



Turkey Creek Baptist Church

Impacting the world for Christ one person at a time

C O N S T I T U T I O N

A N D

B Y L A W S

Revised 2019

P R E A M B L E

For the more certain preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in and orderly manner consistent with the accepted tenets of Missionary Baptist Churches affiliated with the NC Baptist State Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, 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, we do declare and establish this constitution.

I. NAME

This body shall be known as the Turkey Creek Baptist Church of Pisgah Forest, North Carolina. The purpose of this body shall be to provide regular opportunities for public worship, to sustain the ordinances, doctrines, and ethics set forth in the New Testament for the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ; to nurture its members through a program of Christian Education; to channel its offerings to the support of the objects of the Redeemer's Kingdom, and to preach and propagate the gospel of the Revelation of God through Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

II. AFFILIATION

Said Church shall be affiliated with the Transylvania Baptist Association, the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

III. ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. The Scriptures

The Scripture of the Old and New Testament was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction: that it has God for its author, salvation its end, truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried. (2 Timothy 3:15-17; Isaiah 8:20; Romans 1:16-17, John 17:17).

2. The True God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the family of the Godhead there are three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; equal in division of nature, essence or being. (John 4:24; Revelation 1:4; John 17:1-5; Matthew 28:19; John 15:26).

3. The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but by choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse. (Genesis 1:27-31; Isaiah 53:6; Genesis 3:6-24; Romans 3:9-24).

4. The Way of Salvation

We believe that Salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature; yet without sin; honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead He is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections. He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all sufficient Saviour. (Ephesians 2:8-12; John 3:16; Isaiah 53:4-5; Galatians 4:4-6).

5. Justification Through Faith

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemers' blood; by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity. (Romans 5:1-16; John 12:1-18; Acts 13:38-39; Titus 3:5-7; Romans 4:3-5).

6. The Freeness of Salvation

We believe that blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial penitent, and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation. (Rev. 22:17; Ephesians 2:8; Isaiah 55:1; Matthew 11:28-30; John 10:27-28; Romans 10:8-11).

7. Grace in Regeneration

We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in manner above our comprehension, by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel, and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life. (John 3:3-8; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:16-25; James 1:16-18; I John 5:1).

8. Repentance and Faith

We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way salvation of Christ, we turn to God with contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on Him alone as the only and all-sufficient Saviour. (Mark 1:14-15; Acts 4:15-18; Romans 10:12-17; Acts 2:38; Hebrews 11:6).

9. God's Purpose of Grace – Election

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerated, sanctifies, and saves sinners, that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness; being infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence. (2 Timothy 1:8-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; John 6:37-40; Romans 8:28-31; 2 Peter 1:10-11).

10. Sanctification

We believe that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work, that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of appointed means, especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness; and prayer. (1 Thessalonians 4:1-3; 2 Peter 1:5-8; Romans 8:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Ephesians 4:11-13).

11. Perseverance of the Saints

Those whom God hath accepted in the Beloved, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end; and though they may fall, through neglect and temptation, into sin, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the church, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be renewed again unto repentance, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. (John 10:18-30; 2 Timothy 1:7-12; Judges 24:25; John 8:31-32).

12. The Church

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, voluntarily associated by Covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His work; that its scriptural officers and Bishops, or Pastors, and Deacons must have qualifications, claims, and duties which are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus.

13. Baptism

Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, obligatory upon every believer, wherein he is immersed in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, as a sign of his fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, or remission of sins, and of his giving himself up to God to live and walk in newness of life. It is prerequisite to church fellowship.

14. The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine, and to be observed by His churches till the end of the world. It is in no sense a sacrifice, but is designed to commemorate His death, to confirm the faith and other graces of Christians, and be a bond, pledge, and renewal of their communion with Him, and of their church fellowship.

15. The Lord's Day

The Lord's Day is a Christian institution for regular observance, and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private, resting from worldly employments and amusements, works of necessity and mercy only expected.

