

1 Constitution and Bylaws
2 of
3 Renewal Church of Anderson
4

5
6 PREAMBLE
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8 Since it pleased Almighty God, by His Holy Spirit, to call certain of His servants to unite here under
9 the name Renewal Church of Anderson, SC, for the worship of God and the spread of the gospel of
10 Jesus Christ, we, the members of Renewal Church, do hereby organize ourselves and adopt this
11 Constitution as our articles of governance, to be interpreted at all times to reflect the character of and
12 bring glory to Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Holy Bible and articulated in the Statement of Faith and
13 Covenant of this church.
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17 ARTICLE I
18 Name and Principal Office
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20 The name of this church is Renewal Church of Anderson, located in Anderson, South Carolina.
21 Renewal Church maintains its principal office at 3420 Clemson Boulevard, Anderson SC 29621.
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25 ARTICLE II
26 Mission, Vision, and Core Values
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28 The mission of Renewal Church is to make disciples of all people for God's glory.
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30 The vision of Renewal Church is to be a people transformed by the gospel, living daily on mission, and
31 sending laborers to the nations.
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33 The core values of Renewal Church are (1) Worship exalts God, (2) Scripture reveals truth, (3)
34 Fellowship encourages growth, (4) Serving Imitates Jesus and (5) Sending advances the gospel.
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38 ARTICLE III
39 Statement of Faith
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41 A. The Scriptures

42 We believe that the Bible was written by divinely inspired men and is God's revelation of
43 Himself and His will to man. The Bible in its entirety is the Word of God, and as such is wholly
44 true in everything it affirms. The Scriptures are the unique, full and final authority on all
45 matters of faith and practice (Ps. 18:30, 119; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; 3:15-16).
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1 B. God

2 We believe that the Godhead exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3 These three persons are one God, and are worthy of precisely the same confidence, obedience,
4 and worship (Mt. 28:18-19, Mk. 12:29, Jn. 1:14, Acts 5:3-4).

5
6 1. God the Father

7 God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the
8 flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all-
9 powerful, all-knowing, all-loving, and all-wise. God is Father in truth to those who
10 become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, yet He remains fatherly in His
11 attitude toward all men (Gen. 1:1, 2:7; Ex. 3:14, 6:2-3, 15:11ff, 20:1ff, Lev. 22:2; Dt. 6:4,
12 32:6; 1 Chr. 29:10; Ps. 19:1-3; Isa. 43:3,15, 64:8; Jer. 10:10, 17:13; Mt. 6:9ff, 7:11, 23:9,
13 28:19; Mk. 1:9-11; Jn. 4:23-24, 5:26, 14:6-13, 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Rom. 8:14-15; 1 Cor. 8:6; Gal.
14 4:6; Eph. 4:6; 1 Tim. 1:17; Heb. 11:6, 12:9; 1 Pet. 1:17).

15
16 2. God the Son

17 We believe that Jesus Christ in the flesh was fully God and fully man, that He was born
18 of a virgin and that He lived a sinless life. He taught and worked mighty works,
19 wonders and signs as recorded in the four Gospels. He was crucified, died as a penalty
20 for our sins, and was later raised from the dead, bodily, on the third day. Later, He
21 ascended to the Father's right hand where He is head of the church and intercedes for
22 believers. He will come again personally, bodily, and visibly to this earth (Matt. 16:27;
23 Rom. 8:34; 1 Cor. 15:3-8; Heb. 1:2, 4:15).

24
25 3. God the Holy Spirit

26 We believe that the Holy Spirit is God, and possesses all the divine attributes. He exists
27 to bring glory to the Father and the Son. He convicts the world of sin, indwells all
28 believers, and baptizes and seals them at the moment of salvation. He uniquely endows
29 each believer with gifts for the building up of the body. He guides believers in
30 understanding and applying the Scriptures and empowers them to lead a life of Christ-
31 like character (Jn. 16:7-15; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:30; Gal. 5:22-23).

32
33 C. Providence

34 God, from eternity, decrees or permits all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds,
35 directs, and governs all creatures and all events; yet He is not the author or approver of sin nor
36 does He destroy the free will and responsibility of intelligent creatures (Prv. 16:33; Isa. 46:9-
37 11; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3; Jas. 1:13-15).

38
39 D. Man

40 Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female
41 as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's
42 creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with
43 freedom of choice. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in
44 His own image; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of
45 respect and Christian love (Gen. 1:26-30).

1 E. Sin

2 By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the
3 temptation of Satan, man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original
4 innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin and
5 evil. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are
6 under condemnation (Gen. 3; Rom. 1:19-32, 3:10-23, 5:6-19, 6:6; Eph. 2:1-3).

