

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF DAYSPRING BAPTIST CHURCH

ARTICLE I

PREAMBLE

This Constitution and Bylaws are made to:

1. Preserve and secure the principles of our faith.
2. Preserve the liberties of each individual member.
3. Ensure freedom of action of independence from any religious body or organization.
4. Provide for orderly conduct of internal affairs, in dealing with others, and of governing members.

ARTICLE II

NAME

DaySpring Baptist Church shall be incorporated under the name DaySpring Baptist Church of Burlington, North Carolina, Inc., as a nonprofit religious and charitable organization under the provision of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States.

ARTICLE III

OUR MISSION

To see lives transformed through the Light of Jesus Christ as we are reaching, teaching, and loving in His Name.

ARTICLE IV

OUR VISION

To fulfill our Mission by being a true New Testament Church...Glorifying God, Abiding in Christ, Yielding to the Power of the Holy Spirit, United as the Family of God, Living a life of Prayer, Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Evangelism, and Stewardship.

ARTICLE V

STATEMENT OF FAITH and BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

The Holy Bible is the inspired word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. The Church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of "The Baptist Faith and Message" as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000 and as amended by DaySpring Baptist Church.

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe.

THE 2000 BAPTIST FAITH & 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

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](#); [Isaiah 53:1-12](#); [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 and His church. Its spiritual officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor and

deacon are 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](#); [21:2](#).

X. Last Things

Jesus will return bodily for the rapture of His Church and His Millennial Reign upon the earth. The rapture will be imminent, pretribulational, and premillennial. At that moment, the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, and the living in Christ will be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air before the seven years of the Tribulation. The Tribulation, which follows the Rapture of the Church, will be a time of great judgment and will be culminated by the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ to the earth in power and glory to sit on the throne of David. At this time, He will establish His thousand year reign which is known as the Millennial Kingdom. Jesus Christ will judge all men. Only those who are justified by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Spirit of our God are truly righteous. The righteous will reign with Jesus and will be rewarded by Him and will dwell forever in Heaven in His Glorious presence. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, eternally separated from Him in the place of everlasting punishment and conscious suffering in the lake of fire.

[Isaiah 2:4](#); [11:9](#); [Daniel 9:24-27](#); [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](#); [4:1](#); [6:19-20](#); [11:2](#); [12:14](#); [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. Consecration

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](#).

ARTICLE VI GOVERNMENT

The government of the church is vested in its members. The membership retains unto itself the right of exclusive self-government in all phases of its life and organization. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes the needs for mutual counsel and cooperation, which are common among Southern Baptist churches. Insofar as it is practical and consistent with our mission and vision, the church will cooperate with The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Southern Baptist Convention.

ARTICLE VII CHURCH COVENANT

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

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, doctrines, and discipline; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, and the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations. We also engage to maintain family and individual devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our behavior; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to use our influence to combat the abuse of drugs and the spread of pornography; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior. We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

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

ARTICLE VIII

STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY

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

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

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly. Because we believe in the biblical teaching that marriage is between one man and one woman, marriages outside those parameters will not be performed by church ministers or on church property.

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.

DAYSRING BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

Church Membership

General

The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership. The membership of the church shall consist of those persons who profess their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, having been baptized by immersion and having indicated their commitment following the teachings of the Bible as their model and standard of living, giving satisfactory proof of conversion to the Christian faith, as set forth in the New Testament.

Membership Candidacy

Any person may offer themselves as a candidate for membership in one of the worship services in this church in one of the following manners:

1. By baptism:

- a) For persons making a public profession of faith.
- b) For persons who have experienced salvation but have not experienced believer's baptism by immersion.

2. By letter:

- a) Promise of letter of recommendation from another Baptist church.

3. By statement of faith:

- a) For persons who have experienced salvation followed by believer's baptism by immersion by another Baptist church (or church of like doctrine), but are either not now Baptist, or no record is now available.
- b) For restoration upon a statement of repentance and rededication of persons who have been removed from the fellowship for reasons of discipline.

After coming forward and offering themselves as a candidate for membership, there will be a 6 month period in which the candidate will be baptized if they have made a public profession of faith or they have experienced salvation but have not been baptized by immersion. During this 6 month period, each candidate for membership will be counseled by the pastor, and is required to attend and complete the DaySpring New Members Class. At the end of the 6 month period, having been baptized and having completed the New Members Class, membership may be granted by a majority vote of voting members present at any regular or special called business meeting.

