

# **CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS NEW COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH**

of Nampa, Idaho

Approved by Unanimous Vote: January 25, 1998

Bylaws Amended June 25, 2017

## **PREAMBLE**

We declare and establish this Constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the body in an orderly manner. 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.

## **I. NAME**

This body shall be known as the New Covenant Baptist Church of Nampa, Idaho.

## **II. STATEMENT OF FAITH**

### **Section 1. The Scriptures**

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of 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 mixing of error, for its matter. 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. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ.

### **Section 2. God**

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of all creation. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

- A.** God as Father reigns with providential care over His creation, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, 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.
- B.** Christ is the only eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, he was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself the demands and necessities of human nature and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His 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, partaking of the nature of God and of man, and 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.
- C.** The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. He cultivates Christlike character, confirms 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 Believer is the assurance of God to bring the believers into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the Church in worship, evangelism, and service.

### **Section 3. Man**

Man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of His 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 inherits a nature and an

environment inclined toward sin, and as soon as they are capable of moral action 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 man possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

#### **Section 4. Salvation**

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is granted 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, sanctification, and glorification.

- A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Jesus Christ. 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. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal--based upon the principles of His righteousness--of all sinners who repent and believe in Jesus Christ. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God.
- B. Sanctification is the experience, being 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.
- C. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

#### **Section 5. God's Purpose of Grace**

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, 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 a 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 preserve to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, 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.

#### **Section 6. The Church**

A New Testament Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ. The Church is committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word. The Church is dedicated to extending the gospel to the ends of the earth.

This Church is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In such a congregation, members are equally responsible. Its Scriptural officers are pastors and deacons.

The New Testament speaks also of the Church as the body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all ages.

#### **Section 7. Ordinances of Christ**

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 Jesus Christ. It is a testimony to the believer's faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being one of the two Church ordinances, it is prerequisite to the privileges of Church membership.

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.

## **Section 8. 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 be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private.

## **Section 9. The Kingdom**

The Kingdom of God includes both God's general sovereignty over the creation and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King and those who do not. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

## **Section 10. 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.

## **Section 11. 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. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

## **Section 12. 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 of 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.

## **Section 13. Cooperation**

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.

## **Section 14. The Christian and the Social Order**

Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in his own life 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 Christ Jesus. The Christian should oppose in the spirit of Christ every form of greed, selfishness, and vice. The Christian should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. 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.

## **Section 15. Peace**

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.

## **Section 16. 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 taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free Church in a free State is the Christian ideal, and this infers 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.

### **III. OBJECTIVES**

#### **The objectives of this Church are:**

- To be a dynamic spiritual body empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Christ with as many people as possible in our Church, community, and throughout the world.
- To be a worshiping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing His person, and responding in obedience to His leadership.
- To experience an increasingly meaningful fellowship with God and fellow believers.
- To help people experience a growing knowledge of God and man.
- To be a Church that ministers unselfishly to persons in the community and world in Jesus' name.
- To be a Church whose purpose is to be Christlike in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment of life, personality, and possessions to the Lordship of Christ.

### **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 that are common among Baptist Churches. As far as it is practical, this Church will cooperate with and support our association, state convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

### **V. CHURCH COVENANT**

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

We pledge, 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, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also pledge to maintain family and private devotions; to educate our children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord; to seek to make disciples of our family and friends; to be careful how we live before others; to be honest in our dealings, faithful in our obligations, and commendable in our behavior; to speak positively and kindly about and to others; to practice self-control in our relationships with people, things, and temptations; and to be enthusiastic to advance the Kingdom of our Savior and Lord.

We further pledge to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian compassion, patience, and speech; to be slow to take offense, but always be ready to reconcile our differences, being mindful of the rules of our Lord, and to secure it without delay.

We moreover pledge that when we move from this place we will, when possible, unite with another Church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

## VI. AMENDMENTS

Changes to this Constitution may be made at any regular or special Business Meeting of the Church, provided each proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing at a previous regular or special Business Meeting, and copies of the proposed amendment be furnished to each member present. Amendments to the Constitution shall be made by two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Church present and voting.

## BYLAWS

### I. MEMBERSHIP

#### Section 1. General

This is a sovereign and democratic Baptist Church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the exclusive right of self-government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this Church. The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this Church and the conditions of such membership.