7
8 F. Salvation

9 We believe that God, by His sovereign choice and His love for mankind, sent Jesus into the
10 world to bring people back into fellowship with Him through regeneration. Regeneration is a
11 change of heart, wrought by the Holy Spirit, who gives life to those dead in trespasses and sins,
12 enlightening their minds to understand the word of God, and renewing their whole nature.
13 This salvation, with its forgiveness of sin, is a gift, wholly a work of God's grace, not the result
14 of human works, and this salvation must be personally appropriated by repentance and faith,
15 resulting in God declaring believers righteous through the merit of Christ. Through
16 sanctification, beginning in regeneration, the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is
17 enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of
18 the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate
19 person's life. All those whom God has regenerated will never totally nor finally fall away from
20 the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end. Though they may fall, through
21 neglect and temptation, into sin, they shall be renewed again unto repentance and be kept by
22 the power of God through faith unto the culmination of salvation. (Mk. 1:15; Jn. 6:37-40, 10:28-
23 29; Rom. 3:23, 5:8, 8:28-39; 1 Cor. 1:8-9; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 1:6; Heb. 12:5-6; 1 Jn. 5:12-13).

24
25 G. The Church

26 The Lord Jesus is the head of the church, which is composed of all His true disciples, and in
27 Him is invested supremely all power for its government. We believe there is one universal
28 church which is comprised of all who place their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone.
29 According to His commandment, Christians are to associate themselves into particular, local
30 churches; and to each of these churches He has given needful authority for administering that
31 order, discipline and worship which He has appointed. The regular officers of a church are
32 elders (pastors) and deacons; the regular ordinances of a church are baptism and the Lord's
33 Supper. (Mt. 26:26-29, 28:19; Jn. 10:16; Acts 2:38, 20:17, 28; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 10:16-17, 11:23-
34 34, 12:13; Eph. 1:22-23, 5:23; 1 Tim. 3:1-13, 5:17-18; Tit. 1:5-9; Heb. 10:25)

- 35
36 1. Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, obligatory upon every believer, wherein he
37 is immersed in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, as
38 a sign of his fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins,
39 and of giving himself up to God, to live and walk in newness of life. It is prerequisite to
40 church membership.
41
42 2. The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with the
43 elements of bread and the fruit of the vine, and to be observed by His churches till the
44 end of the world. It is in no sense a sacrifice, but is designed to commemorate His death
45 and to be a bond, pledge and renewal of a believer's communion with Him, and of their
46 church membership, preceded always by solemn self-examination.
47

H. Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

The gift of gender as male and female is part of the goodness of God’s created order, is the fundamental and universal biological distinction of the human race, and is not determined by one’s self-perception. As embodied spirits, gender is a part of the very core of the body-soul unity that determines the very essence of human nature. It is therefore not possible to sever the connection between one’s gender and one’s biological sex.

Marriage is the joining of one man and one woman in an exclusive, lifelong, public covenant. Sexual intimacy is a good gift from God to be enjoyed only within the confines of marriage. Any form of sexual intimacy outside the marriage covenant constitutes immorality. Sexual immorality includes lust, pornography, adultery, polygamy, fornication, homosexuality, same-sex marriage, bestiality, incest, and disagreement with and attempts to change one’s biological gender (Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 15:18-20; Mark 7:21-22; Rom. 1:21-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 6:18; 7:2-5; Eph. 5:21-33; 1 Tim. 1:9-10; Heb. 13:4; Jude 7).

I. Last Things

The bodies of men after death return to dust, but their spirits return immediately to God—the righteous to rest with Him; the wicked, to be reserved for the final judgment. The bodies of all the dead, both just and unjust, will be raised. God has appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world by Jesus Christ, when every one shall receive according to his deeds; the wicked shall go into everlasting and conscious punishment; the righteous, into everlasting life (Mt. 25:46; Jn. 5:22-29; Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:6-11; 1 Cor. 15:12-28; 2 Cor. 5:1-10; Phil. 1:23; 2 Thes. 1:7-10; 2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 7:13-17, 14:9-11).

In addition, Renewal Church affirms The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000.

ARTICLE IV
Affiliation

This Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation with other churches, this church voluntarily affiliates with the Southern Baptist Convention [SBC].

ARTICLE V
Membership

A. Qualifications for Membership

It is the desire of Renewal Church to freely extend its fellowship to all individuals. At the same time, Renewal Church desires to uphold the principles of commitment to Christ and to His church that Scripture teaches must accompany true membership in the body of Christ. To qualify for membership in this church, a person:

- 1 1. Must be a believer in Jesus Christ who gives evidence of regeneration
- 2
- 3 2. Must have been baptized by immersion in obedience to Christ, following his or her
- 4 regeneration
- 5
- 6 3. Must be sixteen years of age or older (see Article V Section G for further explanation)
- 7
- 8 4. Must hold without mental reservation the doctrines of our church as expressed in the
- 9 Statement of Faith
- 10
- 11 5. Must promise to keep the commitments expressed in the Renewal Church Covenant
- 12 (see Appendix A)
- 13

14 B. Procedure for membership. To be admitted into church membership, applicants shall be
 15 recommended by the elders (pastors) for affirmation by the church upon completion of the
 16 following:

