

ROLLING HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I, NAME

This body shall be known as the **ROLLING HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH INCORPORATED**, of Jacksonville, Florida, whose facilities are located at 840 Permento Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida, 32221.

ARTICLE II, INCORPORATION

For convenience in handling of it's legal and business matters, this church shall be incorporated under the laws of the state of Florida as a corporation not for profit. It is not intended that any of it's principles, doctrines or ordinances as a Missionary Baptist Church be affected except as to those matters and things specifically required by the corporate charter or by-laws to be handled in another or different way, which matters and things when so required, shall be handled. These rules as hereafter set forth shall govern and control all matters, actions and affairs of the church, whenever applicable.

ARTICLE III, CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and, on the profession of 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, ordinance, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of, intoxicating drinks as a beverage; 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 offence, 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 IV, ARTICLES OF FAITH

I. GOD

There is one living and true God, the creator of the universe (Exod. 15:11; Isa. 45:11; Jer. 27:5). He is revealed in the unity of the Godhead as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, who are equal in every divine perfection (Exod. 15:11; Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 13:14).

A. God the Father is the supreme ruler of the universe. He providentially directs the affairs of history according to the purposes of His grace (Gen. 1; Ps. 19:1; Ps. 104; Heb. 1:1-3).

B. God the Son is the Savior of the world. Born of the virgin Mary (Matt. 1:18; Luke 1:26-35), He declared His deity among men (John 1:14, 18; Matt. 9:6), died on the cross as the only sacrifice for sin (Phil. 2:6-11), arose bodily from the grave (Luke 24:6, 7, 24-26; I Cor. 15:3-6), and ascended back to the Father (Acts 1:9-11; Mark 16:19). He is at the right hand of the Father, interceding for believers (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25) until He returns to rapture them from the world (Acts 1:11; I Thess. 4:16-18).

C. God the Holy Spirit is the manifest presence of deity. He convicts of sin (John 16:8-11), teaches spiritual truths according to the written Word (John 16:12-15), permanently indwells believers (Acts 5:32; John 14:16,

17, 20, 23), and confers on every believer at conversion the ability to render effective spiritual service (I Peter 4:10, 11).

II. THE SCRIPTURES

A. The Scriptures are God's inerrant revelation, complete in the Old and New Testaments, written by divinely inspired men as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (II Tim. 3:16; II Peter 1:21). Those men wrote not in words of human wisdom but in words taught by the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 2:13).

B. The Scriptures provide the standard for the believer's faith and practice (II Tim. 3:16, 17), reveal the principles by which God will judge all (Heb. 4:12; John 12:48), and express the true basis of Christian fellowship (Gal. 1:8, 9; II John 9-11).

III. CREATION

A. The World—God created all things for His own pleasure and glory, as revealed in the biblical account of creation (Gen. 1; Rev. 4:11; John 1:2, 3; Col. 1:16).

B. The Angels—God created an innumerable host of spirit beings called angels. Holy angels worship God and execute His will; while fallen angels serve Satan, seeking to hinder God's purposes (Col. 1:16; Luke 20:35, 36; Matt. 22:29, 30; Ps. 103:20; Jude 6).

C. Man—God created man in His own image. As the crowning work of creation, every person is of dignity and worth and merits the respect of all other persons (Ps. 8; Gen. 1:27; 2:7; Matt. 10:28-31).

IV. SATAN

Satan is a person rather than a personification of evil (John 8:44), and he with his demons opposes all that is true and godly by blinding the world to the gospel (II Cor. 4:3, 4), tempting saints to do evil (Eph. 6:11; I Peter 5:8), and warring against the Son of God (Gen. 3:15; Rev. 20:1-10).

V. DEPRAVITY

Although man was created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26; 2:17), he fell through sin and that image was marred (Rom. 5:12; James 3:9). In his unregenerate state, he is void of spiritual life, is under the influence of the devil, and lacks any power to save himself (Eph. 2:1-3; John 1:13). The sin nature has been transmitted to every member of the human race, the man Jesus Christ alone being excepted (Rom. 3:23; I Peter 2:22). Because of the sin nature, man possesses no divine life and is essentially and unchangeably depraved apart from divine grace (Rom. 3:10-19; Jer. 17:9).

