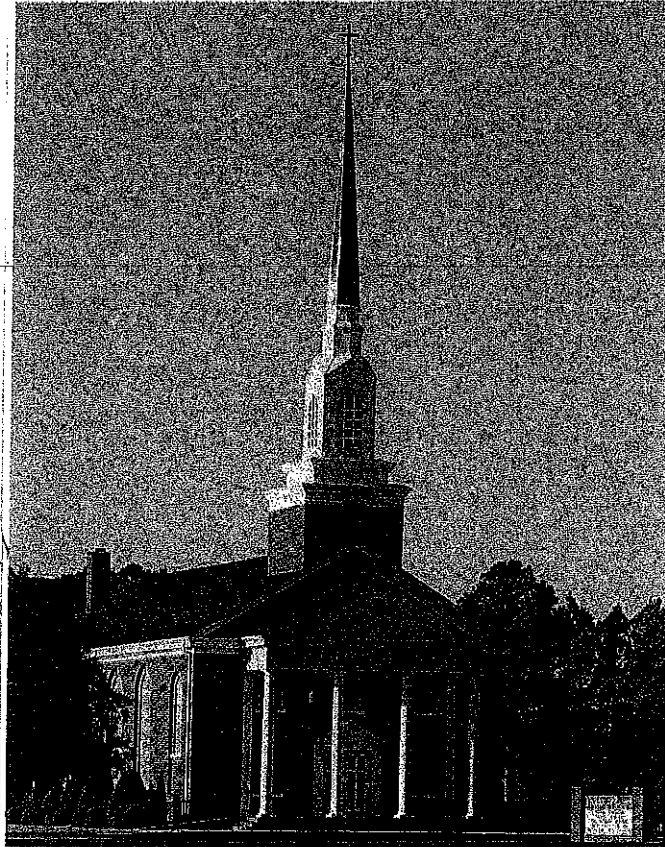


## **CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**



**Holly Springs Baptist Church  
385 Holly Springs Church Road  
Broadway, NC 27505  
919-258-6342**

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### **Mission Statement**

- Proclaiming God's Word
- Loving God's World
- Sharing God's Blessings

### **Vision Statement**

~~This church will provide a place where people may encounter Christ in worship, in salvation, in renewal, and in ministry. It will seek to identify, train, and support believers to carry the ministry of the church into our community, our state, and our world in the form of evangelism, teaching, hands-on ministry, and sharing of our resources.~~

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **PREAMBLE**

For the purpose of preserving, propagating, and making articulate the principles of our Faith, and that this body of believing Christians may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the accepted tenets of Southern Baptist Convention churches, for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of the church and in order to set forth the relationship of this body to other Baptist bodies, we do adopt and establish this Constitution.

### **ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this organization shall be Holly Springs Baptist Church; located at 385 Holly Springs Church Road, Broadway, North Carolina; a member church of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and the Little River Baptist Association.

### **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

The Holly Springs Baptist Church is organized for the purpose of advancing and promoting the worship of God through the reading and study of the Holy Bible as the revealed word of God; the teaching and preaching of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; the conducting of regular services of worship for the spiritual training, development, and benefit of each member; and the winning of souls to Jesus Christ. This church shall be missionary in spirit, extending the Gospel through our organized religious channels to the entire world. It shall promote and maintain the teachings and doctrines of that Christian denomination universally known and designed as the Southern Baptist Convention. It shall sustain the ordinances, doctrines, and ethics set forth in the New Testament for the church of our Lord Jesus Christ and channel its offerings to the support of the objects of the kingdom of God. In order to carry forward effectively the objects and purpose set forth above, the church will have power and authority to purchase, lease, and acquire by gift, devise or bequest, and to hold, mortgage, convey, and dispose of all kinds of property, both real and personal, provided that the title to all property shall be vested in the church trustees as hereinafter set forth.

### **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION I.** (a) The membership of this church shall be composed of persons who have given evidence of regeneration by the Spirit of God through faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; have been baptized by immersion; have subscribed to the Church Covenant, Articles of Faith, and Constitution of this church; and have been received into the membership by vote of the church.

(b) All candidates for baptism shall attend and complete a New Members Class before they become a Holly Springs Baptist Church member.

**SECTION 2.** (a) A member of another Southern Baptist church may be received by a vote of the church upon promise of letter of transfer from the church where membership resides. The applying member will be in a watch-care relationship until the letter of transfer is received from the other church.

(b) Anyone who has once been a member of a Southern Baptist church and, in consequence of peculiar circumstances has lost that relationship or is not able otherwise to promise a letter of transfer, may be received into the fellowship of this church upon statement to the membership and by a vote of the church.

