

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

OF

MARICOPA

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Original October 2003
Revision 1 March 2010
Revision 2 November 2011
Revision 3 November 2016

Article I. Organization	1
A. Name of the Church	1
B. Definition of Church	1
C. Purpose of the Church	1
D. Members of the Fellowship	2
Article II---Statement of Faith	3
A. The Bible	3
B. God	3
C. Jesus Christ	3
D. Holy Spirit	3
E. Man	4
F. Justification	4
G. Salvation	4
H. The Assurance of Salvation	4
I. The Christian Walk	4
J. Resurrection - Jesus Christ	4
K. Resurrection - Man	4
L. Local Church, Baptism	5
M. Lord's Supper	5
N. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit	5
O. The Future	5
P. Human Sexuality	5
Q. Family Relationships	6
R. Divorce and Remarriage	6
S. Abortion	6
T. Euthanasia	6
U. Authority of Statement of Faith	7
Article III---Government and Powers	8
Article IV---Church Membership	9
A. Purpose of the Fellowship	9
B. Applications for Membership	9
C. Denial of Membership	9
D. Admission of Applicants	9
E. Active Membership	10
F. Privileges of Membership	10
G. Termination of Membership	11
H. Responsibilities of Members	11
I. Church Discipline	12
J. Special Meetings	14
K. Notice of Meetings	14
L. Quorum	14
Article V---Church Leadership	15
A. Officers.	15
B. Duties, Election, and Term of Office	15
1. Pastor/President	15
2. Staff Members	15

3. Employees.....	15
4. Treasurer.....	16
C. Removal and Vacancy	16
1. Pastor.....	16
2. Other Staff/Employees.....	16
3. Secretary.....	16
Article VI---Board of Directors	17
A. Composition.....	17
B. General Powers	17
G. Quorum.....	18
H. Manner of Acting.....	18
I. Compensation.....	18
J. Informal Action by Directors.....	18
Article VII---Elder Leadership	19
A. Qualifications.....	19
B. Responsibilities	20
C. Election and Tenure	20
D. Active Elders.....	20
E. Place of Meetings	20
F. Regular Meetings.....	20
G. Special Meetings.....	20
H. Participation in Meetings	20
I. Participation in Meetings by Conference Telephone	21
J. Adjournment.....	21
K. Action Without Meeting	21
L. Rights of Inspection.....	21
M. Decisions of the Board of Elders.....	21
Article VIII---Deacons and Deaconesses.....	22
Article IX---Ordination, Licensing and Commissioning.....	23
A. Ordination	23
B. Licensing.....	23
C. Commissioning	23
Article X---Settlement of Disputes	24
A. General.....	24
Article XI---Other Provisions	25
A. Endorsement of Documents, Contracts.....	25
B. Checks.....	25
C. Deposits.....	25
D. Gifts.....	25
Article XII---Receipt, Investment, and Disbursement of Funds.....	26
A. Receiving of Funds	26
B. Investment and Disbursement of Funds.....	26
Article XIII---Corporate Records and Reports	27
A. Records	27
B. Inspection of Books and Records	27
C. Fiscal Year of the Corporation.....	27

Article XIV---Suspension, Amendment or Appeal	28
Article XV---Indemnification	29
Article XVI---Binding Arbitration.....	31

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MARICOPA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Constitution—(Legal organizational structure of church)

Article I. Organization

A. Name of the Church

This church shall be known as First Baptist Church of Maricopa, located at 18705 N. John Wayne Parkway Maricopa, Arizona 85139.

B. Definition of Church

The Church was established by Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:18), of which He is the Head (Eph.5:23; Col.1:18). It is composed of all who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and have placed saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph.2:8-10; Titus 3:5-7).

The local Church is a fellowship of believers established by God to participate in the things of Christ. It is a part of the body of Christ, members of one another (Eph. 4:25), and knit together in love (Rom. 12; 1Cor. 12; Col. 2:2).

C. Purpose of the Church

Praise & Worship: We purpose to worship and praise God corporately and individually. (John 4:23-24; Phil. 3:3; Hebrews 13:15).

Preach the Gospel: We purpose to preach, teach, and live the glorious Gospel (1 Tim. 1:11) of the Lord Jesus Christ. We purpose to work for the spread of the gospel at home and abroad through personal witnessing, preaching, and cooperative missionary endeavor(s). (Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Cor. 9:19-23; 15:1-4; 1 Thess.1:5; 2 Tim. 4:1-2).

Teaching: We purpose to teach and instruct the believers from God's Word of Truth (2 Tim. 3:16-17), and to encourage and equip the saints for discipleship and spiritual growth. (Matthew 28:19-20; Col. 1:28; Eph 4:12).