VI. SALVATION

A. The Meaning of Salvation--Salvation is the gracious work of God whereby He delivers undeserving sinners from sin and its results (Matt. 1:21; Eph. 2:8, 9). In justification He declares righteous all who put faith in Christ as Savior (Rom. 3:20-22), giving them freedom from condemnation, peace with God, and full assurance of future glorification (Rom. 3:24-26).

B. The Way of Salvation--Salvation is based wholly on the grace of God apart from works (Titus 3:5; Eph. 2:9). Anyone who will exercise repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved (Acts 16:30-32; Luke 24:47; Rom. 10:17).

C. The Provision of Salvation--Christ died for the sins of the whole world (John 1:29; 3:16; I John 2:1, 2). Through His blood, atonement is made without respect of persons (I Tim. 2:4-6). All sinners can be saved by this gracious provision (Heb. 2:9; John 3:18).

VII. DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY AND HUMAN FREEDOM

God's sovereignty and man's freedom are two inseparable factors in the salvation experience (Eph. 2:4-6). The two Bible truths are in no way contradictory, but they are amazingly complementary in the great salvation so freely provided. God, in His sovereignty purposed, planned and executed salvation in eternity while man's freedom enables him to make a personal choice in time, either to receive this salvation and be saved, or to reject it and be damned (Eph. 1:9-12; 1:13, 14; John 1:12, 13).

VIII. SANCTIFICATION

All believers are set apart unto God (Heb. 10:12-14) at the time of their regeneration (I Cor. 6:11). They should grow in grace (II Peter 1:5-8) by allowing the Holy Spirit to apply God's Word to their lives (I Peter 2:2), conforming them to the principles of divine righteousness (Rom. 12:1, 2; I Thess. 4:3-7) and making them partakers of the holiness of God (II Cor. 7:1; I Peter 1:15, 16).

IX. SECURITY

All believers are eternally secure in Jesus Christ (John 10:24-30; Rom. 8:35-39). They are born again (John 3:3-5; I John 5:1; I Peter 1:23), made new creatures in Christ (II Cor. 5:17; II Peter 1:4), and indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9; I John 4:4), enabling their perseverance in good works (Eph. 2:10). A special providence watches over them (Rom. 8:28; I Cor. 10:13), and they are kept by the power of God (Phil. 1:6; 2:12, 13; I Peter 1:3-5; Heb. 13:5).

X. CHURCH

A. The Nature of the Church—A New Testament church is a local congregation (Acts 16:5; I Cor. 4:17) of baptized believers in Jesus Christ (Acts 2:41) who are united by covenant in belief of what God has revealed and in obedience to what He has commanded (Acts 2:41, 42).

B. The Autonomy of the Church—She acknowledges Jesus as her only Head (Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18) and the Holy Bible as her only rule of faith and practice (Isa. 8:20; II Tim. 3:16, 17), governing herself by democratic principles (Acts 6:1-6; I Cor. 5:1-5) under the oversight of her pastors (Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:7, 17, 24).

C. The Perpetuity of the Church—Instituted by Jesus during His personal ministry on earth (Matt. 16:18; Mark 3:13-19; John 1:35-51), true churches have continued to the present and will continue until Jesus returns (Matt. 16:18; 28:20).

D. The Ordinances of the Church—Her two ordinances are baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer as a confession of his faith in Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:4) and is prerequisite to church membership and participation in the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:41, 42). The Lord's Supper is the sacred sharing of the bread of communion and the cup of blessing by the assembled church (Acts 20:7) as a memorial to the crucified body and shed blood of Jesus Christ (Luke 22:19, 20; I Cor. 11:23-26). Both ordinances must be administered by the authority of a New Testament church (Matt. 28:18-20; I Cor. 11:23-26).

E. The Officers of the Church—Pastors and deacons are the permanent officers divinely ordained in a New Testament church (Phil. 1:1). Each church may select men of her choice to fill those offices under the leading of the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:1-6; 20:17, 18) according to the divinely given qualifications (I Tim. 3:1-13).

Pastors (elders, bishops) are authorized to oversee and teach the churches under the Lordship of Jesus Christ (Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:7, 17, 24; I Peter 5:1-4). Each church is responsible to follow them as they follow Christ (I Cor. 11:1; I Thess. 1:6; Heb. 13:17) and to provide a livelihood for them that they might fulfill their ministries (I Tim. 5:17, 18; Phil. 4:15-18). Pastors are equal in the service of God (Matt. 23:8-12).

