

1 **ARTICLE I - NAME**

2 The name of this church shall be the **FIRST BAPTIST**
3 **CHURCH**, Hurricane, West Virginia.

4 **ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

5 **Section 1.**

6 The purpose of this church shall be the advancement of the
7 Kingdom of Christ. It shall seek to attain this end through the public
8 worship of God, the preaching of the Gospel, consistent Christian
9 living by its members, personal evangelism, missionary endeavor
10 and Christian education.

11 **Section 2.**

12 To aid in the achievement of this purpose, this church shall
13 cooperate with the Teays Valley Baptist Association, the West
14 Virginia Baptist Convention, and the American Baptist
15 Churches in the U.S.A.

16 **ARTICLE III - POLITY**

17 **Section 1.**

18 The government of the church shall be vested in the body
19 which composes its membership, and all members shall have the
20 right to vote on all matters pertaining to the affairs of the church
21 except those matters pertaining to the sale and conveyance of any
22 real or personal property owned by the church, or the borrowing of
23 money and execution of a lien upon church property to secure the
24 payment thereof; in which matters only those members who are 18
25 years of age or over may vote.

26
27 **Section 2.**

28 The authority of the collective membership shall exceed that
29 of all boards and committees.

30 **ARTICLE IV - DOCTRINE**

31 This church affirms the authority of Scripture in the Old and
32 New Testaments and receives the New Testament as the all-
33 sufficient basis of doctrine and practice. As a summary of principles

34 for Christian conduct among its members, it adopts the following
35 covenant commonly accepted by Baptist churches.

36 **Church Covenant**

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

43 We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk
44 together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this
45 church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity
46 and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and
47 doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the
48 ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the poor, and the
49 spread of the Gospel through all nations.

50 We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to
51 religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred
52 and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in
53 our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our
54 deportment; to abstain from unjust anger, gossiping, and undue
55 criticism of other members of the church body; to abstain from the
56 sale and use of intoxicating beverages, the abuse of drugs or any
57 other substance which would affect behavior in any way which
58 would be harmful to the Christian witness and detrimental to the
59 advancement of the gospel to the lost in our community; and to be
60 zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

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

Comment [FB1]:

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

8 **ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP**

9 **Section 1. ADMISSION OF MEMBERS**

10 Persons who are in substantial agreement with the faith and
11 principles of this church, and have been baptized by immersion, may
12 be received into membership by any of the following methods,
13 subject to the vote of the church:

14 A) Baptism. Any person who confesses Jesus Christ as
15 Savior and Lord.

16 B) Letter. A person may be received by letter from any other
17 church.

18 C) Experience. A person who has been a member of a church
19 may be received upon statement of experience.

20 D) Restoration. Any person who has been excluded from
21 membership may be reinstated upon recommendation of the Board
22 of Deacons.

24 **Section 2. DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS**

25 Persons may be removed from membership by any of the
26 following methods, subject to the vote of the church:

28 A) Letter. Members who desire a letter of transfer to any
29 other church may receive it upon request. The request for the
30 transfer should come from the church with which they are uniting,
31 and the letter of transfer should be sent to the pastor or the clerk of
32 the receiving church.

33 B) Exclusion. Should any member become an offense to the
34 church and to its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian

35 conduct, or by consistent breach of his covenant vows, the church
36 may terminate his membership; but only after due notice and a
37 hearing before the Board of Deacons, and after faithful efforts to
38 bring such member to repentance and amendment.

39 C) Dismissal. Any member who unites in membership with
40 any other church may be dismissed either upon request or when it is
41 recommended by the Board of Deacons.

42 D) Request. Any member may have his name removed from
43 the church roll by written request.

45 **Section 3. INACTIVE MEMBERS**

46 Members may be placed on inactive roll by the Board of
47 Deacons if there has been no response on the part of said member
48 over a 12 month period. A response for purposes of roll keeping
49 shall be attendance at least one time during the year, a financial
50 contribution or a response to an inquiry by phone or mail. The
51 Board of Deacons may make an exception to the procedure in cases
52 when the board desires, as in the case of shut-ins or others who may
53 be unable to respond in any fashion.

