



CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STURGIS, KENTUCKY

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the members of First Baptist Church, Sturgis, thankful to almighty God that we are saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, declare, and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith, to govern the body in an orderly manner, and to preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other churches.

ARTICLE I NAME

This incorporated body shall be known as the First Baptist Church of Sturgis, located in Sturgis, Kentucky.

ARTICLE II OBJECTIVES

- (1) Evangelism – To be a dynamic spiritual organism empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Christ with as many as possible in our church, in our community, and throughout the world.
- (2) Worship – To be a worshipping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing His person, and responding in obedience to His leadership.
- (3) Fellowship – To experience an increasingly meaningful fellowship with God and fellow believers.
- (4) Discipleship – To help people experience a growing knowledge of God and man and to be a church whose purpose is to be Christ like in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment of life, personality, and possession to Christ the Lord.
- (5) Ministry – To be a church that ministers unselfishly to persons in the community and world in Jesus' name.

ARTICLE III STATEMENT OF FAITH

We band ourselves together as a body of believers in Jesus Christ personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to lost mankind. The Holy Bible is the inspired word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. The church accepts the doctrinal statement of *“The Baptist Faith and Message 2000”* as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14th, 2000, at the Southern Baptist Convention as documented in the following pages:

THE BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE 2000 OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

I. 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 for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for 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 2:16ff.; 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.*](#)

II. 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; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; 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 6:9ff.; 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 18:1ff.*](#); [*Psalms 2:7ff.*](#); [*110:1ff.*](#); [*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*](#); [*139:7ff.*](#); [*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*](#).

III. 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 is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. 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 inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action,

they become transgressors and are under condemnation. 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](#).

IV. 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.

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.

B. 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 unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

C. 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 regenerate person's life.

D. 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](#); [4:3ff.](#); [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](#); [3:1ff.](#); [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](#).

V. 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 31:31ff*](#); [*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*](#).

VI. 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 operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastor/elder/overseer and deacon. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of 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*](#).

VII. 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 church, 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*](#).

VIII. 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*](#); [*28:1ff*](#); [*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*](#); [*1 Corinthians 16:1-2*](#); [*Colossians 2:16*](#); [*3:16*](#); [*Revelation 1:10*](#).

IX. 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. Christian's 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. [*Genesis 1:1*](#); [*Isaiah 9:6-7*](#); [*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*](#); [*Hebrews 11:10,16*](#); [*12:28*](#); [*1 Peter 2:4-10*](#); [*4:13*](#); [*Revelation 1:6,9*](#); [*5:10*](#); [*11:15*](#); [*21-22*](#).

X. Last Things

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. [*Isaiah 2:4*](#); [*11:9*](#); [*Matthew 16:27*](#); [*18:8-9*](#); [*19:28*](#); [*24:27,30,36,44*](#); [*25:31-46*](#); [*26:64*](#); [*Mark 8:38*](#); [*9:43-48*](#); [*Luke 12:40,48*](#); [*16:19-26*](#); [*17:22-37*](#); [*21:27-28*](#); [*John 14:1-3*](#); [*Acts 1:11*](#); [*17:31*](#); [*Romans 14:10*](#); [*1 Corinthians 4:5*](#); [*15:24-28,35-58*](#); [*2 Corinthians 5:10*](#); [*Philippians 3:20-21*](#); [*Colossians 1:5*](#); [*3:4*](#); [*1 Thessalonians 4:14-18*](#); [*5:1ff*](#); [*2 Thessalonians 1:7ff*](#); [*2*](#); [*1 Timothy 6:14*](#); [*2 Timothy 4:1,8*](#); [*Titus 2:13*](#); [*Hebrews 9:27-28*](#); [*James 5:8*](#); [*2 Peter 3:7ff*](#); [*1 John 2:28*](#); [*3:2*](#); [*Jude 14*](#); [*Revelation 1:18*](#); [*3:11*](#); [*20:1-22:13*](#).

XI. 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 thus 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 constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ. [*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*](#).

XII. Education

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists. [*Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.*](#)

XIII. 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.*](#)

XIV. Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects 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; 18:17ff.; 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 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 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.*](#)

XV. 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, 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 good will 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*](#); [*Psalms 101:5*](#); [*Micah 6:8*](#); [*Zerachiah 8:16*](#); [*Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48*](#); [*22:36-40*](#); [*25:35*](#); [*Mark 1:29-34*](#); [*2:3ff.*](#); [*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*](#); [*1Thessalonians 3:12*](#); [*Philemon*](#); [*James 1:27*](#); [*2:8*](#).

