

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2** The Development of Brentwood Baptist Church Governance Structure
- 5** Bylaws of Brentwood Baptist Church
- 30** Fourth Amended & Restated Charter of Brentwood Baptist Church
- 36** Baptist Faith & Message (2000)

# THE DEVELOPMENT OF BRENTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

## *Overview of the Church's Governance*

Our governance structure is based on the biblical principle that the local church is an autonomous, self-governing body of baptized believers and is accountable to God for its decisions and actions. The ultimate authority for governance is vested in the membership in a congregational form of church governance. The Scriptures provide latitude in how a church makes leadership and administrative decisions.

Churches of our size often create a “governing group” that is delegated responsibilities and authorities under the terms of the Bylaws, while reserving to the congregation specific areas of authority such as the calling of the senior pastor, approving members, budget adoption, and so forth. The name “Trustees” was chosen for our governing group due to its long-standing use in the church.

The membership delegates and entrusts to 12 Trustees all governing authority for the Church not specifically retained by the members in the Bylaws. The Trustees serve as lay leadership elected by, and accountable to, members of the Church. From a legal perspective, the Church is organized as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Tennessee. From this point of view, the Trustees serve as the directors of the corporation and serve as fiduciaries for the Church.

In effect, Brentwood Baptist Church practices a collaborative leadership model of church governance. This model entrusts a team of lay leaders, called Trustees to collaborate with the members, pastors, staff, deacons, and standing committees/teams to integrate the work of the Church.

The success of our governance structure is built upon the proper balance among three broad principles: (1) requires a high level of confidence and trust by the congregation, (2) requires the enthusiastic support of the pastors who work with the Trustees, and (3) requires the objectivity, faithfulness, and integrity of the Trustees selected. All three principles must work in harmony for our governance structure to function properly.

The work of the Trustees is intended to offer several benefits to the Church resulting in:

1. Relying on the continuity, wise counsel, and sound judgment of lay leaders who work alongside the pastors on behalf of the membership
2. Strengthening the capacity of the pastors to focus primarily on prayer, preparation, and preaching
3. Creating a healthy system of checks and balances by entrusting to the Trustees the objective oversight of the operations of the Church
4. Increasing stewardship of the Church's resources in order to better position the congregation to expand ministry opportunities, as God directs

The Bylaws are intended to serve as a practical and legal framework for conducting the work of the Church. Essentially the Bylaws express the members' “agreement” with the broad governing

principles, direction, and expectations. The Trustees implement how the principles are carried out and act in the best interest of the church. Any change in the Bylaws requires Church approval.

**History on the Development of the Governance Structure and Bylaws** Brentwood Baptist Church was founded in 1969 as a mission of Woodmont Baptist Church. Upon its establishment as a constituted church, the original Charter and Bylaws of Brentwood Baptist were developed by the charter members. During the first 30 years of the church's existence, the Bylaws were amended from time to time. The church body, along with the pastor and deacons, functioned as the primary governance structure.

When the Church moved to 7777 Concord Road, Senior Pastor Mike Glenn and Pastor Emeritus Bill Wilson, recognized our Church was positioned to grow rapidly. Therefore, the congregation as a body would increasingly be unable to make all decisions collectively in an effective and timely manner through traditional business meetings.

Our Senior Pastor also recognized the need for wise counsel from the members and the need to focus on his primary role. In addition, our deacon body was transitioning from functioning as an administrative group for the Church to fulfilling the biblical role of assisting in pastoral ministries.

In September 2002, the Church approved the appointment of a Church Governance Task Force. This group was charged to research, develop, and present to the Church for adoption a new governance structure. The Church Governance Task Force studied the Scriptures and also researched the various governance approaches used in large evangelical churches across the nation. The task force met with leaders and members to define a structure that would be best suited to the unique needs and preferences of our congregation.

The Church overwhelmingly adopted the new governance structure that established the expanded role of Trustees, effective January 1, 2004.

A review was conducted during 2007, 2012, 2015, and again in 2017. The purpose was to improve and refine the Bylaws following several years of experience with the new governance structure. In December 2017, the Church amended the Bylaws with a 99% vote in favor of the improvements.

A second review was conducted in 2012 to take into account the growth in staff, congregations, and campuses. In November 2012, the Church amended the bylaws with a 98 percent vote in favor of the amendments.

A third review was conducted in 2015 to effectively communicate Brentwood Baptist Church's biblical stance regarding marriage. In September 2015, the Church amended the charter and bylaws with a 98 percent vote in favor of the amendment.

A fourth review was conducted in 2017 to reflect a redevelopment of our church mission statement and values. Changes also delegated tasks to Trustees from congregation related approvals of

qualified church members and approval for church nominated and vetted deacons.

# BYLAWS OF BRENTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

**The Bylaws serve as a legal and practical framework for governing the work of the Church. All entities including the multisite locations of Brentwood Baptist Church are subject to these Bylaws, unless the entity is incorporated into a separate legal entity. In this case, its bylaws would apply.**

## ARTICLE I BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

**1.1 Church Definition:** Brentwood Baptist Church (“Church”) is a group of baptized believers, who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and are associated in the faith and fellowship of the gospel. The Church is a body personally committed to sharing the Good News of salvation to lost people.

**1.2 Church Mission:** Engaging the whole person with the whole gospel of Jesus Christ anywhere, anytime, with anybody.

**1.3 Church Values.** Shared convictions that guide our decisions and reveal our strengths:

- (1) Gospel First and Always Romans 1:16
- (2) Uniquely Called Psalm 139:14-16
- (3) Intentional Innovation Mark 2:1-12
- (4) Crossing Cultures Genesis 12:1
- (5) Multiplying Matters Matthew 28:19

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, Brentwood Baptist Church will only recognize marriages between one biological man and one biological woman in furtherance of our Statement of Faith (below). Further, the employees of Brentwood Baptist Church will only officiate, host, and/or solemnize marriages between one biological man and one biological woman, and shall not foster any activity contrary to God’s ordained definition of marriage. Finally, in accord with God’s ordained purpose for marriage and good stewardship of His resources, the facilities and property of Brentwood Baptist Church shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.

**1.4 Church Statement of Faith.** The Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the basis for any Statement of Faith. The Church subscribes, since its establishment, to the confessional statement of the “Baptist Faith and Message” as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in the year 2000 (“BF&M 2000”). In addition, the Church subscribes to the following statements of faith with respect to gender, marriage, sexuality, human life, theology, and the like. The Church does not believe that these statements conflict with the BF&M 2000, but, to the extent these statements conflict in any way with the BF&M 2000, the statements below shall prevail.

- (a) Gender & Marriage. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as either male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders are the only genders and together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of such gender and rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends and limits sexual intimacy of any form or kind to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, abuse, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of [the organization] as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Brentwood Baptist Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Brentwood Baptist Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) 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 Brentwood Baptist Church.

- (b) Sanctity of Human Life. We believe in the sanctity of human life, that God determines the boundaries of life and holds in His hands the two fragile ends of human experience. He is active in the conception of life and the conclusion of life, in birth and in death. This truth imparts extraordinary value to every life, independent of gender, race, socioeconomic position, age, or health status. Those who hold to biblical creation must attach great worth to human life and will stand in its defense.

We believe the sanctity of human life as established by God the Creator and believe that such sanctity extends to all people including the child not yet born, those mentally and physically challenged, and those who are at the conclusion of their life here on earth. Life is a gift from God and should be afforded to Him.

All human life, including life developing in the womb, is created by God in His image and is, therefore, to be nurtured, supported, and protected. From the moment of conception, a

child is a human being with all of the developing characteristics of human life, and this life is dependent on the mother for its continued development. Therefore, we believe that human life must be respected and protected from the moment of conception. As such, this Church calls for persons to practice the ethic of the New Testament as it bears upon human sexuality and to deal with the issue of abortion by placing it within the larger framework of biblical principles that provide guidance for moral decision making.

This Church also recognizes that many have been affected by the tragedy of abortion. Each believer is urged to offer the message of forgiveness by God for each person who has experienced abortion and repents. Our Church is to be communities of redemption and hope to all who suffer physical, emotional, and spiritual pain as a result of the willful termination of a pregnancy.

- (c) Theological Issues. For theological issues not directly addressed by our Church Statement of Faith, the senior pastor in consultation with the pastoral team (defined by 9.3) may create a position paper explaining the scriptural support for a theological position if the senior pastor and pastoral team believe such a position paper would be helpful. The ministerial staff ratifies this position with no less than 80% affirmation.

**1.5 Church Ordinances.** The ordinances of the Church are baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper.

(a) Baptism. Baptism is a symbolic act of obedience. 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) Baptism may be administered by the pastor, minister, or whomever the church shall authorize. (3) Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship during any worship service. (4) Baptism shall be encouraged as soon as possible after the public confession of faith.

