

# **WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH BAPTIST CHURCH**

Constitution & By-Laws

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **PREAMBLE**

For the purpose of preserving and making secure the principles of our faith and to the end that this body be governed in an orderly manner, consistent with the accepted tenets of the missionary Baptist churches affiliated with the Wilmington Baptist Association, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Southern Baptist Convention, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of the church, and to set forth the relationship of the body to other bodies of the same faith. We do declare and establish this Constitution.

### **ARTICLE I. NAME**

This body shall be known as the Wrightsville Beach Baptist Church, Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover County, North Carolina 28480.

### **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

The objective of our church, composed of baptized believers who share a personal commitment to Jesus Christ, as Savior and Lord, is to be a redemptive force in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, growing toward Christian maturity and unity through worship, witness education and ministry, proclaiming the gospel first to our community and then to the whole world, and applying Christian principles through love to mankind that God's purpose may be achieved.

### **ARTICLE III, ARTICLES OF FAITH**

The Articles of Faith shall be those set forth in the revised tract "BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE" as approved by the Southern Baptist Convention.

### **ARTICLE IV. 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 the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into the covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

### **FOR ADVANCEMENT OF THIS CHURCH**

We pledge, 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.

### **AS CHRISTIAN STEWARDS**

To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of God's Kingdom. Recognizing that tithing is the Scriptural basis for our giving, we pledge to prayerfully consider making this the basis of our giving for the causes of Christ at home and around the world.

### **ALONE AND AT HOME**

We also pledge to maintain family and secret devotions, to educate our children according to the precepts of God's Word and to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances.

### **BEFORE THE WORLD**

To walk prudently in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our behavior, to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger, to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

### **TOWARD ONE ANOTHER**

We further pledge 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 it without delay.

### **WHEN WE MOVE**

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

## **ARTICLE V. CHARACTER**

Section I. **POLITY**- The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of NO other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches.

Section II. **DOCTRINE** – The church receives the Scripture as its authority in matters of faith and practice. Its understanding of Christian truth as contained therein is in essential accord with the belief of the Baptist Churches as indicated in the ARTICLES OF FAITH (Baptist Faith and Message).

Section III. **INCORPORATION** – The church has incorporated under the laws of the State of North Carolina as a non-profit corporation with the name "WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH BAPTIST CHURCH". The provisions of the Charter and By-Laws of the corporation must always be in accord with the constitution and By-Laws of the church. The membership of the corporation shall consist of those persons who have been accepted into membership in the Church. The Directors and Officers of the corporation, whether they be given the name 'TRUSTEE', or some other title, shall be elected from the members of the church in a regularly constituted congregational meeting. The powers and duties of such officers or directors must not infringe upon the powers and duties of the Deacons or the congregation. All funds collected for the support and expense of the Church and for benevolent purposes of the church shall be controlled by the church in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws.

The church shall elect members to serve as Directors and Officers of the corporation. The Directors shall also be called Trustees and elected in accordance with Article II, Section 3 of the Church By-Laws. Their term of office shall be for three (3) years with one-third (1/3) of the number elected each year. The Officers of the corporation shall be as follows:

- a. Trustee with one (1) or less to serve .....President
- b. Trustee with two (2) years or less but more than one (1) year to serve.....Vice President
- c. Trustee with more than two (2) years to serve .....Secretary
- d. Chairman of Deacons .....Assistant Secretary

**BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. QUALIFICATIONS. Believing that membership in this church is of such a serious spiritual nature, we hereby agree that persons requesting membership in this church shall be presented as candidates for membership and a vote taken at services in which they request membership and shall remain candidates until the following prerequisites have been met:

- 1. Having a personal, saving experience with Jesus.
- 2. Be baptized by immersion. If a person is physically unable to be baptized, the ordinance of baptism may be waived on the recommendation of the Pastor and Deacons until such a time as he is able to be baptized.
- 3. Subscribe to the Covenant, the Articles of Faith and the Constitution and By-Laws.
- 4. If coming from another Southern Baptist Church, provide information for securing their letter.
- 5. If one has been a member of a Southern Baptist Church and has no regular church letter, he may request membership on his statement of his previous experience with Christ.
- 6. One coming from church other than a Southern Baptist Church may request membership on his statement of a previous experience with Christ and by fulfilling the requirements in 1,2,3 of this section.
- 7. New Member Orientation. The Church on a continuing basis shall provide orientation. All new members coming under 1 & 2 are required to attend and all other new members are encouraged to participate.
- 8. When all the above requirements have been met, the candidate for membership shall be, presented to the church in regular conference as a member with full rights and privileges.

