

**CONSTITUTION
OF
FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH**

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CONSTITUTION FOR FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

PREAMBLE

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

TEXT

“...built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone: in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:” Ephesians 2:20-21

MOTTO

“We preach Christ crucified, risen and coming again.” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Acts 1:11

ARTICLE I - NAME

The body shall be known as the Fellowship Baptist Church of Upper Marlboro, Prince George’s County, Maryland.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

EVANGELISM- This church shall preach and propagate the Gospel of the Revelation of God through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

EDUCATION- This church shall nurture its members through a program of Christian Education.

WORSHIP- This church shall provide regular opportunities for public worship on each Lord’s Day, both morning and evening, and will meet at least once during the week for Bible Study and prayer.

ORDINANCES- This church shall sustain the ordinances of Baptism by immersion and the Lord’s Supper, as taught in the New Testament. The Lord’s Supper will be observed once each month.

ARTICLE III - DECLARATION OF FAITH AND COVENANT

“And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;” II Chronicles 15:12

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this

assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote it's prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church; the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and to be zealous in our effort to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay; and to never take to court the church, another member, pastor, or church committee.

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

This covenant shall be read by the Pastor to the congregation at least once a year, and at such other times as the Pastor and Deacons may determine.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The New Hampshire Declaration shall be the Confession of Faith of this church, with the following taken from the Confession, with additions as deemed appropriate.

I. OF THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally inspired and the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore is truth without any admixture of error for its matter. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried. II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21; Acts 1:16; I Corinthians 2:13.

II. OF THE TRUE GOD

We believe there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in every Divine

perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. Deuteronomy 6:4; Exodus 20:2-3; Mark 12:29; I Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11; I John 5:7.

III. OF JESUS CHRIST, HIS PERSON AND WORK

We believe in the absolute deity of the Lord Jesus Christ; in His virgin birth and His perfect humanity. He became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God, and redeem sinful man. John 1:1-2, 14; Luke 1:35; Matthew 1:18-25; Isaiah 7:14; I Timothy 3:16.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a vicarious representative and substitutionary sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. Romans 3:24-26; I Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5; Isaiah 53:6; II Corinthians 5:21.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of representative, intercessor, and advocate. Acts 1:9-10; Hebrews 9:24, 7:25; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1-2.

IV. OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, HIS PERSON AND WORK

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead, co-equal with God the Father and with God the Son. In addition to creating and quickening the natural world (Psalm 33:6; 104:30; John 3:34), He has special ministries by which He takes part in the great plan of redemption.

AS TO HIS IDENTITY

He is not merely a “power” or influence, but a living and real person. John 14:16-17; John 16:13-14; Ephesians 4:30; Acts 5:3-4.

AS TO HIS WORK

The Holy Spirit’s ministries to this age of grace are:

1. Convicting the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. John 16:7-11
2. Regenerating all believers. John 3:5-6
3. Indwelling all believers. Romans 8:9-11; I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19
4. Baptizing all believers into the body of Christ. I Corinthians 12:13
5. Sealing all believers unto the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30
6. Filling and empowering all believers as they yield to Him. Ephesians 5:18; Acts 1:8

7. Teaching and guiding all believers into all truth. John 14:26; 16:13
8. Helping and interceding for all believers. Romans 8:26-27
9. Conforming all believers to the image of Christ. II Corinthians 3:18

AS TO THE GIFT OF TONGUES

We do not believe the popular movement today known as Glossolalia (or speaking in tongues) is a work of the Holy Spirit. We conclude this for the following reasons:

1. The Bible declares that tongues will cease. I Corinthians 13:8
2. Tongues are not mentioned in the New Testament passages that project us to the highest plane of Christian living such as Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians.
3. The tongues of the Bible are actual languages and not ecstatic gibberish. Acts 2:6
4. The tongues of the Bible did not come about through coaching or people being worked up; But they came suddenly, unrehearsed, and sometimes unexpectedly. This is not like the usual modern tongues movement.
5. A gift is sovereignly bestowed by God. Therefore, it is foolish to assume that tongues, which is a gift, could be the possession of everyone.

V. OF THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but by voluntary transgression, Adam sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death which is separation from God; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, and that man is totally depraved of himself, unable to please God or to remedy his lost condition. (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7; Job 33:4; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 3:22-23; Ephesians 2:8-9) Therefore, all humanity is guilty before God (Romans 3:19), condemned already (John 3:18), by nature the children of wrath (Ephesians 2:3), and sinners in the sight of God (Galatians 3:22), doomed to be eternally excluded from Heaven (Revelation 20:15) and sentenced to Hell if they do not come to Christ for salvation.

