

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF
THE CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

So that things may be done decently and in order, and that we may more readily help each other in our Christian service, we declare and establish this constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLE 1 - NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1.01 - NAME

This congregation of believers shall be known as the CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH (hereinafter "Church").

SECTION 1.02 - PURPOSE

The Church is organized exclusively for religious, charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or such other corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law.) This may include, but not be limited to, establishing and maintaining religious worship and education, building and operating churches, and any other ministries and the maintaining of missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country, that the Church may be led of God to establish or support.

ARTICLE 2 - STATEMENT OF FAITH

SECTION 2.01 - AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Statement of Faith referred to below is not an exhaustive description of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole, authoritative and final source of all that we believe. Since the Statement of Faith accurately represent the teaching of the Bible, it is, therefore, binding upon all members of the Church. All literature used and teachings given in the church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith.

SECTION 2.02 - STATEMENT OF FAITH

- A. **The Holy Scriptures.** We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible and God-breathed and, therefore, are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning. The King James Version of the Bible shall be the official and only translation used in public preaching and teaching by the Church. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- B. **Dispensationalism.** We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these dispensations-the law, the church, and the kingdom-are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture. (Gen. 1:28; 1 Cor. 9:17; 2 Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. 1:10; 3:2-10; Col. 1:24-25, 27; Rev. 20:2-6)
- C. **The Godhead.** We believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three persons-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deut. 6:4; Mat. 28:19; John 14:10, 26; 2 Cor. 13:14)
- D. **The Person and Work of Christ.**
1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8)
 2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; Eph. 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2:24)
 3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Acts 1:9-10; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2)

E. **The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.**

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ (See I. 1.), indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (John 16:7-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14)
2. We believe that He is the divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit. (Eph. 1:17-18; 5:18; 1 John 2:20-27)
3. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order that they can do the work of the ministry. (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12)
4. We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing, were temporary. Speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the filling of the Holy Spirit. Ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing. (1 Cor. 1:22; 13:8; 14:21-22)

F. **The Depravity of Man.** We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God; but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. Man is depraved and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19)

G. **Salvation.** We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. We believe that all sins, except blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, are forgivable. (Mat. 12:31-37; John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 John 1:9)

H. **The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers.**

1. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet. 1:4-5)
2. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word and the inner working of the Holy Spirit, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15)

I. **The Church.**

1. We believe that the local church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons who have been scripturally baptized. (1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27)

2. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)
 3. We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control. (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1, 4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; 1 Peter 5:1-4)
 4. We recognize water baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the church in this age. (Mat. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 8:36-38; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)
 - i. The Lord's Supper is celebrated with only our members at Central Baptist Church using unleavened bread and grape juice (Mat. 26:20-30).
- J. **Separation.** We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord. God commands His people to separate from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations, and to refrain from all immodest and immoderate appearances. (Lev. 19:28; Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 6:14; 7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11)
- K. **The Second Advent of Christ.** We believe in that blessed hope, the personal, imminent return of Christ, Who will rapture His church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the nation of Israel. (Ps. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; 1 Thess. 1:10, 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6)
- L. **The Eternal State.**
1. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Mat. 25:46; John 5:28, 29; 11:25; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13)
 2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6)
 3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with spirit, soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment. (Mat. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15)
- M. **The Devil or Satan.** We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, the Devil, and that he was created by God as an angel but through pride and rebellion became the enemy of his Creator; that he became the unholy god of this age and the ruler of all the powers of darkness and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the Lake of Fire. (Mat. 4:1-11; 2 Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:10)

- N. **Creation.** We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin. (Gen. 1-2; Exodus 20:11)
- O. **Civil Government.** We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: (1) the home, (2) the church, and (3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-14)
- P. **Human Sexuality.**
1. 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 homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)
 2. We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)
- Q. **Family Relationships.**
1. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)
 2. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are an heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7)
- R. **Divorce and Remarriage.** We believe that God disapproves of and forbids divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon. (Mal. 2:14-17; Mat. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6)

- S. **Abortion.** We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well being of the mother are acceptable. (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)
- T. **Euthanasia.** We believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death. Thus we believe that an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder contrary to the will of God. Discounting medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be a legitimate refusal of over-zealous treatment. (Ex. 20:13, 23:7; Mat. 5:21; Acts 17:28)
- U. **Love.** We believe we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward both those who are not believers, those who oppose us, and those who engage in sinful actions. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or the use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions. (Lev. 19:18; Mat. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10, 17-21; 13:8-10; Phil. 2:2-4; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; 1 John 3:17-18)
- V. **Lawsuits Between Believers.** We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)
- W. **Missions.** We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us. (Mat. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20)
- X. **Giving.** We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to financially support his local church. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of his tithe or offering once the gift has been made. (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)

ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 3.01 - QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Upon a majority vote of the members present at any church service or meeting, membership shall be extended to all who have had and whose lives evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; who renounce sin; who endeavor to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord; who fully subscribe to the Statement of Faith contained herein; who agree to submit to the authority of the church and its leaders as set forth herein; and upon compliance with any one of the following conditions:

- A. By Baptism (immersion) as a true believer in Christ Jesus as personal Savior. The baptism is to be administered by the pastor or an approved member authorized by the Central Baptist Church;
- B. By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing Baptist church of like faith and practice, or other written statement of good standing from the prior church if the applicant has been baptized by immersion subsequent to a profession of faith;
- C. By testimony of faith, having been baptized by immersion by a Bible-believing Baptist church of like faith and practice; or
- D. By restoration, if having been removed from membership, upon majority vote of the congregation after confession is made publicly before the church membership of the sin or sins involved, and satisfactorily evidencing repentance to the pastor and board of deacons (or the board of deacons if the office of pastor is vacant).

SECTION 3.02 - DUTIES OF A MEMBER

On becoming a member of this church each member further covenants to pray for the pastor; to recognize his authority in spiritual affairs of the church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the church; to support the church in prayer, tithes, offerings and with other financial support as the Lord enables; and in accordance with Biblical commands, to support through a lifestyle walk affirming the beliefs and practices of the church.

SECTION 3.03 - PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

- A. Only members, at least eighteen years of age who are physically present at a duly-called meeting of the church shall be entitled to vote. There shall be no proxy or absentee voting. The eligible membership of the church has certain limited areas to exercise a vote. Members may not vote to initiate any church action, rather the vote of a member is to confirm or deny the direction of the church as determined by the pastor and the board of deacons.
- B. This congregation functions as a body under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the pastor as the under-shepherd with the counsel of the board of deacons. Determinations of the internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church's own rules and procedures. The pastor shall oversee and/or conduct all aspects of this church. The board of deacons shall give counsel and assistance to the pastor as requested by him.

- C. Membership in this church does not afford the members with any property, contractual, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Although the general public is invited to all of the church's worship services the church property remains private property. The pastor (or in his absence, an individual designated by the board of deacons) has the authority to suspend or revoke the right of any person, including a member, to enter or remain on church property. If after being notified of such a suspension or revocation, the person enters or remains on church property, the person may, in the discretion of the pastor (or in his absence, an individual designated by the board of deacons), be treated as a trespasser.
- D. A member may inspect or copy the prepared financial statements of the church and the minutes of the proceedings of church meetings and of board meetings, provided he shall have made a written request upon the church and the church has received the written request at least five business days before the requested inspection date.
 - 1. A member may not, under any circumstances, inspect or copy any record relating to individual contributions to the church, the list of names and addresses of the church members, or the accounting books and financial records of the church.
 - 2. The church may impose a reasonable charge, covering the costs of labor and material, for copies of any documents provided to the member before releasing the copies to the member.
- E. The pastor and the board of deacons must approve any and all non-member participation in church ministries.

SECTION 3.04 - DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER

Members may be disciplined for willful and continued moral lapse, for willful and continued doctrinal deviation from the Statement of Faith. The matter of discipline shall be in the hands of the pastor, with advice and counsel from the board of deacons. Dismissal or expulsion of a member may only be made by recommendation of the pastor followed by a majority vote of members present at a regularly scheduled church service. No member shall be expelled until reasonable effort has been made to restore the erring member to fellowship and willful obedience to the Bible and Statement of Faith so that the Lord may be glorified. Restoration of membership shall occur in accordance with *Section 3.01 (D)*.

SECTION 3.05 - TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Members not under the disciplinary process of *Section 3.04* may request that letters of transfer be sent to another church upon a majority vote of the members present at any church service or meeting.

SECTION 3.06 - TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- A. The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member in question has not attended a regular worship service of the church in the preceding six months. Upon good cause being shown to the pastor, this provision for termination may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the pastor and board of deacons.

