

# Constitution

First Baptist Church Lakeview

Revised: March 2025

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## **CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been led by the Spirit of God to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and desiring to unite in the worship, fellowship and testimony of this portion of Christ's spiritual body, I do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into the following agreement with others in this church by the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit:

- To walk together in Christian love
- To strive for the growth of this church in knowledge and holiness
- To promote the fellowship and spirituality of this church
- To uphold this church's worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines
- To contribute cheerfully and regularly, as the Lord directs, to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the needy, and the spreading of the gospel to all nations
- To maintain family and personal worship
- To bring up such children as may be entrusted to my care, with Christian instruction and discipline
- To endeavor by example, by word, and by prayer to win others to an acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord
- To be fair in my dealings, faithful in my commitments and an example in my behavior
- To remember others in prayer
- To aid others in sickness and distress
- To be thoughtful and courteous to others, to be slow to take offense, and to be quick to forgive and to seek to be forgiven
- When moving from this fellowship, I will as soon as possible, find a church where I can carry out the principles of God's Word, and this agreement

## **CHURCH CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

### **PREAMBLE**

Whereas, we as a body of believers in Jesus Christ organized for the purpose of spreading the gospel of our Lord and Teacher, having definite laws so that "all things may be done decently and in order," and having carefully guarded and maintained the principles of our church, therefore be it resolved that beginning January 1, 2019, we shall be governed by the following Constitution and Bylaws:

### **ARTICLE I                      NAME**

The name of this organization shall be First Baptist Church of Lakeview, Oregon.

### **ARTICLE II                      PURPOSE**

In submission to Christ's authority, the purpose of this church shall be to glorify God and advance His kingdom by making disciples of Jesus Christ who are growing spiritually by actively participating in the life and ministries of this church.

We believe that a disciple of Jesus Christ is a person who possesses a genuine, vital relationship with Him as Lord and Savior. The reality of this relationship will manifest itself in a growing, lifelong commitment to three spiritual priorities:

- To know and love the Lord by pursuing intimate relationship with Him
- To grow and become like the Lord by cultivating Christlike character and conduct
- To go and show the Lord to others by offering oneself to God and others in faithful and fruitful service.

### **ARTICLE III                      STATEMENT OF FAITH**

1. **The Bible.** We believe that the Bible is God's inspired Word, that it was written by men who were led by the Holy Spirit, and that it is the supreme, infallible authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Mark 7:6-13; Acts 5:29)
2. **The Trinity.** We believe that there is only one true God, the triune God of the Bible, eternally existing as three coequal but distinct Persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19; John 1:1-2, 14; John 10:30; 14:15-17; 2 Corinthians 13:14)
  - a. **God the Father.** We believe that God the Father is perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power. We rejoice that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:15-16; Jeremiah 10:12; Ephesians 2:4-5; Isaiah 65:24; Hebrews 7:25)
  - b. **God the Son.** We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal and only begotten Son of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit, of virgin birth, sinless in His life, and making

atonement for the sins of the world by His death. We believe in His bodily resurrection, ascension and visible, pre-millennial return to the world according to His promise. (John 1:1, 14, 18; Matthew 1:18; Hebrews 4:15; 1 John 4:10; Acts 2:23-24; Acts 1:9-11)

- c. **God the Holy Spirit.** We believe that the Holy Spirit was sent by God the Father and the Son to convict the world of sin, of righteousness and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify and comfort those who believe in Jesus Christ. (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7-8; Titus 3:4-6; 1 Corinthians 6:11)
- 3. **Salvation.** We believe that all men are by nature and choice sinners, but that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." We believe that God offers redemption, forgiveness and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe, therefore, that those who accept Christ as Savior and Lord will rejoice forever in God's presence and those who refuse to accept Christ as Savior and Lord will be forever separated from God. (John 3:16-18, 36; Acts 3:19-21; Romans 5:12; 3:23; 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 2:1-3; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 1:8-10)
- 4. **The Church.** We believe that a local church is a community of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized by immersion upon a credible confession of faith and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that to these local churches were committed, for perpetual observance, the ordinances of baptism, and the Lord's Supper, and that God has laid upon these churches the task of proclaiming to a lost world the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and the enthroning of Him as Lord and Master. We believe that human betterment and social improvements are the inevitable by-products of such a gospel. (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 2:42-47; Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20; Galatians 6:10)
- 5. **Marriage and Human Sexuality.** We believe that the God of the Bible is the Creator of the universe. We believe that He created mankind, male and female, in His own image and likeness. As such He created them different so as to complement and complete each other. God instituted monogamous marriage between a man and a woman who love each other as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society.

