



**2018 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS:
MARKED FOR PROPOSED
REVISIONS AND UPDATES**

**BY-LAWS OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WAYCROSS,
GEORGIA**

Revised September 5, 2018

ARTICLE I

Organization and Purpose

Section 1. Name. The name of this Church organization is First Baptist Church of Waycross, Georgia, and it is chartered as a non-profit, religious organization under the laws of the State of Georgia and its charter is recorded in the Charter Record Book of the Records of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Ware County, Georgia.

Section 2. Purpose. This Church is organized for the support and maintenance of the public worship of God; ~~for missionary work pursuant to the faith and usage of a Missionary Baptist Church; as to the doctrine of this Church, it shall receive The Bible, God's Holy Word as its authority in matters of faith and practice.~~

Section 3. Membership. The membership of the Church shall consist of all persons admitted to membership ~~by the body of the Church in a general meeting.~~ The person admitted to membership shall remain so until death, voluntary withdrawal from membership, notification of the member having joined another Church, or dismissal from membership by the body of the Church hereinafter provided. Each new member of this Church shall be assigned a deacon who will present them with a copy of the current By-Laws of the Church, a list of the current Board of Deacons, ~~the members of each standing committee, and a copy of the last monthly financial report of the Church.~~

ARTICLE II

Meetings

Section I. Public Worship. The regular meetings of the Church for public worship shall be on Sunday morning and evening and a mid-week meeting.

Section 2. Memorial Supper. ~~The Memorial Supper of our Lord will be observed at least once in each quarter of the year.~~

Section 3. Business Meetings/ Church Conference.

- A. The Church shall be given notice of the Agenda for the quarterly business meeting not less than ten (10) days in advance of the meeting.
- B. The Church shall not consider any proposal to incur debt until the Church has been given notice thereof not less than ten (10) days in advance of the meeting at which the matter is to be presented.
- C. The Church shall not consider any proposal to expend non-budgeted funds in excess of **\$2,500** unless the Church has been given notice thereof not less than ten (10) days in advance of the meeting at which the matter is to be presented.
- D. The finance committee can authorize any non-budgeted expense up to \$2,500.00, but such expense must be brought to the next business meeting..

~~Section 4. Special Business Meeting.~~ A special ~~business meeting~~ of the Church may be called at any time by the Pastor or at the insistence of five (5) Deacons, or any twenty-five (25) Church members, provided the hour named is the time for a regular service of the Church. Any action taken at such meeting must be ratified at the next regular business meeting by a resolution to specifically approve the action or by an approval of the minutes of the special meeting.

~~Section 5. Annual Business Meeting.~~ The Annual Meeting of the Church shall be the last Church Conference of the Church year or at a time set by the Church in Conference.

~~Section 6. Moderator.~~ The Church shall select a moderator to preside at all business meetings, special business meetings and the annual business meetings of the Church. The Moderator shall be nominated by the nominating committee and voted upon by the Church membership and shall serve for the Church year or any remaining part thereof. The moderator shall not be a member of the Church staff or an employee of the Church. The chairman of the Deacons shall serve as Vice Moderator.

ARTICLE III Church Officers and Staff

Section 1. Personnel. The officers of the Church shall be a Pastor, Church Clerk, Associate Ministers, and a Board of Deacons, the chairman of which shall be considered as the Corporation President. These officers of the Church shall be elected by the church in such a manner as the Church may designate. In addition to the above, such other persons may be employed by the Church as the Deacons in conjunction with the personnel and finance committees may deem proper.

~~Section 2. Church Auxiliary Officers.~~ Officers of the various auxiliaries of the Church shall be elected by the Church after nomination by the particular auxiliary in which such officers serve.

Section 3. Pastor. The pastor shall be elected and called by the Church whenever a vacancy occurs. His selection shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which meeting at least one week's public notice shall be given.

The Church shall elect a ~~pulpit committee~~ which shall come from the Church at large. The deacons will be in charge of the election procedure. This committee will be composed of seven (7) persons as follows: At a regular Sunday morning service of the Church, slips of paper will be passed to the entire congregation and nominations of five persons will be written on such slips by each Church member voting.

