



CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS



OCTOBER 22, 2023
Fitzhugh Baptist Church
11607 Crumley Ranch Rd

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE:

We declare and affirm these principles in the light of the Holy Scripture to govern the body in an orderly manner. These principles will preserve the light of the Holy Scripture to govern the body in an orderly manner. These principles will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of its relations to other churches.

The purpose of church government is to protect the Gospel and strive for spiritual maturity both individually and corporately as a New Testament church (Ephesians 4:11-14).

ARTICLE I: NAME AND ADDRESS

This body shall be known as the Fitzhugh Baptist Church of Austin, Texas, located at 11607 Crumley Ranch Road, Austin, Texas 78738.

ARTICLE II: MISSION STATEMENT

Through God's Word, the mission of Fitzhugh Baptist Church is to bring all people to Jesus, develop them to a Christ-like maturity, and empower them for their ministry in the church and life mission in the world in order to magnify God's name.

ARTICLE III: OBJECTIVES

The foundation of this church is the Lord Jesus Christ, and it is guided in all its affairs by the Word of God as recorded in the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments (1 Corinthians 3:11; Colossians 1:15-20).

This church exists by the grace of God and for the glory of God, which shall be the ultimate purpose in all its activities. This church glorifies the triune God by loving Him and obeying His commands by:

Our purpose as a body shall be:

- A. To be a dynamic spiritual organism empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- B. To lead the lost to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ both at home and around the world.
- C. To be a worshipping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing His person, living to bring glory to Him, and responding in obedience to His Word.
- D. To help people experience a growing knowledge of God.
- E. To experience an increasingly meaningful fellowship with God and fellow believers.
- F. To be a church that ministers to the whole person.
- G. To be a church whose purpose is to be Christ-like in our daily living by total commitment of life, personality, and possessions to the Lord Jesus Christ.

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- H. To nurture Christian growth through preaching, teaching, and fellowship.

The priorities of ministry of this church shall be evident in a devotion to a common faith, a common life, a common worship, and a common witness (Matthew 28: 19-20; Ephesians 4:11-16; Acts 2:42).

ARTICLE IV: STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God and the basis of our beliefs. We subscribe to the doctrinal statement of the “Baptist Faith and Message” as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000. This church affirms the Church Covenant as the pattern for the responsibilities of membership.

We voluntarily band ourselves together as a body of baptized believer in Jesus Christ to edify one another and to share the good news of salvation to lost humanity.

We believe:

- A. The whole Bible to be the inspired Word of God.
 - II Peter 1:21
 - II Timothy 3:16
- B. In the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
 - I John 5:7
 - Matthew 3:16-17
- C. In the virgin birth of Jesus Christ.
 - Matthew 1:18-25
 - Isaiah 7:14
- D. That Christ died for our sins that He might bring us to God.
 - II Peter 3:16
 - Hebrews 9:12
- E. That Christ arose from the grave on the third day.
 - Mark 16:6
 - Matthew 28:6
- F. Ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God.
 - John 3:13
 - John 20:17
 - Acts 10:4
- G. That Jesus Christ will come again.
 - Acts 1:11
 - I Peter 1:23
- H. That salvation comes only by being born again.
 - John 3:3
 - Peter 1:23

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- I. That every born-again soul should declare his faith by being baptized (immersed in water).
 - Acts 8:36-37
 - Acts 16:31-33
- J. In the blessed assurance and eternal security of all who have been born again.
 - I John 5:13
 - John 10:28
- K. That saved people should live separate lives.
 - Romans 12:1-2
 - II Corinthians 6:17
- L. That the ordinances of the church are believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper
 - Matthew 28:19; 26:26-30

ARTICLE V: CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and, on profession of faith, having been baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We promise, therefore, by the help of the Holy Spirit, and with the Bible, the inspired Word of God as our guide, to walk together in love with our fellow believers; to seek the advancement of the members of this church body in holiness, knowledge, and fruitfulness; to sustain the worship, ordinances, doctrines, and disciplines of this body; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the church as an act of worship; to give for the relief of the poor and to spread the Gospel at home and around the world.

We also promise to maintain family and private devotions; to educate our children in the Word of God; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to glorify God in all our dealings with people; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of God.

We further promise to watch over one another in redemptive love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy.