#### Section 2. Qualifications

The membership of this Church shall consist of such persons who publicly confess Jesus Christ to be their Savior and Lord and who have fulfilled the conditions of membership as set forth below.

A candidate seeking membership may present himself or herself for membership at any worship service. Prior to the vote on the candidate's membership, the candidate will be counseled by the Pastor or another Church leader with respect to the candidate's salvation and baptism and regarding the responsibilities and privileges of membership in this Church. A three-fourths vote of those Church members present and voting shall be required to elect such candidates into membership. Should there be any objections to any candidate, such an objection shall be presented in writing for investigation. A recommendation shall be made to the Church within thirty (30) days.

Those candidates elected will enter into membership in one of the following ways:

- a. By Baptism, which is regarded as immersion of the believer in water.
- b. By Letter of membership transfer from another Church of like faith and order, having been baptized as stated in a. above.
- c. By Statement of previous baptism according to the policies of this Church.
- d. By Restoration. Any person whose membership has been terminated by resignation or disciplinary action from this Church or any other Church of like faith and order may be restored by vote of the Church.

#### Section 3. Voting Rights of Members

Only members of the Church are entitled to nominate for office, vote in elections, or vote on questions submitted to the Church in Business Meetings. The member must be present to make nominations and to vote. Proxy and absentee nominations and votes are not permitted.

#### Section 4. Termination

- a. Membership may be terminated by one of the following:
  1. Death of the member
  2. Transfer of membership by Letter to another Church of like faith and order upon the request of that Church
  3. The removal from the roll that person who has united with a Church to which this Church does not grant letters, or from which requests for Letters are not received
  4. Resignation and by vote of the Church to accept it
  5. The exclusion from membership of a person who is an offense to the Church by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, violation of the Church Covenant, or non-support of or non-contact with the Church. Such action may be taken only after faithful efforts have been made to bring such a member to repentance and amendment
- b. The membership of those who have become non-resident shall automatically cease one year from the date of a letter of notification to the member. Appeals for exceptions for good reasons may be considered by the Church, the appeal being initiated by the non-resident member. In cases where the member's address is unknown, membership shall cease without notification one year from the date of having become non-resident.

## **Section 5. Duties**

- a. Members are expected, first of all, to be faithful in all the studies essential to the Christian life; and also to attend habitually the services of this Church, and to share in its organized work.
- b. New Covenant Baptist Church shall take every reasonable measure to assist any troubled member. Redemption, rather than punishment, shall be the guideline which governs the attitude of one member toward another.

## **II. CHURCH OFFICERS**

All Church officers shall be members of New Covenant Baptist Church, Nampa, Idaho. The officers of this Church shall as follows:

### **Section 1. Pastor**

The Pastor is responsible for leading the Church to function as the New Testament Church. The Pastor is leader of pastoral ministries. As such he will:

- a. Lead the Church in performing its tasks;
- b. Lead the Church to engage in a fellowship of worship, witness, education, ministry, and application;
- c. Proclaim the Gospel to believers and unbelievers; and
- d. Care for the Church's members and other persons in the community.

He shall be the administrative head of the Church and an ex-officio member of all committees. A Pastor shall be chosen and called by the Church whenever a vacancy occurs. His election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one week's public notice shall have been given.

A Pulpit Committee shall be appointed by the Church to seek out a suitable Pastor, and its recommendation will constitute a nomination. Any voting member has the privilege of making other nominations according to the policy established by the Church. The Committee shall bring to the consideration of the Church only one name at a time. Election shall be by secret ballot, an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the voting members present and voting being necessary for a choice.

The Pastor, thus elected, shall serve until the relationship is terminated by his request or the Church's request. A three-fourths vote by those voting members present and voting is required to terminate the call of a Pastor. The Pastor is requested to give at least two weeks' notice at the time of resignation before terminating his responsibilities as Pastor.

### **Section 2. Moderator and Vice-Moderator**

The Pastor shall be the Moderator. A Vice-Moderator shall be elected by the Church annually.

### **Section 3. Clerk**

The Church shall elect a Clerk annually. The Clerk shall keep a suitable record of all the actions of the Church, except as otherwise herein provided. The Clerk is responsible for keeping a register of the names of the members, with dates of admission, dismissal, or death, together with a record of baptisms. The clerk shall issue Letters of Dismissal voted by the Church and preserve on file all communications and written official reports. The Church may delegate some of the clerical responsibilities. All Church records are Church property.