(c) Requests for membership under circumstances other than described in (a) and (b) above will be considered by the church in a church conference, and the decision of the church will be final in each case.

(d) Those who make a request for membership described in (a), (b), and (c) shall attend and complete a New Members Class before they become a Holly Springs Baptist Church member.

**SECTION 3.** (a) A letter of transfer to unite with another Southern Baptist church may be issued upon request from the church which the member is planning to join, providing such member is in good standing. A letter of release from membership shall be granted to any member upon their written request. The church in church conference must approve all such requests. Membership in this church will then be dissolved.

(b) By action of the church, when a member of this church joins a church of a different faith and order, a letter of explanation concerning present church affiliation will be sent upon request. Membership in this church will then be dissolved.

(c) The church, after due notice and opportunity for hearings, and every possible kindly effort to make such action unnecessary, may upon a majority vote, terminate the membership of a person in this body for reasons it considers sufficient to warrant such action.

(d) When the mailing address of a member is unknown, and after reasonable effort to locate the member, the member's name will be placed on an inactive church roll. This name may be placed back on the church roll upon request from said person.

## **ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS**

**SECTION 1.** This church shall hold regular meetings for worship, teaching, training, and fellowship.

Any Sunday service may be postponed or cancelled due to unforeseen or conflicting circumstances by a committee composed of the Pastor, Chairman of Deacons, and Sunday School Director.

Other meetings of the church as a whole or of authorized groups within the church may be postponed due to unforeseen or conflicting circumstances by the leaders of the organization in question.

**SECTION 2.** Other meetings of the church as a whole or of authorized groups within the church may be set according to the needs of the congregation.

**SECTION 3.** This church shall hold regular church conferences for the disposition of all business matters not otherwise provided for, to hear reports from the various church organizations, and to consider other matters essential to the spiritual welfare and prosperity of the congregation.

## **ARTICLE V. ELECTION AND DUTIES OF CHURCH PERSONNEL**

### **A. Pastor Search Committee**

#### **SECTION 1. Election**

When the church is seeking a pastor, a Pastor Search Committee of five who shall represent all areas of our church ministry shall be nominated by the deacons and presented to the church with additional nominations being accepted from the floor. The five nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall serve as the Pastor Search Committee for the church. The committee will choose the chairperson.

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#### **SECTION 2. Duties**

This committee shall seek out and present to the church as a nominee for pastor a minister of the gospel whose Christian character and qualifications grace him for the office. Only one candidate is to be presented at a time. This committee shall continue to serve until the church issues a call to a pastor.

### **B. Pastor**

#### **SECTION 1. Call**

Whenever a vacancy occurs, the church shall call a pastor to serve until the relationship is dissolved at the request of either the pastor or the church. In either case, at least thirty days notice should be given before termination of the relationship, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon, with both the pastor and the church seeking to follow the will of God through the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

The vote to call a pastor shall take place at a meeting especially set for that purpose with at least one week's public notice being given prior to the meeting.

The election shall be upon the recommendation of the church's Pastor Search Committee. The method of voting for the pastor shall be secret ballot. An affirmative vote of three fourths of those members present and voting is necessary for an extension of a call. Should the candidate recommended by the committee fail to receive a three-fourths vote, the committee will be instructed to seek out another candidate, and the meeting at which the vote was taken shall be adjourned without discussion.

#### **SECTION 2. Duties**

The pastor shall have the charge of the welfare and oversight of the church; he shall be available for all groups and committees. He may call a special meeting of the deacons or any committee when a need exists. He shall conduct religious services as stated and on special occasions, shall administer the ordinances, and shall minister to the spiritual needs of the members of the church and community. He shall perform other duties that usually pertain to that office, and he shall have charge of the pulpit ministry of the church, including funerals, weddings

and other special services held at the church. In cooperation with the deacons, he shall provide for pulpit supply when he is absent, and shall arrange, with the concurrence of the deacons, for ministers to assist in revival meetings and workers to assist in other special services required by the church. He shall diligently seek to win the lost to Christ; and through prayer and study to render effective preaching and pastoral ministries. The parsonage will be made available for use by the pastor should he desire.

### **SECTION 3. Termination of the Pastor**

If a serious complaint shall be made concerning the conduct or services of the pastor, the deacons will take it under advisement and earnestly and prayerfully try to bring reconciliation. Should the difficulty persist and be unresolved, the deacons will call a special church conference and designate a moderator for this meeting. A notice of one week will be given. At this meeting, all active members will be permitted to speak. No one shall speak more than once until all active members who want to speak have spoken. The meeting shall be conducted in an orderly manner with common sense and Christian compassion prevailing. A motion that the pastor be relieved of his duties requires for passage an affirmative vote of three fourths of those present and voting. In this case, a notice of thirty days will be given to vacate the parsonage, or a longer period if it is the will of the church. If the motion fails, the conference shall adjourn immediately without further discussion with a prayer for unity being uttered by all.