A. Termination of Membership

Membership in the church shall be terminated by reason of:

- 1. Transfer of letter to another Baptist church.
- 2. Joining another church. A letter of transfer is not required.
- 3. Death.
- 4. Church discipline with this document and church policies.
- 5. Written request for termination of membership.
- 6. One year inactive membership.

B. Duties and Rights of Members

1. Members are expected to:

- a) Be godly examples in all aspects of private and public life.
- b) Regularly attend the services of the church.
- c) Give regularly for its support and its causes in time, money, talents, and spiritual gifts.
- d) Participate in its organized work.

2. Members shall have the right and privilege to full participation in the life and work of the church.

3. Every member of the Church shall have the right to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the church in business meetings. Proxy votes are not permitted. Absentee voting is permitted for non discussion items for those who cannot be present at the time of the scheduled vote. A regular ballot will be used and kept secured to be counted with the Church ballots.

C. Church Discipline and Restoration

It shall be the practice of this church to pursue every reasonable measure for peace and reconciliation. Should one member sin against another member or the Body of Members (the church), engage in unrepentant moral failure or teaching of an essential Biblical heresy, the aggrieved members shall follow in a tender spirit the rules given by our Lord and Savior in Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Galatians 6:1 and 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14. In the event the matter cannot be resolved between the members, it shall be referred to the Pastor and Deacons for counsel and guidance.

Only after good faith efforts by the Pastor and Deacons to bring about repentance and reconciliation have proven futile, shall the accused member be subjected to discipline by the church with notice of the charges and process. All church discipline will require a majority vote of the Pastor and Deacons before presenting it to the church. In the event that termination of church membership is the recommended discipline, the church shall be notified of the charges and actions taken to date at least thirty (30) days before the vote will be held. Members dismissed by the church shall be restored to full membership privileges by the majority vote of the church upon recommendation of the Pastor and Deacons according to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:7-8 when their conduct is judged by the Pastor and Deacon to be in accordance with the Statement of Faith, Covenant, and Biblical repentance. The Pastor will communicate such restoration to the church in a timely manner.

D. Membership Termination for Inactivity

If a member fails to attend church services for a continuous one-year period and has failed to contribute to the financial support of the church for the same one-year period, that member shall be removed from membership.

The member will be visited and will receive a written notice concerning his or her possible removal from our church membership roll. Biblically, all church members are to be active. It will always be our desire to see inactive members return to active membership.

Membership Termination for Inactivity shall not apply to church members who are hospitalized, in nursing homes, or confined to their homes.

ARTICLE II Church Offices

All who serve in offices of the church shall first be members of the church.

A. Pastor

1. Qualifications:

- a) A man consistent with the qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7.
- b) Ordained or willing to be ordained as a Southern Baptist minister.

2. Responsibilities:

- a) These generally fall into the following areas: preaching, teaching, evangelism, pastoral counseling, administration, planning, and guiding the church to grow and fulfill its purposes.
- b) He shall lead the church and its organization in performing the tasks in worship, proclamation, education, and evangelism.
- c) The Pastor shall be an ex officio member of all church standing teams, except the Pastor Search Team.
- d) He shall secure pulpit supply for times of his absence.

3. Call:

- a) A Pastor shall be chosen and called whenever a vacancy occurs.
- b) A Pastor Search Team shall be appointed by the church to seek out a suitable pastor and this team's recommendation will serve as a nomination. The team shall consist of 5 people, one being an active deacon.
- c) The Pastor Search Team will recommend only one candidate at a time.
- d) The Pastor Search Team will give members at least two weeks' notice of the presentation of the candidate.
- e) Election will be by secret ballot and an affirmative vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the voting members present is necessary.

4. Term of Service:

a) The Pastor shall hold his office for an indefinite period of time with the understanding that he may offer his resignation at any meeting or service if he feels led by the Holy Spirit to do so. If he resigns, he shall give at least two week notice at the time of resignation, before terminating his responsibilities. Prior to the effective date of resignation, the deacon body shall consider awarding the resigning pastor a separation compensation package and determine its amount. These decisions shall be confirmed by church vote at the earliest opportunity in a regular or special business meeting in order to make payment within 30 days of the effective date of resignation.

- b) The pastor may be asked to relinquish his position with the church for reasons including, but not limited to, those listed below:
- Failure to perform job responsibilities as given in these Bylaws and the Pastor Job Description
 - Failure to adhere to established church guidelines, practices or principles

-Grievous legal or moral deficiencies or professional misconduct.