VI. OF THE WAY OF SALVATION

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the death of Jesus Christ for our sins according to the Scriptures, that Jesus Christ died as our representative, and a substitutionary sacrifice, taking upon Himself our sins, and that all who believe on Him and trust Him as their Savior are justified once and for all in the sight of God on the grounds of His shed blood. (Leviticus 17:11; Romans 3:24-26, 5:9-10; II Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-9; John 1:12)

VII: OF THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

We believe that all who are genuinely saved are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. Though a Christian's fellowship with God may be broken by the permission of sin in the life, still he is eternally God's child. His citizenship in God's kingdom and his membership in God's family are eternally guaranteed him from the moment he became a Christian. This belief is based not in man's ability to preserve, but upon God's ability to keep that which He has purchased and which belongs to Him, namely: The individual soul of every born-again believer. (I Timothy 1:12; I Peter 1:5; Jude 24; Philippians 1:6; John 6:36-40, 10:27-29; Romans 8:38-39)

VIII. OF THE NATURES OF THE BELIEVER

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and, that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural. (Romans 6:13, 8:12-13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; I Peter 1:14-16; I John 3:5-9)

IX. OF SEPARATION

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord: and that separation from all worldly and sinful practices and associations is commanded by God. (II Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1-2, 14:13; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1)

X. OF THE CHURCH

We believe that the Church, which is the mystical body and espoused Bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born again believers of this present age. (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-27; I Corinthians 12:2-14; II Corinthians 11:2)

We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. (Acts 14-17, 20:17, 28-32; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)

XI. OF THE ORDINANCES

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit; to show forth, in a solemn emblem our faith in the crucified buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life. We believe that this baptism is a prerequisite to the privilege of church membership. (Mark 1:9-19; Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:41, 8:38)

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. (I Corinthians 11:23-29)

XII. OF THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:1-11, 25:41; Revelation 20:10)

XIII. OF THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

We believe in the “Blessed Hope,” the personal, imminent pre-tribulational and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish His millennial kingdom. (I Thessalonians 1:10, 4:13-18, 5:9; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 3:10, 19:11-16, 20:1-7)

XIV. OF THE ETERNAL STATE

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men; the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29, 11:25-26)

XV. OF THE FAMILY

We believe that God instituted the family unit and vested it with inviolate authority concerning the education, discipline, and welfare of its members. We further maintain that God created man and woman distinct in gender, purpose and role within the home, and that the relationship between husband and wife is a most solemn picture of Christ and His church. Gen. 1:27-28; Matt. 19:4-6; Deut. 5:4-9; Eph. 5:22-28.

We believe God’s intent regarding His institution of the family unit for today to be one man and one woman united in the institution of marriage for their natural lives (not corrupted by what the world would consider a homosexual marriage), where the husband fulfills his role as head of the home as Christ is head of the church, and where the wife fulfills her role as subject to her husband as the church is subject to Christ, and where the children of that home are in obedience to the authority of the parents of that home. Eph., 5:22-23, 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21.

We believe that God is the Author of life, and that He alone knows the number of our days. Therefore, we oppose practices which are in opposition to His Word. We oppose abortion (which is the destruction of the fruit of the womb and indeed the taking of human life) and euthanasia (where the creation assumes the role of the Creator and determines the time of death: i.e., assisted suicide).

We oppose promiscuity, homosexuality, and any other ungodly lifestyle (which substitutes depraved and unnatural acts of lust for the holy and undefiled expression of marital love.) I Cor. 6:9-11

XVI. CALL TO MINISTRY

From time to time a man may be called by God out of our membership to the Gospel ministry. If that individual satisfies the scriptural prerequisites for licensing or ordination,

the church may proceed with such action. At no time will we license or ordain a woman to the Gospel ministry, since that is a violation of I Timothy 2:12, and 3:1-2.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 - MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this church shall consist of persons who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord and have expressed their spiritual relation with His death and resurrection in the New Testament Ordinance of Baptism, and who are willing to accept the "Declaration of Faith and Covenant" adopted by this church as a standard of belief and practice.

Those who have made such profession, and having confirmed this before the Pastor and Deacons, and upon their recommendation and by vote of the church may enter into the membership as a full or associate member.

Upon entering this fellowship all active membership in another church will be terminated. (This does not apply to those requesting associate membership by those temporarily visiting this area as a member of the military or attending college.)