Fellowship: As a body of believers, we purpose to encourage and provide fellowship with God and each other (Lev. 26:12; 1 Cor. 1:9) through systematic Bible study, prayer, praise, worship, personal devotional practices, involvement in small accountability groups, and through the joyful mutual ministry of the spiritual gifts as bestowed by the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 14; Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Peter 4:10-11).

Holy Spirit and Prayer: We purpose to do all of the above through the power and leadership of the Holy Spirit and through dependence upon God through prayer. (Gal. 3:2-5; Eph. 5:18; Jude 20).

D. Members of the Fellowship

Nothing contained in Section 1 of this Article shall be construed to limit the right of the Church to refer to persons associated with the Church as 'members' even though such persons are not Church members, and no such reference in or outside of these Bylaws shall constitute anyone being a member. The Church may confer by amendment of its Articles or of these Bylaws some or all of the rights of a member, as set forth in Arizona State Nonprofit Corporation Law, upon any person or persons who do not have the right to vote for the election of officers or on a disposition of substantially all of the assets of the church or on a merger or on a dissolution or on changes to the church's Articles or Bylaws.

Article II---Statement of Faith

This Church recognizes that it cannot bind the consciences of individual members in areas where the Scripture does not speak directly or where it can legitimately be understood in more than one way, but that each believer is to be led by the Lord to whom they alone are ultimately responsible. For the preservation of the peace and unity of the Church, all elders, deacons, officers and teachers of the Church shall be in agreement with this Doctrinal Statement. All members should refrain from imposing doctrines that are not included in this Doctrinal Statement in such a way as to encourage doctrinal disputes, which could destroy the peace and unity of the Church. By accepting and subscribing to these articles of faith, we by no means, set aside or under-value any of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

A. The Bible

We believe in the absolute authority, accuracy and inerrancy of the sixty-six (66) books of the Holy Bible; its full verbal inspiration of the original manuscripts and its all-sufficiency and final authority as the Christian's rule of faith and practice (Proverbs 30:5; Isaiah 40:8; 2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).

B. God

We believe that there is but one God, the Creator, Preserver and Ruler of all things, who is perfect in holiness, and in love, infinite in wisdom and measureless in power, and who reveals Himself to us as three distinct entities, Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Nehemiah 9:6; I Chronicles 29:11,12; Exodus 15:11; I John 4:8; Matthew 28:19).

C. Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal and only begotten Son of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, and that He is true God and true man and is the only mediator between God and man (Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:30-35; John 12:45; 14:19; 1 Timothy 2:5).

D. Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, equal with the Father and Son, and of the same substance and nature; that He convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment; that He bears witness to the church; that He is the agent of the new birth; and at conversion He baptizes the believer into the Body of Christ; and that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses to, sanctifies and helps the believer, indwelling every true child of God (John 3:3-7; 16:8-11; Ephesians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16,17; Romans 8:14-27; 1 Corinthians 12:12,13).

E. Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God by direct creation and that he was originally in fellowship and communication with God. By man's choice he sinned, breaking this fellowship and incurred both physical and spiritual death. Thus all mankind by nature and by choice are sinners and unable of their own selves to reestablish fellowship with God. Apart from Christ all individuals shall be forever separated from God (Genesis 1:26; Ezekiel 18:20a; Romans 3:23; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8,9; Romans 6:23).

F. Justification

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, that all who believe on Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood (1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Revelation 1:5).

G. Salvation

We believe that salvation is by grace through faith, not of works, and that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are born again of the Holy Spirit, thereby becoming children of God. We believe in the eternal security of the believer (Ephesians 2:8,9; John 3:3,7; 1:12; 10:27-29; Romans 8:14-17).

H. The Assurance of Salvation

We believe God's Word teaches the assurance of salvation and the keeping power of God for daily living to every born again person and that this is eternal for the believer. (John 5:24; 10:28-29; Rom. 8:1,28-39; 2 Cor 5:1, 6-8; Phil. 1:6; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 5:13).

I. The Christian Walk

We believe that all who are born again by the Holy Spirit are made partakers of the divine nature, and are called with a holy calling to walk, not after the flesh, but after the Spirit; and that they can be victorious over the flesh through the power of the Holy Spirit and thus not manifest the works of the flesh, which would dishonor Christ's name, but manifest the fruit of the Spirit, which glorifies God (Romans 6-8; Gal. 5:16-23; Eph. 1:3-14; 4:1-6:4; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 2 Peter 1:3-4)

J. Resurrection - Jesus Christ

We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into heaven and in His present ministry there for us as High Priest and Advocate.

