



North Trenholm

BAPTIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FAITH & BYLAWS

We declare and establish that these bylaws are for the
preservation of faith and for the orderly governing
of this organization called
North Trenholm Baptist Church.

“But all things should be done decently and in order.”
1 Corinthians 14:40

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ARTICLE I – NAME

SECTION A: Established initially as Tabernacle Baptist Church on April 9, 1911, the church subsequently changed its name to North Trenholm Baptist Church on May 26, 1955. The name of the corporation is North Trenholm Baptist Church, herein referred to as “the church,” “North Trenholm,” “Trenholm,” and/or “the corporation”.

SECTION B: Whenever it is desirable to abbreviate the name of this organization in the bylaws, the name “North Trenholm” shall be considered in every way the legal name of the church corporation.

SECTION C: Whenever the word “church” is used in these Bylaws or their amendments or other official action of the church corporation, it shall signify the legal organization of this church as established in the Articles of Incorporation and herein. References to votes of the church shall have reference to a vote of the members of this church corporation.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

SECTION A: North Trenholm, the corporation, is organized exclusively for religious, charitable, 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 providing weekly opportunities for public worship, fulfilling the ordinances, doctrines, and ethics set forth in the Old and New Testament for a biblical expression of a local church, and doing the work committed to the Church by Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

SECTION B: Every ministry and entity within the church shall seek to share the Gospel faithfully and boldly, to engage intentionally in both the individual and corporate discipleship process and live as ambassadors of the Church locally and globally.

ARTICLE III – STATEMENT OF FAITH & AFFILIATION

From the New Testament until today, Christians have commonly held doctrinal truths as the core to their beliefs. Our Statement of Faith summarizes our essential Christian beliefs, shows unity in Christ, and guards the church from error. All who join our church are expected to be in agreement with this Statement of Faith. It follows the format of the great traditional statements of faith held by Southern Baptists over the past century (Baptist, Faith and Message 1925, 1963, & 2000) but has been updated to bring clarity to issues that are current to our times. This statement registers our belief in historic Christianity, evangelical Christianity, believer's baptism, and the priesthood of believers. Once we as members agree to the statement, we are responsible for believing and living in accordance with it.

SECTION 1: THE SCRIPTURES

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God as its author, salvation as its end, and the truth, without any mixture of error, as its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

SECTION 2: GOD

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing, and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes but without division of nature, essence, or being.

A. GOD THE FATHER

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11; 20:1; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

B. GOD THE SON

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross, He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and

glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever-present Lord.

Genesis 18:1; Psalms 2:7; 110:1; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

C. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination, He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration, He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His Church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

SECTION 3: MAN

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender as male and female is part of the goodness of God's created order. It is the fundamental and universal biological distinction of the human race and is not determined by one's self-perception. As created people, 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 or alter through surgery nor appearances the distinction between one's gender and one's biological sex. In the beginning, man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice, man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan, man transgressed the command of God and fell from his original innocence, whereby his posterity inherits a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

SECTION 4: SALVATION

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense, salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

- A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

- B. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Savior.
- C. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer into a relationship of peace and favor with God.
- D. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerated person's life.
- E. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3;5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1;1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

E. GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ and sanctified by His Spirit will never fall away from the state of grace but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39;12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

SECTION 5: THE CHURCH

A New Testament Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation is to operate under the Lordship of Christ through scripturally informed and wise processes. Each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord and to show honor to those whom God has called and have been appointed as leaders within the church. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the Church as the Body of Christ, which includes all the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.

SECTION 6: BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the

dead. Being a Church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the body of Christ, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

SECTION 7: THE LORD'S DAY

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.

SECTION 8: THE KINGDOM

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly, the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come, and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age. God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised, and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 2:4; 9:6-7; 11:9; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; 11:10,16; 12:28; James 5:8; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; 2 Peter 3:7; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:6,9; 1:18; 3:11; 5:10; 11:15; 20:1-22:13.

SECTION 9: EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every Church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek to share constantly the gospel of Christ with the lost and through verbal witness faithfully validate a true Christian lifestyle and through other methods that are in harmony with the gospel.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.

SECTION 10: STEWARDSHIP

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

SECTION 11: COOPERATION

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objectives of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

Exodus 17:12; 18:17; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18.

SECTION 12: THE CHRISTIAN AND THE SOCIAL ORDER

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery,

homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, widowed, sojourner, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends, Christians should be ready to work with all men of goodwill in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16,43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3;10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12:14; 1Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.

SECTION 13: MARRIAGE, FAMILY, CHILDREN

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage has only one meaning, and that is marriage sanctioned by God, which joins one originally and currently biological male presenting as a man with one originally and currently biological female presenting as a woman in a single, exclusive union as delineated in Scripture under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Marriage for Christians is the uniting of one man and one woman of like faith in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Scripture encourages Christians to marry Christians, avoiding marriage to non-Christians.

It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His Church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. 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.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the Church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband, even as the Church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

For these reasons, the ministers and staff of the church shall only participate in, and the church property or resources may only be used for, weddings between one man and one woman who maintain these criteria.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

ARTICLE IV – ORGANIZATION

SECTION A: GOVERNMENT

North Trenholm is a biblically founded church that operates under the scriptural convictions incorporated within our Statement of Faith. Scripture models how the Church is to be governed and these bylaws affirm that the Church is “Jesus-Ruled, Pastors-Led, Elder-Accountable, Deacon-Served, Membership-Affirmed.” This framework is in accordance with the principles laid down in the New Testament.

