

## ***Adopted by the membership on December 4, 2016***

### ***Explanation***

*The Covenant of Unity Baptist Church functions as a promise, a summary of expectations, an ethical statement, and a biblical standard. We summarize how we promise to live together in the covenant. It forms the general ethics, or moral principles, of our worldview and holds out a biblical standard by which we live. Our acceptance of this document follows the practice of believers throughout the centuries who have pledged to God and one another to live out the gospel in community.*

*Unity Baptist Church requires all new members to sign the church covenant before joining the church. By featuring this covenant in our life together, we strive to protect ourselves from individual and corporate sin, and to spur one another on to live in light of a greater covenant, one initiated by love, sealed by sacrifice, and kept for eternity by our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

### **Church Covenant**

Having, as we trust, been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and having been baptized upon the profession of our faith, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully renew our covenant with each other.

We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.<sup>1</sup> We will walk together in brotherly love, as members of God's family, exercising an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other and faithfully admonishing and entreating one another as occasion may require.<sup>2</sup>

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor neglect to pray for ourselves and others.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Mark 9:50; Romans 12:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Ephesians 4:1-6; 1 Peter 3:8.

<sup>2</sup> John 13:34-35; Romans 12:10; 13:8; 15:7; 15:14; 1 Corinthians 12:25; Galatians 5:13; 6:1; Ephesians 4:31-32; 5:1-2; Colossians 3:16; 1 John 3:11, 18, 23; 4:7, 21; 1 Peter 4:8.

<sup>3</sup> Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 3:13; 10:25; James 5:16.

We will strive to bring up those who at any time may be under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example to seek the salvation of our family and friends.<sup>4</sup>

We will rejoice at each other's happiness and bear each other's burdens and sorrows with tenderness and compassion.<sup>5</sup>

We will seek, by God's grace, to live carefully in this world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and remembering that, as we have been buried by baptism and raised again from the symbolic grave in Christ, so there is on us a special obligation now to lead a new and holy life.<sup>6</sup>

We will work together for the continuance of a biblically faithful ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. We will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.<sup>7</sup>

We, when called individually to move from this place, will as soon as possible, unite with another congregation where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

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.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Matthew 5:16; Ephesians 6:4; 1 Peter 2:12; 3:1-2.

<sup>5</sup> Romans 12:15; Galatians 6:2; Ephesians 4:32.

<sup>6</sup> Romans 6:1-4; Ephesians 5:15; Titus 2:11-12; 1 John 2:6; 3:5-10; 1 Peter 1:15-16.

<sup>7</sup> Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 9:7-12; 2 Corinthians 8:7-9; 9:6-15; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 4:13-16; 5:17-18; 2 Timothy 1:13-14; 4:1-2, 5; James 1:27; 1 Timothy 5:17-18.

<sup>8</sup> 2 Corinthians 13:14.

## DOCTRINE

We believe:

- A. *That Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Spirit.*  
*Luke 1:35, Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18-25.*
- B. *Christ is God.*  
*John 5:18, Exodus 20:23.*
- C. *God is one God in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*     *Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19, I Corinthians 8:6, I John 5:7.*
- D. *The blood of Jesus Christ has made atonement for man's sin.*     *Mark 14:24, Luke 22:20, Acts 20:28.*
- E. *In the Resurrection of Christ, the personal, visible and Pre-millennial Return of Christ, the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church and related events.*

We believe :

- a. *In the Bodily Resurrection.*  
*Matthew 28:6-7, Luke 23:39, John 20:27, I Corinthians 15:4, Mark 16:6, Luke 24:2-6.*
- b. *In the Ascension.*  
*Acts 1:9-11, Luke 24:51, Mark 16:19, Revelation 3:21, Hebrews 12:2.*
- c. *In the High Priesthood.* *Hebrews 8:6. I Timothy 2:5, I John 2:1, Hebrews 2:17, Hebrews 5:9-10.*
- d. *In the Second Coming.*  
*John 14:3, Acts 1:11, I Thessalonians 4:16, James*

5:8,  
Hebrews 9:28.

