

Bylaws of



FISHERMEN BAPTIST CHURCH

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ARTICLE 1 - NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1.01 – NAME

This congregation of believers shall be known as the *Fishermen Baptist Church*.

SECTION 1.02 - PURPOSE

This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, daycare centers, and camps; the evangelizing of the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; the educating of believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; and the maintaining of missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country.

ARTICLE 2 - STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 2.01 – STATEMENT OF FAITH

The following comprise the basic Scriptural beliefs of this church and its members.

(A) The Holy Scriptures - We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible and God-breathed and, therefore, are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning, and all issues of interpretation and meaning shall be determined by the pastor. The King James Version of the Bible shall be the official and only translation used by the church. We believe it is the providentially preserved Word of God for English speaking people. (Psalm 12:6-7; Matt. 7:29; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Titus 2:15; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)

(B) Dispensationalism - We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life, which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Seven of these dispensations (innocence, conscience, human government, promise, law, grace, and kingdom) are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture. (1 Cor. 9:17; Eph. 1:10; 3:2-10; Col. 1:24-27; 2 Tim. 2:15)

(C) The Godhead - We believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three persons-

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 14:10, 26; Heb. 1:3, 1 John 5:7)

(D) The Person and Work of Christ -

1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Matt. 1:23; Luke 1:35; John 1:1,14; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8; 1 Tim. 3:16)

2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 1:4; 3:24-25; 5:8; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; 2:24)

3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Mediator (Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate). (Acts 1:9-10; Rom. 8:34; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; 1 John 2:1-2)

4. We believe in that *blessed hope*, the personal, imminent return of Christ Who will rapture His church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom, which was promised to the nation of Israel. (Psalm 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; 1 Thess. 1:10; 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:1-6)

(E) The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit -

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (John 16:8-11, 13; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14)

2. We believe that He is the divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit. (John 14:26; Eph. 1:17-18; 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27)

3. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly so that they can do the work of the ministry. (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12)

4. We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing, were temporary, ending with the apostles and Christ's ministry to Israel. Speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit. The ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to

answer the prayers of believers for physical healing. (1 Cor. 1:22; 13:8; 14:21-22)

(F) The Depravity of Man - We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God; but that in Adam's sin, the human race fell, and became alienated from God. We believe that all men have sinned and are therefore guilty before God and under His condemnation. Man is of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. (Gen. 1:26-27; John 3:18; Rom. 3:19, 22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19)

(G) Salvation - We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. (John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:9)

(H) The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers -

1. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1; 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet. 1:4-5)

2. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15)

(I) The Church -

1. We believe that the church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons. (1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27)

2. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. (Acts 2:47; 14:27; 20:17-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)

3. We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control. (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1, 4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; 1 Pet. 5:1-4)

4. We recognize water baptism and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances for the church in this age. (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:8; 1 Cor. 11:23-34)

(J) Separation - We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord. God commands His people to separate from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations, and to refrain from all immodest and immoderate appearances. (Lev. 19:28; Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11; 1 Cor. 6:19-20)

(K) The Eternal State -

1. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and

the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matt. 22:31-32; 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Acts 24:14-15; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13)

2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body, are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6)

3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment. (Matt. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15)

(L) The Personality of Satan - We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

(M) Creation - We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin. (Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11)

(N) Civil Government - We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home, 2) the church, and 3) the government. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the government are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:7; 1 Pet. 2:13-14)

(O) Human Sexuality -

1. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; 19:5,13; 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

2. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)

(P) Family Relationships -

1. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are

to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5,12)

2. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are an heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7)

(Q) Divorce and Remarriage - We believe the only Scriptural grounds for divorce are desertion by an unsaved partner and fornication. We believe that God intended marriage to last until one of the spouses dies, after which the surviving spouse may remarry. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they should not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon. (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; 1 Pet. 3:1-7)

(R) Abortion - We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well-being of the mother are acceptable. (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)