ARTICLE VI: POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

We are governed by the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Head of the body, the church, as He shall reveal His leadership to use through the Word of God and the Spirit of God. Therefore, He is the ultimate and final authority in all things over His body, the church. Jesus Christ has revealed His will for us, as the Church, through His Word, the Bible (Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18)

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The Authority and Government of this Church is delegated by Christ to the body of the church is the members who compose the church as further defined in this constitution and bylaws (Matthew 18:15-18; 1 Corinthians 5:4-14; 2 Corinthians 2:6-8; Galatians 1:8-9). Persons duly received by the members shall constitute the membership.

All internal groups created and empowered by the church shall report to and be accountable only to the church, unless otherwise specified by church action.

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

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS

Changes in this Constitution shall be made at any regular business meeting of the church, provided Steps A — F below have been fulfilled.

- A. Draft proposed amendment(s).
- B. Obtain endorsements from five members in good standing.
- C. Submit typewritten copy of proposed amendment(s), including required endorsements, to Moderator accompanied by written explanation for proposed change.
- D. Submit all documentation outlined in Step C to the church office and notify the secretary to publish same in church newsletter or bulletin at least twice, as required by this Constitution.
- E. Present at a properly scheduled business meeting, providing written copies of the proposed amendment(s) to each member present.
- F. Amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation shall be ratified by two-thirds of all members of the church present and voting at a properly scheduled business meeting following the first meeting where the proposed amendments were presented and shall be entered into the Record of Amendments. This constitution and bylaws shall be made available to all church members.

ARTICLE VIII: ADOPTION

Section 1:

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This Constitution shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when two-thirds of the members present and voting at the business meeting at which the vote is taken shall vote in favor of same. A majority of the members present and voting (provided it is not less than 50% of the church's active membership at a properly called member's meeting vote in favor of the same.

Section 2:

The adoptive date of this Constitution is October 22, 2023

Section 3:

This Constitution rescinds and replaces, abolishes, supersedes, and takes the place of any constitution, rules, bylaws, and amendments that precede it.

Section 4:

A copy of this Constitution and Bylaws shall at all times be kept by the church clerk and another copy shall be kept in the church office. All amendments and revisions shall, after passage by the vote of the church, be prepared by the Church Council and incorporated in the Constitution and Bylaws made available to church members on request.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Members

This Church is comprised of persons who profess a personal faith and belief in the Lord Jesus Christ, have received baptism by immersion according to the New Testament, and actively follow the Lord Jesus Christ in discipleship.

Section 2. Voting Rights of Members

Every active member of the church eighteen years of age or older is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the church, provided the member is present and has attended church services in the previous 90-day period. Proxy voting is prohibited.

Section 3. Reception

A person shall be considered a conditional member upon approval of the church membership report containing that person's request for membership. New church members will be expected to participate in the church's new membership orientation program as developed and implemented by the church. A person may be received for membership by any of the following ways:

- A. **By profession of faith** – A person publicly professing personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, giving evidence of a regenerate heart and adopting the covenant and the articles of faith and practices held by the church shall, upon baptism or confirmation of prior baptism by another church, be admitted into the fellowship of the church.
- B. **By statement** – Any person who has been baptized upon profession of faith in a Baptist church but who, because of loss of records, or similar unavoidable circumstances, has no regular letter of dismissal, may be received into membership after giving satisfactory evidence of a regenerative heart, acceptable Christian conduct, and scriptural faith. Any person presented for membership who has been baptized by immersion in a church of like faith and order shall be received by statement.
- C. **By letter** – Any person from another Baptist church of like faith and order may be received into membership upon receipt of letter of transfer from that respective church.
- D. **By baptism from any other denomination** – Any person who professes a personal faith and belief in the Lord Jesus Christ and actively follows the Lord Jesus Christ in discipleship but has been baptized by any method other than immersion in another Baptist church must be immersed to become a member of this body.

- E. **By watch care** – When a person is not capable of baptism and/or participating in the church's new membership orientation program due to physical condition or disorder, such a member will have all rights and privileges extended by church membership.

Section 4. Rights of Members

Every active member in good standing of the church is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the church, provided the member is present and qualifies under Article I, Section 2, of these bylaws. Every active member of the church is eligible for consideration by the membership as a candidate for the elective offices in the church as administered by the church. Every member of the church may participate in the ordinances of the church as administered by the church.

Section 5. Inactive Membership

Church members who cannot be located or have not attended church services for a period in excess of one year shall be placed on an inactive membership list and shall forfeit membership rights and privileges until such a time as rededication or reactivation of church membership. All such members who can be found will be notified and given an opportunity to express reason for their absence for the consideration of the church.

