

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS OF SUGAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

First Adopted: October 3, 1971

Revisions & Amendments: February 13, 1994; March 11, 2001; June 11, 2006; July 8, 2007;
July 8, 2012; February 9, 2014; June 14, 2015

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

For the more certain preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and to the extent that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the accepted tenets of the Southern Baptist denomination, we do declare and establish this constitution. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other churches of the same faith.

ARTICLE 1: NAME

This body shall be known as Sugar Creek Baptist Church, Inc. S.B.C. of Sugar Creek Township, located two miles west of West Terre Haute, Indiana.

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE

The chief purpose of this church is to glorify God (Romans 15:5-6; Ephesians 1:3-5, 11-14; Philippians 1:9-10; 1 Corinthians 10:31). This is accomplished through obedience to the three biblical mandates given to the church (John. 17:4):

- 1) To worship the triune God in spirit and in truth as a fellowship of believers, in the power of the Holy Spirit, under the lordship of Jesus Christ (John. 4:23).
- 2) To edify one another and nurture Christian growth through preaching, teaching, and biblical fellowship (1 Corinthians 14:26; 2 Peter 3:18).
- 3) To minister to the world through evangelism, missions, and loving deeds (Matthew 28:18-20; 5:16; 1 Peter 2:9; 3:15).

ARTICLE 3: STATEMENT OF FAITH

In order to set forth general beliefs and principles which persons who are Southern Baptists generally agree upon, we do hereby incorporate, by reference, and adopt as the Statement of Faith of Sugar Creek Baptist Church, the *Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention June 14, 2000.

ARTICLE 4: POLITY

This church is an autonomous, congregationally governed body, having the final earthly authority invested in the members who compose it. The biblically mandated offices of the church are Pastors and Deacons, though this does not preclude the creation of other offices, which the church deems necessary and helpful in carrying out the work of the total church program. All internal groups created by and empowered by the church shall report to and be held accountable to the church unless specific action is taken by the church membership as outlined in the bylaws.

ARTICLE 5: RELATIONSHIPS

This church is not subject to the control of any other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation common among Baptist churches. Insofar as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the West Central Baptist Association, the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, and the Southern Baptist Convention. This cooperation does not grant to any of the aforementioned entities any authority over this church, nor in any way alter or lessen the autonomy and independence of this church.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Composition of Membership

The membership of Sugar Creek Baptist Church is composed of all those who have trusted and confessed Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, been scripturally baptized by immersion, and have been accepted into membership by action of the church as specified in these bylaws.

Section 2: Qualifications for Membership

Any person may offer himself/herself for membership in this church by:

- 1) Public profession of faith in Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior and baptism under authority of this church.
- 2) Promise of letter of recommendation from another Southern Baptist church.
- 3) Statement of prior conversion experience and scriptural baptism in a non-Southern Baptist church that is orthodox in theology.
- 4) Statement of prior conversion experience followed by baptism under authority of this church.

The church has the right to refuse membership if the individual presented:

- 1) Does not confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- 2) Has not been scripturally baptized by immersion as a believer and refuses to have the ordinance of believer's baptism administered under authority of this church.
- 3) Currently exhibits an ungodly, unrepentant lifestyle inconsistent with their profession of faith.

Section 3: Admission of Members

The normal process for becoming a member is:

- 1) Completion of a prospective members' class.
- 2) Filling out of a "Church Membership Application"
- 3) Affirmative vote by church body.

Candidates may be voted into membership at the close of any Sunday morning worship service or regular business meeting.

Section 4: Responsibilities of Members

Each member of Sugar Creek Baptist Church is responsible to obey the commands of God's Word in demonstrating a growing, maturing relationship with Christ; being actively involved in service of the church with their respective gifts and abilities; faithfully and regularly bringing their tithes and offerings to support the work of the church; and aggressively seeking to evangelize the world.

Church members are responsible to abide by the consensus of the church body regarding matters of faith and practice as expressed in the Constitution and Bylaws and submit to the policies and procedures duly developed in support of this aforementioned document.