- 17 1. Life Group Involvement
- 18 Life Group involvement is the first step toward membership at Renewal Church.
- 19
- 20
- 21 2. Membership class (Foundation Class)
- 22 Membership classes shall regularly be offered to provide the following instruction:
- 23
- 24 a. The Renewal Church statements of faith and mission
- 25
- 26 b. The Scriptural principles of commitment to the body of Christ
- 27
- 28 c. Renewal’s principles of government and ministry
- 29
- 30 3. Covenant Signature
- 31 A potential member expresses intent to join by signing the Renewal Church Covenant.
- 32
- 33 4. Follow-up Membership Interview
- 34 Following the candidate’s affirmation of the church covenant, this candidate desiring
- 35 membership shall submit to an elder (pastor) or appointed leader his/her personal
- 36 testimony to determine the integrity of his/her faith and desire to be committed to
- 37 Renewal Church as a local body of believers.
- 38
- 39 5. Letter of transfer
- 40 For candidates who are currently members at another SBC Church, Renewal will
- 41 contact that church and request a letter of transfer. Receiving them into membership
- 42 at Renewal is pending until a letter of recommendation from that SBC church is
- 43 received.
- 44
- 45 6. Public affirmation of new members before the Congregation
- 46 Renewal entrusts its elders (pastors) with the task of screening candidates for
- 47 membership. The congregation shall be given opportunity to freely voice any

1 reservations or concerns regarding any of the candidates to an elder (pastor) prior to
 2 these candidates' presentation to the congregation. The congregation will then affirm
 3 the decision of the elders (pastors) to receive these candidates into membership.
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5 C. Duties and privileges of membership

6 1. Minister

7 In accord with the duties enumerated in the Church Covenant, each member shall be
 8 privileged and expected to participate in and contribute to the ministry and life of the
 9 church, consistent with God's leading and with the gifts, time, and material resources
 10 each has received from God. Only those shall be entitled to serve and lead in the
 11 ministries of the church who are members of this congregation; non-members may
 12 serve on an informal basis with the approval of the elders (pastors). Notwithstanding,
 13 non-members may serve the church for purposes of administration and professional
 14 consultation.
 15

16 2. Decision Making

17 Under Christ, this congregation is led by its elders (pastors) under the authority of the
 18 members. It is the privilege and responsibility of members to attend all members'
 19 meetings and vote on the following matters: the election of elders (pastors), the annual
 20 budget of the church, the disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the
 21 church, the merger or dissolution of the church, acquisition of property, amendments
 22 to the Constitution and Bylaws of the church, the calling of paid elders (pastors), and
 23 other matters that the elders (pastors) deem necessary for the congregation. An
 24 affirmative vote would consist of 75% majority of the members present.
 25

26 3. Covenant Living

27 Members covenant together to live corporately under the authority of Christ and His
 28 Bride, the Church. As a result, members are encouraged to live in mutually sanctifying
 29 relationships with other believers where the art of care and correction is practiced. At
 30 the point where a member strays from this covenant lifestyle into unrepentant sin, the
 31 church will exercise discipline for the purpose of the member's restoration according
 32 to the Renewal Church Discipline Policy as developed and interpreted by the elders
 33 (pastors). see Appendix B]
 34

35 D. Voting limitations

36 Each member is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.
 37

38 E. Amendments

39 This Constitution may be amended by a vote of 75% of the voting members present at a duly
 40 called business meeting called for the purpose of amending this Constitution. Should a
 41 member identify a subject of the constitution which he deems in need of amending, he ought
 42 to bring his proposal and rationale to the elders (pastors). If the elders (pastors) affirm the
 43 recommendation, they shall bring this proposed amendment before the congregation at the
 44 following business meeting. If the elders (pastors) do not affirm the proposed amendment,
 45 they shall offer to the member an explanation, at which time the member should take thirty
 46 days to prayerfully consider his amendment request in light of the counsel of the elders
 47

(pastors). Following this time of reflection, should he still desire his amendment proposal to be considered, he may re-approach the elders (pastors) with his amendment request or modified amendment request. The elders (pastors) shall allow this proposed amendment to come before the church, though they may do so with declared reservation.

F. Associate membership

Students and others temporarily residing in the Anderson, SC, area who are members of an evangelical church may apply for associate membership. Qualifications are identical to those for full membership as set out above, except that home church membership must be retained. A letter of commendation will be sought from the applicant's home church.

1. Limitations of associate membership

Duties and privileges of associate members are the same as for members with the following exceptions:

- a. When absent from the Anderson, SC area for extended periods of time, associate members are released from the responsibility to attend our church services
- b. While associate members are encouraged to participate in members' meetings, they will not be eligible to stand for any office (elder (pastor) or deacon) or to vote.

2. Termination of Associate Membership

Termination of Associate Membership as a disciplinary measure will be as it is for other members, except that the elders (pastors) shall notify the pastor or elders (pastors) of the home church of that termination. Associate membership will normally terminate immediately upon the ending of the period of temporary residence in the Anderson, SC area.