Section 6: Church Discipline

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

Should some serious condition exist, which would cause a member to become a liability to the general welfare and harmony of the church, the pastor and the deacons will take prayerful and reasonable measures to resolve the problem following the principles found in Matthew 18:15-17. If it becomes necessary for the church to take action to exclude a member, a two-thirds vote of the members present at a scheduled meeting called for this action is required; and the church may proceed to declare the person to no longer be in the membership of the church. All such proceedings shall be bathed in prayer and exhibit a spirit of Christian kindness and patience.

The church may restore to membership any person previously excluded upon request of the excluded person, and by vote of the church upon evidence of the excluded person's repentance.

Should there be a conflict within the church that involves issues between pastor, staff, deacons, and the church membership that could destroy or hinder the work of the church, the church will call for an outside mediator trained and experienced in Baptist Doctrine to work with the parties involved to make every reasonable attempt to resolve the conflict. The church should request a mediator before the problem escalates to the point it causes a break in the unity, harmony, and fellowship of the congregation. Mediation services can be requested through the state convention offices.

Section 7. Termination of Membership

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways:

- a. By death,
- b. Transfer of membership to another Baptist church of like faith and order,
- c. Acknowledgement when a member has joined a church of another faith and order and requested such action, and
- d. Exclusion by action of this church

ARTICLE II. CHURCH OFFICERS AND STAFF

The biblical offices in the church are elders (shepherds, pastors, overseers) and deacons, also referred to as officers in this constitution and bylaws.

All church officers and staff, excluding non-elected staff, must be members of the church. The officers of this church and their responsibilities are listed and shall be as follows:

A. Pastor

The pastor is leader of pastoral ministries in the church. As such he works with the deacons and the church staff to: (1) lead the church to carry out the mission and purpose of the church, (2) the proclamation of the gospel both inside and outside the church, (3) to provide appropriate care for both church members and persons in the community.

A pastor shall be chosen and called by the church whenever a vacancy occurs. The election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose. At least one week's public notice shall be given before a candidate for pastor shall be presented for consideration.

A pastor search committee shall be elected by the church after prayerful consideration. Adequate time should be given to the process to help the church through the transition period.

The pastor search committee will have the responsibility for seeking the person that will fulfill the pastor's role for the congregation. The recommendation of the pastor search committee will constitute a nomination. Any church member has the privilege of making other nominations depending on the policies and procedures established by the church. The committee shall bring for the consideration to the church only one name at a time.

Election shall be by ballot, an affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present and voting (unless previous arrangements are made for absentee balloting) is required to call (elect) the pastor.

The pastor may relinquish the office of pastor by giving at least thirty days notice to the church at the time of resignation. The church may declare the office of pastor to be vacant. Such action shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose with at least one week's public notice given. Such meeting should take place only after the church has followed the Matthew 18:15-17 principles and/or the church has sought help through mediation. The meeting may be called upon the recommendation of a majority of the personnel committee and the deacons or by written petition signed by not less than one-fourth of the resident church members. The moderator for this meeting shall be designated by the members present and elected by majority vote. The moderator shall be someone other than the pastor (as referenced in Bylaws Section 6 last paragraph). The vote to declare the office vacant shall be by secret ballot; an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present being necessary to declare the office vacant.

B. Church Staff

1. Ministerial Staff

- a. The Music Minister will develop a comprehensive program for the church. He will consult with other church staff members concerning activities, policies, and procedures that relate to his areas of responsibility. The Music Minister will be under the direct supervision of the Pastor and general supervision of the Personnel Committee.

- b. The Youth Minister will develop a comprehensive program of youth activities. He will consult with other staff members concerning activities, policies, and procedures that relate to their areas of responsibility. He is genuinely concerned with the salvation and spiritual growth of each youth. The Youth Minister will be under the direct supervision of the Pastor and general supervision of the Personnel Committee.

The ministerial staff shall be called and employed as the church determines the need for such positions. A job description shall be written when the need for a new ministerial position is determined. Those staff members must show evidence of a personal call of God to ministry and shall be recommended to the church by the personnel committee and approved by church action. At the time of resignation at least thirty days notice shall be given to the church. The church may vote to vacate the position upon the recommendation of the personnel committee.