(S) Euthanasia - We believe that it is morally wrong to hasten the death of an individual no matter what the physical condition may be. Death should come as an act of God. (Job 14:1-5; Ps. 139:13-16; Luke 10:25-37; Phil. 1:21-24)

(T) Love - We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward both those who are not believers and those who oppose us. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or the use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions. (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10; 17-21; 13:8-10; Phil. 2:2-4; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; 1 John 3:17-18)

(U) Lawsuits Between Believers - We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)

(V) Missions - We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available Biblical means to spread the gospel locally and go to foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20; 1 Tim. 2:4-6)

(W) Giving - We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made (all designated offerings and gifts shall be non-binding). (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)

SECTION 2.02 - AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members. All literature used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith.

SECTION 2.03 - COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of our Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, 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 a sacred preeminence 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 through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions, to religiously educate our children, to seek the salvation of our kindred, acquaintances, and all others, to walk circumspectly in the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful to our engagements, and exemplary in our daily life, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Gospel of our Saviour.

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 of speech, to be slow to take offense, but always ready for

reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, and to secure reconciliation without delay.

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

ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 3.01 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Upon a majority voice vote of the members present at any church service or meeting, membership shall be extended to all who have had and whose lives evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, who renounce sin, who endeavor to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord, who fully subscribe to the Statement of Faith contained herein, who enter into the church covenant contained herein, who agree to submit to the authority of the church and its leaders as set forth herein, and upon compliance with any one of the following conditions:

- (A)** By baptism (immersion) as a true believer in Christ Jesus as personal Savior.
- (B)** By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing church of like faith and practice.
- (C)** By testimony of faith, having been baptized by immersion.
- (D)** By restoration, if having been excluded from membership, and after confession is made of the sin or sins and giving evidence of their repentance before the church membership.
- (E)** It is expedient that the candidate appear before the pastor for instruction before the name is presented for membership.

SECTION 3.02 - DUTIES OF A MEMBER

On becoming a member of this church, in addition to the covenant contained in Article 2, Section 2.03, each one further covenants to love, honor, and esteem the pastor, to pray for him, to recognize his authority in spiritual affairs of the church, and to manifest a tender regard for his reputation and calling, to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the church, to support the church in prayer, regular weekly attendance, tithes, offerings and with other financial support as the Lord enables, and in accordance with Biblical commands, to support through a lifestyle walk affirming the beliefs and practices of the church. It shall be the duty of each member, moving from this church area and not expecting to return to unite with a Bible-believing church in that area. It shall be the duty of each member to settle all personal differences in a scriptural manner. Likewise, it is the

duty of each member to maintain a courteous and charitable manner during all services and meetings held by the church. We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve disputes.

SECTION 3.03 - PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

(A) Only members at least eighteen years of age who are physically present at a duly called meeting of the church shall be entitled to vote. There shall be no proxy or absentee voting. The eligible membership of the church has certain limited areas to exercise a vote. Members may not vote to initiate any church action, rather the vote of a member is to confirm and ratify the direction of the church as determined by the pastor, assistant pastor, deacons, and elected leaders.

(B) This congregation functions not as a pure democracy, but as a body under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the pastor as the under shepherd. Determinations of the internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church's own rules and procedures. The pastor shall oversee and/or conduct all aspects of this church. The assistant pastor, deacons and elected leaders shall give counsel and assistance to the pastor as requested by him.

(C) Membership in this church does not afford the members with any property, contractual, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Although the general public is invited to all of the church's worship services, the church property remains private property. The pastor (or in his absence, an individual designated by him) has the authority to suspend or revoke the right of any person, including a member, to enter or remain on church property. If after being notified of such a suspension or revocation, the person enters or remains on church property, the person may, in the discretion of the pastor (or in his absence, an individual designated by him), be treated as a trespasser. (Readmission consideration following dismissal/removal will be determined on a case by case basis.)

(D) A member, upon five-business days prior written request made upon the church, may inspect or copy the prepared financial statements of the church, the minutes of the proceedings of church meetings, and the minutes of the proceedings of board meetings.

