

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

For the more certain preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the accepted tenets of the Southern Baptist denomination, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this church and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith and practice, we do declare and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I: Name

Section 1. Name

The name of this church “Cedar Shores Baptist Church” of Bosque County, Texas.

Section 2: Incorporation

This church is authorized under warrant of the Holy Scriptures, and is incorporated under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Texas. It shall have no capital stock and is not organized for material or pecuniary profit.

ARTICLE II: Purpose

To be a dynamic spiritual organism empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Christ with as many people as possible in our Church, community and throughout the world.

To study the entire body of inspired Scriptures contained in the Holy Bible for the determination of Christian principles and truth revealed to us by Almighty God, and the practice of those principles and that truth in our Christian experience.

To be a worshiping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing His person, and responding in obedience to His leadership.

To experience an increasingly meaningful fellowship with God and fellow believers.

To help people experience a growing knowledge of God and man.

To be a church that ministers unselfishly to people in the community and the world in Jesus' name.

To be a church with the purpose of being Christlike in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment of life, personality, and possessions to the Lordship of Christ.

ARTICLE III: Articles of Faith

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired word of God and the basis for our beliefs. This church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of *The Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000. We voluntarily band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to lost mankind. The ordinances of the church are Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper. (See Article VI of the Bylaws.)

ARTICLE IV: Church Covenant

Having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and 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, 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, doctrines, and discipline; 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 deportment; to avoid all gossiping, back biting, and excessive anger; to abstain from certain worldly amusements that would compromise our Christian testimony; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember 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 V: Polity and Relationships

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. Persons duly received by the members shall constitute the membership. (See Article I of the Bylaws.) All internal groups created and empowered by the church shall report to and be accountable only to the church, unless otherwise specified by church action.

This church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation common among Baptist churches. Insofar as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the Bosque Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I: Church Membership

Section 1: General

This is a sovereign and democratic Baptist church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the exclusive right of self-government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this church.

The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.

Section 2: Candidacy

Any person may offer himself or herself as a candidate for membership in this church. All such candidates shall be presented to the church at any regular church service for membership in any of the following ways:

- (1) By profession of faith and baptism.
- (2) By promise of a letter of recommendation from another Baptist Church of like faith and practice.
- (3) By statement of faith of prior conversion and experience and baptism by immersion in a church of like faith and practice when no letter is obtainable.

Should there be any dissent as to any candidate, such dissent shall be referred to the Pastor for investigation, or Deacon fellowship if there is no Pastor, and the making of a recommendation for action to the church within thirty (30) days.

Section 3: Privileges of church members

Members are expected to exercise responsibilities as follows:

- (1) To be faithful in all the essential privileges of the Christian life.
- (2) To attend regularly and habitually the services of the church.
- (3) To give regularly and habitually in the support of the church and the causes which it sponsors.
- (4) To share in the organizational work of the church.

Section 4: Rights of church members

All members who have been received in full and regular standing shall enjoy all the privileges of the church, are eligible for consideration by the membership as candidates for elective offices in the church, may participate in its ordinances, and exercise the privilege of acting and voting in the transactions of the church. However, in matters involving legal contracts with the State and on issues of increasing the indebtedness of the church voting will be restricted to those who are of legal voting age of the State.

Section 5: Inactive church members

An inactive member is one who, though physically and/or able, has not attended any of the regularly scheduled worship services for a period of one year. An inactive member does not have the privilege of voting or holding a church office. Anyone who is inactive may become an active member by attending the church on five consecutive Sundays.

Section 6: Termination of membership

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways:

- (1) Death of the member.
- (2) Transfer to another Baptist church.
- (3) Exclusion by action of this church.
- (4) Erasure upon request of proof of membership in a church of another denomination. The clerk may write to another church in order to verify a change in membership.

Section 7: Discipline

It shall be the practice of this church to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The pastor, other members of the church staff, and the deacons are available for counsel and guidance. The attitude of members toward one another shall be guided by a concern for redemption rather than punishment.

Should some serious condition exist that would cause a member to become a liability to the general welfare of the church, the pastor and the deacons will take every reasonable measure to resolve the problem in accordance with Matthew 18:15-20. If it becomes necessary for the church to take action to exclude a member, three-fourths vote of the members present is required; and the church may proceed to declare the person to be no longer in the membership of the church. All such proceedings shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance.

The church may restore to membership any person previously excluded, upon request of the excluded person. This restoration must be achieved in a special called meeting for that purpose. Following evidence of the excluded person's repentance and reformation he/she will be restored to church membership upon the affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present.