- *Jesus-Ruled:* We believe the Bible affirms Jesus as the head of the Church, and North Trenholm is under the conviction that God’s Church is not ours to rule but is to be founded on the scriptures and led by the indwelling Spirit. What Jesus has communicated through His Word is to be the rule by which the church operates.
- *Pastors-Led:* In this model, the Senior Pastor serves as the spiritual leader of the church yet serves humbly with a plurality of leaders within the ministry staff and is responsible to see that the staff and membership promote the church’s purpose and vision. The Senior Pastor, accountable to the Elder Body and supported by the Personnel Committee, may hire, replace or remove church staff as deemed necessary. The ministry staff are responsible for overseeing and evaluating the direction of all ministries and stewardship in the church. Together, the Senior Pastor, the ministry Staff, and the Elders form a plurality of leaders sharing the oversight for the daily operations of the Church.
- *Elder-Accountable:* The Elder Body is responsible for holding the ministry and membership accountable for church matters regarding direction, doctrine, and discipline. The Elders are to be in full agreement as a Body and are not expected to exercise any authority in the church with how they operate individually. The Senior Pastor and Elder Body may establish ad-hoc teams to assist in any needs deemed appropriate for the church. They may also delegate authority and responsibilities to qualified individuals or teams.

- *Deacon-served:* The Deacon body will serve in accordance with the New Testament as a support for the Gospel ministry both in and through the church. They will assist the needs of members and families day-to-day and in times of crisis. They serve faithfully in the prayer ministry, benevolence ministry, and the ordinances.
- *Membership-affirmed:* The Membership is responsible for carrying out the purpose of North Trenholm. They are responsible for ensuring North Trenholm remains faithful to its mission as given by Jesus Christ and to its Statement of Faith laid out in Scripture. Recognizing that Scripture dictates there is wisdom in a multitude of counselors, certain standing committees and ad-hoc teams shall exist under the leadership of the Senior Pastor to assist the staff in carrying out the church's mission and purpose. A three-fourths (75%) church-wide vote from the Membership will be required to affirm any of the following decisions: (1) the call or removal of the Senior Pastor and the affirmation of all Elders and Deacons at North Trenholm; (2) borrowing money; (3) selling or buying real estate; (4) approving the annual operating budget; (5) making changes to these Bylaws. The membership may also bring any decision of the Pastors, Elders, and Deacons under review by following the procedure established in these Bylaws.

SECTION B: SENIOR PASTOR

The role of the pastor is a biblically ordained office in Ephesians 4:11, as well as 1 Peter 5:2. The Senior Pastor leads North Trenholm in prayerfully seeking and in striving, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to serve the Lord and to honor Jesus Christ as a scripturally supported Church. The Senior Pastor leads the membership in seeking God's vision for the church. He leads the church in committing to the Kingdom work of striving to achieve this vision. The Senior Pastor is the primary person called to proclaim or preach God's word on a regular basis to the church. The Senior Pastor shall fulfill all of the qualifications for Elders as stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9 and serve as member of the Elder Body.

B.1 –RESPONSIBILITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. The Senior Pastor will serve as the principal spiritual leader of the church and will be responsible to the membership for all operations of the church.
2. The Senior Pastor shall provide biblical teaching, encourage corporate prayer, and help lead the church in God-honoring worship.
3. He will conduct religious services on selected and specified occasions, administer ordinances, minister to the members of the church and community, and perform other duties normally pertaining to the office of pastor.
4. Faithfully and diligently work toward establishing and accomplishing the mission and vision of the church by providing clarity, counsel, encouragement, correction, and accountability for the church staff to assure each one fulfills the purpose that God has called them to at North Trenholm.
5. Model a personal pursuit of Christ-likeness to the membership and staff and provide leadership to the church as it seeks to minister in its community and to reach out into the broader world with the Gospel.
6. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in consultation with the Elders, serve as the primary preacher for the church.
7. Provide training and development for pastors, ministers, interns and ministry leaders, including the Elder and Deacon Body.
8. The Senior Pastor, accountable to the Elder Body and supported by the Personnel Committee, may hire, replace, realign or remove church staff as deemed necessary.

9. The Senior Pastor will serve in an ex-officio status on all committees and teams.

B.2 – SELECTION AND CALL

1. The Senior Pastor will be selected and called by the church whenever a vacancy occurs.
2. The job description for this role must be approved by the Personnel Committee and compensation for the role, with the authorization of the Stewardship Committee, must be supported through contributions from the membership.
3. A Pastor Search Committee (PSC) will be selected from the membership by the Elder Body and affirmed by members that each selection is in good standing with the church. The PSC is to seek out the pastor the Lord wants for this church and will bring that man to the church for consideration and issuance of a call. This special, single-purpose committee will be comprised of nine members broadly representative of the membership by gender, age, race, and length of membership.
4. The call of the Senior Pastor will take place in a specially called business meeting on a Sunday morning following the regular hours of worship, after notice has been given as for any other specially called business meeting. A supermajority of 75 percent of members present and voting shall be required for a call to be extended.
5. The Senior Pastor's call will continue until either the Senior Pastor or the church terminates the relationship.