### **Section 4. Treasurer**

The Church shall elect a Church Treasurer annually.

- a. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive, preserve, and pay out all money or things having value to the Church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. Payments of bills for local work and expenses shall be made promptly by check and all funds received for denominational and other causes shall be remitted at least monthly by check.
- b. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to present to the Church at each regular business meeting an itemized report of receipts and disbursements for the preceding period.
- c. Within thirty days after the end of each fiscal year the Treasurer shall render to the Church an annual report showing the total amount of receipts and a statement of all disbursements.
- d. All books, records, and accounts kept by the Treasurer shall be considered the property of the Church. These books shall be open to inspection at all times by any member of the Church.
- e. The Treasurer shall, upon the election of a successor and at the completion of the Treasurer's fiscal report, promptly deliver to the Church all books, records, and accounts in his or her hand relating to the duties of the office being relinquished.

## **Section 5. Trustees**

Four Trustees shall be elected by the Church. They will hold in trust the property of the Church. They shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, 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 signatures to legal documents involving the sale, mortgaging, or purchase or rental of property or other legal documents where the signatures of trustees are required.

## **Section 6. Deacons**

### **a. Number of Deacons and Term of Office**

1. There shall be one Deacon for every twenty (20) resident members, or major portion thereof. These numerical requirements shall be subject to the availability of qualified men as determined in Section 6 b. below.
2. The Deacons shall serve a three year term on a rotation basis. A term of less than three years may be prescribed by the Nominating Committee prior to the election solely for the purpose of ensuring a systematic rotation of the Deacons. Each year an election shall be held to replace Deacons whose terms expire and to elect additional Deacons per the criteria in Section 6 a. (1) above. In case of death, resignation, removal or incapacity to serve, the Church may elect a Deacon to fill the un-expired term. After serving a term of three years, a Deacon shall be eligible for re-election only after the lapse of at least one year. A Deacon filling less than one and one-half (1½) years of an un-expired term is eligible for re-election without the lapse of one year.

### **b. Election of Deacons**

Deacons shall be elected by secret ballot at a special called Business Meeting of the Church on a Sunday morning. The currently-serving Deacons shall be charged with submitting a list of names (or a single name) of prospective candidates when a position becomes available either by rotation, addition to church members, resignation, or removal. Candidates shall meet the Qualifications of Deacons. The name(s) of the candidate(s) shall be published and made public at least one week prior to the election of a new Deacon.

### **c. Qualifications of Deacons**

Deacons shall be qualified as set forth in the Bible (Acts 6:3-8 and in 1 Timothy 3:8-13). They shall be male members of the Church and shall have been resident members for at least one year immediately prior to their terms of office.

### **d. The Work of the Deacons**

1. 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: caring for Church members and other persons in the community; leading the Church to engage in a fellowship of work, witness, education, and ministry and leading the Church in performing its tasks.
2. The Deacons shall serve as a general Pulpit Committee in case of unplanned absences of the pastor due to illness or emergency. In any period when the Church is without a Pastor, unless the Church shall otherwise provide, the Deacons will arrange the temporary ministry.
3. The Deacons shall act for the Church in such other matters as the Church may delegate to them.

## **Section 7. Church Council**

- a. The primary functions of the council shall be to recommend to the congregation suggested objectives and Church goals; to review and coordinate program plans recommended by Church officers, organizations, and committees; to recommend to the congregation the use of leadership, calendar time, and other resources according to program priorities; and to evaluate program achievements in terms of Church goals and objectives.
- b. The council shall have as regular members the pastor, and all heads of departments and committees.
- c. All matters agreed upon by the council calling for action not already provided for shall be referred to the Church for approval or disapproval.

## **III. COMMITTEES AND COORDINATING GROUPS**

### **Section 1. General**

All Church committee members shall be recommended by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Church unless otherwise indicated in these By-Laws. The committee members shall serve on a three-year rotation system with one-third to be elected each year. In the case of death, resignation, removal, or incapacity to serve, the Church may elect a member to fill the un-expired term. Committee chairs shall be recommended annually by the Nominating Committee. Committee members failing to attend three (3) consecutive committee meetings without good reason shall be replaced.