54 **ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS**

55 **Section 1. OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES**

56 A) Clerk. The clerk shall keep a record of transactions of all
57 business meetings of the church. This shall be read for approval at
58 the next regular business meeting. He shall keep a record of the
59 names and addresses of the members, with dates and manner of
60 admission and dismissal. He shall notify all officers, committee
61 members and delegates of their election and appointment. He shall
62 issue letters of dismissal and recommendations voted by the church,
63 preserve on file all communications and written reports, and give
64 proper notice of all meetings where such is required by the
65 constitution or the laws of the State of West Virginia. He shall assist
66 in preparing denominational reports.

67 B) Treasurer. The treasurer shall receive all money and
68 securities belonging to the church, except the Deacon's Welfare

1 Fund. He shall disburse such funds as received by him upon the
2 appropriate authorization of any of the official boards of the church.
3 The treasurer shall provide the church or any of the official boards a
4 detailed account of receipts and expenditures upon request, and shall
5 make a complete report showing the receipts and disbursements to
6 the church at the Annual business meeting; this report to have been
7 previously audited by the Auditing Committee, and a copy of such
8 report to be filed in the church office.

9 C) **Financial Secretary.** The financial secretary shall keep
10 a record of all pledges made, collect all moneys contributed, and
11 keep a correct account thereof between the church and its members.
12 He shall deposit such collections weekly, in the bank selected by the
13 Board of Trustees, giving a receipt thereof to the treasurer; and
14 provide the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee an
15 account of the matters pertaining to his office. All members'
16 financial records shall be maintained in strictest confidence.

17 Each of the above officers shall turn over to his successor all
18 books and records.

19 **Section 2. OFFICIAL BOARDS**

20 The official boards of the church shall be the Board of
21 Trustees, the Board of Christian Education, the Board of Deacons
22 and the Board of Missions. Each of the official boards shall be
23 organized at the first monthly meeting following the annual election.
24 It shall elect from its membership a chairman, a vice-chairman and a
25 secretary; and the Board of Deacons shall elect a treasurer to take
26 care of the Deacon's Welfare Fund. Each board shall meet monthly
27 at a stated time, and special meetings may be called by the chairman
28 or the pastor. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members
29 present and voting. The secretary shall enter accurate minutes of all
30 meetings in a book to be kept for that purpose; have custody of and
31 be responsible for all books, papers and documents pertaining to the
32 affairs of the board and surrender all such records to the board when
33 a new secretary is elected. He shall prepare a report of the year's
34 program, budget and activities, including a general statement of the

35 amount received and disbursed, for presentation at the Annual
36 business meeting of the church, a copy of such report to be filed with
37 the minutes of the meetings of the board in the church office. No
38 member of any board may be eligible to succeed himself, but may be
39 eligible for re-election after the expiration of one year following
40 completion of a term of office; and no person may at any time serve
41 as a member of more than one official board.

42 The Board of Trustees will serve as the legal trustees of the
43 grounds and facilities of this church. The Board of Christian
44 Education will serve to facilitate the Educational Ministries of the
45 church. The Board of Deacons will serve to give spiritual leadership
46 and direction to the church. The Board of Missions will serve to
47 interpret and promote the Mission outreach of the church.

48 A) **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

49 1. There shall be a board of trustees composed of 12
50 members, one-third of whom shall be elected at each December
51 business meeting for a term of three years. The board may be
52 increased in multiples of three at the discretion of the church.

53 2. The board shall hold in trust all property of the church and
54 shall take all necessary measures for its protection, use, management
55 and upkeep. It shall have power to buy, mortgage, lease or transfer
56 any real property, with a two-thirds vote of church members present
57 and voting at a properly called business meeting of the church. It
58 shall designate the bank where the funds of the church shall be
59 deposited. It shall secure a custodian for the church. It shall perform
60 all other duties imposed on it by the church or state. It shall make a
61 written activities report to the church at the Annual business
62 meeting, and at such other times as may be desired.

