

**CONSTITUTION  
OF  
BENSON GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.**

**Preamble**

**For the purpose of preserving and making secure the principles of our faith described in the divinely inspired and authoritative Word of God, and to the end that “all things might be done decently and in order,” and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of the church, we, being born-again and Bible-believing Christians bonded together as a body of immersed believers in Jesus Christ, do declare and establish this Constitution.**

**Article I. Name**

**This body shall be known as the Benson Grove Baptist Church, Inc., of Benson, Johnston County, North Carolina.**

**Article II. Purpose**

**The purpose of this body shall be to consistently seek and accomplish the will of God through providing regular opportunities for Christian fellowship and public worship directed by the Holy Spirit of God, and based on instruction preached and taught from the Word of God for the exaltation of our Savior, the edification of the saints, the propagation of the gospel of Christ to lost sinners everywhere, and for the observance of the ordinances.**

**Article III. Statement of Faith**

**A. The Holy Scriptures. We believe the Holy Scriptures, consisting of the Old and New Testaments only, to be the plenarily, verbally inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original manuscripts, authoritative, infallible, and God-breathed; and that they are the only supreme and ultimate authority for all faith and practice (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21; Matt. 5:18; I Cor. 2:10-13). While we understand that different translations may be used for personal study this church receives the authorized King James version of the Holy Bible to be inspired, infallible Word of God and it shall be the only version used in the teaching and pulpit ministry of this church.**

**B. The Godhead. We believe in one triune God, existing in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; eternal in being, identical in essence, equal in power and glory, and having the same divine attributes and perfections; yet exercising them in varied offices (Deut. 6:4, Matt. 28-19, John 14:7-12, John 16-17, II Cor. 13-14).**

**C. The Person and Work of Jesus Christ.**

1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man (Matt. 1: 19-20, John 1:1,2,14,18; Luke 1:35).

2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as a substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who receive Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood (Rom. 3:24-26, 4:25; I Cor. 14:3-4, II Cor. 5:21).

3. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord Jesus Christ and that our redemption and salvation is guaranteed to us by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead; in His bodily ascension into heaven; and in His present life there for us as a High Priest and Intercessor (Matt. 28:5-6; I Cor. 15:12-19, Acts 1:9; Heb. 4:14-16, 7:23-25, 9:24; I John 2:1-2).

4. We believe in “that blessed hope” which is the personal, visible, pretribulational, premillennial, and imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (I Cor. 15:51-53, I Thes. 4:14-17, Tit. 2:13, I John 3:2-3).

**D. The Personality of the Holy Spirit.** We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine person, equal with the Father and the Son and of the same substance and nature; that He convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment; bears witness to the truth; is the agent of the new birth; and that he seals, endures, guides, teaches, witnesses to, sanctifies, and helps the believer; that He baptizes them into the church, the body of Christ, indwells them permanently, seals them unto the day of redemption, bestows spiritual gifts upon each one, and fills for service those yielded to Him. We believe that certain of the spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit to the Church such as apostleship, prophecy, and tongues, were temporary, were needed only in the infancy of the church and are not to be expected today. We believe that the Holy Spirit testifies concerning Jesus Christ and never leads any person at any time contrary to the teaching of the Bible (John 3:8, 14:16, 15:26-27, 16:7-15; Acts 5:1-4, I Cor. 12:4-13, I Cor. 15:8-10, Eph. 4:30, 5:18).

**E. The Total Depravity of Man.** We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam’s sin the race fell and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God; and that all mankind have inherited a sinful nature, become willful sinners with the first expression of personal choice, are totally unable to regain their former position, and are without excuse before God (Gen. 1:26, 3:1-24; Rom. 3:23, 5:12, 1:20; Eph. 2:1-6, 12).

**F. Salvation, Regeneration, Eternal Security of the Believer.**

1. We believe that salvation is a gift of God brought to men by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of sins. Salvation is solely through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sins and, being a gift, is not earned by any good works whatsoever. All those who receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are regenerated and become sons of God (Eph. 1:17, 2:8-9; John 1:2, 3:5-7).