B.3 –RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL (*Revised April 2023*)

1. The resignation of the Senior Pastor shall be submitted to the Elder Body and the Personnel Committee with an effective date in the submission.
 - a. The Elder body will choose a plan for the interim to include selecting a pastor.
 - b. Unless previously agreed upon, the interim pastor shall primarily serve in preaching and teaching.
2. Suppose the relationship between the membership and the Senior Pastor has come to the point of contention with no viable Biblical solution. In that case, the Elder Body and Personnel Committee shall recommend to the membership to remove the pastor at a special called business meeting.

- a. This meeting shall be announced 14 days in advance of the meeting.
- b. There must be agreement on removal from 75% of the eligible voting members who are present at the meeting.
3. In the case of verified immoral conduct or illegal activity, the Elder Body is responsible for immediately removing the pastor.
4. In the case of conduct that mandatory reporting is required, law enforcement should be notified immediately.
5. In the case of incapacity or inability to serve, the Elder Body shall appoint someone qualified to fill the pulpit until a permanent solution is found.
6. The service of the Senior Pastor shall normally conclude immediately following a vote for dismissal by an affirmative vote of three-fourths (75%) of the active members both present and voting (no absentee voting is permitted).
7. In the event of incapacity or inability of the Senior Pastor to continue in his duties, the Elder Body shall choose to appoint someone from the pastoral staff or an intentional interim to fulfill the duties until other arrangements are made.

SECTION C: ELDERS:

The Elder Body is to assist the Senior Pastor and church Staff in the oversight of all ministries and care for each of the members. The responsibility of the Elder Body is to hold the ministry and membership accountable for church matters regarding direction, doctrine, and the discipline of members. The Elders are responsible to provide guidance to, oversee, and evaluate the direction of all ministries and stewardship of the church. They may establish leadership teams or other ad-hoc committees to assist them in these duties as they deem necessary.

The organization of this church shall reside in the membership, be led by Pastoral leadership, and held accountable by the Elder Body (Elders). The Elders, with exception to the Senior Pastor, must be active church members for 3 consecutive years and men who fulfill the qualifications for the office stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 Timothy 5:17-22, and Titus 1:5-9.

C.1 – RESPONSIBILITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

The purpose of the Elders on behalf of the membership is to see to it that the church carries out its mission and vision while observing scriptural standards. They will meet monthly for prayer, for spiritual renewal, to evaluate and encourage the spiritual health of the leadership of the church and the membership. They will provide accountability for the ministries and seek to identify and develop other men as potential Elders. The specific task of the Elders is to ensure the implementation of its primary and occasional responsibilities, which include the following:

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. *Praying*: The Elders will pray for the membership, the church Staff, and themselves. In keeping with the teaching of James 5:14, they will also offer a ministry of prayer for members who are sick.
2. *Shepherding*: As shepherds, Elders will seek to care for the flock joyfully by practicing hospitality, engaging in a teaching ministry, biblical counseling, and visitation. (1 Peter 5:1-4; Heb.13:17).
3. *Overseeing*: Elders are charged with overseeing the spiritual life of the church, including its unity and peace, essential biblical doctrine, ministry direction, the Senior Pastor's leadership, the ministry of the Staff, the Deacon Body, and the health of the stewardship and personnel of the church.
4. *Deciding*: The Elders will approve all the written policies for the church developed by the ministry staff and standing committees. In addition, they may review and approve all current and future policies to ensure policies are consistent with and never contradict the statement of faith, the mission or vision of North Trenholm, and these bylaws. The Elder Body will be responsible for suspending and/or terminating any policy that is inconsistent or contradicts the statement of faith, the mission or vision of North Trenholm, and these bylaws until at such time appropriate changes are made to conform. To support wise decision making, the Elders may also make policy in the following areas, but are not necessarily limited to these areas
 - Policies regarding the church's mission, vision, values, and purpose: what they are and how they will be carried out.
 - Policies and procedures governing the Elders themselves: how they will execute their responsibilities.

- Policies and procedures determining how the church is to enter into and implement the biblical process for church discipline.
 - In addition, the Elders shall make certain the Ministry Staff, deacons, standing committees, and other ministry areas are developing and updating their own policies as needed.
5. *Advising*: The Elders will provide the Senior Pastor, Ministry Staff, committees, and the deacon body with input and practical advice.

OCCASIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. *Arbitrating Disputes*: The Elders will serve as arbitrators in any disputes deemed necessary, including charges (1 Timothy 5:19) either warranted or unwarranted made against the Senior Pastor, Ministry Staff, or the Leadership of the church.
2. *Church Discipline*: The Elders are responsible for seeing that any church discipline occurs in keeping with Matthew 18:15-17.
3. *Ordaining/Licensing*: The Elders are responsible for approving the licensing and ordination of individuals to the gospel ministry.
4. *Communication*: The Elder Body will meet monthly to discuss ministry decisions being made and will connect with the Deacons each semester for the purpose of receiving suggestions and encouraging their ministries.
5. *Selection*: The Elders will serve the membership by overseeing the selection process for each committee, assuring that all who are nominated for any of the standing Committees qualify as active members. They will provide orientation for each committee regarding qualifications and responsibilities, selection and structure, resignations or removals. When necessary, they will select from nominations those who will serve on a Senior Pastor Search Committee.
6. *Legal Functions*: The Elders and Stewardship Committee will perform all the statutory functions of the Board of Trustees of a religious association under The State of South Carolina's Nonprofit Incorporation laws. The Elder Chair will serve as President of the church for legal purposes and the Vice Chair as secretary.