As with any grievance against a fellow Christian, an initial attempt to resolve the matter should first be made following the principles set forth in the Scriptures (Matthew 18: 15-17). With this failing, and with the understanding that any accusation of legal, moral and/or professional misconduct brought against a pastor should be treated with great seriousness (I Tim. 5:19-20), those accusations shall then be heard by a special assembly of the Chairman of the Deacons, the Chairman of the Personnel Committee, and a third party from another denominational affiliate. If any of these are a party to the grievance, he shall not serve in this assembly. Those remaining shall select replacement(s) from the deacon body.

If the scriptural requirements of Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Timothy 5:19-20 have been fulfilled and if the initial hearing described above concludes that any of the conditions mentioned in item 4b of this section are present, the church may undertake to relieve the pastor from his position. Such action may only be initiated by recommendation of the deacons at a special called meeting of the deacons. All active deacons shall have been notified of this meeting and its purpose at least two weeks in advance of the meeting date. The pastor may appear briefly to give a final defense against the charges, but shall then leave the meeting while deliberations go forward. If a three-fourths (3/4) majority of the deacons agree that the pastor should be removed, they shall request that a special church business meeting for this purpose be called, following the process described in Article V, Subsection E herein.

Neither the pastor nor his initial accuser(s) shall preside over the business meeting in which the pastor's removal is being considered. The moderator of this meeting shall be selected following the process described in Article 2, Subsection C herein. The vote to remove the pastor shall be by secret ballot, and an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the church members present shall be necessary to do so. The church shall provide termination compensation to the pastor in the amount of one-twelfth (1/12) of his total annual compensation. The termination and removal from office shall be immediate. Compensation, shall be tendered in not more than thirty (30) days.

5. Vacancy:

- a) During a period of vacancy in the Pastor position, leadership will pass to the Chairman of the Deacons.
- b) The Chairman of the Deacons will work with our State Convention to ensure qualified men are scheduled to preach during the transition time.
- c) The Chairman of the Deacons will follow guidelines in these Bylaws and Church Ministry Guidelines to form the Pastor Search Team.

B. Deacons

1. Responsibilities: Deacons are first and foremost servants. The word "Deacon" translated in the original language in the Bible means "servant." Deacons are to serve the body of Christ as needed in support of the ministry of the pastor and church in the following:

- a) Lead the church in the achievement of its mission.
- b) Proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers.
- c) Care for the church's members and other persons in the community.

2. Number of Deacons: The church shall elect a minimum of 3 deacons. When the pastor and deacons feel the need to increase the number of deacons to effectively minister to the needs of the church, they shall follow the process of election as stated in Article 2, Subsection B5 herein.

3. Term of Service:

- a) Deacons shall serve on a three year rotation basis concurrent with the Church calendar year. Each year, the number of Deacons who have served for three years will rotate off from active service and new deacons or inactive deacons will be elected to replace them in active service. A Deacon shall be eligible for reelection only after the lapse of one year.
- b) Deacons may also choose to move themselves to an inactive status at anytime by providing a written notice to be reviewed by the Pastor and chairman of Deacons. A deacon may not remain inactive at the suffrage of the church and could be asked to serve in the event or circumstance the church becomes in need.
- c) If a Deacon is moved to inactive status for any reason, the procedures for Deacon Election will be followed.

4. Minimum Qualifications:

A Deacon must:

- a) Confess to be a born again Christian with a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and living a life controlled by the Holy Spirit.
- b) Read and accept the Scriptural basis for Deacons as prescribed in Acts 6:3-8 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13. In reference to 1 Timothy 3:12, a deacon shall be the husband of but one wife. He has not been divorced.

- c) Support by prayer and participation in the entire church ministry, particularly Sunday school, Sunday worship services, mid-week services, deacon family ministry plan and other services of God's work insofar as able in good faith and conscience.
- d) Commit to tithe through the Church program of Stewardship
- e) Assume without reservation the reservation on responsibilities, obligations, and opportunities expected of an active deacon. Deacons are servant's who lead; and leaders who serve. The deacons shall join the pastor in providing spiritual oversight of the Church. Together with the pastor they shall seek to know the will of God for the Church and lead the congregation to do the will of God. The deacons shall meet with the pastor on a regular basis for Bible study, prayer, fellowship and to deal with matters pertaining to responsibilities of the deacon body.
- f) Shall be a member of DaySpring Baptist Church for at least one year prior to the time of nomination for election as an active deacon.