We believe that marriage is exclusively the binding union of one genetic male and one genetic female sanctioned by God and evidenced by a marriage ceremony.

We also believe that legitimate biblical sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Therefore, sexual activities such as, but not limited to, lust, adultery, fornication, pre-marital sex, incest, polygamy, homosexuality, transgenderism, bisexuality, cross-dressing, pedophilia and bestiality are contrary to God's laws and the teachings of the Bible. Further, lascivious behavior, the creation, viewing and/or distribution of pornography are incompatible with a true biblical witness.

We believe that homosexuality and all other "sexual preferences" or "orientations" other than heterosexuality within the bond of marriage are unnatural, sinful, and unacceptable to God, a violation of His original, intended design for marriage. Therefore, this ministry will only perform marriage ceremonies and make its facilities and resources available for

weddings between a man and a woman who are entering into a covenant relationship with each other and with God as an expression of their lifelong commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and one another. (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-12; John 4:16-18; Romans 1:18-32; 7:2; 1 Corinthians 5:11; 6:9-11, 18-20; 7:1-17; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:3-12, 21-33; 1 Timothy 1:8-11) (Please see also our *Wedding Guidelines*)

We believe that every person regardless of sexual orientation or practice should be shown compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accordance with Scripture nor the doctrines and practices of this church. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:3; Galatians 6:10)

6. **Autonomy of the Local Church.** We believe that every human being is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith, that each church is independent and autonomous and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that, therefore, Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from the dictation or patronage of the other. (Romans 14:12; Matthew 22:21; Acts 12:1)

## **ARTICLE IV      RELATIONSHIPS**

This church is independent so far as relates to its internal organization and the regulation of its own affairs. It is answerable to no ecclesiastical body, except by its own consent. It controls the admission, discipline and removal of its members according to its own understanding of the Word of God.

## **ARTICLE V      MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section A      Receiving Members**

1. Those who have been truly born again and baptized by immersion after being saved may be received into the membership of the church by giving satisfactory evidence of a change of heart, Scriptural conduct and Scriptural faith.
2. Candidates for baptism and church membership shall be examined by the pastor and the Elder Board, who shall ascertain the character and standing of the said candidates, and shall instruct them in the Church Covenant, Constitution and Bylaws, and shall present to them the tithing system which this church recommends as a biblical standard for current expenses, benevolence, and missionary objectives of the church, and shall report recommendations to the church for its approval.
3. The pastor and his wife are accepted as members when he is accepted as pastor.
4. Members of other churches holding the same faith and similar doctrinal statements may be received by letter of transfer from their respective churches.

### **Section B      Dismissal of Members**

1. Members in good standing may request a letter of transfer in order to unite with another church of like faith and practice. All church letters shall be sent by the Clerk of this church directly to the Pastor or Clerk of the church designated.
2. If a member, resident or non-resident, fails to keep in touch with the church or neglects his covenant obligation, the Elder Board may, after a period of nine months, place his or her name on an inactive list. After a period of one more year, his or her name may be removed from the roll. Every effort shall be made to win the member to renewed Christian living and church relation before the name is removed from the roll. A two-thirds majority of those present and voting shall be required for this action.
3. A former member, whose membership has lapsed, due to dereliction on his or her part, may be restored to fellowship on confession of their errors, and giving evidence of their repentance and confession of faith.