63 B) **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

64 1. There shall be a Board of Christian Education composed
65 of nine members, one-third of whom shall be elected at each
66 December business meeting for a term of three years.

67 2. The board shall be responsible for the administration of
68 the entire educational program of the church. It shall be responsible

1 for the curriculum, development and execution of all educational
2 goals; for studying the educational needs of the church and making
3 decisions concerning time schedules, education use of housing and
4 equipment, the elimination or addition of classes, teachers and
5 organization. It shall be responsible for enlisting, training and
6 appointing all church educational workers except the church school
7 superintendent. It shall be responsible for maintaining and
8 supervising the church library and the church nursery. It shall be
9 responsible for church-related educational activities, and for the
10 preparation and administration of the church education budget.

11 3. The board shall at each December business meeting of the
12 church present for confirmation a superintendent of the church
13 school. He shall be the executive head of the church school,
14 exercising authority and performing the duties pertaining to that
15 office, following the general directives and policies of the board; and
16 shall be an ex-officio member of the board.

17 **C) BOARD OF DEACONS**

18 1. There shall be a Board of Deacons, the composition of
19 which shall be determined by the resident membership of the church
20 on the date of election; one deacon for each 50 families in the
21 church; at no time shall the board consist of less than 15, one-third of
22 whom shall be elected at each December business meeting for a term
23 of three years.

24 2. The board shall assist the pastor in his work and with him
25 consider, upon his request, applicants for membership and requests
26 for letters of dismissal. It shall cooperate with him in providing the
27 pulpit supply and the leaders of the mid-week service in his absence.
28 The deacons shall visit the members and care for the sick, the needy
29 and distressed. The board shall promote Christian instruction and
30 ministry to the church membership, and assist in the administration
31 of the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and baptism.

32 3. The board shall be responsible for employing necessary
33 secretarial personnel.

34 4. Members of the Board of Deacons must be duly ordained
35 by this congregation or one of like faith and practice and will be
36 expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the charge of
37 their ordination to assume the responsibility of service to the Lord
38 and this congregation, as set forth previously, for as long as they
39 remain a member of this congregation, even though they may not be
40 actively serving on the board.

41
42 **D) BOARD OF MISSIONS**

43 1. There shall be a Board of Missions composed of nine
44 members, one third of whom shall be elected at each December
45 business meeting for a term of three years.

46 2. The board shall be responsible for enlisting, training and
47 appointing all personnel necessary for the missionary program of the
48 church, except as otherwise provided. It shall seek to increase
49 missionary interest and giving to the total work of the American
50 Baptist Churches of the U.S.A. The board may promote cooperation
51 with other churches in missionary enterprises, and shall encourage
52 attendance at associational meetings. In the field of home mission
53 the board shall have responsibility for initiating and administering
54 mission projects that may develop into self-supporting churches. It
55 shall seek to correlate and encourage missionary activity of all
56 missionary groups of the church.

57 3. The president of the American Baptist Women's
58 Ministries and the president of the American Baptist Men shall be
59 ex-officio members of the Board of Missions.

60
61 **ARTICLE VII - STANDING COMMITTEES**

62
63 All standing committees shall be selected in January to serve
64 for the church year as prescribed by the constitution and shall be
65 organized promptly after selection. From its membership the
66 committee shall elect a chairman, a vice-chairman and a secretary.
67 The committee shall meet at such times as necessary to fulfill its

1 duties; or on call by the chairman, or upon request by the pastor or
2 moderator. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members
3 present and voting. The committees shall prepare a report of the
4 year's activities for presentation at the Annual business meeting of
5 the church, a copy of such report to be filed in the church office.