5. Election:

- a) The qualifications, duties and expectations will be made available to the membership when the need for a new active deacon or deacons is established. After prayer and review of the Deacon criteria, each member may nominate one man for each vacancy to be filled. The following three Sundays will be set aside for collecting the nominee's names. Nominations will be collected in a sealed box to be opened by the Pastor and two Deacons.
- b) The Pastor and Chairman of the Deacons will review the nominations and make a list of the men that meet the requirements for serving as a Deacon. They will contact each man to see if he is willing to be considered as a nominee.
- c) Each man willing to be considered will be provided the duties and expectations of serving as a Deacon. At least two Deacons and the Pastor will meet with each man to make sure he fulfills the Biblical qualifications and church expectations. After prayerful consideration by the Deacons and Pastor, the Deacons will present a list of all qualified nominees to the church two weeks before the election.
- d) The Deacon election will be by secret ballot.
- e) The ballots will be counted by at least two Deacons and observed by the Clerk.

There shall be no obligation to constitute as an assignment as a deacon one who has been a deacon in another church; however, in such instances as one might be chosen by this church for assignment as a deacon, his previous ordination by another church of like faith and order shall suffice for this church.

6. Ordination:

- a) Selection, election, and ordination of Deacons are a privilege of the church.
- b) A Deacon Ordination service shall be scheduled by the Pastor for elected Deacons that are not ordained by DaySpring Baptist Church or another church of like faith and practice.

7. Officers:

- a) Within 30 days of the beginning of the church year, the deacons shall elect a chairman, vice chairman, secretary, and others, as they deem necessary.

C. Clerk

1. Responsibilities: The clerk shall be responsible for supervising the keeping of a suitable record of all official actions of the church, except as otherwise herein provided. Duties include:

- a) Keep a register of names of members, with dates of admission, dismissal, death, or erasure, together with a record of baptisms.
- b) Issue letters of dismissal voted by the church.
- c) Preserve on file all communications and written official reports.
- d) Give required notice of all meetings where notice is necessary, as indicated by these Bylaws
- e) Prepare the annual profile of the church to the association.

2. Term of Service:

- a) The church shall annually elect a clerk as its clerical officer to coincide with the beginning of the church year.

When both the pastor and the deacon chairman are unable to serve as the moderator at a business meeting, the church clerk shall be responsible for calling the meeting to order for the election of an acting moderator for that meeting.

D. Moderator

1. Responsibilities:

- a) The moderator shall be the pastor and shall preside at all regular and called business meetings of the church.
- b) In the absence of the pastor, the Chairman of the Deacons shall preside.

1. Responsibilities:

- a) Receive, preserve, and pay out approved expenses, all money or things of value paid or given to the church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements.
- b) Render an itemized report of receipts and disbursements for the previous month at each regular business meeting.
- c) Upon rendering the annual account at the end of each fiscal year and its acceptance/approval by the church, the records shall be delivered by the treasurer to the church clerk, who shall keep and preserve the account as part of the permanent records of the church.
- d) The treasurer's report shall be audited annually by an auditing committee or public accountant.

2. Term of Service:

- a) The church shall annually elect a treasurer as its financial officer to coincide with the beginning of the church year.

F. Trustees

At least three (3) trustees shall be elected by the church to serve as legal officers for the church.

1. Responsibilities:

- a) They shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property of the church without specific vote of the church authorizing each action.
- b) When the signatures of trustees are required, they shall sign legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchase, lease, or rental of property, or other legal documents related to church-approved matters.

2. Term of Service:

- a) Trustees shall serve a three (3) year staggered term, rotating off the Board in sequential order, with one new trustee being elected every year to coincide with the beginning of the church year.
- b) If a vacancy occurs during the year, a vote will be conducted during a regular or called business meeting to fill the remaining term of the vacated position.
- c) Trustees may be re-elected to successive terms.

ARTICLE III

Ministry teams

To facilitate the work of the church, there shall be ministry teams. General guidance for the scope of their work will be outlined in these Bylaws while specific work will be provided in the Church Ministry Guidelines. All ministry teams and ministries shall be accountable to the church, under the direction of the Pastor. In addition, the church may at any time request a special report on any aspect of any team or ministry.

A. Definition:

1. Standing: Elected teams with no limits to consecutive terms served.
2. Ad-Hoc: Temporary teams created for a specific purpose

B. Establishment:

When new ministry teams are to be established, the following steps should be followed:

1. Need identified and approved by the church.
2. Once the need for the team has been identified, the nominating team will work to identify a chairman of the team.
3. Once a chairman has been identified, the chairman will work with the nominating team to identify additional people to comprise the team (at least 3 members, including the chairman, are required).
4. Once potential team members are identified, the nominating team will formally present the potential team members to the church (during a regular or called business meeting) for vote and approval.

C. Number of Members:

Each ministry team will be composed of no less than three members. The size of the ministry team will be determined by the needs of the church as advised by the ministry team Chairperson. The Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of each standing ministry team serving as a resource person and liaison.