Section 2. WATCHCARE MEMBERS. Temporary residents of Wrightsville Beach and the surrounding areas, whose intended stay is twelve (12) months or less, may be received as special members under the “watchcare” of Wrightsville Beach Baptist Church. These special members who shall be born again

Christian have all the rights and responsibilities of regular church members with the exception of voting privileges and the holding of office as described in Articles II & III of the By-Laws of this Constitution.

Section 3. **DUTIES:** Members are expected to be faithful in all the duties essential to the Christian life, to attend the services of this church, to give for its support and its causes and to share in its organized work.

Section 4. **ACTIVE & INACTIVE:** For purposes of conducting business and quorums the membership rolls shall be divided into an active list and inactive list. The inactive list will be made up of members who have been inactive as defined in Section 7, Paragraphs 3 & 6.

Section 5. **RIGHTS:** Such members as are in full and regular standing and such only, may act and vote in the transactions of the church.

Section 6. **QUORUM.** A quorum shall be constituted of the members present at the regularly scheduled business meeting. For special called conference a quorum shall be fifteen (15) percent of active members and for the call or dismissal of a Pastor, fifty (50) percent of the active members shall be necessary.

Section 7. **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.** The continuance of membership shall be subject to the principles and usage of South Baptist Churches, and especially as follows:

1. Any member in good and regular standing who desires a letter of dismissal and recommendation to any other Southern Baptist Church is entitled to receive it upon their request, preferably through the church into which he plans to place his membership. In case of removal to another community he should promptly present himself to the church there on the promise of his letter. When letters are granted membership in this church shall terminate.
2. If a member in good standing request to be released from his covenant obligations to this church for reasons which the church may deem satisfactory after it shall have patiently and kindly endeavored to secure his continuance in its fellowship, such request may be granted and his membership terminated.
3. Members who become inactive in support of the church shall be encouraged by personal visits is possible, or by letter from the Pastor and Deacons to become active again in this church or another church of their choice. The church may, after due effort, place members on the inactive roll after one year of absence.
4. Should a member become an offense to the church and to its good name by reason of immoral or un-Christian conduct, or by persistent breach of his covenant vow, or spiritual or financial non-support of the church, the church may terminate his membership, but only after due notice and hearing, and after faithful efforts have been made to bring such members to repentance and amendment.
5. The membership of no person shall be terminated (except by letter) at the meeting when the recommendation for such action is made.
6. Members moving away from this area shall be paced on the inactive roll as soon as the fact is known. Efforts shall be made to encourage them to unite with a church near them in accordance with the church covenant, Article IV, "When We Move."

7. The active and inactive rolls are not intended to detract from a member's fellowship with God. The church holds its members in great value wherever they may be. The church pledges to all members, active and inactive, as Brothers and Sisters in Christ, the support of Christian love wherever they are.

Section 8: RESTORATION: Any person whose membership has been terminated for any offense may be restored by a vote of the church, upon evidence of his repentance and reformation or if on account of continued absence, upon satisfactory explanation.

## ARTICLE II. GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

The General Officers of this church shall be follows:

### THE PASTOR

The church shall call a Pastor whenever a vacancy occurs. The calling of a pastor shall be by the recommendation of a special or Pulpit Committee elected by the church to seek out and recommend as Pastor, a Minister of the Gospel whose Christian character and qualifications fit him for the office of Pastor of this church.

His call shall take place at a special meeting called for that purpose, for which at least one week's written notice has been given to the membership of the church. The vote shall be by ballot with an affirmative vote of two-thirds majority of those present and voting necessary for a call.

The Pastoral relationship shall continue until dissolved at the request of the Pastor or the church. In either case at least thirty (30) days notice of termination shall be given unless otherwise mutually agreed upon, with both the pastor and the church seeking to follow the will of God under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. In the event the church shall desire the resignation of the pastor, a two-thirds majority of the membership present and voting shall be necessary.

The Pastor shall be the administrative officer of the church having in charge the welfare oversight of the church. He shall be an ex-officio member of all organizations and committees. It shall be his duty to preach the Word of God, conduct religious services on stated and special occasions, administer the ordinances, minister to the needs of the members and of the community, usually pertaining to his office.