### **Section C      Rights of Members**

1. Members in good standing may act and vote in the transactions of the church and may hold office. The minimum age for voting shall be 18 years.
2. Members placed on the inactive or nonresident membership roll may not act or vote in the transactions of the church, nor hold office.

### **ARTICLE VI      DUTIES OF MEMBERS**

#### **It is the duty of each member:**

1. To grow in their knowledge, understanding and application of the Scriptures so that they are increasingly becoming more like Christ in their character and conduct.
2. To honor and esteem their pastor, to pray for him on a regular basis, to imitate his faith and lifestyle as he imitates Christ and to guard his reputation in the community.
3. To cultivate and cherish brotherly love for all other members of the church, and to show this love by using all proper ways to promote their spiritual growth.
4. To always be careful to behave in such a manner that commends the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His Church to those who do not yet know Him as Lord and Savior.
5. To attend the worship services of the church on a regular basis and support its ministries through prayer, participation and financial giving as the Lord enables.

### **ARTICLE VII      OFFICERS**

1. The officers of the church shall consist of: the Pastor, Pastoral Associates, Elder, Clerk, Treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent, Head Usher, Church Historian, Librarian, and Moderator.
2. All officers of the church shall be members of the church in good standing. They shall be elected by ballot annually at a Business Meeting of the church for a term of one year, unless otherwise specified by the active members at the meeting.

With the exception of the Elders and the Treasurer, officers may recruit assistants to their office as they see fit. These assistants may not hold office on a permanent basis without being elected by the active members.

With the exception of the office of Elder, church members may elect to NOT fill offices by a majority vote at a business meeting.

3. The church has the power for good and sufficient cause to remove from office any officer. Good and sufficient cause shall be negligence in assigned duties. Vacancies occurring during the year shall be filled by church vote upon the recommendation of candidates by the Nominating Committee.
4. In accordance with the guidelines of 1 Timothy 5:19-20, an officer or employee of the church accused of gross misconduct shall be suspended or relieved of duty immediately (with pay and benefits, if a paid employee) while the accusation is investigated. If the investigation is prolonged more than two weeks, the Elder Board may, by three-fourths majority vote, allow the officer/employee to perform his/her duties within the limitations set by the Elder Board.

## **Section A-1     Pastor**

### **1. Calling a Pastor**

Upon a vacancy in the office of Pastor, the Elder Board shall carefully select a list of nominees representative of the church in its various departments, and the church, in a regular or called business meeting, shall elect from this list of nominees a Pulpit Committee of at least five members. There shall be at least two Elder representatives on the committee. The duties of this committee shall be to:

- a. Thoroughly explore the field of available men whose doctrinal position is in keeping with the faith and practice of this church.
- b. Thoroughly investigate each prospective candidate as to his educational, theological, and spiritual qualifications to serve the needs of the pastorate as set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
- c. Present to the church the name of only one candidate at a time and only one they have agreed upon as a desirable minister for the pulpit.
- d. Call a special business meeting to consider the call of the minister. Three-fourths of all ballots cast shall be necessary for calling a pastor.
- e. Send a letter to the prospective pastor setting forth the terms of the call following the election by the church.

### **2. Duties of the Pastor**

It shall be the duty of the Pastor to preach the Word at the church and to administer the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. He shall be a member of all boards, committees and organizations, and shall be privileged to attend any meetings.



He shall perform the other duties incumbent on his office which are as follows:

- a. Keep right with God (1 Timothy 4:12, 15-16; 2 Timothy 2:20-22)
- b. Minister God's Word through preaching and teaching (1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 4:2-5; Colossians 1:28-29)
- c. Shepherd the flock (Acts 20:28-31; 1 Peter 5:1-4)
- d. Watch, warn and protect the flock (1 Thessalonians 5:12-15; 2 Timothy 2:14, 23-26; Titus 3:9-11; Hebrews 13:17)
- e. Pray and study the Word (Ezra 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17; 1 Peter 2:2)

### **3. Accountability of the Pastor**

- a. The Pastor is accountable for the performance of his duties, first to the Elder Board, then to the congregation, and ultimately to the Lord.