ARTICLE II: Church Officers and Committees

Section 1: Authority

Any authority or privilege granted, or task or duty assigned, shall be at the will of the church and shall in no sense be construed as irrevocably vesting such power or privilege in any individual, committee, or organization. Powers so granted shall be only such as are necessary to the performance of the duty or task assigned.

Section 2: Church Officers

All who serve as officers of the church shall be members of this church. The officers of this church shall be:

- A. Pastor
- B. The church staff
- C. The deacons
- D. A moderator
- E. A clerk
- F. A treasurer
- G. The trustees

A: Pastor

A pastor shall meet the Biblical qualifications outlined in I Timothy 3:1-7 which reads as follows from the New King James version:

- 1. This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.*
- 2. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;*
- 3. not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;*
- 4. one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence*
- 5. (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?)*
- 6. not a novice lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.*
- 7. Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*

The pastor will lead the church in the achievement of its mission and is responsible for leading the church in functioning as a New Testament church. The pastor will lead the congregation, the organizations and the church staff in performing their tasks. He will be on all committees ex-officio. The major concern of the pastor is to preach the Word as found in the scriptures and perform the ordinances and pastoral responsibilities for church members and other persons in the community. The pastor is the leader of worship, proclamation, education, performance of ordinances and pastoral ministry.

A pastor shall be chosen and called by the church whenever a vacancy occurs. When the pulpit committee is ready to make its recommendation of a prospective pastor, the said congregation shall be notified by public announcement one week prior to the date of the sermon in view of a call and

for the purpose of voting upon the recommendation. The committee shall bring to the consideration of the church only one man at a time. Election shall be by secret ballot, an affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present being necessary for a choice. The pastor, thus elected, shall serve until the relationship is terminated by his request or the church's request. He shall give at least two weeks notice at the time of resignation before terminating his responsibilities as pastor.

The church may declare the office of pastor to be vacant. Such action shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one week's notice has been given. The meeting may be called upon the recommendation of a majority of the personnel committee and the deacons or by written petition signed by not less than one-fourth of the active church members. The moderator for this meeting shall be designated by the members present by majority vote, and he/she shall be someone other than the pastor. The vote to declare the office vacant shall be by secret ballot; an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members present being necessary to declare the office vacant. The church will compensate the pastor with not less than one-twelfth of his total annual compensation except in instances of gross misconduct by the pastor so excluded from office, as determined by a vote of those at the meeting. The termination shall be immediate and the compensation shall be rendered in not more than 30 days.

B: The Church Staff

The ministerial staff shall be called and employed as the church determines the need for such offices. A job description shall be written when the need for a staff member is determined. Those staff members of whom the church requires evidence of a personal call of God to minister shall be recommended to the church by the personnel committee and called by church action. At the time of resignation, not less than a two-week notice shall be given to the church. The church may vote to vacate such positions upon recommendation of the personnel committee, such termination being immediate, and the compensation conditions being the same as for the pastor, except that the amount shall relate to the individual's compensation.

Non-ministerial staff members shall be employed as the church determines the need for their services. The church personnel committee shall have the responsibility to recommend employment and/or termination of services of non-ministerial staff members. Such employment and termination of services shall be with the recommendation of the supervising staff member and, as appropriate, with the consultation of related committees of the church.

C: Deacons

In keeping with the intent and practices of the New Testament Church, the deacons shall be servants to the church, striving to promote harmony within the fellowship and the advancement of God's kingdom.

A deacon shall meet the Biblical qualifications outlined in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3 which read as follows from the New King James version:

I Timothy 3

8. *Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money,*
9. *holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.*
10. *But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless.*
11. *Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.*
12. *Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.*
13. *For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

Acts 6

3. *Therefore brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;*

He shall be a faithful and loyal supporter of the entire church program. He shall be a tither in belief and practice. His social and moral standards shall be above question, and he shall so conduct himself as to never cause embarrassment to the church and the cause of Christ which we seek to promote.

A deacon will serve on a permanent basis as long as he is a member of Cedar Shores Baptist Church, unless he becomes no longer suitable to be a deacon. A deacon shall be determined to be inactive following a joint recommendation by the pastor and deacon body and upon approval of the church.

A brother who comes to this church from another church of like faith and practice where he served as a deacon is not thereby constituted as a deacon of this church until he has fulfilled the qualifications as outlined, is recommended by the deacons, and duly elected by the church at a regular business conference.