- e. *In the Pre-millennial Resurrection of the Righteous Dead. At the Rapture of the Church, souls of those who have died and gone to be with Christ will come back and be joined with their bodies. Christ will translate His Church from this earth. Between this event and His glorious return with His saints, believers will be rewarded according to their works. John 14:1,3, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, I Thessalonians 4:13-18,*  
*I Corinthians 15:42-44, I Corinthians 15:52, I Corinthians 5:10.*
- f. *In the Post-millennial Resurrection and Judgement of the Unrighteous Dead. They will be judged and committed to an eternal conscience punishment in the Lake of Fire. , Rev. 20:11-15, Matthew 25:41, Mark 9:43-48, 1 Corinthians 15:24-28, 2 Thessalonians 1:9, 2 Peter 3:10-13.*
- g. *In the Change of the Living in Christ. I Corinthians 15:51-53, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Philippians 3:20-21.*
- h. *In the Throne of David. Luke 1:32, Isaiah 9:6-7, Acts 2:29-30.*
- i. *In the Millennial Reign. I Corinthians 15:25, Isaiah 32:1, 11:4-5, Psalm 72:8, Revelation 20:14.*

*We accept these Articles of Faith as the belief necessary for sound doctrine. The provisions are considered the fundamental and essential basis on which this church is founded, and none of the provisions of this article shall be amended. We, therefore, unite ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and adopt for our government plan of worship and service the following articles...*

- F. We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. Acts 16:31, Romans 3:23-25.*
- G. We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally inspired through the instrumentality of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore, is truth without any error of its content essence. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions, shall be tried. II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:19-21.*
- H. We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatory offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His substitutionary death on behalf of sinners, the just dying for the unjust, Christ; the Lord, bearing our sin in His own body on the tree; that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection. He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and all sufficient Savior. Ephesians 2:8, Acts 15:11, Romans 3:24-25, John 3:16, Matthew 18:11, Philippians 2:7, Hebrews 2:14, Isaiah 53:4-7, I John 4:10, I Corinthians 15:3, II Corinthians 5:21.*
- I. We believe Satan exists, that he is the unholy god of this age, and the author of all the powers of darkness, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire. Matthew 4:1-3, II Corinthians 4:4, Revelations 20:10.*
- J. We accept the Genesis account of creation and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution. Genesis 1 & 2, Colossians 1:16-17, John 1:3.*

- K. We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from a sinless and happy state the consequence of which all mankind are sinners, not only by constraint, but of choice, and therefore under just condemnation without defense of excuse. Genesis 3:1-6, Romans 1:18-32.*
- L. We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God. The new creation is brought about in a manner beyond our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with the divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel, that its proper evidence appears in obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life. John 3:3, II Corinthians 5:17, I John 5:1, John 3:6-7, Acts 16:30-33, II Peter 1:4, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:1, II Corinthians 5:19, Colossians 2:13, John 3:8.*
- M. We believe in the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him, namely justification:*
- a. That justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life, on principles of righteousness.*
  - b. That is bestowed not in consideration of works of*

*righteousness which we have done; but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed to us. Acts 13:39, Isaiah 53:11, Zechariah 13:1, Romans 8:1, 5:9, 5:1.*

- N. We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ; and governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers are pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; in all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. Acts 2:41-42, I Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:11, Acts 20:17-28, I Timothy 3:17, Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 5:23-24, Acts 15:13-18.*
- O. We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem of our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, which is a picture of our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. The Lord's Supper will be observed at least once each quarter. Acts*

8:26-39, John 2:23, Romans 6:3-5, Matthew 3:16.