(b) 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 fruit of the vine, commemorate the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate His second coming. The Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly.

## ARTICLE II NAME

The name of this nonprofit corporation is Brentwood Baptist Church. This Church is organized and shall be operated exclusively as a nonprofit corporation which is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or any corresponding provisions of any future tax laws (hereinafter referred to as the "Code"), as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code. The Church has been organized pursuant to the Tennessee Non-Profit Corporation Act ("Act"). The word Church, as used in these bylaws, includes all entities and multisite locations of Brentwood Baptist Church.

## ARTICLE III GOVERNANCE

Governance of the Church is ultimately vested in the body of believers who compose the Church (“members”). Brentwood Baptist Church is an autonomous church subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but recognizes and sustains a relationship of mutual cooperation among Southern Baptist churches. Accordingly, the Church has chosen to affiliate with and support the Nashville Baptist Association and to cooperate with and support the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. The Church may withdraw from such associations and conventions by an eighty-percent (80%) vote of the membership, and the Church may join any such other associations or conventions by an eighty-percent (80%) vote of the membership. While the ultimate authority for governance of the Church is vested in the members in a congregational form of church governance, the members have chosen, as evidenced by the Church’s Charter and these Bylaws, to delegate substantial authority to the Trustees pursuant to Article VII.

## ARTICLE IV REGISTERED OFFICE

**4.1 Church Office.** The principal office of the Church is located at 7777 Concord Road, Brentwood, Tennessee 37027.

**4.2 Registered Office.** The registered office of the Church is required to be maintained in the State of Tennessee by the Tennessee Non-Profit Act, as amended from time to time (the “Act”) and may, but need not, be identical with the principal office in the State of Tennessee. The address of the registered office may be changed from time to time by the Trustees.

## ARTICLE V PURPOSE, USE OF FUNDS & PROPERTY

**5.1 Purpose.** In furtherance of the religious, charitable, and educational nonprofit purposes for which this Church has been organized, the purpose of the Church is to be a dynamic spiritual organism empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in Middle Tennessee and throughout the world. In pursuit of this purpose, the Church shall be a worshiping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing His person, and responding in obedience to His leadership. The Church will use its gifts, talents, and resources to help people experience a growing knowledge of God and minister unselfishly to persons in the community and in the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Bylaws, the Church shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation organized as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Tennessee pursuant to the Act which is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(a) of the Code, contributions to which are deductible under Sections 170(c) (2), 2055(a) and 2522(a) of the Code.

**5.2 No Private Inurement.** The Church is not formed for financial or pecuniary gain. No part of the assets, income, or profits of the Church shall be distributable to, or inure to the benefit of its Trustees or officers or any other private person, except as provided in Section 7.14, and Article XIV as reimbursement for expenses or reasonable compensation for services rendered to the



Church and except to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of the Church as set forth in the Charter and Section 5.1 of the Bylaws.

No substantial part of the activities of the Church shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation; and no part of the activities of the Church shall be the participation in or intervention in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

**5.3 Dissolution of the Church.** The members shall have the authority to dissolve the Church at any time that it deems such dissolution appropriate or advisable by an eighty percent (80%) vote of members. In such event, after paying, or making provision for the payment of, all liabilities of the Church then outstanding and unpaid, the Trustees shall distribute the assets of the Church exclusively to a church or religious nonprofit of like-minded Christian / Baptist faith that is in substantial agreement with our Church's Statement of Faith in accordance with Article XI of the Charter.

**5.4 Property.** The Church's real, personal, and mixed property shall only be used in accordance and compliance with the Church's Statement of Faith as set forth in Article I, Section 1.4 and all of its subparts. Any use of Church property in a manner or spirit contrary to the Church's Statement of Faith is prohibited.

## ARTICLE VI MEMBERSHIP

**6.1 Member Authority.** The Church is a sovereign and democratic Baptist church under the leadership of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the exclusive right of self-government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of the Church, except to the extent the membership shall delegate responsibilities and authorities under the terms of the Charter, these Bylaws, or by action taken by the members. The membership described in this Article is for the joy and benefit of the members and this Church and are not corporate members of the Church as may be described under the Tennessee Non-Profit Corporation Act or other applicable law. The Members have the rights, obligations, and privileges, with respect to their membership in this Church, only as set forth in these Bylaws. The members have retained the following authority exercised by the Church vote pursuant to Section 6.7:

- (a) Calling and dismissing the senior pastor.
- (b) Nominating deacons.
- (c) Electing trustees.
- (d) Approving and amending the Church's mission, objective, values, statement of faith, and ordinances.
- (e) Adopting and amending the Church's Charter and Bylaws.
- (f) Approving the Church's annual budget.

- (g) Purchasing, selling, or encumbering all real property, land, and buildings whose purchase price is greater than 10% of the church's annual budget the previous year, except as provided in 7.22
- (h) Relocating the principal office of the Church.
- (i) Borrowing money other than that which is consistent with the approved annual Church budget.
- (j) Establishing a new church campus or merging with an existing church.

Except as set forth directly above, the members have delegated all other authority to the Trustees. The Church may, by amendment to the Charter or Bylaws, rescind such delegation of authority and responsibility, in whole or in part, at any time.

**6.2 Membership Candidacy.** All candidates for membership in the Church, including multisite candidates, may only request membership and approval by the Church in the following ways:

- (a) By profession of faith and for baptism by immersion;
- (b) By promise of a letter of recommendation from another church of like faith and order;
- (c) By statement of a prior conversion experience with prior baptism by immersion in a church of like faith and order when no letter is obtainable; or
- (d) By statement of a prior conversion experience but upon baptism by immersion by the Church

**6.3 Membership Effective.** Membership shall become effective upon:

- (a) Presentation pursuant to Section 6.2
- (b) Baptism by immersion if presentation is pursuant to subparagraphs (a) or (d) of Section 6.2
- (c) Completion of the Membership Process
- (d) Membership candidates that have completed (a)-(c) will be presented to the Trustees for approval, and then presented to the church on a quarterly basis.

If a person does not complete the requirements of this Section 6.3 within twelve (12) months, such person shall be counseled by a member of the ministerial staff. If after such counseling the candidate fails to complete these requirements within a reasonable time, the candidate shall not be presented to the Church for membership.

**6.4 Termination of Membership.** Membership records are maintained pursuant to Section 7.9.

Membership may be terminated in the following ways:

- (a) Notification of a person having joined another Southern Baptist Church, a church of another denomination, or a church unaffiliated with a denomination
- (b) Written request of the member
- (c) Exclusion by action of the Trustees on behalf of the Church pursuant to Section 6.5
- (d) Exclusion by action of the Trustees due to inactivity (no attendance, no giving, no recorded participation in a group, etc.) after a period of two years and after two attempts to contact by the church office for the purpose of restoration.
- (e) Death

**6.5 Discipline of Members.** The Church, consistent with the teachings of Galatians 6:1, will use every reasonable effort to minister to and assist any member experiencing spiritual, emotional, financial, or other problems. The Church, through its Trustees, may discipline any member whose conduct is inconsistent with the purpose and Statement of Faith as set forth in these Bylaws. Because of the sensitive nature of such action and to protect all parties concerned, the Church has committed to the Trustees the responsibility to deal with all dismissal issues.

In accordance with the instructions of Jesus, any proceeding to discipline a member shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance. If the Trustees determine that the welfare of the Church will be best served by the exclusion of a member from the Church, the Trustees may act on behalf of the Church and may take this action by voting to terminate a member's membership in this Church pursuant to Section 7.17. At this time, the Trustees may proceed to declare the person no longer in fellowship with Brentwood Baptist Church.

Because redemption rather than punishment is the guideline that governs the attitude of one believer towards another, any person whose Membership has been terminated by the Trustees pursuant to Section 6.4 (c) may, upon request to the Trustees, and with the recommendation of the senior pastor and the chair of deacons, be presented for restoration of their membership.

#### **6.6 Corporate Worship**

- (a) Corporate Worship Services. The Church, at all locations, shall meet regularly for preaching, instruction, evangelism, and worship. These meetings are for all people and shall be conducted under the collaboration, supervision, and direction of the senior pastor and the respective multisite pastors.
- (b) Special Corporate Services. The pastors, in collaboration with the Trustees, shall also schedule such special services as they shall deem appropriate for worship, praise, instruction, celebration, baptism, remembrance, or child dedication.
- (c) Worship Service Evaluation. The Trustees shall seek evaluation from the members regarding

worship practices to provide counsel to the pastors. The Trustees shall review and approve proposals from the pastors regarding the number of corporate worship service opportunities, ongoing worship experiences for selected audiences, and the proposed worship leaders.

*6.7 Meetings of Members to Act on Resolutions.*

(a) Regular Meetings. A Regular Meeting of the Church membership to conduct business shall be held at least annually, during a regularly scheduled corporate worship service, on a date designated by the Trustees. At such meetings, the Trustees, church treasurer, pastors and others designated by the Trustees also shall report on the activities of the Church, including multisite locations.

