

Laws By Which Bible Baptist Church Shall Be Governed

ARTICLE I

Section 1: The Congregation constituting the church adopted for the corporated name, the Bible Baptist Church, on September 9, 1953.

ARTICLE II

Section 1: The Bible Baptist Church shall be an independent, sovereign grace church, self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating.

Section 2: The officers of the church shall be pastor, deacons, church clerk, treasurer and assistant treasurer. They shall, with the pastor, be in charge of any material, financial and legal matters that are in conformity to the laws of Missouri.

Section 3: The pastor shall have general supervision over all the affairs of the church and over the other officers and shall perform all such other duties incidental to his office.

Section 4: The pastor shall be a member of every committee in the church. Section 5: All temporary committees, such as nominating committees and etc., shall be appointed under the consultation of the pastor.

Section 6: The pastor, deacons, church clerk, treasurer and assistant treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote of the active members present.

Section 7: The board of deacons shall consist of seven men elected by the church (Acts . 6:1-7). Each deacon shall serve an indefinite term, according to the following provisions:

- a - So long as his life and testimony remain true to scripture and the witness and unity of this congregation;
- b - So long as his service as deacon is satisfactory to the church at large, the deacons themselves, and the pastor;
- c - So long as he shall feel led of the Holy Spirit to retain the office, the other conditions continuing to be met.

Periodically at regular business meetings, the church shall have the opportunity by secret ballot to either approve or disapprove the membership and work of the committee of deacons. If, at the meeting, one-third of those present and voting shall express their disapproval, all seven men shall be re-submitted to the church by secret ballot, along with whomever else the church shall nominate, and a new deacon committee of seven * t shall be elected by the church within sixty (60) days.

Whenever a deacon shall resign his office, the church shall be given the opportunity by secret ballot to elect a replacement within sixty (60) days.

Section 8: All men who serve as deacons must be required to be faithful to the qualifications given in the First Epistle of Paul the Apostle to Timothy, the third chapter, and verses 8 through 13, and the sixth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. They shall also be require! to be faithful to the Deacon's Covenant which they shall affirm at the time of their installation, and at any time a deacon is found not being faithful to any of the above he will be automatically retired.

DEACON'S OATH OF OFFICE

I do most solemnly promise, by the grace of God, to be faithful to the office of Deacon; and to execute the duties according to the precepts of God's Word and in the best interest of this church.

Furthermore, I shall endeavor to conduct myself in a manner which shall be consistent with this office and which shall be an example to the people of this church, and those without.

I also promise, that, if at any time during the term of my office as Deacon my christian testimony should fall into disrepute so as to bring reflection upon this office and this church; that I shall of my own volition resign my office as Deacon.

ARTICLE III

Section 1: The church shall be congregational in government. All members over 14 years of age shall be eligible to vote. A public announcement of all business meetings shall be made at least two services prior to the meeting in question.

Section 2: All business matters of consequence shall be brought before the church. All decisions shall be made by a 2/3 majority vote of the active membership attending the meeting.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1: The board of deacons shall be composed of baptized members of the church at a called business meeting. These members shall be nominated by a nominating committee and recommended to the church.

Section 2: Special meetings of the Board of Deacons may be called by the pastor. Section 3: A Quorum for the transaction of business at any regular meeting of the Board shall consist in 2/3 of the active members.

Section 4: All officers of the church and Sunday School shall be baptized members. All appointments in the Sunday School shall be made with the approval of the pastor.

ARTICLE V

Section 1: The Bible Baptist Church shall designate at least 15% of its total income to the support of missions as the church votes to support individual missionaries or missionary projects.

Section 2: The deacons with the pastor shall have the authority to periodically review the missionaries and missionary projects of the church as to the continuation of support, the raising or lowering of support, to take appropriate action as may be required; that the church shall then be given opportunity to ratify their decisions.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1: The pastor with the deacons may be authorized by the church to procure loans whenever necessary for the purchasing of property and financing of the erection of buildings, to make, execute and deliver notes of the corporation evidencing such indebtedness and to secure the payment thereof by executing in behalf of the corporation mortgages or deeds of trust on any property, real or personal, owned by the Bible Baptist

Church or pledge the same as collateral security for any such loans and to execute in behalf of the cooperating extension agreements with reference thereto or renewals thereof.

ARTICLE VII

Section 1: These by-laws may be amended, repealed, or altered in whole or in part by a majority vote of the church at any regular or called meeting.

Section 2: The church, under the leadership of the pastor, may adopt additional by-laws in harmony herewith at any regular or called meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

Section 1: The Bible Baptist Church shall be in general agreement with the New Hampshire Confession of Faith, the Philadelphia Confession of Faith, and with other historic confessions of Calvinistic Baptists.

ARTICLE IX

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS:

Section 1: Any person professing personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, giving evidence of a regenerate heart, adopting the covenant and the views of faith and practice held by this church, after being baptized by immersion in water, may be admitted into the fellowship and membership of this church.