Deacons (ministers, servants) are servants of the churches and assistants to the pastors, particularly in benevolent ministries. Each church may select her own deacons according to her needs, and no church is bound by the act of another church in that selection (Acts 6:1-6).

F. The Ministry of the Church—Her mission is evangelizing sinners by preaching the gospel (Matt. 28:19; Luke 24:45-47), baptizing those who believe (Acts 2:41; 8:12, 35-38), and maturing them by instruction (Matt. 28:20; Acts 2:42) and discipline (Matt. 18:17, 18; I Cor. 5:1-5).

G. The Fellowship of the Church—She is free to associate with true churches in furthering the faith (II Cor. 11:8; Phil. 4:10, 15, 16) but is responsible to keep herself from those who hold doctrines or practices contrary to Holy Scripture (Gal. 1:8, 9; I John 2:19). In association with other churches, each church is equal and is the sole judge of the measure and method of her cooperation (Matt. 20:25-28). In all matters of polity and practice, the will of each church is final (Matt. 18:18).

XI. CIVIL AUTHORITY

Human government was instituted by God to protect the innocent and punish the guilty. It is separate from the church, though both church and state exercise complementary ministries for the benefit of society (Matt. 22:21). Christians should submit to the authority of the government under which they live, obeying all laws which do not contradict the laws of God, respecting officers of government, paying taxes, rendering military service, and praying for the welfare of the nation and its leaders (Rom. 13:1-7; I Peter 2:13, 17; I Tim. 2:1, 2). They should vote, hold office, and exercise influence to direct the nation after the principles of Holy Scripture.

Civil authority is not to interfere in matters of conscience or disturb the institutions of religion (Acts 4:18-20), but it should preserve for every citizen the free exercise of his religious convictions.

Churches should receive no subsidy from the government, but they should be exempt from taxation on property and money used for the common good through worship, education, or benevolence.

XII. LAST THINGS

A. Return—Our risen Lord will return personally in bodily form to receive His redeemed unto Himself. His return is imminent (I Thess. 4:13-17; Rev. 22:20).

B. Resurrections—After Jesus returns, all of the dead will be raised bodily, each in his own order: the righteous dead in "the resurrection of life" and the wicked dead in "the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:24-29; I Cor. 15:20-28).

C. Judgments—Prior to the eternal state, God will judge everyone to confer rewards or to consign to punishment (Matt. 25:31-46; II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-15).

D. Eternal States -- Heaven is the eternal home of the redeemed (John 14:1-3) who, in their glorified bodies (I Cor. 15:51-58), will live in the presence of God forever (I Thess. 4:17) in ultimate blessing (Rev. 21, 22).

Hell is the place of eternal punishment and suffering (Luke 16:19-31) for the devil, his angels (Matt. 25:41), and the unredeemed (Rev. 20:10-15).

XIII. STATEMENT ON A HOLY LIFESTYLE

We believe that the Scripture teaches that the believer should live a holy lifestyle (Hebrews 12:14). This would include the avoidance of the consumption of alcohol (Leviticus 10:8-11, Proverbs 20:1, 23; 29-35, 31; 4-5, abuse of drugs legal/illegal, indulgence of pornography, pre-marital sexual relations,, extramarital sexual relations, (1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Galatians 5:19-23) homosexuality/same-sex marriage. (Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 20:13, Romans 1:25-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 1 Timothy 1:9-10). Because we believe that the Scripture teaches marriage is between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:23-24 and Leviticus 18:22). And is limited to these areas, we encourage all Christian disciples of Christ to bring their flesh under submission (1 Corinthians 9:27) utilizing the word of God as the standard for the glory of God. 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. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to you 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 be engaged in 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 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 serves as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement of a Holy Lifestyle and conduct themselves accordingly.

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

ADDENDUM

NOTE: The following statements are not to be binding upon the churches already affiliated with this association, or to require adoption by churches petitioning this body for privilege of cooperation, or to be a test of fellowship between brethren or churches. However, they do express the preponderance of opinion among the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

1. We believe in the premillennial return of Christ to earth, after which He shall reign in peace upon the earth for a thousand years (Rev. 20:4-6).

2. We believe the Scriptures to teach two resurrections: the first of the righteous at Christ's coming; the second of the wicked at the close of the thousand-year reign (I Thess. 4:13-17; Rev. 20:6, 12-15).