(b) Called Meetings. The Church membership may be called into special session by the Trustees for consideration or approval of items pursuant to Section 6.1 and to address any items pursuant to Section 6.7(f). The date of the called meeting is selected at the discretion of the Trustees in consultation with the church staff. A written notice of at least 10 (ten) days will be given to the members pursuant to Section 6.7 (c). When notifying the Church membership of a called meeting, the nature of the business is stated in the written notification.

(c) Presentation of Resolution. Prior to submitting any resolution—action of business—contained in section 6.1 (in these Bylaws) to the Church for a vote, the Trustees shall first present such resolutions to the membership for review and prayer. Trustees determine the best way to present the resolution. Trustees may present the resolution by written notice (such as admission of new members, electing Trustees and deacons), and/or at one or more informational meetings (such as future Church strategy, annual budget, purchase of property). A regular meeting of the Church may suffice as an informational meeting.

At such informational meetings, the last of which shall be at least seven (7) days prior to the first date on which voting shall occur, the Trustees shall provide information concerning the resolution and shall receive from the members recommendations, suggestions for amendments, and additions to or deletions from the resolution. The Trustees may amend the proposed resolution based upon the recommendations from the congregation at the informational meeting.

(d) Voting. Every member of the Church is entitled to vote at all elections and on all resolutions submitted to the Church. Voting on any item requiring the affirmative vote of the membership pursuant to the terms of the Charter and/or these Bylaws shall be by written ballot presented to the membership for voting at the regularly scheduled corporate worship services.

A valid ballot must include only one member's vote and must be signed by the member to verify membership. A sample of the ballot for any matter to be voted on by the membership, shall be available to the membership at least one week prior to the first date on which voting shall take place.

A resolution from the Trustees will be voted on in all regular worship services for two consecutive Sundays. No amendment to a resolution may be presented from the floor during the worship services at which the vote is to occur.

For any resolution or action of the membership to be approved, a quorum must be established at the meeting, which is at least ten percent (10%) of active membership of the Church. Furthermore, unless another percentage is specified in these Bylaws for the action or resolution of the membership on a specific matter, a passing vote of the membership shall be deemed to be the affirmative vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of those members in attendance and validly casting their votes submitted by paper ballot, or online. The only exception to this voting standard are Section 5.3 and Article XVII of the Bylaws. (See comment to Art. XVII.)

(e) Records. The secretary of the Church shall maintain a record of all actions taken by the members including a copy of the resolution and a record of the vote thereon. Voting ballots shall be considered confidential and shall be retained for one year following the vote.

## ARTICLE VII TRUSTEES

**7.1 Responsibility.** The Trustees of the Church serve as a lay leadership team elected by, and accountable to, the members. The Trustees are empowered by the members to ensure alignment of ministries with the Church's mission and vision, to give oversight to the ongoing operations of the Church, and to provide oversight, counsel, and support

to the pastors or staff. The Trustees serve as a liaison between the Church and the staff to integrate the total work of the Church. Membership has delegated and entrusted to the Trustees all governing authority for the Church not specifically retained by the members in the Charter or these Bylaws.

**7.2 Number.** There shall be twelve (12) Trustees.

**7.3 Tenure.** Three Trustees shall be elected annually by the Church to serve four-year terms. A Trustee may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

**7.4 Qualifications.** In seeking to fill the office of Trustee, the Church's goal is to identify those persons who have demonstrated toward Brentwood Baptist Church and God's kingdom the agape love described in I Corinthians 13. That is, Trustees are expected to have demonstrated toward the Church and its members patience, kindness, humility, and self-sacrifice. The Trustees' lives are expected to reflect the fruit of the Spirit described in Galatians 5.

In addition, a nominee must meet the following qualifications:

- (a) Be at least 25 years of age and have been a member of the Church for a minimum of three (3) years at the time service as a Trustee begins;
- (b) Reflect and have demonstrated spiritual maturity, godly wisdom, and a committed faith that evidences the lordship of Jesus Christ;
- (c) Demonstrated a consistency in stewardship with the tithe through the Church as a minimal

level of giving;

- (d) Be an active participant in the Church and have demonstrated a commitment to the mission, objective, and values of the Church;
- (e) Be willing to follow scriptural principles for conflict resolution, maintain confidentiality, and make decisions objectively without bias to particular areas of ministry;
- (f) Be viewed as demonstrating a high standard of the Christ-like life and be free from behavior that would negatively affect the ministry of the Church;
- (g) Agree with the Church's Statement of Faith as found in Section 1.4; and
- (h) A Trustee may not serve as a ministry team leader, deacon officer, member of a standing committee, or employee of the Church at the same time the person serves as Trustee (this does not preclude a Trustee from serving on appointed ad hoc committees). A person serving in one of these positions may be nominated and elected as a Trustee but must resign the conflicting position prior to assuming the role of Trustee. Immediate family members, defined as spouse, parents, or children, may not serve concurrently as Trustees.

**7.5 Nominations and Elections.** Any member of the Church may nominate a person in writing for service as a Trustee. Only those persons nominated by a member shall be included in the pool of nominees. Trustees eligible for a second term are automatically considered a nominee if the qualifications are maintained and if at least nine Trustees affirm the nomination. The Trustee chair with Trustee approval, shall name an ad hoc committee, consisting of Trustees, the deacon chair, and two other members of the Church to supervise the process of nominating Trustees and propose a slate of two (2) to four (4) names for each vacancy. The committee will report their selection of two (2) to four (4) nominees for each vacancy to the Trustees for approval and subsequent nomination to the Church.

Church voting shall occur during the last quarter of the year preceding the year in which the term of office begins. Trustees not on the ballot and the deacon Chair or deacon representative shall count the ballots and promptly announce to the Church the results of the election. Trustees elected shall assume office on January 1 of the year following their election.

**7.6 Officers of the Church.** The Trustees shall elect a chair, vice chair, and secretary from among the Trustees. For purposes of the act, these officers shall be deemed the president, vice president, and secretary of the Church, respectively. The chair of the Finance Ministry Team ("FMT") shall serve in the office of church treasurer.

**7.7 Chair of the Trustees.** The chair of the Trustees shall serve as president of the Church for purposes of Tennessee law, and shall moderate any meeting of the members or the Trustees. The chair shall have all authority incident to the office of chair and such other duties as may from time to time be prescribed by the Trustees not inconsistent with the Charter or Bylaws of

the Church. The chair may sign, with the secretary or any other proper officer authorized by the Trustees or the Church, deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, or other instruments, which the Trustees or Church has authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the members, Charter, Bylaws, or Trustees to some other officer or agent of the Church. A Trustee may not serve as chair for more than two years of their four-year term.

**7.8 Vice Chair of the Trustees.** In the absence of the chair, or in the event of his or her death, inability, or refusal to act, the vice chair shall perform the duties of chair (pending election, if necessary, of a successor chair). When so acting, the vice chair shall have all the powers of the chair, including but not limited to serving in the role of president of the Church.. The vice chair shall be the vice president of the Church.

**7.9 Secretary of the Trustees and the Church.** The secretary of the Trustees shall be the secretary of the Church and shall: keep the minutes of the proceedings of the Trustees and members in a designated file provided for that purpose; see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or as required by law; keep a register of the post office address, electronic mail address, and phone numbers

of each Trustee, which information shall be furnished to the secretary by each Trustee; and, in general, perform all duties incident to the office of secretary of the Trustees and Church. The secretary will perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him or her by the chair of the Trustees. The secretary shall be responsible for keeping a register of the names of members, with dates of admission, dismissal, or death, together with a record of baptisms. The secretary shall issue letters of dismissal approved by the Trustees pursuant to Section 6, preserve on file all communications and written official reports, and provide legal notice of all meetings of the membership where such notice is necessary, as indicated by the Charter, Bylaws, or by applicable law. The secretary may delegate clerical responsibilities to administrative personnel of the Church.

**7.10 Election of Officers.** The chair, the vice chair, and the secretary shall be elected by the Trustees for a term of office of one year or until his or her successor shall have been duly elected and qualified, or until his or her earlier death, resignation, or removal from office in the manner hereinafter provided. An officer may succeed himself or herself in his or her office.

**7.11 Removal of Officers.** Any member of the Trustees removed from office pursuant to Section 7.20 shall be automatically removed as an officer. The Trustees, by the affirmative vote of nine (9) members, may remove an officer when, in the Trustees' judgment, the best interest of the Church will be served thereby.