C.2 – SELECTION AND STRUCTURE

The Elder Body will be comprised of the Senior Pastor and a designated number, determined by the Elders: however, is not to exceed twelve in total, that is needed to functionally serve the church in adequately fulfilling the

given responsibilities. The Elder Body will consist of the Senior Pastor, as the primary spiritual leader for the Elder Body, an Elder Chair, Vice-Chair, secretary, and any additional Elders affirmed by the membership. With the exception to the Senior Pastor, men who qualify as biblical Elders currently serving on the Pastoral Staff may be selected to serve for a three-year term as an Ex-Officio non-voting member within the Elder Body.

1. The Elder Body will be nominated by the membership from those men who would biblically qualify as Elders from within the church.
2. Each nominee will be examined by the Senior Pastor and the Elder Body then presented to the membership to be affirmed.
3. All Elders, with exception to the Senior Pastor, are nominated by the membership of the church and upon a three-fourths (75%) affirmative vote by the members in the membership meeting.
4. Each elder will be expected to serve a three-year term.
5. Elders, with exception to the Senior Pastor, may serve a maximum of six consecutive years on the Elder Body, after which they must be out of office for at least one full year, providing a sabbatical, before they are eligible to serve again.
6. An Elder's term begins the first of the month following the date he is affirmed by the membership and ends after three years at the appropriate Members Meeting.
7. The Elder Chair must be a lay-leader nominated and selected by the Elder Body and will serve as the moderator for the church for all membership meetings.
8. The Elder Chair must have served in the Elder body for at least one year.
9. The Elder body will select a Vice Chair for each term to fulfill the duties and responsibilities required of the Elder Chair whenever the Chair is absent.
10. The Elder body will select one of the Elders to serve as the Elder Body secretary in order to take accurate minutes of meetings.
11. The Elders may nominate an individual for a shorter term pending an affirmative vote by the membership to balance the number of terms expiring each year.

C.3 – RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL (*Revised April 2023*)

1. Resignations of Elders shall be submitted in writing to the Elder Chair or, in the case of the Elder Chair, to the Vice Chair and be effective on the

date specified in the resignation. In the case of a resignation by the Elder Chair, the Vice Chair shall become the acting chair until such time as the Elders affirms another Chair.

2. If the relationship between the membership and an Elder has come to the point of contention, with no viable Biblical solution, the remaining Elders with Pastoral support shall have the authority to consider this matter irreconcilable and remove this Elder from the Elder Body and from membership until they are repentant.
3. In the case of verified immoral conduct or illegal activity, the Elder Body is responsible for immediately removing the Elder in question.
4. In the case of mandatory reporting is required, law enforcement should be notified immediately.

SECTION D: MINISTRY & ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

All pastors, ministers, directors, and employees of North Trenholm are valued members of the ministry at the church. The ministry staff are those called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to seek God's will prayerfully and to strive to serve the Lord and honor Christ as servant leaders in His Church. The administrative staff are those who fulfill the roles and responsibilities that help support the ministries of North Trenholm and assist in fulfilling the mission of the church. They are all commissioned to lead in their immediate areas toward fulfilling the vision and values established for the church. The organizational structure of this church is designed to utilize fully the spiritual gifts and talents, found in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4, that God has given each person and to serve faithfully under the guidance and direction of the Senior Pastor.

D.1 – RESPONSIBILITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Pastors, ministers, and directors are both full and part-time, salaried and hourly personnel who have specific assignments in clearly defined areas of responsibility.
2. Every staff should have a calling to serve the church, exude Godly character, have developed skills required for their roles and responsibilities, obtained some degree of competency in their area, and achieved ministerial, educational, or professional training for the position

in which they are serving.

3. Under the supervision of the Senior Pastor, ministry and administrative staff shall carry out their responsibilities and duties as specified in their job descriptions and any contractual expectations to which they have mutually agreed to upon their hiring or moving into a new position.
4. The Personnel Committee, along with the Senior Pastor, shall ensure all job descriptions for each member of the staff are approved and in place.

D.2 – SELECTION AND CALL

1. The Senior Pastor, accountable to the Elder Body and supported by the Personnel Committee, may hire or move church staff as deemed necessary.
2. The Ministry Staff is comprised of vocational pastors, ministers, and interns.
3. The Administrative Staff is comprised of Directors, Assistants, and other staff.
4. The job descriptions for each role must be approved by the Personnel Committee and compensation for each role, with the endorsement of the Stewardship Committee, must be supported through contributions from the membership.
5. The calling of all Ministry and Administrative Staff is the responsibility of the Senior Pastor unless delegated otherwise, with full support of the Elder Body, to someone else on Ministry or Administrative staff.

D.3 – RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL (*Revised April 2023*)

1. Each staff member serves under an at-will agreement with the church.
2. The Senior Pastor may remove, replace, or realign existing staff positions with accountability to the Elder Body and support of the Personnel Committee.
3. The Senior Pastor must clearly document and inform the Personnel Committee of any and all actions taken regarding the removing, replacing, or realigning that occurs within the staff, with consideration given to the fiscal segregation of duties and internal controls.
4. If the relationship between the membership and a staff member has come to the point of contention, with no viable Biblical solution, the Senior Pastor with Elder support shall have the authority.
5. In the case of conduct that mandatory reporting is required, law

enforcement should be notified immediately. In the case of verified immoral conduct or illegal activity, the Elder Body is responsible for immediately removing the staff member in question.