Section 5: Voting Rights of Members

All members shall have full voting rights on all motions, recommendations, resolutions, or other matters that come before the church in regular or special business meeting except:

- 1) Members designated as inactive; or
- 2) Members under the age of eighteen (18).

There is no provision made for absentee voting.

Section 6: Discipline of Members

Church members who exhibit a continuing, unrepentant lifestyle of sin in regard to doctrine or conduct shall be dealt with according to the biblical process of church discipline. This is always to be done for the ultimate goals of glorifying God, purifying the church, and the restoration of the individual.

The first step in this process shall be for fervent, continual prayer to be made on the behalf of the sinning member by the one who has knowledge of the sin (James 5:16-20). It shall also be the responsibility of any member of the body who has knowledge of a sinning member's heresy or misconduct to reprove and seek correction and restore the sinning member in private (Matthew 18:15-18, Galatians 6:1). If said sinning member does not heed this reproof, then the reproofing member shall again go to the sinning member accompanied by one or two witnesses to reprove, correct, and restore. If the sinning member still refuses to heed this reproof, it shall be brought to the attention of the pastor(s) of the church (Hebrews 13:17).

If after reproof from the pastor(s) of the church, the sinning member still fails to repent, the pastor(s) shall tell it to the church (Matthew 18:17). If the sinning member still refuses to repent, the church shall announce the sinning member's public removal from church membership and fellowship, and he or she is to be treated as an unbeliever (Matthew 18:15-19; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15). There shall be no appeal to any court from that decision.

If after removal of membership the sinning individual repents, he or she shall be joyfully restored back into fellowship (Luke 17:3-4; 2 Corinthians 2:6-9).

If during the process of discipline the member withdraws membership voluntarily but continues in the identified sin, the church shall still be responsible to seek the sinning individual's restoration through the process outline in Scripture above.

The actions described in this section must at all times be carried out with a gentle, loving, and humble attitude, with a sensitivity to God's timing, and with the ultimate goals of glorifying God, purifying the church, and restoring the individual.

Section 7: Membership Roll

The church shall maintain a membership roll for ministry purposes. It shall be the primary responsibility of the Clerk to maintain this roll and insure its accuracy.

A. Removal

Persons shall be removed as members of this church in the following cases:

- 1) Death.
- 2) Discipline.
- 3) Granting of letter to another church.
- 4) Member informs church in writing they would like to be removed from the membership roll.

B. Inactive Status

Persons may be designated as inactive members in the following cases:

- 1) Member has moved from the general local area wherein the church ministers and has not attended regular worship, Bible study, or other activities of the church for one year, and has not financially contributed to the support of the church for a period of one year.
- 2) Member has moved and no address can be obtained for a period of one year.
- 3) Member has not attended regular worship, Bible study, or other activities of the church for one year, and has not financially contributed to the support of the church for a period of one year.

Members designated as inactive shall not be entitled to vote on any matter coming before the church in business session.

C. Review of Roll

There shall be a yearly review of the membership roll. The pastors, Clerk, Treasurer, and Sunday School Director shall conduct the review, and make recommendation to the church for designating a member as inactive. A simple majority of all members present and voting is required.

ARTICLE 2: MINISTRY ORGANIZATION

Section 1: Pastors

A. Definition

The term “pastor” refers to a man who functions as an under-shepherd of the church. The term “pastor” is used interchangeably in the Scriptures with the terms “Overseer” and “Elder” (Acts 20:17, 28).

B. Responsibilities

The primary work of a pastor shall be to devote himself to prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:4; 1 Tim. 5:17; 2 Tim. 4:2). His general responsibilities shall include the following:

- 1) Give general oversight of the flock (Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:17; 1 Thess. 5:12).
 - a. In practical matters (Acts 6:1-6, 11:29-30)
 - b. In matters of doctrine (Acts 15, 16:4)
 - c. In matters of discipline/character (Heb. 13:17)
- 2) Shepherd the flock (1 Peter 5:2; Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:17; James 5:14)
- 3) Equip the saints for the work of ministry (Eph. 4:11)
- 4) Teach the flock (1 Tim. 3:2, 5:17; 1 Thess. 5:12)
- 5) Exhort in sound doctrine (Titus 1:9)
- 6) Refute those who contradict sound doctrine (Titus 1:9)
- 7) Example the standard of godly living (1 Tim. 3:1ff; 1 Peter 5:3)

Responsibilities and expectations for specific pastoral positions shall be contained in a job description located in the Church Organization Manual and any other appropriate ministry manual.

