

# CONSTITUTION

And

# BY-LAWS

Boundless Grace Baptist Church

Little Flock, Arkansas

November 20, 2011

222 Little Flock Dr.  
Roger, AR 72756

P.O. Box 415  
Garfield, AR 72732

Approved January 22, 2012  
Amended (5th) Nov 9, 2014

**CONSTITUTION**  
**Of**  
**Boundless Grace Baptist Church**

We, the members of the Boundless Grace Baptist Church, declare and establish this Constitution for the protection and security of the principles of our faith, and that this body may be governed 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.

**ARTICLE I: NAME**

This body shall be known as Boundless Grace Baptist Church, Little Flock, Arkansas with a street address of 222 Little Flock Dr., Rogers, AR 72756.

**ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

Our purpose is to be Jesus' disciples and share the good news of Jesus with all people; to strive to share Christ's love with all people we come in contact with and that the Lord brings to us; to nurture a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ as we strive to live holy lives and seek to become more and more like our Savior; to worship our God in spirit and truth and to be a church where the Holy Sprit is our guide in worship and the teaching of God's Word, and be a praying church that is constantly seeking to obey and follow the Lord in all we do so as to bring honor and glory to our God.

**ARTICLE III: STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We, the members of Boundless Grace Baptist Church, believe the Holy Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God and is our only basis for any statement of faith. Therefore, this body subscribes to the doctrinal statement of "The Baptist Faith and Message" (see Appendix to Constitution) adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in regular business conference in 1963 along with the first amendment in 1998 and the second amendment in 2000. We band ourselves together as a body of believers in Jesus Christ, personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to lost mankind.

#### **ARTICLE IV: CHURCH COVENANT**

1. Having been led, as we believe, by the Holy Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior;
2. And upon the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
3. 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.
4. 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 one another;
5. We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love;
6. To remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech;
7. To avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger;
8. To be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the commands of our Savior and to secure it without delay.
9. We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to religiously educate our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances:
10. To promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines;
11. To abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating beverages and illegal drugs; to be active in preserving the sanctity of human life, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior;
12. To walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagement and exemplary in our behavior;
13. To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry and the expenses of spreading the gospel to all nations.

When a member leaves this Church, they are encouraged to seek out another church of like faith.

#### **ARTICLE V: GOVERNMENT**

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it, each of whom shall have equal rights as to voice and to vote without preference one over another, as led by the Holy Spirit. It is subject to the control of no organization other than itself. This Church will cooperate with and support the association and state convention affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention so long as the doctrine and autonomy of this Church are not violated.

## APPENDIX TO CONSTITUTION

### The Baptist Faith and Message

#### I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

*Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.*

#### II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

#### A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

*Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts*

*1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.*

## **B. God the Son**

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

*Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.*

## **C. God the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

*Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1*

*Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.*

### **III. Man**

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

*Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.*

### **IV. Salvation**

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

B. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

C. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

D. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

*Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.*

## **V. God's Purpose of Grace**

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

*Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.*

## **VI. The Church**

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel;

observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

*Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.*

## **VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

*Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.*

## **VIII. The Lord's Day**

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

*Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.*

## **IX. The Kingdom**

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. 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.

*Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.*

## **X. Last Things**

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

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

## **XI. Evangelism and Missions**

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek

constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

*Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.*

## **XII. Education**

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

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

*Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.*

## **XIII. Stewardship**

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

*Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-*

*25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.*

#### **XIV. Cooperation**

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

*Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18.*

#### **XV. The Christian and the Social Order**

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

*Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16,43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10;*

*6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.*

## **XVI. Peace and War**

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

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

*Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9,38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36,38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2.*

## **XVII. Religious Liberty**

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

*Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7,24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.*

## **XVIII. The Family**

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

*Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.*

**BY-LAWS**  
**Of**  
**Boundless Grace Baptist Church**

**SECTION I: MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of this Church shall consist of persons who confess Jesus Christ to be their Lord and Savior, who accept Baptist beliefs as stated in the 1963 "Baptist Faith and Message" last amended in 2000, which is attached to the Constitution as Appendix A. Persons desiring membership may be accepted and added to the membership by any of the following procedures:

**A. Qualifications**

Any person may offer himself/herself as a candidate for membership in this Church during any regular worship service when an invitation is given, in any of the following ways:

1. By profession of faith in Christ and acknowledgement of His Lordship through Baptism by immersion,
2. By promise and receipt of a letter from another Baptist church of like faith and order, or
3. By statement or restoration, whichever the case may be, upon statement of prior conversion experience and Baptism by immersion in a church of like faith and order when no letter from a previous church is obtainable. The candidate must be of like faith and order theologically and doctrinally.