We endorse the New Hampshire Confession of Faith as a representative compendium of what Baptists have historically believed through the centuries. This confession was consulted and provided a pattern and guide for the formulation of these doctrinal statements. As there are several versions and editions, we refer particularly to the edition in J. E. Cobb's Church Manual third edition, published by the Baptist Publications Committee of Texarkana, TX.

ARTICLE V, AFFILIATION

SECTION 1. This church shall for the purpose of fellowship, the cause of missions and Christian benevolence, voluntarily cooperate and affiliate with the Baptist Missionary Association of Central Florida, but shall not in any way be governed or ruled by said Association.

SECTION 2. This church shall for the purpose of fellowship, the cause of missions and Christian benevolence, voluntarily cooperate and affiliate with the Baptist Missionary Association of Florida, but shall not in any way be governed or ruled by said Association.

SECTION 3. This church shall for the purpose of fellowship, the cause of missions and Christian benevolence voluntarily affiliate with the Baptist Missionary Association of America, but shall not in any way be governed or ruled by said Association.

SECTION 4. A change from the affiliation with the fore mentioned groups can be made only by a favorable vote of 75% of the members on this churches membership roll.

ARTICLE VI, CHARACTER

SECTION 1, POLITY. The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it may recognize and encourage the advice and counsel of sister churches, in the ordaining of preachers and deacons.

SECTION 2, DOCTRINE. This church receives the Scriptures as given in the authorized King James version of the Bible of the year 1611, for its authority in matters of faith and practice. It's understanding of Christian truth as contained, is in essential accord with the belief of Missionary Baptist Churches as indicated in the Articles of Faith here with.

ARTICLE VII, MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1, THE MEMBERSHIP, The membership of **ROLLING HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH, INCORPORATED**, of Jacksonville, Florida, referred to herein as the "church" shall consists of all persons whose names appear on the church membership roll.

All authority not here in vested in any office pursuant to these by-laws is reserved in and to the church. The church reserves the right at any time to amend, supplement or revoke, in part or in whole these by-laws.

SECTION 2, ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP, Application for membership shall be voted on at any regular worship service of the church on any Sunday, any regular mid-week prayer service of the church or any publicly and previously announced worship service of the church, or, by any like meeting held by any mission of the church. Membership shall become effective:

A. After a public profession of faith in Christ as personal Savior, and upon baptism by immersion in water as authorized by the church or,

B. Upon receipt of a church letter of dismissal and recommendation from some other Baptist Church of like faith and order: or,

C. By statement, acceptable to the church, of previous membership after baptism in a Baptist Church of like faith and order.

SECTION 3, TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP. Membership in this church may be terminated in the following manner:

A. Upon the death of the member, or,

B. Upon issuance of a church letter of dismissal and recommendation for membership in some other Baptist Church or,

C. Upon withdrawal of fellowship by the church from a member as provided by the Holy Scriptures and more particularly in **MATTHEW 18:15-17** and in **I CORINTHIANS 5**.

SECTION 4. VOTING OF MEMBERS. On any matters coming before the church for its determination, each member present shall be entitled to one vote which shall be exercised in person and not by proxy: all such matters shall be determined at a regular or special conference meeting of the church held in accordance with these by-laws, by a majority vote (except for those matters which require a two thirds (2/3) majority vote) of the members present and voting. It shall as stated else where in these by-laws require a 75% vote of all the members of this church to change affiliation from the Baptist Missionary Association of Central Florida, the Baptist Missionary Association of Florida, and the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

SECTION 5, DUTIES OF MEMBERS. The members are expected to be faithful in all duties essential to the Christian life, to attend habitually the services of this church, to give regularly for its support and its causes, and to share in its organized work.

SECTION 6, DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS.

A. Any member who does not attend this church on a regular basis, without due cause, shall not be considered for any church office, teaching position or serve on any committee until such time as they resume regular and consistent attendance and support of the church. Any member who ceases to be regular in attendance and or support of the church, or who fails to adhere to the Doctrinal Statements of the church may be replaced as an officer, teacher or committee member by vote of the church.

B. Any member who conducts him/her self in such a manner as to bring shame and reproach on this church and upon the Lord Jesus Christ, shall be subject to charges being placed against them by any member of the church.