### **4. Compensation of the Pastor**

- a. The pastor's time-off and vacation time shall be established by the Elder Board.
- b. His salary shall be determined through the annual budget process.
- c. His salary shall be paid at least monthly.

### **5. Termination of the Pastorate**

- a. The term of office may be ended upon 30 days written notice on the part of the pastor.
- b. Where grievance exists against the pastor, that person with the grievance shall go and talk with the pastor in private. If the grievance is unresolved then the person shall take two or three others along, so that the matter discussed is heard by witnesses. If the grievance is still unresolved, it shall be taken before the Elder Board (Matthew 18:15-17). If the above efforts are unsuccessful and reconciliation is not achieved, the church may remove the pastor from office and terminate his employment at a called business meeting. Notice of such meeting and its purpose shall be from the pulpit on two successive Sundays. In addition, a written notice will be sent to the membership stating the date and purpose of the meeting.
- c. A three-fourths majority of members present and voting shall make valid the termination of office.
- d. He shall receive one month's salary on notification of termination of office by the church, except in cases of gross misconduct.

## **Section A-2 Pastoral Staff**

### **1. Calling of Pastoral Staff**

The Elder Board may recommend to the church the calling of Pastoral Staff members, in addition to the Pastor, to perform certain functions of the pastoral office as designated. In a regular or specially called business meeting, the church shall consider the qualifications of the individual being submitted for this office. A vote of three-fourths of all ballots cast

shall be necessary for calling a Pastoral Staff member.

## **2. Qualifications of Pastoral Staff**

The individual being evaluated for this position shall meet the qualifications of a Pastor as set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. He and his wife, if applicable, shall become members of the church upon acceptance of a call to this office. The call and termination shall be the same as that for the Pastor except that a definite term of service may be established.

## **3. Accountability of Pastoral Staff**

Pastoral Staff is accountable to the Senior Pastor and will be under his direct supervision. He will be expected to fully cooperate with the Pastor in working closely with him to use his gifts to bring the most benefit to the church. He will also be accountable to the Elder Board, the congregation, and the Lord to the same extent as the Pastor.

## **4. General Duties of Pastoral Staff**

- a. He shall maintain a right relationship with God at all times.
- b. He shall be a regular member of all committees related to his primary functions.
- c. He shall be a regular member of the Elder Board.
- d. He shall minister God's Word through preaching and teaching, as assigned to him by the Senior Pastor or Elder Board.
- e. He shall use his pastoral gifts to assist the Pastor in shepherding the flock.
- f. He shall commit himself to prayer and study of God's Word.

## **5. Compensation of Pastoral Staff**

- a. Pastoral Staff's time-off and vacation time shall be established by the Elder Board.
- b. His salary shall be determined through the annual budget process.
- c. His salary, if applicable shall be paid at least monthly.

## **Section B Elder Board**

If possible, the Elder Board will consist of at least five elders. These men shall meet the qualifications of a man of God as described by Paul in I Timothy 3:1-12. Elders shall be elected at the April Business Meeting for a term of three years, unless the church chooses to elect them for a shorter period. It is the responsibility of the Elder Board to exercise spiritual and administrative oversight of the people and ministries of the church.

Pastoral Staff shall be considered voting members of the Elder Board except in cases involving salaries, hiring, and possible conflict of personal interest.