## **C. Minister of Music**

### **SECTION 1. Call**

Whenever a vacancy occurs, a Minister of Music shall be called by the church to serve until the relationship is dissolved at the request of either the Minister of Music or the church. In either case, at least thirty days notice shall be given of termination of the relationship, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon, with both the Minister of Music and the church seeking to follow the will of God through the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

The call of the Minister of Music shall take place at a meeting especially set for that purpose. At least one week's public notice of the meeting shall be given from the pulpit during the morning worship hour. The election shall be upon the recommendation of the church Personnel Committee approved by the church to seek out and nominate as Minister of Music one whose Christian character and qualifications grace the person for the position. After meeting with the candidate, the choir members shall also have an opportunity to meet with him/her. The committee shall bring one name at a time for the consideration of the church. The method of voting for the selection of a Minister of Music shall be secret ballot. An affirmative vote of three fourths of those voting is necessary for an extension of a call. Should the candidate recommended by the committee fail to receive a three-fourths vote, the committee will be instructed to seek out another candidate, and the meeting at which the vote was taken shall be adjourned without discussion.

### **SECTION 2. Duties**

The duties of the Minister of Music shall be as follows: to direct the planning, conducting and evaluation of a comprehensive music program; to direct the church music committee in determining the music needs of the church; to enlist and train leadership needed for the local church music program; to plan, promote and direct the choir program; to assist the pastor in



planning all worship services and worship programs of the church; to give direction and assistance in visitation which includes both regular and prospective members for various activities in the music program as well as for other church programs; to arrange and provide special music for weddings and funerals for the church family as requested by the pastor or the family; to lead this church in extending its music program to other churches in the association and the community for the glory of God; to assist leaders of the various organizations of the church in planning a total and comprehensive program of music for those organizations; and to reach the lost through daily witnessing and prayerful study of their work.

#### **D. Minister of Students**

##### **SECTION 1. Call**

A Minister of Students shall be called by the church. The call of the Minister of Students shall take place at a meeting especially set for that purpose. At least one week's notice of the meeting shall be given to the congregation from the pulpit during the morning worship hour. The election shall be upon the recommendation of the church Personnel Committee approved by the church to seek out and nominate as Minister of Students one whose Christian character and qualifications grace the person for the position. After the Personnel Committee selects a candidate, the Student Ministry Team and the student group shall also have an opportunity to meet with him/her. The committee shall bring the name of one candidate at a time for the church to consider. The vote on the candidate shall be by secret ballot. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of those members present and voting will be necessary to call a Minister of Students. Should the candidate recommended by the Personnel Committee fail to receive a three-fourths vote, the committee will be instructed to seek out another candidate, and the meeting at which the vote was taken shall be adjourned without discussion.

##### **SECTION 2. Duties**

The duties of this position are listed in the job description as approved by the church.

#### **E. Minister of Children**

##### **SECTION 1. Call**

A Minister of Children shall be called by the church. The call of the Minister of Children shall take place at a meeting especially set for that purpose. At least one week's notice of the meeting shall be given to the congregation from the pulpit during the morning worship hour. The election shall be upon the recommendation of the church Personnel Committee approved by the church to seek out and nominate as Minister of Children one whose Christian character and qualifications grace the person for the position. After the Personnel Committee selects a candidate, the Children's Ministry Team and the church member parents of children shall also have an opportunity to meet with him/her. The committee shall bring the name of one candidate at a time for the church to consider. The vote on the candidate shall be by secret ballot. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of those members present and voting will be necessary to call a Minister of Children. Should the candidate recommended by the Personnel Committee fail to receive a three-fourths vote, the committee will be instructed to seek out another candidate, and the meeting at which the vote was taken shall be adjourned without discussion.

## **SECTION 2. Duties.**

The duties of this position are listed in the job description as approved by the church.

### **F. Minister of Education**

#### **SECTION 1. Call**

Whenever a vacancy occurs, a Minister of Education shall be called by the church to serve until the relationship is dissolved at the request of either the Minister of Education or the church. In either case, at least thirty days notice shall be given of termination of the relationship, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon, with both the Minister of Education and the church seeking to follow the will of God through the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

The call of the Minister of Education shall take place at a meeting especially set for that purpose. At least one week's public notice of the meeting shall be given from the pulpit during the morning worship hour. The election shall be upon the recommendation of the church Personnel Committee approved by the church to seek out and nominate as Minister of Education one whose Christian character and qualifications grace the person for the position. The committee shall bring one name at a time for the consideration of the church. The method of voting for the selection of a Minister of Education shall be secret ballot. An affirmative vote of three fourths of those members present and voting is necessary for an extension of a call. Should the candidate recommended by the committee fail to receive a three-fourths vote, the committee will be instructed to seek out another candidate, and the meeting at which the vote was taken shall be adjourned without discussion.

