

CONSTITUTION
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MIDDLEVILLE, MICHIGAN

Preamble

The Bible admonishes us, saying,

“LET ALL THINGS BE DONE DECENTLY AND IN ORDER”

To this end, we, as members of the First Baptist Church of Middleville, Michigan, solemnly and sincerely set forth the following Constitution, by which we willingly and cheerfully agree to be governed.

Mission Statement

To Magnify the Glory of God by Multiplying and Maturing Followers of Christ

Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry of expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger; to abstain from any sinful or unwise use of addictive or mind-altering substances; to live wisely in this world and to reject any practice that the Bible identifies as sin; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We, moreover, engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other Church where we can carry out the spirit of this Covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Constitution

Approved Revision

January 31, 2016

ARTICLE I: NAME

This church shall be called the First Baptist Church of Middleville

ARTICLE II: CONFESSION OF FAITH (see pages following Constitution)

We accept the confession of faith of the Grand Rapids Association of Regular Baptist Church, as revised September 1, 1952.

We also believe in the pre-tribulation rapture and the pre-millennial return of our Lord.

ARTICLE III: ASSOCIATION

SECTION 1:

This church shall not co-operate or fellowship with any organization that permits the presence of modernistic/post modernistic teaching or apostate leadership. II Corinthians 6:14-18

SECTION 2:

This church shall fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

ARTICLE IV: PURPOSE

SECTION 1: To Edify the Members

Ephesians 4:11-12

SECTION 2: To Spread the Gospel

Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:19-20
Acts 16:5, Acts 2:47

SECTION 3: To Administer the Ordinances

Baptism – Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:41,
Acts 8:12
The Lord's Supper – Matthew 26:26-28,
I Corinthians 11:23-26

SECTION 4: To Worship God

John 4:23, 24

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: Reception of Members

Paragraph 1:

Any person professing faith in Christ and giving evidence of being born again, and fully agreeing with the doctrinal statement and adhering to the Constitution of this Church, may be eligible for membership through one of the three modes listed below:

A: Baptism

Members may be received upon baptism (by immersion) and the recommendation of the deacon board.

B: Letter

Members may be received by letter from any other fundamental Baptist church, and upon recommendation of the deacon board.

C: Experience

Persons baptized upon profession of their faith in Christ may be received on their experience and former baptism (by immersion), if they can give satisfactory evidence of Christian conduct and scriptural faith and upon recommendation of the deacon board.

Paragraph 2:

The church shall vote on reception of new members on the recommendation of the deacon board. If there are five dissenting votes, the matter will be referred to the deacon and the objection will be considered. If the objection is unfounded or unscriptural, it shall be over-ruled by a majority vote of the members present at a business meeting.

Paragraph 3:

No person may be a member of the church while he/she is a member of a secret organization.

Paragraph 4:

Associate Membership

Associate membership may be granted to individuals living in the area on a temporary basis. A request for associate membership shall be accompanied by a letter of standing from the applicant's home church of like precious faith, and is subject to the usual procedure of admission. Associate members shall have all the privileges of church membership except the right to vote and to hold elective office.

Associate membership may be granted to current members who fulfill the requirements listed in Article V, Section 3, Paragraph 5.

SECTION 2: Dismissal of Members

Paragraph 1:

Letter of transfer may be granted to a member upon approval by the deacon board. Such letter must be addressed to a Baptist church of the same faith and order as this and sent by the church clerk to the pastor or the clerk of the church to which the member is uniting.

Paragraph 2:

Letter of dismissal may be given to a member, upon approval by the deacon board, desiring to unite with church not of our faith.