16. Liberty of Conscience

God alone is Lord of the conscience and He hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are in anything contrary to His Word, or not contained in it. Civil magistrates being ordained of God, subjection in all lawful things commanded by them ought to be yielded to by us in the Lord, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

17. The Righteous and the Wicked

There is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and wicked. Those only who are justified through the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Holy Spirit are truly righteous in His sight. Those who continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under condemnation. This distinction between the righteous and the wicked holds in and after death, and will be made manifest at the judgment when final and everlasting awards are made to all men. (Matthew 25:31-46; Mark 9:48; Luke 23:43; John 3:36; Romans 9:22-24; 1 Corinthians 15:45-53; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 20:10-15).

18. The Resurrection

The Scriptures clearly teach that Jesus rose from the dead, His grave was emptied of its contents. He appeared to the disciples after His resurrection in many convincing manifestations. He now exists in His glorified body at God's right hand. There will be a resurrection of the righteous and the wicked. The bodies of the righteous will conform to the glorious spiritual body of Jesus. (Matthew 28:6; John 5:28-29, 14:1-3, 20:1-29; Acts 24:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:1-58; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Revelation 20:12-15).

19. The Return of the Lord

The New Testament teaches in many places the visible and personal return of Jesus to His earth. The time of this coming is not revealed. It is the duty of all believers to live in readiness for His coming and by diligence in good works to make manifest to all men the reality and power of their hope in Christ. (Matthew 24:29-44; Mark 13:24-37; Luke 21:25-28; Acts 1:9-11).

20. Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be in pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of the Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil powers to carry on its work. The Gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, with right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power. (Matthew 22:17-21; Mark 12:13-17; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; 1 Peter 2:17).

21. Education

Christianity is the religion of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is therefore a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. An adequate system of schools is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people. The cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with those the liberal support of the churches. (Deuteronomy 4:1-14; 6:1-10; Psalm 19:7-11; Proverbs 4:1-13; Nehemiah 8:1-9; Matthew 28:18-20; Colossians 2:2-7; 2 Timothy 2:14-15).

22. Social Service

Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ regnant in his own life and in human society; to oppose in the spirit of Christ every form of greed, selfishness, and vice; to provide for the orphaned, the aged, the helpless and sick; to seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth and brotherly love, to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth. All means and methods used in social service for the amelioration of society and the establishment of righteousness among men must finally depend on the regeneration of individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus. (Exodus 20:16-22; 22:9-14; Leviticus 6:1-5; Deuteronomy 4:41-42; 15:1-2; 27:17; Ezekiel 18:5-9; Zechariah 8:1-7; Luke 10:25-37; 6:27-36; Romans 12:14-21; Colossians 3:12-17; James 2:8).

23. Co-operation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure co-operation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over each other or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Individual members of New Testament churches should cooperate with each other, and the churches

themselves should cooperate with each other in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent programs of the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony, and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various Christian denominations, when the end to be obtained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament. (Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4:4-6; 8:1-4; Malachi 3:10; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-6; 22:1-10; Acts 1:13-14; 1:21-26; 2:1, 41-47; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 3:1-15; 11:12; 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9; Ephesians 4:1-16; 3 John 1:5-8).

24. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty of every Christian man and woman, and duty of every church of Christ to seek to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary efforts on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life. It is also expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teaching of Christ. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other methods sanctioned by the gospel of Christ. (Matthew 10:5-15; 13:1-23; 22:8-10; 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; 16:19-20; Luke 24:46-53; Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4; 21:39; 8:1-40; 10:42-48; 13:1-3, 30-33; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-8).

25. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual: all that we have and are we owe to Him. We have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in our possessions. We are, therefore, under obligation to serve Him with our time, talents and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to us to sue for the glory of God and helping others. Christians should cheerfully, regularly, systemically, proportionately and liberally contribute of their means to advance the Redeemer's cause on earth. (Leviticus 27:30; 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15).

26. Marriage

We believe in marriage as defined (and limited to the definition) in the Bible as between one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24, 19:5-13, 26: 8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Matthew 19:4-5; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1, 6:9-10; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)

I. CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and 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.

For the Advancement of This Church

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship; ordinances, discipline, and doctrines.

As Christian Stewards

To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and spread of the Gospel through all nations.

Alone and at Home

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances.

Before the World

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 of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

Toward One Another

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

When We Move

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

II. CHARACTER

Section 1. Polity: The government of the church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Southern Baptist Churches.