K. Resurrection - Man

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just, the bodily resurrection of the unjust the everlasting conscious blessedness of the saved and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost (1 Corinthians 15:20-24; Revelation 20:12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:8).

L. Local Church, Baptism

We believe that the local church is the local expression of the Body of Christ and is a voluntary association of baptized believers equal in rank and privilege, subject to the Word of God, and independent of any external ecclesiastical control whatsoever. We teach that God's Word commands every believer to be baptized by immersion in water. Though baptism has no saving merit it does show forth in solemn and beautiful symbolism the believer's faith in and union with the crucified, buried, and risen Savior (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:38; Acts 18:8; Romans 6:3-5).

M. Lord's Supper

We believe that the Lord's Supper is a provision of bread and the cup which are symbolical of Christ's broken body and shed blood; that the Lord's Supper is partaken of by saved individuals in commemoration of the suffering and death of their Lord and in anticipation of His soon coming again; that its observance is to be preceded by faithful self-examination (Luke 22:19,20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-30).

N. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

We believe that each believer has sovereignly been given at least one spiritual gift by the Holy Spirit; that no believer is destitute of such a gift; that these gifts are given to believers in order that they might minister to the rest of the body; and that the Church has been given specific gifted believers whose purpose it is to equip the saints for their jobs of ministry and of building up the body of Christ. (Rom. 12:6-8; 1Cor. 12:4-11; Eph. 4:7-12; 1Peter 4:10)

O. The Future

We believe in the personal, visible, imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ for His church and in His coming in Glory with the believers to set up His millennial kingdom upon the earth followed by an eternal kingdom on a new heaven and earth. The saved will forever be in His presence and fellowship while the unsaved will forever be separated from God and His fellowship (1 Corinthians 15:4; Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 1 John 2:1,2; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-15; 21:1-8).

P. Human Sexuality

1. We believe and teach that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe and teach that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1: 26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)
2. We believe and teach that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)

Q. Family Relationships

1. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (elders) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)
2. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4, Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7)

R. Divorce and Remarriage

We believe that God hates, disapproves of and forbids divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication. This church believes that divorced and remarried or divorced persons can be used by God in service in the ministry of the church. The circumstances of the divorce will be considered for placement in ministry leadership position (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6).

S. Abortion

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

T. Euthanasia

We believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death. Thus we believe that an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder contrary to the will of God. Discontinuing medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be a legitimate refusal of over-zealous treatment. (Ex. 20:13, 23:7; Matt. 5:21; Acts 17:28)

U. Authority of Statement of Faith

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

Article III---Government and Powers

The government of this church is vested in its Elders by the voting members under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ. Any authority not granted to the Elders by this Constitution or its Bylaws is vested in this Church's voting membership. This Church is subject to no other ecclesiastical body, but willingly cooperates as God gives opportunity with all those of like faith and purpose. (Col. 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:1-10)

ByLaws—(How the church operates)

Article IV---Church Membership

A. Purpose of the Fellowship

The congregation of Christian believers who have applied for membership and have been duly accepted shall constitute a spiritual body, united for spiritual purposes.

B. Applications for Membership

Active membership in the First Baptist Church of Maricopa shall be open to all persons who confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

All requests for membership shall be made to an Elder. Upon making such a request, the person shall be given an application for membership, along with a copy of the Statement of Faith and a copy of the Bylaws. An Elder shall meet with the applicant following receipt of the application. Each applicant shall be required to:

- attend the New Member Orientation Class
- agree to the Statement of Faith
- subscribe to the Bylaws
- testify publicly of their salvation before the congregation (Romans 10:9-10)

C. Denial of Membership

If, upon review of an application for membership and after meeting with a prospective member, the Elders prayerfully determine that the applicant does not confess Jesus Christ as his or her Savior and Lord, or that there is a lack of evidence of true repentance, or there is no steadfast commitment to live a godly lifestyle, membership shall be denied (Acts 2:41-47; Acts 20:28; 1 Cor.1:2; Eph. 1:4-6; Eph. 4:11-16; 2 Tim 1:9). The decision made by the Elders will be final without appeal to a court. The prospective member will be encouraged to continue to worship and meet with the church and work on the issue that caused the denial. The prospective member may reapply for membership when the reasons for denial have been rectified.

D. Admission of Applicants

Applicants admitted to membership shall, if possible, present themselves at a worship service designated by the Elders, at which service such applicants shall publicly affirm their membership commitment and be publicly acknowledged as members.

E. Active Membership

Members who absent themselves from the worship services and other meetings of this church for a period of one year without plausible reason shall be removed as an active member at the discretion of the Elders. Before inactivation, reasonable efforts will be made by the Elders, or membership to restore him or her to fellowship.