As the church determines a need, the church shall elect as many additional deacons as desired. At a regular business conference a list of male church members 25 years of age or older shall be presented as possible candidates. Nominations shall be taken by secret ballot. Those receiving a nomination shall be taken under consideration by the pastor and deacons with confidentiality and contacted as to their qualifications in accordance with Scriptures and their willingness to serve. After carefully and prayerfully examining the men in light of the qualifications, they shall present the list of nominees who have accepted to the church for final acceptance.

After election of deacons, an ordination service will be conducted at a time designated by the church.

D: Moderator

The pastor shall usually be moderator of the business meetings of the church. In the absence of the pastor, the chairman of deacons shall preside; or in the absence of both, the clerk shall call the church to order and an acting moderator shall be elected.

E. Clerk

The church shall elect annually a clerk as its clerical officer. The clerk shall be responsible for keeping a suitable record of all official actions of the church, except as otherwise herein provided. The clerk shall be responsible for keeping a register of names of members, with dates of admission, transfer of membership, exclusion, death, or erasure, together with a record of baptisms. The clerk shall issue letters of transfer voted by the church, preserve on file all communications and written official reports, and give required notice of all meetings where notice is necessary, as indicated in these bylaws. The clerk shall be responsible for preparing the annual letter of the church to the association.

The church may delegate some of the clerical responsibilities to a church secretary who will assist the elected clerk. All church records are church property and shall be kept in the church office when an office is maintained.

F: Treasurer

The church shall elect annually a church treasurer and assistant treasurer as its financial officers. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive, preserve and pay out budgeted expenditures and other expenses authorized by the church, all money or things of value paid or given to the church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to present to the church at each regular business conference an itemized report of the receipts and disbursements since the last business session which shall become a part of the permanent records of the church.

At the end of each fiscal year financial records will be reviewed by the financial review committee or public accountant, and then presented to the church for acceptance and approval. Once accepted the records shall be delivered by the treasurer to the church clerk, who shall keep and preserve the account as part of the permanent records of the church.

G: Trustees

The church shall elect three or more trustees annually to serve as legal officers for the church. They shall hold in trust the church property. Upon a specific vote of the church authorizing each action, they shall have the authority to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer any church property. When the signatures of trustees are required, they shall sign legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchase, or rental of property, or other legal documents related to church-approved matters.

Section 3: Church Committees

All who serve on church committees shall be members of this church. As deemed necessary by the church, the following regular committees shall be elected annually: Baptism, Benevolence, Building and Grounds, Fellowship, Finance, Financial Review, Flowers, History, Kitchen, Lord's Supper, Nominating, Personnel, Ushers, and such other regular and special committees as the church shall authorize. Additional regular committees may be added by the amendment procedure prescribed within these bylaws. All regular committee members shall be recommended by the church Nominating Committee and elected by the church. Special committees may be created and elected at a business meeting when necessary.

(1) The Baptism Committee is responsible to assist both the pastor and candidates for baptism. They are to fill and otherwise prepare the baptistry prior to the service in which the ordinance of baptism is to be observed. Their duties also include caring for the baptismal robes, making sure they are ready and available at the time they are to be used and then washed, dried, and made ready for their next use. They are also responsible to make themselves available to assist candidates while changing and provide towels for the pastor and candidates upon completion of the baptism. By necessity there should always be at least one male and one female member on the baptism committee to provide aid to candidates of both genders.

(2) The Benevolence Committee fields requests from individuals in need of financial assistance. It is their responsibility to investigate all such requests to determine the legitimacy of the request and recommend disbursement of budgeted funds.

(3) The Building and Grounds Committee assists the church in matters related to properties administration. Its work includes such areas as maintaining all church properties for ready use, recommending policies regarding use of properties, consulting with the personnel committee and the church staff regarding the needs for, and the employment of, maintenance personnel, and regarding the assignment of supervisory responsibility to appropriate personnel.

(4) The Fellowship Committee is responsible to coordinate, plan, and execute church socials, parties, and fellowship events. They are to coordinate efforts with the kitchen committee specifically and any other committees if necessary. Its functions are to promote unity within the body by creating opportunities for fellowship involving every age group of the membership of this church. Special effort should be made to observe special events and/or holidays with fellowship activity. The fellowship committee is also responsible to coordinate joint fellowships with other churches or the Bosque Baptist Association should those opportunities present themselves.