All members upon the floor of the body have equal rights and are entitled to equal privileges and consideration from all officers and other members.

Section 2. Doctrine: This church receives the Holy Scriptures as its authority in matters of faith and practice.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Methods By Which Membership May Be Granted

- (1) By profession of faith in Christ and Baptist by immersion.
- (2) By letter from a church of like faith and order.
- (3) By statement provided his (or her) church is now non-existent, or records lost, or when other satisfactory explanation is given for not being able to furnish a letter.
- (4) By restoration. Any person whose membership has been terminated for any offense may be restored by vote of the church upon evidence of his repentance and reformation; or if, on account of continued absence, upon satisfactory explanation.
- (5) Members, in addition to attending the new member's class, must agree to and support the Articles of Faith as laid out in the Constitution and By-Laws. This applies to new members as well as transfers regardless of the transferring church. A temporary membership may be granted on transfer of letter or testimony in order to facilitate the timing of attending the new member's class. Temporary memberships so granted will not have voting privileges in the case of proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws or the Articles of Faith.

Section 2: Rights

Such members as are in full and regular standing may act and vote in all business transactions of the church.

Section 3: Termination

Membership may cease as follows:

- (1) By letter if dismissal to a church of like faith and order. The letter of dismissal shall not be granted directly to the individual.
- (2) By dropping from the roll, when persons join other orders of faith.
- (3) By exclusion. Should a member become an offense to the church and to its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, or by persistent breach of his (or her) covenant vows, the church may terminate membership, but only after due notice and hearing, and after faithful efforts have been made to bring such member to repentance and amendment.

NOTE: All requests for termination for membership by exclusion or action looking thereto shall first be considered by the deacons, or a duly elected membership committee; who shall make recommendations to church.

ARTICLE II. CHURCH OFFICERS

Section 1: Pastor and Staff Workers

- (1) The number shall be determined to the needs of the church.
- (2) They shall be called to office with an indefinite call to serve at the will of the church.
- (3) The pastor and staff workers shall serve with the condition of their call. Changes thereto shall be mutually agreed to between the church and the officer.
- (4) The Pastor: A pastor shall be chosen and called by the church whenever a vacancy occurs. His calling shall be at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one week's public notice shall be given. The pulpit committee shall seek out a suitable pastor and their recommendation shall be submitted to the church for consideration. The committee shall bring to the consideration of the church only one man at a time. The call shall be extended by secret ballot vote, an affirmative vote of three-fourths of voting members present being necessary to make a choice. The pastor thus called shall serve until relationship is terminated with 30 days notice by either the church or the pastor. The pastor shall have in charge the welfare and oversight of the church.
- (5) The pastor may serve as moderator of the church.
- (6) The pastor shall secure evangelists for all meetings.
- (7) The pastor shall be responsible for paying his substitute, except when on vacation, during illness, on business for the church, or death in the immediate family.

- (8) The pastor shall have three weeks vacation with pay annually including three Sundays, this time allotted annually and not to be carried over. (All unused time will be forfeited.)
- (9) The pastor shall be ex-official head of all organizations and committees of the church.
- (10) The pastor shall not hold more than four revival meetings covering any four weeks during the year without authorization of the church.
- (11) The pastor may attend the Southern Baptist Convention, North Carolina Baptist State Convention and Evangelistic Conference if the church is financially able. NOTE: Any emergency requiring the pastor's absence for personal or business reasons not stated in paragraph seven will be referred to the deacons for consideration and action.
- (12) At the termination of a pastor's service the church shall be under no further financial obligation to him.

Section 2: Church Employees

- (1) The church shall provide prospective employees with a job description which shall then become the basis of employment.
- (2) Changes shall be made after agreed upon by the church employee.

Section 3: Deacons There shall be seven (7) deacons or more.