## **Section 2. Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee coordinates and recommends to the Church the staffing of all Church leadership positions that are filled by volunteers. The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least three members appointed by the Church Council. The Committee shall secure the consent of each nominee before his or her name is presented to the Church. Nominations from the congregation must be considered by the Nominating committee before being presented for vote.

## **Section 3. Building and Grounds Committee**

This committee is responsible for the physical maintenance of the Church's building(s) and grounds. This committee will consist of at least three members.

## **Section 4. Stewardship Committee**

The Stewardship Committee develops and recommends an overall budget and administers the gifts of the Church members using sound principles of financial management. The Committee shall lead in stewardship development. The Stewardship Committee shall consist of at least three elected members.

## **Section 5. Counting Committee**

This Committee shall receive, count, and deposit in the bank all monies given to the Church. This Committee shall record weekly the totals of all receipts received through any channel of Church offerings.

## **Section 6. Hospitality Committee**

This Committee shall make the necessary arrangements for facilities and/or food for appropriate Church activities.

## **Section 7. Church Ushers Committee**

The Ushers are to greet people as they enter and leave the Church, seat people at the proper time, provide bulletin and /or other materials at the time of seating, prevent interruptions and distractions, receive the offerings, and perform other similar services. The Ushers will be attentive to the needs of the congregation and the Pastor. This Committee shall consist of an elected chair who will select as many members as deemed necessary.

## **Section 8. Other Committees**

The Church may, at its discretion, elect any committees deemed essential.

# **IV. PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONS**

## **Section 1. General**

All organizations to the Church shall be under Church control with all officers being elected by the Church and reporting regularly to the Church. The duties of officers and teachers shall be those ordinarily designated by the approved denominational standards. All teachers and officers shall be members of the Church.

## **Section 2. Sunday School**

There shall be a Sunday School, divided into departments and classes for all ages and conducted under the direction of the Bible Study Director, for the study of God's word. The tasks 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, and provide and interpret information regarding the work of the Church and the denomination.

## **Section 3. Music**

There shall be a Music Ministry under the direction of the Minister of Music. Such officers and organizations shall be included as needed. The music tasks shall be to teach music and hymnody; provide music and musicians for the congregational services and the organizations of the Church; lead persons to participate in hymn singing; train persons to lead, sing, and play music; provide organization and leadership for special projects of the Church; provide and interpret information regarding the work of the Church and the denomination.

# **V. 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.

- a. Baptism shall be by immersion in water.
- b. Baptism shall be administered by the Pastor or whomever the Church shall authorize.
- c. Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship during a public worship service of the Church.

## **Section 2. The Lord's Supper**

The Lord's Supper is an act of obedience whereby members of the Body of Christ partake of unleavened bread and fruit of the vine (grape juice). It symbolizes the broken body and the shed blood of Jesus, commemorates His death, and anticipates His second coming.

The Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly as determined by the Pastor.

## **VI. CHURCH MEETINGS**

### **Section 1. Worship Services**

The Church shall meet regularly each Sunday and Wednesday for preaching, instruction, evangelism, prayer and for the worship of Almighty God. These meetings will be open for the entire membership of the Church and for all people, and shall be conducted under the direction of the Pastor.

### **Section 2. Special Services**

Revival services and any other Church meetings which will be useful in the promotion of the objectives of the Church may be held.

### **Section 3. Regular Business Meetings**

Regular Business Meetings shall be held every month on a night designated by the Church Council.

### **Section 4. Special Business Meetings**

A specially called Business Meeting may be held to consider special matters of significant nature. A one-week's notice of the subject, date, time, and location must be given for the specially called Business Meeting unless extreme urgency (as defined by the Moderator) renders such notice impractical.

### **Section 5. Quorum**

Ten percent (10%) of the resident voting membership or five (5) voting members whichever is larger, shall constitute a quorum. For the call of a Pastor or the termination of a Pastor's call, twenty-five percent (25%) of the resident voting members or ten (10) voting members, whichever is larger, shall be necessary for a quorum.

### **Section 6. Parliamentary Rules**

For procedures in all of the Business Meetings not covered in these By-Laws, Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall be the authority of parliamentary rules of procedure.

## **VII. AMENDMENTS**

Changes in these By-Laws may be made at any regular or special Business Meeting of the Church, provided each proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing at a previous regular or special business Meeting, and copies of the proposed amendment be furnished to each voting member present. Amendments to these By-Laws shall be by two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Church present and voting.