#### **SECTION 2. Duties**

The Minister of Education is responsible for assisting the church ministries in planning, conducting, and evaluating a comprehensive educational ministry.

### **G. Professional Staff Job Descriptions**

When the Personnel Committee has been instructed by the church to seek a candidate for any salaried staff position, before a candidate is selected the Committee shall submit to the church for approval a job description for the position. When the Committee selects a candidate, the candidate will have the opportunity to discuss the job description with the Committee and any mutually agreed upon changes to the job description must be presented to the church for final approval.

### **H. Deacons**

#### **SECTION 1. The Number of Active Deacons**

There shall be twelve active deacons. When the resident membership reaches 500, two additional deacons shall be added at the beginning of the next church year, and for each additional 100 resident members, an additional deacon shall be added.

## **SECTION 2. Election**

The Deacons shall each year at the July church conference recommend to the church the required number of qualified persons to fill all vacancies. It shall be the privilege of any church member to make nominations from the floor. All nominees, if not ordained, must be recommended by the active deacons before they are voted on by the church.

## **SECTION 3. Terms of Service**

Deacons shall be elected to serve a continuous term of four years. The rotation plan shall be observed. When vacancies occur during the year, they shall be filled as soon as possible, and those elected to fill such vacancies shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. A deacon serving an unexpired term shall remain eligible for election to a full term. After serving a term of four years, no deacon shall be eligible for re-election until the lapse of at least one year.

## **SECTION 4. Chairman**

The Chairman of the Deacons shall be elected annually by those deacons who are actively serving.

## **SECTION 5. Qualifications of a Deacon**

The church shall consider the scriptures of First Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-6 as a guide in setting forth the qualifications and duties of the deacons of this church.

- (a) A deacon shall be a participating member of this church.
- (b) A deacon shall have been a member of the church for more than two years before being elected as a deacon.
- (c) A deacon will be one who tithes his income.
- (d) A deacon shall abstain from the use or sale of alcoholic beverages.

## **SECTION 6. Duties**

The deacons with the pastor shall have general supervision and care of the spiritual life and development of the church. They shall assist the pastor in all matters pertaining to the advancement of the gospel and care of souls.

The deacons shall serve at the Ordinance of the Lord's Supper and distribute the elements to the congregation.

The deacons shall assist and cooperate with the standing committees of the church, in formulating policies and plans pertaining to the spiritual and material life of the church and shall make recommendations to the church from time to time concerning these matters. All recommendations of the deacons must be passed by a majority of the deacons voting. The deacons may not act independently of the church in fixing policy or committing the church to any matter involving the church as a whole. The deacons shall be obligated to consider promptly any request or complaint from the church and shall report to the church its action on any such request or complaint. The secretary or chairman of the deacons shall report to the church in regular church conferences the recommendations of the deacons.

In case of disagreement or doubt as to the meaning of the Constitution and Bylaws, or any part of them, it shall be the duty of the deacons to interpret by majority vote the disputed section or parts and report the decision to the church. The interpretation of the deacons shall be brought as a recommendation to the church and be subject to approval or rejection by the church.

The deacons shall meet at least once a month at a time agreed upon by a majority of the deacons. The chairman shall preside at all meetings and shall conduct them in keeping with established rules of parliamentary procedures. He shall appoint deacon committees and call special meetings of the deacons when necessary. A vice-chairman shall be elected and shall perform the duties of the chairman in case of his absence or disability.

In the absence of a pastor, the chairman of deacons shall have the charge of the welfare and oversight of the church; he shall be available for all groups and committees.

## **I. Trustees**

The church shall elect three members to serve as trustees. These trustees should have a reasonable knowledge of business transactions. Their term of office shall be for three years with one third of the number elected each year. Vacancies may be filled at any time with the one elected serving the unexpired term. Trustees retiring from active participation by rotation shall be ineligible for re-election until at least one year has lapsed.

The Trustees 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 and disposal of church property. They shall execute all legal papers related to the church as the church may direct. They shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer any property of the church without a specific vote of the church authorizing such action; neither shall they have any control over the use of church property except by vote of the church. A copy of all business transactions shall be filed with the church clerk for future reference.

The continuous term of office shall not exceed three years, except when loans have been negotiated with loan institutions which may require that the same trustees continue in office during the life of such loan or contract, when a trustee is providentially hindered, or when trustees are court-appointed to oversee a permanent trust fund. In such cases the term of office will be longer.