- A member in good standing may withdraw from membership in this church by a letter of resignation, a verbal request to the Elders, or request a transfer of membership.
- A letter of Christian character may be granted at the discretion of the Elders on behalf of any member. Such a letter should be addressed to a specific church and sent to the Pastor of the requesting church.

F. Privileges of Membership

- (1) Only members at least eighteen years of age who are physically present at a duly called meeting of the church shall be entitled to vote. There shall be no proxy or absentee voting. The eligible membership of the church has certain limited areas to exercise a vote. Members may not vote to initiate any church action, rather the vote of a member is to confirm and ratify or reject the direction of the church as determined by the Elders.
- (2) This congregation functions not as a pure democracy, but as a body under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the Board of Elders. Determinations of the internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church's own rules and procedures. The Board of Elders shall oversee and/or conduct all aspects of this church.
- (3) Membership in this church does not afford the members with any property, contractual, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Although the general public is invited to all of the church's worship services, the church property remains private property. The Board of Elders has the authority to suspend or revoke the right of any person, including a member, to enter or remain on church property. If after being notified of such a suspension or revocation, the person enters or remains on church property, the person may, in the discretion of the Board of Elders, be treated as a trespasser.
- (4) A member may inspect or copy the prepared financial statements of the church and the minutes of the proceedings of church meetings and of board meetings, provided he shall have made a written request to the Board of Elders and the Board of Elders has received the written request at least five business days before the requested inspection date.
 - A. A member may not, under any circumstances, inspect or copy any record relating to individual contributions to the church, the list of names and addresses of the church members, or the accounting books and financial records of the church.

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

G. Termination of Membership

- (1) The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member in question has not attended a regular worship service of the church in one year. Upon good cause being shown to the Board of Elders, this provision for termination may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the Board of Elders.
- (2) The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member states that he or she is actively involved in any conduct described in Article IV (I) and the Church Restoration/Discipline Policy of the church or files a lawsuit against the church in violation of Scripture (1 Corinthians 6:1-11).
- (3) No provision contained in this section shall be subject to or governed by the procedures regarding discipline of members set forth in Article IV (I).
- (4) A member may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such resignation, except at the discretion of the Board of Elders.

H. Responsibilities of Members

Members shall seek to exercise their spiritual gifts for the mutual benefit of all the church body and shall submit to the loving rule of the Elders Eph. 4:11-16; 1 John 1:3-7; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Tim 5:1,19).

I. Church Discipline

1. The threefold purpose of church discipline is to:
 - glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Corinthians 5:6),
 - to edify believers by deterring sin (1 Timothy 5:20), and
 - to promote the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Galatians 6:1).
2. Members of this church and all other professing Christians who regularly attend or fellowship with this church who err in doctrine, or who engage in conduct that violates Scripture as determined by the Board of Elders, shall be subject to church discipline, including dismissal according to Matthew 18:15-18.
Before such dismissal, however,
 - it shall be the duty of any member of this church who has knowledge of the erring individual's heresy or misconduct to warn and correct such erring individual in private, seeking his or her repentance and restoration. If the erring individual does not heed this warning, then
 - the warning member shall again go to the erring individual, seeking his or her repentance, but accompanied by one or two individuals who shall confirm that the sin has occurred or is continuing to occur, and/or that the erring individual has been appropriately confronted and has refused to repent. The first and second warnings may occur with no specified time interval. If the erring individual still refuses to heed this warning, then
 - it shall be brought to the attention of the Elders. If the Elders determine--after thorough investigation in accord with the procedures prescribed by pertinent Scripture, including Matthew 18:15-18 and 1 Timothy 5:19--that there is corroborating evidence that the erring individual has sinned or is continuing to sin, that he or she has been appropriately confronted, and that he or she has refused to repent, then the Elders shall inform the church and the congregation thereof at a regularly scheduled worship service in order that the church may call the erring individual to repentance.

If the erring individual demonstrates repentance, then notice to that effect may be given at a regularly scheduled worship service. If, however, the erring individual does not repent in response to the church in its collective call to repentance, then
 - he or she shall be publicly dismissed from the fellowship and/or membership of the church and the congregation thereof at a regularly scheduled worship service. If the erring individual, after such dismissal, heeds the warning, demonstrates repentance, and requests reinstatement before the Board of Elders, then he or she shall be publicly restored to all the rights, duties, privileges, and responsibilities of fellowship and/or membership.

3. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Elders in the exercise of their discretion may proceed directly to the third stage of church discipline, (i.e. the informing of the church and the congregation thereof at a regularly scheduled worship service in order that the church may call the erring individual to repentance) or to the fourth stage of church discipline, (i.e. the dismissal from the fellowship and/or membership of the church) when one or more of the following have occurred;
 - Where the transgression and the refusal to repent have been public, i.e. openly and to the offense of the whole Church (1 Cor. 5:1-5);
 - Where the disciplined party has taught or otherwise disseminated doctrine deemed false or erroneous by the Elders, then chosen to disregard the direction and reproof of the Elders (Romans 16:17); or
 - Where the disciplined party has been warned twice to cease from factious and divisive conduct and has chosen to disregard that warning (Titus 3:10-11).
4. The members of this church, and all other professing Christians who regularly attend or fellowship with this church, agree that there shall be no appeal to any court because of the dismissal or because of public statements to the congregation at the third or fourth stages of church discipline. Members who are under discipline by the church, as defined in the previous paragraphs, forfeit and waive the right to resign from this church. Resignations from membership are possible only by members who are in good standing and who are not under any disciplinary action.
5. Separate and apart from the process of church discipline, but subject to the discretion and approval of the Elders, a member, non-member regular attender, or other individual may be notified that he or she is not to be present upon church premises for such a period of time as is deemed necessary for the safety and well-being of others on church premises. Such required absence may, but need not, be concurrent with church discipline of that person.
6. Separate and apart from the process of church discipline, but subject to the discretion and approval of the Board of Elders, the names of any members who have not attended a worship service, Bible Study class session or Fellowship Group meeting at First Baptist Church of Maricopa for a period of twelve (12) months or longer may be deemed as an inactive member on the membership rolls.

J. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the members may be called at any time by order of the Board of Elders, or by a quorum of the members of the Board of Elders.

K. Notice of Meetings

Notice of regular meetings shall be given from the pulpit by an Elder for two successive Sundays prior to the meeting. In addition thereto, notice shall be published in the regular church bulletin for two successive Sundays prior to such meeting. Notice of special meetings shall be given from the pulpit at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting and shall also be published in the regular church bulletin on the Sunday immediately preceding the meeting.

L. Quorum

At all meetings of the members, whether regular, special or adjourned, the members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Article V---Church Leadership

A. Officers.

The officers of the Church shall be the pastor (referred to in the Articles of Incorporation as the "President"), Elders of the Church, a secretary (church clerk), a treasurer, and such other officers as may be elected in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

B. Duties, Election, and Term of Office

1. Pastor/President.

The Pastor shall be the spiritual leader and chief executive officer of the Church. The Pastor shall serve as the statutory agent, who shall be registered with the Arizona Corporation Commission. It shall be the duty of the Pastor to teach and preach to the Church; to administer or cause to be administered the ordinances of the Church, and to act as moderator at church meetings when present. The Pastor shall be an ex officio member of any team and is entitled to attend all meetings of the deacons and any teams/committees, except where he, himself, might be under discussion. The Pastor shall be elected for an indefinite term of office at a special meeting called for that purpose. There shall be notice given to the Church membership present at all regularly scheduled Church meetings for a period of two (2) weeks prior to a special meeting for the purpose of a pastoral election. The Church shall consider only one person at a time in determining whether or not to elect someone as a pastor. Election shall be by ballot with an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the members present being necessary to make a positive choice for pastor.

2. Staff Members.

Refers to professional personnel who serve as a director of, or minister of, any area of responsibility within First Baptist Church of Maricopa, such as a Minister of Music, a Women's Minister, a Minister of Education, and a Youth Minister. Any staff member shall be under the supervision of the pastor and perform such duties as the pastor may assign. A staff member shall be elected for an indefinite term. The election of staff members shall be conducted by the Elders.

3. Employees.

Employees refers to all paid personnel (secretary, treasurer, custodian, etc) in addition to the above mentioned staff members. Any employee shall be under the direct supervision of the pastor and/or a supervisor directed by the pastor. Employees are hired by the pastor for positions that are approved by the Board of Elders.

4. Treasurer.

The Church treasurer shall be elected annually at the annual business meeting. The treasurer shall be elected for a term of three (3) years. A nomination shall come from the Elders and may also come from other members of the Church. The treasurer shall keep a complete record of all moneys received, all expenditures, specifying for what purpose, and shall submit a monthly and annual report in writing, which shall be available to any Church member upon request and shall be presented at the regularly scheduled business meetings. Upon rendering the annual account at the end of each fiscal year, its acceptance and approval by the Church, the records shall be preserved as part of the permanent records.