SECTION E: DEACONS

The Deacon body will serve in accordance with the scriptures as a support for Gospel ministry both in and through the church. Each deacon shall in every way meet the scriptural qualifications for the diaconate as set forth in Acts 6:2-3 and in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. The word “deacon” comes from the Greek word meaning “servant.” The office of deacon is a spiritual and biblical role established in the New Testament as a servant leader within the church. Deacons are described as ones who serve the church to strengthen Gospel ministry, care for those in the church and in the community, and faithfully promote a unified spirit within the church.

E.1 – RESPONSIBILITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS:

1. The Deacons will pray for the membership, the church Staff, and themselves.
2. Care for the physical, temporal, and spiritual needs of the individual members of the church.
3. Tend to the physical details related to the corporate gatherings of the church (receiving offerings, greeting, security, serving the Lord’s Supper, assisting with baptism, etc.).
4. Administer financial and physical assistance to church members in need.
5. Conduct ministries that meet needs and proclaim the Gospel (Acts 7 and 8).

The role of Deacons is further explained and substantiated in the North Trenholm Deacon Handbook, which will be available as a separate document maintained by the diaconate and approved by the Elders. Such resource provides additional explanation but shall not be incorporated into these Bylaws by reference, nor shall it replace the responsibilities listed above. In the event of any disagreement of the Deacon Handbook with these Bylaws, the Bylaws shall prevail.

E.2 – SELECTION AND STRUCTURE

1. Yearly, the Elders will receive nominations from the membership for Deacon candidates and after vetting the nominations for those who meet the requirements of an active member, the Deacon Body shall qualify and select candidates to be recommended to the membership for an affirmative vote.
2. Every Deacon requires a three-fourths (75%) affirmation vote by the members in the membership meeting.
3. Each Deacon will serve for three-year terms, considerations for reappointment to consecutive terms must come as a recommendation from both the Elder and the Deacon Body.

E.3 – RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL (*Revised April 2023*)

1. Yearly, the Elders will receive nominations from the membership for Deacon candidates and after vetting the nominations for those who meet the requirements of an active member, the deacon body shall qualify and select candidates to be recommended to the membership for an affirmation vote.
2. If the relationship between the membership and a Deacon has come to the point of contention, with no viable Biblical solution, the Elders with Pastoral support shall have the authority to consider this matter irreconcilable and remove this Deacon from the Deacon body and from membership until they are repentant.
3. In the case of verified immoral conduct or illegal activity, the Elder Body is responsible for immediately removing the Deacon in question.
4. In the case of conduct that mandatory reporting is required, law enforcement should be notified immediately.

SECTION F: MEMBERSHIP

While we acknowledge that all true believers in Jesus Christ are members of the Church universal, membership in this local body requires a commitment to:

- A. Live by and under the convictions founded in scripture and listed in the Statement of Faith.
- B. Live a life that is shaped by the spiritual disciplines of worship, prayer,

servanthood, discipleship, and supporting the church with time and resources.

- C. Use whatever spiritual gifting they may have to share the Gospel, serve others, make disciples of Jesus Christ, and to do their part in fulfilling the mission and vision of the church.
- D. Agree to support and submit to the bylaws and leadership of this church.

F.1 – MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

To qualify as a member a person must: (1) be a believer in Jesus Christ and have shown the evidences of a genuine salvation through faith, (2) after salvation, have been baptized by immersion in a church of like faith (or is seeking baptism in our church), (3) has submitted a written testimony of how they came to know Christ as their Lord and are faithfully living a life that is devoted to Christ, (4) is expected to be in agreement with the mission, vision, and the Statement of Faith for the church, (5) has been led through, completed, and signed the Membership Covenant.

Upon completing this membership process, the individual will officially be considered an active member of North Trenholm Baptist Church. A list of all new members will be presented at each Membership Meeting for the purpose of affirming these new members faithfulness in completing the membership process and supporting their decision to join North Trenholm.

F.2 – DISPUTES BETWEEN MEMBERS OR BETWEEN A MEMBER AND STAFF

Any disputes that may occur will be handled in accordance with Matthew 18:15-18. First, the person or persons with a complaint will meet one-on-one with the affected member(s) or staff to seek reconciliation. If this fails, the individual(s) shall take two or three impartial members and meet once again to seek reconciliation. Failing this, the dispute will be brought to the Senior Pastor for mediation and referral to the Elder Body if deemed appropriate. Should the Senior Pastor be the subject of the complaint, the current chairman of the Elder Body and the current Chairman of the Personnel Committee will jointly serve the function of mediation and referral be presented to the Membership if deemed appropriate.

Believing that lawsuits between believers are prohibited by Scripture, all members of this church agree to submit to binding arbitration any matters which cannot otherwise be resolved, and expressly waive any and all rights in law and equity to bring any civil disagreement before a court of law, except that judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.

F.3 –ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

1. Active membership for this church shall be composed of persons who have met and agreed to the qualifications for membership at North Trenholm.
2. Members are in good standing as long as they regularly participate in worship services, bible studies, ministry activities, give, and live a life in accordance with the expectations of a disciple of Jesus Christ.
3. Only those who are members in good standing will be entitled to serve in any official role listed within these bylaws; non-members may serve in an unofficial status with Pastoral guidance and Elder approval. Non-members may also serve the church in administrative and/or for consultation purposes.
4. Considering the rights involved, members present at any called membership meeting may cast one (1) vote in any decisions being made for the church.
5. A member, for voting purposes, will be determined as an individual whose name currently appears on the active membership role.
6. North Trenholm active members must hold the church accountable to the Bible, our Statement of Faith, Bylaws, and Membership Covenant.