The fifteen (15) members receiving the highest number of nominations and willing to serve will be selected, and these names presented to the Church at a subsequent Sunday morning Church service, and from these nominations the seven members receiving the highest number of votes will become the pulpit committee. If any of the seven are unable to fulfill their duties, the deacons shall refer to the list of 15 to maintain seven members. There shall be an interval of, at least, seven days between the action of the Church in voting on the fifteen nominees and final selection of the committee of seven, which will finally constitute the ~~pulpit committee.~~

Appropriate notice shall be given through the Church Messenger, including the names of the members nominated for both the original committee of fifteen and the final committee of seven.

Such committee shall bring to the Church for consideration only one man at a time, and their recommendation shall constitute a nomination. Election shall be either by private ballot or by voting signs as the Church may desire, and affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present and voting being necessary to elect.

The Pastor, ~~thus elected~~, if he accepts the election and call, shall serve indefinitely at the will of the Church and/or until the relationship is terminated, ~~both~~ the Pastor and the Church ~~seeking~~, at all times to follow the will of God and the leadership of the Holy Spirit in reference thereto.

The Pastor shall have in charge the welfare and oversight of the Church, shall minister unto the Church at all regular and appointed times for Worship and service, and to individual members whenever possible. ~~He should~~ be an ex-officio member of all standing committees of the Church.

Section 4. Church Clerk. The Clerk shall ~~keep an accurate record of all the actions of the Church, shall attend all business meetings, and shall keep a register of the names of the members, with dates of admission and dismissal or death, together with a record of baptisms. He shall issue letters for dismissal voted by the Church, preserve, and file all communications and written official reports and give legal notice of all meetings where such notice is necessary under these By-Laws. The Clerk shall be considered as and serve in the capacity of the Secretary of the Corporation, shall keep the official seal of the Church, and shall perform such legal duties as are usually the responsibility of a Corporation Secretary. The Clerk shall be furnished assistance by the Church Secretarial Staff as requested in the performance of the above duties.~~

Section 4a. Church Treasurer. The Church Treasurer shall (1) supervise and oversee ~~the Financial Secretary or Accounting Manager~~ in the performance of his/her duties, and (2) all checks and drafts of the Church shall bear the Treasurer's signature, and (3) the Treasurer shall perform such other duties as the Finance Committee, with Church approval, shall direct. The Church may appoint one or more assistant Treasurers who shall carry on the functions of the Treasurer in the absence of, disability of, or request of the Treasurer.

Section 5. Church Finances. The responsibility for the proper handling of incoming funds and gifts to the church shall be the responsibility of the finance committee which will keep the board of deacons advised at all times concerning the financial conditions of the Church and the detailed methods of receiving and disbursing of the Church funds. It shall be the responsibility of this committee for the adoption of policies and the supervision of the personnel to ensure the security of the collection, counting and depositing the gifts to the Church. It shall be the duty of the finance committee to enlist the members of the Church as spiritual givers, and it shall be the duty of the finance committee to supervise the keeping of accurate records of all receipts and disbursements. The finance committee shall see that all local bills due by the Church shall be paid promptly including all disbursements for denominational purposes.

The finance committee will be authorized to direct the methods of receiving Church collections from the plates and from the Sunday School and other contributions and gifts. The Finance committee will be authorized to handle the details of this work through a ~~Church Finance Secretary or Accounting Manager~~ under such instructions and rules as the finance committee may think proper and which will properly account for all Church receipts. However, the financial Secretary or Accounting Manager shall work under the supervision of the Church Treasurer.

No disbursements shall be made other than by authority of the finance committee, other than disbursements ordered by the general Church membership, or the board of deacons of which the finance committee will have notice. ~~Regular budgeted items of the Church may be paid out on standing orders of the finance committee. No budgeted item shall exceed its budgeted limit or unbudgeted expenditures be made except by authority of the finance committee and the board of deacons, which shall then be reported to the Church at the first business meeting thereafter.~~ No unbudgeted expenditure in excess of \$2,500.00 shall be made without Church approval. All funds received by the Church shall be deposited as soon as possible in a bank in the name of the Church.