C. In the event such discipline is warranted, a committee of three (3) shall be elected by the church to hold an investigation to determine the validity of the offence and the committee shall report their findings to the church. The church shall then determine the kind of discipline necessary to help correct the problem.

D. Persons excluded from this church may be restored to fellowship after a confession is made and a full apology to the church is given.

SECTION 7, MEETINGS OF MEMBERS.

A. **WORSHIP SERVICES.** Public services for worship shall be held on Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening of each week. Other public services for worship may be held on such other days, or dates, as are deemed best for the advancement of the cause of Christ by direction of the Pastor, or as determined by action of a majority of the membership of the church present and voting at any regular, or special conference meeting of the church.

B. **REGULAR CONFERENCE MEETINGS.** Regular conference meetings of the members for transaction of business and affairs of the church shall be held at a Wednesday evening mid-week service, following the second Sunday of each month. Notice of such meeting to the members shall not be required, since this is a scheduled monthly meeting.

C. **SPECIAL CONFERENCE MEETING.** The church may be called into conference for the handling of its business and affairs by oral announcement and without prior notice at any scheduled service by the Pastor, the Deacons, or any member of the church present at any such meeting.

D. **ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING.** The annual conference meeting of the church shall be held on Wednesday following the second Sunday in August of each year. The officers and teachers, except the Pastor, Assistant Pastor, Deacons, Trustees and any paid staff members, shall be elected at the annual

conference meeting. However if any of these offices become vacant during the year, they may be filled by the church at any conference meeting of the church during the year.

E. PLACE OF MEETINGS. The regular conference meetings of the church, or any other meeting of the church at which the vote of the church is sought on any matter, shall be held at some location within the properties located at 840 Permento Ave, Jacksonville, Florida.

F. QUORUM OF MEMBERS. The members present at any regular scheduled worship service, or any regular or special conference meeting of the church shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII. CHURCH OFFICERS

SECTION 1, PASTOR.

A. The Pastor shall be the chief executive officer in the church, moderator of all church meetings, exofficio head of all departments, auxiliaries and committees of the church work. His specific duties shall be to give special attention to the spiritual needs of the members, preach God's Word to the church, administer the ordinances of the church, act as moderator in all matters for the transaction of business (except where he is personally involved, in which case the senior Deacon present shall moderate), to have supervision of the church staff, and other duties as may be incumbent upon his office.

B. Upon the death, resignation or dismissal of the Pastor, the church shall as soon as possible, call to its pastorate a minister of good report. Notice of the vote on the call shall be given by the pulpit committee publicly, from the pulpit at any regular Lord's day worship service, or through the church bulletin on the Sunday immediately preceding the date of the churches vote to call the new Pastor. The Pulpit Committee shall have the authority to contact available ministers to fill the pulpit when no pastor is at the church and to question and recommend said ministers for Pastor. The churches vote to call a new Pastor shall be upon the recommendation of the Pulpit Committee and by at least a two thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting. Only those of male gender shall be considered as a candidate for Pastor.

C. The Pastor shall be called to an unlimited tenure of office, to be terminated at his own pleasure, or by the pleasure of the church by at least a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of those members present and voting. In case such vote becomes necessary, notice of such vote shall be announced from the pulpit, or through the church bulletin on the Sunday immediately preceding the date of such vote. At least a fifteen (15) day notice shall be given by either party before the termination is effective.

D. All compensation for the Pastor, and other staff members shall be set by the church.

E. QUALIFICATIONS OF PASTOR. The qualifications of a Pastor shall be those set forth in I TIMOTHY 3:1-7, and others as the church shall deem in the best interest of the church.

F. ASSISTANT PASTOR. The church may vote to call as many Assistant Pastors as it deems necessary. The Assistant/Assistants shall work with and under the direction of the Pastor. Their duties shall be such as is set forth by the church and its Pastor.

SECTION 2. DEACONS.

A. The number of Deacons for this church shall not be restricted by these by-laws, but will be determined by the church as it deems necessary.

B. Candidates for the office of Deacon shall first be set aside and studied by the church for an indefinite period of time. The Pastor shall have the privilege of recommending candidates for Deacon, as shall any member of the church. The Pastor and Deacons shall determine when the candidates have shown sufficient evidence of being ready to be ordained as a Deacon, and make such recommendations to the church that said candidate be ordained as a Deacon. The church may accept or reject these recommendations and or candidates.