G. Fellowship membership

Affirming that children under the age of sixteen can have a credible testimony of regeneration and gifts to serve in the church, Renewal desires to prepare them for the responsibilities of church membership through this category of lesser responsibility and corporate accountability. Additionally, the tragic effects of the fall render some to a mental disability such that they are able by God's grace to understand and believe the gospel, yet are not capable of fulfilling the responsibilities of membership entailed in the church covenant. Recognizing that all people are image bearers of God, that God has sovereign control over every disability, and that God has good purposes for every one of his children, Renewal desires to affirm evidences of grace and accept shepherding responsibility for such brothers and sisters (Gen. 1:27, Ps. 139:13, Rom. 15:1).

1. Qualification for fellowship membership

Persons who meet the following qualifications shall be eligible for Fellowship Membership:

- a. Must be a believer in Jesus Christ who gives evidence of regeneration

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b. Must have been baptized by immersion in obedience to Christ, following his or her regeneration

2. Procedure for fellowship membership
The procedure for one to be admitted into Fellowship Membership is the same as that of members.

3. Limitations of fellowship membership
Fellowship Members shall not exercise the responsibility to vote nor will be candidates to administer nor receive church discipline.

4. Transition from fellowship membership to membership
Following a Fellowship Member’s sixteenth birthday and prior to his receiving membership, he shall request of the elders (pastors) a membership interview to pursue covenant membership.

H. Termination of membership
Membership may be terminated for the following reasons:

- 1. Death
- 2. Transfer of membership to another church, or ceasing to be an active participant in the body of Renewal, as determined by the elders (pastors).
- 3. By personal request of the member, except when that member is in the process of church discipline. If it appears to the elders (pastors) that a member has requested removal merely to avoid church discipline, that request may not be honored until the disciplinary process has been properly concluded.
- 4. As an act of church discipline in accord with the Renewal Church Discipline Policy.

ARTICLE VI
Meetings of Members

A. Worship Meetings
Worship services shall be held each Lord’s Day, and may be held throughout the week as the elders (pastors) determine.

B. Business Meetings
In every meeting together, members shall act in that spirit of mutual trust, openness, and loving consideration which is appropriate within the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. Business meetings of the members shall proceed according to a reasonable order according to the occasions, in the manner, and for the purposes set forth below.

- 1 1. An annual business meeting of the Church will be held to adopt an annual budget and
2 conduct any other business deemed appropriate by the elders (pastors).
3
- 4 2. A special business meeting of the Church may be called at any time by the elders
5 (pastors).
6
- 7 3. Notification of business meetings shall be given to members by any one of the
8 following methods:
9 a. Distribution of written material to the congregation in attendance at all
10 Sunday services
11 b. Announcement of the meeting in the church newsletter or email
12 c. Oral announcement to the congregation at all Sunday services
13 d. By first-class letter to members
14
- 15 4. Members shall be notified no less than one week prior to a business meeting.
16
- 17 5. A quorum shall consist of those members present and voting on a given matter.
18
- 19 6. The chairman of the elders (pastors), namely, the Lead Pastor, will preside over the
20 meeting. If absent, another elder (pastor) chosen by the elders (pastors) will preside
21 over the meeting.
22
- 23 7. A motion shall be adopted upon the agreement of 75% of the members present and
24 voting on the matter.
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31 ARTICLE VII
32 Church Government
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34 Scripture indicates that the responsibility for shepherding and leading the church under Jesus Christ
35 belongs to the elders (pastors) (1 Ti. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5-9; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).
36

37 A. Elders (Pastors)
38

- 39 1. Qualifications and Responsibilities of Elders (Pastors)
40
- 41 a. Subject to the will of the congregation, the elders (pastors) shall provide broad
42 oversight to the ministry, financial management, and resources of the church.
43 In keeping with the principles set forth in Acts 6:1-6, 1 Tim. 3:1-7, 5:17, Tit. 1:5-9,
44 Jas. 5:14, and 1 Pet. 5:1-4, the elders (pastors) shall seek the mind of Christ
45 through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the word of God as they undertake
46 the work of shepherding God’s flock. The elders (pastors) shall teach and
47 exhort; refute those who contradict the truth; pray for the sick; care for the

1 church's members; devote themselves to prayer, to the government of the
2 church and to ministry.