**7.12 Vacancy.** A Trustee vacancy, because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, termination of membership, or otherwise, may be filled by the affirmative vote of nine (9) Trustees for the unexpired portion of the term. Serving an unexpired term of less than one year shall not constitute a full term for purposes of Section 7.3. The Trustee nominating committee shall consider the individual who received the highest vote total in the last election, but was not

elected, as the vacancy candidate and shall continue in order of votes received until a candidate agrees to serve. The candidate must be voted on in a regular meeting of the Trustees by an affirmative vote of at least nine (9) Trustees. The selection results are to be announced to the Church.

**7.13 Resignation of Officer.** An officer may resign his or her office at any time by tendering his or her resignation in writing to the chair or, in the case of the resignation of the chair, to the secretary. A resignation shall become effective upon the date specified in such notice, or, if no date is specified, upon receipt of the resignation by the Church at its principal place of business.

**7.14 Salaries and Expenses.** No officer of the Church shall receive a salary or other compensation for services rendered to the Church. Reasonable expenses incurred by any officer of the Church or the Trustees in the course of coordinating the affairs of the Church shall be reimbursed by the Church upon proper substantiation.

**7.15 Meetings.** The Trustees shall meet at least quarterly at such a time and place suggested by the chair. Church staff members may also attend by invitation of the Trustees. Meetings will be announced to the membership through normal communication channels of the Church. Special meetings may be called by the chair, the senior pastor, the executive pastor, or by one-third (1/3) of the Trustees with at least a two-day notice to all Trustees.

**7.16 Notices.** Notices of regular or special meetings of the Trustees shall be given by written or electronic notice. The attendance of a Trustee at a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting. An exception would be where a Trustee attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting was not lawfully called or convened. The business to be transacted at, or the purpose of, any special meeting of the Trustees must be specified in the notice of such meeting and no other business shall be transacted at that meeting without the consent of all Trustees present.

**7.17 Quorum.** Seventy-Five percent (75%) of the current board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the current board of Trustees shall be required in order to pass any resolution or take any action of the Trustees. A Trustee absent from a meeting may not submit a proxy vote. An absent Trustee may vote by telephone if the Trustee participates in the discussion related to the vote pursuant to Section 7.18.

**7.18 Participation in Meeting.** Each Trustee shall be entitled to one vote upon any matter properly submitted for a vote to the Trustees. The Trustees may participate in a meeting of the Trustees by means of conference telephone or similar electronic communications equipment, by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear one another; and participation in a meeting pursuant to this provision shall constitute presence in person at such meeting. The Trustees shall be furnished a copy of the minutes of the meeting within ten (10) days of the meeting.



**7.19 Action without a Meeting.** Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting by the Trustees may be taken without a meeting if all Trustees consent to taking such action without a meeting. If all Trustees entitled to vote on the action shall consent to taking such action without a meeting, the affirmative vote of seventy-five percent (75%) (Section 7.17) shall be the act of the Trustees. The action must be evidenced by one or more written or electronic consents described in the action taken, signed in one or more counterparts by each Trustee entitled to vote on the action, indicating each signing Trustee's vote or abstention on the action taken. All such written consents and actions shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Trustees. A consent signed under this section shall have the same force and effect as a meeting vote of the Trustees and may be described as such in any document.

**7.20 Removal.** Any of the Trustees may be removed by a vote of nine (9) Trustees or by the action of the Membership pursuant to Section 6.7.

**7.21 Resignation.** A Trustee may resign his or her Trusteeship at any time by tendering his or her resignation in writing to the chair or, in the case of the resignation of the chair, to the secretary. A resignation shall become effective upon the date specified in such notice or, if no date is specified, upon receipt of the resignation by the Church at its principal place of business.

**7.22 Special Assignments**

The Church has delegated to the Trustees these special assignments:

- (a) Approving messengers to attend conventions or associations on behalf of the Church.
- (b) Maintaining the Church's Operations Manual, which outlines the standard operating procedures for fulfilling the intent and purposes of these Bylaws. A more detailed explanation regarding the responsibilities and relationships of committees/ teams is covered in the Church's Operations Manual
- (c) Approve for membership those who have completed the membership requirements and meet membership standards of the Church (as listed in 6.2 and 6.3).
- (d) Removing inactive members (as outlined in 6.4d)
- (e) Authorize the disposition of real property donated to the church for charitable purposes.

## ARTICLE VIII DEACONS

**8.1 Role of the Deacons.** In accordance with the meaning of the work and practice reflected in the New Testament, deacons are to be servants of the Church. The task of the deacons is to serve with the senior pastor and church staff in: performing pastoral ministries; proclaiming the gospel to believers and unbelievers; caring for church members and other persons in the

community; leading the Church by example to engage in a fellowship of worship, witness, education, ministry, and lifestyle application; and leading the Church by example in performing its task.

**8.2 Deacon Qualifications.** The qualifications for deacons shall be those New Testament standards outlined in Acts 6:1-8 and 1 Timothy 3. Deacons are expected to be models of a Christian lifestyle and commitment worthy of emulation by other members of the Church. Deacons are expected to participate in the life of the Church with a goal of ministry and service to the church body. Deacons must be of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, and willing to serve and minister to others.

Deacons also shall possess the same general qualifications required for Trustees pursuant to the provisions in Section 7.4 (a)-(g), with the exception being length of church membership which shall be one year. Deacons shall annually affirm their commitment to serve to the deacons' chair and shall serve until released by the Holy Spirit, become unfaithful in performing the deacons' ministry, or fail to meet the qualifications stated above. The chair of the deacons or pastoral leadership shall discuss these matters with any deacons failing to meet any of these requirements.

### **8.3 Deacon Ordination**

Deacons are ordained by the Church to fulfill their role as servants of the Church.

### **8.4 Deacon Officers.**

Officers of the deacons are chair, vice chair, and secretary. Multisite locations' officers consist of a chair, vice chair, and secretary.

**8.5 Deacon Nominations and Election.** Deacons shall be nominated in the following manner:

- (a) The members from all Church locations shall submit nominations upon request to the deacon chair.
- (b) The deacon chair and vice chairs from all locations, in conjunction with the respective pastors, shall review the list prior to sending it to the senior financial manager and minister assigned to deacon ministry. These shall work together to determine that nominees meet the eligibility requirements of the Bylaws as to age, length of membership, and tithing.
- (c) The deacon chair shall be notified of the qualified nominees approximately thirty (30) days after nominations are received. The deacons will personally contact each nominee to counsel with them prior to the placement of their names in nomination to serve as a deacon.
- (d) Nominees who are willing to serve will be required to meet with the senior pastor and/or his designee for orientation.
- (e) The Trustees will vote on the eligible nominees prior to the year service is to begin pursuant to Section 6.7.

(f) The term of service for deacons will begin on January 1 of the year following election.

## ARTICLE IX PASTORS AND CHURCH STAFF

**9.1 Role of Trustees.** The Trustees are responsible for supervising all church staff positions retained by the membership for approval pursuant to section 6.1(a), including the Senior Pastor.

**9.2 Definition of Pastors and Ministers.** Pastors are ministers assigned to shepherd an entity of Brentwood Baptist Church. Ministers are persons called to serve the Church by their giftedness.

**9.3 Role of the Pastors.** The Church assigns and provides opportunity for the pastors to focus on these primary roles: (1) spiritual teaching for the Church under the authority and direction of God as revealed through His Holy Spirit and the Scripture; (2) Bible study and preparation for evangelical preaching and teaching; and (3) commitment to prayer and growth in personal discipleship. The senior pastor is the principal spiritual leader called by the Church and, alongside the Trustees, shall cast and promote the mission/vision of the church and serve as mentor to all multisite pastors. The senior pastor does not supervise the executive pastor or church staff.

**9.4 Succession of the Senior Pastor.** The senior pastor shall be called by the Church based upon a vote in accordance with Sections 6.1(a) and 6.7(d). In the event of a vacancy in the position, the Trustees, after consultation with the appropriate church leadership, shall appoint a search committee to seek a suitable senior pastor. The search committee shall function as an ad hoc committee assigned to follow the scope and timeline established by the Trustees. The Trustees shall bring for consideration of the Church only one nominee at a time.

The succession plan of the senior pastor will be reviewed at least annually in connection with, and be a part of, the annual evaluation of the senior pastor by the Trustees. The senior pastor may be terminated in accordance with Section 6.7(d).

If, in the sole discretion of the Trustees, the senior pastor becomes temporarily physically or mentally incapacitated or otherwise temporarily unable to serve (including, but not limited to, Pastor being detained in another country while on mission trip due to political and/or economic matters beyond his control, etc.), the Trustees shall have full power to assume the powers and obligations of the senior pastor and to appoint an interim senior pastor until the current senior pastor regains capacity or returns to the ministry or a new senior pastor has been elected by the membership.

**9.5 Accountability of the Senior Pastor.** The senior pastor shall report to the Trustees. The Trustees, on behalf of the membership, shall serve as an accountability group for the senior pastor providing counsel and support.