- (1) Selection. They shall be elected from among the members who have proved themselves to have scriptural qualifications. New first-term deacons shall be elected for a term of four years. Second and subsequent term deacons shall be elected for a term of three years. If at the completion of any term, through the leadership of the Holy Spirit, a deacon feels led to serve another term, and the deacon board and church approve another term, said deacon can serve as many consecutive terms as is deemed necessary. Whenever deacons are to be elected the names of the nominees shall be selected by the existing deacons at that time and presented to the church for approval, and begin service July 1.
 - a. The deacons shall biannually elect their own chairman.
 - b. No person shall be considered a candidate for office of deacon until he has been in the membership of the church for at least twelve months.
 - c. There will be no transfer of deaconship from one church to another.
- (2) Ordination. The deacons thus elected shall be ordained by the church, except when already ordained by a church of like faith and order.
- (3) Duties. In accordance with the meaning of word and practice of the New Testament, deacons are to be servants of the church.

- a. They are to be zealous to guard the unity of the spirit within the church in the bonds of peace.
- b. They shall serve as a council of advice and confer with the pastor in all matters pertaining to the welfare and worship of the church. With the pastor they are to consider and formulate plans for the constant effort and progress of the church in all things pertaining to the saving of souls and development of Christians, and the extension and growth of the Lord's work.
- c. In counsel with the pastor, and by such methods as the Holy Spirit may direct in accordance with the New Testament teachings they are to have oversight of the discipline of the church, in administering which they are to be guided always by the principles set forth in Mathew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 5:9-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14. The deacons shall be free to call upon any member of the church to aid in disciplinary action.
- d. Each deacon may freely confer with the pastor about all matters and cases of discipline which in his judgment would be most wisely and spiritually handled in private.
- e. By proper organization and method among themselves, they are to establish and maintain personal fraternal relations with, and inspiring oversight of, all the membership of the church. Especially are they to know the physical needs and the moral and spiritual struggles of the brethren and sisters, and to serve the whole church in relieving, encouraging, and developing all who are in need.

(4) The deacons should have at least one business meeting each month.

Section 4: Moderator

The moderator may be the pastor. The chairman of deacons may preside, or in the absence of both, the church clerk or any deacon may call the church to order and moderator protem may be elected from the membership.

Section 5: Clerk

The clerk of the church should keep a record of all actions of the church, except as otherwise herein provided. He (or She) should keep a register of the names of members, with date of admission, dismissal voted by the church, and preserve on file all communications and written official reports. An Assistant Clerk may be elected by the church. The records will be open to inspection at all times by any member of the church, but are not to be removed from the possession of Clerk or Assistant.

Section 6: Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer

It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive, preserve, and pay out money, or things of value – paid or given to the church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. Payment of bills for local work and expenses shall be made promptly by check, and all funds received for denominational or other causes shall be remitted at least monthly by

check. The treasury shall not be depleted below \$500.00 without bringing to the attention of the church. A financial statement shall be read or distributed in printed form to the church at or before its regular monthly business meeting. Within 30 days after the end of each fiscal year, an annual financial report shall be prepared by the treasurer or assistant treasurer and presented to the deacons and church for approval. A copy shall be delivered to the church clerk, and a duplicate sent to the church office for permanent filing. All books, records, and accounts kept by the treasurer shall be considered property of the church. The books shall be open to inspection at all times by any member of the church, but not to be removed from possession of treasurer or his or her assistant.

Section 7: Music Director

The music director may be charged with responsibility to provide worshipful music for all services and departments of the church unless otherwise provided. He (or she) may have general oversight and direction of the music. He (or she) is to cooperate with the pastor and other leaders in the selection of the suitable music and devising of appropriate musical programs for all occasions where services are needed. A pianist and organist shall be elected annually to assist in the music program of the church.

Section 8: Officers of Church Organization

1. Organizational heads. The Sunday School Director and Church Training Director shall be recommended by the nominating committee. Other organizational heads, i.e., WMU and Baptist Men directors may be presented for approval by the church at the May business meeting.
2. Officers within the organizations. All officers and teachers within the Sunday School and Church Training shall be recommended annually by the nominating committee for approval by the church.

Section 9: Tenure of Office

Officers shall be elected annually and assume responsibility June 1, except when otherwise provided.

Section 10: Resignation

All officers elected by the church shall notify the church thirty days in advance when desiring to offer their resignation.