He shall have special charge of the pulpit ministry of the church and shall, in cooperation with the Deacons, provide for pulpit supply when he is absent. He shall arrange for workers to assist in revival and other special services

### THE DEACONS

Section 1. NUMBER. ELECTION, TERMS OF OFFICE.

1. There shall be one deacon for every twelve (12) resident families in the church membership. It shall be pertinent for the church to promote to honorary life membership, any deacon, who, by reason of age or infirmities, shall, after honorable service, no longer be able to render active service.
2. The election of deacons shall be as follows:
  - a. On the last Sunday in July each year, the election of deacons shall be announced from the pulpit and/or in the church bulletin. **Nominees for deacons shall be received from the congregation on the first and second Sunday in August.** Those who are eligible for nomination are former deacons, all other members of the church thought to be eligible for ordination. All nominees shall be questioned as to their willingness to serve and those nominees who have not served before shall have further scriptural counsel by the Pastor and the active deacons. The names of those meeting the scriptural qualifications and who are willing to serve shall be placed on a ballot.
  - b. Voting shall take place at the **regular or a specially called church conference in August**, with the nominees receiving the highest number of votes being elected to fill the existing vacancies.
  - c. **Those elected shall take office on September first**, and shall serve for a period of **three years**, except those elected to fill any un-expired term.
  - d. After serving a full three year term, no deacon shall be eligible for re-election until the lapse of one year.

**Section II. DUTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MEANING AND PRACTICE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. DEACONS ARE TO BE SERVANTS OF THE CHURCH.**

1. They are to be zealous to guard the unity of the spirit within the church in the bonds of peace.
2. They shall serve as council of advice and confer with the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the welfare and work of the church. With the Pastor they are to consider and formulate plans for the constant effort and progress of the church in all things pertaining to the saving of souls, the development of Christians, and the extension and growth of the Kingdom of God.
3. By proper organization and method among themselves, they are to maintain personal fraternal relations with, and inspiring oversight of, all membership of the church. Especially are they to seek to know the physical needs and the moral and spiritual struggles of the brethren and sisters; and to serve the whole church in relieving, encouraging and developing all who are in need.
4. In counsel with the pastor, and by such methods as the Holy Spirit may direct in accordance with the New Testament teachings, they are to have oversight of the discipline of the church. In administering, they are to be guided always by the principles set forth in Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 5:9-13; I Thessalonians 5:12-14. The deacon shall be free to call upon any member of the church to aid in disciplinary action.
5. The deacons shall serve as a general pulpit committee. In case of absence or inability of the Pastor, subject to advise from and conference with him, they provide for pulpit supplies. In any period when the church is without a Pastor, unless the church shall otherwise provide, the deacons will arrange the

temporary minister and take counsel with reference to securing a pastor. It is not intended in any manner to prejudice herein the method by which the church shall proceed in securing a pastor.

### Section III. METHOD OF PROCEDURE.

1. The whole body of deacons shall be organized as a unit for the consideration of all larger problems and general policies, and shall meet monthly at a time established by the deacons. They shall organize themselves into such committees as their wisdom may direct for efficiency in service.
2. They shall apportion the membership among themselves, or make plans whereby the entire membership may have the benefit of the oversight in Christ of their brethren.
3. Each deacon shall freely confer with the pastor about all matters and cases of discipline which in his judgment would be most wisely and spiritually handled in private.

### TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

There shall be three (3) Trustees who shall also be known as Directors. They shall serve on a rotating basis for three (3) years beginning October 1, 1971. The Nominating Committee shall present one (1) name for one (1) year, another name for two (2) years and another for three (3) years. Thereafter, one (1) name shall be presented each year for a three (3) year term, except when a vacancy occurs necessitating the nomination for filling out the term. They may not succeed themselves for one (1) year. They shall meet at least annually and organize electing a Chairman and a Secretary. After their organization meeting, they shall meet when necessary at the call of the Pastor, Chairman of Trustees, or Chairman of the Deacons.

The corporation shall as provided by law and the action of the Church hold in trust the title to all property of the church and shall represent the church in all matters of legal responsibility regarding the purchase, mortgage, improvement and selling of church property. The officers of the corporation shall all execute all legal papers relating to the church and to the community as the church may direct. The officers of the corporation shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer any property of the church without a specific vote of the church in a duly constituted congregational meeting authorizing such action. They shall be responsible to give or deny permission for use of the church properties for any use other than regular religious purposes of the Church.