SECTION 3: The Duties of Members

Paragraph 1:

It is the duty of each member to grow in the knowledge of the scriptures and progress in spirituality following Peter's admonition to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." II Peter 3:18

Paragraph 2:

It is the duty of members to honor, esteem, and love their pastor, to pray for him fervently and daily, to attend constantly upon his ministration, to manifest a tender regard for his reputation, and to contribute toward his support in proportion to their ability. I Thessalonians 5:12-13, Hebrews 13:7, 17, I Timothy 5:17-18

Paragraph 3:

It is the duty of each member to cultivate and cherish brotherly love for all members of the church, and to show this love by using all proper measures to promote their spiritual prosperity. John 13:34-35, I John 4:7-11, Galatians 5:13-14, Ephesians 5:11-16

Paragraph 4:

It is the duty of the members to be exact in fulfilling obligations and performing promises; and as opportunities arise, they are to commend the Gospel of Christ unto the unsaved and be obedient to civil authorities. I Corinthians 4:1-2, Galatians 6:10, I Peter 3:15, Romans 13:1-7

Paragraph 5:

It is the duty of members removing from this church to unite with another Baptist church of the same faith and order. But if there is no church of the same faith and order within a reasonable distance of their new homes, their membership may remain with us as associate members; and in such circumstances, they are to report to this church. If they fail to report, the church shall communicate with them and use its discretion in retaining them as members.

Paragraph 6:

It is the duty of each member to uphold the church in tithes and offerings (Malachi 2:8-10, I Corinthians 16:2, II Corinthians 9:6-8) and in faithfulness to its services (Hebrews 10:24-25). Each member should be at every business meeting as much as is possible.

Paragraph 7:

It is the duty of each member to pursue holiness and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. (James 1:27, II Corinthians 7:1, I Peter 1:13-16).

Section 4: Discipline of Members

The discipline of members will be according to biblical exhortation.

The deacon board shall serve as the discipline committee.

1. The goal of discipline is restoration. Galatians 6:1
2. The method of discipline will be according to Matthew 18:15-17.

Paragraph 1:

If a member has been absent from the church services, the pastor and/or deacons shall meet with the member and discuss the problem. All effort should be made for restoration. If the member refuses, the deacon board shall recommend to the church that the member's name be removed from the membership roll and the member sent a notification of the dismissal.

Paragraph 2

The above action shall in no way affect any member who, because of ill health or conflicting circumstances, is unable to attend the services of the church nor shall it apply to those who have associate membership status.

Paragraph 3

If a member has been charged with conduct unbecoming a Christian, the pastor and/or deacons shall ensure the Matthew 18:15-17 process is followed. If the charges are found to be true, it shall be the duty of the discipline committee, through patient and loving, but firm admonition, to endeavor to bring the accused unto repentance. If the accused refuses to repent, the deacon board shall recommend to the church that the member's name be removed from the church roll and the member sent a notification of the dismissal.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

SECTION 1: List of Officers

Pastor, additional pastoral staff, twelve deacons, clerk (who is also a deacon) financial secretary, general treasurer, Sunday school superintendent, and assistant Sunday school superintendent

Section 2: Qualifications of Officers

Paragraph 1: Pastor

The pastor shall meet the biblical requirements as set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. The pastor shall also be in full agreement with the church's doctrinal statement and publicly state his agreement prior to entering office and at each annual business meeting during the duration of his ministry. Additional pastoral staff shall be subject to the same requirements.

Paragraph 2: Deacons

The deacons shall meet the biblical requirements as set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-3. A deacon shall be at least 21 years of age and shall have been a member for more than 1 year immediately preceding the election.

Paragraph 3: Other Officers

All other officers shall be members of First Baptist Church of Middleville and their lives shall display the spirit of the Duties of Members in Article V, Section 3.

Section 3: Election of Officers

Paragraph 1: Nominating Committee

The nominating committee for the annual election of officers shall be composed of the pastor, retiring deacons, Sunday school superintendent, church clerk deacon, and two persons elected from the membership of the church. The nominating committee shall have begun their work before the first Sunday in December.

Paragraph 2:

Church officers shall be elected at the annual meeting. The new officers will take office the first Sunday in February.

Paragraph 3: Terms of Office

Deacons shall be elected each year for a 3-year term. A deacon, if elected to serve a second term, shall be permitted to serve two consecutive full terms. One year shall elapse following the completion of two consecutive full terms before a man may be re-elected to the deacon board. All other officers shall be elected annually.