2. We believe that Scriptures teach that regeneration, or the new birth, is that change in the soul by the Holy Spirit by which a new nature and spiritual life, not before possessed, are imparted, and the person becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus; and without regeneration salvation is impossible (John 3:3-6; II Cor. 5:17; I Peter 1:23, Titus 3:5).

3. We believe that the salvation of every believer is secure for all eternity from the moment of regeneration. This security is guaranteed to each believer by the fact that the life received is eternal life, by the keeping power of God, by the sealing ministry of the Holy Spirit, and by the interceding ministry of Christ (John 5:24, 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1,29,30,38,39; Eph. 4:30, Heb. 7:25).

**G. Sanctification.** We believe that immediate, positional sanctification is the act of God whereby believers are, at the time of regeneration, eternally set apart as belonging to Him by redemption, thereby being placed in the family of God as children, joint heirs with Jesus Christ (I John 3:1, Rom. 8:14-17, I Cor. 1:2, Heb. 10:10-14).

We believe that progressive sanctification is the process by which, according to God's will, we are made partakers of His holiness; that it is progressive; that it is begun in regeneration; that it progresses if the believer is yielded to the Holy Spirit's control; that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, self-examination, watchfulness and prayer (I Thes. 4:3, 5:23, Prov. 4:18, I John 2:29, Phil 2:12-13, Eph. 6:18, John 17:17).

We believe that ultimate sanctification will be the portion of every believer then finally in the presence of the Lord, complete and entire, with soul and spirit united in the resurrected body free from every trace or effect of sin and rebellion (1 John 3:2, I Cor. 15:52-54, Eph. 4:30, 5:27; Phil. 4:20-21).

**H. Separation.** We believe in the biblical doctrine of separation which encompasses three things: (1) the separation of the local church from all affiliation and fellowship with those who deny the verities of the "faith once delivered to the saints," (2) the separation of the individual believer from all worldly practices that

may dishonor the Savior; and (3) the separation of church and state (II Tim. 3:1-5, Rom. 12:1-2, 14:13; I John 2:15-17, II John 9-11, I Cor. 6:11-7:1).

**I. The Church.** We believe in the church—a living, spiritual body of which Christ is the head and of which all regenerated people in this age are members; and that all in this age who are truly born again are baptized by the Holy Spirit into vital union with Christ and into the universal church which is His Body and Bride (Matt. 16:16-19, I Cor. 12:12-13, Gal 3:27, Eph. 1:2, 23; 5:25-27).

We believe that each local church is a visible expression of the Body of Christ and is a congregation of believers in Jesus Christ, immersed upon a credible confession of faith, and associated together by covenant for worship, evangelism, and observance of the ordinances, and fellowship. We believe that the local church is the center of God’s program for this age, and that every Christian is bound by Scripture to give his unhindered cooperation to the program of his local church (Acts 2:41-47, 14:27, 20:17; I Tim. 3:1-16, Titus 1:5-11, I Cor. 3:10-17, 5:1-5, 11:2).

**J. The Church’s Ordinances.** We believe that the Lord Jesus instituted two ordinances, baptism, and the Lord’s Supper, to be observed by all believers until his return.

We believe that baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in Christ, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to show forth by solemn and beautiful symbolism, the believer’s identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, and that it is a Scriptural prerequisite to church membership (Matt. 28:1-9, Acts 8:36, Rom. 6:3-5, I Pet. 3:21, Acts 2:38-41).

We believe that the Lord’s Supper is partaking of bread and the fruit of the vine, as symbols of Christ’s body and blood, commemorating His suffering and death for us and our continual benefit therefrom; that participation should be limited to those who have united to the local church by baptism and testimony, or to those who are baptized members of churches of like faith and practice, and that participation should be preceded by careful self-examination (I Cor 11:23-25, 5:1-5; Matt. 18:15-17).

**K. The Great Commission.** We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has commissioned the church to take the Gospel to the world, and that evangelism at home and abroad should be primarily in the program of the local church (Matt. 28:19-20, Acts 1:8).

**L. Creation.** We believe that God created the heavens and the earth, including all life, “Each after its own kind,” by direct act, and not by any process of evolution (Gen. 1 and 2; Col. 1:16-17; John 1:3).

