotation or resignation each year. The normal term for Deacons shall be four years after ordination.

- B. Deacons shall at all times consider themselves as servants of the Church. With the Pastor, and as the Holy Spirit may direct, they are to consider and make recommendations to the Church in all matters pertaining to its work and progress; including overseeing the discipline of the Church; establishing and maintaining spiritual relations with all members of the Church; assisting the Pastor in the observance of the ordinances; having general oversight of the upkeep, repair, and use of the Church property; and supervising the financial program of the Church. They shall arrange for regular meetings and such committees as are necessary to the discharge of their duties. The chairman of the Board of Deacons may call the Deacons into special sessions whenever need for such arises.

3. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees shall consist of a minimum of three Trustees elected from the Church membership. The Trustees shall, as provided by law and the action of the Church, hold in trust the title to all property of the Church and shall represent the Church in all matters of legal responsibility regarding the purchase, improvement, and disposal of Church property.

They shall execute all legal papers relating to the Church and to the community as the Church may direct. They shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property of the Church without a specific vote of the Church authorizing such actions; neither shall they have any control over the use of the Church property except by vote of the Church.

4. CHURCH CLERK

The Church Clerk shall be elected annually. It shall be his/her duty to attend, or be represented at, all Church conferences, and to keep an accurate record of all Church proceedings. He/she shall issue letters of dismissal as authorized by the Church, preserve all papers and valuable letters and records that belong to the Church, and preserve a true history of the Church. It shall also be the duty of the clerk to see that an accurate roll of the Church membership is kept with dates and methods of admission and dismissal, change in name, correct mailing address, and other pertinent information' also, to bring to the attention of the Pastor, Board of Deacons, or congregation, any pending matters of concern.

5. CHURCH TREASURER

The Church Treasurer shall be elected annually. It shall be the duty of the Church Treasurer to receive, keep in a bank, and disburse by check upon proper authority all money or things of value that are given to the Church, and keep at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements; and render regular account to the Church to be preserved by the Church Clerk. He shall keep records of the receipts from envelopes, plates or loose, and miscellaneous or special offerings. The treasurer's books, records, and accounts kept by him shall be considered the property of the Church. The Church Treasurer shall, upon invitation, meet with the Board of Deacons and/or Finance Committee.

6. ASSOCIATE PASTORS

Under the direction and guidance of the Pastor, the Associate Pastor(s) of the Church shall assist the Pastor in carrying out the ministries of the Church. The call and dismissal of Associate Pastors shall be in the same manner as the call and dismissal of Pastor. (See #1 of Section B- Election and Duties of Pastor).

ARTICLE V1 MEETINGS

SECTION A – MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Unless otherwise determined by the Pastor, the Church shall meet each Sunday for public worship both morning and evening and at least once during the week for Bible study and prayer.

SECTION B – MEETINGS FOR CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

A quarterly Church administration meeting shall be held on a Wednesday evening of each quarter. A quorum shall consist of the members present. The Pastor, at his discretion, may call a special Church administration meeting.

SECTION C – SPECIAL MEETINGS

Bible conferences, missionary conference, and revivals may be held as the Pastor deems beneficial.

SECTION D – FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Church shall begin October 1st and end September 30th.

ARTICLE V11
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

SECTION A – PURPOSE

The church believes that it is to provide an education ministry, which is based upon and consistent with Biblical teachings. The Church believes that the home and Church are responsible before God for providing Christian education. To this end, the Church shall engage in ministries in education in keeping with the following dictates:

SECTION B – CHURCH PARTICIPATION

All educational programs or courses of instruction formulated and offered by the Church shall be primarily for the benefit of the members of the Church; however, the Pastor may permit non-Church members to participate in Church educational programs or courses of instruction if he deems it in the best interest of the Church.

SECTION C – STAFF MEMBERSHIP

All instructors, teachers, and administrators shall be members of this Church. This provision shall not apply to visiting missionaries, evangelists, teachers, or preachers, engaged for the purpose of delivering sermons, conducting revivals, or other special meetings on a temporary basis. The employees of Gospel Baptist Beginners School are under separate guidelines.

SECTION D- STATE OF FAITH ACCORD

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be taught and presented in full accord with the Statement of Faith of the Church.

SECTION E – UNITY

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted as an integral and inseparable ministry of the Church.

SECTION F – TEACHING

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted consistent with the teaching of the inerrant Word of God. Any assertion or belief which conflicts with or questions a Bible truth is a pagan deception and distortion of the truth which will be disclaimed as false. It is the responsibility of every instructor or teacher to present the inerrant Word of God as the sole infallible source of knowledge and wisdom.

SECTION G – CHRISTIAN WALK

All administrators, instructors, and teachers shall continue or adopt a lifestyle consistent with the precepts which they teach, whether in or out of the classroom.

ARTICLE V111

TAX-EXEMPT PROVISIONS

SECTION A – PRIVATE INUREMENT

No part of the net earnings of the Church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, Trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II.

SECTION B – POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

No substantial part of the activities of the Church shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The Church shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

SECTION C – DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the Church, the Board of Trustees, shall, after paying or making provision of payment of all the liabilities of the Church, dispose of all of the assets of the Church to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Trustees shall determine. Assets may be distributed only to organizations which agree with the Church's Statement of Faith.

SECTION D- RACIAL NONDISCRIMINATION

The Church shall have a racially nondiscriminatory policy and therefore shall not discriminate against members, applicants, students, and others on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin.

ARTICLE IX
DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

From time to time the Church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the Church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Article II, Section A.

ARTICLE X
GENERAL

SECTION A – LICENSE

When a member announces to the Church that he feels the call to the ministry, the Church, by majority vote, may license him as an acknowledgment of his call to the ministry and encouragement to make preparation for it. The Pastor may furnish the member with a certificate of license as his credential.

SECTION B – ORDINATION

In the event this Church has been requested to ordain a member who has been called as Pastor of a Baptist Church the following procedure shall be followed: The Church will express its approval by a vote of three-fourths of the members present at any regular meeting of the Church. Then the Pastor shall invite other fellow Pastors to form a council to

examine the candidate concerning his fitness for the ministry. In the event the report of the committee is favorable, the Church shall proceed with the ordination.

SECTION C – PROPERTY HOLDING

It is agreed that the securing and maintaining of real property, buildings, and equipment by this Church shall be for the express purpose of providing facilities for public worship and for the engagement upon the missionary, educational, benevolent, and fellowship interests of this Church, of the character and in the spirit of the Constitution and Articles of Faith of the congregation.

SECTION D – ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

1. This constitution shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when three-fourths of the members present at the administration meeting in which the vote is taken, shall vote in favor of the same.

2. This constitution may be amended, altered, or repealed by a three-fourths vote of the members present at any regular Church administration meetings; provided, however, that such amendment, alteration, or repeal must be given to the clerk in writing; and this proposed change shall be presented to the Church at least thirty days prior to the time the vote is taken.