

PREAMBLE

So that things may be done decently and in order in accordance with the accepted tenets of other churches of like precious faith, and that we may more readily help each other in our Christian service, we declare and establish this constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLE I NAME, PURPOSE, AND MISSION

SECTION 1 - NAME

This congregation of believers shall be known as the Lakeland Northside Baptist Church, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the “church” or “corporation” located at 3131 Duff Road, Lakeland, FL.

SECTION 2 - PURPOSE

(A) This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, establishing and maintaining religious worship and other ministries that the church may be led of God to establish.

(B) The church shall also ordain and license men into the Gospel ministry; evangelize the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; educate believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; maintain missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country; and engage in any other ministry that the church may decide, from time to time, to pursue in obedience to the will of God.

(C) Insofar as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the local association, state convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

SECTION 3 - MISSION STATEMENT

“As members of Northside Baptist Church, we covenant together to fulfill God’s mission for us through outreach, education, and worship; guided by biblical administrative and financial principles as we use the facilities that God has provided.”

ARTICLE II

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 1 - STATEMENT OF FAITH

(A) The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the verbally inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of God, and are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament are the complete and divine revelation of God to man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning. The Authorized King James Version of the Bible shall be the recommended translation for public worship and instruction. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21).

(B) Dispensationalism

We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather they are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these dispensations--the law, the church, and the kingdom--are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture (Gen. 1:28; 1 Cor. 9:17; 2 Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. 1:10; 3:2-10; Col. 1:24-25, 27; Rev. 20:2-6).

(C) The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 14:10, 26).

(D) The Person and Work of Christ

(1) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, 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 men (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8).

(2) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through his death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; 1 Peter 2:24; Eph. 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5).

(3) 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; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2).

(E) The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

(1) We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ and indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:4-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14).

(2) We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and apply the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and responsibility of all the saved to live lives filled with the Spirit (Eph. 1:17-18; 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27).

(3) We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order that they can do the work of the ministry (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12).

(4) We believe that speaking in tongues is not and was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit for New Testament believers. We believe that although God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing, the ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness and death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection. (Rom. 8:23; 1 Cor. 1:22; 13:8; 14:21-22).

(F) The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. We believe that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19).

(G) Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ Whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18-19).

(H) The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

(1) We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet. 1:4-5).

(2) We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to live for the flesh (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

(I) The Church

(1) We believe that the local church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons (1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27).

(2) We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

(3) We believe in the autonomy of the local church--free of any external authority or control which conflicts with God's Word (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1, 4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

(4) We recognize baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper as the only Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the church in this age (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:18; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

(J) Separation

We believe that all true believers should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord and should live in separation from all religious apostasy, sinful practices, and unbiblical associations as commanded by God in His Word. (Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; 2 Tim. 2:19; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 2:19; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11).

(K) The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in that "blessed hope"--the personal, imminent return of Christ, who will rapture His Church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the nation of Israel (Ps. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; I Thess. 1:10; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6).

(L) The Eternal State

(1) We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men--the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28, 29; 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13).

(2) We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present

with the Lord where, in conscious bliss, they await the first resurrection when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; I Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6).

(3) We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection when, with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire--not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment (Matt. 25:41-46; Mark. 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15).

(M) The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a created being, the author of sin, and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God, mankind, and the Church; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; John 8:44; Rev. 20:10).

(N) Creation

We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject any other theory, including theistic evolution, as unscriptural theories of origin (Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11).

(O) Civil Government

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home; 2) the church; and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-14).

(P) Human Sexuality

(1) We believe that the only biblically legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman for life. (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:4-5; Mark 10:5-9; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23).

(2) We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and in the church. The husband is to be the spiritual leader of the home and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) 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).

(3) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of incest,

fornication, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, adultery, homosexuality, and pornography are perversions of God's gift of sex (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 3; Gen. 26:8, 9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 1 Cor. 6:9; 1 Thess 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).