**9.6 Role and Accountability of the Senior Executive Pastor.** The Senior executive pastor

shall report to the Trustees. The Church assigns to the Senior executive pastor: (1) the day-to-day administrative responsibilities of the Church; (2) the authority for overseeing and supervising the church staff; (3) responsibility for coordinating the ministries of the Church; and (4) the task of serving as the primary staff liaison with the standing committees of the Church. The Trustees, on behalf of the membership, shall serve as an accountability group for the executive pastor providing counsel and support.

**9.7 Succession of Senior Executive Pastor.** In the event of a vacancy in the Senior executive pastor position, the Trustees, after consultation with the appropriate church leadership, shall approve an Senior Executive Pastor Search Committee to seek a suitable candidate. The Senior Executive Pastor Search Committee shall serve as an ad hoc committee assigned to follow the scope and timeline established by the Trustees. The Trustees shall bring for consideration of the Church only one candidate at a time.

## ARTICLE X COMMITTEES

**10.1 Role of Trustees.** The Church has delegated to the Trustees the authority to determine on an annual basis the specific tasks, membership, terms of service, rotation plan, meetings, and name the chair and vice chair of all standing committees. Such committees shall be under the direction and serve at the pleasure of the Trustees.

**10.2 Standing Committees.** Standing committees, also known as teams, are established to assist the Trustees with oversight of key ongoing operations of the Church. Standing committees may be changed by the Trustees depending on the needs of the Church.

**10.3 Qualifications of Standing Committee Members.** Members of the standing committee shall possess the same qualifications required for Trustees pursuant to the provisions in Section 7.4 (a)-(g).

**10.4 General Scope of the Finance Ministry Team.** The Finance Ministry Team (“FMT”) serves as a lay leadership team accountable to the Trustees, and elected by the Trustees to act in a prudent manner overseeing the financial ministries of the Church. Section 7.22 (c). The Chair of the FMT shall serve as the Church treasurer pursuant to Section 11.2.

**10.5 General Scope of the Staff Resources Team.** The Staff Resources Team (“SRT”) serves as lay leadership team accountable to the trustees and are elected by the Trustees to act in a prudent manner overseeing the human resources functions of the church. Section 7.22 (c).

**10.6 General Scope of Campus Advisory Teams.** The Campus Advisory Teams serves as a lay leadership team accountable to the Trustees and are elected by the Trustees to act in a prudent manner representing the unique contexts of each regional campus. Campus Advisory Teams will consist of 3 representatives nominated by the members of each respective regional campus, who will serve in an advisory role working alongside their campus pastor and the Trustees.

**10.7 Ad Hoc Committees.** Ad Hoc Committees are established by the Trustees to assist them with short-term projects of the Church.

## ARTICLE XI FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF CHURCH OPERATIONS

**11.1 Role of Trustees.** The Trustees are responsible for the alignment of Church finances with the Church's mission and strategic objective.

**11.2 Role of Treasurer of the Church.** Pursuant to Section 10.4, the chair of the FMT shall serve as the Church treasurer. In consultation with the Trustees and executive pastor, it shall be the duty of the treasurer to:

(a) Provide oversight to the senior financial manager for the Church in the performance of his/her duties. The treasurer may delegate to the senior financial manager, or the staff any and all of the administrative and clerical duties described in this section, but exercise oversight of the duties performed. The senior financial manager shall have the primary duty to receive, preserve, and pay out, upon receipt of vouchers approved and signed by authorized personnel, all money or things of value paid or given to the Church. An itemized account of all receipts and disbursements will be kept at all times.

(b) Ensure the development of fiduciary policies

(c) Monitor the performance of the Church's fiduciary policies through the review of financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles

(d) Render to the Church a summary report of the receipts and disbursements for the preceding quarter as directed by Trustees

(e) Be responsible for the oversight of the annual independent audit of the Church's financial statements.

(f) Review financial transactions of the Church for compliance with IRS guidelines related to non-profit status

**11.3 Accounting Practices.** The FMT shall assist the executive pastor and senior financial manager in establishing and maintaining a system of accounting consistent with sound business principles and faithful stewardship.

**11.4 Financial Records and Reports.** All financial records are the property of the Church and shall be kept as permanent records of the Church. The FMT shall work with the executive pastor and senior financial manager to prepare monthly financial reports to the Trustees. Trustees shall provide quarterly financial statements for presentation to the Church.

**11.5 Church Budget.** The FMT shall supervise the development of an annual budget for the Church and submit it to the Trustees for review and approval. The Trustees shall submit the Church budget to the members for approval in accordance with Section 6.7.

**11.6 Monitoring Expenditures.** The Trustees shall work with the FMT to assist the executive pastor and senior financial manager in monitoring the receipts and expenditures of the Church. Variances from the approved budget shall be analyzed and resolved by the FMT consulting with the executive pastor and Trustees.

**11.7 Guidelines for Unbudgeted Expenditures.** Unbudgeted expenditures are those expenditures and/or commitments for which no budget has been approved by the members and/or which could impact a future budget period. All unbudgeted expenditures require the prior approval of the FMT. Any single unbudgeted expenditure that would cause the total unbudgeted expenditures for the fiscal year to exceed 1% of the approved comprehensive budget will require approval of the Trustees. Any expenditure that would cause unbudgeted expenditures to exceed 3% of the approved comprehensive budget will require approval of the members pursuant to Section 6.7.

**11.8 Guidelines for Budget Deficit.** In the event the FMT determines that a cash flow deficit has occurred or may occur, it shall consult with the executive pastor and senior financial manager to reallocate resources to ensure that actual expenditures do not exceed receipts in any budget period. Such reallocation shall be consistent with the Church's mission and vision. The FMT shall propose to the Trustees the plan for the reallocation of resources for consideration and approval. The ultimate responsibility for reallocation of the resources and/or adjustment of expenditures shall be vested in the Trustees.

**11.9 Guidelines for Budget Overage.** In the event the FMT determines that a cash flow overage has occurred or may occur, the FMT shall recommend to the Trustees the use of such overage consistent with the Church's mission and vision, debt, and long-term plans. The Trustees shall determine the use of the overage and shall report its decision to the Church.

**11.10 Annual Church Audit.** On behalf of the Church, the FMT shall engage an independent certified public accounting firm annually to audit the Church's financial statements. The audit report shall be delivered personally to the FMT and shared with the Trustees for their review and approval.

**11.11 Contracts and Employment of Agents.** Except as limited by the Charter or Bylaws, the Trustees may authorize any Trustee, officer, or agent to enter into any contract, or execute and deliver any instrument, in the name of and on behalf of the Church. The Trustees shall be specifically authorized, in their sole and reasonable discretion, to employ and pay the compensation of such agents, accountants, custodians, experts, consultants, and other counsel, legal, investment, or otherwise, as the Trustees shall deem advisable, and to delegate discretionary powers to, and rely upon information furnished by, such individuals or entities. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

**11.12 Loans.** Except as may be permitted by section 6.1(i), no loans or lines of credit nor any

amendments thereto shall be contracted on behalf of the Church, and no evidences of such indebtedness shall be issued in its name, unless authorized by a resolution of the Church.

**11.13 Checks and Drafts.** All checks, drafts, or other orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Church shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents, of the Church, and in such manner, as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Trustees.

**11.14 Deposits.** All funds of the Church not otherwise employed shall be deposited from time to time, and in a timely manner, to the credit of the Church with such banks, trust companies, brokerage firms, investment managers, or other depositories as the Trustees may from time to time select.

**11.15 Investment Authority.** The Trustees shall be authorized to retain assets contributed to the Church, even though such assets may constitute an over- concentration in one or more similar investments. Further, the Trustees shall have the authority to make investments in unproductive assets, or to hold unproductive assets to the extent necessary until it can be converted into productive assets at an appropriate time, provided the retention of such assets is in the best interest of the Church and does not in any way jeopardize the tax-exempt status of the Church.

**11.16 Church Property.** Title to all church property shall be held by the Trustees on behalf of, and in the name of, the Church.

**11.17 Church Intellectual Property.** The Church shall own all rights to all works and subsequent derivative works created within the scope of a staff member's duties that the Church has a right to direct and supervise. Trustees develop and approve intellectual property policy guidelines. Trustees, or their representatives, must approve works presented for publication outside the Church, the terms and provisions of the contracts, and promotional activity. Trustees shall approve all uses of the Church's name and likeness.

**11.18 Debt Management.** The Trustees shall work with the FMT to manage and control the Church's long-term debt.

## ARTICLE XII STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

**12.1 Standards of Conduct.** A Trustee or an officer of the Church shall discharge his or her duties as a Trustee or as an officer, including duties as a member of a committee:

- (a) In good faith
- (b) With the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances
- (c) In a manner he or she reasonably believes to be in the best interest of the Church

**12.2 Reliance on Third Parties.** In discharging his or her duties, a Trustee or officer is entitled to rely on information, opinions, reports, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, if prepared or presented by:

(a) One or more officers or employees of the Church whom the Trustee or officer reasonably believes to be reliable and competent in the matters presented;

(b) Legal counsel, public accountants, or other persons as to matters the Trustee or officer reasonably believes are within the person's professional or expert competence; or

(c) With respect to a Trustee, a committee of Trustees of which the Trustee is not a member, as to matters within its jurisdiction, if the Trustee or officer reasonably believes the committee merits confidence.