SECTION 2 - DUTIES

Members are expected, first of all to be faithful in all the duties essential to the Christian life; and also to attend faithfully the services of this church; to give regularly to, and share in, its support and causes.

SECTION 3 - RIGHTS

A. Full members that are in active and regular standing, may hold office or committee membership and act and vote in the transactions of the church.

B. Associate members that are in active and regular standing, may hold office or committee membership; and enjoy the privileges and duties of full membership.

C. Members showing indifference through irregular attendance and support of the church for a period of six (6) months shall be transferred to the Inactive Membership Roll. Members will be notified by letter of this action.

D. Members on the Inactive Membership Roll shall not be included in those making reports and do not have the privilege of voting.

E. Inactive members who, after a period of one year (includes six months in Section 3, paragraph 'C' above), show no desire to return to active membership, shall be dropped from the church roll after previous notification, except in the case of invalidism.

SECTION 4 - QUORUM

Ten percent of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum, except for the call of a pastor, and the sale of church property, at which time fifty percent of the voting Active Membership Roll shall constitute a quorum, and an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members present shall be required. (See Article V - Officers, Section 4, Dismissal of the Pastor.)

All members who are serving as ministers of the Gospel, missionaries, in the Armed Forces, away in college or institutes of learning, invalids or those away for extended absences from the metropolitan area shall not be considered in determining a quorum.

SECTION 5 - TERMINATION

A. Any member in good and regular standing who desires a letter of dismissal and recommendation to another Baptist church is entitled to receive it upon that church's request.

B. Membership shall be terminated automatically when notification is received that a member has united with a church of a different faith and order.

C. In extraordinary cases (e.g., a charter member to a new church), a letter may be given upon request of a member, after approval of the Pastor and Deacons and vote of the church, which shall terminate his membership in the church.

D. Should a member become an offense to the church and to its good name by reason of immoral or un-Christian conduct, or by his persistent breach of the church Covenant, the church may terminate his membership but only after due notice and hearing, and after faithful efforts have been made to bring such member to repentance and amendment, according to Matthew 18:15-17.

E. Upon the decease of any member, his name shall automatically be removed from the membership roll by the Church Clerk.

F. The doctrinal position of this church shall be carefully guarded. Therefore, when a member no longer agrees with this church doctrinally, and upon confirmation of this fact through either written or oral communication from the member to the Pastor and/or Deacons, said member shall automatically be dropped from the membership roll by action of the Deacons, and this action shall be made known to the congregation at the next regular church Business Meeting. Notification of this action will be made to the member by letter and forwarded by U.S. mail to the postal address as listed with the church.

SECTION 6 - RESTORATION

Any person whose membership has been terminated for any offense may be restored after conference with the Pastor and Deacons, and by vote of the church, and upon evidence of his repentance and reformation.

SECTION 7 - ROLLS

The rolls of the church shall consist of two lists.

A. The first list shall be composed of all members who are actively identified with the church and shall be known as the Active Membership Roll. This Roll will be updated at the beginning of each month by the church Secretary, as instructed by the Deacons.

B. The second list shall be composed of those members who did not attend the services of this church and did not contribute toward its financial support within a period of six months. This shall be known as the Inactive Membership Roll.

SECTION 8 - DEFINITION

For purpose of clarification, the following words in this article "Faithfully", "Faithful", "Regular", "Active", shall be demonstrated by consistent attendance, interest in fellowship, and participation in the programs of this church.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

The officers of this church shall be the New Testament officers of Pastor(s) and Deacons. In addition, the State of Maryland considers the Pastor and Trustees to be "The Trustees" of the Corporation. Therefore the Pastor and Trustees are responsible for the control of the Corporation (subject to membership approval) and shall satisfy the requirements of the State of Maryland in matters of corporate business. Additional officers are to be established as needed by the activities of the church. Any officer of the church who refuses to obey the will and authority of the church, shall upon such refusal, be considered vacated from his office, and a successor for his office may be elected at any subsequent regular or called Business Meeting of the church.

PASTOR

SECTION 1 - CALLING OF THE PASTOR

A Pastor shall be chosen and called by the church whenever a vacancy occurs. Announcements shall be given from the pulpit on at least two consecutive Sundays preceding the Business Meeting designated for his election. The Pulpit Committee (consisting of the Deacons) shall seek out and recommend as Pastor, a minister of the Gospel whose Christian character is in accord with New Testament standards. The committee shall bring the consideration of the church only one candidate at a time. Fifty percent of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum for the election of a Pastor, and an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members present shall be necessary for a call. The Pastor, thus elected, shall serve until the relationship is terminated. He shall subscribe to the "Declaration of Faith and Covenant" of this church, and affirm them publicly each year.