C. Removal and Vacancy

1. Pastor.

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

2. Other Staff/Employees.

Other staff or employees may resign at any time by giving two (2) weeks notice to the Elders. The Elders may call for the resignation of any other staff member or employee. Employees and staff members whose service is terminated by the Elders shall be notified in writing and services terminated immediately by the issuance of two weeks salary unless circumstances for dismissal are for just causes (ie. illegal activity).

3. Secretary.

The Church secretary may resign at any time by giving two (2) weeks notice to the Elders.

4. Treasurer.

The treasurer may resign at any time by giving two (2) weeks notice to the Elders.

Article VI---Board of Directors

A. Composition

The Board of Directors shall consist of all Elders who have been duly chosen and are then serving as active elders (Article VII).

B. General Powers

Subject to those specific powers reserved to the church members to elect the Deacons and those specific powers reserved to the Elders in Article VII, Section 2, all the corporate powers shall be vested in the Elder Board. The Elder Board shall have the power to appoint, compensate and discharge officers and employees of the corporation; and administrators, superintendents and committees shall have the powers as may be delegated to them by the Elder Board. The Elder Board shall have the power, by and through its duly constituted officers, to acquire, hold, use and dispose of property of the Corporation.

The Elder Board shall be responsible for the annual evaluation of the pastor(s). Any deacon, teacher, leader or member may bring to the attention of the Elder Board any concerns, which that person feels warrant pastoral or elder evaluation. The Elder Board may discuss it at the next Elder Board meeting and take whatever steps necessary. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, there shall be reserved solely to the Elder Board the power to:

1. Amend, alter, or rescind these Bylaws
2. Amend the Articles of Incorporation
3. Nominate and elect Elders;
4. Discipline and expel members;
5. Qualify persons desiring membership in the Church;
6. Terminate a pastor;
7. Delete inactive members.

The Elder Board may act as called for under the responsibilities listed above by a majority.

C. Quorum.

A simple majority of the Elder Board at any time qualified and acting shall be deemed a quorum sufficient for the transaction of any and all business of the Corporation.

D. Meetings.

The Elder Board shall meet on a regular basis each month with the December meeting being the annual meeting.

E. Special Meetings.

Special meetings of the Elder Board may be called by any two Elders.

F. Notice.

Notice of regular meetings may be established by the minutes of the meeting in which the regular meeting schedule is announced or in any manner allowed by law. Notice of any special meeting of the Elder Board shall be given at least two days prior to the meeting by written notice delivered personally, sent by mail, email or by phone, to each board member at his address as shown by the records of the Church. Attendance of a board member at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting except when a member attends a meeting for the sole and express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

G. Quorum.

A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Elder Board.

H. Manner of Acting.

The act of a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors.

I. Compensation.

Directors, as such, shall not receive any stated salaries for their services, but by resolution of the Board of Directors, a director may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the process of carrying out his duties as a director.

J. Informal Action by Directors.

Any action required by law to be taken at a meeting of directors, or any action which may be taken at a meeting of directors, may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all the directors.

Article VII---Elder Leadership

A. Qualifications

Elders shall be male members of this Church, having attended church for at least one (1) year prior to being nominated, be of high Christian character and shall maintain an exemplary reputation in all aspects of their lives, both in the Church and in the world. They shall be both spiritual and temporal leaders of the Church, and shall meet the qualifications and fulfill the responsibilities as set for in Titus 1:5-9; I Timothy 3:17, and 1 Peter 5:1-3. Elders shall be:

- Blameless as a steward of God; above reproach (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
- Husband of one wife; a one-woman man (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6)
- Temperate, sober, vigilant (1 Timothy 3:2)
- Sober-minded, prudent (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- Of good behavior; orderly, respectable (1 Timothy 3:2)
- Given to hospitality (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- Apt to teach; able to teach; he can exhort believers and refute false teaching (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9)
- Not given to wine (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- Not violent; not pugnacious (1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7)
- Patient, moderate, forbearing, gentle (1 Timothy 3:3)
- Not a brawler; uncontentious; not soon angry or quick-tempered (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- Not covetous; not a lover of money; not greedy of base gain (1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7)
- Rules well his own house; his children are faithful, not accused of rebellion to God (1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:7)
- Not a novice; not a new convert (1 Timothy 3:6)
- Has a good report or reputation with outsiders (1 Timothy 3:7)
- Not self-willed (Titus 1:7)
- A lover of good men and things (Titus 1:8)
- Just, fair (Titus 1:8)
- Holy, devout (Titus 1:8)
- Self-controlled (Titus 1:8)

B. Responsibilities

They shall be responsible for overseeing the spiritual well-being of the Church and provide teaching, counsel and prayer support for the ministry of the Church body.