1. A member may not, under any circumstances, inspect or copy any record relating to individual contributions to the church, their names and addresses, or the accounting books and financial records of the church.

2. The church may impose a reasonable charge, covering the cost of labor and material, for copies of any documents provided to the member before releasing the copies to the member.

SECTION 3.04 - DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER

(A) There shall be a discipline committee consisting of the pastor, assistant pastor, and deacons. These men shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statement of Faith and violations of the church covenant. If the pastor, assistant

pastor, deacon or another church officer is the subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a member of the discipline committee. The pastor, assistant pastor, deacon or other church officer shall be entitled to the same steps as other church members and be subject to the same discipline.

(B) Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.

(C) If reconciliation is not reached, a second member, either the pastor, assistant pastor, or a deacon is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.

(D) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, the discipline committee, as the church representatives Biblically responsible for putting down murmuring, shall hear the matter. If the matter is not resolved during the hearing before the discipline committee, the committee shall recommend to the members of the church that they, after self-examination, make an effort personally to go to the offending member and seek that member's restoration.

(E) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B), (C), and (D) have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the church upon a majority closed ballot vote of the membership present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering disciplinary action.

(F) No matter may be heard by the discipline committee or the church unless the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, except in the case of a public offense.

(G) The procedures provided in this section are based on Matt. 18:15-20; Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:1-11; Gal. 6:1; 1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6, 10-15; 1 Tim. 5:19-20; and Titus 3:10-11.

SECTION 3.05 - TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Members not under the disciplinary process of Section 3.04 may request that letters of transfer be sent to another church of like faith and practice.

SECTION 3.06 - TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

(A) Individual church members shall have their membership automatically terminated with notice if the member in question has not attended a regular worship service of the church in the preceding six months. Upon good cause being shown to the pastor, this provision for termination of membership may be waived in the case of any individual

member (college students, military personnel, shut-ins, missionaries, evangelists) at the discretion of the pastor.

(B) No member of this church may hold membership in another church. If any member unites in membership with another church, that person's membership is automatically terminated with notice from membership in this church.

(C) A member may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such resignation, except at the discretion of the pastor.

(D) Individual church members shall have their membership automatically terminated with notice if the member in question has been found to live contrary to the Statement of Faith. Individual church members shall have their membership automatically terminated when they take action to involve the church in a legal lawsuit.

(E) Members will be removed from the church roll upon death.

ARTICLE 4 – OFFICER

SECTION 4.01 – CHURCH OFFICERS

The church officers are pastor (see Article 5, Section 5.01), assistant pastor (see Article 5, Section 5.02), deacon (see Article 5, Section 5.03), trustees (see Article 5, Section 5.04), church clerk (see Article 5, Section 5.05), and treasurer (see Article 5, Section 5.06). One person may hold two or more offices, except that of pastor. The pastor, from time to time as he deems appropriate, may appoint other church officers, subject to a confirmation vote of the church membership at a business meeting.

SECTION 4.02 - DESIGNATION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church, the pastor shall serve as president of the corporation; the church clerk shall serve as secretary of the corporation; the church treasurer serve as treasurer of the corporation; and the chairman of the board of trustees shall serve as vice president of the corporation.

SECTION 4.03 - ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

(A) The church shall not install or retain an officer who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith. All church officers, upon request of the pastor, shall affirm their agreement with the Statement of Faith (as set forth in Article 2).

(B) All church officers must be approved initially and thereafter annually by the pastor in order for them to be elected to or continue in their offices.

(C) Only church members are eligible for election or appointment to any church

office or position.

SECTION 4.04 - TERMS OF OFFICE

(A) The relationship between the pastor and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party by giving of a month's notice, or less by mutual consent. The calling of a pastor or severance of the relationship between the pastor and the church may be considered at any business meeting, provided notice to that effect shall have been given from the pulpit to the church two Sundays prior to said business meeting. A three-fourths majority of the eligible members present and voting shall be required to call a pastor or to sever the relationship between the pastor and the church. Disciplinary removal of the pastor from office automatically terminates his membership. A restoration to membership after disciplinary removal will be subject to the requirements of Section 3.01(D).