**12.3 Bad Faith.** A Trustee or officer is not acting in good faith if he or she has knowledge concerning the matter in question that makes reliance otherwise permitted by Section 12.2 unwarranted.

**12.4 No Liability.** A Trustee or officer is not liable for any action taken, or any failure to take action, as a Trustee or officer, if he or she performs the duties of his or her office in compliance with the provisions of this Article, or if he or she is immune from suit under the provisions of Section 48-58-601 of the Act. No repeal or modification of the provisions of this Section 12.4, either directly or by the adoption of a provision inconsistent with the provisions of this Section, shall adversely affect any right or protection, as set forth herein, existing in favor of a particular individual at the time of such repeal or modification.

**12.5 No Fiduciary.** No Trustee or officer shall be deemed to be a financial fiduciary with respect to the care of monies and other assets of the Church or with respect to any property held or administered by the Church, including, without limitation, property that may be subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or transferor of such property.

**12.6 Prohibition on Loans.** The Church shall make no loans to, or guarantees on behalf of, its Trustees or non-salaried officers. Any Trustee who assents to or participates in the making of any such loan and/or guarantee shall be liable to the Church for the amount until the repayment and complete discharge thereof.

## ARTICLE XIII CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

**13.1 General.** A conflict of interest transaction is a transaction with the Church in which a Trustee or officer of the Church has a direct or indirect interest. A Trustee or officer of the Church has an indirect interest in a transaction if, but not only if, a party to the transaction is another entity in which the Trustee or officer has a material interest, or of which the Trustee or officer is a general partner, director, officer, or Trustee. A conflict of interest transaction is not



voidable, or the basis for imposing liability on the Trustee or officer, if the transaction was fair at the time it was entered into, or if the transaction is approved as provided in Section 13.2. A Trustee or officer shall promptly report in writing to the chair of the Trustees (or if the chair is making the report, to the vice chair) any transaction that may constitute a conflict of interest.

**13.2 Manner of Approval.** A transaction in which a Trustee or officer of the Church has a conflict of interest may be approved if:

(a) The material facts of the transaction and the interest of the Trustee or officer were disclosed or known to the Trustees, or to a committee consisting entirely of Trustees, the transaction involves less than \$5,000 in any fiscal year, and the Trustees or such committee authorized, approved, or ratified the transaction;

(b) The material facts of the transaction and the interest of the Trustee or officer were disclosed to the members and the members authorized, approved or ratified the transaction by a vote pursuant to Section 6.7; or

(c) Approval is obtained from the Attorney General of the State of Tennessee, or from a court of record having equity jurisdiction in an action in which the Attorney General is joined as a party.

**13.3 Quorum Requirements.** For purposes of Section 13.2 (a), a conflict of interest transaction is authorized, approved, or ratified if it receives the affirmative vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the Trustees. A quorum is present for the purpose of taking action under this Article if seventy-five percent (75%) of the Trustees who have no direct or indirect interest in the transaction vote to authorize, approve, or ratify the transaction. The presence of, or vote cast by, a Trustee with a direct or indirect interest in the transaction does not affect the validity of any action taken under subsection 13.2 (a) if the transaction is otherwise approved as provided in Section 13.2. For purposes of Section 13.2 (b), a conflict of interest transaction is authorized, approved, or ratified if it receives the affirmative vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the members present and voting at a regular or special meeting, the notice for which contained notice of the vote on the conflict of interest matter.

## ARTICLE XIV INDEMNIFICATION AND ADVANCEMENT OF EXPENSES

**14.1 Mandatory Indemnification of Trustees and Officers.** To the maximum extent permitted by the provisions of Sections 48-58-501, et seq., of the Act, as amended from time to time (provided, however, that if an amendment to the Act in any way limits or restricts the indemnification rights permitted by law as of the date hereof, such amendment shall apply only to the extent mandated by law and only to activities of persons subject to indemnification under this Section which occur subsequent to the effective date of such amendment), the Church shall indemnify and advance expenses to or for the benefit of any person who is or was a Trustee or officer of the Church, or to such person's heirs, executors, administrators and legal representatives, for the defense of any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, and whether formal or

informal (any such action, suit or proceeding being hereinafter referred to as the “Proceeding”), to which such person was, is or is threatened to be made, a named defendant or respondent, which indemnification and advancement of expenses shall include counsel fees actually incurred as a result of the Proceeding or any appeal thereof, reasonable expenses actually incurred with respect to the Proceeding, all fines, judgments, penalties and amounts paid in settlement thereof, subject to the following conditions:

(a) The Proceeding was instituted by reason of the fact that such person is or was a Trustee or officer of the Church; and

(b) The Trustee or officer conducted himself or herself in good faith, and he or she reasonably believed: (1) in the case of conduct in his or her official capacity with the Church, that his or her conduct was in its best interest; (2) in all other cases, that his or her conduct was at least not opposed to the best interests of the Church; and (3) in the case of any criminal proceeding, that he or she had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. The termination of a proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent is not, of itself, determinative that the Trustee or officer did not meet the standard of conduct herein described.

**14.2 Permissive Indemnification of Employees and Agents.** The Church may, to the maximum extent permitted by the provisions of Section 48-58-501, et seq., of the Act, as amended from time to time (provided, however, that if an amendment to the Act in any way limits or restricts the indemnification rights permitted by law as of the date hereof, such amendment shall apply only to the extent mandated by law and only to activities of persons subject to indemnification under this Section which occur subsequent to the effective date of such amendment), indemnify and advance expenses in a Proceeding on behalf of any person who is or was an employee or agent of the

Church, or to such person’s heirs, executors, administrators and legal representatives, to the same extent as set forth in Section 14.1 above, provided that the Proceeding was instituted by reason of the fact that such person is or was an employee or agent of the Church and met the standards of conduct set forth in subsection 14.1(b) above. The Church may also indemnify and advance expenses in a Proceeding on behalf of any person who is or was an employee or agent of the Church to the extent, consistent with public policy, as may be provided by the Charter, by these Bylaws, by contract, or by general or specific action of the Trustees.

**14.3 Non-Exclusive Application.** The rights to indemnification and advancement of expenses set forth in Sections 14.1 and 14.2 above are contractual between the Church and the person being indemnified, and his or her heirs, executors, administrators, and legal representatives, and are not exclusive of other similar rights of indemnification or advancement of expenses to which such person may be entitled, whether by contract, by law, by the Charter, by a resolution of the Trustees, by these Bylaws, by the purchase and maintenance by the Church of insurance on behalf of a Trustee, officer, employee, or agent of the Church, or by an agreement with the Church providing for such indemnification, all of which means of indemnification and advancement of expenses are hereby specifically authorized.

**14.4 Non-Limiting Application.** The provisions of this Article XIV shall not limit the power of the Church to pay or reimburse expenses incurred by a Trustee, officer, employee, or agent of the Church in connection with such person's appearing as a witness in a Proceeding at a time when he or she has not been made a named defendant or respondent to the Proceeding.

**14.5 Prohibited Indemnification.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article XIV, the Church shall not indemnify or advance expenses to or on behalf of any Trustee, officer, employee, or agent of the Church, or such person's heirs, executors, administrators or legal representatives:

(a) If a judgment or other final adjudication adverse to such person establishes his or her liability for any breach of the duty of loyalty to the Church, for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, or under Section 48-58-304 of the Act;

(b) In connection with a Proceeding by or in the right of the Church in which such person was adjudged liable to the Church; or

(c) In connection with any other Proceeding charging improper personal benefit to such person, whether or not involving action in his or her official capacity, in which he or she was adjudged liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received by him or her.

**14.6 Repeal or Modification Not Retroactive.** No repeal or modification of the provisions of this Article XIV, either directly or by the adoption of a provision inconsistent with the provisions of this Article, shall adversely affect any right or protection, as set forth herein, existing in favor of a particular individual at the time of such repeal or modification.

## ARTICLE XV NOTICES AND WAIVER OF NOTICE

Unless otherwise provided herein, the notices provided for in these Bylaws shall be communicated to the members through normal church communication method, including the electronic worship bulletin, electronic mail, posting on the church website or announcing during regular worship services. Actions requiring a vote of the membership pursuant to Section 6.7 shall be noticed by email written notice in addition to the normal church communication methods.. Whenever any notice is required to be given to any Trustee, officer, or committee member of the Church under the provisions of the Charter, these Bylaws, or the Act, a waiver thereof in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

## ARTICLE XVI FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Church shall begin on the first day of October and end on the last day of September, or on such other date as may be fixed from time to time by the Trustees.