Paragraph 4: Vacancies

The deacon board shall recommend to the church a qualified person to fill a vacancy. The person recommended by the deacon board to fill a vacancy shall be approved at a church business meeting. Upon approval by the church, the person will fill the remaining term of office. If the person approved is to fill a vacancy on the deacon board and the balance of the term is more than half of said term he is eligible to serve one more term, if the balance of the term is less than half of said term he is eligible to serve two more consecutive terms.

SECTION 4: Duties of Officers

Paragraph 1: Pastor

It shall be the duty of the pastor to preach regularly at the church. (In his absence, the pastor shall confer with the deacons as to the pulpit supply). He is also to administer the ordinances of the Gospel and perform the various duties incumbent upon his office. He shall be an ex-officio member of the deacon board and all church committees, and he shall serve as moderator at all church business meetings, except those meetings that pertain to him. I Peter 5:1-4, Acts 20:28, 2 Timothy 4:1-4

Additional pastoral staff responsibilities shall be directed by the Senior Pastor.

Paragraph 2: Deacons

The term “deacon” means “servant” to the church, for the Lord. Also, the term “deacon” means “helper” – helper to the pastor in the church doing the work of the Lord. Therefore, the deacons shall serve the church by helping the pastor in the work of the church. Acts 6:1-6

The deacons shall elect their chairman, vice-chairman and secretary directly following the annual election. The chairman of the board shall be vice-moderator of the church. They shall have a monthly meeting, which time shall be mutually determined by the board. They may further organize into or appoint such special committees, as they feel necessary for the efficient operation of the church. Any member being absent from regular monthly board meetings for three months in succession, apart from illness or valid excuse, shall be dropped from the board.

The Deacons shall

1. Minister through visitation so that each family of his group is called upon at least once in every year and a record kept of such calls giving date and name of family visited.
2. Assist the pastor with the ordinances of the Lord’s Supper and Baptism.
3. Assist in conducting the membership class.
4. Assist the pastor as the discipline committee.
5. Present a proposed annual budget for approval at the annual business meeting.
6. Ensure all church funds are disbursed according to the approved church budget. The deacons may, on unbudgeted items, incur a one-time expense not to exceed \$1,000, or a cumulative total of \$2,000 in any month, without church approval. [Emergency clause: In cases where property and services would be jeopardized by waiting for church approval, the deacons may authorize expenditures exceeding the above amount. In follow-up the deacon board will formally present detail of the emergency actions to the church.]
7. Oversee the proper maintenance and use of church’s facilities.

8. Ensure a child protection policy is maintained and implemented.
9. Ensure a safety/emergency response policy is maintained and implemented.

Paragraph 3: Clerk

The clerk shall keep a complete and accurate record of the minutes and membership of the church. The clerk shall receive and issue all official church letters pertaining to membership. The clerk shall be a deacon.

Paragraph 4: General Treasurer

The general treasurer shall receive and keep a record of all monies in the general fund, building fund and missions fund. The treasurer and/or treasurer's designee (as approved by the deacon board) shall disburse all monies committed to his/her charge as directed by the church and deacons. All disbursements shall be by check. The treasurer shall submit a written report monthly to the deacon board and quarterly to the church. There shall be a summary report at the annual meeting.

Paragraph 5: Financial Secretary

The financial secretary and/or helpers (helpers approved by the deacon board) shall keep a record of all income from envelopes and loose offering (except deacon's fund offerings). Two persons (financial secretary and/or helpers) must be present at all times for the counting of monies. The financial secretary shall keep a record of income into the general fund, building fund, and missionary fund. It shall be the duty of the financial secretary to keep a confidential record of individual contributors from envelopes or checks on request and to give a report to each contributor at the end of the calendar year. It shall be the duty of the financial secretary to provide a monthly report to the general treasurer and deacon board totaling the giving to each of the following: General Fund, Building Fund and Missionary Fund.