The financial secretary /Accounting Manager of the Church, the treasurer, or any other person handling cash of the Church, may be required to furnish a surety company bond for the faithful performance of his or her duty in such amounts as the board of deacons may direct, the premiums of such bond to be paid out of the general funds of the Church.

Special accounts may be maintained for various receipts and disbursements for the different causes sponsored by the Church ~~which accounts must be maintained separate and apart, and funds from one account shall not be transferred to the other account without the authorization of the finance committee.~~

All disbursements by the Church shall be by check which shall be signed by two ~~of the following: the Church Treasurer, the Church Assistant Treasurer, or the chairman of the Finance Committee.~~ A monthly report ~~will also be made at each regular Church business meeting.~~

Trustees of First Baptist Church Foundation Future Thrust Endowment Fund: There shall be six 9 trustees for this fund. They shall oversee investment ~~of funds, see that interest and income are reinvested or distributed to designated causes, and make at least~~ quarterly reports to church and plan programs to inform and enlist members to participate. Trustees shall serve a three-year term with no requirement to rotate off for one year before serving another term.

Section 6. Associate Ministers. Associate Ministerial Staff positions and accompanying job descriptions shall be determined and defined as needed by the Personnel Committee in concert with the needs of the congregation, the direction of the Deacon body, and the leadership of the Senior Pastor. Understanding that ministry positions and job requirements can change over time, and as need presents, Associate Ministerial Staff job descriptions will be made clear to both the staff member and to the congregation and an updated description will be kept on file as part of the Personnel Policy approved by the church and available for review upon request through the church office and/or personnel committee

-- ~~Section 7. Board of Deacons~~ . There shall be an active Board of Deacons consisting of not less than ~~fifteen (15)~~ 10 or more than ~~thirty (30)~~ as the Church may deem necessary to properly direct the affair of the Church. The Board of Deacons shall be organized as a unit for the consideration of all larger problems and general policies of the Church, being responsible to the Church at all times.

- (a) The Deacons shall be active members of the Church and able to participate in the affairs of the Church. The standards set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13 shall govern in their selection. Their first responsibility and objective shall be to provide example and leadership to develop Christian spirituality and fellowship within the Church family and minister to the needs of the membership, and all other duties are secondary hereto.

- (b) The Deacons shall have such officers, including Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary, and such committees as they may deem best. They shall have authority to establish their own rules or By-Laws governing their own duties, provided they do not conflict with these By-Laws, the presence of a majority of the active Board serving at any time shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- (c) . The Chairman of the Board of Deacons shall be considered as and serve in the capacity of the President of the Corporation and perform such legal duties as are usually the responsibility of a Corporation President.

The Board of Deacons shall make recommendations to the church with reference to Church letters or any other matter which the Board may consider in the interest of the Church, provided, however, that the Church in conference may grant letters of dismissal which may not have referred to the board, or may initiate any other action without reference to recommendation from the Board.