## ARTICLE XVII AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws and the Charter may be altered, amended, or repealed, and a new Charter or Bylaws adopted, upon the affirmative vote of seventy-five (75%) percent of the members present and voting pursuant to Section 6.7, except to the extent that such alteration, amendment, or repeal is inconsistent with Article XVIII hereof.

## ARTICLE XVIII EXEMPT STATUS

The Church has been organized and will be operated exclusively for exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Code and, as such, will be exempt from taxation under Section 501(a) of the Code.

## ARTICLE XIX MISCELLANEOUS

### **Section 1. Interpretation.**

For the purpose of construing these Bylaws, unless the context indicates otherwise, words in the singular number shall be deemed to include words in the plural and vice versa, and words in one gender shall be deemed to include words in the other gender.

### **Section 2. Headings & Titles.**

The headings or titles used in these Bylaws are only for the convenience of the reader and shall not be construed to modify or qualify the contents of these Bylaws.

### **Section 4. Governing Law & Construction.**

These Bylaws and Constitution are governed by and to be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee, notwithstanding any conflict of laws principles thereto. Should any matter of Biblical interpretation or construction arise out of or relating to these Bylaws, the *Christian Standard Bible* controls.

## ARTICLE XX DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The intent of the Church is that disputes which may arise between its members, Trustees, deacons, officers, pastors, committee members, volunteers, and employees, and between any of the foregoing, which cannot be resolved privately, should be resolved outside of the judiciary system (court) which may otherwise have jurisdiction over such disputes. With the noted exception below, by voluntarily continuing membership, volunteer status, association, or employment in/with the Church, each of the foregoing do hereby agree to be bound by the alternative dispute resolution process, stated as follows:

We believe differences or conflicts should bring receptivity to change and growth, not litigation. Therefore, in the highly unlikely event that we are ever unable to resolve a dispute between us, you shall join us in attempting to resolve the dispute without litigation. By

continuing your membership in the church, you are agreeing with us that we believe that the Bible commands us to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian church (see Matthew 18:15-20; I Corinthians 6:1-8). Therefore, it is agreed that any claim or dispute arising from or related to your membership or association with the Church shall be settled by biblically-based mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute for Christian Conciliation™, a division of Peacemaker® Ministries (complete text of Rules is available at [www.HisPeace.org](http://www.HisPeace.org)). Venue for arbitration shall be in Williamson County, Tennessee, and governing law shall be Tennessee law. Judgment upon an arbitration decision may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction, in conformity with the laws of the State of Tennessee. By voluntarily continuing your membership or association with the Church, you and the Church understand and agree that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising out of these Bylaws and the Charter and your membership or association with the Church, and you expressly waive the right to file a lawsuit in any civil court against one another for such disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision.

This dispute resolution provision does not apply to those matters which the church or any person may be required by law to report to the authorities (including, but not limited to, reporting to the Police, Sheriff, or Department of Social Services, Child Protective Division), including, but not limited to, allegations or suspicions of abuse of a minor. Pursuant to applicable law, the Church and certain individuals are required to report certain suspected and known instances of juvenile abuse to the authorities, and therefore cannot be bound by any alternative dispute resolution process as to the reporting of the matter to the authorities.

This dispute resolution provision shall survive the termination of a member's membership, volunteer or association status, or employment in/with the Church.

# FOURTH AMENDED AND RESTATED CHARTER OF BRENTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

## ARTICLE I NAME AND FILING

The name of the corporation is Brentwood Baptist Church (hereinafter referred to as the “Church”). This Amended and Restated Charter of the Church is being filed pursuant to the Tennessee Non-Profit Corporation Act as amended from time to time (the “Act”). The original Charter was filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Tennessee on the 8th day of April, 1969. The Amended and Restated Charter was filed with the Secretary of State on the 9th day of December, 2015.

## ARTICLE II NOT FOR PROFIT PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION

The Church is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation. It is intended that the Church shall have the status of a corporation that is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or any corresponding provisions of any future federal tax laws (hereinafter referred to as the “Code”), as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

## ARTICLE III OFFICE AND REGISTERED AGENT

The registered office of the Church is located at 7777 Concord Road, Brentwood, Tennessee 37027, County of Williamson; and the registered agent at this address is the senior executive pastor. The principal office of the Church is located at 7777 Concord Road, Brentwood, Tennessee, 37027.

## ARTICLE IV MEMBERS

The Church is a religious organization within the meaning of Tennessee Code Annotated Section 48-67-101. The Church will have members (“Members”). Membership shall be determined in accordance with the Bylaws of the Church.

## ARTICLE V PURPOSE

The purpose of the Church is to be a dynamic spiritual organism empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in Middle Tennessee and throughout the world. In pursuit of this purpose, the Church shall be a worshipping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing His person, and responding in obedience to His leadership. The Church will use its gifts, talents, and resources to help people experience a growing knowledge of God and to minister unselfishly to persons in the community and in the world in the name of Jesus Christ. The Church shall be a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ personally committed to sharing the Good News of salvation to lost people. The ordinances of the Church are baptism by immersion and the Lord’s Supper.

The Church uses as its Statement of Faith the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, the Church shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation organized as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Tennessee pursuant to the Act which is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), contributions to which are deductible under Sections 170(c)(2), 2055(a) and 2522(a) of the Code.

## ARTICLE VI MEMBERS AUTHORITY

Governance of the Church is ultimately vested in the Members in a congregational form of church governance. The Members have chosen to delegate substantial authority to the Trustees as described in Article VII below and the Bylaws. The Members retain sole authority with regard to each of the following matters as provided in the Bylaws:

- (a) Calling and dismissing the senior pastor
- (b) Nominating deacons
- (c) Electing Trustees
- (d) Approving the Church's mission, objective, values, statement of faith, and ordinances
- (e) Adopting and amending the Church's Charter and Bylaws
- (f) Approving the Church's annual budget
- (g) Purchasing, selling, or encumbering real property
- (h) Relocating the principal office of the Church
- (i) Borrowing money other than consistent with the approved annual Church budget
- (j) Establishing a new church campus or merging with an existing one.

## ARTICLE VII TRUSTEES

The affairs of the Church are to be managed by Trustees that shall act as directors of the Church and by such officers as shall be described in the Bylaws of the Church. The Trustees shall be comprised of not less than three (3) and not more than twelve (12) persons. All Trustees shall be members of the Church. Trustees shall be elected by the members in accordance with the Bylaws. The Trustees are authorized to act on behalf of the Church in all matters not specifically retained by the members in Article VI above.

## ARTICLE VIII LIMITED PERSONAL LIABILITY OF TRUSTEES

No person who is or was a Trustee of the Church nor such person's heirs, executors, administrators, or legal representatives (collectively referred to as a "Trustee") shall be personally liable to the Church for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a Trustee; provided, however, that this provision shall not eliminate or limit the liability of a Trustee (a) for any breach of a Trustee's duty of loyalty to the Church, (b) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, or (c) under Section 48-58-304 of the Act. No repeal or modification of the provisions of this Article, either directly or by the adopting of provisions inconsistent with the provisions of this Article, shall adversely affect any right or protection, as set forth herein, existing in favor of a particular individual at the time of such repeal or modification.

## ARTICLE IX INDEMNIFICATION AND ADVANCEMENT OF EXPENSES

**9.1 Mandatory Indemnification of Trustees and Officers.** To the maximum extent permitted by provisions of Section 48-58-501, et. seq., of the Act, as amended from time to time (provided, however that if an amendment to the Act in any way limits or restricts the indemnification rights permitted by law as of the date hereof, such amendment shall apply only to the extent mandated by law and only to activities and persons subject to indemnification of this paragraph 1 which occurs subsequent to the effective date of such amendment), the Church shall indemnify and advance expenses to or for the benefit of any person who is or was a Trustee or officer of the Church, or to such person's heirs, executors, administrators, and legal representatives, for the defense of any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative and whether formal or informal (any such action, suit or proceeding being hereinafter referred to as the "Proceeding"), to which such person was, is, or is threatened to be made, a named defendant or respondent, which indemnification and advancement of expenses shall include counsel fees actually incurred as a result of the Proceeding or any appeal thereof, reasonable expenses actually incurred with respect to the Proceeding, all fines, judgments, penalties, and amounts paid in settlement thereof, subject to the following limitations:

(a) The Proceeding was instituted by reason of the fact that such person is or was a Trustee or officer of the Church

(b) The Trustee or officer conducted himself or herself in good faith, and he or she reasonably believed: (1) in the case of conduct in his or her official capacity with



the Church, that his or her conduct was in its best interest; (2) in all other cases, that his or her conduct was at least not opposed to the best interest of the Church; and (3) in the case of any criminal proceeding, that he or she had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. The termination of a Proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent is not, of itself, determinative that the Trustee or officer did not meet the standard of conduct herein described.