D. Standing Ministry Teams:

Standing ministry teams shall include teams authorized by the church. Members of standing ministry teams shall serve on a three-year rotation basis with one third to be elected each year with no limit to consecutive terms.

E. Ad-Hoc Teams:

2. Members of ad-hoc teams shall serve on the team until the assigned task is complete.
3. Ad-hoc Teams will be selected in accordance with the Church Ministries Guidelines.

F. Policies and Procedure:

The list of Ministry teams and the policies and procedures that govern them are found in the Church Ministry Guidelines (“Manual”). The manual shall be made available to any member upon request. The ministry team Chairperson shall be provided a copy of the guidelines for their team upon their appointment as Chairperson.

Addition, revision, or deletion of church policy and ministry guidelines require:

1. Written draft of the proposed change prepared by the ministry team requesting change.
2. The ministry team shall present the proposed change to the church for approval.

G. Ministry Team Charter and Oversight

Each new ministry team will develop a charter to be approved by the church, which describes the ministry team’s purpose, duties, manning, and qualifications. The nominating team shall have general oversight responsibility to ensure the ministry team is fully staffed.

H. Operation

1. Each ministry team shall have a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary.
2. Each ministry team shall annually review its policies and procedures to ensure team effectiveness. These policies and procedures will be included as part of the Church Ministry Guidelines.

I. Coordination

1. In the spirit of cooperation, each ministry team, through its chairperson, shall consult with all other ministry teams, which may be affected by any contemplated action, prior to action being taken.

ARTICLE IV

Church Ordinances

A. Baptism

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

1. Baptism shall be by immersion in water
2. The Senior Pastor or other ordained pastor as authorized by the Senior Pastor shall administer Baptism.
3. Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship during any worship service.
4. The Pastor shall counsel a person professing Christ and failing to be baptized after a reasonable length of time. If negative interest is ascertained, he/she shall be deleted from those awaiting Baptism and membership.

B. The Lord’s Supper

The Lords Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby baptized believers, through partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine, commemorate the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate his second coming.

1. The Lord’s Supper should be observed at least once a quarter.
2. The Pastor shall be responsible for the administration of the Lord’s Supper.
3. The Deacons shall be responsible for the physical preparation and serving of the Lord’s Supper.
4. All baptized believers, who after a time of self examination, and who feel led, may partake of the Lord’s Supper.

ARTICLE V

Church Meetings

A. Worship Services

The church shall meet regularly each Sunday morning and evening for the worship of God, for preaching, instruction, evangelism, and on Wednesday night designated for prayer and Bible study. These meetings will be open for all people and shall be conducted under the direction of the Pastor or his designee.

B. Special Services

Revival services and other functions, which are essential in the promotion of the church’s Purpose, shall be scheduled accordingly.

C. Regular Business Meetings

Regular business meetings shall be held on a regular basis, (but at least quarterly) as determined by the Church. Financial Summaries,

D. Annual Business Meeting

An Annual Meeting shall be held in August of each year. The membership shall vote on the Church Officers and Team Members for the upcoming September through August church year.

E. Special Called Business Meetings

A Special Called Business Meeting may be held one week after public notification at a worship service, special service, or regular business meeting. The notice shall also be published in the Church bulletin, giving the subject, date, time and place of the meeting. The Senior Pastor or the Chairman of the Deacons may issue the call for a Special Business Meeting.

F. Quorum

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

G. Parliamentary Rules

Robert's Rules of Order (revised edition) is adopted as the standard for parliamentary rules of procedure for all regular and called business meetings of the church. Effort will be made to follow the Robert's Rules of Order standards in parliamentary procedure.

ARTICLE VI

Church Finances

A. Budget

The stewardship team, in consultation with church officers and ministry teams, shall prepare and submit a budget to the church for introduction at least two business meetings prior to the beginning of the church year. The budget must be approved by the deacons before it is presented to the church. The approved church budget becomes effective at the beginning of the church year.

B. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the church will begin on January 1 and run through December 31.

ARTICLE VII

Amendments

Members may propose changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. They shall be submitted to the Pastor and deacons for consideration and comment. The Pastor and deacons shall present the proposed changes and their comments to the church at a regular business meeting. The Constitution may be amended by seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the voting members present at a regular business or special called meeting provided the proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing and announced from the pulpit thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

Dissolution and Reversion Clause

Upon the dissolution of the church, the corporate officers shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all liabilities of the church, make certain that all church property and appurtenances revert to and become vested in the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, to be used for church and mission purposes.