- (d) It shall be the privilege of the Board of Deacons to authorize the expenditure of the funds of the Church for all purposes not provided for in the budget, and for the maintenance and upkeep of the property of the Church, and, in general, to look after the business affairs of the Church provided nothing herein shall be considered as invalidating such expenditures authorized by the Finance Committee, which must report them to the next regular meeting of the Board of Deacons. The Board of Deacons shall be considered as and perform the duties for the Corporation as is usually performed by a Corporation Board of Directors.
- (e) The Board of Deacons shall have the authority to borrow money in anticipation of collections and payments of pledges, provided, however, that such funds shall be used as authorized in the Budget, or by the Church in a properly constituted Business Meeting, unless authorized by the Church, borrowing limits shall be those outlined in the Budget.
- (f) All Deacons shall be elected by the Church for a term of three (3) years after which they shall be ineligible for election for a period of one year. Vacancies shall be filled in the usual manner by the Nominating Committee and such replacement shall be for the unexpired term involved. One serving less than one year in such a replacement shall be eligible for election of the Board for a succeeding three (3) year term.
- (g) The Deacons shall meet no less often than quarterly and at such special times as the Chairman of the Board may call meetings to consider urgent matters. Any five (5) members of the Board of Deacons
) shall have the right to call a meeting of the Board.
- (h) The Deacons shall serve on a general pulpit committee, and in case of the absence or inability of the Pastor, subject to the advice and conference with him, shall provide for pulpit supplies. In any period when the Church is without a Pastor, unless the Church may otherwise provide, the Deacons shall arrange for temporary ministry and take council with reference to securing an Interim Pastor. However, it is specially provided that the matter of selecting a Pastor shall rest with the Church and not with the Deacons.

- (i) The Deacons can suspend, with or without pay, any officer (except the Pastor) or any other employee
- (j) of the Church upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the total active membership of the Board of Deacons at any validly constituted meeting.
- (k) Deacons coming into the fellowship of this Church from time to time, having been previously ordained in other churches as Deacons, shall not be considered active Deacons, but may be elected as active Deacons in due course as the Church chooses without further ordination by the body.

ARTICLE IV

Church Organizations

Section 1. All organizations of the Church shall be under the control of the Church and all officers thereof shall be elected by the Church from the membership and report regularly to the Church. The Pastor shall be considered the ex-officio head of all organizations named and his leadership recognized in them all. No organization, organized class, nor group of individuals under the protection of this Church shall institute or form any organization upon any plan or ideal contrary to these By-Laws, or the approved denominational standards for like organizations, unless expressly authorized to do so by vote of the Church.

~~Section 2. Unless specified in detail in these By Laws the functioning of all Church organizations shall be according to approved denominational standards for like organizations.~~

~~Section 3. The organization of the Church shall be as follows:~~

- ~~(a) — Sunday School~~
- ~~(b) — Women's Missionary Union~~
- ~~(c) — The Church Leadership Council~~
- ~~(d) — Such other organizations as the Church may from time to time approve.~~

~~Section 4. Sunday School. At the last business meeting of the church year, the General Nominating Committee shall bring to the Church its nominations for General Director of the Sunday School for the ensuing year. No later than 2 months before the beginning of the next Church year and at a Church business meeting, the General Nominating Committee shall bring to the Church nominations for the Departmental Directors.~~

~~Not later than the last church conference before the beginning of the new Church year the General Nominating Committee shall bring to the Church nominations for general officers, departmental officers, teachers, and workers necessary to complete the Sunday School organization.~~

~~After the annual election of workers, the General Nominating Committee shall bring to the Church at its business meetings nominations to fill any vacancies that have occurred.~~

~~All officers of organized classes shall be elected after nomination by a nominating committee within the class, such committee being appointed by the teacher of the class, and such officer shall be members of the Church who in a reasonable way support the Church and all its programs. Following the election of the Church-elected officers, teachers and workers, a public installation service may be held at any worship period. The duties of these officers and teachers and workers shall be those ordinarily designated in the approved denominational standards together with such other duties and qualifications for service as the church may adopt.~~

~~**Section 5. Women's Missionary Union.** The general officers of the Women's Missionary Union, consisting of Director, Secretary, and other officers as needed shall be elected annually by the Church upon nomination of the General Nominating Committee in conjunction with a nominating committee from the Women's Missionary Union, and report these officers to the Nominating Committee. The duties of these officers shall be those designated by the approved Denominational Standards together with such other duties and qualifications for service as the Church may adopt. Following their election, the general officers may be publicly installed at the regular and appointed time for a meeting of the Women's Missionary Union on the first meeting of the new Church year.~~

~~**Section 6. The Church Leadership Council.** The purpose of the Church Leadership Council is to assist the church in achieving its mission by planning, coordinating, and evaluating ministries, activities, and associations with intentional consideration and oversight as to how each pertains to the overall mission, vision, and ministry of the church.~~