**M. The Second Coming of Christ.** We believe in the personal, pretribulational, imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His own, the church, and His subsequent personal, premillennial return visibly to the earth to establish

His kingdom and to reign for a millennium over the entire earth from the throne of David (II Sam. 7:12,16; Zech. 14:4-11, Luke 1:30-33, Acts 15:14-18, I Thes. 4:13-18, I Cor. 15:51,52; Rev. 19:11-16, 20:6).

**N. The Tribulation.** We believe that the Tribulation or the Great Tribulation is that period of seven years recognized as “the seventieth week of Daniel” and “the time of Jacob’s trouble” and that it shall be characterized by the wrath and judgment of God upon both unbelieving Jews and Gentiles, upon satanic worship and oppressive Gentile dominion; that it is primarily Jewish and is to be climaxed by the return of Israel’s Messiah to rule and reign over the whole earth (Jer. 30:7; Dan. 9:24-27, 12:1; Matt. 24:21,22; I Thes. 5:3,9; Rev. 6:15-17, 3:10).

**O. The Eternal State.** We believe that the souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation do at death immediately pass into His presence and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His coming when soul and body reunited shall be associated with Him forever in glory; but, that the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery until the final judgment of the Great White Throne at the close of the millennium, when soul and body reunited shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting separation from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power (Luke 16:19-26, II Cor. 5:8, Phil 1:23, II Thes. 1:7-9, Rev. 20:11-15).

**P. The Responsibility of Believers.** We believe that all believers should seek to walk by the Spirit, not bringing reproach upon their Lord and Savior, exercising Christian liberty regulated by love, separated from worldly pleasures and practices, separated from organizational association with apostate groups (Rom. 12:1,2; Gal. 6:16, II Cor. 6:14-7:1, I Cor. 8:1-13).

We believe that it is the responsibility of all believers to witness by life and by word to the truths of the Holy Scriptures and to assume responsibility for the propagation of the Gospel to all the world (Acts 1:8).

We believe that it is the responsibility of all believers to remember the work of the local church and its extension ministries in prayer, to support it with their tithes and offerings as the Lord prospers them, to participated in all the regular services of the church as the Lord enables, and to voluntarily submit to the watchcare and discipline of the local church (I Cor. 16:2, Heb. 10:19-25; 13:17,18).

#### **Article IV. Doctrinal Agreement**

**A.** The following persons shall indicate full agreement with the doctrinal position of the church by signing the statement of faith without mental reservation upon election or appointment: Pastor, assistants to the Pastor, and all elected officers, and those appointed to fulfill a vacated elective office until the next annual business meeting, and all teachers, and all youth advisors in the church. There shall

be no unofficial church organizations, and all officers, teachers, and leaders shall be members of this church.

**B. Should an individual included in Section IV-A above, change his or her doctrinal position and become in disagreement with the statement of faith, that individual shall be obligated to resign from the place of responsibility. Should it come to the attention of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons that such an individual has changed in doctrinal position but has not resigned, it shall be the responsibility of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons to immediately remove that individual from their place of responsibility and leadership.**

#### **Article V. Church of Covenant**

**Having been lead, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, and 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 spiritually, to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; 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 personal devotions, to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances, to walk circumspectly in the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment, to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, to abstain from the immoral or illegal use of drugs, to abstain from premarital sex, adultery, fornication, and homosexuality; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.**

**We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember one another in prayer, to aid one another in sickness and distress, to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech, to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.**

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

## **Article VI. Membership**

### **Section I. Acceptable Membership**

The membership of this church shall be composed of persons who have publicly professed their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, who have been baptized by immersion upon subscription to the covenant and constitution of this church, and who have been received by vote of the church.

### **Section II. Transferred Membership**

A member of another Baptist church of like faith and order may be received by vote of this church pending a letter of transfer from that church. A letter of transfer immediately terminates membership within the church granting the transfer.

### **Section III. Granting Transfer of Membership**

Letters of transfer of membership may be granted to any church of like faith and order for members in good standing. When a majority of present and voting members from this church grants a letter of transfer to that church, membership in this church shall terminate simultaneously.

### **Section IV. Transfer of Membership Not Permitted**

Letters of transfer of membership from this church will not be granted when a member joins a church of different faith and order. In such cases, membership in this church will terminate.