Candidates for membership shall be presented by the Pastor or residing minister at the end of an invitation for Church vote if no further counseling is necessary.

Should there be any dissent as to a candidate, such dissent shall be referred privately to the Pastor and the Deacons for investigation and the making of a recommendation to the church within 30 days. A majority vote of those members present and voting shall be required to elect such a candidate to membership.

**B. Duties/Responsibilities**

The Church Covenant found in "ARTICLE IV" of the Constitution of this Church shall be referenced.

**C. Rights**

1. All members, 18 and older who are in full and regular standing, shall have equal rights in the transaction of Church affairs as to voice and vote in specially called and regularly scheduled business meetings.
2. Motions for church consideration may be presented by any member.

#### **D. Discipline**

1. Personal conflicts, complaints, and disagreements shall be handled personally and privately according to Matthew 5:23, 24.
2. Matters of discipline shall be handled scripturally and prayerfully according to Matthew 18:15-17. For offenses found to be true and severe by pastor and deacons, shall be disciplined by removal of their membership from the Church.
3. Church or committee vote concerning dissent, disharmony, or conflict involving an issue or individual shall always be conducted by secret ballot.

#### **E. Termination**

Termination of membership shall be in any one of the following ways by Church vote at a regular scheduled business meeting.

1. Any member in good standing who desires a letter of transfer to any other Baptist church is entitled to receive it upon the request of the other church.
2. If any member requests to be released from his Covenant obligations to this Church, after the Church has kindly and patiently endeavored to secure his continuation in its membership, the request may be granted and membership terminated.
3. Should a member become an offense to the Church and to its good name by reason of immoral behavior or conduct unbecoming a Christian, or by a persistent breach of the Church Covenant, the Church may terminate his or her membership upon recommendation of the Pastor and Deacons. A vote shall be taken by secret ballot following the recommendation. A majority vote of those present and voting shall be necessary to terminate the membership of the person in question, but only after due notice and hearing, and then only after all efforts at reconciliation have failed.
4. By evidence of affiliation with a church of another faith or denomination.
5. By death.

#### **D. Restoration**

Any person whose membership has been terminated may be restored to membership upon his or her application, with apology and rededication of his or her life to the Lord. Such application shall require a majority vote of the membership of the Church which is present and voting.

### **SECTION II: CHURCH LEADERS**

#### **A. Pastor**

The pastor shall be a man called of God to the gospel ministry and an ordained Southern Baptist minister meeting the qualifications of 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:2-7. He shall regularly conduct Sunday morning and evening preaching services for instruction,

evangelism and the worship of Jehovah God. On Wednesday evening, he will conduct a prayer and Bible Study meeting. The Pastor will teach Biblical doctrine and lead all Church members to worship, witness, learn, and minister to the needs of one another and a lost world.

1. Responsibilities: The pastor shall be the recognized spiritual and administrative leader of the Church.
  - a. The pastor shall be an ordained minister of the gospel, in full fellowship with all the denominational agencies with which the Church is cooperating.
  - b. He shall administer the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
  - c. The pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all organizations and committees.
  - d. All paid and non-paid personnel shall be under his supervision. Custodial, lawn care, and vehicle care will be under the direct supervision of the trustees.
  - e. As spiritual and administrative leader of the church and with approval of the Personnel Committee, the pastor shall have executive privilege to exercise pastoral authority in the removal of any paid and non-paid employees, committee chairpersons, committee members, and sub-committee members from their church ministry positions for Biblical-based reasons should they become evident (defined as illegal acts, immoral acts, heresy, un-Christ like conduct and insubordination). However, any acts of removal must first be presented by the Pastor and Chairperson of the Personnel Committees to the Deacons and must be approved by the Deacons by majority vote.
2. Calling of Pastor: In the event of a vacancy in the pastorate of this Church, a Pulpit Committee shall be formed and shall:
  - a. consist of four (4) to five (5) Church members with a minimum of one (1) deacon and two (2) alternates, who have been in the continuous membership of this church for not less than three (3) years,
  - b. be elected by the congregation in a called business meeting,
  - c. investigate prospective pastors and do a thorough background check of any candidate that the committee is considering - this shall include his standing in his community with other people and not just his church members,
  - d. require any candidate being seriously considered for Pastor to read and agree to abide by this Church's Constitution and By-Laws by signing a copy for the Church records prior to being recommended to the Church,
  - e. have a 100% favorable vote by secret ballot within the Pulpit Committee to recommend a pastor to the church in view of a call,
  - f. submit one (1) name at a time to the Church for consideration,
  - g. then by secret ballot, the Church membership shall vote for a candidate and he shall be declared elected and called when he receives at least a 90% favorable vote of all eligible voters present and voting.