- P. *We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ. Philipians 1:6, John 10:28-29, Romans 8:35-39, Jude 1.*
- Q. *We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith, are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting happiness of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. Mark 3:18, Genesis 18:23, Romans 6:25, Matthew 25:34-41, John 8:21.*
- R. *We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that those in authority are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored; and obeyed; except in those things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming King of Kings of the earth. Romans 13:1-7, II Samuel 23:3, Exodus 18:21-22, Acts 23:5, Matthew 22:21, Acts 5:20, 4:19-20, Daniel 3:17-18.*
- S. *We believe, based on the Bible and our understanding of God's Word, the term 'marriage' has only one meaning: the joining of one man and one woman in a single exclusive union. We believe marriage is a sacred institution sanctioned by God, defined by Scripture, and representing the relationship between Christ and His Church. We believe God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each*



*other. We believe God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman.*

*We believe any form of sexually immoral conduct – such as, but not limited to, adultery, fornication, prostitution, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, cross-dressing, or any attempt to change one's sex – is sinful, contrary to the teaching of Scripture, and offensive to God.*

*We believe God offers redemption and a newness of life to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ.*

*Gen. 1:26-28; Gen. 2:24; Lev. 18:1-30; Deut. 22:5; 23:1, 17-18; Is. 56:3-4; Matt. 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9; Rom. 1: 26-32; 1 Cor. 5:1-2; 6:9-11; 1 Tim. 1:9-10; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4; Eph. 5:21-33; Jude 7.*

# **Article I**

## **Membership**

### **Section I. Qualifications for Membership**

Any person may be admitted to the membership of Unity Baptist Church who:

1. Gives testimony of conversion and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and has subsequently been baptized by immersion.
2. Subscribes to the Statement of Faith and to uphold the Covenant and Constitution of this church.
3. Is willing to strive to live a life separated from the sins of the world and consistent with the teachings of the Bible.
4. Is willing to support the work of this church by participating regularly in worship, service, and giving.

### **Section II. Admission of Members**

Any person desiring membership at Unity Baptist Church may make his request known to the pastor or one of the deacons. He shall then meet with the majority of the deacon board, to determine if he meets the qualifications for membership. If unanimously accepted by the members of the board, he shall be presented to the congregation during a regular church service for congregational approval and welcome. The congregation shall approve him through congregational vote.

### **Section III. Associate Membership**

Students and others temporarily residing in the area may apply for associate membership. Qualifications are identical to those for full membership (as set out above in *Section 1 – Qualifications for Membership*), except that home church membership, if existing, must be retained.

A person desiring associate membership shall follow

the same process for the admittance of members as defined in Section 2.

Duties and privileges of associate members are the same as for other members except that:

when absent from the area for extended periods of time they are released from the responsibility to attend our church services; while they will be encouraged to participate in members' meetings they will not be eligible to stand for any office or to vote.

Termination of associate membership as a disciplinary measure will be as it is for other members (as outlined in *Section 5 – Termination of Membership*), except that the pastor and deacons shall notify the pastor or elders of the home church, if existing, of that termination. Associate membership will normally terminate immediately upon the ending of the period of temporary residence in the area.

#### **Section IV. On Church Discipline**

Any member consistently neglectful of his or her membership duties (as defined in *Section 1 – Qualifications for Membership*) or guilty of conduct by which the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be dishonored, and so opposing the welfare of the church, shall be subject to the admonition of the pastor and deacons and the discipline of the church, according to the instructions of our Lord in Matthew 18:15–17 and the example of Scripture. Church discipline, then, should ordinarily be contemplated after individual private admonition has failed.

Church discipline can include admonition by the pastor and deacons or congregation, suspension from communion for a definite period, deposition from office, and removal from membership (see Matthew 18:15–17; 2 Thessalonians 3:14–15; 1 Timothy 5:19–20; 1 Corinthians 5:4–5).

The purpose of such discipline should be...