### **Section V. Discipline of Members**

Cases involving immorality and/or delinquency through failure to comply with covenant obligations, shall be referred to the Pastor and Board of Deacons and they shall proceed according to the Scriptural guidelines of Matthew 18:15-17.

The Pastor and Board of Deacons may recommend that the Church withdraw fellowship from a member provided just cause is found. If approved by a vote of the Church, fellowship will be withdrawn and membership terminated immediately.

## **Article VII Pastor**

### **Section I. Scriptural Qualifications**

**His character shall reflect the requirements as stated in I Timothy 3:1-6 and Titus 1:5-9 (Cf. Also I Timothy 6:10-12, II Timothy 4:1-5, I Peter 5:1-3, Acts 20:17-35).**

### **Section II. Selection of a New Pastor**

- A. The Board of Deacons shall constitute the pulpit committee, or appoint a pulpit committee, to secure possible candidates for the pulpit when such has been vacated. They shall interview each candidate and hear him speak before recommending him as a candidate.**
- B. Each candidate shall preach in one of the public services of the church.**
- C. The pastor shall be called by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the eligible members present and voting. Notice of the meeting shall be given by the chairman of the deacons in a least two regular services of the church prior to the election. The vote shall be by written ballot.**
- D. The Board of Deacons shall be responsible to notify the candidate of the result of the vote, and to report his response to the congregations, and make arrangements for the transition.**

### **Section III. Duties of the Pastor**

- A. Upon assuming his duties as Pastor he shall become a member of this church and shall be the moderator for this church and ex-officio member of all boards and committees.**
- B. The Pastor, together with the deacons, shall have spiritual oversight of all the work of the church.**
- C. It shall be the duty of the Pastor to devote himself and his time to the service of the church, preaching the Word of God and administering the ordinances. He shall watch over himself and his flock, visiting, as far as time permits, all the members of the church, especially the sick and shut-ins. He shall lead the church in the work of evangelism and shall make himself available for pastoral counseling when needed.**
- D. It shall be the privilege of the Pastor to serve other pulpits without loss of salary at the discretion of the deacons. In his absence, the Pastor and deacons shall arrange for a pulpit supply.**



#### **Section IV. Pastoral Benefits**

##### **A. Salary**

The Pastor shall receive a salary adequate for meeting the financial needs of his family, a sum agreed to by mutual agreement between Pastor and church, and paid in accordance with a mutual agreement.

##### **B. Vacation**

The Pastor shall be granted an annual vacation with full pay, the length of which shall be two weeks, with fifth Sunday nights optional.

##### **C. Benefits**

Car expense, social security, insurance policies, retirement, book purchases, religious publications, Bible camps, and expenses in connection with church associational activities shall be considered and reviewed by the finance committee and acted upon as the church so chooses.

#### **Section V. Pastor's Term of Office**

A. He shall serve for an indefinite period of time with the reciprocal rights to terminate his service upon thirty days notice.

B. The Pastor may be dismissed by fifty-one percent majority vote of the church members present and voting after it has been announced at two regular meetings immediately prior to this meeting. The vote shall be by written ballot. A quorum requires 25% of church membership.

C. If the Pastor is dismissed, he shall vacate the pulpit immediately but shall receive thirty days pay.

#### **Section VI. Ministerial Licensing and Ordination**

A. When a member makes known that he feels the call to the ministry, the church upon recommendation by the Board of Deacons, may license him as an acknowledgment of his call to the ministry and an encouragement to make preparation for it. The clerk of the church may furnish the member with a copy of the minutes or a certificate of license as his credentials. It is understood that the performance of civil duties by the member shall be governed by the State law.

B. In the event this church has been requested to ordain a member who has been called as a pastor of a Baptist church of like faith or who is entering some other field which requires ordination, or is requested by another church of like faith to ordain one of its members, the following procedure will be followed.