## **J. Clerk**

The clerk shall be nominated by the church Nominating Committee and elected by the church annually. It shall be the clerk's responsibility to attend or be represented at all church conferences, to keep an accurate record of all business transactions, to prepare the Annual Church Profile and to see that it is properly transmitted to the Little River Baptist Association Clerk. The clerk shall see that all officers, members of committees and messengers are notified of their election or appointment. The clerk shall issue letters of transfer of membership as authorized by the church. The clerk shall preserve and keep in a safe place the history of the church.

It shall be the duty of the clerk to see that an accurate roll of the church membership is kept, including the dates and methods of admission and dismissal, changes in name, correct mailing addresses, and pertinent information about each member.

## **K. Treasurer and Assistant**

The Treasurer assists the Finance Committee of the church. Responsibilities include oversight of receipts, deposits, and disbursements of all church funds, maintaining the financial

books, record keeping, paying bills, writing payroll, preparing and paying federal, state, and local business and employee tax and information forms and reports, and communication with the staff and Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall prepare a financial report on Sunday prior to the church conference to be preserved by the church clerk. The Treasurer shall receive the empty offering envelopes after the money has been removed and counted by the proper persons; and from these shall give each contributor individual credit as provided in the record system approved by the church; and shall keep the envelopes for reference at least one year after contribution is received. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for preparing and providing regular statements of contributions to all contributing members. The Treasurer holds an important and vital position within the church ministry and represents the church in the community, with banks, and business vendors. The Treasurer has a critical role in maintaining the business integrity of the church body.

The assistant treasurer shall be empowered to perform all functions of the treasurer in the treasurer's absence.

#### **L. Pianist and/or Organist**

The Pianist and/or Organist shall play for all services and shall assist the Minister of Music and pastor in a suitable program of music for the church. The Personnel Committee will develop and present to the church for approval an initial job description at the time of hiring.

#### **M. Church Secretary**

The Church Secretary shall have charge of all office work and shall be under the direct supervision of the pastor. The Personnel Committee will develop and present to the church for approval an initial job description at the time of hiring.

#### **N. Salaried Employees**

All salaried personnel of the church shall perform their duties under the general supervision of the pastor. If questions arise as to professional competence or moral integrity of any salaried employee, other than the pastor, the complainant or injured party shall refer the matter to the Personnel Committee for investigation, resolution and/or recommendation to the church for dismissal. The intent of the Personnel Committee to address a personnel action in a church conference the following Wednesday evening will be announced at the close of the regular Sunday morning service.

### **ARTICLE VI. CHURCH GOVERNMENT**

#### **SECTION 1. Polity**

The government of this church shall be congregational in nature and shall be vested in the membership.

## **SECTION 2. Church Conferences**

A church conference shall be held on the third Wednesday night in March, June, August, September, and November, unless changed by vote of the church. In addition, a church conference may be called at any time by the pastor and chairman or vice-chairman of deacons.

## **SECTION 3. Moderator**

Normally the pastor of the church shall preside as church moderator. In his absence, the chairman of deacons shall preside. When a special church conference is needed, the deacons shall elect a moderator if the pastor is personally involved in a conflict of opinion.

## **SECTION 4. Quorum**

A quorum for church conferences shall consist of not less than five percent of the resident membership. For the call of the pastor, twenty-five percent shall be necessary. These requirements apply to both regular and called church conferences.

## **SECTION 5. Minutes**

The church clerk shall record and keep in permanent form accurate minutes of each regular and called church conference.

## **SECTION 6. License**

When a member feels the call to the ministry, he shall discuss this call with the pastor and deacons. The deacons may examine the candidate concerning his fitness for the ministry. In the event the finding of the deacons is favorable, his request for license shall be presented to the church conference by the deacons. 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 as his credential.

## **SECTION 7. Ordination**

In the event this church has been requested to ordain a member who has been called as a minister of a Southern Baptist church, the following procedure shall be followed: The church will express its approval by a vote of three fourths of the members present at any regularly arranged church conference. The church shall assemble an ordination council with a minimum of five members, consisting of the Pastor, the Chairman of the Deacons, the Vice-Chairman of the Deacons, and representatives of neighboring Southern Baptist churches to examine the candidate and report to the church. If the report of the council is favorable, the church shall proceed with the ordination.

# **ARTICLE VII. AFFILIATION**

**SECTION 1.** This church is a free, autonomous, independent body with congregational government. It has the authority to determine for itself the use of its property, services, and practice of all church policies in the manner set forth in this Constitution, free of any outside control, authority, or power, whether government or otherwise.