For the repentance, reconciliation, and spiritual growth of the individual disciplined

*(see Proverbs 15:5; 29:15; I Corinthians 4:14; Ephesians 6:4; I Timothy 3:4–5; Hebrews 12:1–11; Psalm 119:115; 141:5; Proverbs 17:10; 25:12; 27:5; Ecclesiastes 7:5; Matthew 7:26–27; 18:15–17; Luke 17:3; Acts 2:40; I Corinthians 5:5; Galatians 6:1–5; II Thessalonians 3:6, 14–15; I Timothy 1:20; Titus 1:13–14; James 1:22);*

For the instruction in righteousness and good of other Christians, as an example to them

*(see Proverbs 13:20; Romans 15:14; I Corinthians 5:11; 15:33; Colossians 3:16; I Thessalonians 5:14; I Timothy 5:20; Titus 1:11; Hebrews 10:24–25);*

For the purity of the church as a whole

*(see I Corinthians 5:6–7; II Corinthians 13:10; Ephesians 5:27; II John 10; Jude 24; Revelation 21:2);*

For the good of our corporate witness to non-Christians

*(see Proverbs 28:7; Matthew 5:13–16; John 13:35; Acts 5:1–14; Ephesians 5:11; I Timothy 3:7; II Peter 2:2; I John 3:10); and*

Supremely for the glory of God by reflecting His holy character

*(see Deuteronomy 5:11; I Kings 11:2; II Chronicles 19:2; Ezra 6:21; Nehemiah 9:2; Isaiah 52:11; Ezekiel 36:20; Matthew 5:16; John 15:8; 18:17, 25; Romans 2:24; 15:5–6; II Corinthians 6:14–7:1; Ephesians 1:4; 5:27; I Peter 2:12).*

## **Section V. Termination of Membership**

A member of Unity Baptist Church may be removed from the membership list for any of the following reasons:

A. Death

B. Request—An individual may be removed from the church membership based on a request from the member personally (either verbal or written), or a request for a letter from another church of like faith and practice as long as the member is not currently under the process of church discipline at Unity Baptist Church. If an individual joins another church, and he is not currently under the process of church discipline at Unity Baptist Church, he will be removed from the membership of Unity Baptist Church even if a request is not received.

C. Absence—The membership of any individual shall be automatically terminated without notice if the member in question has not attended regular worship services of the church in the preceding six months. The pastor and deacons may choose to waive this provision if, in their discretion, there is good cause for the absence.

D. Persistent sinful conduct—Removal from membership may be made based on persistent sinful conduct that is clearly contrary to the teachings of the Bible. This is also an action taken by the church at the advice of the deacon board. The church shall strive to follow the guidelines for church discipline as given in Scripture (Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 5:11) in dealing with such a member. These guidelines include private admonition, joint admonition, corporate admonition, and finally formal removal from membership. Any member excluded from the church in this manner may be restored upon evidence of

confession and repentance acceptable to  
the pastor and deacons.

## **Article II Officers**

**Section I.** The officers of the church shall consist of a Board of Deacons comprised of no less than three nor more than seven members, a Pastor, five Trustees, a Moderator, Clerk, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Mission Treasurer, Head Usher, Superintendent of Sunday School and an assistant, Chorister, Organist and Pianist and assistants. Additional officers may be created as needed upon recommendation of the Advisory Council and approval of the Church body.

**Section II.** The Board of Deacons shall have general oversight of the spiritual life of the church, aid the pastor in the performance of his duties, provide Christian instruction and ministry to the church membership, meet with applicants for church membership and recommend them for church fellowship, and have full charge of the Deacons' Fund. The Deacons shall constitute a committee on discipline. Members shall be elected for terms of three years in such a way that no more than three shall be elected in any one year; no one shall be disqualified for re-election because of having previously held the office.