- 3 b. The elders (pastors) shall be comprised of a number of men determined by the
4 active elders (pastors) who satisfy the qualifications for the office of elder
5 (pastor) set forth in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Tit. 1:6-9. Only men may serve as elders
6 (pastors) in accord with 1 Tim. 2:12, 3:2. The duties of an elder (pastor) shall be
7 as follows:
- 8 i. He will be responsible to manage or administrate the local church before
9 Almighty God, exercising leadership and authority (1 Tim 3:4-5; Tit 1:7).
 - 10
 - 11 ii. He will be responsible to be a guardian to the truth and to care for the
12 welfare of the members of the local church in every area and will give
13 account to God (1 Tim 3:1-2; Tit 1:7; Heb. 13:17).
 - 14
 - 15 iii. He will be required to hold fast to the Scriptures and to be able to apply
16 them to life situations (Tit. 1:9).
 - 17
 - 18 iv. He will be required to reprove, rebuke, and exhort according to the
19 principles of Scripture as necessary (2 Tim. 3:16; Tit. 1:9-13).
 - 20
 - 21 v. He will be required to "feed the flock," by ministering the Word of God
22 whether publicly or privately (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim 3:2; 1 Pet 5:2-3).
 - 23
 - 24 vi. He will be an example to the membership of the church (1 Pet. 5:3).
 - 25
 - 26 vii. He will be required to "shepherd" (pastor) the members of the local
27 church (Acts 20:28).
 - 28
- 29 c. No elder (pastor) shall hold the office of deacon during his tenure. Those elders
30 (pastors) not receiving compensation from the church will be called "lay elders"
31 for the purpose of this constitution, although biblically and functionally there is
32 no difference among the elders (pastors).- 33
- 34 d. The elders (pastors) may establish and oversee ministry positions and
35 committees to assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities. The elders
36 (pastors) shall also have primary responsibility for the employment,
37 supervision, and evaluation of staff members. The outworking of this
38 responsibility may, on a case-by-case basis, be delegated to deacons or another
39 staff member.
- 40
- 41 e. A paid or volunteer staff position does not in and of itself constitute an elder's
42 (pastor's) position.
- 43
- 44 f. The elders (pastors) may hire and fire non-ministerial staff on a case-by-case
45 basis.
- 46

- 1 g. The elders (pastors) must have at least 75% approval of the elders (pastors) in
2 order to proceed with an action.
3
4 h. The Lead Elder (Pastor) will serve as chairman of elders' meetings and as
5 moderator of members' meetings. If desired, he may delegate this to another
6 elder (pastor). In his absence, the elders (pastors) shall appoint another elder
7 (pastor) to fulfill these duties.
8
9 i. Should a member desire to add an item to the agenda of the elders' meeting, he
10 shall make this request in writing to the elders (pastors) no less than fourteen
11 days prior to the meeting.
12

13 2. The Lead Elder (Pastor)

14 The Senior Elder (Pastor) shall perform the duties of an elder (pastor) described in
15 Section A above. He shall be recognized by the church as particularly gifted and
16 called to the ministry of preaching and teaching the word of God. He will serve as an
17 elder as first among equals. While being a chairman of the meetings, his vote will
18 exercise the same authority as other elders (pastors). In his absence, the other
19 elders (pastors) shall assume responsibility for his duties, any of which can be
20 delegated.
21

22 3. Selection of Lay Elders (Pastors)

23 The church shall recognize men gifted and willing to serve in this calling, in
24 accordance with the constitutional provisions on elections. These men shall be
25 received as gifts of Christ to His church and set apart as elders (pastors). This
26 recognition shall be reaffirmed by the church triennially. After a lay elder (pastor)
27 has served one three-year term, he shall be eligible for a one year sabbatical if
28 desired either by the elder himself or the elders (pastors). Exceptions to this term
29 limitation shall require the unanimous consent of the remaining elders (pastors).
30 The selection process shall be as follows:

- 31 a. The current elders (pastors) shall provide the congregation with Biblical
32 teaching concerning the tasks and qualifications of elders (pastors).
33
34 b. The congregation shall submit names of nominees to the elders (pastors) for
35 their consideration.
36
37 c. The nominees shall perform extensive self-evaluation based upon the
38 Scriptural teaching concerning elders (pastors).
39
40 d. The elders (pastors) shall interview those nominees who remain in the process
41 following the self-evaluation.
42
43 e. The elders (pastors) shall recommend to the congregation the nominees they
44 feel best fulfill the Biblical requirements for elders (pastors).
45

1 f. The congregation shall then evaluate the recommended nominees. Any
 2 concerns shall be taken up first with the nominee in question and then with the
 3 current elders (pastors).
 4

5 g. Following the congregational evaluation a time of dedication and
 6 congregational affirmation shall be held for the new elders (pastors).
 7

8 4. Dismissal of Lay Elders (Pastors). Any two members with reason to believe that an
 9 elder (pastor) should be dismissed should express such concern first to the elder in
 10 question and, if necessary, to the elders (pastors). Any such action shall be done in
 11 accordance with the instructions of our Lord in Mt. 18:15-17 and 1 Tim. 5:17-21.
 12 The dismissal of an elder shall be the responsibility of the remaining elders
 13 (pastors). Action to dismiss an elder shall require the unanimous consent of the
 14 remaining elders (pastors).
 15

16 B. Deacon Ministry

17 1. Role of Deacons

18 a. The office of deacon is described in 1 Tim. 3:8-13 (cf. Acts 6:1-7). The church
 19 shall recognize, in accordance with the constitutional provisions on elections,
 20 men who are giving of themselves in service to the church, who possess gifts of
 21 ministry, who are called to further service and care for the church's members,
 22 and meet the qualifications of a deacon as described in 1 Tim. 3:8-13. The
 23 number of deacons shall be determined by the needs of the ministry and the call
 24 and qualifications of men in the church.
 25