**The church upon recommendation by the Board of Directors will consider the qualification of the candidate and if it expresses its approval by a majority vote of the members present at any regular or arranged business meeting of the church, then the clerk will be authorized to invite the Associational Council on Ordinations or representatives of neighboring churches of like faith to examine the candidate and report to the church. In the event the report of the council is favorable, the church will proceed with the ordination. No public announcement shall be made of an ordination ceremony until the recommendation of the examining council has been made.**

#### **Section VII. Other Staff**

**The church may employ such staff members as the need demands. Their term of office shall be indefinite and shall continue until the relationship is dissolved at the request of either the staff member or Pastor and deacons. The church will vote on the position and the salary/benefits, and the Pastor and deacons will conduct a search to fill the staff position. When they have settled on a candidate through the leadership of the Holy Spirit and prayer, they will then present the prospective staff member to the church, and the church will have an opportunity to affirm the recommendation of the Pastor and deacons. Staff members shall not serve as deacons while employed by the church. Replacement for staff members shall originate in the Board of Deacons.**

### **Article VIII. Subsidiary Church Organizations**

#### **Section I. Relation of These Groups to the Church**

**A. All such groups shall be considered arms of the church and shall exist for the purpose of extending the ministry and outreach of the church.**

**B. All such groups shall be governed by the Constitution of the church and any individual constitutions and procedures shall in no wise conflict with the church.**

**C. All such groups shall be under the supervision of the Pastor and deacons and shall be responsible to the church as a whole. The church shall receive all activity reports from any subsidiary organization during regular business meetings, and may dissolve any such organization by a majority vote of the voting members present, after posting a two week's notice.**

**D. All officers of such church organizations shall be members in good and regular standing in this church. Any person ceasing to be a member in good standing shall automatically forfeit any offices he holds in any church organization and shall return within one week any monies, books, minutes, or other property of the organization.**

## **Section II. Finances of the Subsidiary Organizations**

Such organizations are entitled to separate bank accounts. However, all monies received in such organizations shall be reported at regular business meetings of the church. No money shall be spent on external projects without informing the Pastor and deacons.

## **Article IX Church Building and Facilities**

### **Section I. Use of Buildings**

The church buildings and facilities shall be used only for such meetings and activities as shall promote the gospel and honor our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **Section II. Authority for Use of Buildings**

The Pastor and deacons shall exercise the authority to permit the use of the buildings and shall refuse the use of the buildings for any meeting or activity contrary to church policy and belief.

### **Section III. Weddings and Funerals**

The church building may be used by members for weddings and funerals. Others desiring the use of church and buildings for weddings and funerals must have the consent of the Pastor and deacons and must incur full expense for operation and maintenance of the facilities.

### **Section IV. Property Rights**

Persons dismissed or who have withdrawn from the membership of the church have no right to make claim upon any of the church property and any such property in their possession shall be returned immediately.

### **Section V. Cemetery Policy**

The cemetery will soon be full. When it is full, no further space will be provided for burial plots. In an effort to be fair to all church members, the following guidelines will be observed for the remaining plots:

1. The remaining plots will be used for resident members. Spots will not be available for people from out of state.
2. The remaining plots are those which are not occupied by a deceased.
3. The remaining plots will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. As a result, no plots may be reserved by marker.

4. **Should a person's spouse pass away, the surviving spouse will be entitled to the plot adjacent to the deceased spouse, should they want it, and should it be available.**

#### **Article X Financial Policy**

**This church shall be supported by the voluntary giving of tithes and offerings by God's people. We believe that every Christian should seek to give systematically, regularly, proportionately, sacrificially, and cheerfully of his substance to the Lord's work through the local church (II Cor. 8-9). No fund raising projects shall be solicited in any form outside the church.**

#### **Article XI Memorials**

**Memorials may be received by the church. The Pastor and deacons shall supervise the details regarding memorials, and shall appoint a committee consisting of one deacon and one trustee together with the donor or donors, and this committee shall consult together regarding details. All memorials involving real or personal property shall be acceptable to the deacons before being given, and shall become church properties. Memorials may only be received that will uplift the name of Jesus Christ.**

#### **Article XII Missions**

**This church shall support missionary causes (home and foreign) and educational institutions consistent with its own beliefs and practices. Designated gifts will be honored if in harmony with the doctrines and practices of this church.**

#### **Article XIII Convening of a Council**

**It shall be the prerogative of this church to seek the council of disinterested brethren of like Baptist faith and practice on any subject deemed necessary. The call to seek a council shall be by majority vote of those present and voting, providing it is a duly called business meeting.**