6
7 A) **NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** There shall be a Nominating
8 Committee composed of seven members, three of whom are to be
9 elected at the December business meeting for a term of one year.
10 The committee shall consist of three members-at-large and one
11 member from each official board of the church. The three members-
12 at-large are to be nominated by the Nominating Committee and the
13 others are to be appointed by the official boards. A name shall not
14 reappear on the list of nominees to be considered by the Nominating
15 Committee for any major Board or Standing Committee until one
16 year shall have elapsed from the last term the nominee might have
17 served in a given office. It shall be the duty of the Nominating
18 Committee to prepare a list of those persons qualified to fill the
19 various offices, interview each nominee proposed and ascertain the
20 willingness of the person to serve if elected, and to nominate a
21 person to each office to be filled, except as otherwise provided. The
22 committee will report these names to the church at least one week
23 before the election is to be held. It shall throughout the year
24 nominate persons to fill vacancies in the offices of the church. The
25 Nominating Committee will be accountable to the Board of
26 Deacons.

27 B) **FLOWER COMMITTEE:** There shall be a Flower Committee
28 composed of six members, serving rotating three year terms
29 nominated by the Nominating Committee. It shall be in charge of all
30 flowers used in the sanctuary for worship services, and shall
31 supervise the sending of flowers where there has been a death in the
32 immediate family of the church member. The Flower Committee
33 will be accountable to the Board of Deacons.

34 C) **MUSIC COMMITTEE:** There shall be a Music Committee
35 composed of six members, serving rotating three year terms
36 nominated by the Nominating Committee, with the Minister of
37 Music and an appointed representative from the Board of Deacons
38 being ex-officio members. It shall cooperate with the pastor
39 concerning the music of the church, and shall make provision for all
40 the music and choir paraphernalia. It shall make provision for all the
41 music accompanists who will have been recommended by the
42 Minister of Music, unless otherwise provided; and all volunteer and
43 paid musicians except the Minister or Music. It shall also be
44 responsible for such other personnel as necessary to fulfill the music
45 requirements of the church. The Music Committee will be
46 accountable to the Board of Deacons.

47 D) **FINANCE COMMITTEE:** There shall be a Finance
48 Committee composed of nine members; the Financial Secretary, the
49 Treasurer, one representative from each official board (to be
50 appointed in January), and three members-at-large from the
51 congregation to be named by the Nominating Committee and elected
52 by the church for a period of three years, one member rotating off of
53 the committee each year. It shall lead the church in the preparation
54 of a budget for the coming year and design a plan for underwriting
55 the proposed budget, said budget to be presented to the church for
56 action no later than the December business meeting.

57 The committee shall receive and review recommendations
58 annually the salaries for all paid employees of the church from the
59 appropriate boards or committees responsible for their employment.
60 Such recommended salaries shall be included in the proposed budget
61 for the ensuing year to be acted upon by the church in business
62 session.

63 The committee shall serve in an advisory capacity throughout
64 the year in the financial affairs of the church, and shall be
65 responsible for the effective operation of the budget. The fiscal year
66 shall be the calendar year. The Finance Committee will be
67 accountable to the Board of Trustees.