~~The Church Leadership Council should:~~

- ~~• (a) Lead the church to consider an ongoing process of defining both missional and visionary ministry that reflects the core values of the church. The Church Leadership Council will partner with church staff, deacon body, lay leadership, and congregation toward a planning process that encourages the development of short, mid, and long range planning goals to support a culture of ministry that is true to both the mission and vision of the church.~~
- ~~(b) Provide leadership and encouragement to the church to encourage the development of a proactive culture of ministry and mission rather than a reactive one.~~
- ~~(c) Enable and encourage the church to use its resources wisely.~~
- ~~(d) Serve to coordinate and approve the church's calendar of events, ministries, and activities as they are requested from the congregation, committees, areas of ministry, and leadership.~~
- ~~(e) Seek to promote a spirit of increased collaboration across ministries to improve church engagement, spirit, and use of resources.~~
- ~~(f) Seek to encourage and increase stronger communication between ministry staff, the church office, deacon body, church ministries, committees, and the congregation through encouraging regular committee meetings, the recording of minutes, and the reporting of activities to the congregation through church conference reports and the ongoing mediums of communication within the church.~~

~~The Church Leadership Council shall have three officers: a chairperson, a co-chairperson, and a secretary. The pastor shall serve as the chairperson and the chairmen of deacons shall serve as the co-chairperson. A secretary shall be elected by the council from among its members. Church Leadership Council Membership shall include, but not be limited to, Committee Chairs from the following committees with the spirit of~~

~~) maintaining a good cross section of leadership and interest across the congregation:~~

- ~~• Personnel Committee~~
- ~~• Finance Committee~~
 - ~~• Property & Grounds Committee~~
 - ~~• Music Committee~~
 - ~~• Ministry Partnership Committee~~
 - ~~• Jolly Friends Committee~~
 - ~~• Youth Committee~~
 - ~~• Children's Committee~~
 - ~~• WMU~~

~~The Church Leadership Council shall meet monthly to discuss the ongoing needs, ministries, and direction of the church and provide written reports to the deacon body monthly and the congregation during scheduled church conference. A quorum shall consist of those members present.~~

~~Section 7. The necessary officers for other organizations shall be upon nomination by the particular organization and election by the Church.~~

ARTICLE V

Committees

Section 1. The following committees shall be elected annually and serve as standing committees of the Church. All committees, unless otherwise stated, shall be named annually by the nominating committee, subject to the approval of the Church. It will be the policy of the Church for some changes to be made in the personnel of such standing committees each year, and that any member of the Finance, Property and Personnel Committees be ineligible for a period of one year for service on such committee after three years of successive service on such committee.

Section 2. The standing committees of the Church shall be as follows:

- (a) Finance Committee
- (b) Property Committee
- (c) Personnel Committee
- (d) Lord's Supper Committee
- (e) Baptism Committee
- (f) Usher Committee
- (g) ~~General~~ Nominating Committee
- ~~(h) Music Committee~~
- ~~(i) Grounds Committee~~
- (j) Kitchen Committee
- (k) Church Nursery Committee
- (l) Youth ~~Activities~~ Committee
- (m) Collections Security Committee
- (n) Jolly Friends Committee
- (o) Constitution and By-Laws Committee
- (p) Bereavement Committee
- (q) Flower Committee
- (r) History Committee
- (s) Family Enrichment Committee
- (t) Risk Management Committee
- (u) Foundation Trustees
- ~~(v) Ministry Partnership Committee~~

Section 3. Such other committees as may be necessary may be appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Deacons, subject to the approval of the Church. Organizations other than the Board of Deacons may appoint such special and temporary committees as the work of the organization requires and by such method as the organization desires.