C. Deacons coming into this church and having been ordained by other churches, may or may not be accepted as Deacons in this church, the determination being made by the body and is not automatic.

D. DUTIES. In accordance with the meaning of the word (Deacon) and practice of the New Testament, Deacons are to be servants of the church. They shall serve as a council of advice and support with the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the welfare and work of the church. They are to especially seek to know the physical needs and the moral and spiritual struggles of the brethren. In case of absence or inability of the Pastor, subject

to advice and conference with the pastor, if possible, the Deacons will provide pulpit supplies.

E. QUALIFICATIONS. A Deacon shall be a man who is a member of the church with the qualifications as set forth in **ACTS 6:3**, and **I TIMOTHY 3:10-13**, and such other qualifications as the church may from time to time prescribe.

F. TERM OF OFFICE. The term of office shall terminate upon; his death, his resignation, the termination of his membership in the church, or, his removal from such office by the church due to conduct unbecoming to a Deacon.

SECTION 3. MODERATOR.

The moderator shall be the Pastor. In the absence of the Pastor and Assistant Pastor, the senior Deacon present shall preside. In the absence of the Pastor, Assistant Pastors, and Deacons, the church Clerk shall call the church to order and a moderator pro-tem shall be elected to preside.

SECTION 4. CLERK.

The Clerk of the church shall keep in a suitable book, a record of all the actions of the church. He/She shall issue letters of dismissal only by vote of the church. He/She shall send request for new members letters from other churches as voted by the church. The Clerk shall prepare annual letters and other papers pertaining to District, State or National Associational meetings and present them to the church for approval. The Clerk may be given other duties as the Pastor or church deems necessary.

SECTION 5. TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and expenses of all monies and pay all accounts consistent with the budget of the church, or vote of the church. The Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer shall sign all checks, or they may be signed by any other person authorized by the church.

The Treasurer shall give a detailed and written report of all receipts and expenditures at each conference meeting.

The Treasurer shall have such other duties as the church deems necessary.

SECTION 6. FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

The Financial Secretary shall keep a financial ledger of all church accounts, write all checks for the Treasurer to sign, post all contributions on the individual contribution forms, prepare a written financial report for the Treasurer to give at conference meetings.

The Financial Secretary shall have other such duties as the church deems necessary.

In the absence of the Financial Secretary, or Assistant Financial Secretary, the Treasurer may write any checks necessary.

SECTION 7. ASSISTANTS.

The assistants to any position shall assist the officer to whom they are elected to assist in any way possible. In the event of the absence of the officer, the assistant shall perform the duties of the office while the officer is absent.

The assistants may be given other such duties as the church deems necessary.

SECTION 8. MUSIC DIRECTOR.

The Music Director shall be charged with the responsibility of providing worshipful music for all services of the church, and shall have general oversight of the musical programs of the church. He is to direct the choir in public singing and practice and shall cooperate with the Pastor and other leaders in the selection of suitable music and the devising of appropriate musical programs for all occasions where such services are needed.

SECTION 9. USHERS.

The Ushers shall be charged with the greeting and introduction of visitors. They shall supply all visitors with visitors cards. They shall be responsible for the collection of the offering in all services where an offering is collected, and turn the offering into the church Treasurer. They shall be responsible for the comfort of the building as for as temperature and lighting is concerned. They shall be responsible for the prevention of distractions and interruptions during the worship services.

SECTION 10. EMPLOYEES AND STAFF MEMBERS.

All employees and staff members shall come under the general direction of the Pastor.

SECTION 11. TRUSTEES.

The board of Trustees shall consist of the Pastor, the Deacons and two (2) men elected by the church. They shall serve for an indefinite time. Their term of office shall be terminated by, death, moving membership, resignation or by a majority vote of the members present and voting in any conference meeting of the church. The board of Trustees shall have full authority to act as representatives for the church in all legal matters pertaining to the operation of the church, sign all necessary legal documents as approved by the church. They shall be authorized to make or see that they are made, all repairs to the church buildings and equipment where cost is within reason. A majority of the board of Trustees present at any Trustee meeting shall constitute a quorum. The board of Trustees shall elect one (1) member to serve as chairman annually. The chairman shall call all meetings of the board and preside over such meetings.

