

Constitution and Bylaws
for
Faith Independent Baptist Church
of
Everett, Washington

ARTICLE 1 – NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1.01 – NAME

This congregation of believers shall be known as the Faith Independent Baptist Church of Everett, Washington.

SECTION 1.02 – PURPOSE

This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, day care centers, and camps; the evangelizing of the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; the educating of believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; and the maintaining of missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country.

ARTICLE II STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 1 – STATEMENT OF FAITH

(A) The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbal 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 Testaments are the complete and Divine revelation of God to man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal literal, grammatical-historical meaning. The King James Version of the Bible shall be the official and only translation used by the church (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 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 age of law, the age of the church, and the age of 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; Col. 1:24-25, 27; 2:2-6)

(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 perfection (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 14:10, 26). The Father is God- John 6:27; Rom. 1:7; 1 Peter 1:2. The Son is God – Is. 44:6; John 1:1; John 20:28. Heb. 1:8; Jude 1:17, 24. The Holy Spirit is God – Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 3:16.

(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; John 3:17; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8; Heb. 9:26).

(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 2:1-36; Rom. 3:24-25; 1 Peter 2:24; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 13:12; 1 Peter 1:3-5).

(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; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; Acts 1:3; Rom. 8:34; 1 Cor. 15:4; 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, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8- 11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; Eph. 1:13-14).

(2) We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and interpret the Scriptures (Eph. 1:17-18; 1 John 2:20, 27).

(3) We believe that through the power of the Indwelling Holy Spirit, God bestows spiritual gifts to every believer in accordance to Scripture (Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Pet 4:10, 11; 1 Cor. 13:13-14). Also, that God, through His Holy Spirit, Uniquely uses the ministry of evangelists, pastors, and teachers to; edify, teach, exhort, and challenge believers to do the work of the ministry.

(F) The Total 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; and, that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Gen. 1:26-27; John 3:18; Rom. 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19; Titus 3:5).

(G) Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by repentance and personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (John 1:12; Eph 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18-19).

(H) The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

(1) We believe that all 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, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:18; 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 baptized believers (Mat. 28:19; Acts 2:41, 42; 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 churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:42; 14:27; 16:4; Acts 20:17; 28:32; 1 Cor. 1:2; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

(3) We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority of control (Mat. 18:17; Acts 1:23; 6:3; 13:14; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1,4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; 1 Cor. 5:4-7, 13; 12:25, 26, 27; 1 Peter 5:14).

(4) We recognize water baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper are the only 2 Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the Church in this age (Mat. 26:26-28; 28:19-20; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 2:41, 42; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

(J) Separation

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all ecumenical religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God (Rom. 6:13-14; 12:1-2; Rom. 14:13; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; 7:1; 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. The Glorious Appearing at the end of the Tribulation when Christ personally and visibly returns with His saints to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom was promised to the Nation of Israel (Ps. 89:34; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; Mat. 25:31-46; Rom. 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10, 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1; Chapters 21 & 22).

(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 (Isa. 26:19; Dan. 12:2, 13; Mat. 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13; 21:1-9, 11-15).

(2) We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where consciously in Heaven 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 in Hell until the second resurrection. Then with soul and body reunited, they

shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment. (Mat. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 20:11-15).

(M) The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a created being, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (The person of Satan is an angelic creation of God, a cherub, (Isa. 14:14, created as Lucifer, the anointed cherub who fell in pride and sinful rebellion to become Satan, the Devil. (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:13-17; Mat. 4:2-11; 25:41; 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. Chapters 1-2; Ex. 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

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a 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 (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:2, 29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).

(Q) Divorce and Remarriage

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses' dies. Divorce and remarriage after divorce is regarded as adultery. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the Church and their service will be greatly appreciated. However, they may not be considered for the offices of Pastor, Assistant Pastor or Deacon (Mal. 2:14-17; Mat. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6).

(R) The Family

(1) The Bible states that God created Adam and Eve and instituted them as the first family (Gen. 2:18-24, Matt. 19:4-6). Therefore we believe that the foundation of the family, consists of one man and one woman (both without gender transformation) who have been legally married in accordance with local law and church doctrine.

(2) God also stated the governing order of the family. We believe God places the man at the head of the home, the wife is to guide the home under the headship of her husband, and that the children are to be in subjection unto their parents. We believe that any compromise of this hierarchy will hinder the spiritual growth and God's blessings on that family (Gen. 3:16; Eph. 5:22-30, 6:1-3; 1 Tim. 5:14; 1 Pet. 3:1-7).