- B. The church roll will be reviewed each year during the January and July deacons meetings.
- C. No member of this church may hold membership in another church. The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member unites in membership with another church.
- D. The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member states that he or she is actively involved in any conduct described in *Section 2.02 (P)* or files a lawsuit in violation of *Section 2.02 (V)*.
- E. No provision contained in this section shall be subject to or governed by the procedures regarding discipline of members set forth in *Section 3.04*.
- F. A member may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such resignation, except at the discretion of the pastor and board of deacons.
- G. Termination of all members will be approved upon a majority vote of the members present at any church service or meeting.

ARTICLE 4 - OFFICERS

SECTION 4.01 - CHURCH OFFICERS

The church officers are pastor (*See Section 5.01*), deacon (*See Section 5.02*), trustee (*See Section 5.03*), church clerk (*See Section 5.04*), and church treasurer (*See Section 5.05*). One person may hold two or more offices, except that of pastor. The pastor, from time to time as he deems appropriate, may appoint other church officers, subject to a confirmation vote of the church membership.

SECTION 4.02 - DESIGNATION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church, the pastor shall serve as president of the corporation; the church clerk shall serve as secretary of the corporation; the church treasurer shall serve as treasurer of the corporation; and the chairman of the board of deacons shall serve as vice president of the corporation.

SECTION 4.03 - ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

- A. The church shall not install or retain an officer who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith. All church officers, upon request of the pastor, shall affirm their agreement with the Statement of Faith (as set forth in Article 2).
- B. All church officers must be approved initially by the pastor and the church and thereafter annually by the pastor in order for them to commence or continue in their offices.
- C. Only church members are eligible for election or appointment to any church office.

SECTION 4.04 - TERMS OF OFFICE

- A. The relationship between the pastor and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party by the giving of a month's notice, or less by mutual consent. The calling of a pastor or severance of the relationship between the pastor and the church may be considered at any regular church business meeting, provided notice to that effect shall have been given from the pulpit to the church two Sundays prior to said regular church business meeting. A three-fourths majority of the eligible members present and voting shall be required to call a pastor or to sever the relationship between the pastor and the church. Disciplinary removal of the pastor from the office automatically terminates his membership. A restoration to membership after disciplinary removal will be subject to the requirements of *Section 3.01 (D)*.
- B. A vacancy occurring in any office or board, except in the case of the pastor, may be filled at any church business meeting.
- C. All elected and appointed officers shall serve in their respective offices until their successors are duly elected or appointed.
- D. Members of the board of deacons may be removed from office for unbiblical conduct, as determined by the other board members and pastor, upon a majority vote of the remaining members of the board of deacons.

SECTION 4.05 - PASTORAL OVERSIGHT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

- A. Subject to the three-fourths majority approval of the church membership and on the condition that they shall become a member of the church upon assuming their duties, the pastor may hire ministerial associates and assistants to assist him in carrying out his God-given responsibilities.
- B. All church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the pastor.
- C. Dismissal of the staff member may be made with cause by the pastor or upon a three-fourths majority vote of the church members present and voting at any regular church business meeting, provided notice to that effect shall have been given from the pulpit to the church two Sundays prior to said regular church business meeting.

ARTICLE 5 - DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS

SECTION 5.01 - THE PASTOR

- A. The pastor shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him. He shall administer the ordinances of the church, act as moderator at all church meetings for the transaction of church matters, supervise the teaching ministries of the church, and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership.
- B. The pastor shall appoint the members of the various committees at any quarterly church business meeting. He shall serve as the president of the corporation. He shall publicly inform all newly elected officers of the particular function and the responsibilities of their respective offices. He shall extend the right hand of fellowship to all new members on behalf of the church, and perform such other duties as generally appertain to such a position. The pastor shall be free to choose the means and methods by which he exercises the ministry that God has given him.
- C. All appointments for public worship and Bible study and the arrangements thereof, including time and place and the use of property belonging to the church for purposes other than the stated appointments, shall be under the control of the pastor.

SECTION 5.02 - THE BOARD OF DEACONS

- A. The board of deacons shall assist the pastor, in such manner as he shall request, in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church, in conducting the religious services, and in performing all other work of the church. They shall make provision for the observance of the ordinances of the church. They shall, if requested by the pastor, consider applications for church membership. They shall, in cooperation with the pastor, disburse the benevolence fund. They shall assist the pastor in visitation and all other evangelistic efforts of the church. The board of deacons shall assist the pastor in caring for the administrative needs of the church's various ministries as requested by the pastor. They shall provide the pulpit supply and choose a moderator for church meetings if the pastor is unavailable or the office of pastor is vacant. Upon the death, resignation, or dismissal of the pastor, the board of deacons may appoint a pulpit committee.
- B. Upon the pastor approving the candidate for installation and the three-fourths majority of the eligible members present and voting, the pastor shall install a deacon ordained by the Central Baptist Church or a deacon who was previously ordained by a Bible-believing Baptist church of like faith and practice.
- C. The board of deacons shall assemble and elect, from their own number, a chairman who shall be vice president of the corporation, a vice chairman, and a secretary.

