

CONSTITUTION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MOLINE

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

ARTICLE 1 - Name and Address

The corporate name of this church is the "First Baptist Church of Moline." Its mailing address is 1901 - 29th Street, Moline, Illinois 61265-4260.

ARTICLE 2 - Purpose

The purpose of our church shall be the advancement of the kingdom of God. It shall seek to attain this end through the public worship of God, the preaching of the gospel, consistent Christian living by its members, personal evangelism, missionary outreach, Christian education, Christian citizenship, and providing opportunities for Christian fellowship. Our church shall cooperate with other Christian churches and organizations through ecumenical relationships.

ARTICLE 3 - Affiliation

Our church shall be affiliated with The American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. (hereinafter stated as American Baptist Churches) on an area, region and national basis. The government of our church is vested in its members.

ARTICLE 4 - Doctrine

Our church accepts the Scriptures as an all sufficient basis of doctrine and practice. As a summary of principles for Christian conduct among its members, it adopts the following church covenant.

ARTICLE 5 - Church Covenant

In the presence of Almighty God and one another, we gather here in the fellowship of our church to acknowledge our belief in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord. Having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we come now to rededicate ourselves to Christ's service as we unite with one another in this covenant.

We will endeavor to make prayer a part of our daily living, seeking forgiveness for our sins and renewal of our Spiritual lives, so that we may be able to live together in brotherly love and help one another to think, speak and act as concerned Christians.

We will be regular in our church attendance, observe its ordinances, and seek opportunities for worship, training, service and fellowship in order that we may understand more fully the teachings of the Bible and their application to daily living.

We pledge ourselves to show our gratitude for God's many blessings by sharing cheerfully and regularly of our time, talents and treasures to support the church and its ministry in all areas of life.

Believing our bodies are temples of the Living God, we will endeavor to avoid experiences and habits which defile the body and hinder our witness.

Believing that our call to membership in the church is a call to witness in the world, we will seek to live to the glory of Christ who has called us into His service. If we move from this area, we will join another church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and principles of God's word.

ARTICLE 6 - Membership

Section 1 - Qualifications

Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior, and who is in accord with the faith and practices held by this church, may be admitted after attending a membership class and upon recommendation of the Pastor to the Diaconate.

Section 2 - Reception of Members

Persons may be received into membership by any of the four methods, upon recommendation of the Pastor to the Diaconate.

By Baptism - Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and expressing a desire to follow Christ as Lord and Savior may be received into this church following baptism by immersion.

By Letter - By letter of transfer from another Christian Church.

By Christian Experience - By statement of Christian faith and experience where a letter is not available.

By Restoration - A person who has lost active membership in our church, may be restored to membership upon recommendation of the Diaconate.

Section 3 - Benefits of Membership

The benefits of church membership include:

- Personal growth
- A sense of belonging
- A sense of fulfillment
- Renewed purpose
- Spiritual joy
- Participate in the church's government, management, and its future.

Section 4 - Duties of Members

- Every member owes allegiance to Christ and should strive to please and honor Him in all things. Each member of this church is an ambassador for Christ and therefore, should live accordingly.
- Every member should be regular in attendance at all worship services of this church, seeking God's will for their life, and participating in the ministries of this church.
- Every member should support the church financially according to their means and ability, giving unto the Lord as the Lord has provided; and following the Biblical guidelines of the tithe (10%).
- Absent members should send to the Financial Secretary of this church their contribution for church expenses at least once per year and as far as possible send offerings for missions.
- Members sharing overlapping areas of responsibility with others should cooperate and consult with each other when making changes in their common area.

Section 5 - Termination of Membership

By Letter - Any member may request a letter of transfer to any other Christian church.

By Request - A member requesting to withdraw from this church should submit the request in writing to the church clerk. The Diaconate will act upon the request.

By Suspension - The Diaconate will make efforts to restore any member who does not participate in the services of worship or in the support of the church. If, upon review, the Diaconate becomes convinced that a member cannot be reactivated, the Diaconate will recommend to the church at the Annual Meeting that they be placed on an inactive membership roll and not be counted in the public statistics of the church. However, they still may be granted their church letter of transfer.