(S) Child Rearing

We believe that God, by His Grace, grants us the privilege of parenthood. When children are granted to us biologically or legally, God commands us to "train up a child in the way he should go." We believe that God also commands parents to love their children. With this love comes discipline and correction. Corporal punishment is the method of discipline instructed by God's Word. We do not condone or approve of beating children, since they are a gift of God (Ps. 127:3; Prov. 3:12, 13:24, 22:6-15, 23:13-14, 29:15; Heb. 12).

(T) 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, mental well-being of the mother are acceptable (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:15, 24, 49; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Lk. 1:44).

(U) 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 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; Mk. 16:15; Lk. 24:46-48; Jn. 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20).

(V) Lawsuits Between Believers

We believe that God's Word prohibits Christians from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the Church 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 (Ex. 22:1-12; 1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)

(W) Giving

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. 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 spreading of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all right to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9; 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).

SECTION 2 – AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members.

SECTION 3 – COVENANT:

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

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines. To give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred, acquaintances, and all others; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful to our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from worldly living and the support of or involvement in practices that promote ungodly lifestyles and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure reconciliation without delay.

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

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Presentation for Membership: Prior to presentation to the congregation, prospective members are encouraged to review the church constitution and covenants with the Pastor and make verbal confirmation of the acceptance of and adherence to this Statement of Faith and Covenant.

Upon a majority vote of the qualified voting 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; and who enter into the Church covenant contained herein; and upon compliance with one of the following conditions:

- (A) By Statement of Faith, acknowledging a new birth by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, and evidencing a testimony of obedience in Christ through believer's baptism by immersion, under the authority of a local New Testament Church of like faith and practice.
- (B) By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing church of like faith and practice. This written statement testifies to the public acknowledgment of salvation and subsequent open profession of faith through water baptism by immersion, and the testimony of Christian conduct under the authority of that local church.
- (C) By Baptism – Believers Baptism is a picture of the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and does not save a person. Baptism is full immersion in water of the believer under the authority of a church of like faith and practice. Acts 2:42.

SECTION 2 – DUTIES OF A MEMBER:

On becoming a member of this Church, in addition to the covenant contained in Article II, Section 3, each one further covenants to love, honor, and esteem the Pastor, to pray for him; and 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 affirmation of the beliefs and practices of the Church.

SECTION 3 – PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP:

This congregation functions, not as a pure democracy, but 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 Church. Membership in this Church does not afford those individuals with any property, contract or civil rights based on principles of democratic government.

SECTION 4 – DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER (Matt. 18)

(A) The Pastor and the Church shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statement of Faith and violations of the Church Covenant.

(B) Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of restoration.

(C) If reconciliation is not reached, one or two additional members are to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.

(D) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B and C) have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the Church upon a majority vote of the membership present at the meeting called for the purpose of considering disciplinary action.

(E) No matter may be heard by the Church unless the steps outlined in subsections (B and C) have been taken, except in the case of public offense.

(F) If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the Church membership, all contact with him from that point forward must be for the sake of restoration. The breaking of fellowship is for restoration, not retaliation. Family members not associated with the offense or participants in refusal of restoration are not to be held accountable.

(G) All Sunday School Teachers, Instructors and Church Officers shall refrain from public displays of anything that would compromise Godly moral decency. Any such display will be subject to church discipline. (Matt. 18:6-18; Gal. 6:1; 2 Thess. 3:14-15; 1 Tim. 6:3-5).

(H) If the Pastor or a Church Officer is overtaken in a fault, then in accordance with scripture, he forfeits his qualifications to hold such a position. The fault must be confirmed by a second party, and after a thorough investigation by the Church, he shall be removed from his office by a vote of the church. The church shall set the time of removal (1 Tim. 3:1-13, 5:19).

SECTION 5 – TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP:

Members, not under the disciplining process of Section 4, may request that letters of transfer be sent to another church.

SECTION 6 – TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP:

(A) The membership of any individual member can be automatically terminated if the member in question has not attended a regular worship service of the church in the

preceding three months. The provision of termination may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the Pastor.

(B) No member of this Church may hold membership in another church. If any member unites in membership with another, their membership in Faith Independent Baptist Church is automatically terminated without notice from the church.

(C) 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 or the Church after review of the matter.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

SECTION 1 – CHURCH OFFICERS

The Church Officers are the Pastor (see Article V, Section 1) and the Deacons (see Article V, Section 2). The respective duties of each Deacon are directed by the Pastor pertaining to ministry. No Homosexuals or convicted felons are to hold offices in this Church.