SECTION 5.03 - THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- A. The annual election of trustees by the church membership shall occur during the month of July at the quarterly church business meeting.
- B. A chairman, vice chairman, and secretary of the trustees shall be elected by the trustee board at the first trustee meeting following the election of new trustee board members.
- C. The chairman of the trustees shall act as moderator of the trustee meetings. The vice chairman shall act as moderator of the trustee meetings in the absence of the chairman. The secretary shall keep minutes of each meeting and present the minutes for review at the following trustee meeting.
- D. The initial trustees shall be selected by the Pastor and presented to the church for a majority vote of approval. Trustees shall be selected by the recommendation of the Pastor in conjunction with the board of trustees and presented to the church in the July church business meeting.
- E. Trustees shall serve for a three-year term and can be reconsidered for office after one year of absence from the board.
- F. The board of trustees shall exercise only the following specific powers, upon authorization by a majority vote of the members present at a duly-called church business meeting:
 - 1. To purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the church.
 - 2. To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of the church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges.
 - 3. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation.
 - 4. The board of trustees shall have authority to make such expenditures as are necessary to maintain the property under its control. However, should any expenditure exceed five thousand (\$5,000.00) dollars, the board of trustees shall obtain the concurrence of the membership by majority vote of the church membership at a church business meeting.
 - 5. The board of trustees of the Central Baptist Church will also act as the Board of Trustees for the Central Baptist Academy.
 - 6. The board of trustees have the sole authority to hire and dismiss Central Baptist Academy staff with the input of the Central Baptist Academy administrator.

SECTION 5.04 - THE CHURCH CLERK

The church clerk shall:

- A. Certify and keep at the office of the church, the original bylaws or a copy, including all amendments or alterations to the bylaws.
- B. Keep at the place where the bylaws or a copy are kept a record of the proceedings of meetings of the board of deacons and board of trustees, with the time and place of holding, the notice of meeting given, the names of those present at the meetings.
- C. Sign, certify, or attest documents as may be required by law.
- D. See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws. (In case of the absence or disability of the secretary, or his or her refusal or neglect to act, notice may be given and served by the pastor or by the chairman of the board of deacons.)
- E. Be custodian of the records of the church, including the membership roll, baptisms, and certificates of ordination, licenses, and commissions.
- F. See that the reports, statements, certificates, and all other documents and records by law are properly kept and filed.
- G. Exhibit at all reasonable times to proper persons on terms provided by law the bylaws and minutes of proceedings of the board of deacons and the board of trustees, or the minutes of the meetings of the church members.
- H. Keep an account of any special events in the life of the church which are of historical interest and give a report at the annual church business meeting of the status of the church membership roll in the past year.
- I. Keep all records at the office of the church and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office.
- J. Serve as the secretary of the corporation.

SECTION 5.05 - THE CHURCH TREASURER

The church treasurer shall:

- A. Have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds of the corporation, and deposit all funds in the name of the church in banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected by the pastor or the board of deacons upon approval of majority vote of the membership at a church business meeting.
- B. Receive, and give receipt for all contributions, gifts, and donations to the church.
- C. Disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the church as may be directed by the pastor, the board of deacons, or the budget adopted by the members of the church at the annual church business meeting, taking proper vouchers for the disbursements.

- D. Keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the church's properties and business transactions including account of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, and capital.
- E. Make all expenditures of the church (except miscellaneous petty cash disbursements) by check. Each check must be signed by two members of the board of trustees or the treasurer and a member of the board of trustees.
- F. When and as requested, render to the pastor and the board of deacons accounts of all of his transactions as treasurer and of the financial condition of the church.
- G. Present a written report of itemized disbursements at the regular quarterly church business meetings and make a general report for the year at the annual church business meeting.
- H. Keep all church financial records at the office of the church and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office.
- I. Serve as treasurer of the corporation.

SECTION 5.06 - ASSOCIATE PASTORS

Under the direction and guidance of the pastor, the associate pastor(s) of the church shall assist the pastor in carrying out the ministries of the church.