Paragraph 6: Sunday School Superintendent

The pastor, by virtue of his office, shall be the head of the Sunday school. The superintendent shall direct the work of the Sunday school, with the assistance and counsel of the deacon board. He shall attend the regular meetings of the Christian Education Committee to report progress and needs of the school. He shall be accessible to meet with the pastors and deacon board, as it is mutually beneficial.

Paragraph 7: Assistant Sunday School Superintendent

He shall work closely with the Sunday school superintendent in the administration of the Sunday school. He shall assume the responsibilities of the superintendent in his absences.

Paragraph 8: Removal of an Officer other than Pastor or Pastoral Staff

An officer of the church failing to fulfill the duties of their office shall be

admonished by the deacon board. If they still neglect to fulfill their duties, they may be admonished by the deacon board. If they still neglect to fulfill their duties, they may be removed from such office upon recommendation of the deacon board and vote of the church. Vacancies shall be filled in accordance with Article VI, Section 3, Paragraph 4.

SECTION 5: Calling and Dismissal of a Pastor:

Paragraph 1: Calling a Pastor

The deacon board shall serve as the pulpit committee. They shall contact as many pulpit supplies as they deem necessary. The pulpit committee shall invite one back as a candidate after completely discussing his convictions. The deacon board will investigate the candidate in matters of doctrine, character, family, education and fellowship. After hearing the candidate, the church shall vote on him, at a business meeting in accordance with the requirements of Article VIII, Section 3, Paragraph 1, before considering another candidate. A seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote shall constitute a call.

Paragraph 2: Dismissal of a Pastor

1. The duration of his ministry shall be indefinite but may be terminated by:
 - A. The resignation of the pastor, in which case, a four-week notice is requested.
 - B. A seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote by the members present at a business meeting in accordance with the requirements of Article VIII, Section 3, Paragraph 1.
2. The following are considered sufficient reasons for the church to terminate the pastor:
 - A. If his doctrinal position is no longer in accord with the church's statement of faith.
 - B. If his life morally, financially, or in general public behavior is of such a nature that the deacon board deems it unbeneficial for the spiritual welfare of the church.
3. A request by the membership for the resignation of the pastor must be made in the form of a petition submitted to the deacon board, signed by twenty-five percent (25%) of the voting members and representing not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the church families (verified by the church clerk). The request for resignation will be presented at a business meeting, called in accordance with the requirements of Article VIII, Section 3, Paragraph 1, and be enacted upon by a seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote.
4. No pastor shall be dismissed by the church without being granted an opportunity for personal defense to the deacon board.
5. If the pastor is terminated by the church, the church shall grant a two-month honorarium.

6. If deemed necessary by the deacon board, the pastor may be immediately relieved of his duties and put on paid administrative leave until appropriate resolution is made.

Paragraph 3: Physical or Mental disability of a Pastor

In the event that the pastor becomes unable to fulfill his duties due to physical or mental disabilities as determined by the attending medical personnel and the deacon board, the deacon board shall recommend to the church that he be placed on paid administrative leave. Upon majority approval of the church, the deacon board will assume temporary responsibility for the operations of the church. The deacon board will provide status updates at each quarterly business meeting (or more frequently if determined necessary by the deacon board). After determination by attending medical personnel and the deacon board that he is able to resume his full responsibilities, the deacon board shall recommend to the church that he be taken off paid administrative leave. Upon majority approval of the church, he will resume his full responsibilities. Paid administrative leave shall not exceed one year. If it has been determined by attending medical personnel and the deacon board that he will not be able to resume his full responsibilities or that the paid administrative leave has lasted one year, the deacon board will recommend to the church, dismissal of the pastor per Article VI, Section 5, Paragraph 2.

Section 6: Additional Pastoral Staff

Paragraph 1: Calling Pastoral Staff

The pastor shall identify and recommend additional pastoral staff as necessary. The deacon board will investigate the candidate in matters of doctrine, character, family, education and fellowship. Upon approval of the deacon board, and after the church has heard the candidate, the church shall vote on him before calling another candidate. A seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote shall constitute a call.