By Erasure

- Any member who is known to have joined another church will be removed from the church roll upon confirmation of the fact and notice given to the member.
- Any member inactive for at least two years without attending services, contributing to the church or contacting the church will be written and if no response is received, the member will be dropped from the church roll.

ARTICLE 7 - Other Incorporation Provisions

Section 1

No part of the money received by this corporation shall benefit, or be distributed to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons except that this corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered.

Section 2

This corporation shall not propagate or otherwise attempt to influence political processes.

Section 3

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, this corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried by:

- A. A corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).
- B. A corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 701(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Section 4

Upon the dissolution of this corporation, the Board of Trustees shall, after making provisions for the payment of all of the liabilities of this corporation, dispose of all the assets of this corporation exclusively for the corporation in such manner, or to such organizations, consistent with the articles of corporation and with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Revenue Law).

Section 5

In the event of division of the church membership, the church property shall belong to those members of this church who abide by the church's articles of incorporation and bylaws and its original intent of fellowship with The American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. Should conditions arise where, for any reason, this church cannot continue to exist, property and remaining assets shall be transferred to The American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region. Restriction on gifts given to the church as memorials, wills, or bequests shall be observed prior to any assets being transferred.

BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MOLINE

BY-LAW 1 - Professional Staff

Section 1 - Senior Pastor/Co-Pastor

The Senior Pastor/Co-Pastor shall preach the Gospel, administer the ordinances, watch over the membership, and be in charge of the spiritual welfare of the congregation and the stated services of public worship. To coordinate the total church program, he/she shall be a member of the Advisory Council and ex-officio member of all boards and committees of the church and its auxiliary organizations. The senior pastor/co-pastor shall coordinate and supervise the day-to-day work of other professional staff members, music staff, office staff and custodian.

Section 2 - Additional Full-Time/Part-Time Professional Staff Members

The church may, by vote, call additional persons to serve in various staff positions as determined by the church upon recommendation of a board or committee. He/she shall be a member of the Advisory Council and an ex-officio member of all boards and committees.

BY-LAW 2 - Officers

Section 1- Moderator

The Moderator shall preside at all business meetings of the church and at all meetings of the Advisory Council. The Moderator may carry out such other responsibilities as the Advisory Council or church may request. In his/her temporary absence, the Chairperson of the Diaconate shall serve as Moderator.

Section 2 - Clerk

The Clerk shall keep minutes of all business meetings of the church and of the Advisory Council. The minutes shall be presented for approval at the next business meeting. The Clerk shall keep a record of the names and addresses of members with dates and manner of admission and dismissal, a record of baptisms, a list of those placed on an inactive status and a file of non-resident members. The Clerk shall issue letters of transfer and recommendation, preserve on file all official communications and written reports, and give legal notice of all meetings where such is required by the church. The clerk shall assist in preparing denominational reports. The clerk shall deliver to his/her successor all books and records pertaining to his/her office by the first Sunday after election. All changes in the church roll shall be reported by name at the quarterly Advisory Council meetings and the Annual Meeting. The Clerk shall maintain a book of Remembrance.

Section 3 - Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible to the Board of Trustees. The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds in the checking account of the church and all deposits made in the name of the church. All checks written by the treasurer shall be on the account of the First Baptist Church of Moline. The Treasurer shall keep separate accounts of all funds raised or contributed for particular purposes and separate accounts for board and committee budgeted expenditures. The Treasurer shall only make disbursements authorized by board and committee Chairperson's signed expenditure authorization forms, (pink). The treasurer shall file all payroll reports when due to the required government agencies and all other normal external reports required in conduct of church business.

The treasurer shall present to the church an itemized report of receipts and disbursements, showing the actual financial condition of the church at each Annual Meeting, this report to have been audited previously by the auditors selected by the church. The treasurer shall make monthly financial reports to the Board of Trustees and quarterly budget-status reports to the Advisory Council.

The treasurer shall deliver to his/her successor all books and records pertaining to this office the first Sunday after election.