2. Non-Ministerial Staff

- a. The Church Financial Secretary shall perform secretarial, clerical, and receptionist duties as directed for the efficient operation of the church during office hours established by the church. Ensure prompt and accurate payment of all expenses incurred by the church. Follow established procedures to process purchase orders and invoices, perform general bookkeeping, and maintain church financial records. It shall be the duty of the church financial secretary to receive, preserve, and pay out, upon receipt of invoices or vouchers approved and signed by authorized personnel, all money or things of value paid or given to the church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. It shall be the duty of the church financial secretary to provide to the church at each regular business meeting an itemized report of the receipts and disbursements during the period between business meetings. The church financial secretary's report and records shall be reviewed or audited as determined appropriate annually by an audit committee or public accountant. The Church Financial Secretary is under the general supervision of the Personnel Committee and under the direct supervision of the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Upon completion of the audit at the end of the fiscal year and its acceptance and approval by the church, the records shall be delivered by the financial secretary to the church clerk, who shall keep and preserve the account as a part of the permanent records of the church.

- b. Non-ministerial staff members shall be employed as the church determines need for their services. The church shall have the authority to employ and to terminate services of non-ministerial staff members. Such employment and termination of services shall be with the recommendation of the supervising staff member and, as appropriate, with the consultation of related committees of the church.

C. Deacons

The church shall elect deacons by ballot at regular business meetings of the church.

Deacons are expected to have at least the following qualifications: strive to live up to I Timothy 3:8-13, complete the training prescribed by the Pastor, and have demonstrated competency to carry out the duties of the office.

In order to become a deacon, one has to be ordained.

The Pastor may suspend a deacon as a means of discipline; however, it takes the church's agreement to remove a deacon from office, which includes the revoking of his ordination.

In case of death, removal, or incapacity to serve, the church may elect a deacon to fill the unexpired term. There shall be no obligation to recognize as an active deacon one who has been a deacon in another church; but in such instances his previous ordination by another church of like faith and order shall be recognized by this church. A deacon joining from another church shall not be elected to serve until a member of this church for one year.

In keeping with the meaning of the work and practice in the New Testament, deacons are to be servants of the church. Their task is to serve with the pastor and staff in performing the pastoral ministry tasks of: (1) leading the church in the achievement of its mission, (2) proclaiming the gospel to believers and unbelievers, and (3) caring for the church members and other persons in the community.

D. Moderator

The chairman of the deacons committee shall serve as moderator; or in their absence, the clerk shall call the church to order and preside for the election of an acting moderator.

E. Church Clerk

The purpose of the Church Clerk is to keep current and complete membership records, to take minutes at church-wide business meetings, and to complete the annual church letter. The church clerk is under the general supervision of the Personnel Committee.

The church shall elect a clerk as its clerical officer. The clerk shall be responsible for keeping a suitable record of all official actions of the church, except as otherwise provided in these by-laws. The clerk shall be responsible for keeping a register of names of members, with dates of admission, dismissals, death or erasure, together with a record of baptisms. The clerk shall record issues of dismissal approved by the church, preserve on file all communications and written official reports, and give required notice of all meetings where notice is necessary, as indicated in these by-laws. The clerk shall be responsible for preparing the annual letter of the church to the association, state and national conventions.

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

F. Trustees

The church shall elect three or more trustees to serve as legal officers for the church. They shall hold in trust the church property. Upon a specific vote of the church authorizing each action, they shall have the power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any church property. Upon the approval of the congregation with a vote of 60% of those attending the business meeting. When the signatures of the trustees are required, they shall sign legal documents related to the above items only upon the approval and at the direction of the church body in business meeting. The trustees shall work with the Church Financial Secretary in the tasks of budget preparation, deposits and other financial matters.

ARTICLE III. CHURCH MEETINGS

In every meeting together, members shall act in that spirit of mutual trust, openness, and loving consideration, which is appropriate within the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. Seeking the Lord's wisdom and blessing through thankful prayer shall be a part of every meeting.

Section 1. Worship Services

The church shall meet regularly each Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening for preaching, instruction, evangelism, and for the worship of Almighty God. The church shall regularly meet each Lord's Day and may be held throughout the week as the church determines. These meetings will be open to everyone and shall be conducted under the direction of the pastor or his designee.

Section 2. Special Services - General

All church meetings which are essential to the promotion of the objective of the church shall be placed on the church calendar, published in the church newsletter, and/or bulletin at least one time prior to the meeting being held. Meetings should be announced at all services on the Sunday prior to the special service being held.