The elders shall:

1. Meet at least once a month. Special meetings may be held at the call of the Pastor or the Chairman.

2. Appoint a Chairman, Assistant Chairman and Secretary at the first meeting following the April Business Meeting of the church. The Chairman shall act as the president of the corporation regarding the legal affairs of the church.
3. The Chairman, Assistant Chairman and Secretary are authorized to act as Trustees of church property and to sign legal papers at the direction of the church body or the Elder Board.
4. Evaluate the performance of each ministry and recommend to the church the need to disband or create new ministries.
5. Distribute the elements of the Lord's Supper.
6. Interview and recommend candidates for church membership.
7. Provide a supply preacher in the absence of the Pastor and in the interim between pastors.
8. Recommend to the church, for approval, the need to increase or decrease budget items. Non-budget items over \$500.00 must be approved by the church.
9. Present to the church a proposed budget one month before the Annual Business Meeting.
10. Identify items, issues and concerns to be brought before the church body during quarterly, annual and special church business meetings. Prepare the agenda for the church business meetings.
11. Come alongside the Pastor to provide support and encouragement, as needed or necessary, as we collectively carry out the Mission of the church.
12. Make certain that a copy of the minutes of the Elder Board meetings is available for review by members of the church in the Church Office. Confidential matters are not to be published.
13. The elders are accountable to the congregation, the Elder Board, and ultimately, the Lord.

### **Section C      Clerk**

The Church Clerk shall keep accurate minutes of the business meetings of the church.

### **Section D      Treasurer and/or Office Manager**

1. The Treasurer and/or Office Manager shall keep an accurate record of all offerings.
2. The Treasurer and/or Office Manager shall keep an accurate record of contributions and prepare an annual report by January 31<sup>st</sup> for those who give to support the ministries of the church.
3. The Treasurer and/or Office Manager shall pay all bills authorized by the church and ordered paid by the Elder Board.
4. The Treasurer and/or Office Manager shall present a summary of receipts and disbursements at the business meetings of the church and upon request of the Elder Board. All financial reports shall be made available for review by members of the church in

the Church Office.

### **Section E        Sunday School Superintendent**

The Sunday School Superintendent shall have responsibility for the oversight of the Sunday School program. The Sunday School Superintendent shall:

1. Keep accurate attendance records.
2. Recruit teachers and substitute teachers.
3. Maintain a list of substitute teachers.
4. Order curriculum materials.
5. Meet with teachers as needed regarding how things are going and if changes are needed.
6. Make a schedule for any classes that have rotating teachers.

### **Section F        Head Usher**

The Head Usher shall:

1. See that people are seated comfortably for church services.
2. See that church offerings are collected and turned over to the Financial Committee.
3. Take attendance at all church services.
4. Select as many helpers as he thinks necessary to fulfill these responsibilities.
5. Be responsible to see that the building is secured following the church services.

### **Section G        Church Historian**

The Church Historian shall be responsible for recording significant events of the church during the year. This record of events shall be added to the existing record of the church's history.

### **Section H        Librarian**

The Librarian shall be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the church's library.

### **Section I        Moderator**

It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside at all the business meetings of the church. The Moderator is responsible to be well informed in matters of parliamentary procedure and the Constitution of the church. The Moderator shall:

1. Direct discussion
2. Bring consensus
3. Remain neutral

In the absence of the Moderator the church shall select a substitute moderator by majority vote.

## **ARTICLE VIII   COMMITTEES**

It is the function of each committee to serve the Lord and His people by helping the church family fulfill the Mission of the church. Each committee shall select a Chairperson, an Assistant Chairperson and a Secretary at the first monthly meeting following the April Quarterly Business Meeting of the church. All committees except the Nominating Committee may be disbanded by a majority vote at a legal business meeting. New committees may be created by a majority vote at a legal business meeting.

#### **Section A      Nominating Committee**

This committee functions for about three months once a year (February to April). The members of the committee have the privilege of contacting the members and active participants of our church to invite them to prayerfully consider where the Lord would have them serve Him in the ministries of the church. Please see the Ministry Description for Qualifications, Responsibilities, Procedures and Processes of this committee.

#### **Section B      Missions Committee**

This committee helps the members of the church family have an understanding of what God is doing around the world and a vision for being a part of His redemptive program. Please see the Ministry Description for Qualifications, Responsibilities, Procedures and Processes of this committee.

#### **Section C      Worship Committee**

This committee plans for and helps to lead the church in the worship of God. Please see the Ministry Description for Qualifications and Responsibilities of this committee.