NEW JANUARY 23, 2011 PROPOSED AMENDMENT He/she shall issue quarterly paper or electronic statements to each contributor who has given a total minimum of 100 dollars by the end of the first quarter, 200 dollars by the end of the second quarter, and 300 hundred dollars by the end of the third quarter. Paper statements will be mailed to each contributor at the end of the year for tax purposes. In any event, electronic or paper statements will be provided for anyone upon request.

Section 4 - Assistant Treasurer

The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the treasurer in the fulfillment of his/her duties as the treasurer may direct.

Section 5 - Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary shall furnish offering envelopes to each member of the church and to any other contributor upon request. He/she shall keep a record of all pledges made, receive all money contributed, and keep a correct account between the church and its members. He/she shall issue quarterly statements of contributions to each contributor. He/she shall record receipt of all other forms of income received by the church. He/she shall deposit all income weekly in the bank selected by the Board of Trustees and render a statement to the Treasurer.

The Financial Secretary shall provide a quarterly report to the Board of Trustees, to the Auditing Committee, and to the Advisory Council. This officer acts as a receiving agent for funds contributed for causes within the American Baptist Churches and the local church budget. He/she shall be ex-officio member of the Finance Committee and make regular reports to it relative to receipt and status of

pledges as requested by the Committee. He/she shall deliver to his/her successor all books and records pertaining to this office by the first Sunday after election.

Section 6 - Assistant Financial Secretary

The Assistant Financial Secretary shall assist the Financial Secretary in the fulfillment of the duties as the Financial Secretary may direct.

Section 7 – Office Tenure

The Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Assistant Financial Secretary shall be elected from the church membership at the Annual Meeting for a term of two years. The Moderator may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The other five officers shall not serve more than three consecutive terms. Members may be re-elected only after being off for one year or more. The Moderator, Treasurer and Assistant Financial Secretary shall be elected in even number years and the Clerk, Assistant Treasurer and Financial Secretary in odd number years.

BY-LAW 3 - Advisory Council

There shall be an Advisory Council consisting of the following members: The Senior Pastor/Co-Pastor and the other full-time professional staff members; the Church Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and Financial Secretary; Chairpersons of the Diaconate, Trustees, Christian Education and Mission Boards; Chairpersons of the Nominating, Finance, Music, Fellowship, Pastoral Relations, Endowment Fund, Wellness/Parish Nurse, and Auditing Committees; Chairpersons of any Task Forces or committees; and representatives of the American Baptist Women's Ministries and all other auxiliary organizations.

Special task forces may be appointed by the Moderator, with council approval for specific tasks.

The members of the Council shall select alternates to represent them at meetings they are unable to attend. Any member of the church may attend Advisory Council meetings with the right to speak, but without the right to vote.

All matters of importance should be considered by the Advisory Council before being presented to the church. It shall coordinate the activities of the church with power to set the hours for stated meetings and services of the church upon recommendation of the appropriate church groups. It shall be instrumental in developing a program calendar for the church including long-range planning. The Council shall undertake to strengthen the total work of the church, its boards, committees and auxiliary organizations. Acting on recommendation of the Finance Committee, it shall approve the proposed annual budget prior to its consideration by the membership at the Annual Meeting in January.

The Advisory Council shall hold quarterly meetings. Special meetings may be called by the Pastors, the Moderator, or the Clerk who shall notify the other members. Ten of the members shall constitute a quorum.

BY-LAW 4 - Boards

Section 1 General

Each board shall have regular stated meetings. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson, Pastors or board secretary who shall notify all boards members. A majority of elected members constitutes a quorum. Boards may select members from the congregation at large to perform various tasks. Each board Chairperson shall approve its expenses before giving them to the Treasurer for payment. Each board shall propose its annual budget to the Finance Committee and shall prepare a written report for the Annual Meeting and at other times as needed. One half of the members of each board shall be elected for a term of two years from the membership of the church at the Annual Meeting. Any member may be asked to serve another two year term, with a maximum of four consecutive years served. Members may be re-elected only after being off for one year or more. Board members elected to that position may volunteer to serve in one additional elected position. Each board shall elect by January 31, Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and a representative to the Pastoral Relations Committee. Members shall retain their duties until the board is reorganized.