(Q) Divorce and Remarriage

Because God intends for a marriage to last until a spouse dies, divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of sexual immorality or abandonment. Divorced members, or members who are divorced and remarried, may hold positions of service in the church except for the office of a pastor or deacon unless the grounds for the divorce were biblical or the divorce occurred prior to conversion. (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 5:31-32; 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2,12; Titus 1:6).

(R) Abortion

(1) We believe human life begins at conception and the unborn child is a living human being. (Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).

(2) We maintain that the use of aborted babies and the creation and destruction of human embryos for the purpose of scientific research and/or the harvesting of parts for medical purposes is sin.

(S) Missions

We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to carry out this commission (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20).

(T) Lawsuits Between Believers

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against the church or other church members to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander (1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32).

(U) Giving

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17).

SECTION 2 - AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. We believe that the Bible itself is the sole and final source of our faith and practice. We do believe, however, that the foregoing statement of faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members.

SECTION 3 - COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and, on profession of our faith, having been baptized by immersion in the name of our Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; we do now, in the presence of God, His 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 its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; 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 private devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred, acquaintances, and all others; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful to our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, gossip, and sinful anger; to abstain from worldly amusements; to be free from all oath-bound secret societies and partnerships with unbelievers; and to be zealous in our efforts 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 of speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation--and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure reconciliation without delay.

We moreover engage that if we move from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with another church of like faith.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 - POLITY

The government of this church is vested in the senior pastor and the active members who compose it. Persons duly received shall constitute the membership. Only active members shall be enfranchised (see Article III, Section 6 (A)).

SECTION 2 - QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Upon a majority vote of the members present at any church service or meeting, membership shall be extended to all who have had and whose lives evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; who renounce sin; who endeavor to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord; who fully subscribe to the statement of faith contained herein; who enter into the church covenant contained herein; and upon compliance with any one of the following conditions:

- (A) By baptism (immersion) as a true believer in Christ Jesus as personal Savior;
- (B) By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing church of like faith and practice, or other written statement of good standing from the prior church if the applicant has been baptized by immersion subsequent to a profession of faith;
- (C) By testimony of faith, having been baptized by immersion; or
- (D) By restoration having made petition to the Church Council and receiving a two-thirds majority vote of the Church.
- (E) Seasonal visitors may request temporary associate membership status if they meet the qualifications above.

SECTION 3 - DUTIES OF A MEMBER

(A) On becoming a member of this church, in addition to the covenant contained in Article II, Section 3, each member further covenants:

- (1) to love, honor, and esteem their pastor; to pray for him, and to recognize his authority in spiritual affairs of the church;
- (2) to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the church;
- (3) to support the church in prayer, tithes, offerings and with other financial support as the Lord enables and directs;
- (4) to build up the church by the regular employment of God-given abilities and spiritual gifts;
- (5) to support through a life of faith and holiness an affirmation of the beliefs of this church.

(B) New members are invited and expected to participate in the church's new member orientation.

SECTION 4 - PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

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 senior pastor, as Christ's undershepherd, and with the counsel of the church body. Membership in this church does not afford those individuals with any property, contract, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Determination of the internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church's own rules and procedures.

An individual member may bring an item before the Church Council by contacting the pastor with a request to be heard..

SECTION 5 - DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER

(A) A discipline committee shall be composed of the senior pastor, deacons, and other spiritual leaders as determined by the deacon board. This committee shall have authority to determine heretical deviations from the statement of faith and violations of the church covenant. If the senior pastor or a deacon is the subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a member of the discipline committee. Accusations brought against any pastor or deacon must be confirmed by at least two witnesses (1 Tim. 5:19). Pastors and deacons shall be entitled to the same steps as other church members and be subject to the same discipline.

(B) Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another and practice the biblical model of confrontation and restoration (Matt 18:15-20). When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.

(C) If reconciliation is not reached, a second member, either the senior pastor or his designate, is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination, and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.

(D) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, the discipline committee, as the church representatives biblically responsible for putting down murmuring, shall hear the matter. If the matter is not resolved during the hearing before the discipline committee, the committee shall recommend to the members of the church that they, after self-examination, make an effort personally to go to the offending member and seek that member's restoration.