C. Qualifications

The essential element needed is that of a godly character. He must exhibit the characteristics as listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. In addition, he must also be willing to make the necessary time commitments to fulfill his responsibilities to the church.

D. Number

There shall be no specified number of pastors. The number will be determined by the needs of the church and the church's ability to offer financial support.

E. Selection

Whenever a vacancy occurs, either through resignation or forced termination, a Pastor Search Committee shall be formed at a regular or specially called business meeting of the church. This committee shall perform the tasks specifically granted to it in a constituting charter and in accordance with the duties, powers, and length of tenure specifically delegated to them by that charter.

F. Term

A pastor shall serve continuously as long as he possesses the character qualities and fulfills the standards of leadership and service described above. For accountability, any member of the church may and should initiate church discipline against a pastor who is not exhibiting the character or fulfilling his responsibilities as a pastor according to the scriptural guidelines given in Article 1 Section 6 of these bylaws, with the addition that an accusation against a pastor should not be received "except on the basis of two or three witnesses" (1 Tim. 5:19).

G. Termination

A pastor may resign by written notification to the appropriate supervisor(s), giving at least a two-week notice before resignation is to take effect unless circumstances dictate otherwise. This resignation will be communicated to the church without comment.

In addition, the church may declare the office of a pastor vacant. Such action shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which the membership has been given a two-week notice. The meeting shall be called upon the recommendation of the Deacons and Administration Committee. The vote to declare the office vacant shall be by secret ballot. The quorum for such a meeting shall be no less than ten percent (10%) of the total membership eligible for voting as specified in Article 1, Sections 5 and 7 of these bylaws. An affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting shall be necessary to declare the office vacant. If the membership votes the office vacant, the termination of pastoral duties shall be effective immediately upon the vote. The Administration Committee shall determine a fair separation package. Any written agreements entered into between the church and the pastor shall be honored by the church regardless of the nature of the termination. If affirmative vote does not prevail, the same question cannot be presented to the church until the lapse of at least three (3) months from the date of the vote.

Section 2: Deacons

A. Definition

Deacons are men within the church who are giving of themselves in service of the church, who possess gifts of ministry, and who are called to further service and care for the church's members (Acts 6:6; 1 Tim. 3:8).

B. Responsibilities

Deacons shall advise and assist the pastor(s) in any area of service that shall support and promote the ministry of the Word, new and existing ministries of the church, and the care of the members of the congregation. Their responsibilities include:

- 1) Providing assistance and encouragement to members and regular attendees facing difficult circumstances.
- 2) Assisting in the accommodations for public worship including the welcoming and greeting ministries.
- 3) Assisting in administering the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- 4) Caring for and overseeing church properties.
- 5) Assisting in financial and personnel administration.

The deacons shall elect their officers annually in June and shall be organized however they determine best to assist the pastor(s) and to see that the ordinances of the church are carried out and other work and ministry of the church is properly handled in keeping with the spirit of concern and love for the needs of others. No officer shall succeed his present position until one year has elapsed.

C. Qualification

The essential element needed is that of a godly character. A deacon must exhibit the characteristics as listed in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3. Deacons must be willing to make the necessary time commitments to fulfill their responsibilities.

D. Number

There shall be no specified number of deacons. The number will be determined by the number of qualified individuals and the needs of the church (Acts 6:3).