Section 2 – The Diaconate

The board shall consist of sixteen Deacons. The Chairperson shall serve as Moderator in the temporary absence of the Moderator. In addition to election of a regular Board, the church may elect as Life Deacon, one, who by reason of outstanding service and advanced years, may be deemed worthy of special honor.

The Diaconate shall meet regularly. The Diaconate shall assist the Pastors in his/her work; consider all applications for church membership and dismissals; visit the membership; care for the sick, needy and distressed members of he church; promote spiritual growth and the observance of the church covenant; and aid in the administration of the ordinances.

By January 31, a Chairperson shall be selected to oversee the many responsibilities of the Board, including evangelism, baptism, visitation, ushering, decorations, communion, transportation for worship services and other functions as needed.

The Diaconate shall make faithful efforts to restore any member who has failed to participate in the services of worship or in the support of the church for two years. If, upon review, the Diaconate becomes convinced that a member cannot be reactivated, the Board shall recommend to the church at the Annual Meeting that they be placed on an inactive membership roll.

Section 3 - The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees shall consist of eight members. The Treasurer and Financial Secretary shall be present at Board Meetings when so requested by the Board. The Treasurer shall be responsible to the Board.

At the February meeting of the Trustees, committees shall be appointed to oversee the many responsibilities of the Board including building and grounds, equipment and supplies, finance, insurance and personnel, memorials, weddings, church van maintenance and other functions as needed.

The trustees shall hold in trust all property belonging to the church and shall take all necessary measures for its protection, management and upkeep. The Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson in his absence may sign contracts on behalf of the church. It shall determine the use of the church facilities. It shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any real property without specific vote of the church authorizing such action. It shall have custody of the securities, investments, title papers and other valuable documents of the church. The Board shall invest money received from memorials, wills and bequests using instruments that provide for a relatively high degree of safety. It shall also invest money from other accounts as may be required.

It shall be responsible for counting all loose collections from church-wide meetings and services. It shall designate the bank where the funds of the church shall be deposited. Checks shall be signed by any two of the following: Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of the Trustees and two other Trustees selected by its Chairperson. The Board shall review the Treasurer's monthly financial report. It shall perform such other duties as are required by the church and the government. It shall secure and have overall responsibility for the custodian and office secretary.

The Board shall be in charge of all memorials, bequests, and wills made to the church. The Board shall use memorials in accordance with the wishes of the family whenever possible. It shall be responsible for meeting the terms of all memorials, bequests and wills.

Section 4 - The Board of Christian Education

The Board of Christian Education shall consist of eight members. The Board shall be responsible for the organization and administration of the entire educational program of the church including children, youth, adult, family life, senior adult and missions. It shall be responsible for developing and interpreting, to the church, the educational objectives and goals. It shall be responsible for (1) time schedule, (2) educational use of allotted space and equipment including the library, (3) addition or elimination of classes or organizations related to it, (4) Vacation Bible School, (5) set Scholarship Applications rules and choose scholarship recipients, (6) Children's Church, (7) Children's Christmas Program coordinated with the Music Department and (8) High School and College Graduation Recognition. It shall be responsible for discovering, enlisting, training and appointing all educational workers. It shall be responsible for obtaining, evaluating and supervising the curricula of the educational program.

The Board shall appoint a Sunday School Coordinator who shall coordinate the operation of the Sunday School. The Board shall appoint a Mid-Week Fellowship Coordinator who shall coordinate the operation of the MWF.

Section 5 - The Board of Missions

The Board of Missions shall consist of six members plus a representative of the American Baptist Women Ministries. The board shall elect a representative who shall coordinate appropriate activities with the Board of Christian Education.

The Board shall seek to increase interest, participation and support for the total work of missions of the American Baptist Churches. It shall also seek to coordinate and encourage mission activities of groups within the church, and between the church and local organizations.

It shall be responsible for promotion of the annual offerings for America for Christ, One Great Hour of Sharing, World Mission and M & M Ministries, as well as any other special missionary offerings.

BY-LAW 5 - Committees

Section 1 - General

Each committee shall have regular stated meetings. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or the Pastors. A majority of elected members constitutes a quorum. Each committee shall prepare a written report for the Annual Meeting and at other times as needed.