SECTION 2 - DUTIES OF THE PASTOR

It shall be the duty of the Pastor to conduct all worship services, to act as advisor in all phases of church life, and to promote the spiritual welfare of the church. It shall be the duty of the Pastor to visit and administer to the sick and needy; to oversee the examination and instruction of all candidates for membership of the church. The Pastor shall moderate at all Business Meetings, and shall be ex-officio member of all standing committees.

SECTION 3 - AGREEMENT

A. The Pastor shall upon completion of one year of ministry with Fellowship Baptist Church, be granted 14 days annual leave. Upon completion of three consecutive years of ministry, 21 days annual leave. Upon completion of five consecutive years of ministry, shall be granted 28 days annual leave. Said leave shall not be taken in more than 14 consecutive days without prior approval of the Deacons. During his vacation the pulpit supply will be paid by the church.

B. The Pastor shall be at liberty to conduct a maximum of one revival meeting per year outside his own church, but being away only one Sunday for each revival. The Pastor shall make necessary arrangements for filling the pulpit with a supply during his absence.

C. Should the Pastor be absent from the pulpit for reason of illness or death in the immediate family, the supply shall be paid by the Church.

D. Unless otherwise mutually agreed, with both the Pastor and the Church seeking to follow the will of God and the leadership of the Holy Spirit, at least 30 days notice of termination shall be given.

SECTION 4 - DISMISSAL OF THE PASTOR

Should it be felt that the Pastor's relationship with the church is of such a nature as to impede its spiritual progress, the church may vote to serve him a 30-day notice of dismissal. In the event of serious charges against the Pastor, such as drinking, immorality, or departure from the doctrinal position of the church, the church may vote the Pastor's immediate dismissal, if after due hearing, he is deemed guilty of such charge. The vote may be taken at any regular or called business meeting, at which time twenty-five percent of the active church membership shall constitute a quorum, and an affirmative vote of three - fourths of those present will be required.

THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Associate Pastor(s) shall be chosen by the church whenever a need exists. The Pulpit Committee (consisting of the Deacons and chaired by the Pastor) should seek out and recommend an Associate Pastor whose Christian character is in accord with New Testament standards. There shall be only one candidate brought before the church at a time. Fifty percent of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum for the election of an Associate Pastor, and an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members present shall constitute a quorum for the election of an Associate Pastor, and an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members present shall be necessary for a call. An Associate Pastor,

thus elected, shall serve until the relationship is terminated. An Associate Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Deacons. All Associate Pastors shall subscribe to the "Declaration Of Faith And Covenant" of this church, and affirm them publicly each year.

TREASURER

The Treasurer shall be elected annually and shall be charged with the responsibility of receipt, deposit and disbursement of all church moneys, as said funds become available. Disbursement of church moneys shall be within the fiscal constraints as outlined within the budget. Said budget shall have been previously submitted by the Finance Committee and approved by the congregation. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Finance Committee, working harmoniously, to assure that the financial desires of the congregation are met, in that the outlay of budgeted items does not exceed anticipated income. The Finance Committee and the Audit Committee shall have access to the Treasurer's records upon request. The Treasurer shall make a summary report to the church at the regular monthly business meeting. Upon termination of office, the Treasurer shall deliver to the successor, all books, records and papers pertaining or relating to any matter of the duties of the office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL/ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIP DIRECTOR

The Sunday School/Adult Bible Fellowship Director shall be appointed annually at the May business meeting of the church. His responsibilities include the administration of the Sunday School/Adult Bible Fellowship and supervision and training of the teachers. He shall also serve on the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

DEACONS

SECTION 1 - NUMBER

There shall be active deacons serving at all times. The number is to be established by the Pastor.

SECTION 2 - ELECTION

All deacons shall be nominated and elected by the church at the July Business Meeting for a term of two years; they then must rotate off as active deacons for at least one year before being eligible for re-election to another term. In case of death or removal or incapacity to serve, the church shall elect qualified individuals to fill the unexpired term.