### MODERATOR

The Moderator shall be elected by the church to serve a one-year term. In the absence of the moderator, the chairman of Deacons shall preside; or in the absence of both or, if the two are the same, the clerk shall call the church to order and a moderator pro tem shall be elected. The moderator shall preside at all church conferences.

### CLERK

The church, shall upon nomination by the Nominating Committee, elect a church clerk. The clerk shall keep in a suitable book a record of all actions of the church, except as otherwise herein provided. The clerk shall keep a register of the names of members, with dates of admission, dismissal or death, together with a record of

baptisms. They shall keep and preserve a true history of the church. They shall notify all officers, members of committees and delegates of their election or appointment. They shall issue letters of dismissal voted by the church, preserve on file all communications and written official reports, and give legal notice of all meetings where such notice is necessary as indicated in these by-laws. The clerk shall consider it a part of their responsibility to promote loyalty and efficiency in the church life. All records, books, etc. shall be considered property of the church.

#### FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The Financial Secretary shall receive the empty offering envelopes after the money has been removed and counted by the finance committee. From these envelopes the financial secretary shall give each donor individual credit as provided in the record system approved by the church. The financial secretary shall be responsible for preparing and mailing the annual statements to all contributing members.

#### USHERS

The church shall, upon nomination by the Nominating Committee elect annually a Chairman of Ushers. It shall be his responsibility to prepare a schedule and secure usher for all regular and special services when ushers are required. They shall care for the seating and comfort of the congregation, the greeting and introduction of visitors, and prevention of interruptions and distractions and similar needed services. They shall receive the offerings. The ushers shall count the money at the conclusion of the service.

#### TREASURER

The church shall, upon nomination by the Nominating Committee, elect annually a church treasurer. They shall receive, preserve and pay out, as authorized by the church, all money or things of value paid or given to the church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements; shall render monthly statements and an annual one to the church to be preserved by the clerk. Prior to the rendering of this annual report, an independent financial auditor not associated with the church shall audit the treasurer's records and result of the audit shall be presented with the annual report. **All books, records, etc.** shall be considered the property of the church and shall be open for inspection at any or all times, by any member of the church. The treasurer shall be ex-officio member of the finance committee. They shall be bonded at the expense of the church.

#### ARTICLE III. CHURCH STAFF

The church staff shall consist of the paid church officers listed below. The responsibility of the church staff shall be those described in the job descriptions provided by the personnel committee for their position. The members of the church staff are:

1. Associate Minister of Music, Education and Administration
2. Associate Minister of Youth
3. Administrative Assistant

4. Church Organist
5. Church Pianist
6. Financial Secretary
7. Custodian

#### ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS OF CHURCH ORGANIZATION

All officers of church organizations shall be elected annually, upon nomination by the Nominating Committee, and shall be under church control, and shall report at least quarterly to the church.

##### SECTION 1. SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR

The Sunday School Council shall be composed of the Director, Secretary, Adult Director, Youth Director, and the Children's Director. The Director shall see the report of the Sunday School is made to the church quarterly.

##### SECTION 2. DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING DIRECTOR

The director shall have charge of the Discipleship Training Program. He shall acquaint himself with the program and methods as outlined by the Discipleship Training Division of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All shall endeavor to adopt such programs subject to the approval of the church. He shall counsel with the Discipleship Training leaders through the church training council. The council shall be composed of the Director, Secretary Director of the New Church Member Orientation, Director of Church Member Training, Director of Church Leadership Training, Director of Enlistment, Adult Director, Youth Director, Children's Director, and Pre- School Director. He shall see that the discipleship training report is made to the church quarterly.

##### SECTION 3. BAPTIST MEN DIRECTOR

The Baptist Men's Director shall have the oversight and promotion of the work of the men as outlined by the Brotherhood Commission of the South Baptist Convention. He shall seek to enlist the men and boys of our church in Mission Study and Mission Action. He shall counsel with the Brotherhood leadership through the Brotherhood Council, which is composed of the Director, Secretary, Baptist Men's Director, Baptist Young Men's Director, Royal Ambassador leader, Crusader Counselor, and Pioneer Counselor. He shall report to the church quarterly.