ARTICLE III. ORGANIZATIONS

The church at any properly assembled business meeting may elect any committee, council, or board, and define and limit the duties, power, life, and authority to be exercised by any such committee, council, or board, in any matter whatsoever pertaining to the interest and activities of this church. All committees shall be set up on a rotating system with service limited to three consecutive years except the Cemetery Committee.

Each such committee, council, or board must confine its activities to the purpose of its creation as interpreted by the church. Full reports shall be made in regular business meetings, or when called for by the church.

Section 1: Finance Committee

(1) **Composition.** The Nominating Committee shall recommend to the church six members to serve with pastor and chairman of deacons.

(2) Duties

- a. The Finance Committee shall recommend the annual budget of the church for approval by the deacon body before presentation to the church for acceptance. It shall be presented to the church at least one week before any vote is taken upon it.
- b. The Committee shall select its own chairman.
- c. The Committee shall act as purchasing agent for the church. All purchases for various departments, pastoral needs, and prospective expenditures of all special committees shall channel their requests through the respective department heads to the Finance Committee. Any purchase exceeding \$500.00 not provided for in the budget shall be approved by the church.

Section 2: USHERS

(1) Deacons shall serve as ushers of the church. Others can be elected or nominated to serve with deacons as needed.

(2) Duties. The Chairman of Deacons shall have authority to enlist sufficient number of men to handle ushering duties at all service, funerals, and special meetings of the church in the event the ushers are absent. They shall care for the seating and comfort of the congregation, the greeting and introduction of visitors, the prevention of interruptions and disturbances and similar needed services.

Section 3: Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall consist of six members to serve with the pastor and chairman of deacons. It shall nominate all officers and teachers of the church, which are to be elected annually, except as otherwise specified herein.

Section 4: Pulpit Committee

The Pulpit Committee shall consist of two deacons, Sunday School Director, Church Training Director, Baptist Laymen Director, and two lay members elected by the church.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 1: Regular services

The church shall hold regular meetings on the Lord's Day, both morning and evening, and Wednesday prayer service, for worship teaching, training, and fellowship. The Lord's Supper will be observed quarterly on the fifth Sunday.

Section 2: Business Meetings

- (1) The church should hold a monthly business meeting on the second Sunday of each month. Matters of unusual nature presented to the church without the knowledge of the deacons shall be referred to the deacons for further study. Their decision shall be presented to the church at the next business meeting providing they have their report complete by that time (if not more time shall be given.)
- (2) The pastor and deacons may call the church into a special business meeting at any time, provided the membership is given adequate notice.
- (3) The rules of order in "Parliamentary Law" by Roberts shall be followed in all business meeting.
- (4) The church fiscal year shall begin on October 1 of each year.
- (5) The September business meeting shall be recognized as the annual business meeting.
- (6) Since many of our members work on swing shifts making it impossible for some to attend certain business meetings; and to protect the fellowship of the church, be it understood that only routine matters will be handled unless the church is well represented. Where that is an expression of doubt, a called meeting may be called for.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: The by-laws, name and affiliation of this church may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting at regular business meeting, provided the amendment shall have been offered in writing at a previous regular business meeting.

Section 2: The Articles of Faith, Character, and Covenant of this church shall never be amended.

Section 3: The adoption of this Constitution and By-Laws shall effect a repeal of all previously adopted rules in conflict herewith.

Section 1: When a member announces to the church that he feels the call to the Gospel ministry, and has proven by conduct and faithfulness for a period of six months, the church, by a majority vote, may license him as an acknowledgment of his call to the ministry and 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.

Section 2: Ordination. In the event this church has been requested to ordain a member who has been called as pastor of a Baptist church the following procedure shall be followed:

The church will express its approval by a vote of three-fourths of the members present at any regular arranged business meeting of the church. Then the church shall invite the associational council on ordinations to examine the candidate concerning his fitness for the ministry. In the event the association has no such council, this church shall invite representatives of neighboring churches to examine the candidate and report to the church. Then in the event the report of the committee is favorable the church shall proceed with the ordination.

Section 3: Dissolution. In the event the church has irreconcilable differences to the point of no longer enough members to continue as a church then the church will be dissolved. This is to be accomplished with a vote of 75 percent approval by the church members present at a special-called business meeting. The building and grounds would be donated to the Transylvania Baptist Association.