SECTION 12. OTHER OFFICERS.

The church may elect at any time, any other officers as they deem necessary.

ARTICLE IX. AUXILIARIES

All Auxiliaries of the church shall come under the control of the church. Each Auxiliary shall give a report to the church when called for and submit said report to the church Clerk for church records. All Auxiliaries shall have the authority to elect their own officers, subject to the approval of the church.

ARTICLE X. COMMITTEES OF THE CHURCH

The church reserves the right at any time and in such manner as it may determine to elect any committee which the church deems necessary. All committees shall be considered a church committee, under the control of the church. All actions of any committee is subject to church approval. All committees shall be elected or approved by the church and shall have the duties and responsibilities imposed upon it by the church. The membership of each committee shall be set by the church, The term of office of the committee member shall be for one (1) year unless otherwise set by the church or these by-laws.

ARTICLE XI. ORDINANCES

SECTION 1. BAPTISM

A. A person may be baptized at a time determined by the Pastor, once they have made a public profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and the church has voted to accept them as a candidate for baptism.

B. A person who is saved and desires to unite with this church, but has not been scripturally baptized may present themselves to the church as candidates for baptism. Once the church votes in favor by a majority of the members present and voting, they may be baptized. Any person desiring membership in this church upon promise of letter from other churches or denominations, which are not in the mind of this church, scripturally sound, or, not in compliance with this churches beliefs in the scripture, shall come by request for baptism. If a person has been scripturally baptized by a church that was at the time of baptism sound and in compliance with this churches beliefs, but said church has since that time become unsound in its beliefs, said person may be received after approval of the church by a majority vote of the members present and voting to accept them, upon their personal statement of scriptural baptism.

C. Baptism shall be administered by the Pastor, or, by any other ordained minister approved by the church.

D. For baptism to be scriptural it must be by total immersion in water, not by sprinkling.

SECTION 2. THE LORD'S SUPPER.

A. The Lord's Supper may be observed at such time as the Pastor deems advisable.

B. The Lord's Supper shall be administered by the Pastor, assisted by the Deacons.

C. The Lord's Supper is a local church ordinance, and the invitation to observe the Lord's Supper shall be for members of this church only.

ARTICLE XII. PROPERTY

SECTION 1. OWNERSHIP.

All properties deeded to this church shall remain in the churches possession, under the directorship o

the board of Trustees duly elected by the body to transact legal proceedings as its representatives, in keeping with the corporate laws for non-profit cooperation's.

SECTION 2. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY.

If at any time this church should cease to exist and disband for any reason, all properties and assets shall be turned over to the Baptist Missionary Association of America, to be used for the purpose of missions, in compliance with Internal revenue regulations and the cooperative laws of the state of Florida.

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. BY-LAWS.

These by-laws may be amended by a single majority vote of the members present and voting at any conference meeting of the church, provided at least one (1) weeks notice of proposed amendment is given to the church. The proposed amendment shall be offered in writing and made available to each member present at the meeting in which notice of proposed amendment is given.

SECTION 2. ARTICLES OF FAITH.

No change shall be made in the Articles of Faith, (Article IV of these by-laws), except by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present and voting in any conference meeting of this church. Notice of proposed change shall be offered in writing at least one (1) week prior to the vote being taken.

XIII. STATEMENT ON A HOLY LIFESTYLE

We believe that the Scripture teaches that the believer should live a holy lifestyle (Hebrews 12:14). This would include the avoidance of the consumption of alcohol (Leviticus 10;8-11, Proverbs 20;1, 23;29-35, 31;4-5, abuse of drugs legal/illegal, indulgence of pornography, pre-marital sexual relations,, extramarital sexual relations, (1 Corinthians 6;9-10, Galatians 5;19-23) homosexuality/same-sex marriage. (Leviticus 18;22, Leviticus 20;13, Romans 1;25-27, 1 Corinthians 6;9-10, 1 Timothy 1;9-10). Because we believe that the Scripture teaches marriage is between one man and one woman (Genesis 2;23-24 and Leviticus 18;22). And is limited to these areas, we encourage all Christian disciples of Christ to bring their flesh under submission (1 Corinthians 9;27) utilizing the word of God as the standard for the glory of God. 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. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to you 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 be engaged in 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 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 serves as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement of a Holy Lifestyle and conduct themselves accordingly.

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