Committee members with the exception of the Nominating Committee and Pastoral Relations Committee, shall be elected from the membership of the church at the Annual Meeting for a term of two years. Any member may be asked to serve another two-year term, with a maximum of four consecutive years served. Members may be re-elected only after being off for one year or more. Committee members elected to that position may volunteer to serve in one additional elected position. Three members (one for the Auditing Committee) shall be elected in odd years and two in even years. Each committee shall elect by January 31, a Chairperson and a secretary. Members shall retain their duties until the committee is reorganized and new officers elected.

Section 2 - Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members. The new members for the Nominating Committee shall be proposed by the Nominating Committee and shall be elected by the Advisory Council at the October meeting. They shall serve a two-year term, beginning immediately with a meeting in October. They may not be re-elected for a consecutive term. Three members shall be elected in odd years and two in even years. The committee shall nominate officers, members of boards, and members of standing committees.

In selecting nominees for boards and committees, newer and younger members should be sought, but only after they have had an opportunity to become acquainted with the church and its programs. It shall interview each nominee proposed, explain the duties of the office, with a copy of that section of the constitution and ascertain if he or she is willing to serve if elected. The committee shall report in writing the names of its nominees to the church at least one week before the Annual Meeting.

Vacancies occurring during the year shall be filled for the un-expired term by the Nominating Committee Chairperson in consultation with the Moderator and the affected board or committee Chairperson without further approval.

Section 3 - Auditing Committee

The Auditing Committee shall consist of three qualified members, They shall be responsible for the audit of all the financial records of the church. It shall audit the records of the Treasurer monthly and the Financial Secretary and the Trustees (investments and securities) at least annually. It shall report to the Advisory Council quarterly and in writing to the church at the time of the Annual Meeting.

Section 4 - Finance Committee

The Finance Committee shall consist of five members. It shall be responsible for raising money to support the program of the church. The Financial Secretary is an ex-officio member. It shall conduct the solicitation of church pledges, after preparing a proposed church budget based on requests from boards and committees. After the solicitation, it shall submit a practical proposed budget to the Advisory Council in January. Proposed budget expenses should not exceed the sum of projected pledges, non-pledge giving, other current Budget income sources and the current Budget checking account balance. Special designated funds, such as memorials and wills, cannot be used to satisfy budget requirements.

Church groups proposing special programs to raise money beyond their group shall first submit their proposal in writing to the Finance Committee for approval. Copies of the approval will be given by the Finance Committee to the requesting group, the Financial Secretary, and the Trustees. The approval shall state the responsible person and group raising the money, the use of the money raised, and how the money is to be accounted for. Money collected shall be counted by two church members of the group and recorded in writing.

Section 5 - Endowment Fund Committee

The Endowment Fund Committee shall consist of five members. The Moderator is an ex officio member. They will meet at least quarterly. It accepts gifts from donors and deposits them in the Endowment Fund of the American Baptist Foundation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The scholarship account is in a Fixed Income Fund and distributions are made each summer to the Board of Christian Education. The Capital Improvement, Changing Lives, Missions, and Undesignated accounts are in a Blended Fund. Distributions are available each summer when there is sufficient growth in their market value. They report to the Trustees. A quarterly report is required to the Trustees, Advisory Council, with a copy posted on the bulletin board.

Section 6 - Music Committee

The Music Committee shall consist of five members. It is responsible for the music programs of the church, which includes the Praise Team, Bell Choir, Adult

Choir and Children Choir. Members of the Music Staff are additional members that are a part of the Music Committee and are ex-officio members. It shall secure the organist, choir directors, and their substitutes; maintain the church's musical instruments and the music library; cooperate with the Pastors and their directors in the selection of music; and obtain special music during the summer, in absence of the choir. The Music Committee is responsible for both the audio and visual equipment of the church.

Section 7 - Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship committee shall consist of five members. It shall plan and supervise social events to promote the spirit of fellowship within the church family. It shall work closely with other boards and committees and shall cooperate with ABWM in the use of the kitchen.