(B) The term of service for all offices and positions in the church, except the pastor, or assistant pastor shall be one year, at the expiration of which they may be re-elected or re-appointed.

(C) A vacancy occurring in any office or board, except in the case of the pastor, may be filled at any church business meeting.

(D) All elected and appointed officers shall serve in their respective offices until their successors are duly elected or appointed.

SECTION 4.05 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The annual election of officers by the church membership shall be completed and submitted at the January annual church business meeting.

SECTION 4.06 – PASTORAL OVERSIGHT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

(A) Subject to the approval of the church membership and on the condition that they shall become a member of the church prior to assuming their duties, the pastor may hire assistants to assist the pastor in carrying out his God-given responsibilities.

(B) All church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the pastor who has the sole authority to hire, appoint, or dismiss the same. The church shall not hire, appoint, or retain any employee or volunteer who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith.

ARTICLE 5 - DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS

SECTION 5.01 - THE PASTOR

(A) Qualifications - The pastor of this church shall be an ordained man who has

been called of God to preach the gospel and must meet, as nearly as possible, the spiritual ideals given in 1 Timothy 3. He must believe without reservation the statement of faith contained in the bylaws. He must wholeheartedly agree with the stand and position of this church. He must be separated from the world and must not indulge in any habits that could damage his testimony or influence for the Lord Jesus Christ.

(B) Call - The pastor shall be called for an indefinite period of time by the church membership upon recommendation of a pulpit committee which will consist of the assistant pastor and other church officers. His election shall be by a closed ballot voting at a business meeting of the church provided it has been announced at two consecutive services prior to the meeting. Three-fourths majority closed ballot vote of the membership present shall be necessary for an election.

(C) Duties -

1. The pastor shall discharge the duties and responsibilities enjoined upon him by the Scriptures as the bishop or elder of the local church. He shall fulfill in his personal and ministerial life the Bible admonitions to preach the Word, conduct regular services, administer the ordinances, tenderly watch over the membership, attend to the spiritual interests of the church, preside over all business sessions, and organize and develop the church for the best possible service. He shall function in an advisory capacity on all boards and/or committees.

2. The pastor shall appoint the members of the various standing committees. He shall serve as the president of the corporation. He shall publicly inform all newly elected officers of the particular function and the responsibilities of their respective offices. He shall extend the right hand of fellowship to all new members on behalf of the church and perform such other duties as generally appertain to such a position. The pastor shall be free to choose the means and methods by which he exercises the ministry that God has given him.

3. All appointments for public worship and Bible study and the arrangements thereof, including time and place and the use of the property belonging to the church for purposes other than the appointments, shall be under the control of the pastor.

SECTION 5.02 - THE ASSISTANT PASTOR

The assistant pastor is subject to the same qualifications and duties as the pastor (see Section 5.01). Upon direction of the pastor he shall assist in all pastoral duties working side by side with a common heart. He shall be recommended by the pastor at a business meeting for approval by a three-fourths closed ballot vote.

SECTION 5.03 - THE DEACONS

(A) Qualifications - The deacons shall be men from the membership of this church who as nearly as possible meet the spiritual ideals given in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. They must believe without reservation the Statement of Faith contained in the bylaws. They must wholeheartedly agree with the stand and position of this church. They must be

separated from the world and must not indulge in any habits that could damage their testimony or influence for the Lord Jesus Christ.

(B) Call - Those individuals who have been proved (1 Timothy 3:10) and considered to be most eligible to serve as deacons must express of their own will a desire to serve as deacons. These are chosen by the pastor according to need and church growth, and placed before the congregation for approval and ordination (could be previously ordained by another church of the same faith and order). Deacons shall be elected annually by a three-fourths majority closed ballot vote for a term of one year at the annual church business meeting, after which they may be reelected if qualified.