C. Election and Tenure

Elders are not subject to term limits. Any Elder may be removed from office at any regular or special meeting of the Elder Board if he is found to be physically or mentally incapacitated or spiritually unqualified (according to pertinent Scripture, including 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9), after thorough corroborating investigation by the Elders, in accord with the procedures prescribed by pertinent Scripture, including Matthew 18:15-18 and 1 Timothy 5:19.

When an Elder is removed because of sin that is deemed sufficient to disqualify him from shepherding, and if he refuses to repent from that sin, the removal shall be accompanied by a public rebuke, and notice shall be made before the Church and the congregation thereof at a regularly-scheduled worship service as prescribed in 1 Timothy 5:20.

An Elder being voted upon for removal shall not be entitled to vote, nor shall he be counted in determining the total number of Elders for computing majority.

D. Active Elders

All available elders will meet annually to determine the active elders for the coming year. The active elder board shall consist of those who meet the requirements per Article VII. If we lose an active elder, the board will exercise due diligence to replace that member as soon as is practical. During this time the remaining active elders will have full authority to govern the church.

E. Place of Meetings

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary provided in these Bylaws, any meeting (whether regular, special, or adjourned) of the Board of Elders of the Church may be held at any place within or outside the State of Arizona.

F. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board of Elders shall be held without call or notice one day of each month as set by the Elders.

G. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board of Elders may be called at any time by order of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman or the Secretary of the Board of Elders or by a quorum of the members of the Board of Elders or at the request of the Pastor.

H. Participation in Meetings

A majority of the Elders present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn any meeting to another time and place. Whenever the matter to be considered concerns calling or dismissing a pastor, or buying or selling real estate, a quorum shall consist of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Board. Whenever the matter to be considered is of a nature to require action by Elders. The act or decision done or made by

the Elders present at a meeting duly held at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Elders.

I. Participation in Meetings by Conference Telephone

Members of the Board may participate in a meeting through use of conference telephone or similar communications equipment, so long as all members participating in such meeting can hear one another.

J. Adjournment

A majority of the Elders present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn any Elder's meeting to another time and place. Notice of the time and place of holding an adjourned meeting need not be given to absent Elders if the time and place be fixed at the meeting adjourned, except as provided in the next sentence. If the meeting is adjourned for more than forty-eight (48) hours, notice of any adjournment to another time or place shall be given prior to the time of the adjourned meeting to the Elders who were not present at the time of the adjournment.

K. Action Without Meeting

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Elders may be taken without a meeting if all members of the Elders shall individually or collectively consent in writing to a duly prepared resolution to such action. Such consent or consents shall have the same effect as a unanimous vote of the Elders and shall be documented by attaching the signed resolution with the minutes of proceedings of the Elders.

L. Rights of Inspection

Every Elder shall have the conditional right with approval by the Elder Board at any reasonable time to inspect and copy books, records, and documents (with the exception of personal contributions and/or pastoral counseling notes), and to inspect the physical properties of the Corporation of which such person is an Elder, for a purpose reasonably related to such person's interest as an Elder.

M. Decisions of the Board of Elders

Decisions shall be reached after prayerful consideration by unanimous vote in a spirit of humility, with each Elder regarding one another before himself.

Article VIII---Deacons and Deaconesses

A. Deacons:

The Elder Board shall determine the number of Deacons as they feel are needed to accomplish the ministry to the Church body. Deacons shall be members of the Church for at least one year before being nominated. The Deacons shall consist of members possessing the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and shall be nominated by members of the church. The Board of Elders will compile and confirm the nominations and submit the names to the members for affirmation at the annual meeting. The Deacons shall assist the Elders in the shepherding of the saints, assist the Pastor at Communion and Baptismal services, aid in the general spiritual care of the church, shall assist in the care of the sick and needy, and perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Elders.

A Deacon shall be a man of dignity, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not fond of sordid gain, holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience, first tested and found above reproach.

B. Deaconesses:

The Elder Board shall determine the number of Deaconesses as they feel are needed to accomplish the ministry to the Church body. Deaconesses shall be members of the Church for at least one year before being nominated. The Deaconesses shall consist of members possessing the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:11 and Titus 2:3-5 and shall be nominated by members of the church. The Board of Elders will compile and confirm the nominations and submit the names to the members for affirmation at the annual meeting. They shall prepare the Communion elements, assist the Pastor at Baptismal services and in the general spiritual care of the church, shall assist in the care of the sick and needy, and perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Elders.

A Deaconess shall be dignified, not a malicious gossip, temperate, and faithful in all things.