#### **Article XIV Meetings**

**A. This church shall hold regular meetings for worship, teaching, training, and fellowship. The Lord's Supper will be observed at least once a quarter.**

**B. Business meetings (church conferences) may be called in the following ways: by the Pastor or by the chairman of deacons. Such meetings may be held provided one (1) week's notice has been given to the congregation, and the nature of the business shall be announced at the time public notice is given. NOTE: When emergencies occur, or the one (1) week's notice would be impractical, business may be transacted if a three-fourths (3/4) of those members present at the service agree to a business session.**

**C. The Pastor, or in his absence, the chairman of the deacons, shall preside over church business meetings as moderator. In the chairman of deacon's absence, the vice-chairman of the deacons shall preside.**

**D. A quorum shall consist of not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the church membership. Unless otherwise designated, all matters of business shall be decided by a majority vote of the church members present and voting.**

**E. The church clerk shall keep minutes of each business meeting and shall record the approximate number present, whether a quorum was present, and what actions were taken by the church.**

## **Article XV Church Officers**

### **Section I. Qualifications**

**A. Their character shall reflect the requirements as stated in Acts 6:1-3 and I Timothy 3:8-13. No officer or teacher of this church may be a member of any secret order or lodge nor may they use alcoholic beverages in any form.**

**B. They shall be members of this church and shall subscribe wholeheartedly to its doctrinal statement and constitution.**

### **Section II. The Organization of the Church Officers**

#### **A. Deacons**

**There shall be a minimum of three (3) male members of the church serving as deacons, if there are this many who possess the qualifications. Additional deacons, until a minimum of five (5) have been elected, for the first one hundred (100) members, shall be added, after which one deacon for each fifty (50) members, shall be added. Nominees for deacon will be presented to the Pastor and Chairman of the Deacon Board for consideration. The Pastor and the Deacon Board will recommend qualified candidates to the church to be voted on by written ballot.**

- 1. These shall be elected from among those members who have proven themselves to have scriptural qualifications. (I Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6)**
- 2. The deacon shall be a member of the Benson Grove Baptist Church at least one (1) year before beginning a term of service as a deacon.**
- 3. The deacon shall be at least 18 years of age.**
- 4. The deacons shall be available for regular board meetings and church services.**
- 5. Only one (1) member of a household may serve on the deacon board at one time.**
- 6. Deacons shall be elected for a term of three years with one-third of the number being elected each year.**
- 7. After the completion of a full three-year term, no deacon shall be eligible for re-election until after the lapse of one year.**
- 8. Whenever deacons are to be elected, the names of all nominees shall be given to the pastor and the deacons. The pastor and the deacon board will recommend qualified candidates to the church to be voted on by written ballot. The church will then proceed to elect the required number from this list. Nominations for deacon will not be accepted from floor during the session scheduled for election of deacons.**
- 9. New deacons who have not been ordained by a church of like faith shall be ordained by this local church as soon as possible.**
- 10. The deacons shall elect annually their own chairman.**
- 11. Deacons shall at all time consider themselves as servants of the church. With pastor, and as the Holy Spirit may direct, they are to consider and make recommendations to the church in all matters pertaining to its work and progress, including oversight of the discipline of the church; establish and maintain spiritual fraternal relations with all members of the church; assisting the Pastor in the observance of the ordinances; having general oversight over the upkeep, repair, and use of the church property; and supervising the financial program of the church.**
- 12. They shall arrange for regular meetings and such committees as are necessary to the discharge of their duties. The Pastor or the chairman of the deacons may call the deacons into special session whenever such a need arises.**

**13. The Pastor, or in the absence of a pastor, the Chairman of the Deacons shall call special church business meetings when necessary and act as moderator in all business meetings.**

**14. The deacons may, without prior approval of the church, make repairs and other disbursements in keeping with the church fiscal budget not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00).**

**B. Board of Directors (Deacons)**

**1. The Board of Directors shall, as provided by law and the action of the church, hold trust the title to all property of the church and shall represent the church in all matters of legal responsibility regarding the purchase, improvement, and disposal of church property.**

**2. They shall execute all legal papers relating to the church and to the community as the church may direct.**

**3. They shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property of the church without a specific vote of the church authorizing such action; neither shall they have any control over the use of the church property except by vote of the church.**