Section 4. Finance Committee. The Finance Committee shall consist of seven (7) members, ~~at least one of whom shall be a Deacon. Such committee shall have general charge of administering the financial affairs of the church~~ subject to the approval of the Board of Deacons and the Church. Such committee shall in consultation with the Pastor, Board of Deacons, and responsible leaders of the Church organizations, prepare and submit to the Church for approval, an inclusive budget each year, indicating in detail the needs of the Church, as well as for denominational and other causes. The Committee shall make recommendations for such expenditures from time to time as may pertain to the fiscal management of the Church affairs. It shall have access to the financial records of the Church at all times, and endeavor to administer the financial affairs of the Church in an economical and business-like manner.

Section 5. Property Committee. This Committee shall be responsible at all times for the maintenance, upkeep, and repair of the property of the Church. This will include all machinery, equipment and furnishings except the Church kitchen which is covered by the kitchen committee. It shall prepare and submit to the finance committee a plan for continuing maintenance, which it shall review each year. Work of an unusual nature concerning the Church properties and future land acquisition may be handled by special committees appointed by the Chairman of the Board of deacons or temporary additions to the property committee.

Section 6. Personnel Committee. This Committee shall consist of seven (7) members of the Church and shall include one member from the Board of Deacons. The duties of this committee shall be interviewing new employees, setting up a record system for employees on appropriate cards in a confidential file in the Church offices. This committee shall also study and recommend creation of new personnel positions, write job descriptions and handle personnel problems. This committee shall recommend personnel benefit programs and policies, salaries of the Church Staff and Church employees to the Finance Committee. This Committee is to cooperate with the Pastor, Deacons, Church Staff, and the Property Committee to the end that employees render efficient and loyal service and likewise are given fair and impartial treatment at all times.

Section 7. Lord' Supper Committee. This Committee shall consist of as many members, men or women, or both, as may be deemed necessary, and have general charge of all matters in connection with the ordinance of observance of the Lord's Supper and render such assistance to the Church and Pastor as may be necessary.

Section 8. Baptism Committee. This Committee shall consist of as many members, men and women, as may be deemed necessary, and have charge of all matters in connection with the ordinance of baptism and render such assistance to the Pastor and Church as may be necessary.

Section 9. Usher Committee. This Committee shall consist of as many members as may be deemed necessary and have charge of providing ushers for every Church service requiring ushers.

Section 10. ~~General~~ Nominating Committee. The General Nominating Committee consisting of five (5) members, shall be nominated by the existing Nominating Committee already serving for that particular year, for election by the Church at the second quarterly business meeting no later than April first. To this nucleus committee will be added Sunday School Director, and Woman's Missionary Union Director, after election by the Church, to assist the original committee in nominations from their departments. The duty of this committee shall

be to bring to the Church nominations of all Deacons, all General Officers of the Church, as well as Sunday School Workers and Officers. Woman's Missionary Union Officers as herein before provided.

The Nominating Committee shall not have as a part of its duties and obligations the selection of the committee chair person of committees but such person shall be selected by the members of that committee and report the new chairperson to the Nominating Committee when selected.

~~Section 11. Music Committee. This Committee shall consist of as many members, men and women, as may be deemed necessary and shall cooperate with the Minister of Music, the Pastor and the Board of Deacons in providing worshipful music for all services and departments of the Church.~~

This Committee, working with the Minister of Music, is especially charged with obtaining and developing all kinds of musical talent.

~~Section 12. Grounds Committee. This Committee shall provide for the beautification and upkeep of the grounds of the Church.~~

~~Section 13. Kitchen Committee. This Committee shall provide for the furnishing, upkeep, and efficient operation of the church kitchen, social hall, and social hall equipment. They shall also be responsible for church socials, receptions, and other activities related to use of the kitchen as directed by the Church.~~

~~Section 14. Church Nursery Committee. This Committee shall make all necessary provisions for the management, upkeep, and operation of the Church Nursery.~~

~~Section 15. Youth Ministries Committee. This committee shall be responsible for planning, coordinating, implementing, and evaluating the youth ministries of the church in conjunction with the minister assigned to direct youth. These ministries include programs and activities appropriate for the spiritual growth of the youth of the church. The Youth Ministries Committee will seek to coordinate with and be supportive of the Youth Sunday School department and the Youth Choir Ministry.~~