## **SECTION 2. Association**

This church recognizes the value and mutual helpfulness in the voluntary association of churches which are in such agreement in faith and practice as to make possible a spirit of fellowship and good will. It is recognized that association and cooperation between such churches will influence the missionary, educational and benevolent interests of each other. This church does, therefore, declare its intention, as far as conscience will allow, to work in mutual cooperation with other Southern Baptist groups.

**SECTION 3.** Believing that the Little River Baptist Association, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and the Southern Baptist Convention were originally organized for the sole purpose of aiding in the advancement of the Kingdom of God according to the teaching of the New Testament, we, therefore, agree to participate in these deliberative assemblies through our duly elected messengers and our support of the cause which these organizations represent.

**SECTION 4.** The calling of a church conference for the purpose of voting on withdrawal from affiliation from the Little River Baptist Association and/or discontinuance of cooperation with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and/or the Southern Baptist Convention will require that written notice be sent to each resident member of the church stating the purpose and time of said business meeting. Action to withdraw must be carried by at least a three-fourths vote to be deemed valid. In the event of serious rupture in fellowship at this point and the necessity of such action as set forth above, it is expected that the various factions of the church will sit down in Christian love and in the spirit of prayer and seek to effect reconciliation on an agreeable basis of division, each person being mindful of the Beatitude which says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

## **ARTICLE VIII. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 1.** This Constitution shall be adopted when the final section is accepted by a two-thirds vote approval of all sections individually in order.

**SECTION 2.** This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular church conference. Such amendment shall be given to the clerk in writing. The proposed amendment shall be made available to the church in writing during the regular Sunday morning worship service before the vote.

Adopted and approved 7/2/2015  
Revised 5/15/2019

## **BY-LAWS**

### **ARTICLE I. MEETINGS**

The church shall hold regular services of worship on Sundays, and the Lord's Supper shall be observed at least once a quarter at a time approved by the church.

### **ARTICLE II. OTHER CHURCH OFFICERS**

**SECTION 1.** All church officers subject to annual election shall be members of the Holly Springs Baptist Church and shall be elected at least three weeks before the beginning of the new church year.

**SECTION 2.** In addition to those named in the body of the Constitution, other officers of the church shall be a Financial Secretary, Sunday School Director, Woman's Missionary Union Director, Baptist Men's Director, and such other officers as may be necessary and desirable. All officers of the church and its organizations, unless otherwise stipulated, shall be elected for a term of one year. They shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee or by nomination from the floor of a church conference. The Women on Mission groups and the Baptist Men shall select their own respective leadership.

### **ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF CHURCH OFFICERS**

#### **SECTION 1. Sunday School Director**

The Sunday School Director shall have general oversight of the entire school, and shall administer its affairs in cooperation with, and according to, the plans and methods of Lifeway Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, subject to the approval of the local church. He/she shall acquaint himself/herself with the best methods of religious education and endeavor to adopt them in this school. It shall be his/her duty to interact as is deemed necessary with his/her teachers and officers through officers' and teachers' meetings, providing leadership, and receiving suggestions from his/her co-workers. He/she shall give a report at the regular church conference.

#### **SECTION 2. Baptist Men's Director**

The Baptist Men's Director shall promote the work of the Baptist Men as outlined by the North Carolina Baptist Men of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention. He shall seek to enlist the men and boys of the church in a program of missions training, giving, praying and activity according to plans promoted by the Baptist Men. He shall give a report at the regular church conference.

#### **SECTION 3. Woman's Missionary Union Director**

The Woman's Missionary Union Director shall seek to enlist all the women and girls of the church in a program of missions training, giving, praying and activity according to plans



promoted by the Associational, State, and National Woman's Missionary Union. She shall give a report at the regular church conference.

#### **SECTION 4. Sexton(s)**

The Sexton(s) shall have the responsibilities of keeping the cemetery map, assignment of plots, and keeping the file records.

### **ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES**

#### **SECTION 1. Administrative Committees**

The church shall have at all times the following administrative committees: Finance, Nominating, and Personnel. All members of committees shall be elected to serve a three-year term with one third of the committee members rotating off each year. Then each member will be eligible for re-election after a one-year absence. The exception to this will be any person serving on a committee by virtue of another elected office. No person shall serve on more than one administrative committee at the time. Each committee will elect its own chairman.

#### **SECTION 2. Standing Committees**

The church shall elect such standing committees as necessary to carry out the ministries of the church efficiently and effectively. The church shall have at all times the following standing committees: Baptismal, Buildings and Grounds, Fair, Fund's Counting, History, Lord's Supper, Missions, Music, Nursery Coordinating, Recreation and Social, Transportation, Usher, and any additional committees deemed necessary for the proper function of the church. All members of committees shall be elected to serve a three-year term with one third of the committee members rotating off each year. Then each member will be eligible for re-election after a one-year absence. The exception to this will be any person serving on a committee by virtue of another elected office. Each committee will elect its own chairman.