F.4 – INACTIVE MEMBERS

1. Non-resident members who for one (1) year are not accounted for in attendance, nor contribute by supporting the ministry of the church, or participate in the community of faith at North Trenholm, shall be placed on the inactive membership roll or removed from membership.
2. Resident members who for two (2) consecutive years are not accounted for in attendance, contribute by supporting the ministry of the church, or participate in the community of faith at North Trenholm, unless good cause for such neglect be shown, shall be placed on the inactive membership roll or removed from membership.
3. Under Pastoral supervision, with accountability of the Elders before any member's status is officially changed, a periodic review of the membership roster shall be conducted to maintain accuracy and remove inactive members.

F.5 – TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership may be terminated in any of the following ways:

1. by official notice provided to the church of death,
2. by letter of recommendation to another church,
3. by becoming active in another church,
4. by request of the member,
5. by remaining inactive for an extended period of time without explanation,
6. if a member files a lawsuit against the church, or
7. through exclusion by action of the church through church discipline.

If a member is not living a lifestyle in accordance with the expectations of a disciple of Jesus Christ and in agreement with the church's Statement of Faith, the individual will be encouraged and admonished to correct their actions and lifestyle. This correction may lead to a disciplinary course of action under the leadership of the Elder Body to confront, instruct, admonish, and encourage repentance that leads toward restoration, reconciliation, and spiritual growth.

Church discipline should always be contemplated in a spirit and tone of love, kindness, and compassion, and only after individual private admonition has failed. The church Discipline procedures will be available as a separate document maintained and approved by the Elder Body.

Membership dismissal due to church discipline shall be enacted with the recommendation to and the approval of the Elder Body.

SECTION G: COMMITTEES

G.1 - DESIGNATION AND AUTHORITY

Recognizing that Scripture dictates there is wisdom in a multitude of counselors, certain standing committees shall exist under the leadership of the Pastoral staff with the intent to assist the Elders in keeping accountability for both the membership and the staff in carrying out the church's mission and purpose.

Committees will prioritize the commission of Christ, the call to protect the interests of the church, and to serve and support the membership in the operation and expectation for all committees. The Elders may delegate additional responsibilities to these standing committees or to other ad-hoc committees or ministry teams. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman for each standing committee will serve on a Leadership Team. This team will meet quarterly with the Elder Body for the purposes of reporting business of the

committee, addressing any upcoming decisions needing to be made, communicating with the Leadership Team pertinent information, and bringing any considerations or concerns that have been communicated from the membership in regard to decisions being made or the direction of the church.

G.2 – QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

1. Individuals selected to serve on a committee or team must be an active member at North Trenholm according to the requirements listed in these bylaws.
2. All findings, recommendations, and policies of committees and/or ministry teams will be brought to the Pastoral Staff and the Elder Body for consideration.
3. Upon approval of the Staff and Elders, as deemed necessary, the findings and recommendations will be brought before the membership once confirmed.
4. Based upon spiritual giftedness (I Corinthians 12:4-11; Romans 12:3-8), committees and/or ministry teams will provide wise counsel on legal, financial, personnel, property, ministry, and membership matters to the Staff and Elders.

G.3 – SELECTION AND STRUCTURE

1. Church members are encouraged to submit nominees for committee members on a yearly basis, these nominations will occur respective to the timing of the most recent or next committee selection process, due to vacancies caused by term limits or resignations.
2. Each committee is expected to nominate candidates from among the membership to the Elder Body.
3. Each committee shall consist of seven members, with a minimum of 2 males and 2 females.
4. The Elder Body will ensure all nominees meet the expectations of an active member, have agreed to serve on a committee, then the Elders will converse with the committees Chair and Vice-Chair potential candidates, then make the decision on which candidates to appoint as committee members.
5. No one church member can concurrently serve on multiple standing committees.

6. The normal term of office shall be three years, and it is recommended for members to serve no more than two consecutive terms on a committee.

G.4 – STANDING COMMITTEES (*Revised April 2023*)

A. STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

[Senior Pastor and an appropriate staff member as Ex-Officio]

Responsible for working with the staff in developing a proposed financial budget for the Fall membership meeting and to encourage Biblical stewardship for the church. In developing the church budget, the Stewardship Committee shall consider requests and recommendations from all Staff, committees, ministries and organizations, develop financial policies and procedures for the Elders to approve and to communicate to the ministry staff and membership. The Stewardship Committee will be responsible for the following:

1. *Communication:* The Stewardship Committee will meet monthly to discuss financial decisions being made and provide reports for church receipts and expenditures at each Membership Meeting for the purpose of communicating the financial health of the church. If there are any issues found regarding compliance to the policies and procedures this committee is to inform the Senior Pastor and the Elder Body of those concerns and plans for corrections should be made accordingly.
2. *Financial Matters:* The Stewardship Committee will review all requests for expenditures over a dollar amount to be determined by the committee and set within the current policies and procedures. For any requests over that amount, the review and approval must take place prior to entering into a contract or making the expenditure. The committee will consider and recommend the annual budget to be presented to the membership in the fall membership meeting each year. The committee may also consider and approve any other request regarding the borrowing of money and/or the purchase or sale of real estate, which requires an affirmative vote by the membership. From time to time the church, to exercise its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. All contributions designated for these funds shall be deemed as advisory rather than mandatory or binding in nature and shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the Senior Pastor and the Stewardship Committee. 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 its tax-exempt purposes. The Committee will arrange for and report to the church on one outside audit every five years or more often if it is deemed warranted. The Committee may also consider a review every year that leans toward compliance and testing of internal controls.