##### SECTION 4. WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION DIRECTOR

The WMU Director shall have the oversight and promotion of the work as outlined by the WMU of the Southern Baptist Convention. She shall seek to enlist the women, girls and preschool children in Mission Study and Mission Action. She shall counsel with the WMU leaders, Baptist Young Women's Director, Acteen's Director, Girls in Action Director and Mission Friends Director. She shall report quarterly to the church.

##### SECTION 5. LIBRARY/MEDIA DIRECTOR

The Director of Library Services gives supervision and director to library activities.

## ARTICLE V. THE CHURCH COUNCIL

The church looks to the Church Council to supply certain staff services, of an advisory and informative nature, on which the congregation can make its decisions. The church council is a correlating agency through which all organizations and committees may coordinate their activities into harmonious programs of work and worship. The tasks of the council are:

1. Formulate and recommend to the church suggested church goals.
2. Develop and recommend to the church plans for reaching church goals.
3. Review and report to the church the use of resources in achieving the goals of the church.
4. Evaluate program results in terms of church objectives, and goals and report the evaluations to the church. Those who compose the Church Council are: Pastor, Church Staff, Church Moderator, Church Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Chairman of Deacons, Sunday School Director, Discipleship Training Director, Baptist Men's Director, Women on Missions Director, Children's Ministry Director, Church Clerk, Prayer Ministry Coordinator, Church Hostess, Outreach Director, and the Chairman of all Standing Committees.

## ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES

**STANDING COMMITTEES.** The following Standing Committees shall be elected to serve indicated terms upon nomination by the Nominating Committee.

**BUILDING GROUNDS AND EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE.** The committee shall have at least five members. It shall be the duty of the committee to keep the church in good repair and appearance, making such repairs and improvements as are needed within the budget. The chairman or someone appointed by him shall be responsible for the supervising of the Custodian's activities. It shall be their duty to keep the grounds around the church and to plan for improvements.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.** The committee shall be composed of at least five members one of which shall be a deacon, in addition to the treasurer who is ex-officio member. This committee shall meet monthly at regularly intervals agreed upon by the church and the committee. It shall be the duty of the committee to:

1. Consider the financial condition of the church and make reports of same to the church in the regular business meetings.
2. To recommend a stewardship program annually.
3. Prepare and submit an annual budget to the church.
4. In preparation of the budget, the committee shall confer with the heads of the organizations and the chairman of committees.

**BAPTISMAL COMMITTEE:** The committee shall consist of at least three members. It shall be the duty of the committee to make all necessary arrangements for the ordinance of baptism, and to render such assistance to the pastor and to the candidates as may be necessary.

**PUBLICITY REPRESENTATIVE:** This committee shall change from a committee to a representative for the church. It shall be their duty, in coordination with the church staff and appropriate committees, to plan for all publicity of the church.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** This committee shall consist of all the members of current Church Council. The committee will elect from the membership a chairman who will serve a term of one year. In addition the Associate Minister in charge of Education will serve as an ex-officio member. This committee shall nominate to the church all church officers, organization directors and committees as follows: They shall nominate all directors of the organizations listed above and all committee chairpersons at a regular church conference; then working with the directors and committee chairpersons shall nominate all organizational workers, committee members and general church officers at a church conference. It shall be the duty of the committee to enlist and nominate persons to fill any vacancy that occurs unless otherwise provided for in the Constitution and By-Laws. The work of the committee shall not prevent other nominations from the floor for any of the above officers by any member of the church. It shall be the goal of this committee to have all positions filled by the first Sunday of September.

**YOUTH COMMITTEE:** The Youth Committee shall be composed of at least one young person, (Grade 6-12) and at least two adults. The committee shall have two co-chairpersons: one High School Senior and one Adult. It shall be their duty to advise, guide, plan and promote, cooperate with and aid the church organizations and church staff in youth related functions such as Discipleship Training, Sunday School and youth groups that the church may have. The Youth Committee will work in association with the Associate Minister of Youth.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** This committee shall consist of at least three members. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to recommend the addition or deletion of staff positions in the church. It shall be their duty to write or revise position guides; recruit and interview prospective employees and recommend it to the church; also to recommend termination of employees of the church and develop and recommend salaries and benefits of staff members to the church. The Personnel Committee shall work with the Pastor and all affected committees to arrive at mutually acceptable fulfillment of the above. The Personnel Committee is not responsible for overseeing the work of the staff. This is the responsibility of the designated committee and the pastor.