XVI. Peace and War

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace. [*Isaiah 2:4*](#); [*Matthew 5:9, 38-48*](#); [*6:33*](#); [*26:52*](#); [*Luke 22:36, 38*](#); [*Romans 12:18-19*](#); [*13:1-7*](#); [*14:19*](#); [*Hebrews 12:14*](#); [*James 4:1-2*](#).

XVII. Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God; it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power. [*Genesis 1:27*](#); [*2:7*](#); [*Matthew 6:6-7, 24*](#); [*16:26*](#); [*22:21*](#); [*John 8:36*](#); [*Acts 4:19-20*](#); [*Romans 6:1-2*](#); [*13:1-7*](#); [*Galatians 5:1, 13*](#); [*Philippians 3:20*](#); [*1Timothy 2:1-2*](#); [*James 4:12*](#); [*1Peter 2:12-17*](#); [*3:11-17*](#); [*4:12-19*](#).

XVIII. The Family

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 is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. 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.

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.

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.*](#)

We further clarify the following items:

Statement on Human Life

Procreation is a gift from God, a precious trust reserved for marriage. At the moment of conception, a new being enters the universe, a human being, a being created in God's image. This human being deserves our protection, whatever the circumstances of conception. We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God. Human life at all stages – including pre-born and the end of life – should be valued and respected (*Psalms 139*).

Statement of Religious Belief Regarding Marriage

We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning, and that is marriage sanctioned by God, which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive, covenantal union, as delineated in Scripture.

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexual conduct, bisexual conduct, incest, or any use of pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the church, ([Genesis 1:27-28](#); [Genesis 2:18-25](#); [Exodus 20:14](#); [Matthew 19:3-12](#); [Romans 1:26-27](#); [I Corinthians 6:9-20](#); [Ephesians 5:22-33](#); [Hebrews 13:4](#)).

ARTICLE IV RELATIONSHIPS

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation, which are common among Baptist churches. Insofar as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the work of the Ohio Valley Association of Baptists, the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, STURGIS – BYLAWS

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

This is a sovereign and democratic Baptist Church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.

Section 1. Admission

Any person may offer himself for membership in this church and may be presented to the church at any regular church service for membership in the following ways:

- (1) By profession of faith and for baptism by immersion.
- (2) By promise of a letter of recommendation from a Southern Baptist Church
- (3) By restoration upon a statement of prior conversion experience and baptism in a Baptist Church of like faith and order when no letter is obtainable.
- (4) Persons who have previously been baptized into a Southern Baptist Church, but for some reason have united with another denomination, will be accepted by statement of their previous experience and as affirmation of support for the faith and ministry of our church.
- (5) Christians requesting membership from a non-Baptist church of like faith and order will share their salvation experience to the Pastor and then declare their faith by baptism into the church for membership.
- (6) Should there be any dissent as to any person requesting membership, such dissent shall be referred to the Pastor and the Deacons for investigation and the making of a recommendation to the church within thirty (30) days. A three-fourths vote of those church members present and voting shall be required to elect such persons to membership.

Section 2. New Member Orientation

New church members will be expected to participate in the church's new member orientation plan and shall receive a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws.

This applies to all new church members other than those received by letter from another Southern Baptist Church.

Section 3. Voting Rights of Members

Every member of the church is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions/motions submitted to the church in business meeting, provided the member is present.

Section 4. Termination of Membership

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways: (1) death, (2) dismissal to another Baptist Church, (3) dismissed by action of this church, (4) Upon receiving evidence of his/her having joined another denomination or religious body, (5) At request of member that his/her name be dropped from church roll.

Section 5. Discipline

It shall be the basic purpose of the First Baptist Church, Sturgis to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The pastor, other members of the church staff, and deacons are available for counsel and guidance. Redemption rather than punishment should be the guideline, which governs the attitude of one member toward another.