26 b. Deacons shall assist the elders (pastors) in any service that shall support and
 27 promote the ministry of the Word, new and existing ministries of the church,
 28 and the care of the members of the congregation. The deacons may be organized
 29 in the most fitting way to accomplish the mission of the church.
 30

31 2. Selection of Deacons

32 The church shall recognize men gifted and willing to serve in this calling, in accordance
 33 with the constitutional provisions on elections. Deacons shall serve one-year terms
 34 and are subject to elder evaluation at the end of each year with congregational input.
 35 There is no limit placed on the number of consecutive terms deacons may serve. The
 36 selection process shall be as follows.

37 a. The current elders (pastors) shall provide the congregation with Biblical
 38 teaching
 39 concerning the tasks and qualifications of deacons.
 40

41 b. The elders (pastors) shall solicit from the congregation names of nominees for
 42 their consideration.
 43

44 c. The nominees shall perform extensive self-evaluation based upon the
 45 Scriptural teaching concerning deacons.
 46

- 1 d. The elders (pastors) shall interview those nominees who remain in the process
 2 following the self-evaluation.
 3
 4 e. The elders (pastors) shall recommend to the congregation the nominees they
 5 feel best fulfill the Biblical requirements for deacon.
 6
 7 f. The congregation shall then evaluate the recommended nominees. Any
 8 concerns shall be taken up first with the nominee in question and then with the
 9 current elders (pastors).
 10
 11 g. Following the congregational evaluation a time of dedication and
 12 congregational affirmation shall be held for the new deacons.
 13

14 3. Removal of Deacons

15 Any member with reason to believe that a deacon should be dismissed should express
 16 such concern first to the deacon in question and, if necessary, to the elders (pastors).
 17 Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions of our Lord in Mt.
 18 18:15-17. The dismissal of a deacon shall be the responsibility of the elders (pastors).
 19 Action to dismiss a deacon shall require the unanimous consent of the elders (pastors).
 20

21 C. Clerk

22 It shall be the duty of the clerk to record the minutes of all regular and special members'
 23 meetings of the church, to preserve an accurate roll of the membership, and to render
 24 reports as requested by the elders (pastors), deacons, or the church. In the absence or
 25 incapacity of the clerk, the elders (pastors) shall appoint a member to perform the duties of
 26 the church clerk. For purposes of compliance with the nonprofit corporation laws of the
 27 state of South Carolina, the clerk shall serve as the secretary of the corporation. The
 28 church clerk shall ensure that dated copies of the most recent revision of this constitution
 29 shall be available for all church members. The clerk shall be appointed by the elders
 30 (pastors).
 31

32 D. Treasurer

33 The treasurer, who shall not be an active elder (pastor) or a paid church staff member,
 34 shall ensure that all funds and securities of the church are properly secured in such banks,
 35 financial institutions, or depositories as designated by the church. The treasurer shall also
 36 ensure that full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements are kept in books
 37 belonging to the church, and that adequate controls are implemented to guarantee that all
 38 funds belonging to the church are appropriately handled by any officer, employee, or agent
 39 of the church. The treasurer shall render to the elders (pastors) annually, or whenever they
 40 may require it, an account of all transactions as treasurer and of the financial condition of
 41 the church. The treasurer shall also be responsible for presenting regular reports of the
 42 account balances, revenues, and expenses of the church at regular members' meeting. The
 43 treasurer shall be appointed by the elders (pastors).
 44

45 E. Trustees

46 The trustees shall serve the church as official representatives of the church in terms of
 47 business contracts and other legal matters. Trustees, under the direction of the elders

(pastors) and congregational approval, may borrow money and incur indebtedness on behalf of the church and cause to be executed and delivered for the church’s purposes and in the church’s name, promissory notes and other evidences of debt and securities. The trustees shall be appointed by the elders (pastors) for a three-year term.

ARTICLE VIII
Paid Staff

A. Qualifications of Paid Elders (Pastors)

All pastoral staff shall meet the Biblical qualifications for elders (pastors). Reference Article VII, Section A above.

B. Calling of Paid Elders (Pastors)

In the event of a vacancy in the office of a paid elder (pastor), the elders (pastors) shall conduct a search for an acceptable candidate to present to the congregation, if filling this vacancy is deemed necessary by the remaining elders (pastors). Having selected the candidate, he shall be presented to the congregation for a congregational vote. The extension of a call shall be made upon an affirmative vote by a minimum of 75% of the members present and voting at a duly called business meeting.

C. Dismissal of Paid Elders (Pastors)

The dismissal of a paid elder (pastor) shall be the responsibility of the elders (pastors). Action to dismiss the elder (pastor) shall require the unanimous consent of all of the remaining elders (pastors).