3. Resignation/Termination: The pastor shall be called for an indefinite period, unless a letter of resignation is submitted or unless Biblical-based reasons for termination should become evident (defined as illegal acts, immoral or improper acts, or heresy).
  - a. The pastor must give a personal resignation notice of one (1) month upon acceptance of another pastorate.
  - b. In every case, the congregation must be informed and have opportunity to vote to accept or reject such resignation by majority vote.
  - c. For termination, the relationship of the Pastor and Church may end for the following reason:
    - By request of the Pastor;
    - By dissolution of the Church; or
    - By dismissal (request for resignation)
  - d. Should dismissal conditions arise, the Deacons shall be charged with the responsibility of prayerful and thorough study of the Pastor and Church relationship.
  - e. In the event, the Deacons recommend the relationship be terminated, this recommendation shall have the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the membership of the body of Deacons. They shall then bring this recommendation to the Church for its action at a business meeting. One week prior to any action, the date of the meeting and its purpose shall be made known to the Church membership by letter to each member informing them of the subject matter and voting date.
  - f. At the said meeting, called for the purpose of terminating the relationship of Pastor and Church, the Chairman of the Deacons shall be the moderator. It shall be necessary by at least three-fourths (3/4) of the members present, eighteen (18) years and older, for such a vote to be effective and this only after there has been sufficient cause to do so. The vote shall be by secret ballot. After the vote is recorded, the Pastor shall be notified of the results by the Chairman of the Deacons.

## **B. Deacons**

The deacons are to be men of the Church membership, who portray in their lives, by word and deed, the spirit of Christian discipleship, and meeting the qualifications of 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:8-13. The Deacon body shall meet regularly with the Pastor to provide spiritual and administrative guidance and direction for the Church. A key responsibility of the Deacon body is to promote and protect the unity of the Church. If disharmony arises in the Church body, it is the responsibility of the Deacon body to address the cause and restore unity in the Church. Any action of this nature shall be done privately in as much as possible and always by secret ballot where Church or committee vote is required. A Deacon shall have been ordained prior to assuming office.

1. Number: There shall be such number of active Deacons as the Church deems advisable, and this number may be increased or decreased as necessary.

2. Selection: This is a called position, whereby God calls and the congregation affirms.
  - a. The deacon nominations shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose of the Church.
  - b. Candidates for the Office of Deacon shall be a member of the Church for at least two (2) full years. If a well-known and respected, ordained deacon joins the Church, that person can be made an active deacon for Boundless Grace Baptist Church after being an active member for six (6) months and by receiving a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership after being recommended by the deacon body.
  - c. Any member of the Church may make a nomination.
  - d. All nominations will be written nominations.
  - e. A candidate must receive a sufficiency of nominations from the church body for consideration.
  - f. All nominees shall be screened by a committee consisting of the pastor, chairman of the Deacon body and two (2) other active deacons to determine qualifications.
  - g. Selection of a Deacon is done by receiving two-thirds (2/3) of the votes by secret ballot from members present and voting.
  - h. A Deacon is selected by Church vote and, in like manner, can only be removed by two-thirds (2/3) Church vote by secret ballot should Biblical-based reasons become evident (defined as illegal acts, immoral or improper acts, or heresy).
3. Tenure of Service: Deacons shall serve indefinitely.
4. For business purposes, the Deacon body is designated as the Board of Directors to fulfill the State of Arkansas rules of incorporation.