Should some serious condition exist which would cause a member to become a liability to the general welfare of the church, every reasonable measure will be taken by the pastor and by the deacons to resolve the problem. All such proceedings shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance. But, finding that the welfare of the church will be best served by the exclusion of the member, the church may take action by three-fourths vote of the members present at a meeting called for this purpose, provided a week's notice of the meeting has been given.

Any person whose membership has been terminated for any condition which has made it necessary for the church to exclude him may upon his request be restored to membership by a vote of the church upon evidence of his repentance and reformation.

ARTICLE II ORDINANCES

Section 1. Baptism

A person who receives Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith; who professes him publicly at any worship service; and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord, shall be received for baptism.

- (1) Baptism shall be by immersion.
- (2) Baptism shall be administered by the pastor or whomever the church shall authorize.
The deacons shall assist in the preparation for, and observance of, baptism.
- (3) Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship during any worship service.

Section 2. 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 fruit of the vine, commemorate the death of Jesus Christ

and anticipate His second coming.

- (1) The Lord's Supper shall be observed at least one time each quarter.
- (2) The pastor and deacons will observe the Lord's Supper with any confined member who requests it.
- (3) The pastor and deacons shall be responsible for the administration of the Lord's Supper, the deacons being responsible for its physical preparations.

ARTICLE III CHURCH OFFICERS

All church officers must be members of this church. The officers of this church shall be as follows: *(The secretary and custodians are not considered as church officers).*

Section 1. Pastor

The Pastor is responsible for leading the church to function as a New Testament church. The Pastor will lead the congregation, the organizations, and the church staff to perform their task. The pastor is leader of pastoral ministries in this church. As such he works with the deacons and church staff to:

- (1) lead the church in performing its tasks.
- (2) lead the church to engage in a fellowship of worship, witness, education, ministry, and application,
- (3) proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers and
- (4) care for the church's members and other persons in the community.

*(For further employee/employer information
please see First Baptist Church Personnel Policy)*

Section 2. Church Staff

This church shall call or employ such staff members as the church shall need. A job description shall be written when the need for staff members is determined.

*(For further employee/employer information
please see First Baptist Church Personnel Policy)*

Section 3. Deacons

There shall be at least one active deacon for every twenty-five resident members. Deacons shall be elected by secret ballot at a called meeting of the church. When ordained Deacons join our church from a sister Southern Baptist church, upon recommendation from the deacon body and after a one-year waiting period, they may be elected as an active deacon

at First Baptist Church, Sturgis by the Church body at a called meeting by a majority secret ballot vote.

In accordance with the meaning of the work and the practice of the New Testament, deacons are to be servants of the church. The task of the deacon is to serve with the pastor and staff in performing pastoral ministries task; proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers; care for church members and other persons in the community; lead the church to engage in a fellowship of worship, witness, education, ministry, and application; and lead the church in performing its tasks.

Method of Selecting Deacons:

- (Step A.) Nominations for candidates for deaconship will be by secret ballot by the church to be held on a specified Sunday night.
- (Step B.) The Pastor and a committee consisting of the Chairman of Deacons and four appointed Deacons will meet with nominees two weeks after nominations. They will explain the qualifications and work of the Deacons, and if so, will each one be willing to serve in a Deacon Training Program. This training program will consist of attending a session once each week for approximately 10 weeks.
- (Step C.) All nominees' names will be placed on a secret ballot to be voted on by the church membership. This will be done at a special called business meeting on a specified Sunday morning service. Those elected as deacons will attend the Deacons Training Program.

Section 4. Moderator

The moderator shall be elected annually. In the absence of the moderator, the chairman of deacons shall preside; or in the absence of both, the clerk shall call the church to order, and an acting moderator shall be elected.

Section 5. Clerk

The church-elected clerk of the church shall keep a record of all actions of the church, except as otherwise herein provided. The clerk is responsible for keeping a register of the names of members, with dates of admission, dismissal, or death together with a record of baptism. The clerk shall issue letters of dismissal voted by the church and give legal notice of all meetings where such notice is necessary, as indicated in these bylaws. All church records are church property and should be filed in the church office when an office is maintained.

Section 6. Treasurer

The church shall elect annually a church treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive, preserve, and pay out, upon church authorization all money, or things of value paid or given to the church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. All checks or debits require two signatures one of which must be the Treasurer or the Assistant Treasurer. In the absence of both either the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurers signature, a Trustee's signature will be required. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to render to the church at each regular business meeting a report of the

receipts and disbursements for the preceding month. The treasurer's report may be audited or reviewed as needed. The treasurer shall be bonded.