(C) Duties - The deacons will serve as assistants to the pastor in the promoting of the spiritual welfare of the church. They shall make provision for the observance of the ordinances of the church. They shall, in cooperation with the pastor or assistant pastor, investigate and make recommendations as to the disbursement of benevolence funds. They shall assist the pastor in visitation and all other evangelistic efforts of the church. The deacons shall assist the pastor in the ministering of the Word of God to the members of the church, pray with the membership, visit the sick, teach others how to win souls and be a constant witness.

(D) Dismissal - Failure of any deacon to maintain the high standards of his office, or failure to discharge the duties of his office, shall be sufficient reason to declare his office vacant. In such cases, the handling of the problems shall be in the hands of the pastor and the other deacons who shall make recommendations to the church. A three-fourths majority vote by closed ballot of the members present at any business meeting shall be sufficient to exclude a deacon from office.

SECTION 5.04 - THE TRUSTEES

(A) The trustees shall be recommended by the pastor upon showing evidence of their desire to serve in such position. They shall serve a one year term upon approval of the congregation and with an annual vote of approval by the congregation, they may continue to serve in subsequent years. The trustees shall consist of at least three members of which the treasurer is automatically a member.

(B) Immediately following the annual church business meeting, the trustees shall assemble and elect, from their own number a chairman and a secretary.

(C) The trustees shall constitute the board of directors of the corporation. The board of trustees shall exercise only the following specific powers:

1. To purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the church;

2. To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of the

church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges; and

3. To maintain and care for the physical church real estate, buildings and contents, reporting prior to the congregation for approval only those projects exceeding or not covered by the annual budget for the same.

4. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation if such action is mandated by a vote of the church membership.

SECTION 5.05 - THE CHURCH CLERK

The church clerk shall:

(A) Certify and keep at the office of the church, the bylaws or a copy, including all amendments or alterations to the bylaws;

(B) Keep at the place where the bylaws or a copy are kept a record of the proceedings of all meetings with the time and place of holding, the notice of meeting given, the names of those present at the meetings;

(C) Sign, certify, or attest documents as may be required by law;

(D) See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws;

(E) Be custodian of the records of the church, including the membership roll, baptisms, and certificates of ordination, licenses and commissions;

(F) See that the reports, statements, certificates, and other documents and records required by law are properly kept and filed;

(G) Exhibit at all reasonable times to proper persons on terms provided by law the bylaws and minutes of all boards and of the business meetings of the church members;

(H) Keep an account of any special events in the life of the church which are of historical interest and give a report at the annual church business meeting of the status of the church membership roll in the past year;

(I) Keep all records at the office of the church and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office. (Record keepers must sign acknowledgement of this policy.)

(J) Aid the treasurer in all duties charged to him/her.

(K) Serve as secretary of the corporation.

SECTION 5.06 - THE CHURCH TREASURER

The church treasurer shall:

- (A)** Have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds of the corporation, and deposit, or cause to be deposited, all funds in the name of the church in banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected by the pastor or church body;
- (B)** Receive, and give receipt for all contributions, gifts, and donations to the church;
- (C)** Disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the church as may be directed by the pastor, or the budget adopted by the members of the church at the annual church business meeting, taking proper vouchers for the disbursements;
- (D)** Keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the church's properties and business transactions including account of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, and capital;
- (E)** When and as requested, render to the pastor the financial condition of the church;
- (F)** Present a written report of itemized disbursements monthly to the church;
- (G)** Keep all church financial records at the office of the church and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office;
- (H)** The treasurer may call for a review by an independent outside person and/or firm to review the previous year's financial statement;
- (I)** Serve as treasurer of the corporation.

ARTICLE 6 – MEETINGS

SECTION 6.01 – MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Unless otherwise determined by the pastor, the church shall meet each Sunday for public worship both morning and evening and at least once during the week for Bible study and prayer. Except when circumstances forbid it, the ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed on the first Sunday evening of each quarter.

SECTION 6.02 - CHURCH BUSINESS MEETINGS

(A) The annual church business meeting for the election or continuance of church officers and teachers, and the adoption of the annual budget shall be held in January, at which time regular church business can be considered. A quorum shall consist of the members present.