Section 2: Members from other baptist churches holding the same faith as we, may be received into membership by letter of dismissal from their churches. Any member having been excluded for reasons of immoral or unchristian conduct, and desiring fellowship with us, must be reinstated by the church from which they have been excluded and come with letter of dismissal.

Section 3: This church shall accept Baptist baptism only, and retain the privilege of rejecting any baptism proven by the scriptures as being unscriptural. Baptist baptism consists of immersion in water upon the authority of the local baptist church authorizing the baptism.

Section 4: Those who have been baptized upon profession of faith by the authority of a baptist church holding the same faith, but who in honorable consequence of peculiar circumstance have no letter of dismissal, may be received into the membership by statement of faith, giving satisfactory evidence of a regenerate heart and former baptism.

Section 5: Those coming for church membership either by letter or statement shall be questioned by the pastor at the time of their coming as to their salvation and baptism.

Section 6: Should any member object to the admission of a candidate, said candidate shall be referred to the pastor and body of deacons for a further consultation and if again presented by them after sufficient investigation shall be received into the church membership by majority vote.

DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS:

Section 7: Any member in good standing shall be entitled to a letter of dismissal and recommendation from this church to any other Baptist church of the same faith. It shall be the duty of all members removing from this church to unite as soon as practicable with another Baptist church of like faith. Fo letter of dismissal shall be granted except to a Baptist church to which the individual has made application for membership.

Section 8: If a member in good standing requests to be released from his or her covenant obligation to this church for reasons which the church may finally deem satisfactory, after it shall have patiently and kindly endeavored to secure his or her continuance in its fellowship, such request may be granted and his or her fellowship terminated.

Section 9: No letter of membership shall be granted to a leaving member for personal possession. Section 10: Since the members of this church have become so by freely entering into a most sacred spiritual Covenant, and this not without the mutual consent of the church officers and congregation, they have therefore implicitly agreed not to end this relationship unilaterally, but only by honorable and mutual consent with the aforementioned parties.

ARTICLE X

DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS FOR NON ATTENDANCE:

Section 1: There shall be a membership committee composed of the pastor and the deacons.

Section 2: The church recommends to each and every member that they enter into the Lord's blessing by being faithful in all duties essential to the christian life, to attend the services of this church, to give regularly for its support and cause, to share in its organized work, and to uphold the doctrines of faith and practice held by this church.

Section 3: The membership rolls shall be revised periodically, and the body of the committee shall attend to such revision when deemed necessary.

Section 4: Any person whose name is on the membership roll of the church, who has for one year continued in unexplained absence and shown no interest in church activities, or has removed out of knowledge of the church shall be considered to have sufficient reason for examination as to the cause thereof. If no satisfactory reason can be obtained the committee shall instruct the church clerk to mail a copy of this rule to the last known address of the delinquent member at least six weeks prior to any further action. If by the end of this period no satisfactory response is received, it shall be the further duty of the membership committee to report all such cases to the church for disciplinary action. The church may terminate the membership of said delinquent member.

Section 5: The membership of no person shall be terminated except by a statement of charge at the meeting when the recommendation of such action is made, however, the disclosure of every personal detail shall not always be necessary. Section 6: Any person whose membership has been terminated may be restored by the vote of the church upon recommendation of the body of deacons, upon evidence of his or her repentance and reform, or upon satisfactory explanation.

ARTICLE XI

DISCIPLINE:

Section 1: The pastor and deacons shall constitute a committee on discipline.

Section 2: Should a member become an offense to the church and its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, (1) by persistent breach of the covenant vows, the

articles of faith, (2) the holding and teaching of false doctrine, (3) or the promotion of dissension and diversity in the church (4). (1) I Cor. 5: (2) II Thess. 3:6,11,14,15; (3) Titus 3:10: (4) Rom. 16:17

The committee shall seek an interview with the one in violation and with kindness and concern endeavor to persuade him to repentance and reformation. Failing to receive satisfactory evidence of repentance and reform, the committee shall report the offender to the church with a recommendation of termination of membership. The church may terminate his membership.

Section 3: The membership of no person shall be terminated except by a statement of charges at the meeting when the recommendation of such action is made. Personal details may not-be required to be made known to the church, except it be deemed absolutely necessary by the committee on discipline.

Section 4: Any person whose membership has been terminated for any offense may be re-stored by the vote of the church upon recommendation from the disciplinary committee, upon evidence of his repentance and reform and upon his confession of error. Matthew 18:15-17 being used as basic scripture.

Section 5: Should any unhappy difference arise between members, the aggrieved member shall follow, in tender spirit, the rules given by the Lord in Matthew 13.

Section 6: We, the members of Bible Baptist Church, will not pursue legal action or sue the pastor, deacons, or church staff in connection with the performance of their official duties. I Cor. 6:1-S.