(5) The Finance Committee shall prepare annually and submit to the church for approval an inclusive report indicating by items the amount needed and sought for all local and worldwide expenses. This report, when approved, will become the church budget. This committee should remain available to the church in an advisory capacity to recommend the administration of the gifts from church members and others. It works with the treasurer in the preparation and presentation to the church of required reports regarding the financial affairs of the church.

(6) The Financial Review Committee has as its primary function to review the financial records at the end of the fiscal year. Upon complete review the committee, jointly with the treasurer, will present the financial records to the church for acceptance and approval. The duties of the committee may be fulfilled by a public accountant if that option is chosen and directed by church action.

(7) The Flowers Committee is responsible to procure, maintain, store, and display a variety of flower arrangements in the worship area in a manner appropriate for each occasion.

(8) The History Committee shall document and preserve the historical records of the church.

(9) The Kitchen Committee is responsible for the administration of the kitchen. The committee is to make sure the kitchen is supplied and ready for use when needed. It is also responsible to make sure the kitchen is maintained at a high level of cleanliness upon completion of fellowship activities that take place in the fellowship hall and make use of the kitchen facilities. The kitchen committee will coordinate with the fellowship committee when fellowship activities of both committees converge.

(10) The Lord's Supper Committee is responsible for the preparation of the elements for the observance of the ordinance of the Lord's Supper. It is additionally responsible to care for the communion set to see that it is cleaned and stored properly. It shall also make sure supplies are purchased and/or available prior to any scheduled observance of the Lord's Supper.

(11) The Nominating Committee coordinates the staffing of all church leadership positions filled by volunteer workers, unless otherwise specified herein. Individuals considered for any such positions shall first be approved by the nominating committee before they are approached for recruitment. The nominating committee shall present to the church for election all who accept the invitation to serve.

(12) The Personnel Committee assists the church in matters related to employed personnel administration, including those called by church action. Their work includes such areas as determining staff needs, employment, salaries, benefits, other compensation, policies, job descriptions, and personnel services.

(13) The Usher Committee shall ensure that ushers of ample number are available for each worship service. Their responsibility is to receive tithes and offerings by passing offering plates at the proper designated time and to distribute the elements during the observance of the Lord's Supper. Additionally, they are to assist the pastor or other guest speakers to distribute materials if and when it becomes necessary.

ARTICLE III: Organizations

All organizations related to the church programs shall be under church control, directors of each organization shall be elected by the church and report regularly to the church, and all program activities subject to church coordination and approval.

(1) The Sunday School shall be the basic organization for the Bible teaching program. Its tasks shall be to teach the biblical revelation, reach people for Christ and church membership, perform the functions of the church within its constituency, provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and denomination.

The Sunday School shall be organized by departments and/or classes, as appropriate for all ages, and shall be conducted under the direction of the Sunday School director elected by the church.

(2) The Church Training Organization shall serve as the training unit of the church. Its tasks shall be to train church members to perform the functions of the church; train church leaders; orient new church members; teach Christian theology, Christian ethics, Christian history, and church polity and organization; and provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and denomination.

Church training shall be organized by departments for all ages and conducted under the direction of a general director.

(3) Woman's Missionary Union shall be the mission education, mission action, and mission support organization of the church for women, young women, girls, and preschool children. Its tasks shall be to teach missions, engage in mission action, support world missions through praying and giving, and provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and denomination.

Woman's Missionary Union shall have such officers and organizations as the program requires.

(4) The Brotherhood shall be the church's organization for mission education, mission action, and mission support for men, young men, and boys. Its task shall be to teach missions, engage in mission action, support world missions through praying and giving, and provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and denomination.

The Brotherhood shall have such officers and organization as the program requires.

(5) The Church Music organization, under the direction of the church-elected music director, shall be the music education, training, and performance organization of the church. Its tasks shall be to teach music; train people to lead, sing, and play music; provide music in the church and community; and provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and denomination.

The Church Music program shall have such officers and organization as the program requires.

ARTICLE IV: Church Council

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

The primary functions of the church council shall be to recommend to the church suggested objectives and church goals; to review and coordinate ministry and program plans recommended by church officers, organizations, and committees; to recommend to the church the use of leadership, calendar time, and other resources according to program priorities; and to evaluate achievements in terms of church objectives and goals.

Regular members of the church council shall be the pastor, other church staff members, directors of church program organizations, chairman of deacons, church officers, and chairmen of church committees.

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

ARTICLE V: Meetings

Section 1: Worship Services

The church shall meet regularly each Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and mid-week evening for the worship of Almighty God. Prayer, praise, preaching, instruction, and evangelism shall be among the ingredients of these services. The pastor shall direct the services for all the church members and for all others who may choose to attend.