(B) Special business meetings will be held according to need. A quorum shall consist of the members present.

(C) All church business meetings shall be announced at least one Sunday and not less than one week prior to the meeting. Normally, business meetings will be after an evening service in church facilities unless otherwise announced.

(D) All church business meetings shall be moderated by the pastor. The assistant pastor or chairman of deacons shall moderate in his absence.

(E) All church business meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer for divine guidance and blessing.

(F) The moderator shall determine the rules of procedure according to his sense of fairness and common sense, giving all members a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a matter. The moderator is the final authority on questions of procedure, and his decision is final and controlling. The categories listed shall be considered as a guide to follow:

1. Prayer
2. Reading of minutes
3. Reception of members
4. Dismissal of members
5. Reports
6. Unfinished matters
7. Election of officers (annual meeting only)
8. New matters
9. Adjournment
10. Benediction

(G) For any meeting under this article, the moderator, in his sole discretion, shall have full and unilateral authority to require nonmembers to leave the meeting room and to order the immediate removal of any member or other person present who is deemed by the moderator to be disruptive to the proceedings by act or presence. The moderator shall have full authority to order the removal of all children (ages to be determined by the moderator) if the moderator determines, in his sole discretion, that circumstances so warrant. If the moderator determines that compliance with his order of removal is unsatisfactory, the moderator may, in his discretion, revoke the disruptive person's right to remain on the premises in accordance with Section 3.03(C) and treat the person as a trespasser.

SECTION 6.03 - SPECIAL MEETINGS

Bible conferences, missionary conferences, and revivals may be held as the pastor deems beneficial.

SECTION 6.04 – FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the church shall begin January 1st and end December 31st.

ARTICLE 7 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

SECTION 7.01 – PURPOSE

The church believes that it is to provide the members with an education which is based upon and consistent with Biblical teachings. The church believes that the home and church are responsible before God for providing a Christian education. To this end, the church shall engage in ministries in education in keeping with the following dictates.

SECTION 7.02 - CHURCH PARTICIPATION

All educational programs or courses of instruction formulated and offered by the church shall be primarily for the benefit of the members of the church; however, the pastor may permit non-church members to participate in church educational programs or courses of instruction if he deems it in the best interest of the church.

SECTION 7.03 - STAFF MEMBERSHIP

All instructors, teachers, and administrators shall be members of this church. This provision shall not apply to visiting missionaries, evangelists, or preachers engaged for the purpose of delivering sermons, conducting revivals, or other special meetings on a temporary basis.

SECTION 7.04 - STATEMENT OF FAITH ACCORD

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be taught and presented in full accord with the Statement of Faith of the church. The church shall not hire, appoint, or retain any employee or volunteer for its educational programs who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith.

SECTION 7.05 – UNITY

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted as an integral and inseparable ministry of the church.

SECTION 7.06 – TEACHING

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted consistent with the teaching of the inerrant Word of God (King James Version). Any assertion or belief which conflicts with or questions a Bible truth is a pagan deception and distortion of the truth which will be disclaimed as false. It is the responsibility of every instructor or teacher to present the inerrant Word of God as the sole infallible source of knowledge and wisdom.

SECTION 7.07 - CHRISTIAN WALK

All administrators, instructors, and teachers shall continue or adopt a lifestyle consistent

with the precepts which they teach, whether in or out of the classroom, and these shall be faithful to all services held by the church.

ARTICLE 8 – ORDINATION

SECTION 8.01 - ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS

(A) Minister - Any member of this church or its mission churches, who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry and possesses the ideals stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, may be ordained as a minister of the Gospel.

(B) Deacon - See Section 5.03(A) for deacons.

SECTION 8.02 - ORDINATION PROCEDURE

(A) Minister -

1. Upon a conference with the pastor and after the pastor has approved the candidate for ordination, the pastor shall call a council to examine and pass on the qualification of the candidate. The ordination council shall consist of ordained ministers of like faith invited to participate in the examination of the candidate.