Paragraph 2: Termination of Pastoral Staff

1. The duration of his ministry shall be indefinite, but may be terminated by:
 - A. The resignation of the pastor, in which case a four-week notice is requested
 - B. A seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote by members present at a business meeting in accordance with the requirements of Article VIII, Section 3, Paragraph 1.
2. The following are considered sufficient reasons for the church to terminate pastoral staff:
 - A. If his doctrinal position is no longer in accord with the church's statement of faith.

- B. If his life morally, financially, or in general public behavior is of such a nature that the deacon board deems it unbeneficial to the spiritual welfare of the church.
 - C. If he is not fulfilling the responsibilities laid out by the senior pastor.
- 3. A request by the membership for the resignation of pastoral staff must be made in the form of a petition submitted to the deacon board, signed by twenty-five percent (25%) of the voting members and representing not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the church families (verified by the church clerk). The request for resignation will be presented at a business meeting, called in accordance with the requirements of Article VIII, Section 3: Business Meetings, Paragraph 1, and be enacted upon by a seventy five percent (75%) majority vote.
- 4. No pastoral staff shall be dismissed by the church without being granted an opportunity for personal defense to the deacon board.
- 5. If pastoral staff is terminated by the church, the church shall grant a two month honorarium.
- 6. If deemed necessary by the deacon board or the senior pastor, pastoral staff may be immediately relieved of his duties and put on paid administrative leave until appropriate resolution is made.

ARTICLE VII: USE OF THE CHURCH

Section 1: Weddings and Funerals

Only members will have the privilege of the church auditorium for wedding and funeral ceremonies. All wedding ceremonies and funerals shall be performed by the pastor of the church. Any exceptions shall be approved by the deacon board and the pastor. No unsaved person shall be married in the church.

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the sacred union of one genetic male and one genetic female, First Baptist Church will only recognize marriages between one genetic male and one genetic female. Further, the pastors and staff of First Baptist Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one genetic male and one genetic female. Finally, the facilities and property of First Baptist Church shall only host weddings between one genetic male and one genetic female.

Section 2: General/Special Use

No individual, group, or organization may have any use of the church facilities without approval of the deacon board and the pastor.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

Section 1: Stated Services

The church shall maintain a Sunday school, morning service, evening service on Sunday, a weekly prayer meeting, and regularly scheduled youth meetings.

Section 2: The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper shall be observed monthly, preferably on the first Sunday.

Section 3: Business Meetings

Paragraph 1: Order of Business

- A. Business meetings may be called by the pastor, the deacon board or twenty-five percent (25%) of the voting membership of the church (verified by church clerk) asking for the same by written petition. Notice of the meetings shall be read at two (2) Sunday services, one week in advance of the meeting, along with the express nature of the business to be addressed. No business shall be transacted other than that for which the meeting has been called to address.
- B. "Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern the transaction of all business.
- C. Only members eighteen years of age and over shall have the right to vote.
- D. At any business meeting of the church, twenty percent (20%) of the members eligible to vote (verified by the church clerk) shall constitute a quorum.
- E. Absentee ballots are intended for informed members who are unable to attend business meetings because of sickness, hospitalization, out of state travel and work schedules. Absentee ballots for business meetings may be requested from the Senior Pastor or Chairman of the deacon board. Absentee ballots will not be allowed for votes on dismissal of a pastor or pastoral staff.

Paragraph 2: Annual Meeting

The church year will be January 1 through December 31. The annual meeting shall take place in January, the date to be set by the deacon board.

Paragraph 3: Quarterly Meetings

The quarterly business meetings shall be held in January, April, July and October, the dates to be set by the deacons. The January meeting will be the annual church meeting. The covenant shall be read at each quarterly business meeting.