D. Calling of Support Staff

The creation of support staff positions and hiring of support staff shall be the responsibility of the elders (pastors).

E. Dismissal of Support Staff

The dismissal of a support staff member shall be the responsibility of the elders (pastors). Action to dismiss a member of the support staff shall require the unanimous consent of all of the elders (pastors).

Renewal Church of Anderson Covenant

Adopted April 6, 2011

1
2
3
4 Having been, as we trust, brought by the grace of God to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to offer ourselves
5 to Him, and having been baptized by immersion upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and
6 of the Holy Spirit, we do now, by His grace, solemnly and joyfully renew our covenant together.¹

7 I. We will seek to walk together in the unity of the Spirit, praying for one another and exercising mutual care as
8 members one of another.²

9
10 II. We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, and we will make it a priority to attend corporate
11 gatherings. Under the Word of God, we will work together for the continuance of a faithful gospel ministry in this
12 church, as we sustain its worship, doctrines, and the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.³

13
14 III. We will frequently encourage, exhort, and admonish one another to hold to our confession of Christ, remembering
15 that as we have been voluntarily buried by baptism and raised again from the symbolic grave, so there is on us now a
16 special obligation to lead a new and holy life.⁴

17
18 IV. We will work together to support the ministry of the church by: upholding its mission, submitting to our elders
19 (pastors), using our gifts for the edification of one other, and praying for its health. We will contribute cheerfully and
20 regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the needy, and the spread of the
21 gospel to all nations.⁵

22
23 V. We will aim to make disciples of Christ in our own city and abroad, sending to the nations those from among us and
24 readying ourselves to go when called.⁶

25
26 VI. We will endeavor to bring up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord those who may be under our household. In
27 view of this calling, we will not neglect the Word of God in our homes.⁷

28
29 VII. We will, when we move from this place, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the
30 spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.⁸

31 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.⁹

32
33
34

Adapted in part from Capitol Hill Baptist Church Covenant and New Hampshire Baptist Convention Covenant of 1833.

¹ Matt. 16:13-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Eph. 1:3-14

² Matt. 22:39; Ro. 12:5; 1 Cor. 1:10; Js. 5:16; 1 Pet. 4:10-11

³ 1 Cor. 11:17-34; Heb. 10:24-25

⁴ Matt. 4:19, 16:24; Rom. 6:4, 12:1; Eph. 4:1; Heb. 3:12-14

⁵ Matt. 18:15-20; Acts 2:45; 1 Cor. 12:4-11; 2 Cor. 8, 9:6-15; 2 Tim. 2:2; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-5

⁶ Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Tit. 2

⁷ Deut. 6:4-9; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

⁸ John 13:34-35; 1 Cor. 3:5-17; Heb. 10:24-25

⁹ 2 Cor. 13:14

APPENDIX B

Renewal Church of Anderson Discipline Policy¹⁰

We must love each other with a biblical love – a love that discerns, desires, and does what is best for another person, according to Scripture. We have to value each other’s holiness more highly than we value our own comfort. Even more importantly, we must value the approval of our Lord more highly than we value each other’s approval. Otherwise, we will be unwilling to do the right thing when we fear that it might upset someone.

- Biblical Church Discipline Manual

God’s desire for His children here on earth is purity of life. It is impossible to study Scripture attentively and not be overwhelmingly convinced that God seeks above all else for His people to be holy and that He is grieved by sin of any kind. Directly quoting God’s command to His Old Covenant people Israel, Peter wrote the same command to Christ’s church: ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’ Because God is so concerned for the holiness of His people, they should be equally concerned. The church cannot teach and preach a message it does not live, and have any integrity before God, or even before the world.

- The MacArthur New Testament Commentary

Pursuing someone in sin is the most loving thing that can be done for that individual, the body of Christ, and the name of Christ.

- Shepherding the Church Family

Church discipline at Renewal Church is founded upon the holiness and the love of our glorious God, the Lordship of Jesus Christ who is the head of the church, and an understanding of the church as the Body of Christ. (Eph. 4-5; Col. 1:9-29)

Discipline is a courageous and compassionate act of love, desiring only good for the person caught in sin. Its aim is rescue, restoration, and reconciliation. Just as discipline is a mark of a healthy family, church discipline is a mark of a healthy church. The context and prerequisite for church discipline is authentic Christian community. (Prv. 3:11-12; 1 Cor. 5:5, 11:32; 1 Tim. 1:20; Heb 12:5-11; Rev. 3:19)

The primary teaching and hopeful desire of the elders (pastors) at Renewal Church is for believers to develop self-discipline, so that they may be lead godly lives characterized by obedient faith. We believe that love for God, the first and greatest command by our Lord Jesus Christ, is manifested primarily through diligent obedience to the Word of God and love for other believers. (Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 7:1; Col. 3:5-10; 1 Thes. 4:3-8; Heb. 3:12-15, 12:14-17; 1 Pet. 1:13-16; 2 Pet. 1:3-11; Rev. 3:14)

Church discipline has 3 purposes: 1) To glorify and honor God through obedience to His Word. 2) To protect and maintain the purity of the local church by pursuing individual and corporate holiness. 3) To rescue and restore believers overtaken by sin.