1 E) **USHERING COMMITTEE:** There shall be an Ushering
2 Committee composed of a minimum of 24 members, appointed by
3 the Board of Deacons. It shall attend to greeting and seating the
4 congregation, and to the receiving of the offering and such other
5 duties as designated by the Board of Deacons and the pastor. The
6 Ushering Committee will be accountable to the Board of Deacons.
7 F) **EVANGELISM COMMITTEE:** There shall be an Evangelism
8 Committee of seven members, composed of a serving deacon as
9 Chairman and six members each serving a three year term, rotating
10 two members off and on each year, appointed by the Board of
11 Deacons. It shall be responsible for planning a program of Christian
12 outreach to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to invite others to
13 receive Him as Savior and Lord, and to relate them to the body of
14 Jesus Christ, the church. It shall be responsible for enlisting and
15 training workers to carry out its responsibilities. The Evangelism
16 Committee will be accountable to the Board of Deacons.
17 G) **AUDITING COMMITTEE:** There shall be an Auditing
18 Committee composed of three members, appointed by the Board of
19 Trustees. It shall audit all the financial records of the church at the
20 end of the fiscal year, and at such other times as requested by the
21 church or by the Finance Committee. The Auditing Committee will
22 be accountable to the Board of Trustees through the Finance
23 Committee.
24 H) **KITCHEN COMMITTEE:** There shall be a Kitchen
25 Committee composed of four members appointed annually by the
26 Board of Trustees. Its duties shall be to have general supervision
27 over the church parlor, kitchen facilities and equipment. The
28 committee shall also recommend to the Board of Trustees such
29 needs as equipment, maintenance and alterations. The Kitchen
30 Committee will be accountable to the Board of Trustees.
31 I) **MEMORIAL GIFTS COMMITTEE:** There shall be a
32 Memorial Gifts Committee composed of three members, nominated
33 by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church at the
34 December business meeting. Members shall be elected for a three

35 year term with one member being replaced each year. The Memorial
36 Gifts Committee will be accountable to the Board of Trustees.

37 Those desiring to give memorial gifts should contact this
38 committee for an appropriate expression.

39 J) **HOSTESS COMMITTEE:** There shall be a Hostess Committee
40 appointed by the Board of Deacons. Its duties shall be to prepare
41 and serve meals, receptions, etc. as requested. The Hostess
42 Committee will be accountable to the Board of Deacons.

43 K) **FAMILY LIFE CENTER COMMITTEE:** There shall be a
44 Family Life Center Committee composed of five members: one
45 representative from the Board of Deacons, Trustees, Christian
46 Education and two at-large members. The board representatives will
47 be appointed by their respective boards annually. At-large members
48 will be nominated by the church Nominating Committee. In order to
49 bring some continuity, the Nominating Committee will initially
50 nominate two at-large members, one with a one-year term and
51 another with a two-year term. Thereafter, the Committee will
52 nominate one at-large with a two-year term. No member shall serve
53 more than two consecutive terms.

54 The Family Life Center Committee will ensure that the
55 Family Life Center policy is adhered to, and it will consider the
56 request of non-member groups. The First Baptist Church pastoral
57 staff may approve the request of groups that are a part of the church
58 ministry. The Family Life Center Committee will be accountable to
59 the Board of Christian Education.

60 L) **FIRST BAPTIST ACADEMY COMMITTEE:** The First
61 Baptist Academy shall consist of the following voting members:
62 The current chairperson of the Board of Christian Education or
63 his/her designee; the current chairman of the Board of Deacons, or
64 his designee; the current chairperson of the Board of Trustees, or
65 his/her designee; three-at-large members of the congregation who
66 have been members for a period not less than six months; one parent
67 of a student of the First Baptist Academy who is also a member of
68 the congregation and has been a member for a period of not less than

1 six months. No voting member of this committee shall be a staff
2 member of the First Baptist Academy, or a member of any agency
3 that regulates or makes eligibility decisions for the Academy.

4 The First Baptist Academy Committee shall also consist of
5 the following non-voting ex-officio members: The current Senior
6 Pastor of the church and the Director of the Academy.

7 The duties of the First Baptist Academy Committee shall be
8 to approve all functions of the Academy, including, but not limited
9 to, staff, curriculum and finances of the Academy. The Committee
10 will be responsible for the appointment of the Academy's Director.
11 It will conduct an annual evaluation of the Director and oversee any
12 necessary action regarding the Director's job performance. The
13 Committee will insure that the Academy is operated in accordance
14 with all rules and regulations presented by the State of West
15 Virginia. The First Baptist Academy Committee will be accountable
16 to the Board of Christian Education.