### **SECTION III: CHURCH STAFF**

#### **A. Ministerial Staff**

1. The calling of a Ministerial Staff member such as an Associate Pastor, a Music Minister, and a Youth Minister may occur at such a time as is deemed necessary. The Pastor, along with the Personnel Committee, shall set up a special committee appointed for that specific purpose to seek out and investigate the prospective staff member and conduct a thorough background check of any candidate that the committee is considering. The Pastor shall be in agreement with the candidate of choice to be presented to the Church membership. The candidate shall be required to read and agree to abide by this Church's Constitution and By-Laws prior to being presented to the Church for approval at an announced meeting. An 80% majority vote by secret ballot of those present and voting will be required to constitute a call. The salaries shall be recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by a simple majority vote of voting members present.

2. Ministerial staff may be dismissed by recommendation of the Pastor, Deacons, and Personnel Committee, and a majority vote by secret ballot of those present and voting at an announced meeting.

## **SECTION IV: ELECTED CHURCH WORKERS**

### **A. Moderator**

1. The Pastor under the Lordship of Christ shall be the Moderator.
2. In the absence of the Pastor, the Chairman of the Deacons shall preside, or a pre-designated individual selected by the Church.
3. If the Pastor so desires, he may appoint a Moderator.
4. If the Pastor's job performance is being considered, The Chairman of the Deacons shall be the Moderator or it may be desirable to have an outside Moderator.

### **B. Church Clerk**

The Nominating Committee shall nominate annually for election by the Church a Church Clerk.

1. The Church clerk is to keep a suitable book of records of the church business.
2. He/she is responsible for keeping a register of the names of members, including their addresses, with a record of Baptisms and the receiving and granting of letters and membership by statement.
3. The church clerk shall issue letters of dismissal voted on by the church in accordance with SECTION I.E of these By-Laws.
4. He/she shall preserve on file all communications and written official reports.
5. All church records are church property and should be on file in the church office unless exception is made by church vote.
6. The church clerk shall be elected annually and may succeed him/herself in the office.

### **C. Church Treasurer**

The Nominating Committee shall nominate annually for election by the Church a Church Treasurer which shall be a member of the Finance Committee.

1. The Treasurer, in conjunction with the Finance Committee, shall approve all vouchers prior to disbursement of funds. Any non-specific budgeted item or unbudgeted item over \$500 must be approved by the Church.
2. The contributions shall be counted by no less than two (2) members of the Finance Committee or designated Church officers and deposited in the bank by the Treasurer or designated person from the Finance Committee. A record of the counting shall be signed by both counters. The contribution record will then be turned over to the Financial Secretary for recording.

3. The Treasurer, in coordination with the Financial Secretary, shall issue a report of receipts and disbursements on a monthly basis for presentation in the monthly business meeting.
4. Within (30) days after the end of each fiscal year, the treasurer shall render to the Church an annual report showing the total amount of receipts by category (budget, building fund, special offerings,...) and an itemized statement of all disbursements.
5. Upon rendering the annual account at the end of the fiscal year, and its acceptance and approval by the Church, the same shall be delivered by the Treasurer to the Church Clerk as permanent records of the Church.
6. Subsequent to the rendition of this annual report, the Treasurer, in conjunction with the Financial Secretary, shall submit all books and records of the Church year to the Finance Committee for audit. Such an audit shall include the assistance of two (2) people selected from the Church membership.
7. The Treasurer will upon the election of his/her successor, at the completion of his/her fiscal report, promptly deliver to the new Treasurer all and any books, records, and accounts in his/her possession pertaining to or relating to in any manner the duties of the office he/she is relinquishing.
8. The Treasurer shall do the bank reconciliation monthly.
9. The Church Treasurer shall be elected annually and may succeed him/herself in the office.

#### **D. Financial Secretary**

The duties of the Financial Secretary shall be performed by the Church Secretary, an employee of the Church. The Church Secretary shall be a non-voting member of the Finance Committee.