SECTION 2 – DESIGNATION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS:

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the Church the Pastor shall serve as the primary representative of the church. The Pastor and the Church shall choose from among the Church, a treasurer of the Church. The Pastor shall delegate the position of church clerk to a qualifying member who shall maintain business records as needed.

SECTION 3 – ELIGIBILITY FOR CONTINUANCE IN OFFICE:

- (A) All Church officers shall affirm their agreement with the Statement of Faith (as set forth in Article II) annually in the presence of each other with a signed statement.
- (B) All Church officers must be approved initially 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 or position.

SECTION 4 – TERMS OF OFFICE:

The length of terms of office shall be as follows:

- (A) The relationship between the Pastor, Associate Pastors, paid staff 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 severance of the relationship between the Pastor and the Church may be considered at any regular Church administration meeting, provided notice to that effect shall have been given from the pulpit to the Church two Sundays prior to said regular Church administration meeting. A three-fourths majority of the members present and voting shall be required to decide the matter. Disciplinary removal of the Pastor from office automatically terminates his membership. A restoration to membership after disciplinary removal will be subject to the requirements of Article III, Section 1 (D).

SECTION 5 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The annual election of officers by the Church membership shall occur during the month of January at the annual Church administration meeting.

SECTION 6 – PASTORAL OVERSIGHT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF:

(A) Subject to the 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 associates and assistants, to assist the Pastor in carrying out his God-given responsibilities.

(B) Church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the Pastor who has the sole authority to hire, appoint, or dismiss the same. The Pastor shall be actively involved as a member of every committee. Salaries shall be established by a recommendation of the Pastor, but are reviewed and approved by the Church.

SECTION 7 – VOTING

(A) The system of voting shall be open public response by majority show of hands in support or opposition of any proposal or the voicing of the Scriptural endorsement of “Amen.”

(B) Ballot or closed voting is used for special elections, and only for privacy or sensitive issues or at the discretion of the Pastor.

(C) Voting is according to the traditional patterns. The Pastor makes recommendations and the church approves or disapproves. During the business meeting the congregation may have opportunity to present suggestions of business for consideration.

(D) A quorum must consist of at least one-third of the church membership, and all votes must be approved by the majority of eligible voters.

(E) Eligible voters are represented by those members that are 16 years and older and are faithful and consistently manifest the beliefs of Faith Independent Baptist Church.

(F) No voting action or recommendation of action can take place outside of the context of Pastor and Church Body. No secret meetings shall be held; no vote can be considered outside of this pre-approved method of practice.

(G) Business meetings are called to present current business, promote new business, and discuss the possible options and opinions of the Church.

(H) The Church authorizes the Pastor to make purchases on behalf of the Church up to \$500.00. Purchases in excess of \$500.00 (excluding routine and recurring operating and maintenance expenses) must be presented to the Church in regular business meetings for approval by a vote of the Church.

(I) The authority to act as representatives of the Church body is granted by a vote of approval to office by the Church. The authority to carry out the actions of the respective offices is therefore given in accordance to the By-laws, Constitution, and Articles of Faith.

ARTICLE V
QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1 – THE PASTOR:

- (A) The pastor will be required to meet Biblical requirements given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.
- (B) 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 Church meetings, supervise the teaching ministries of the Church, and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership.
- (C) The Pastor shall appoint the members of the various committees at the annual Church administration meeting. He shall serve as the primary legal representative of the Church.. 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.

SECTION 2 – THE DEACONS

- (A) The 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, 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 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 Church may appoint a pulpit committee.
- (B) Deacons are required to meet Biblical requirements given in 1 Timothy 3:8-10.
- (C) The appointment of the church clerk, who shall keep a record of Church proceedings, of the membership roll, of all baptisms, of certificates of ordination and commissions as directed by the Church, and preserve all documents, papers, and letters coming into the clerk's hands during the clerk's term of office. All records are to be kept in the Church office, and delivered to any successor upon leaving office. The clerk shall keep an account of any special events in the life of the Church which are of historical interest and shall give a report at the annual Church administration meeting of the status of the Church membership roll in the past year.
- (D) The treasurer shall account for all funds contributed to the Church and shall disburse the same as ordered by the Church. He shall maintain a written report of itemized disbursements for Church administration meetings and make a general report for the year at the annual Church administration meeting. All expenditures for the

Church shall be accounted for in the Church Financial Records.