17
18 **ARTICLE VIII - ADVISORY COUNCIL**

19 There shall be an Advisory Council composed of the
20 following: the pastor, the moderator, the associate pastor, the church
21 clerk, the financial secretary, the treasurer, the chairman of each of
22 the official boards, the chairman of each of the standing committees,
23 the minister of music, the president of the American Baptist
24 Women's Ministries, the president of American Baptist Men, the
25 church school superintendent and the president of the Baptist Youth
26 Fellowship. Its duties shall be advisory. It shall have the oversight
27 in such matters as may be specifically provided for in the
28 constitution and have the power to appoint special committees. In
29 general, matters of importance to the church may be discussed and
30 considered by the council with the view of making recommendations
31 to the church or appropriate board or committee. It shall have
32 quarterly meetings, and members present at any regular or special
33 meeting shall be a quorum. Special meetings may be called by the
34 pastor. The pastor shall convene the first meeting as soon as

35 possible after members of the council shall have been determined,
36 and shall preside at all meetings of the council except when another
37 presiding officer shall be appointed. The Advisory Council is
38 advisory in nature, and is representative of all of the groups of the
39 church; therefore, its accountability is to the congregation.

40
41 **ARTICLE IX - THE PASTORATE**

42 **Section 1. DUTIES OF THE SENIOR MINISTER**

43 The Senior Minister (Pastor) shall preach the gospel,
44 administer the ordinances, watch over the membership, have in his
45 charge the spiritual welfare of the congregation and the stated
46 services of worship. The senior minister, as chief administrative
47 officer of the church, shall be an ex-officio member of all boards and
48 standing committees.

49 **Section 2. CALLING A SENIOR MINISTER**

50 When the pastorate is vacant, the Board of Deacons shall
51 select a representative pulpit committee of five members of the
52 church, subject to the approval of the church. No two members of
53 the committee shall be members of the same immediate family.
54 Nominations may be made from the floor at the special business
55 meeting. In the event that one or more nominations are made from
56 the floor, the presiding officer shall call for a secret ballot asking the
57 church to vote for five members only. This committee shall take the
58 necessary steps to secure a pastor. It shall investigate the merits of
59 each person under consideration in regard to personal character,
60 education, ministerial record, preaching ability, and appropriate
61 administrative and pastoral skills, in determining fitness for the
62 pastorate. When a suitable person is found, the committee shall
63 recommend the candidate to the church for consideration. The call
64 of a pastor shall come before the church at a regular or special
65 business meeting, notice of such meeting and its purpose having
66 been read from the pulpit on two successive Sundays immediately
67 preceding the meeting. A vote of three-fourths of members present
68 and voting shall be necessary to extend a call. Only one candidate

1 shall be presented to the church at one time. The vote shall be by
2 written ballot. The pastor shall be called for an indefinite period,
3 subject to Section 3 hereof.

4 **Section 3. TERMINATION OF PASTORATE**

5 The term of office may be ended upon 30 days notice on the
6 part of the pastor or the church. Termination of the pastorate by the
7 church shall be noted at a regular or special business meeting, notice
8 of such meeting and its purpose having been read from the pulpit on
9 two successive Sundays immediately preceding the meeting. A vote
10 of three-fourths of members present and voting shall make valid the
11 termination of said office. The vote shall be by written ballot.

12 **Section 4. INTERIM PASTOR**

13 In an interim period, when the church is without a Senior
14 Minister, the Board of Deacons shall secure appropriate pulpit
15 supply or arrange for the call of an Interim Pastor. The church shall
16 approve the selection of an Interim Pastor at a regular business
17 meeting or at a special business meeting called for that purpose as set
18 forth in Article XII Section 2.

19 **ARTICLE X - PROFESSIONAL STAFF**

20 Except as otherwise provided, the calling and termination of
21 other professional staff members shall be accomplished in the same
22 manner as provided in Article IX.

23 **ARTICLE XI - ELECTIONS**

24 **Section 1.**

25 The annual election of officers shall be held at the December
26 business meeting of the church, which shall be held on or about the
27 first Wednesday in December.