SECTION 5.07 - DUTIES OF ALL OFFICERS

Any officer who neglects his duties as outlined in the bylaws for a period of three months may be removed from his office, at the discretion of the pastor, and another may be appointed by the pastor to serve the un-expired term.

ARTICLE 6 - MEETINGS

SECTION 6.01 - MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Unless otherwise determined by the pastor, the church shall meet each Sunday for public worship, both morning and evening, and at least once during the week for Bible study and prayer. Except when circumstances forbid it, the ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed periodically throughout the year as the pastor deems beneficial.

SECTION 6.02 - MEETINGS FOR CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

- A. The annual church business meeting shall be held within one month of the end of the previous fiscal year at which time the regular church business shall be considered. A quorum shall consist of the members present. The annual church business meeting must be announced at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

- B. All church business meetings must be announced at least two weeks prior to said meeting. A quorum shall consist of the members present.
- C. All church business meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer for divine guidance and blessing.
- D. The moderator, pastor or person designated by the pastor, shall determine the rules of procedure according to his sense of fairness and common sense, giving all members a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a matter. The moderator is the final authority on questions of procedure, and his decision is final and controlling. The following order shall be observed at the regular church business meetings:
 - 1. Devotions & prayer
 - 2. Addition of members by name
 - 3. Dismissal of members by name
 - 4. Financial report
 - 5. Report of officers, as needed
 - 6. Reports of standing committees, as needed
 - 7. Reports of special committees, as needed
 - 8. Election of officers, as needed
 - 9. New matters, if necessary
 - 10. Adjournment
 - 11. Benediction
- E. For any meeting under this article, the moderator, in his sole discretion, shall have full and unilateral authority to require nonmembers to leave the meeting room and to order the immediate removal of any member or other person present who is deemed by the moderator to be disruptive to the proceedings by act or presence. The moderator shall have full authority to order the removal of all children (ages to be determined by the moderator) if the moderator determines, in his sole discretion, that circumstances so warrant. If the moderator determines that compliance with his order of removal is unsatisfactory, the moderator may, in his sole discretion, revoke the disruptive person's right to remain on the premises in accordance with *Section 3.03 (C)* and treat that person as a trespasser.

SECTION 6.03 - SPECIAL MEETINGS

- A. The pastor (or deacons if the office of pastor is vacant or the pastor is the subject of possible disciplinary action) may call a special meeting by giving notice of such a meeting and the purpose for which it is called to the church from the pulpit at least two weeks prior to said meeting. A meeting for the calling of a pastor or the severance of the relationship between the church and pastor shall be called in accordance with the provision of *Section 4.04 (A)*.
- B. Bible conferences, missionary conferences, and revivals may be held as the pastor deems beneficial.

SECTION 6.04 - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the church shall begin August 1st and end July 31st.

ARTICLE 7 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

SECTION 7.01 - PURPOSE

The church believes that it is to provide the members' children with an education, which is based upon and consistent with Biblical teachings. The church believes that the home and church are responsible before God for providing a Bible education. To this end, the church shall engage in ministries in education in keeping with the following dictates.

SECTION 7.02 - CHURCH PARTICIPATION

All educational programs or courses of instruction formulated and offered by the church shall be primarily for the benefit of the members of the church; however, the pastor may permit non-church members to participate in church educational programs or courses of instruction if he deems it in the best interest of the church.

SECTION 7.03 - STAFF MEMBERSHIP

All instructors, teachers, and administrators shall be members of this church. This provision shall not apply to visiting missionaries, evangelists, or preachers engaged for the purpose of delivering sermons, conducting revivals, or other special meetings on a temporary basis.

SECTION 7.04 - STATEMENT OF FAITH ACCORD

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be taught and presented in full accord with the Statement of Faith of the church. The church shall not hire, appoint, or retain any employee or volunteer for its educational programs who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith.

SECTION 7.05 - UNITY

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted as an integral and inseparable ministry of the church.

SECTION 7.06 - TEACHING

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted consistent with the teaching of the inerrant Word of God. Any assertion or belief which conflicts with or questions the Bible truth is a pagan deception and distortion of the truth which will be disclaimed as false. It is the responsibility of every instructor or teacher to present the inerrant Word of God as the sole infallible source of knowledge and wisdom.

SECTION 7.07 - CHRISTIAN WALK

All administrators, instructors, and teachers shall continue or adopt a lifestyle consistent with the precepts which they teach, whether in or out of the classroom.