Article IX---Ordination, Licensing and Commissioning

A. Ordination

Ordination refers to the unanimous recognition by the Board of Elders of a man's call to the ministry, preparation as a shepherd, and qualification to serve. Ordination shall be conferred for life, so long as the man continues to manifest the qualifications of the office.

B. Licensing

The license is issued by the Board of Elders and is given in recognition of a man's call to that ministry. Its aim is to allow a man to perform the ecclesiastical duties and functions of the church.

C. Commissioning

When local-church certification is required for ministry where ordination would be unnecessary or inappropriate, a person is commissioned by the Board of Elders to minister. This authorization continues as long as the opportunity to minister remains in effect and as long as the person maintains the qualifications for ministry.

Article X---Settlement of Disputes

A. General

In any dispute arising between church members, pastors, or staff pertaining to any matter of spiritual teaching or practices, church finances, or title to property purchased with church contributions, the dispute shall be resolved by the Board of Elders of the church.

A decision shall be reached after prayerful consideration, in a spirit of humility, with each Elder regarding one another before himself and striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:1-3).

Article XI---Other Provisions

A. Endorsement of Documents, Contracts

The Board of Elders, except as in the Bylaws otherwise provided, may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Church. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized by the Board of Elders, no officer, agent or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the Church by any contract or agreement, or to pledge its credit, or to render it liable for any purpose or to any amount.

Subject to the provisions of applicable law, any note, mortgage, evidence of indebtedness, contract, conveyance, or other instrument in writing and any assignment or endorsement thereof executed or entered into between this Church and any other person, when signed jointly by the Elders, and the Treasurer of this Church shall be valid and binding on this Church in the absence of actual knowledge on the part of the other person that the signing officers had no authority to execute the same.

B. Checks.

All checks, drafts or orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Church shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the Church, and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors. In the absence of such determination by the Board of Directors, such instruments shall be signed by the treasurer and/or individuals designated by the Finance Committee.

C. Deposits.

All funds of the Church shall be deposited on a regular basis to the credit of the Church in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board of Directors may select.

D. Gifts.

The Board of Directors may accept on behalf of the Church any contribution, gift, bequest or devise for purpose of the Church.

Article XII---Receipt, Investment, and Disbursement of Funds

A. Receiving of Funds

The Church shall receive all monies or other properties transferred to it for the purposes for which the Church was formed (as shown by the Articles of Incorporation). However, nothing contained herein shall require the Board of Elders to accept or receive any money or property of any kind if it shall determine in its discretion that receipt of such money or property is contrary to the expressed purposes of the Church as shown by said Articles.

B. Investment and Disbursement of Funds

The Church shall hold, manage, and disburse any funds or properties received by it from any source in a manner that is consistent with the expressed purposes of this Church.

Article XIII---Corporate Records and Reports

A. Records

The Church shall maintain adequate and correct accounts, books, and records of its business and properties. All such books, records, and accounts shall be kept at its principal place of business as fixed by the Board of Elders.

B. Inspection of Books and Records

Every member shall have the conditional right at any reasonable time with approval by the Board of Elders to inspect all books, records, documents, (with the exception of personal contribution records other than their own or pastoral counseling notes) and the physical properties of the Church, and also of its subsidiary organizations, if any.

C. Fiscal Year of the Corporation

The fiscal year of the Church for reporting purposes to the Arizona Corporation Commission shall begin on the first day of July and end on the last day of June in the following year, in accordance with the State of Arizona Non-Profit Corporation requirements. All other records shall be on a calendar year.

Article XIV---Suspension, Amendment or Appeal

The Bylaws may be suspended, amended or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those present and voting at any special business meeting of the Church, after such suspension, amendment or repeal has been read at a previous meeting of the Church and published in as a church bulletin the week prior to voting.

Article XV---Indemnification

A. Actions Subject To Indemnification

The church may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, including all appeals (other than an action by or in the right of the church) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a pastor, elder, deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the church, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding; and if that person acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or on a plea of *nolo contendere* or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner that he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

B. Expense Subject to Indemnification

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

C. Limitation of Indemnification

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

D. Timing of Indemnification

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

E. Extent of Indemnification

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

F. Insurance

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

Article XVI---Binding Arbitration

A. Submission to Arbitration

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

B. Notice of Arbitration

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

C. Limitations on Arbitration Decisions

- (1) Should any dispute involve matters of church discipline, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures for church discipline as outlined under Article 4 (M), were followed.
- (2) Should any dispute involve the removal from office of the pastor or any church officer, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures set forth in Article V (C) were followed.

D. Arbitration Procedures

The Procedures for Arbitration shall be as adopted by the Board of Elders.