#### **SECTION 3. Temporary Committees**

The church upon recommendation by the deacons may elect at any time committees to perform temporary functions.

#### **SECTION 4. Duties of Committees**

A. Finance Committee. This committee shall consist of five members. The duties of this committee shall be to develop and present a budget for the regular expenses of the church each year. It will also evaluate and bring recommendations to the church for expenditures not provided for within the church budget. Church members shall be encouraged by this committee to support the church financially through an annual stewardship emphasis. At the November church conference, the committee shall present a budget for the coming church year with the designated amount to go for each disbursement. Two Sundays prior to the November church conference, the proposed budget will be made available to the members.

B. Nominating Committee. This committee shall consist of five members and the Sunday School Director. Throughout the year, this committee shall have the responsibility of nominating all church and organizational officers not otherwise designated to serve in the various capacities and positions of the church, its organizations, and standing committees, which are vacated from time to time by removal, death, expiration of term of office, or failure to function. Each year the first report of the committee shall consist of the nomination for the office of Sunday School Director. Upon his/her election, this person shall become a member of the Nominating Committee to assist with the selection of other personnel for the organizations and committees of the church. At the August church conference, the committee shall present their nominations to serve for the coming church year. Two Sundays prior to the August church conference, the nominations will be made available to the members.

C. Personnel Committee. This committee shall be composed of five members. When a vacancy occurs in the church staff, other than Pastor, the Personnel Committee shall recommend a person to fill the vacancy. The name of the recommended candidate for any salaried position shall be presented to the church during the Sunday morning worship service at least one week prior to the Sunday of the vote.

D. Baptismal Committee. This committee shall be composed of two men and two women. The committee will assist the pastor and the candidates for baptism in the administration of the ordinance. The men on the committee shall be responsible for preparing the baptistry for the service.

E. Buildings and Grounds Committee. This committee shall consist of five members. The duties of this committee shall be to maintain the buildings and grounds, including the parsonage property, and manage any necessary repairs. It shall recommend for church approval such repairs and improvements as deemed necessary.

F. Fair Committee. This committee shall be composed of five members. The duty of this committee shall provide a booth/exhibit representing the church at the local/community fairs each year.

G. Funds Counting Committee. This committee shall be composed of four members who shall open offering envelopes, count the money, make the deposits, and provide copies of the deposit slips to the treasurer. The envelopes will be given to the Treasurer for posting.

H. History Committee. This committee shall consist of five members. This committee shall gather and preserve materials, documents, memorabilia, and digital records of historical interest about the church, both present and past. It shall write a history of the church, make it available to the church, update it at least every five years coinciding with each fifth-year anniversary of the founding of the church, and have it printed as needed. They shall assist the Church Clerk in the permanent preservation of the minutes of the church business meetings and other church records.

I. Lord's Supper Committee. This committee shall be composed of three members whose duty shall be to prepare for the observance of the Lord's Supper.

J. Missions Committee. This committee shall be composed of the Woman's Missionary Union Director (serving as chairman), Baptist Men's Director, Sunday School Director, Chairman of Deacons, Minister of Students, Minister of Children, and Pastor. The duty of this committee will be the oversight of mission work to be undertaken and conducted by the church. The Missions Committee shall be presented the proposed trip to include travel and lodging prior to assisting any HSBC member financially with a HSBC sponsored or any other mission trip. It also shall provide ways and means of enlisting and instructing the membership of the church in praying for, giving to, and participating in mission efforts which support the whole missionary interest of the Kingdom. Special emphasis will be given to Southern Baptist efforts.

K. Music Committee. This committee shall be composed of the Minister of Music, the Organist and/or Pianist, and three members at large to be nominated by the church nominating committee. The duties of this committee will be to keep abreast of the needs of the music ministry and to assist the Minister of Music in all matters connected with the music ministry. This committee shall meet as often as is necessary to accomplish its task.

L. Nursery Coordinating Committee. This committee shall be composed of four members. The committee shall be responsible for securing individuals to keep the Nursery and Preschool during all worship services.

M. Recreation and Social Committee. This committee shall be composed of 15 members. The committee shall set up and take down the fellowship hall and multi-purpose building for all church-related activities. They will plan and coordinate all special activities requested (such as July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, sports activities, etc.) If food preparation is required, they will be notified of what needs to be provided.

N. Transportation Committee. This committee shall be made up of five members from among the church membership. Their duties shall be to see that the church vehicles are in proper operational use at all times, to draw up guidelines for the use and operation of the vehicles, and to ensure that the guidelines are adhered to.