E. Selection

Whenever there is need to add a new deacon or fill a vacancy, the pastor(s) and deacons shall select and receive from the church names to be placed on a deacon candidate list. The pastor(s) and deacons shall then interview the persons whose names have been submitted as to their qualifications and willingness to serve. The pastor(s) and deacons shall then recommend such persons as they determine appropriate to the church for approval in a regular or specially called business meeting of the church. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present and voting shall constitute selection. The vote shall be done by secret ballot.

F. Term

Deacons will serve continuously as long as they possess the character qualities and fulfill the standards of ministry and service described above. For accountability, any member of the church body may and should initiate church discipline against a sinning deacon who is not exhibiting the character or fulfilling the responsibilities of a deacon according to the scriptural guidelines given in Article 1 Section 6 of these bylaws.

G. Removal

Any deacon may resign by written notification to the Deacon Chairman. This resignation will be communicated to the church body without comment.

In addition, any deacon may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the church in a regular or specially called business meeting upon the recommendation of the pastor(s) and deacons for any of the following reasons:

- 1) Physically incapacitated.
- 2) Spiritually or morally unqualified.
- 3) Doctrinally unqualified—no longer affirms the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.
- 4) Fails to fulfill their responsibilities or meet the qualifications as outlined in this document, or ceases to serve in a designated ministry area.

If removal is due to sin, the individual is to be dealt with as outlined in Article 1 Section 6 of these bylaws.

Section 3: Program Directors & Coordinators

A. Definition

Program directors and coordinators are those salaried and non-salaried, professional and lay individuals who administer particular ministry functions of Sugar Creek Baptist Church.

B. Responsibilities

Specific responsibilities shall be determined by the pastors in consultation with the Administration Committee. Program directors and coordinators are responsible to serve under the general oversight of the Senior Pastor (or other designated pastor), who is directly responsible for the administrative supervision of the ministry staff.

C. Qualifications

The essential element needed is that of godly character. Every individual should strive to the goal of the character of a pastor or deacon (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9). In addition, all program directors and coordinators must be willing to make the necessary time commitments to fulfill their responsibilities to the church.

D. Number

The number shall be determined by the needs of the church. The pastors in consultation with the Administration Committee will determine a necessary ministry staff structure.

E. Selection

Whenever there is need to add a new volunteer program director or coordinator or fill a vacancy, the Church Council shall select and receive from the church names to be placed on a candidate list. The Church Council shall then interview the persons whose names have been submitted as to their qualifications and willingness to serve. The Church Council shall then recommend such persons as they determine appropriate to the church for approval in a regular or specially called business meeting of the church. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present and voting shall constitute selection.

Whenever there is need to add a new paid program director or coordinator or fill a vacancy, the Administration Committee shall seek qualified individuals from within the membership first and then from other evangelical, Christian churches and agencies to fill the position as lead by the Holy Spirit. The Administration Committee shall interview persons from a candidate list as to their qualifications and willingness to serve. The Administration Committee shall then recommend such persons as they determine appropriate to the church for approval in a regular or specially called business meeting of the church. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present and voting shall constitute selection.

F. Term

Program directors and coordinators will serve continuously as long as they possess the character qualities and fulfill the standards of ministry and service described above. For accountability, any member of the church body may and should initiate church discipline

against sinning program director or coordinator that are not exhibiting the character or fulfilling the responsibilities according to the scriptural guidelines given in Article 1 Section 6 of these bylaws.

G. Removal

Program directors or coordinators may resign by written notification to the Senior Pastor or chairperson of the Administration Committee. This resignation will be communicated to the church body without comment.

In addition, program directors or coordinators may be removed from their position by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the church in a regular or specially called business meeting upon the recommendation of the Church Council (if volunteer) or the Administration Committee (if paid) for any of the following reasons:

- 1) Physically incapacitated.
- 2) Spiritually or morally unqualified or fails to fulfill the responsibilities or meet the qualifications outlined in the job description for their ministry assignment.
- 3) Doctrinally unqualified—no longer affirms the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.
- 4) Continued service is not in the best interest of the church for whatever reason determined.

If removal is due to sin, the individual is to be dealt with as outlined in Article 1 Section 6 of these bylaws.