Section 2: Special Services

Revival services and any other church meetings essential to the advancement of the church's objectives shall be placed on the church calendar.

Section 3: Regular Business Meetings

The church shall hold regular business meetings bi-monthly beginning in February on a designated mid-week service night.

Section 4: Special Business Meetings

The church may conduct called business meetings to consider matters of special nature and significance. A one week notice must be given for the specially called business meeting unless extreme urgency renders such notice impractical. The notice shall include the subject, the date, time and place, and it must be given in such a manner that all resident members have an opportunity to know of the meeting.

Section 5: Quorum

The quorum consists of those members who attend the business meeting, provided it is a stated meeting or one that has been properly called.

Section 6: Parliamentary Rules

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised is the authority for parliamentary rules of procedure for all business meetings of the church.

ARTICLE VI: Ordinances

Section 1: Definition

The ordinances of the church, as set forth in the Holy Scriptures, are Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Section 2: Baptism

The ordinance of baptism shall be by immersion only of the professed believer, in obedience to the command of Christ, and shall be administered on the authority of, and in the presence of the church as an act of worship during any worship service. The pastor, or whomever the church shall authorize, shall administer baptism. The baptism committee shall assist in the preparation for, and the observance of, baptism.

Section 3: The Lord's Supper

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed at a worship service with such frequency as the church shall determine. The pastor shall preside at the Table, and shall be assisted by the deacons and others of the church. In the pastor's absence, or at his request, or when the church shall be without a pastor, the deacons shall select someone to preside and coordinate the ordinance.

ARTICLE VII: Licensing and Ordaining

Section 1: Licensing

Any member of the church who by his piety, zeal and experience, and aptness to teach, gives evidence that he is called of God to the ministry, may by a vote of a majority of the members present and voting at any regular business meeting, be licensed by the church to the Christian ministry.

Section 2: Ordination of Ministers

When a church of like faith and practice shall have called as its pastor a member of this church who possesses Scriptural qualifications (1 Timothy 3:1-7) for ordination to the work of the Gospel ministry, and a request is made that he be ordained, this church shall consider such request. The pastor shall assemble an ordaining council of ordained ministers of the Gospel of like faith and practice and deacons of like faith and practice who shall examine the candidate and recommend him to the church for ordination. Upon majority approval of the church the ordaining council shall perform the ceremony of ordination in the name of, and in the presence of the church. In the event that the church is without a pastor, then it shall turn to the Association's Director of Missions for guidance.

Section 3: Ordination of Deacons

When the church has elected a deacon (as stated in Article II, Section 2C) it shall be the responsibility of the pastor to assemble an ordaining council which may be composed of ordained ministers of the Gospel of like faith and practice, and of deacons of like faith and practice, who shall perform the ceremony of ordination in the name of, and in the presence of the church.

ARTICLE VIII: Fiscal Policy

Section 1: Finances

A. The financial needs of the church, its organizations, and causes fostered by it shall be supported by voluntary, free gifts of money which shall be paid into and disbursed from the church treasury.

B. The church believes in and subscribes to the New Testament doctrine of storehouse tithing as the minimum responsibility of Christian stewardship, and is obligated by Scripture to teach and encourage its members to practice the doctrine in their lives.

C. The finance committee shall annually prepare and submit to the church for approval an inclusive budget. All extraordinary disbursements and proposals for raising special funds must be authorized by the church.

D. The church treasurer shall be custodian of all church funds and the budget shall be considered as authority for the disbursement of funds, and monthly statements of income and disbursements will be made to the church.

Section 2: Obligations

No debt, commitment, or other obligation shall be created except by specific authority and expression of the church.

Section 3: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the church shall be January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE IX: Amendments

This Constitution and Bylaws adopted by the church in regular business meeting held August 22, 2007, supercedes the Constitution and Bylaws adopted January 3, 1971 and all other prior resolutions, precedents, and actions not in harmony with its provisions.

Changes in the Constitution and Bylaws may be made at any regular business meeting of the church provided each amendment shall have been presented in writing at a previous business meeting and copies of the proposed amendment shall have been furnished to each member present at the earlier meeting. Amendments to the constitution or to the bylaws shall be by three-fourths vote of church members present.

Three complete official copies of the Constitution and Bylaws together with all amendments there-to, shall be kept, one by the clerk, one by the church historian, and one in a secure off-site location.