Paragraph 4: Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called at any time per Paragraph 1: Order of Business. At any of the regular meetings for worship, the church may, without notice,

conduct business on the reception of members, the dismissal of members to other churches, or disciplinary action.

ARTICLE IX: COMITTEES

Section 1: The Flower & Gift Committee

This committee will be responsible for providing cards, flowers or gifts for the members upon illness/hospitalization, and will send flowers in case of death to those connected with the church at the discretion of the flower and gift committee.

Section 2: Music Committee

The pastor of music shall be responsible for music at both Sunday services and special services. The pastor of music shall maintain a music committee to assist with his responsibilities.

Section 3: Missionary Committee

The committee shall plan and promote missionary interest, distribute literature, make recommendations for support of missionaries, and have charge of other missionary interests in the church. The missionary committee shall consist of ten members including the pastor, a minimum of one deacon and the remaining people from the church membership.

Section 4: Kitchen Committee

This committee shall consist of three or more people to see that the kitchen is supplied and equipped with the necessities for functions of the regular program of the church. The committee shall oversee the regular cleaning care. The committee is to supervise funeral meals, and shall organize the food for church fellowship and farewells.

Section 5: Nursery Committee

This committee consists of three or more persons to see that a clean and safe nursery is maintained for church function and to schedule the workers during church services.

Section 6: Usher Committee

This committee consists of the number of ushers necessary to properly seat people and conduct the collection of offerings. The head usher or assistant usher is responsible for ensuring the transferring of offerings to a secure location. Two ushers must be present at all times during the handling of monies.

Section 7: Christian Education Committee

This committee shall be responsible for the operating procedures, coordination, and teaching materials of all education agencies of the church.

Section 8: Evangelism & Outreach Committee

This committee shall seek ways to reach our community with the gospel of Jesus Christ. They should encourage and enlist the people of the church in evangelism. This committee will also assist the pastor and pastoral staff in seeking methods to reach our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as well as assist the pastor and pastoral staff in implementing those plans and evaluating their effectiveness.

Section 9: Building and Grounds

This committee shall be responsible for the proper maintenance of the church's facilities and grounds. At least one deacon will be a member of this committee.

Section 10: Technology Steering Committee

This committee shall be responsible for the forward planning, operation, and maintenance of the church's technology equipment and systems. At least one deacon will be a member of this committee.

Section 11: Greeters

This committee will warmly greet each person who attends our services and assist them, especially "first-time" visitors, with where to go in our facilities (e.g. sanctuary, Sunday school class, nursery, etc.).

Section 12: Committee Leadership

The leadership of the above committees shall be appointed by the deacon board after the annual election.

Section 13: Temporary Committees

The deacons may appoint temporary committees as they deem necessary. Temporary committees shall be limited to 12 months duration.

Section 14: Church sanctioned groups

No auxiliary or affiliated society group shall be permitted to meet in the name of the church without prior approval of the deacon board and the church.

Section 15: Incorporating and Dissolving Committees

After a committee or group has received approval of the board and church, that committee shall be included in the church constitution as an amendment. A committee that is no longer needed will be dissolved by vote of the board and church and removed from the church constitution as an amendment.

ARTICLE X: SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday school shall be organized and operated by the church as a means of teaching the Scriptures, evangelizing the unsaved and providing an organized program of Christian service for the membership of the church. It shall be considered a part of the church organization and program.

ARTICLE XI: FINANCES

The church shall be financed only through approved means – primarily tithes, offerings, and gifts. Fundraisers must be approved by the Senior Pastor, the deacon board. Loans, or other revenue, must be approved by the Senior Pastor, the deacon board, and the church membership. There shall be an annual audit/review by a qualified party other than the church treasurer before the annual meeting.

ARTICLE XII: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The constitution or covenant may be amended by a sixty-six percent (66%) vote of members at a business meeting. Notice of the proposed change must be given two weeks in advance.

The doctrinal statement may be amended by a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of members at the annual business meeting. The membership should move very slowly, cautiously and prayerfully when considering amending the doctrinal statement of this church.