Section 4: Church Officers

A. Definition

The officers of the church shall be the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and Trustees. For the purpose of compliance with the nonprofit corporation laws of the state of Indiana, the Moderator shall be the President, the Vice-Moderator shall be the Vice-President, and the Clerk shall be the Secretary of the corporation.

B. Responsibilities

The officers of the church shall perform the duties and responsibilities specified in a job description contained in the Church Organization Manual and any other appropriate ministry manual.

C. Qualifications

The essential element needed is that of godly character. All church officers regardless of position must exhibit the characteristics as listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. In addition, they must also be willing to make the necessary time commitments to fulfill their responsibilities to the church.

D. Selection

Whenever there is need to add a new church officer or fill a vacancy, the Church Council shall select and receive from the church names to be placed on a candidate list. The

Church Council shall then interview the persons whose names have been submitted as to their qualifications and willingness to serve. The Church Council shall then recommend such persons as they determine appropriate to the church for approval in a regular or specially called business meeting of the church. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present and voting shall constitute selection.

E. Term

Church officers will serve continuously as long as they possess the character qualities and fulfill the standards of ministry and service described above. For accountability, any member of the church body may and should initiate church discipline against a sinning church officer who is not exhibiting the character or fulfilling the responsibilities of a church officer according to the scriptural guidelines given in Article 1 Section 6 of these bylaws.

F. Removal

Any church officer may resign by written notification to the Senior Pastor. This resignation will be communicated to the church without comment.

In addition, any church officer may be removed from their position by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the church at a regular or specially called business meeting of the church upon the recommendation of the Church Council for any of the following reasons:

- 1) Physically incapacitated.
- 2) Spiritually or morally unqualified or fails to fulfill the responsibilities or meet the qualifications outlined in the job description for their ministry assignment.
- 3) Doctrinally unqualified—no longer affirms the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.
- 4) Continued service is not in the best interest of the church for whatever reason determined.

If removal is due to sin, the individual is to be dealt with as outlined in Article 1 Section 6 of these bylaws.

Section 5: Support Staff

The Administration Committee shall be directly responsible for the hiring and supervision of all budgeted support personnel. This personnel is composed of those individuals who provide administrative support to the ministry of the church, and includes the office, clerical, records, food service, custodial, media, and other types of administrative personnel deemed necessary.

As appropriate, the Administration Committee may authorize the utilization of interns in areas of ministry or program support. These individuals more often as not are lay or seminary students in preparation for a particular ministry area. They may be certified by Sugar Creek Baptist Church on a case by case basis as ordained, commissioned, or licensed to the ministry depending upon their particular calling and ministry area for support.

ARTICLE 3: PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONS, COMMITTEES & MINISTRY TEAMS

The church shall plan, implement, and evaluate any program organizations, committees, and ministry teams deemed necessary and beneficial to achieve church objectives and goals. All organizations, committees, and ministry teams shall be under church control, all leaders being elected by the church and reporting regularly to the church, and all program activities subject to church coordination. The church shall provide the human resources, the physical resources, and the financial resources for the appropriate advancement of these programs and ministries. These organizations/committees/teams shall perform the tasks specifically granted to them in a constituting charter and in accordance with the duties, powers, and length of tenure specifically delegated to them by that charter. These charters shall be contained in the Church Organization Manual and any other appropriate specialized ministry manual.

ARTICLE 4: CHURCH MINISTRY MANUALS

The Church Council shall oversee the development and maintenance of a Church Organization Manual. This manual shall include the articles of incorporation, current constitution and bylaws, organizational chart(s) depicting lines of responsibility in the administration of the church, position descriptions, and policies and procedures related to various ministry areas. A binder copy of the manual shall be kept in the church office at all times. The Church Council shall review the manual at least annually, with authority to recommend changes for the church to consider. Any church member or church organization may initiate suggested changes to the manual.