(J) The treasurer shall establish an Emergency Fund. The emergency fund shall be funded with transfers from other church accounts. The Emergency Fund shall not exceed 3 months of mandatory expenses. The funds may be invested in no-risk deposits or savings accounts only. To disburse funds in the Emergency Fund requires approval by a majority of the Church at a scheduled business meeting.

(K) The treasurer shall ensure that all accounts are reconciled monthly and that no account contains a negative balance. The General Fund is the primary source of transfers; however, other funds may be used in order to clear negative balances.

SECTION 3 – ASSOCIATE PASTORS:

Under the direction and guidance of the Pastor, the associate pastors of the Church shall assist the Pastor in carrying out the ministries of the Church.

SECTION 4 – DUTIES OF ALL OFFICERS:

Any officer who neglects his duties as outlined in the constitution for a period of two months may be removed from his office at the discretion of the Pastor, and another may be appointed by the Pastor to serve the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

SECTION 1 – 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 on the Tuesday night of Passover Week in accordance with Scripture.

SECTION 2 – MEETINGS FOR CHURCH ADMINISTRATION:

An administration meeting of the Church shall be held on either Sunday Evening or Wednesday Worship Services, at which time the regular Church administration shall be considered. A quorum shall consist of at least one-third of the membership of Faith Independent Baptist Church. The Church shall set a date for the annual election of Church officers and proposed budget for the upcoming year in December.

SECTION 3 – Special Meetings:

(A) The Pastor 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 one Sunday and not less than one week prior to said meeting. The pulpit committee at any Regular Church meeting may call a meeting for election of a pastor with at least two weeks advance notice.

(B) Bible conferences, missionary conferences, and revivals may be held as the Pastor deems beneficial.

SECTION 4 – FISCAL YEAR:

The fiscal year of the Church shall begin January 1st. and end December 31st.

ARTICLE VII CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

SECTION 1 – 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 Christian education. To this end, the Church shall engage in ministries in education in keeping with the following dictates:

SECTION 2 – 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 3 – STAFF MEMBERSHIP:

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

SECTION 4 – 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.

SECTION 5 – UNITY:

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

SECTION 6 – 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 a Bible truth 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. All curriculums must be approved by the Pastor or his representative and must be KJV only.

SECTION 7 – 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 VIII
UNAUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES

All expenditures must be authorized in advance by the Pastor or the expenditure may not be reimbursed. Any expenditure in excess of \$500.00 must be presented to the Church assembly in accordance with a business meeting as described in Article VI meetings. The Pastor shall deem a majority affirmative vote by the congregation authorization for the expenditure. The majority vote shall establish the general direction of Church business, should the Pastor feel led by the Spirit to another decision, the matter should be discussed again, bathed in prayer and if necessary, brought forth for re-vote and reassurance of Spiritual direction.

ARTICLE IX ORDINATION

SECTION 1 – 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 2 – ORDINATION PROCEDURE:

(A) Upon a conference with the Pastor and after the Pastor has approved the candidate for ordination, 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 the ordination by the council, the ordination council shall inform the church of their decision and, upon the approval of the church, the Church shall ordain the candidate.

(C) The Pastor shall arrange for the ordination service.

SECTION 3 – COMMISSIONING PROCEDURE:

(A) The commissioning of ordained ministers from the membership displaying a particular calling upon their ministry is provided for the purpose of duly empowering said representative with the authority and support of the church.

(B) The commissioning is an official recognition of said missionary, evangelist or Pastor as an outreach ministry of Faith Baptist Church under the same obligations of any other acting agent of said ministry.

(C) The Commissioning Service unites the church family and the minister's family in union of purpose and commitment, entitling the ministering family to rights and privileges afforded the members and officers of said church.

ARTICLE X
TAX-EXEMPT PROVISIONS

SECTION 1 – PRIVATE INUREMENT:

No part of the net earnings of the Church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, 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 Article I, Section 2 hereof.

SECTION 2 – DISSOLUTION:

Upon the dissolution of the Church, the Church shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the Church, dispose of all of the assets of the Church to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes and in agreement with the Church's Statement of Faith.

SECTION 3 – RACIAL NONDISCRIMINATION

The Church shall have a racially nondiscriminatory policy and therefore shall not discriminate against members, applicants, students, and others on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin.

ARTICLE XI
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 Church. No fiduciary obligation shall be treated 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 Article I, Section 2.

ARTICLE XII
AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be revised or amended by a 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.