~~Section 16. Collections Security Committee. The Collections Security Committee shall be elected by the church from its membership, and include the Church Treasurer, who shall be an ex-officio member. Under the direction and supervision of the Finance Committee, it shall secure, count, record and deposit the collections taken by the Church through Sunday School and general collections.~~

This committee shall operate with no less than two (2) members present and the Financial Secretary/Accounting Manager, except for the placing of the night depository bags in the bank, which shall be done according to

a policy adopted by the committee and reported to the Finance Committee. The Counting Security Committee shall be responsible for prompt and accurate recording, where possible, of the name of each donor and the amount of all gifts shall be promptly delivered to the Financial Secretary.

~~Section 17. Family Enrichment Committee. The purpose of the Family Enrichment Committee shall be to assist other church programs in providing for the needs of families and to provide family enrichment programs for couples, parents, and other family members. The Committee shall be composed of three (3) members.~~

Section 18. Constitution and By-Laws Revision Committee. The purpose of this Committee is to prepare and recommend to the church a proposed revision of the constitution and By-Laws as needed and update the constitution and by-laws, as necessary. The Committee shall be composed of five (5) members.

Section 19. Jolly Friends Committee. The purpose of the Jolly Friends Committee is to plan programs for senior adults that are designed for fun, fellowship, and outreach.

Section 20. Bereavement Committee. This Committee shall be composed of as many members as necessary. Its purpose is to provide a meal for bereaved families of our membership, who cannot be cared for by a Sunday School Class. The Committee shall call on any church member to help with this ministry.

Section 21. Flower Committee. This Committee shall be composed of as many members as necessary. Its purpose is to make arrangements to have sanctuary flowers each Sunday and for special occasions such as Revivals, Holy Week, etc. They are also in charge of trimming the sanctuary for the Christmas Season.

Section 22. History Committee. This Committee shall be composed of three (3) members. Its purpose is to make sure that all historical materials of the church are catalogued and stored safely. The committee should also make sure the church history is updated on special occasions and the church is reminded of special anniversaries.

Section 23. Risk Management. The Risk Management Committee shall consist of at least three members nominated by the Church's Nominating Committee and approved by the Church Membership at a regular or called business meeting of the Church. Members of the Committee shall serve a term of three years after which they shall be ineligible to serve for one year. The initial Committee will consist of at least three members with one member serving a one-year term, one member serving a two-year term, and one member serving a full three-year term. Members filling the initial one-year and two-year terms can be reelected for a full three-year term after which each Member shall be ineligible to serve for one year. The purpose of the committee is to identify risks to the Church, including but not limited to those related to property, hazard, personal health, or other risk; and to develop and implement strategies and a program to mitigate, illuminate, or minimize such risk. Committee Members shall work with and coordinate with the Deacons, Finance Committee, Property Committee, Personnel Committee, or other Church organizations in identifying risks, developing plans, and funding such plans.

Section 24. Foundation Trustees. The First Baptist Church Foundation Trustees shall consist of nine members, at least one of whom is a deacon. With prior consultation between the Trustees and the Church Nominating Committee, members will be presented to the Church for consideration and election. Each Trustee shall serve a three-year term at the end of which the Trustee can be reelected to serve. The Trustees shall be responsible for leading the Church in building an endowment to support Church ministries in perpetuity; for investing and safe-keeping the endowment; for reviewing investment performance and for making adjustments in the investments as deemed appropriate; for developing and implementing a plan to use some or all of the earned interest and dividend from the endowment to support church ministries in keeping with the intent of the donors; and other intended responsibilities. The Foundation Trustees shall make a report to the Church at least annually.

Sections 25. Ministry Partnership Committee. The Ministry Partnership Committee will investigate, promote, implement, and evaluate ministry opportunities and partnerships locally, nationally, and internationally.