Section 8 - Wellness/Parish Nurse Committee

A Parish Nurse shall be employed through Trinity Health Systems Parish Nurse program. Yearly evaluations and monthly educational programs for the Parish Nurse/Nurses will be done by the Trinity Health Systems Parish Nurse program. Visits to hospitalized members, and shut-ins as needed shall be made by the Parish Nurse/Nurses in coordination with the Pastors.

The Parish Nurse/Nurses shall nominate five members, who are interested in the health of church members, to the Wellness Committee. The Wellness Committee shall meet monthly with the Parish Nurse/Nurses to plan activities to improve the health of church members. This includes blood pressure screening, flu shots, and any other screenings available through Trinity Health systems. It also includes twice yearly blood drives, educational programs, exercise programs, and walk to the moon. Health information will be publized in the newsletter, church bulletin and on the bulletin boards. Books and periodicals on health and healthy living will be available in the Parish Nurse office.

Section 9 Pastoral Relations Committee

The Pastoral Relations Committee shall consist of at least six members. The Nominating Committee shall nominate the Chairperson and each full-time Professional Staff Member shall nominate one committee member as his/her personal representative, for election at the Annual Meeting. The other four members shall be elected, one from each board, by January 31. The committee shall meet at least once each quarter. The committee should support the Pastors through words of encouragement and gratitude.

It shall aid the staff in making their ministry more effective by being available for counseling and by keeping them advised concerning relations between the congregation and the staff. The committee shall cooperate with the Pastors in securing suitable supply ministers for preaching and other pastoral service during

their absence. The committee shall conduct a performance evaluation with the staff at least annually. The committee shall propose the budget for the staff's salary and benefits. The Committee shall propose any annual cost of living increases for all salary staff.

The committee shall be sensitive to the relationship between the Pastors and the congregation, and help carry out the tasks of the gospel of Jesus Christ. If it should become evident to the committee that the best interests of the church and Pastors would be served by a change in pastors, the committee shall so inform him/her. The Pastor, or the committee, may invite to any meeting, the Area Minister or his/her representative.

Section 10 - Search Committee

When a vacancy in the Pastorate or other professional staff position occurs, a Search Committee shall be formed. It shall be composed of a member nominated from each of the boards: Diaconate, Trustees, Christian Education and Missions, the Chairperson of the current Pastoral Relations Committee, and two at large members nominated by the Nominating Committee. A special business meeting of the church will be called to elect all members of the Search Committee. The committee will elect its own Chairperson.

The committee shall take the necessary steps to secure a Pastor, or other professional staff person, after consulting with the Area Minister of the American Baptist Churches. It shall consider each candidate's personal character, education, ministerial record, preaching ability, doctrinal beliefs, and/or other professional requirements relating to the position in question. When a suitable person is found, the committee shall recommend him or her to the congregation for their decision.

When a vacancy occurs in a professional staff position other than the Pastorate, the Pastor shall join the Search Committee in evaluating the type of staff most needed. A job description shall be prepared for any position being filled and shall be submitted to the church for approval prior to the start of the search.

Upon selection of a new staff person by the church, the Search Committee will be disbanded.

Section 11 - Special Committees

Special committees may be appointed by the Advisory Council when needed.

BY-LAW 6 - The Pastorate

Section 1 - Calling a Pastor

The call of a Pastor shall come before the church at a business meeting, notice of such meeting and its purpose having been read from the pulpit on two consecutive Sundays. Only a person who is sympathetically cooperative with the purposes and program of The American Baptist Churches U.S.A. shall be considered.

Only one candidate shall be presented to the church at one time. The vote shall be by secret ballot. At least seventy-five members must vote on the issue and ninety percent approval is required before a call can be extended.

Section 2 - Termination of Pastorate

The term of office may be ended upon at least thirty days notice on the part of the Pastor or of the church, or by mutual consent. Termination of the office shall be voted at a regularly called business meeting, notice of such meeting and its purpose having been read from the pulpit on two consecutive Sundays. A vote of a majority of the members present and qualified to vote, provided there be present and voting seventy-five members, shall be required.

Section 3 - The previous two Sections shall also apply to all other professional staff called by members of the church.