1. It is the duty of the Financial Secretary to record, preserve and pay out, upon receipt of vouchers approved and signed by the authorized personnel, all money, or things of value paid or given to the Church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements on a monthly basis.
2. Payment of all bills shall be made promptly.
3. All books, records, and accounts kept by the Financial Secretary shall be considered property of the Church.
4. The Financial Secretary shall receive the contribution record from the counters after the money has been counted.
5. He/she shall keep the contribution record for entering in the proper ledgers and/or software.
6. Individual contribution records are kept by the Financial Secretary and are CONFIDENTIAL.
7. All books shall be open to inspection by any active member of the Church after a proper request has been made, or an auditing agent representing the Church. However, the books may not be removed from the Church except in the possession of the Financial Secretary, Treasurer or the Finance Committee.

8. The Financial Secretary shall be responsible for preparing the annual statements by January 31 of each year. These are CONFIDENTIAL records and are not open to public inspection.

#### **E. Sunday School Director**

The Nominating Committee shall nominate annually for election by the Church a Sunday School Director.

1. The Sunday School Director is responsible for the church's Bible study programs and shall preview all literature to insure that it is Bible-based and consistent with Baptist doctrine. Responsibilities include the organization and coordination of classes, materials, and the recommendation of teachers to the Nominating Committee.
2. In addition, the Director is responsible for the continuing education of the teachers (e.g., participating in associational-wide training opportunities), promotion of evangelism/outreach through the Sunday School and record keeping of the various Bible study programs.
3. The Sunday School Director works closely with the Pastor and provides monthly updates to the church.
4. This is an annually elected position and may succeed him/herself in the office.

#### **F. Trustees**

1. The Trustees in coordination with the Finance Committee shall execute legal documents on behalf of the Church as directed by the Church in a properly sanctioned business meeting.
2. The Trustees shall elect one of their numbers to serve as chairperson.
3. The Church shall elect three (3) or more Trustees for a term of no more than three (3) years. One (1) Trustee shall rotate off each year and a new Trustee shall be elected in his/her place.
4. The Trustees shall have care of all Church property to see that it is kept in good and serviceable condition, and that adequate insurance is always in force.
5. A majority vote of the Church membership in a business meeting called for that purpose shall be necessary before Trustees may buy, sell, mortgage, borrow money or otherwise encumber any Church property.
6. The Trustees shall supervise all personnel whose duties concern the maintenance of the building, grounds and vehicles and establish work hours and detail work assignments for those personnel.

## SECTION V: OVERVIEW OF CHURCH COMMITTEES/MINISTRIES

This is an overview of the Committees and Ministries of Boundless Grace Baptist Church. We want you who are members to be able to understand fully how the Church does its ministry and how you can become a part of that ministry. God has given each of us Spiritual Gifts to be used in service to others for Him. One of the greatest joys in this world is to know how God has gifted and called you and then to offer those gifts back to Him in service. There is room for you at Boundless Grace.

**Baptism Committee:** The purpose of this committee is to prepare for and assist those being baptized.

**Benevolence Committee:** The purpose of this committee is to provide for physical, financial, and spiritual need of the church family and the community.

**Bereavement Committee:** The purpose of this committee is to provide a focal contact to coordinate for the physical and spiritual needs of the church family in time of grief.

**Children's Ministry:** The purpose of this ministry is to provide a program for the children, which is special to meet their needs.

**Church Council:** The purpose of the Church Council is to serve the Church by leading in planning, coordinating, conducting, and evaluating the ministries and programs of the Church and the organizations. The primary functions of the Church Council shall be to recommend to the Church suggested objectives and Church goals; to review and coordinate ministry and program plans recommended by the Church officers, organizations, and committees; to recommend to the Church the use of leadership, calendar time, and other resources according to program priorities; to evaluate achievements in terms of Church objectives and goals. Church Council shall consist of the Pastor, staff members, and directors of Church program organizations, chairman of Deacons, Church officers, and chairman of Church committees. All matters agreed upon by the council which call for action not already approved shall be referred to the Church membership for approval or disapproval.

**Church Steering Committee:** The purpose of this committee is to lead the church in planning for spiritual and physical growth. The committee will plan for long-term expansion and needs. There must be a minimum of four (4) Church members on this committee.