**Section III.** (a) The Board of Deacons shall act as a pulpit committee and after the unanimous acceptance of a candidate by the pulpit committee he may then be presented to the Church for action. The pastor shall be chosen by the congregation for an indefinite period by a two-thirds majority of the voters at a congregational meeting advertised two previous successive Sundays. Only men will be recommended, who without reservation can and will conscientiously sign the Constitution and by-laws, Article of Faith and Covenant of this Church. If at any time the Pastor's Personal Belief, preaching or teaching shall not be of full accord with the Doctrines of this Church, he may be automatically dismissed from further service which shall be terminated immediately following a congregational meeting where he is not retained by a

two-thirds vote.

**(b)** Normally the relationship between pastor and people may be dissolved within 30 days notice or unless otherwise agreed upon by both parties. If a pastor's dismissal should be requested by the people because they believe the relationship detrimental to the Church's welfare, a two-thirds vote of the congregation shall be necessary to retain or dismiss him in the capacity of Pastor.

**Section IV.** The Trustees shall hold and manage in trust all the property of the church including the cemetery. They shall have supervision of such property, arrange for all necessary repair, and disburse the funds to maintain the work and property of the church as the church shall direct. They shall provide for the care of the church building and employ a sexton for this work if they so desire. Any transaction of five hundred dollars or more shall be done by directive of the church body.



## **Article III**

### **Duties of Officers and Committees**

**Section I.** The Pastor shall preach the Gospel regularly, administer the ordinances, supervise the teaching ministry of the church, watch over its membership and spiritual interests and organize and develop its strength for the best possible service. Under no circumstances is the pastor of Unity Baptist Church to officiate, participate, or endorse any wedding ceremony that violates the belief and teaching of this church body in accordance with the Bible, as defined in our Statement of Faith.

**Section II.** The clerk shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the church at all meetings, keep a complete registry of membership, issue letters of dismissal and certificates of Christian character as directed by the church, conduct all official correspondence and preserve all documents, papers and letters coming into their hands during the clerks term of office, delivering the same and all records kept by the Clerk or their successor.

**Section III.** The financial secretary shall receive all monies given to the church for local expenses and missions through regular channels and in special offerings. The financial secretary shall keep a complete and detailed record of all individual pledges and payments on same. Immediately upon recording the financial secretary shall turn over all money on hand for local expenses to the current expense treasurer. The financial secretary shall give quarterly and annual reports to the church.

**Section IV.** The treasurer shall receive from the financial secretary all funds contributed to the church for current expenses. At each quarterly and annual meeting the treasurer shall present a report of receipts and disbursements showing the actual financial condition of the church.

**Section V.** The missionary treasurer shall receive all mission funds and disburse accordingly to the will of the church monthly. At each quarterly and annual meeting the treasurer shall present a report of receipts and disbursements.

**Section VI.** The superintendent of the Sunday School shall conduct the sessions of the Sunday School, endeavoring to enlist the hearty cooperation of the whole church in Bible study and instruction. The superintendent shall assist the pastor in looking after the spiritual interests of the school, seeking the early conversion of all who are under the superintendent's care.

**Section VII.** The chorister, organists and pianists shall constitute the music committee and be responsible for providing the musical part of the worship and shall get the necessary material as authorized by the church.

**Section VIII.** At each annual meeting of the church the following committees and boards shall be organized to serve for one year. The selection of the personnel of these committees and boards who are not already elected officers of the church shall be by election or appointment as the church may direct at each annual meeting.

To WIT:

- a) The advisory board shall consist of the pastor, deacons, and trustees, and shall meet once each quarter, the time to be designated by the board. Special meetings may be called by the Pastor or by the request of three board members.
- b) The flower committee shall be composed of two elected members who shall be authorized to send proper remembrance of the deceased.
- c) There shall be an auditing committee composed of three members, one elected at each annual meeting to serve a three year term. It shall be the duty of this committee to audit the books of the mission and various expense treasurers at the end of the fiscal year, and to make a report of the same to the church at the annual meeting.
- d) The head usher shall be responsible for his own committee and it shall be their duties to look after the seating and general comfort of the congregation, endeavoring to extend such courtesies as shall make all who come to the services

feel at home in Unity Baptist Church.

e) The fiscal year of the church shall begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> and close on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

f) Nominating Committee

1. The nominating committee shall be appointed the first week of September.

a. Chairman of the Deacons shall appoint one Deacon.

b. Chairman of the Missionary Society shall appoint one church member from the Missionary Society.

c. Sunday School Superintendent shall appoint one church member from the Sunday school.

d. Chairman of the Trustees shall appoint one member from the Trustees.

e. Pastor shall appoint one church member.