2. If the candidate is found worthy of ordination by the council, the ordination council may ordain the candidate upon approval of the church.

3. The pastor and his assistant shall arrange for the ordination service.

(B) Deacon - Upon recommendation of the pastor men chosen as deacons shall be presented to the church to be approved. The pastor, assistant, elders, and/or ordained deacons will make up the ordination council.

ARTICLE 9 - MISSIONS

SECTION 9.01 – MISSION'S GOALS

We believe that God has given the church a great command to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of the Lord Jesus Christ, we must use all available means to go to the unsaved multitudes, whether at home or on the foreign field. (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8)

The goals of the Fishermen Baptist Church's missions program are to provide for

worldwide discipleship and church planting to facilitate the evangelism and discipleship of all the peoples of the world.

SECTION 9.02 -MISSIONARY SUPPORT

(A) New missionaries will be taken on for support after a presentation of their field and sharing their call of the ministry to the membership. Missionaries can be taken on for support at any service or business meeting of Fishermen Baptist Church by a simple majority vote of the eligible church membership.

(B) Commitments of Fishermen Baptist Church to missionaries for support will be for an indefinite time subject to periodic review as needed.

SECTION 9.03 – RESPONSIBILITIES

(A) All Fishermen Baptist Church missionaries must reflect our doctrinal position and must be in agreement with our statement of faith.

(B) All Fishermen Baptist Church missionaries must be members in good standing of a local New Testament church.

(C) All Fishermen Baptist Church missionaries will be responsible to a church or a board under a local church, which will establish a policy of missionary accountability, guidance and responsibility.

(D) All Fishermen Baptist Church missionaries should make a report in person or video technology to the church at least once during a five-year period.

(E) All Fishermen Baptist Church missionaries must communicate in writing via email or hard copy letter to the church on at least a quarterly basis. Financial support shall be discontinued after six months of no communication.

SECTION 9.04 – REVIEW OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES

Each missionary must inform Fishermen Baptist Church in the event of a change in his/her field or service, direction of ministry, and/or mission board; further support will then be subject to review.

ARTICLE 10 - CEMETERY

SECTION 10.01 - NAME

The *Fishermen Baptist Church* has established a cemetery located on its properties. The name of said cemetery is *Fishermen Riverview Cemetery*.

SECTION 10.02 - CEMETERY COMMITTEE

A cemetery committee consisting of no less than three members will be chosen from the congregation of Fishermen Baptist Church.

SECTION 10.03 – USE

The cemetery shall be for the use of the membership of Fishermen Baptist Church. Grave sites are free to church members. The immediate community may also use said cemetery providing they follow the guidelines established and enforced by the Cemetery Committee. Application for use by community members will be through contact with the Cemetery Committee and must be approved by the Fishermen Baptist Church.

SECTION 10.04 – GUIDELINES

(A) Account - The Fishermen Riverview Cemetery has an established bank savings account containing monies for maintenance and other expenses. Contributions to the account are encouraged.

(B) Requirements –

1. Grave sites are for the burial of the “body” only and are not intended for the burial of “ashes (cremains).”
2. Grave markers are to be kept in acceptable Christian taste and must be approved by the Cemetery Committee before installation.
3. All graves require a concrete/fiberglass vault. There are no exceptions.
4. No vehicles, except for the purpose of maintenance, are allowed within the fenced cemetery.
5. The cemetery grounds are open from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM each day.

ARTICLE 11 - INDEMNIFICATION

SECTION 11.01 - ACTIONS SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION

The church may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, including all appeals (other than an action by or in the right of the church) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the church, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the action, suit or proceeding; and if that person acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not

opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or on a plea of *nolo contendere* or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner that he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

SECTION 11.02 - EXPENSES SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION

To the extent that a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding referred to in this Article, or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter in that action, suit, or proceeding, he or she may be indemnified against expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the action, suit or proceeding.