3. *Legal Functions:* The Chairman of the Stewardship Committee will serve on the statutory functions of the Board of Trustees of a religious association under The State of South Carolina's Nonprofit Incorporation laws. The Stewardship Committee Chair will serve as Treasurer of the church for legal purposes.

B. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

[Senior Pastor as Ex-Officio]

Responsible for working with the church in matters relating to all church employees. The Personnel Committee will meet quarterly to discuss personnel decisions being made and will report during membership meetings any decisions made regarding personnel changes in the church. The Personnel Committee will be responsible for the following:

1. *Communication:* The need for additional staff and personnel or any changes within the staff.
2. *Structure:* The approval of organizational charts and position descriptions for personnel.
3. *Staff:* The Committee Chair will meet with the Stewardship Committee in September for the purpose of reviewing the overall financial health of the church. This allows the Personnel Committee to be informed on how they ought to go about proposing yearly salary adjustments. The Committee will administer the staff benefit plans, facilitate any Human Resources concerns that come up within the staff, oversee all staff policies and procedures, and assure the Personnel Manual is up date and being utilized properly.

C. Other Committees

The Staff or Elders may appoint or form such other committees, standing or ad hoc, as they shall deem necessary and appropriate and for such duration as is required to complete the purpose of the establishment of that team.

G.5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH COMMITTEE

All who serve on Church Committees shall be active members in good standing with the Church. The Officers of the Church shall be the Senior Pastor, the Ministry Staff, the Elder Body, and those who serve on Church Committees. Each Committee is responsible for nominating and selecting a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary for each term. The Elder Body needs to be informed of any new placements. If there is a vacancy in one of these roles, the committee is to propose replacements for those positions to the Elder Body and once confirmed communicate those changes to the membership.

ARTICLE V – GENERAL

SECTION A: CHURCH SERVICE

A.1 PUBLIC WORSHIP

- Meetings for public worship shall be held on Sunday, absent extenuating circumstances, and at such other times and days as may be provided for under the direction of the Pastoral Staff.
- Any person, whether or not a member of North Trenholm, desiring to worship the Lord Jesus Christ is welcome to attend any church worship service.
- Each worship service will contain a time for singing praises and hymns, corporate and individual prayer, proclaiming God's word, and may also include a time for presenting of tithes and offerings, invitation, and public decision.
- The Senior Pastor is responsible for the conduct of each worship service (service length and composition) but may involve members of the Staff, active members and leaders, or invited guest preachers or speakers.
- The Senior Pastor is responsible for pulpit supply. The Elder Body will assume these duties during times when the office of Senior Pastor is vacant.

SECTION B: ORDINANCES

B.1 BAPTISM

- A person who receives Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith, who professes publicly at any worship service, and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord shall be received for baptism.
- Baptism shall be by immersion, unless a physical or psychological condition exists that prevents the candidate from being immersed. This exception must be approved by the Senior Pastor and Elder Body on an individual basis.

- Baptism shall be administered by the Senior Pastor or whomever the Senior Pastor shall authorize. The baptismal team shall assist in the preparation for and observance of this ordinance.
- Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship during any worship service.

B.2 LORD’S SUPPER

- The Lord’s Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby Christians, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, commemorate the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate his Second Coming. The Lord’s Supper is open to all who profess Jesus Christ as the crucified, buried, and resurrected son of God and have received Him as their personal Lord and Savior.
- The Lord’s Supper shall be observed quarterly and any other time deemed appropriate by the Senior Pastor.
- The Lord’s Supper shall be observed in either the morning or special called evening worship service.
- The Senior Pastor and Deacons shall be responsible for the administration of the Lord’s Supper.

SECTION C: CHURCH YEAR

The church calendar year shall be from January 1 through December 31. The fiscal and committee years will also run congruent with the church year, January 1 to December 31.

SECTION D: CHURCH MEETINGS

D.1 – MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

PROCEDURE FOR MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- Membership Meetings (also known as business meetings) shall occur at a minimum of three times per year (Spring, Summer and Fall).
- The Staff shall announce the dates and times of Membership Meetings during the Worship service at least 14 days in advance of the meeting.

- The Staff, Elders, and those in leadership shall determine the best time for these church-wide meetings to achieve the greatest possible attendance.
- The Elder Chair shall preside as the moderator for the Membership Meeting.
- At each Membership Meeting, financial statements, reports from the Elders, and anything else determined by the Elders as pertinent shall be presented.
- A current, complete, printed, detailed summary proposed budget for all church expenses and a current balance sheet for the previous year will be made available for any church member wishing to obtain these at least 14 days before the Fall Membership Meeting, where the budget will be affirmed.
- Votes shall take place after a time of discussion and questions from the membership, with the dates and time to coincide with the aforementioned requirements. Except where otherwise specified, a simple majority (fifty-one percent) affirmative vote by the members present who voted and are in good standing shall be considered for the passing of any new business.
- Any actions taken by Elders, Deacons, staff, committees, church members, or membership that contradict the Bible, the Statement of Faith, or these Bylaws will be considered invalid and have no legitimate standing or authority and will be non-binding upon the church.