**4. They shall be responsible for directing an annual audit of all church funds.**

**C. Clerk**

**The clerk shall be elected annually. It shall be his/her duty to attend or be represented at all church business meetings, to keep an accurate record of all business transactions, to prepare the annual associational letter and to notify all officers, members of committees, and messengers of their election or appointment. He/she shall issue letters of dismissal as authorized by the church, preserve all papers and valuable letters and records that belong to the church, and preserve a true history of the church. It shall also be the duty of the clerk to see that an accurate roll of the church membership is kept with dates and methods of admission and dismissal, change in name, correct mailing addresses, and other pertinent information.**

**D. Church Treasurer**

**The church treasurer shall be elected annually. The church treasurer shall maintain accurate records of the finances of the church, shall receive from the financial secretary a record of all funds of the church, make disbursements as authorized by the church or Board of Directors, and shall make a monthly report of receipts and disbursements to the church. The church treasurer shall also be**

available to help with the yearly audit as directed by the Board of Directors of the church.

#### **E. Sunday School Secretary**

The Sunday School Secretary shall receive and record all funds contributed during the Sunday School hour. Along with the Church Treasurer, the Sunday School Secretary shall receive and record all funds contributed to the church during the worship service. The Church Treasurer shall deposit all funds contributed to the church. He/she shall make envelopes available, keep a complete record of individual contributors, and shall provide a written statement of each contributor's annual tithes and gifts.

#### **F. Sunday School Superintendent**

The Superintendent of the Sunday School shall have general oversight of the entire school, subject to the approval of the local church. It shall be his duty to conduct regular meetings giving advice and receiving suggestions from his co-workers. He shall see that a full and accurate report is made of the work of the Sunday School in the regular business meetings of the church.

#### **G. Assistant Sunday School Superintendent**

He shall assist the superintendent in the performance of his duties and he shall be responsible for the duties of the superintendent when he is absent.

#### **H. Sunday School Teachers**

All teachers in the Sunday School shall agree with the statement of faith, be regular in attendance and giving, be faithful to scheduled meetings, be available and open to training opportunities, and seek to be an example to all believers by striving to live like Jesus.

#### **I. Committees**

1. The church shall elect such standing committees as may be necessary to carry on the program of the church.

2. The nominating committee, working with the pastor, shall present to the church in its business meeting persons to serve for a designated period on the standing committees, with the church electing the personnel of these committees. Rules, regulations, and/or guidelines for various committees shall be available in the church office in a manual (file) of church operations.



3. All standing committees shall operate on the rotations system, except as otherwise stated in these bylaws, with one-third (1/3) of the committee retiring each year; provided, however, that on those committees where persons serve by virtue of positions they hold, such persons shall serve on such committees as long as they hold the specified position. No member of a standing committee shall be eligible for re-election to that committee until one (1) year has elapsed following a full term (three years) on such committee.

4. The church upon recommendation of the pastor and the Board of Deacons may elect committees at any time to perform temporary functions. Membership of these committees shall be processed by the Nominating Committee. All church officers will be elected at the annual meeting in September.

#### Article XVI Adoption and Amendment

A. These bylaws shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect when a majority of the members present and voting at the business meeting at which vote is taken shall vote in favor of the same.

B. These bylaws may be amended, altered, or repealed by a majority vote. Any requests for changes must be submitted to the Pastor and deacons for consideration a minimum of thirty (30) days before the first business session of a new quarter. A fourteen (14) day notice shall be given in writing to the church membership for bylaw change and bylaw changes will be considered only at the first business session of a new quarter. No motions for bylaw changes will be accepted from the floor of a business session.

#### Article XVII Rules of Order

In matters of parliamentary procedure not specifically provided in the constitution or bylaws, the latest revision of Roberts Rules of Order shall be followed.

#### Article XVIII Dissolution of the Church

In the event of dissolution, the property of this church, both real and other assets, shall be disposed of according to the majority vote of the remaining members, to one or more non-profit corporations of like faith and practice. All personal property on loan to this church shall be returned to its rightful owner. This church shall be considered dissolved when its membership shall have been reduced to seven (7).

07/30/2000