**MUSIC COMMITTEE:** The Music Committee shall be composed of all age group choir directors, all instrumentalists, and one representative from each choir and one member from the congregation. This committee will lead the church in providing appropriate music for all occasions.

#### **VISITATION/OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

#### **PRAYER MINISTRY**

### **ARTICLE VII. MEETING**

**SECTION 1.** The church shall hold regular meetings for worship, teaching, training and fellowship. The regular worship services shall be held on Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings and on Wednesday evenings, unless otherwise agree upon by the church. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at least each quarter.

**SECTION 2.** The church shall hold regular quarterly business meetings on the first Wednesday of each calendar quarter at which time the material and spiritual condition of the church shall be discussed and plans projected for the coming of the Kingdom. The moderator or chairman of Deacons shall call special business meetings at such time as they may be needed.

**SECTION 3.** Other meetings of the church as a whole or of authorized groups within the church shall be set according to the needs of the congregation.

#### **ARTICLE V111. GENERAL**

**SECTION 1. LICENSE:** When a member announces to the church that he feels the call to the Gospel ministry, the church, by majority vote, may license him as an acknowledgement of his call to the ministry and encouragement to make preparation for it. The clerk of the church may furnish the member with a copy of the minutes or a certificate of license or both, as he may desire as his credentials. It is understood that the State Law shall govern the performance of civil duties by the member.

**SECTION 2. ORDINATION:** In the event that the church has been requested to ordain a member, (this is usually at the request of the church that has called him as pastor) the following procedure shall be followed: the church will express its approval by a vote of three-fourths of the members present at any regular business meeting of the church. Then the church shall invite the Association Ordination Advisory Council to examine the candidate concerning his fitness for the ministry. In the event the Association has not such a council, the church shall invite the representatives of neighboring churches to examine the candidate and report to the church. Then, in event the report is favorable, the church shall proceed with the ordination.

**SECTION 3. AFFILIATION WITH ASSOCIATION AND CONVENTIONS:** We recognize that there is mutual helpfulness in the Association of churches who are in such agreement in faith and practice as to encourage the spirit of fellowship and good will. We also recognize that there has been devised through volunteer cooperation of the churches of like faith and order, organizations whose purpose it is to implement the missionary, educational and benevolent interest and obligations of the individual Christian and his family. Believing that the Wilmington Baptist Association, the N.C. Baptist State Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention are organizations which have as their sole purpose the promotion and support of missions, education and benevolence of the character and in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution,

and the Articles of Faith in this church, we therefore agree to participate in these organizations through our duly elected messengers and our support of the causes which these organizations represent.

**SECTION 4. JOINING ANOTHER ASSOCIATION:** The church may withdraw from affiliation with the Wilmington Baptist Association in order to join another association (Baptist) of like faith and order by a majority vote of the members present at any regular business meeting of the church.

**SECTION 5. WITHDRAWING FROM THE ASSOCIATION AND CONVENTIONS:** This church may withdraw from affiliation with the Associations and Convention by a vote of two-thirds of the active church membership. In the event such a vote is less than unanimous, the property of the church shall remain vested in the group in the church desiring to retain its affiliation with the Association and the Conventions provided further that in all matters relating to its internal affairs the church remains and shall be an autonomous body.

**SECTION 6. IN EVENT OF DISSOLUTION:** In the event that this church should ever encounter circumstances which would require its dissolution of all its assets shall pass to the Wilmington Baptist Association, 610 South College Road., Wilmington, North Carolina. The “SAID” assets are to used at the discretion of the Wilmington Baptist Association, with preference to mission activity.

**ARTICLE IX. MISSIONS**

The church shall encourage the establishment of missions in the needed areas. All missions whether Sunday Schools or church shall be approved by a vote of the church in regular business meetings and the personnel to operate them shall be elected by the church in regular business meetings.

**ARTICLE X. ADOPTIONS AND AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 1.** The Constitution and By-Laws shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when two-thirds of the members present at the business meeting at which the vote is taken shall vote in favor of same. This vote shall be taken not less that twenty-eight days after formal presentation of the Constitution and By-Laws to the church.

**SECTION 2.** The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended, altered and repealed by two-thirds vote of the members present at the business meeting at which the vote is taken, provided, however that such amendments, alterations or repeals are given to the clerk in writing and this proposed change shall be presented to the church at least two weeks prior to the time the vote is taken.

**SECTION 3. ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER** is hereby as our guide for parliamentary practice.