Section 3. Regular Business (Member's) Meetings

Regular business meetings shall be held bi-monthly on the third Wednesday night of every other month, unless otherwise specified on the church calendar or announced in the church bulletin or newsletter.

Section 4. Special Called Business (Member's) Meetings

A special called member's meeting may be held to consider matters of a significant nature. Any member who qualifies under Article I, Section 2, of these Bylaws desiring a special called member's meeting must submit a typewritten notice to the Moderator to start the process. The notice must contain the nature of the business to be considered and must be signed by three active church members who qualify under Article I, Section 2, of these Bylaws. Notice of the subject, date, time and location must be published in the church newsletter or bulletin for the special called member's meeting at least one week before the meeting and announced at all services on the Sunday prior to the special called member's meeting. These matters will constitute the entire agenda. No other business will be conducted at the special called member's meeting.

It shall be the duty of the clerk to record the minutes of all regular and special members' meetings of the church. The clerk shall be nominated by the elders and elected by the congregation. In the absence or incapacity of the clerk the officers shall appoint a member to perform the duties of the church clerk. The clerk is the secretary of the church. The State nonprofit corporation law requires the position of a secretary.

Section 5. Quorum & Majority

A quorum consists of the current active members present at a meeting provided it is a member's meeting or other properly called meeting.

A majority consists of two-thirds of the quorum at a member's meeting or other properly called meeting.

ARTICLE IV: ORDINANCES

Section 1. Baptism

Baptism is a symbolic act of obedience. A person who receives Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith, who professes Him publicly at any worship service, and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord, shall be received for baptism.

- A. Baptism shall be immersion in water.
- B. Baptism may be administered by the pastor or whomever he shall authorize.
- C. Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship during any worship service.
- D. Baptism shall be as soon as possible after the public profession of faith.

Section 2. The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine, commemorate the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate His second coming.

- A. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at least monthly, preferably on the last Sunday of the month.
- B. The pastor, church staff, and deacons shall be responsible for administering of the Lord's Supper or designated representative appointed by church officers.

ARTICLE V. MINISTRIES AND PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONS

The church shall evaluate, plan, organize, and implement such ministries as the church deems necessary to carry out Christ's command given in Matthew 28:19-20. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

All program organizations of the church shall be under church control, all officers being elected by the church and reporting regularly to the church.

- A. Sunday School
- B. Women's Ministries
- C. Men's Ministries

ARTICLE VI. CHURCH COUNCIL

A Church Council shall be comprised of all elected ministerial staff, the chairperson of the deacons, the directors of all program organizations as indicated in Article V.

The Church Council serves as the administrative body of the church and shall meet the second Sunday of every month to calendar and coordinate the work of the church, unless otherwise specified on the church calendar or announced in the church bulletin. Church Council is an open meeting and all members in good standing are urged to attend.

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

The church shall elect such committees as the church deems necessary. Committee members must be members in good standing of the church. The duties and responsibilities of each committee shall be recommended by the Church Council and voted on by the church membership at a regularly scheduled business meeting. Committees may be added or deleted by the church upon recommendation from the Church Council at a regular business meeting of the Church.

ARTICLE VIII: FINANCES

Section 1. Budget

The finance committee, in consultation with the Church Council, shall prepare and submit to the church for approval a budget indicating the amount needed for local and other expenses at a member's meeting not more than three months after the start of the fiscal year. Prior to this approval and subject to the council's discretion, expenditures may continue at the prior year's level. Offering envelopes will be provided for members. It is understood that membership in this church involves financial obligation to support the church and its causes with regular, proportionate gifts.

Section 2. Accounting Procedures

All funds received for any and all purposes shall pass through the church financial secretary and be properly recorded. A system of accounting that will adequately provide for the handling of all funds shall be the responsibility of the finance committee. The church financial secretary shall provide an accurate accounting at the end of each year to those members who have contributed during the year.

Section 3: Fiscal year

The fiscal year of the church shall begin January first and end December thirty-first.

Section 4: Church financial secretary

The church financial secretary shall ensure that all funds and securities of the church are properly secured in such banks, financial institutions, or depositories as appropriate. The church financial secretary shall also be responsible for presenting regular reports of the account balances, revenues, and expenses of the church at regular members' meetings. The responsibility may be delegated with the approval of the church council. The church financial secretary shall also ensure that full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements are kept in books belonging to the church, and that adequate controls are implemented to guarantee that all funds belonging to the church are appropriately handled by any officer, employee, or agent of the church. The church financial secretary shall render to the church council annually, or whenever they may require it, an account of all transactions and of the financial condition of the church. The church financial secretary and those with access shall guard the confidentiality of members' contribution records. The church financial secretary shall be nominated by the deacons and elected by the congregation.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

Changes in these bylaws shall be made at any regular business meeting of the church, provided Steps A-F, below, have been fulfilled.