**Deacon Ministry:** The purpose of this ministry is to provide spiritual and administrative guidance and direction for the Church in conjunction with the Pastor.

The Deacon body is to promote and protect the unity of the Church. Deacons are called to be servants. They are nominated and voted on by the church membership.

**Finance Committee:** The purpose of this committee is to help guide the Church with the finances by establishing a proposed budget coordinated to the Church ministry needs. The committee will develop a budget yearly and present it to be voted on by the Church. This committee will recommend salaries for personnel and will determine cost of living increases or other increases as deemed appropriate. The committee will monitor expenditures during the year, approve vouchers for expenditures and guide the Church in a sound financial program. The committee will keep the Church informed about finances throughout the year.

**Historian Committee:** The purpose of this committee is to document the history of the Church by recording and photographing significant events and dates within the Church's history.

**Kitchen Committee:** The purpose of this committee is to coordinate Church-wide functions and present a suitable atmosphere befitting the fellowship with Christian hospitality. This includes providing leadership in the planning for food and functions of Church-wide socials and ministries. This committee shall be responsible for the general oversight of the kitchen, equipment and utensils. Also, this committee is to coordinate special and social events associated with weddings, receptions, anniversaries, and other special church-approved functions of this nature.

**Music Ministry:** The purpose of this ministry is to provide music for all ages to be used for the Glory of God. The Church Music Ministry, under the direction of the church-elected music director, shall be the music education, training, and performance ministry of the Church. Its tasks shall be to teach music; train persons to lead, sing, and play music; provide music in the Church. The Church Music program shall have such officers and organizations as the program requires.

**Nominating Committee:** The purpose of this committee is to involve every member in the ministry of serving, according to their gifts and passions. Each Church year, this committee will prepare a slate of officers, teachers, committee members and others as required for the Church to function effectively. This list of nominees will require Church approval. This committee will consist of the Chairman of the Deacons, Sunday School Director, Chairman of Trustees, Church Clerk and one other as selected by the Pastor. Other responsibilities include the developing of a detailed job description of each committee and suggest the appropriate number of members.

**Nursery Committee:** The purpose of this committee is to work with the Church Ministerial Staff in the coordination of the Church's nursery activities and to help nursery parents and teachers work together. It is this committee's responsibility to

seek out adequate provision necessary for the comfort and ongoing assistance of the nursery children.

**Personnel Committee:** The purpose of this committee is to interview, select and recommend candidates for hire, excluding the Pastor and other Church ministers, to fill vacancies and new positions within the Church. In addition, this committee also reviews and evaluates performance of personnel and is involved in the determination of whether an individual may require termination.

**Ushers' Committee:** The purpose of this committee is to assist in the preparation of the worship service by greeting and welcoming members and guests as they assemble to worship. This committee shall also be responsible for the official attendance count of each service.

**Youth Ministry:** The purpose of this ministry to provide effective adult leadership and guidance with respect to youth activities and Christian learning. We desire to help them develop a Christ-like walk for their daily lives.

## **SECTION VI: CHURCH MEETINGS**

### **A. Worship Services**

The Church shall meet regularly each Sunday morning and evening for preaching, instruction, evangelism, and for the worship of Jehovah God, and on Wednesday evening for prayer and Bible Study.

The Church shall meet periodically for revivals.

### **B. Sunday School**

There shall be a Sunday School, divided into departments and classes for all ages and conducted under the direction of the Sunday School Director, for the study of God's Word. The Director shall preview all Sunday School literature to insure that it is Bible-based and consistent with Baptist doctrine. Sunday School is to be conducted each Sunday morning or any other time as deemed necessary.

The task of the Sunday School shall be to teach biblical doctrine and to lead in reaching prospects for the church. It is to lead all Church members to learn, witness, minister to the needs of one another daily, and to provide and assist in interpreting information regarding the work of the Church and the denomination.

The Sunday School Director shall enlist and submit to the Nominating Committee a slate of Sunday School teachers and workers. Once a list of candidates is verified, the Nominating Committee shall then submit the qualified and recommended nominees at the Church's annual meeting for the election of such teachers and workers.