Section 7. Trustees

Five trustees serve and will hold in trust the property of the Church. They shall have no power to buy, sell, lease, mortgage, or transfer any property without a specific vote of the Church authorizing each action. It shall be the function of the trustees to affix their signature to legal documents where the signature of the trustees are required. This includes signing checks and bank documents. The trustees are responsible for maintaining all church properties for ready use; recommend policies regarding use of properties and recommending improvements to the buildings and grounds.

Trustees shall serve on a rotating basis, with one new trustee being elected each year.

ARTICLE IV PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONS

All organizations of the church shall be under church control, all directors and workers being elected by the church and reporting regularly to the church.

Section 1. Sunday School

There shall be a Sunday School, divided into departments and classes for all ages and conducted under the direction of the Sunday School Director for the study of God's word. The task of the Sunday School shall be to teach the biblical revelation; reach persons for Christ and church membership; perform the functions of the church within its constituency; provide an interpret information regarding the work of the church and denomination.

Section 2. Women's Missionary Union

There shall be a Women's Missionary Union with such officers and organizations as needed. The tasks of the Woman's Missionary Union shall be to teach missions, engage in mission action; support world missions through praying and giving; provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and denomination.

Section 3. Brotherhood

There may be a Brotherhood with such organization as needed. This program shall be directed by a director who shall be elected by the church. The tasks are to teach missions; engage in mission action; support world missions through praying and giving; provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and denomination.

Section 4. Church Music

There shall be a Church Music Program under the direction of the Worship Leader/Music

Director. Such officers and/or organization shall be included as needed. The music tasks shall be to teach music; train persons to lead, sing and play music; provide music in the church and community; provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and the denomination.

Section 5. Program Services

The nominating committee shall recommend such workers for program services that are needed. The church will seek to meet the recreational needs of members and groups. The church library will service as a resource center for the church, providing and promoting the use of printed and audiovisual aids, as necessary.

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES AND COORDINATING GROUPS

All church committee's members shall be recommended by the nominating committee and elected annually by the church unless otherwise indicated in the description below. The committee members shall serve on a three-year rotation system with one third elected each year, unless otherwise noted. The pastor is a voting ex-officio member of all committees. The nominating committee may recommend a replacement of any committee member before his term expires if the member is unable to fulfill his duties.

Section 1. Church Council

The church council is composed of the pastor, other staff minister, directors of the following organizations: Sunday School, W.M.U., Brotherhood, Library, a representative of the active deacons; chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, a senior citizen, a member of the youth council.

The council shall meet at least quarterly and has three primary functions:

- (1) recommend to the congregation suggested objective and church goals,
- (2) review and coordinate program plans recommended by church officers, organizations, and committees,
- (3) evaluate the results of church programs in terms of goals and objectives.

All matters agreed upon by the council, calling for actions not already authorized, shall be referred to the church for a decision.

Section 2. Youth Council

When applicable, the Youth Council shall be composed of all elected youth workers for grades seven through twelve including Sunday School teachers, mission group leaders, and choir directors along with four youth and two alternates from the middle-senior high age

division. The youth shall be under the direction of the Minister of Youth and works with him in planning and implementing the youth ministry of the church. The council has the authority to utilize the funds budgeted for youth to carry out the youth ministry. They shall work closely with the church council to ensure that the youth ministry is coordinated with the overall program of the church.

Section 3. Music Committee

This committee is composed of all choir leaders, accompanists, youth choir member and congregation member. The music committee works with the Worship Leader/Music Director in planning, implementing, and evaluating the music ministry of the church. They shall relate the ministry to the church objectives and goals. The committee shall make recommendations concerning music needs of the choirs, special groups, and congregation.

Section 4. Nominating Committee

The nominating committee recommends persons for all volunteer positions to be elected by the church. The committee consists of three members; the directors of the church organizations shall be asked to meet with the members' committee for consideration of workers in their organizations.

Section 5. Benevolence Committee

The Benevolence Committee will receive requests for all needs – both from church family and the community.

This committee will investigate and make the determination as to how these needs can be met. This committee will be a three-member standing committee.