ARTICLE 8 - ORDINATION

SECTION 8.01 - ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS

Any member of this church or its mission churches, who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry and possesses the qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, may be ordained as a minister of the Gospel.

SECTION 8.02 - ORDINATION PROCEDURE

- A. Upon the pastor approving the candidate for ordination, and a three-fourths majority vote of approval by the eligible members present, the pastor shall call a council to examine and pass on the qualification of the candidate. The ordination council shall consist of ordained ministers of like faith invited to participate in the examination of the candidate.
- B. If the candidate is found worthy of ordination by the council, the ordination council may ordain the candidate on behalf of the church.
- C. The pastor and the chairman of the deacons shall arrange for the ordination service.

ARTICLE 9 - INDEMNIFICATION

SECTION 9.01 - ACTIONS SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION

The church may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, including all appeals (other than an action by or in the right of the church) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the church, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding; and if that person acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or on a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner that he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

SECTION 9.02 - EXPENSES SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION

To the extent that a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding referred to in this Article, or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter in that action, suit, or proceeding, he or she may be indemnified against expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding.

SECTION 9.03 - LIMITATIONS OF INDEMNIFICATION

Any indemnification made under this Article, may be made by the church only as authorized in the specific case on a determination that indemnification of the pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent is proper in the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Section 9.01. The determination shall be made (a) by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of the pastor and deacons who were not and are not parties to or threatened with the action, suit, or proceeding; (b) if the described quorum is not obtainable or if a majority vote of a quorum of disinterested deacons so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion; or (c) by a majority vote of the members of the church.

SECTION 9.04 - TIMING OF INDEMNIFICATION

Expenses of each person seeking indemnification under this Article, may be paid by the church as they are incurred, in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit, or proceeding, as authorized by the board of deacons in the specific case, on receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent to repay the amount if it is ultimately determined that he or she is not qualified to be indemnified by the church.

SECTION 9.05 - EXTENT OF INDEMNIFICATION

The indemnification provided by this Article shall be deemed to be discretionary unless otherwise required as a matter of law or under any agreement or provided by insurance purchased by the church, both as to action of each person seeking indemnification under this Article in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding that office, and may continue as to a person who has ceased to be a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent and may inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of that person.

SECTION 9.06 - INSURANCE

The church may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the church against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in the capacity, or arising out of his status in that capacity, whether or not the church would have the power to indemnify him against liability under the provisions of this article.

ARTICLE 10 - COMMITTEES

SECTION 10.01 - STANDING COMMITTEES

The pastor (or the board of deacons if the office of pastor is vacant) shall appoint standing committees and designate a chairperson for each standing committee and, except when otherwise specifically provided in these bylaws, shall determine the membership of each standing committee. In addition to the discipline committee, the pastor may appoint other standing committees, as he deems appropriate.

SECTION 10.02 - SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The board of deacons, in its discretion, may create special committees to provide the board with advice and information regarding matters submitted to the committee by the board for consideration. The committee shall have no authority to act on behalf of the corporation. The members of the committee shall be chosen by a majority vote of the board of deacons and shall serve solely at the pleasure of the board of deacons. The special committee shall be subject to the control and direction of the board of deacons at all times.

ARTICLE 11 - DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

From time to time the church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions, but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the pastor and the board of trustees. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Section 1.02.

ARTICLE 12 - ARBITRATION

In areas where concerns may arise, it is the duty of the pastor to make every effort to resolve said issue in an expeditious manner. If the issue cannot be resolved to the agreement of all parties, the Pastor and parties involved shall give a full report to the officers; the officers will then serve as the arbitration board. Matthew 18: 15-17

ARTICLE 13 - TAX-EXEMPT PROVISIONS

SECTION 13.01 - PRIVATE INUREMENT

No part of the net earnings of the church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section 1.02 hereof.

SECTION 13.02 - DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the church, the trustees shall, after paying or making provision for payment to all liabilities of the church, dispose of all of the assets of the church to such organization or organizations formed and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the trustees shall determine. Assets will be evenly distributed to current missionaries in good standing of the Central Baptist Church.

ARTICLE 14 - AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be revised or amended by a 75% majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular church administration meeting, provided that said revision or amendment has been submitted in writing and announced from the pulpit fourteen (14) days before the vote is taken.

ADOPTION

These bylaws were adopted by a 75% majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the church in which a quorum was present.

These bylaws supersede any other bylaws of the Central Baptist Church.

Date

Church Clerk