### **C. Business Meetings**

Regular Business meetings shall be held once a month. When time permits, any member having business or requests to be brought before the Church during regular business meetings is encouraged to submit their request to the Pastor or Moderator no later than one week prior to the business meeting. However, this does not preclude a member from addressing any business directly from the floor during the meeting. Should there be any unusual business or matter of unusual interest to be brought up before a regular scheduled business meeting, a special business meeting may be called with official notice.

### **D. Special Business Meetings**

Such meetings may be called by the Pastor or by unanimous vote of Deacons, as necessary. Notice of these meetings shall be announced from the pulpit, at least, as early as the Sunday before the special called business meeting.

### **E. Quorum**

The quorum shall consist of those Church members who attend the business meeting providing it is a stated meeting or one that has been properly called. Voting age is established by the Church as being any member 18 years and older.

### **F. Parliamentary Rules**

Robert's Rule of Order is the authority for parliamentary rules of procedure for conducting business affairs of the Church. Controversial issues, should they arise, at Moderator's discretion, may be referred to a special committee designated by the Moderator. This committee shall present a recommended solution to the Church for approval, at least, by the next regular scheduled monthly business meeting.

## **SECTION VII: GENERAL OR MISCELLANEOUS**

### **A. Church Building and Equipment Usage**

#### **1. Socials**

- a. Any Church group or organization of this Church desiring to use the Church facilities for Church-related functions shall be able to do so. They shall be sure to clear their function with the Pastor or Church calendar so no conflict will occur.
- b. Members desiring to use the church buildings for functions not directly sponsored by a Church organization must secure permission from the Pastor or Church. They shall also arrange for an authorized person to be present to control the heating and/or air conditioning of such facility.
- c. These members shall be responsible for cleaning up after their social function and for any fees to cover utilities, additional clean-up charges, and janitorial expense.

- d. No smoking, profanity, alcoholic beverages, or non-medically required drugs are permitted inside the Church buildings or on Church property at any time.
2. Weddings
- a. All weddings must be scheduled and approved by the Pastor or Church.
  - b. Members of the Church and their children who wish to use the Church for weddings shall be able to do so without cost as long as they put the Church back in order and clean up all facilities. If they desire the custodian to clean-up and put facilities back in order, a charge will be secured if arranged beforehand.
  - c. Other persons related to a Church member who wish to use the Church for weddings shall pay a fee to cover the cost of utilities, with an additional charge for clean up and janitorial fee.
  - d. The Church premises shall be used only for the Glory of God. No smoking, profanity, alcoholic beverages, or non-medically required drugs are permitted inside or on Church property during a wedding and its reception.

**B. Church Property**

- 1. Should a condition arise at any time in the future when for any reason, the Church work cannot continue, the Church property, real and chattel, shall be transferred to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention or its successor. If indebtedness exists, the net proceeds shall be transferred to the state convention or its successor, upon sale of assets and financial obligations fulfilled.
- 2. Should conditions arise where a consolidation with another church of the same denomination be advisable as determined by Church vote, the Trustees shall be authorized by the Church to negotiate the terms of such consolidation in so far as the property of the Church is concerned.

**C. Resolutions**

Resolutions shall be decided upon by the Church and presented to the elected messengers, who will present them at the Annual Associational Meeting, the State Convention, or to the Southern Baptist Convention.

**SECTION VIII: PROCEDURE FOR AMENDMENTS**

Changes in this Constitution and By-Laws may be made at any regularly scheduled business meeting of the Church, provided such amendments shall have been presented in writing at a previous regularly scheduled business meeting, or two (2) weeks prior to its consideration, and copies of the proposed amendments be furnished to each member present.

Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws shall be by two-thirds (2/3) majority of all members of the Church present at the business meeting making up a quorum and entitled to vote.

Deviation from the Constitution or the By-Laws by any officer of the Church is strictly prohibited without two-thirds (2/3) Church vote. The Church approves the Constitution and By-Laws by Church vote and only the Church can permit amendments by Church vote.

## **SECTION IX: STATEMENT OF MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY**

### **A. Statement of Marriage and Sexuality**

We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. This Church will not condone, nor participate in, nor conduct marriage ceremonies of same-sex relationships, meaning marriage of individuals of same gender. Moreover, this Church will not engage in the marriage of multiple individuals such as polygamist, or any other form not sanctioned by God.

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

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church.