28 **Section 2.**

29 One week before the election is to be held, the Nominating
30 Committee shall present to the church the name of one person for
31 each office to be filled. At the time of the election, it shall be the
32 privilege of any member present to place in nomination the name of
33

34 any eligible person for any office not so nominated. A majority vote
35 shall be necessary for election of any officer.

36 **Section 3.**

37 Vacancies occurring during the year may be filled for the
38 unexpired term at any church business meeting. The nominating
39 committee shall present to the church nominees for the vacancy to be
40 filled, except as otherwise noted.

41 **ARTICLE XII - MEETINGS**

42 **Section 1.**

43 Public worship services shall be held on the Lord's Day;
44 various educational programs and ministries shall hold meetings at
45 times recommended to the congregation by the Board of Christian
46 Education. All other religious meetings and programs may be
47 scheduled by the pastor, the Board of Deacons, or by vote of the
48 congregation.

49 **Section 2.**

50 Quarterly business meetings shall be held on or about the
51 first Wednesday evening of April, July and October. The annual
52 business meeting shall be held on or about the third Wednesday of
53 January. Special business meetings may be called at any time by the
54 pastor or the clerk. Notice of such meeting and the subject for which
55 it is called shall be given from the pulpit at least one week in
56 advance of the meeting. All business meetings of the church shall be
57 conducted and governed by rules of parliamentary procedure as set
58 forth in Roberts' "Rules of Order". A parliamentarian shall be
59 appointed by the moderator at the January business meeting for a
60 period of one year. The annual reports of individual officers, official
61 boards and committees of the church shall be presented at the
62 Annual business meeting.

63 **Section 3.**

64 The moderator of the church shall be nominated by the
65 Nominating Committee for a term of one year and may serve one
66 additional consecutive term. The moderator shall see that all
67

1 committees meet soon after their election in December and select a
2 chairman for the committee. If necessary, the moderator may call
3 the meeting of the committee. The moderator shall see that the
4 various boards, committees, and individuals submit their annual
5 reports to the office in time for the preparation of the annual reports
6 for the annual meeting of the church. The moderator shall preside
7 over all business meetings of the church. The chairman of the Board
8 of Deacons shall serve as vice-moderator.

9 **Section 4.**

10 A quorum for the transaction of business shall be 50
11 members.

12 **ARTICLE XIII – POLICY STATEMENTS**

13 **Section 1. Abortion.**

14 The church stands for life and against the practice of
15 abortion.

16 **Section 2. The Practice of Homosexuality.**

17 This church affirms the statement on record by the West
18 Virginia Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Churches in
19 the USA, which states: “the practice of homosexuality is
20 incompatible with the teachings of scripture.” Wherein we believe
21 the Lord would welcome all who would come to Him, we do not
22 believe He would ever condone sin in the name of acceptance. To
23 this end, while no one would ever be excluded from worship, study,
24 or the available ministries of this church, no practicing homosexual
25 will be accepted into the membership of this church.

26 **Section 3: Gambling.**

27 The practice of gambling is the exercise of a human desire
28 that is insatiable. Those who become addicted to gambling find
29 themselves enslaved by a compulsive behavior that has the potential
30 to destroy their financial stability, their family security, their job and
31 their relationships. Believing in a vise of the flesh that leads to
32 destruction, this church is opposed to all forms of gambling.
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ARTICLE XIV - AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any regular or special
business meeting of the church by a two-thirds vote of members
present and voting, providing notice of such meeting has been given
on two successive Sundays preceding the meeting.

Last Revision Adopted April 30, 1997 Constitution Revision Committee: Jerry Mullins, Chairman Mike Adkins Laeuna Erwin Jill Kozee Mike Moore Michael Derry, Pastor

ARTICLE VII (K) Adopted October 25, 2000

ARTICLE VII (L) Adopted August 24, 2005