MINUTES

- The Secretary of Elders or his designee shall keep minutes of each meeting and Membership Meeting to be filed in the church business office.
- The Simplified Handbook of Parliamentary Procedure shall serve as a guide to any motions or votes that are presented at Membership Meetings, except when in conflict with these bylaws, in which event these bylaws shall govern.

D.2 – SPECIAL CALLED MEETINGS:

- A special church meeting may be called at any time by the Senior Pastor or Elder Body after due notice has been given to the membership in a previous Sunday church worship guide.
- Announcement from the pulpit, newsletter, and/or letter to the membership must be mailed at least three (3) business days before the meeting.
- In unusual circumstances or matters of great urgency, this notice provision shall be waived by unopposed action by the church assembled at any regular worship service/prayer service.

D.3 – QUORUM:

A quorum shall consist of all active church membership present for any Membership Meetings of the church.

SECTION E: USE OF CHURCH PROPERTIES

The use of church properties outside of normal church programs, except for weddings and funerals, which shall be cleared as more specifically indicated below, shall be cleared through the Senior Pastor or his designee. Revival services, services of ordination (for ministers, Elders, and Deacons), and any other church meetings that will be significant in the promotion of the objectives of the church shall be placed on the church calendar. Any group seeking to use the church properties must be in agreement with and not contradictory to the statement of faith, be willing to adhere to all policies set in place, and work within the parameters set by the church.

C.1. WEDDING AND CIVIL CEREMONIES

- Use of church properties for weddings shall be cleared through the church office with the following limitations:
- Church property shall only be used for Christian marriage ceremonies celebrating the joining of one man and one woman as biologically designed by their natural birth and according to the teachings of the Bible.
- The limitation as outlined above is intended explicitly to prevent church property from being used by members and non-members for same-sex, transgender, polygamist or secular marriage ceremonies.

- In the event the church is ever legally forced to perform any wedding ceremony in contravention above, the Senior Pastor and all church staff shall opt out of performing civil ceremonies and shall only perform biblically-based covenant ceremonies of individuals that align with the church's statement of faith and are able to bless the union between one man and one woman as biologically defined by their natural birth and as defined according to the teachings of the Bible.

E.2 – FUNERALS

- Use of church properties for funerals shall be cleared through the church office.

SECTION F: INDEMNIFICATION

North Trenholm Baptist Church shall indemnify any agent of the church that is considered a party to a lawsuit for actions taken within the scope of authority as an agent of the church. An agent of North Trenholm Baptist Church includes the Senior Pastor, ministry staff, administrative staff, Elders, officers, committee chair, and any other person granted express authority by a duly authorized vote of the Elder Body and/or the membership or by a lawful delegation by an officer. Indemnification includes amounts rendered in judgment or paid in settlement, together with reasonable expenses, including attorneys' fees.

If any individual who serves at North Trenholm, in addition to those listed in the official bylaws of the church, has been successful in the defense of any proceeding or in the defense of any claim, issue, or matter therein, that individual shall be indemnified against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the individual in connection with the claim. The individual must be found that they acted in good faith in a manner they believed to be in the best interest of the church and with such care, including reasonable inquiry, as an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use in similar circumstances.

SECTION G: BYLAWS & DISSOLUTION

Amendments to these bylaws may be recommended at any membership meeting or special meeting of the church, provided that written copies of the proposed amendment are submitted. A three-fourths (75%) vote of those members present at the business meeting shall affirm that the amendment(s) being proposed ought to come under consideration from the Elder body. All revisions should be consecutively numbered, and copies of all previous revisions are maintained in the church office. The church office is the only organization authorized to incorporate approved amendments to the bylaws and issue official revised documents.

Process of Amendments: Recommendations for amendments to the bylaws that are submitted to the Elder Body will require at least three-fourths (75%) majority vote of the Elder body to bring an amendment to the bylaws for the membership for a vote. Articles in the Bylaws may be altered, amended, replaced, or repealed by a three-fourths (75%) majority vote of a quorum of Members present and voting at any membership meeting or special called meeting of the church.

G.1 - ADOPTION

The North Trenholm Baptist Church Bylaws shall be considered officially adopted and set to be implemented with a determined date when three-fourths (75%) majority vote of the members present at the membership meeting at which vote is taken shall vote in favor of it. The church will be provided recommended changes no less than four weeks prior to a vote being taken, either through written or digital distribution or a specially called meeting. For more significant changes, the Elder body may extend the notification time for prayer and communication.

G.2 - AMENDMENTS

Once adopted, the church bylaws may only be amended by vote of the church in a regularly scheduled or specially called membership meeting announced at least two weeks in advance in the church's worship guide or equivalent. The church will be provided the recommended changes no less than one week prior to a vote being taken, either through written or digital distribution or a specially called meeting. For more significant changes, the Elder body may extend the notification time for prayer and communication. A three-fourths

(75%) majority vote of the qualified church members present at the membership meeting at which vote is taken is necessary for adoption.

G.3 – DISSOLUTION

The church must be provided official documentation regarding the dissolution of North Trenholm Baptist Church, no less than four weeks prior to a vote being taken, either through written or digital distribution or a specially called meeting. Due to the severity of this decision, the Elder body may extend the notification time for prayer and communication.

Any action to dissolve the church must be approved by three-fourths (75%) majority vote of the qualified members at the membership meeting where a vote of the members must be taken to consider such action. Assets may be distributed only to organizations that agree with the church's Statement of Faith.

Upon dissolution of the corporation, after paying or making provision for payment of all its liabilities, the corporation shall dispose of all of its remaining assets to such organization or organizations formed and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).