**9.2 Permissive Indemnification of Employees and Agent.** The Church may, to the maximum extent permitted by the provisions of Section 48-58-501, et. seq., of the Act, as amended from time to time (provided, however, that if an amendment to the Act in any way limits or restricts the indemnification rights provided by law as of the date

hereof, such amendment shall apply only to the extent mandated by law and only to activities of persons subject to indemnification under this paragraph 2 which occurs subsequent to the effective date of such amendment), indemnify and advance expenses in a Proceeding to any person who is or was an employee or agent of the Church, or to such person's heirs, executors, administrators, and legal representatives, to the extent as set forth in paragraph 1 above, provided that the Proceeding was initiated by reason of the fact that such person is or was an employee of the Church and met the standards of conduct set forth in subparagraph 1(b) above. The Church may also indemnify in advance of a Proceeding a person who is or was an employee or agent of the Church to the extent, consistent with public policy, as would be provided by its Bylaws, by contract, or by general or specific action by the Trustees.

**9.3 Nonexclusive Application.** The rights to indemnification and advancement of expenses set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 above are contractual between the Church and the person being indemnified, and his or her heirs, executors, administrators, and legal representatives, and are not exclusive of other similar rights of indemnification or advancement of expenses to which such person may be entitled, whether by law, by this Charter, by a resolution by the Trustees, by the Bylaws of the Church, by the purchase and maintenance of the Church of insurance on behalf of a Trustee, officer, employer or agent of the Church, or by an agreement with the Church providing for such indemnification, all of which means of indemnification and advancement of expenses are hereby specifically authorized.

**9.4 Non-limiting Application.** The provisions of this Article IX shall not limit the

power of the Church to pay or reimburse expenses incurred by a Trustee, officer, employee, or agent of the Church in connection with such persons appearing as a witness in a Proceeding at a time when he or she has not been made a named defendant or respondent to the Proceeding.

**9.5 Prohibited Indemnification.** Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Article IX, the Church shall not indemnify or advance expenses to or on behalf of any Trustee, officer, employee, or agent of the church, or any person's heirs, executors, administrators, or legal representatives: if (a) a judgment or other final adjudicator adverse to such person establishes his or her liability for any breach of the duty of loyalty to the Church, for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, or under Section 48-58-304 of the Act: (b) in connection with a Proceeding by or in the right of the Church in which such person was adjudicated liable to the Church: or (c) in connection with any other Proceeding charging improper personal benefit to such person whether or not involving action in his or her official capacity in which he or she was adjudged liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received by him or her.

**9.6 Repeal or Modification Not Retroactive.** No repeal or modification of the provisions of this Article IX, either directly or by the adoption of a provision inconsistent with the provisions of this Article IX shall adversely affect any right or protection, as set forth herein, existing in favor of a particular individual at the time of such repeal or modification.

#### ARTICLE X NO PRIVATE INUREMENT

No part of the net earnings of the Church shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, the Trustees, officers or other private persons. However, the Church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered to it or on its behalf, pay reimbursement for expenses incurred on its behalf, and make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article V hereof.

#### ARTICLE XI NO LEGISLATIVE OR POLITICAL ACTIVITY

No substantial part of the activities of the Church shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation; and the Church shall

not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

#### ARTICLE XII DISTRIBUTIONS ON DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the Church, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the Church then outstanding and unpaid, the Trustees shall distribute the assets of the Church exclusively for the religious purposes of the Church within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, in such manner as the membership of the Church shall determine in accordance with the Bylaws. Any assets not so distributed shall be distributed to one or more organizations then described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code and Section 170(c)(2) of the Code as the Trustees shall determine. Any assets not so disposed of by the Trustees shall be disposed of by a court having equity jurisdiction in the county in which the principal office of the Church is then located, with the distribution of assets to be made for such charitable purposes then described under Section 170(c)(1) of the Code or such organization or organizations then described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code and Section 170(c)(2) of the Code as such court shall determine

#### ARTICLE XIII ADOPTION AND EFFECTIVE DATE

This Amended and Restated Charter was approved by a vote of ninety-nine percent (99%) of the members present and voting pursuant to a resolution adopted at regular worship services on December 10 and 17, 2017. This Amended and Restated Charter shall be effective upon filing with the Secretary of State of the State of Tennessee.

# 2000 BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE

## I. The Scriptures

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

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

## II. God

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

### A. God the Father

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

[Genesis 1:1](#); [2:7](#); [Exodus 3:14](#); [6:2-3](#); [15:11ff.](#); [20:1ff.](#); [Leviticus 22:2](#); [Deuteronomy 6:4](#); [32:6](#); [1 Chronicles 29:10](#); [Psalm 19:1-3](#); [Isaiah 43:3,15](#); [64:8](#); [Jeremiah 10:10](#); [17:13](#); [Matthew 6:9ff.](#); [7:11](#); [23:9](#); [28:19](#); [Mark 1:9-11](#); [John 4:24](#); [5:26](#); [14:6-13](#); [17:1-8](#); [Acts 1:7](#); [Romans 8:14-15](#); [1 Corinthians 8:6](#); [Galatians 4:6](#); [Ephesians 4:6](#); [Colossians 1:15](#); [1 Timothy 1:17](#); [Hebrews 11:6](#); [12:9](#); [1 Peter 1:17](#); [1 John 5:7](#).

### B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His

substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

[Genesis 18:1ff.](#); [Psalms 2:7ff.](#); [110:1ff.](#); [Isaiah 7:14](#); [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 Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **VI. The Church**

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its two scriptural offices are that of pastor/elder/overseer and deacon. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## VIII. The Lord's Day

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

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

## IX. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

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

[Revelation 1:6,9](#); [5:10](#); [11:15](#); [21-22](#).

## X. Last Things

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

[Isaiah 2:4](#); [11:9](#); [Matthew 16:27](#); [18:8-9](#); [19:28](#); [24:27,30,36,44](#); [25:31-46](#); [26:64](#); [Mark 8:38](#); [9:43-48](#); [Luke 12:40,48](#); [16:19-26](#); [17:22-37](#); [21:27-28](#); [John 14:1-3](#); [Acts 1:11](#); [17:31](#); [Romans 14:10](#); [1 Corinthians 4:5](#); [15:24-28,35-58](#); [2 Corinthians 5:10](#); [Philippians 3:20-21](#); [Colossians 1:5](#); [3:4](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:14-18](#); [5:1ff.](#); [2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.](#); [2](#); [1](#)



[Timothy 6:14](#); [2 Timothy 4:1,8](#); [Titus 2:13](#); [Hebrews 9:27-28](#); [James 5:8](#); [2 Peter 3:7ff.](#); [1 John 2:28](#); [3:2](#); [Jude 14](#); [Revelation 1:18](#); [3:11](#); [20:1-22:13](#).

## **XI. Evangelism and Missions**

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

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

## **XII. Education**

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

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

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

## **XIII. Stewardship**

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to

them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

[Genesis 14:20](#); [Leviticus 27:30-32](#); [Deuteronomy 8:18](#); [Malachi 3:8-12](#); [Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21](#); [19:21](#); [23:23](#); [25:14-29](#); [Luke 12:16-21, 42](#); [16:1-13](#); [Acts 2:44-47](#); [5:1-11](#); [17:24-25](#); [20:35](#); [Romans 6:6-22](#); [12:1-2](#); [1 Corinthians 4:1-2](#); [6:19-20](#); [12](#); [16:1-4](#); [2 Corinthians 8-9](#); [12:15](#); [Philippians 4:10-19](#); [1 Peter 1:18-19](#).

#### **XIV. Cooperation**

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

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

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

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ.

In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

[Exodus 20:3-17](#); [Leviticus 6:2-5](#); [Deuteronomy 10:12](#); [27:17](#); [Psalm 101:5](#); [Micah 6:8](#); [Zechariah 8:16](#); [Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48](#); [22:36-40](#); [25:35](#); [Mark 1:29-34](#); [2:3ff.](#); [10:21](#); [Luke 4:18-21](#); [10:27-37](#); [20:25](#); [John 15:12](#); [17:15](#); [Romans 12-14](#); [1 Corinthians 5:9-10](#); [6:1-7](#); [7:20-24](#); [10:23-11:1](#); [Galatians 3:26-28](#); [Ephesians 6:5-](#)

[9](#); [Colossians 3:12-17](#); [1 Thessalonians 3:12](#); *Philemon*; [James 1:27](#); [2:8](#).

## **XVI. Peace and War**

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

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

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

## **XVII. Religious Liberty**

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

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

## **XVIII. The Family**

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

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

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

is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents. [Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; Psalms 127; Psalms 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.](#)