SECTION 11.03 - LIMITATIONS OF INDEMNIFICATION

Any indemnification made under this Article, may be made by the church only as authorized in the specific case on a determination that indemnification of the pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent is proper in the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Section 1 of this Article. The determination shall be made (a) by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of the pastor and deacons who were not and are not parties to be threatened with the action, suit, or proceeding; (b) if the described quorum is not obtainable or if a majority vote of a quorum of disinterested deacons so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion; or (c) by a majority vote of the members of the church.

SECTION 11.04 - TIMING OF INDEMNIFICATION

Expenses of each person seeking indemnification under this Article, may be paid by the church as they are incurred, in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit, or proceeding, as authorized by the pastor or deacons in the specific case, on receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent to repay the amount if it is ultimately determined that he or she is not qualified to be indemnified by the church.

SECTION 11.05 - EXTENT OF INDEMNIFICATION

The indemnification provided by this Article shall be deemed to be discretionary unless otherwise required as a matter of law or under any agreement or provided by insurance purchased by the church, both as to action of each person seeking indemnification under this Article in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding that office, and may continue as to a person who has ceased to be a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent and may inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of that person.

SECTION 11.06 – INSURANCE

The church may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the church against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in that capacity, or arising out of his status in that capacity, whether or not the church would have the power to indemnify him against liability under the provisions of this Article.

ARTICLE 12 – COMMITTEES

SECTION 12.01 - STANDING COMMITTEES

The pastor (assistant pastor or deacons if the office of pastor is vacant) shall appoint standing committees and designate a chairperson for each standing committee and, except when otherwise specifically provided in these bylaws, shall determine the membership of each standing committee. In addition to the discipline committee, the pastor may appoint other standing committees as he deems appropriate.

SECTION 12.02 - SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The pastor (assistant pastor or deacons if the office of pastor is vacant), may create special committees to provide advice and information regarding matters submitted to the committee. These committees shall have no authority to act on behalf of the corporation. The members of the committees shall be chosen by the pastor (assistant pastor or deacons if the office of pastor is vacant) and shall serve solely at his/their pleasure; and shall be subject to his/their control and direction at all times.

ARTICLE 13 - DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

From time to time the church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions, but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature (see paragraph W, Section 2.01). All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the pastor and deacons. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Article 1, Section 1.02.

ARTICLE 14 - BINDING ARBITRATION

SECTION 14.01 - SUBMISSION TO ARBITRATION

Believing that lawsuits between believers are prohibited by Scripture, all members of this church agree to submit to binding arbitration any matters which cannot otherwise be resolved, and expressly waive any and all rights in law and equity to bringing any civil disagreement before a court of law, except that judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.

SECTION 14.02 - NOTICE OF ARBITRATION

In the event of any dispute, claim, question, or disagreement arising out of or relating to these bylaws or any other church matter, the parties shall use their best efforts to settle such disputes, claims, questions, or disagreements as benefits Christians. To this effect, they shall consult and negotiate with each other in good faith and, recognizing their mutual interest not to disgrace the name of Christ, seek to reach a just and equitable solution. If they do not reach such solution within a period of sixty (60) days, then upon notice by either party to the other, disputes, claims, questions, or differences shall be finally settled by arbitration in Section 14.01, above, and such Procedures for Arbitration as are adopted pursuant to Section 14.04, below.

SECTION 14.03 - LIMITATIONS ON ARBITRATION DECISIONS

(A) Should any dispute involve matters of church discipline, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures for church discipline as outlined under Section 3.04, were followed.

(B) Should any dispute involve the removal from office of the pastor or any other church officer, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures set forth in Section 3.04 were followed.

SECTION 14.04 - ARBITRATION PROCEDURES

The Procedures for Arbitration shall be as adopted by the pastor and deacons.

ARTICLE 15 - AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be revised or amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at any business meeting, provided that said revision or amendment has been submitted in writing and announced from the pulpit fourteen (14) days before the vote is taken.

ADOPTION

These bylaws were adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the church on August 5, 2018 in which a quorum was present.

These bylaws supersede any other bylaws of *Fishermen Baptist Church*.

Margaret E West
Church Clerk

August 5, 2018
Date