BY-LAW 7 - Elections

Section 1 - Time

The annual election to offices, boards, and committees (except the Nominating Committee) shall be held during the Annual Meeting, which shall be between the 10th and 24th of January, enabling officers to assume their duties by January 31.

Section 2 - Voting

All matters pertaining to the purchase, sale or mortgaging of real property, shall be voted on only by members who are of legal age (age 18). On other matters, all members are entitled to vote. Secret ballots shall be used for voting on the annual budget and for all other all-church financial decisions. Members must be present to vote.

Section 3 - Procedure

At least one week before the election, the Nominating Committee shall present to the church, in writing, the name of one person for each office to be filled. At the Annual Meeting any member present may nominate any person eligible for any office. A majority of the votes cast are necessary for the election of any officer. No person shall be eligible to hold more than two elective offices at the same time. The six Church Officers may not hold more than one elected position. The office secretary shall furnish each new Officer, Board Chairperson, and Committee Chairperson a current copy of the Constitution each January.

BY-LAW 8 - Meetings

Section 1 - Worship Service

Public services shall be held each Sunday. The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month, or at such other times as the Pastors and Diaconate may determine.

Occasional services may be scheduled by the Pastor, by the Diaconate, by the Advisory Council or by vote of the church.

Section 2 - Business Meetings

The Annual Meeting shall be held between the 10th and 24th of January for the purpose of receiving the annual written reports of individual officers, boards, and committees of the church and its auxiliary organizations; the election of officers, voting on the budget for the coming year, and other business as is proper to come before this meeting.

Special business meetings may be called at any time by the Pastor, Clerk, Moderator, or by five members in good standing who are qualified voters. Notice of such meeting and the object for which it is called shall be given by the Sunday preceding the date of the meeting. A quorum for the transaction of business shall be thirty.

At any of the regular meetings of worship, the church may, without notice, act upon the appointment of delegates to councils, associations, and conventions, but not on extraordinary business. The Pastor may act as Moderator at such meetings.

Section 3 - Parliamentary Questions

In parliamentary questions, Robert's Rules of Order shall be considered authority.

BY-LAW 9 - Church Year

The program year and the fiscal year of the church shall be the calendar year.

BY-LAW 10 - Amendments

The Articles of Incorporation/Constitution may be amended at any regular or called business meeting of the church by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, provided a quorum is present. Notice of such amendment, stating the proposed change, shall have been given from the pulpit on two consecutive Sundays immediately prior to the business meeting.

The By-Laws may be amended by the Advisory Board provided notice and rationale¹ is given two weeks in advance.

The By-Laws shall be reviewed periodically, at the discretion of the Advisory Council, at least every five years.

January 25, 2009 Date Revised

Julie Rodell Church Clerk

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Proposed modification to the Constitution regarding Election of Boards and Committees

(Changes are indicated in bold print.)

BY-LAW 2 Officers – Section 7 Office Tenure

Change the language to read: The Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Assistant Financial Secretary shall be elected from the church membership at the Annual Meeting for a term of two years. The Moderator may not serve more than two consecutive terms, unless, due to extenuating circumstances, and with the approval of two-thirds of the voting membership, he/she may serve up to an additional two years. The other five officers shall not serve more than three consecutive terms unless, due to extenuating circumstances, and with the approval of two-thirds of the voting membership, he/she may serve up to an additional two years.

BY-LAW 4 Boards – Section 1 General

Change the language to read: One half of the members of each board shall be elected for a term of two years from the membership of the church at the Annual Meeting. Any member may be asked to serve another two-year term, with a maximum of four consecutive years served. In the event that, due to low church membership or a lack of members willing to serve their church, existing board members may continue to serve for an extended period of time, not to exceed four consecutive terms.

BY-LAW 5 Committees, Section 1 General

Change the language to read: Committee members, with the exception of the Nominating Committee and the Pastoral Relations Committee, shall be elected from the membership of the church at the Annual Meeting for a term of two years. Any member may be asked to serve another two-year term, with a maximum of four consecutive years served. Members may be re-elected after being off for one year or more. In the event that, due to low church membership or a lack of members willing to serve their church, existing committee members may continue to serve for an extended period of time, not to exceed four consecutive terms.

January 22, 2012