We believe that church discipline should be exercised in every case of substantiated, habitual, willful, unrepentant sin when the erring party is not willing to make any attempt to resolve the matter. Though not an exhaustive list, the following sins are addressed by the New Testament church:

¹⁰ Adapted from the Church Discipline Policy of North Wake Baptist Church, Wake Forest, NC.

1 divisiveness (2 Thess. 3:11; Tit. 3:10-11; Rom. 16:17-20), irresponsible and undisciplined living (1
2 Thes. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6-15), sexual immorality (1 Cor. 5:1-13), doctrinal heresy (1 Tim. 6:3-5; 2 Tim.
3 2:16-18; 2 John 1:10-11; Rev. 2:14-16).

4
5 The actions and heart attitude of the church, particularly the elders (pastors), are to be characterized
6 by humility, compassion, mercy, gentleness, and fairness (Gal. 6:1-2; Js. 5:19-20; 2 Thes. 3:15; 1 Cor.
7 5:2; 2 Cor. 2:4-8; Mic. 6:8). Elders and deacons are held to an even higher standard of accountability (1
8 Tim. 3:1-7, 5:17-22; Jas. 3:1).

9
10 We believe that church discipline is applicable to all members and believers who fellowship with us.
11 Withdrawal of membership or fellowship does not necessarily negate the process of church
12 discipline, particularly where it appears that a person has done so to avoid church discipline. Such
13 requests may not be honored until the disciplinary process has been concluded. If a believer fails to
14 discipline himself and demonstrates no evidence of repentance, the Scriptures clearly indicate that
15 loving confrontation is the responsibility of the church. Church discipline is a biblical process that is
16 to be handled prayerfully, carefully, justly, and only after several individual attempts at correction
17 have been attempted and have failed.

18
19 The basic stages of church discipline, according to Mt. 18:15-20, are as follows.

20
21 **FIRST:** If a Christian fails to discipline himself and is trapped in unrepentant sin, Christ commands
22 the individual who is aware of the matter to go to him in private to lovingly confront, counsel, and
23 encourage him to repent (“Go and show him his fault, just between the two of you” Mt. 18:15).

24
25 **SECOND:** If he will not listen to the one person, especially after several attempts, and there is no
26 evidence of repentance, “take one or two others along” to further address the matter and to continue
27 to encourage him to repent. The intent of others being involved is to guarantee clear communication
28 and to enlist others for prayer and discernment (Mt. 18:16).

29
30 **THIRD:** If these personal and informal steps do not elicit repentance, Jesus says we should “tell it to
31 the church.” Tell it to the church necessarily involves bringing the elders (pastors) into the process
32 and requesting their direct assistance in resolving the problem, if they were not involved in the
33 previous steps. In some cases, one or more elders (pastors) may repeat the previous steps and try to
34 persuade the offender to repent. The elders (pastors), after confirming the information, a proper
35 process, and continued refusal to repent may then inform the church when it is assembled (Mt.
36 18:17).

37
38 The elders (pastors) will send a letter by registered mail warning the individual that the third or
39 fourth step of church discipline will be taken if they have not received significant evidence of
40 repentance by a specific date.

41
42 “Telling it to the church” means that the congregation will be informed about the general nature of
43 the sin, given a general description of the process that has taken place, and about the refusal to
44 repent. They will be asked to pray for and plead with the offender to repent and to pursue the person
45 for the purpose of restoration.

46

1 Personal visits, telephone calls, and letters are examples of what it means to “pursue” them. The
2 church is to keep on loving them and seeking their restoration.

3
4 **FOURTH:** If the offender refuses to submit to the caring admonition of the church and continues to
5 harden his heart, then Jesus says we are to “treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.” This
6 means that the person is publicly dismissed from the church with the hope of future repentance and
7 reconciliation. In addition, this means that the person will be denied Christian fellowship, treated as
8 an unbeliever, and delivered over to Satan in the hope that his soul will be saved (Mt. 18:17; Rom.
9 16:17; 2 Thes. 1:20, 3:6,14; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; 1 Tim. 6:3-5; Tit. 3:10).

10
11 If at any point during this process, the offender demonstrates repentance, then notice to that effect
12 will also be made publicly so that the church may rejoice and gently and judiciously restore the
13 repentant believer to the fellowship of the church.

14
15 We accept these stages as principles prescribed by our Lord and our Scriptures. The elders (pastors)
16 of the church, after prayer and consultation with one another and the Holy Scriptures, may eliminate,
17 compress, contract, or combine into one any of these stages. Elders (pastors) are commanded to
18 protect the flock and some forms of sinful conduct deemed harmful to the flock may require
19 immediate action (Acts 20:28-31; Tit. 3:10; 1 Cor. 5:1-5).