An application form, (see below*), will be given to the person/persons requesting assistance. This form can be either in a printed version or email. The form must be completed and returned to the Benevolence Committee. The request will then be taken under advisement by the Benevolence Committee before any action will be taken. The Committee recognizes there will be times that require immediate attention. Such situations can be handled on an immediate basis, but with follow-up by the committee.

Any request will have a cap of \$250. Any request above \$250 must be taken under advisement and brought up before the Church at the next regularly scheduled Church business meeting for vote on how the committee should proceed.

***BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE FORM:**

Person Requesting Assistance: _____

Photo ID Required

Purpose for Assistance: _____

Dollar Amount Requested: _____

Section 6. Budget and Finance Committee

This committee prepares and recommends the annual budget for the church. Its work includes oversight of debt obligations and general sound financial administration of the church. This committee is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of financial reports and may cause the financial reports to be audited or reviewed annually as determined by the committee or any three church members in good standing. Any nefarious situation will automatically trigger an audit.

The committee makes recommendations on special offerings, other than benevolent offerings taken in Sunday School classes and the annual state, home and foreign missions offering. The committee is responsible for the promotion of Christian Stewardship in the church.

The committee consists of six members including the treasurer and the church assistant treasurer as permanent member.

Section 7. Lord's Supper and Baptism Committee

The currently serving body of deacons shall be responsible in October of each year to select deacons for preparing the observance of the church ordinances. These deacons are responsible for the preparation and maintenance of communion materials and baptismal supplies.

Section 8. Flower Committee

The flower committee consists of two members serving four-year terms. The committee is responsible for securing, arranging, and disposing of floral arrangements for the church services. The committee will provide flowers in the event of hospitalized illness of a church employee.

Section 9. Fellowship Committee

This non-rotating committee speaks to serve the entire church in helping to plan and implement church fellowship activities. The committee is a resource for families utilizing church facilities for weddings and showers. The committee will recommend kitchen and fellowship equipment and ways in which to improve the fellowship programs of the church.

Section 10. Counting and Safe Committee

This is a non-rotating committee of two parts. At least two members shall be responsible for seeing that the weekly offerings are transferred from the auditorium to the safe; a minimum of two members will help the church financial secretary count and prepare for

deposit the weekly offerings.

Section 11. Church Ushers

A chairman of ushers shall be recommended by the nominating committee and elected by the church. The chairman shall be responsible for selection of ushers. The ushers are to greet people as they enter and leave the church, seat people at the proper time, provide bulletins and/or other materials at the time of seating. The ushers will be attentive to the needs of the congregation and pastor.

Section 12. Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee shall be composed of three members, rotating after the first two years with one going off each year. The duties are as follows:

- (1) Survey the need for additional church staff positions.
- (2) Prepare and update, as necessary, job descriptions for all employed personnel.
- (3) Hear and deal with all problems arising in staff relations.
- (4) Recruit, interview and recommend to the church new employed personnel, other than Pastor. Ministerial staff will be recommended by a selection committee.
- (5) Develop and recommend, for church approval, policies, and procedures for employed personnel.

ARTICLE VI CHURCH MEETINGS

Section 1. Worship Services

The church shall regularly meet each Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening for preaching, instruction, evangelism, and for the worship of Almighty God. Church personnel shall have the right to postpone or cancel Worship Services due to inclement weather, holidays, or unforeseen circumstances. These meetings shall be open to all people and shall be conducted under the direction of the pastor.

Revival services and any other church meetings which will be essential in the promotion of the objective of the church shall be placed on the church calendar.

Section 2. Business Meetings

Regular business meetings shall be held monthly on a designated Sunday night. The pastor or moderator may call special business meetings. The pastor or moderator shall call a special business meeting if requested by the deacons, trustees, or a committee. The announcement of called business meetings must be made at two regular worship services

and the subject, date, time, and location must be given.

Section 3. Quorum

The quorum consists of 24 members who attend the business meeting, provided it is a stated meeting or one that has been properly called.

Section 4. Parliamentary Rules

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, is the authority for parliamentary rules of procedures for all business meetings of the church.

ARTICLE VII CHURCH FINANCES

Section 1. Budget

The budget and finance committee shall prepare and submit to the church for approval an inclusive budget, indicating by items the amount needed and sought for all local and world-wide expenses. Offering envelopes will be provided for members' use. It is understood that membership in this church involves financial obligation to support the church and its causes with regular, proportionate gifts.