**Section IX.** Additional committees may be formulated as the need arises and recommended by the advisory council to be terminated when their services are no longer required.

## Article IV Meetings

**Section I.** The annual meeting shall be held the third Thursday of November for election of officers of each year unless that Thursday is a holiday, at which time it shall be held the following Thursday.

**Section II.** Quarterly business meetings shall be held the first Thursday of April, July, and October and the third Thursday of January.

**Section III.** All special meeting may be called by the Pastor, the chairman of the board of Deacons, or the chairman of the board of Trustees.

**Section IV.** The pastor and deacons may permit the marriage of two individuals through Unity Baptist Church only after the couple successfully completes together a period of examination by the pastor.

Successful completion of this period of examination must include on the part of the two individuals...

- a profession of saving faith, and
- a clear submission to the teaching of Scripture, and
- a general readiness to enter into the marriage bonds, and
- any other requirements given by the pastor and deacons.

In addition, at least one of the individuals must be a member of Unity Baptist Church.

The officiating minister of the wedding ceremony must be the pastor of Unity Baptist Church, unless the pastor and deacons of Unity Baptist Church allow an exception. If an exception is made, the officiating minister must be...

- a pastor or elder of a church of like faith and practice (to be determined by the pastor and deacons), and
- a pastor or elder of a church to which one of the individuals currently belongs as a member, and
- a pastor or elder who has signed our *“Marriage and Membership Confirmation Form.”*

The pastor and deacons of Unity Baptist Church alone shall

determine whether all the above requirements have been fulfilled, and retain the ability at any moment to deny any individuals from being married through Unity Baptist Church.

## **Article V**

### **Voting**

**Section I.** All officers shall be elected by ballot and shall hold their offices until their successors are elected and installed. When more than two candidates are presented on the first ballot and no one received a majority of votes cast, the one receiving the lowest number shall be dropped and a ballot taken among the remaining candidates, following the same procedure until one receives a majority of all votes cast. Vacancies in office may be filled at any regular business meeting.

**Section II.** In all matters of business, all members sixteen and over shall be entitled to vote.

**Section III.** A two thirds affirmation vote of all members present shall be required for the transaction of business of special meetings. Public notice of such proposed action shall be read by the clerk at the previous monthly business meetings or from the pulpit on two preceding Sundays.

## **Article VI**

### **Finances and Use of the Church**

**Section I.** In accord with John 2:16 we believe that any money making projects should be prohibited, and that the work of the church should be supported by prayer, tithes and offerings.

**Section II.** No financial statements of giving shall be published.

**Section III.** The place of worship shall be wholly dedicated to God and His service. The Deacons shall permit only services which contribute to the Spiritual uplift and growth of its members. Social rooms shall be used as designated by advisory board.

**Section IV.** These facilities may only be used for weddings that adhere to the Biblical definition of marriage, as defined in our Statement of Faith.

## **Article VII**

### **Affiliation with other Organizations**

**Section I.** At no time may this church become a member of any association, convention, or religious organization which attempts to dictate policies, influence its mission giving or in any way interfere with the independence of the Unity Baptist Church.

## **Article VIII**

### **Amendments**

**Section I.** Additional articles may be introduced and adopted at any regular business meeting advertised two previous successive Sundays by a two thirds vote of all members present, providing such articles do not in any way interfere with the doctrine or independence of this church.