#### **Section D      Fellowship Committee**

This committee promotes biblical, loving relationships among the members of the church family which are the heart of a healthy, growing church. Please see the Ministry Description for Qualifications, Responsibilities, Procedures and Processes of this committee.

#### **Section E      Property Committee**

This committee helps the church family to be a wise steward of the material resources God has entrusted to its care so that they are used for His glory and the advancement of His kingdom. Please see the Ministry Description for Qualifications, Responsibilities, Procedures and Processes of this committee.

#### **Section F      Evangelism Committee**

This committee helps the church to reach the community with the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. Please see the Ministry Description for Qualifications, Responsibilities, Procedures and Processes of this committee.

#### **Section G      Decorations Committee**

This committee helps to create a comfortable and attractive atmosphere in which the church

family worships God and fellowships together. Please see the Ministry Description for Qualifications, Responsibilities, Procedures and Processes of this committee.

## **Section H      Finance Committee**

This committee helps to ensure that we are good and wise stewards of God's resources and the monies that people donate for His work. Please see the Ministry Description for Qualifications, Responsibilities, Procedures and Processes of this committee.

## **ARTICLE IX      MEETINGS**

### **Section A      Regular Church Meetings**

1. The church shall meet every Lord's Day for the public worship of Almighty God.
2. Sunday School shall be held each Sunday for the study and teaching of the Bible. Breaks shall be authorized by the Elder Board, as necessary.
3. Weekly meetings shall be held for young people and children, for their social and spiritual development.
4. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed by the church on the first Sunday of each month or as authorized by the Elder Board.
5. Members are encouraged to meet together for Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and service as often as possible.

### **Section B      Quarterly Business Meetings**

The regular Quarterly Business Meeting of the church shall be held within the first month of each new quarter.

### **Section C      Annual Business Meeting**

The Annual Business Meeting of the church, for the presentation of written annual reports from all officers, committees and ministries of the church, the approval of the annual budget, and the transaction of other business, as necessary, shall occur within the month of July.

### **Section D      Special Business Meetings**

Special business meetings may be called at any time by the request of the elders, provided that announcement of the meeting specifying the nature of the meeting is made at the preceding week's Sunday service.

### **Section E      Conduct of Business Meetings**

1. Fifteen members in good standing present at any regular or special meeting shall constitute a quorum.
2. Business shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order, except where they may conflict with this constitution or bylaws.
3. In the interest of promoting unity within the church body, any proposal brought before the

body shall require at least 75% majority of those members present and voting in order to pass (absentia votes are not taken into account when figuring this percentage).

4. Agendas for business meetings will be made available for review by the church body at least two Sundays before the meetings.

#### **ARTICLE X      AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS**

All auxiliary organizations of this church shall be subject to the control of the church. Failure to work in harmony with the church shall be cause for disbanding such organization by two-thirds vote of the Elder Board. No auxiliary organization shall meet during any regular worship service of the church. Auxiliary organizations shall function under their own separate constitutions. Such constitutions and any future amendments thereto, shall be subject to approval by the Elder Board of the church, and shall not contain any provision that is out of harmony with the church Constitution and Bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE XI      FINANCIAL POLICY**

The financial policy of this church and of all its auxiliary organizations shall be personal voluntary giving. There shall be no suppers, socials or other entertainments for the purpose of raising money without the consent of the Elder Board. This provision is not to be interpreted as forbidding the making of a reasonable charge or receiving a free-will offering sufficient to cover the cost of any social, supper or entertainment.

#### **ARTICLE XII      AMENDMENTS**

1. The foregoing rules may be amended at any regular business meeting or special business meeting of the church by a two-thirds majority vote of those members present and voting, provided that the proposed amendment shall be made available in printed form for review by the congregation for two weeks prior to the business meeting in which the amendment shall be submitted for final action.
2. The rules and regulations adopted in this Constitution shall be construed as setting aside and making null and void all former acts, rules and regulations for the government of this church.