In addition to the Church Organization Manual, each committee, program organization, and ministry team shall have a ministry manual that contains all the necessary information needed for the efficient and effective administration of the ministry. It shall be the responsibility of the program organization leader, committee chairperson, and ministry team leader to oversee the development and maintenance of these specialized ministry manuals.

ARTICLE 5: CHURCH MEETINGS

Section 1: Worship Services

Worship services shall be held each Sunday morning, and may be held any other time throughout the week as the church determines.

Section 2: Special Services

The church may hold other meetings and services, like revivals and Bible conferences, which are deemed important or essential for the promotion of the objectives of the church.

Section 3: Regular Business Meetings

Regular business meetings shall be held at least every three months on a designated Sunday or Wednesday evening. The Church Council shall set the dates for regular business meetings.

Section 4: Special Business Meetings

The church may assemble for special meetings to discuss matters of significance to the congregation upon the recommendation of the Senior Pastor or Church Council. At least a two-week notice must be given for the specially called business meeting unless extreme urgency renders such notice impractical. The notice shall include the subject of the meeting. Any church member may submit a request to the Senior Pastor or Church Council for a special business meeting.

Section 5: Church Year

The church year for programs, ministries, and positions held for yearly terms shall be from June through May.

Section 6: Quorum

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

The only exceptions would be in the event:

- 1) Action was being proposed to remove pastoral staff from office.
- 2) Action was being proposed to fill a vacancy in the pastoral staff.

In cases 1 and 2, a quorum shall be no less than ten percent (10%) of the total membership eligible for voting provided in Article 1, Sections 5 and 7.

Section 7: Parliamentary Rules

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

ARTICLE 6: ORDINANCES

Section 1: Baptism

This church shall receive for baptism any person who has received Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith, who professes Him publicly at any worship service, and who indicates a commitment to follow Him as Lord. Baptism shall be by immersion in water, and shall be administered as an act of worship at any regular or special service of the church.

Section 2: Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine, commemorate the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate His second coming. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at least every three months. The pastor(s) and deacons shall be responsible for the administration of the Lord's Supper. The deacons shall be responsible for the physical preparation.

ARTICLE 7: FINANCES & BUDGETING

Section 1: Budget

The Administration Committee, in consultation with the Church Council and other appropriate individuals, shall prepare and submit to the church an inclusive annual budget for approval no later than October of each year. Adjustments may be made by action of the church during the fiscal year to meet needs that may arise due to lack of funds or increase in expenses.

It is the policy of this church that the work and ministry of the church is to be supported by the tithes and offerings of the membership or those persons who may not be members but who desire to contribute to the Lord's work by contributions to this local church. It is further the practice and policy of this church to financially support the West Central Baptist Association, the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, and the Southern Baptist Convention and its associated entities.

Section 2: Accounting Procedures

All funds received for any and all purposes shall pass through the hands of the Treasurer, or Financial Secretary, and be properly recorded on the books of the church. Those who have responsibility that involves actual handling of funds shall be bonded, the church paying the bond. A system of accounting that will adequately provide for handling of all funds shall be the responsibility of the Administration Committee.

Section 3: Designated Funds

All donations accepted by the church will be allocated to the general fund unless it is designated to an established designated fund. Procedures for establishing designated funds will be determined by the Administration Committee.

Section 4: Fiscal Year

The church fiscal year shall run from January 1 through December 31 of each year.

ARTICLE 8: DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Believing that the Bible commands Christians to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the church (see, e.g. Matthew 18:15-20; I Corinthians 6:1-8), this church shall require its members to resolve conflict among themselves according to biblically based principles, without reliance on the secular courts. Consistent with its call to peacemaking, the church shall encourage the use of biblically based principles to resolved disputes between itself and those outside the church, whether Christian or non-Christian and whether individuals or corporate entities.

ARTICLE 9: AMENDMENTS

Changes in the 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 business meeting and copies of the proposed amendment shall have been furnished to each member present at the earlier meeting. Amendments to the constitution shall be by two-thirds (2/3) vote

of church members present and voting. Amendments to the bylaws shall have a concurrence of a majority of the members present and voting.