SECTION 3 - ELIGIBILITY

All candidates shall have been full and regular members of the church for at least six months prior to election. Their qualifications for the office of "Deacon" will be determined by those set forth in the Bible. (Acts 6:3, 1 Timothy 3:8-13)

SECTION 4 - DUTIES

The duties of the Deacons shall be those prescribed in the New Testament. They, with the Pastor, shall meet once a month at which time they shall take into consideration the general welfare of the church. During intervals between regular or called Business Meetings, they may act on behalf of the church and take action on that church business which is urgent, necessary and in the best interest of the church. In so doing they are vested with the full authority of, and accountable to, the congregation. They shall assist the Pastor conducting of worship; in administering ordinances; in maintaining discipline; in keeping the membership enlisted in the full program of the church; in assisting the church clerk in keeping the church roll of membership up to date; and in promoting peace, harmony, and the spirit of cooperation among the membership. In any period when the church is without a pastor, or the Pastor is temporary supply, the Chairman of the Deacons will automatically become moderator of the church. They shall consider it to be a part of their responsibility to promote, in every way, scriptural giving on the part of the entire membership. The Deacons shall elect their own officers after consultation with the Pastor. A chairman shall serve for a term of one year, and shall not succeed himself.

SECTION 5 - THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Deacons shall have the authority to choose men of high spiritual caliber to assist in the serving of the Lord's Supper in the absence of elected Deacons.

TRUSTEES

SECTION 1 - ELECTION

The Trustees shall be nominated by the church Nominating Committee, and elected by the church at the July Business Meeting.

SECTION 2 - TERM OF SERVICE

A term shall be two years. A Trustee is then eligible to serve continuous two year terms if he is willing and able to do so. In case of death, removal or incapacity to serve, the church shall elect qualified individuals to fill the unexpired term.

SECTION 3 - DUTIES

The Trustees shall be charged with the responsibility of holding in trust the property of the church. They shall have the actual care of the place of worship, but shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property without specific vote of the church authorizing such action. There shall be no fewer than four Trustees, who will have attained the age of eighteen as required by law. Any title to properties of the church shall be in the name of Fellowship Baptist Church; it shall not be in the individual names of the Trustees of the church. It shall be their duty to supervise the maintenance and upkeep of the church properties, as directed by the church. *The Trustees shall elect their own officers after consultation with the Pastor. Officers shall consist of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary. A Chairman shall serve for a term of one year, and shall not succeed himself.*

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

SECTION 1 - NUMBER

The Missions Committee shall consist of a minimum of five members.

SECTION 2 - ELECTION

All members shall be nominated and elected by the church at the Annual Business Meeting for a term of two years. They then must rotate off the active Missions Committee for at least one year before being eligible for re-election to another term. In case of death or removal or incapacity to serve, the church shall elect qualified individuals to fill the unexpired term.

SECTION 3 - ELIGIBILITY

Members of the Committee shall be spiritually minded people with a burden for missions both home and abroad. They shall be people of conviction and convinced of the biblical mandate for missions. They must be individuals who are able to look at missionaries and missionary problems objectively and fairly.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee shall consist of four members appointed by the Pastor at the regular business meeting in March. Then at the regular business meeting in May, the Pastor shall appoint the Sunday School/Adult Bible Fellowship Director. He then becomes a member of the Nominating Committee.

It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to present a slate of nominees for the offices of the church for the ensuing church year at the regular or special called business meeting in July. This committee shall serve for one year, or until a new committee is appointed.

OTHER COMMITTEES

Committees of the church are to be established based on the activities and needs of the church as authorized by the church. Committee members are to be elected by the church body or appointed by the Pastor as authorized in the church handbook.

ARTICLE VII - EMPLOYEES AND STAFF MEMBERS

Any employees and staff members shall be elected or employed by a vote of the church upon recommendation to the church by the Deacons, as needed.

ARTICLE VIII - BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the church shall be held in August. The church year closes August 31st.

Special Business Meetings may be called at any time by the Pastor or Deacons.

Regular Business Meetings for the transaction of business shall be held monthly .

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the authority in all Parliamentary proceedings.

ARTICLE IX - DISPOSITION OF CHURCH PROPERTY

If the time should ever come that Fellowship Baptist Church should discontinue active service as a Baptist church, all property of the organization shall be liquidated and the proceeds shall be distributed proportionately to the various mission organizations supported by the church at that time. This money shall be held in trust by the mission organization for the purpose of providing monthly support for the missionary designated until such funds shall be expended.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

These Articles may be amended by a three-fourths vote of the members present at any regular or called business meeting of the church, providing notices stating the wording of the proposed Amendment shall have been given in the church Bulletin, or shall have been publicly announced on the two preceding Sundays.

ARTICLE XI

This Constitution as adopted on August 11, 1976 supersedes and cancels all other Constitutions and Amendments thereto.