- A. Draft proposed amendment(s).
- B. Obtain endorsements from five members in good standing.
- C. Submit typewritten copy of proposed amendment(s), including required endorsements to Moderator accompanied by written explanation for proposed change.
- D. Submit all documentations outlined in Step C to church office and notify secretary to publish same in church newsletter and bulletin as required by these Bylaws.
- E. Present at a properly scheduled business meeting, providing written copies of the proposed amendment(s) to each member present.
- F. Amendments to these Bylaws shall be ratified by two-thirds vote of all members of the church present and voting at a properly scheduled business meeting following the first meeting where the proposed amendments were presented, and shall be entered into the Record of Amendments.

ARTICLE X: ADOPTING, INCORPORATING, AND ARCHIVING

Upon church approval and adoption of these Articles, having fulfilled the amendment requirements as set forth in this instrument, record of same shall be posted and maintained as a matter of church certification in the Record of Amendments and shall become a part of this documents. This shall be the responsibility of the Church Council.

These Bylaws shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when two-thirds of the members present and voting at the business meeting at which the vote is taken shall vote in favor of the same. This vote shall take place not less than 30 days after formal presentation of Bylaws to the church.

ARTICLE XI: DISSOLUTION AND DISBURSEMENT OF ASSETS

The church may be dissolved or merged with another congregation by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting at a meeting called for this purpose, subsequent to at least two-week's notice following either the recommendation of the church council or a motion proposed and adopted by the congregation at any members' meeting and 60% of total membership.

In the event of dissolution of the church, no part of the church's earnings or assets shall inure to the benefit of any of its members; the residual assets of the church shall be distributed to the Austin Baptist Association which is exempt as organizations described in Sections 501 (c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue code of 1986, or corresponding sections of similar future law. Alternatively, a two-thirds majority of members present and voting at the meeting of dissolution may designate any portion or all assets to one or more organizations which themselves are exempt as organizations described in Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue code of 1986, or corresponding sections of future law, and which agree with our Statement of Beliefs. The church shall assure that any and all disbursements go to organizations who are in the soul saving business of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACTIVE MEMBER:

A member of the church who has attended at least one regular service within the last 90 days and has completed all requirements listed under Article I, Section 3. (See also Section 4)

CONDITIONAL MEMBER:

A person who has come forward for membership and is in the process of completing one or more of the steps outlined under Article I, Section 3.

INACTIVE MEMBER:

A member of the church who has not attended at least one regular service within the last year. All rights and privileges of membership have been forfeited. (See Article I, Section 5.)

MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING:

An active member of the church who shows evidence of continuing discipleship and allows Christ to be Lord of their life, exhibiting a desire to serve in whatever capacity the Lord leads. The member shows their support of the church by being involved as a willing working in ongoing activities of the body, as well as by giving their tithes and offerings to support the on-going operations and functions of the church.

MODERATOR:

A member in good standing who has knowledge of the church's Constitution and Bylaws and He presides over and mediates the business meetings of the church. He will be responsible for announcing prior to the start of the business meeting the requirements for participation as referenced in Article I, Section 2 of the Bylaws. All attendees not in compliance with said section shall be excused from the meeting. This position has historically been filled by the Chairman of the Deacons.

MAJORITY:

Two-thirds of eligible members that are present (not less than 50% of the total eligible members) and voting in favor of an action at a member's meeting or other properly called meeting.

REGENERATE HEART:

Beginning of the new life generated by being reborn spiritually through acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, as shown in Psalm 51:10. "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me," and II Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." This will be exhibited as shown in Galatians 5:22-23. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

BYLAWS

ADOPTION, ACCEPTANCE, AND SIGNATURE PAGE

We, the members of Fitzhugh Baptist Church, being assembled and in unity, do hereby attest to and acknowledge this document before God our Father. We will abide by and support all inclusions and formally adopted amendments brought forth on this, the fifteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord, 2006. October 22, 2023.

Trustees

Kenneth Edwards

Nadine L Roy

Leslie Sloan