O. Ushers Committee. This committee shall be composed of nine members and a chairman. It shall be their responsibility to care for the meeting and comfort of the congregation, the greeting and introduction of visitors, the distribution of bulletins, and receiving the offering.

P. Associational Executive Committee Representatives. The representatives shall consist of one member plus the pastor whose duty will be to represent the Holly Springs Baptist Church at the Executive Committee meetings of the Little River Baptist Association.

Q. Church Council. The Church Council shall serve the church by leading in planning, coordinating, conducting, and evaluating the ministries and programs of the church and its organizations.

The primary functions of the Church Council shall be to recommend to the church suggested objectives and church goals; to make revisions to the Holly Springs Baptist Church Constitution and Bylaws and Policies; to review and coordinate ministry and program plans

recommended by church officers, organizations and committees; to recommend to the church the use of leadership, calendar time, and other resources according to program priorities; and to evaluate achievements in terms of church objectives and goals.

Regular members of the Church Council shall be the Pastor, Minister of Students, Minister of Children Minister of Music, Minister of Education, Secretary, Sunday School Director, Chairman of Deacons, Baptist Men's Director, and Woman's Missionary Union Director.

All matters agreed upon by the council which call for action not already approved shall be brought to the church for approval or disapproval.

R. Memorials Committee. This committee shall be composed of the active deacons who shall recommend and receive upon approval of the church all memorial gifts, either monetary or material, and to make recommendations to the church regarding their use.

## **ARTICLE V. MINISTRIES**

The following ministry teams shall be included in the annual Nominating Committee report Bereavement, Card Ministry, Facility Decorating, Food Pantry, Greeters and Parking, Homebound, Sound and Media, Primetimers, and Students Team, and Children's Team.

## **ARTICLE VI. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 1.** These Bylaws shall be adopted when the final section is approved by a two-thirds vote approval of all sections individually in order.

**SECTION 2.** These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular church conference. Such amendment shall be given to the Clerk in writing. The proposed amendment shall be made available to the church in writing during the regular Sunday morning worship service before the vote is taken.

## **ARTICLE VII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in the current *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (11th edition)* shall govern the church in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and Bylaws and any special rules of order the church may adopt.

## **ARTICLE VIII. ADOPTION**

This Constitution and By-laws will effect a modification or amendment of all previously adopted rules of the church body and will operate as a repeal of any rules heretofore existing and in conflict with this said Constitution and By-laws.

A copy of this Constitution and By-laws will at all times be kept by the clerk among his/her records and another copy will be kept in the church office. All amendments to or revisions thereof by the church will be prepared by the clerk and added to the copies of the Constitution and By-laws, and made available to the church members upon request.

## **ARTICLE IX. PRIVILEGE OF WORSHIP**

This church declares that any person coming to the church for the purpose of worship, regardless of denomination or race, will be welcomed, treated with respect, and properly seated.

## **ARTICLE X. OFFERINGS**

**SECTION 1.** This church shall be supported by the freewill tithe and offering system. Ample opportunity shall be given each Sunday for the members of this congregation to contribute to the support of this church, the Little River Baptist Association, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

**SECTION 2.** The deacons will consider requests for love offerings to assist those in need. The deacons shall have full authority to make such recommendations to the church as needed or to dispose of the case as they see fit.

**SECTION 3.** The church shall use its wisdom and discretion in financially supporting any organization or individuals.

**SECTION 4.** The active deacons, the pastor, the chairman of finance, and the Director of Baptist Men shall act as the Benevolence Committee.

## **ARTICLE XI. CHURCH 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 Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and His angels, 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 sacred prominence over all institutions of human origin; and 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 throughout all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to religiously educate our children in the Christian faith; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk

circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; 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 it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove 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 XII. THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE

### THE 2000 BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE

#### I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

#### II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

##### A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew

6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

## **B. God the Son**

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 53:1-12; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

## **C. God the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

## **III. Man**

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of

Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3:9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

#### IV. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

B. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

C. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

D. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

#### V. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in



connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

## VI. The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.

## VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

## VIII. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3, 33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1, 19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.

## IX. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10, 23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10, 16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6, 9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

## X. Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27, 30, 36, 44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40, 48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28, 35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1, 8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.

## XI. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-

8:16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2: 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.

## XII. Education

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5, 9, 14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7, 11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3, 8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.

## XIII. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21, 42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

## XIV. Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be

attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18.

## XV. The Christian and the Social Order

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.

## XVI. Peace and War

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9, 38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36, 38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2.

## XVII. Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of

its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7, 24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1, 13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

## XVIII. The Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6, 15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15, 17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8, 14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

[Read Commentary on Article XVIII - The Family](#)

Adopted and approved 7/2/2015  
Revised 5/15/2019