1. Non-Budgeted Purchases, Expenditures, or Obligations Exceeding \$5,000.00

It is the duty of the Finance Committee to oversee all Church funds, make recommendations to the Church regarding any and all non-budgeted items to be spent, develop a financial resource strategy for the Church, and make recommendations to the Church regarding any and all financing to be considered. Any purchases, expenditures, or obligations not included in the approved budget and exceeding \$5,000.00 shall first be submitted to the Finance Committee for recommendations. Expenditures below \$5,000.00 may be approved by the Treasurer, who shall maintain detailed records of all financial transactions. For purchases, expenditures, or obligations not included in the approved budget and exceeding \$5,000.00, the Finance Committee will provide recommendations for the funding source of the expenditure. Expenditure requests in the amount of \$5,000.00 or more should include two or more competitive quotes, unless expressly waived by the Finance Committee. Upon Finance Committee recommendation, the purchase, expenditure, or obligation not included in the approved budget and exceeding \$5,000.00 shall be submitted to the Sturgis First Baptist Church at the next scheduled business meeting for consideration and final action.

In an emergency, with three fourths of the Finance Committee, the Treasurer, and the Chairman of the Deacons all agreeing, funds may be expended exceeding

\$5,000.00. This provision is intended only to be utilized when the need is sufficiently compelling and there is adequate time to secure congregational approval. If this authority is utilized, the Finance Committee shall advise the Church of its action during the next scheduled business meeting.

2. Church Credit Card Usage:

When goods and services are procured for the Church, the vendor should be requested to bill the church so payment can be made directly to the vendor. This is especially important for large purchases since it will allow the finance office to arrange to make incremental payments when needed. Church credit cards may be made available with the finance committee's approval. These cards are to be used only for purchases for use by the Church. Statements and sales receipts must be submitted to the Church Treasurer. Payment will be made directly to the credit card company. Statements must be submitted in a timely manner so as to avoid late charges. Late charges incurred because of late submittal will be the personal responsibility of the individual.

Section 2. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS

Changes in this Constitution and Bylaws may be made at any regular business meeting of the church, provided each amendment shall have been presented in writing at a previous meeting, and copies of the proposed amendment be made available to each resident member. Amendments to the constitution shall be by three fourths of all members of the church present entitled to vote; amendments to the bylaws shall have a concurrence of a majority of the members present and voting.

ARTICLE IX REVIEW COMMITTEE

Every three years, the moderator shall appoint, and the church approve three deacons to review the constitution and by-laws and make recommendations to the church if revisions are needed.

Revision approved, Sunday, June 26, 2016

Deacon Elected Constitution Revision Committee: Noble Cobb, Chairman, Ryan Day, Greg Fuesler, Bro. Shane O'Guin

By-Laws Revision, Article VI – Church Meetings, Section 1, Worship Services revised July 2017.

By-Laws Revision, Article III, Section 6 - Treasurer; Article V, Section 6 – Budget and Finance Committee revised December 2018.

By-Laws Revision, Article III, Church Officers; Article III, Section 1 (4) (d), (e); Section 5. Clerk; Article IV, Section 3, Section 4, Article V, Section 1, no. 3; Section 2, Section 3, Section 6, Section 10. Revised March 2020.

By-Laws Revision, Article III, Church Officers; 1 & 2 removed from By-Laws Personnel details and placed in Personnel Policy. Added “*(For further employee/employer information please see First Baptist Church Personnel Policy)*”. Revised August 2021.

Constitution Revision, THE BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE 2000 OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION, VI. The Church.

ARTICLE V CHURCH COVENANT deleted

By-Laws Revision ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP, Section 3. Voting Rights of Members. ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES AND COORDINATING GROUPS.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

Revisions approved Sunday April 21, 2024. Constitution & By-Laws Revision Committee: Paul White- Chairman, Ryan Day, John Jenkin, Pastor Ken Grant-ex-officio member

By-Laws Revision, Trustees from 3 to 5. Revised July 2025.

By-Laws Revision, Non-Budgeted Purchases, Expenditures, or Obligations Exceeding \$5,000. Church Credit Card Usage. Revised August 2025.

By-Laws Revision, Benevolence Committee. Revised August 2025.