Involvement and church partnership will be based upon the needs of our congregation, our ministry partners or those identified within our community or area of service, the resources of our church, including financial resources and especially the talents, assets, and passions of our members, and the mission of the church. The objective for the committee will be to encourage and oversee the development of a culture of intentional ministry that engages our congregation and resources in ministry that is local, national, and international as presented by need and the work of God within the life of the church. In addition, it will be the goal of the Ministry Partnership Committee to seek to engage members of our church in meaningful ministry by providing ongoing opportunities, highlighting needs outside the church, and coordinating ministry activities that take place or originate from within the church. The Ministry Partnership team will consist of a committee of 7 members approved by the church.

ARTICLE VI Church Policy

Section 1. Ordinances. The ordinance commemorating the Lord's Supper shall be observed by the Church at least once each quarter as hereinbefore stated. All members of the Church and ~~others who feel worthy may participate therein.~~

The ordinance of Baptism may be administered at any worship service for the benefit of all candidates who have united with the Church with public profession of faith and acceptance of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Section 2. Authority. The government of this Church is vested solely in the body of believers who compose it, which shall be the ultimate authority on any question. It shall be subject to the control of no other body, political or ecclesiastical, but shall be patterned on the principles and standards of the New Testament Church. This Church will recognize and sustain obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist Churches. So far as may be consistent with the principles and teachings of the Scriptures and the expressed will of this Church, this Church will cooperate with Baptist Denominational causes sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention and the Georgia Baptist ~~Convention~~ and the causes of other Baptist organizations.

Section 3. Evangelistic and other Special Meetings. It shall be the policy of this Church to conduct evangelistic meetings with the Pastor or a visiting minister conducting as the Church may direct, with the advice of the Pastor. For the purpose of perpetuating, advancing and furthering the religious training of its members and others, the Church may from time-to-time conduct such training programs, schools, workshops and seminars as the Pastor, Associate Ministers, or Deacons may recommend and the Church approves.

Section 4. Quorum. The presence of thirty members of this Church shall constitute a quorum. Elections must be by ballot only when moved and voted by the Church. No person shall be elected to an office without receiving a majority of the votes cast. If more than two persons are nominated for one office and no one receives a majority vote, all nominees' names but the two receiving the highest number of votes shall be removed from the ballot.

Section 5. Vacancies. When an office in the Church is made vacant by resignation or death, the Board of Deacons shall be empowered to fill such office temporarily by selecting a qualified member of the Church. At the first business meeting of the Church thereafter the vacancy for the unexpired term shall be filled.

Section 6. General Application. Whenever the masculine or feminine is referred to in these By-Laws with respect to any person holding office, members of a committee or otherwise, the term may be used interchangeably and shall cover both genders.

Section 7. Rulings. All parliamentary questions unless covered by these By-Laws, shall be by Roberts Rules of Order, where applicable. Any article herein or Roberts Rules of Order may be temporarily suspended to meet an extreme emergency by unanimous vote of the meeting.

Section 8. Amendments. ~~These By Laws may be amended by a three fourths vote of the membership present and voting at any annual meeting of the Church, or at any meeting specially called for that purpose, the proposed amendment being inserted in the call, such call to be in writing and placed before the Church at a business meeting not less than one month before the next time of the proposed action., and presented from the pulpit on the Lord's Day next succeeding such proposal.~~

Section 9. Seal. The Church shall have an official seal, which will be affixed to all official documents of the Church and shall be kept by the Church Clerk in the business office of the Church.

Section 10. These By-Laws shall supersede all previous By-Laws of First Baptist Church of Waycross, Georgia, and shall become official when signed by the Chairman of the Board of Deacons and attested by the Church Clerk and the official seal attached, after having been approved by the Deacons and voted by the Church.

Adoption Clause.

1. The above and foregoing By-laws were revised and adopted by the membership of First Baptist Church, Waycross, Georgia, on the ~~5th day of September 2018.~~

Seal

Chairman of Deacons - Kevin Barnes

Church Clerk - Mrs. Ellen Howard