(E) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B), (C), and (D) have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the church upon a two-thirds majority vote of the membership present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering disciplinary action.

(F) No matter may be heard by the discipline committee or the church unless the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, except in the case of a public offense.

(G) If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the church membership, all contact by other church members (contact by family members excepted) must be for the sake of restoration and not for social reasons (1 Cor. 5:11).

SECTION 6 - TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Members may request that a letter of transfer be sent to another church.

SECTION 7 - TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

(A) A church member who has not attended a regular worship service in the preceding six months shall be transferred, without notice, to inactive status. Inactive members have no voting rights and cannot hold any official position in the church. Inactive members will be terminated, without notice, after one year. Upon good cause being shown to the senior pastor, this provision of termination may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the senior pastor.

(B) A request for a letter of transfer by an inactive member will reflect the member's inactive status. No letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued for an inactive member except at the discretion of the senior pastor.

(C) No member of this church may hold membership in another local church. If any member unites in membership with another local church, that person is automatically terminated, without notice, from membership in this church.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

SECTION 1 - CHURCH OFFICERS

The officers of the church are: The senior pastor, associate pastors, ministerial staff, outreach ministry group leader, education ministry group leader, worship ministry group leader, administration ministry group leader, facilities ministry group leader, deacons, church clerk, church treasurer, church trustees, Sunday school director, prayer coordinator, youth director, kitchen coordinator, and other officers as organizationally needed. The senior pastor may appoint other church officers as he deems necessary subject to confirmation by the church.

SECTION 2 - DESIGNATION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church the senior pastor shall serve as registered agent/officer of the corporation; and the three trustees shall each have a cooperate designation. The most senior trustee shall be designated as secretary-treasurer; the second senior trustee shall be designated as president; the third senior trustee shall be designated as vice president.

SECTION 3 - ELIGIBILITY FOR CONTINUANCE IN OFFICE

- (A) All church officers shall affirm by their lifestyle their agreement with the statement of faith.
- (B) All church officers must be approved initially and thereafter annually by the church.

SECTION 4 - TERMS OF OFFICE

- (A) The relationship between the senior pastor and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party by the giving of thirty days notice (less by mutual consent). The severance of the relationship between the senior pastor and the church may be considered at any regular church business meeting, provided notice has been given from the pulpit two Sundays prior to said regular church business meeting. A three-fourths majority of the members present shall be required to decide the matter. Disciplinary removal from office automatically terminates membership. Restoration to membership shall be subject to Article III, Sec. 2 (D).
- (B) The term of service for all offices and positions in the church, except senior pastor, ministerial staff, and trustees, shall be one year, at the expiration of which they may be re-elected or re-appointed.
- (C) A vacancy occurring in any office or board, except in the case of the senior pastor, may be filled at any regular church business meeting.
- (D) All elected and appointed officers shall serve in their respective offices until their successors are duly elected or appointed.

SECTION 5 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The annual election of officers by the church membership shall occur in the month of December during a called church business meeting.

SECTION 6 - PASTORAL OVERSIGHT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

- (A) Subject to the approval of the church and on the condition that they shall become a member of the church upon assuming their duties, the senior pastor may hire associates and assistants to

assist the senior pastor in carrying out his God-given responsibilities.

(B) All church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the senior pastor who, has the authority to hire, appoint, or dismiss with the approval of the Church Council.

ARTICLE V DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1 - THE SENIOR PASTOR

(A) The senior pastor shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him. He shall administer the ordinances of the church, act as moderator at all church meetings for the transaction of church matters, supervise the teaching ministries of the church, and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership.

(B) The senior pastor shall serve as the registered agent/officer of the corporation. He shall inform all newly elected officers of the particular function and the responsibilities of their respective offices. He shall perform such other duties as generally pertain to such a position. The senior pastor shall be free to choose the means and methods by which he exercises the ministry that God has given him.

SECTION 2 - THE BOARD OF DEACONS

(A) The board of deacons shall assist the senior pastor, in such manner as he shall request, in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church, in conducting the religious services, and in performing all other work of the church. They shall, if requested by the senior pastor, consider applications for church membership. They shall assist the senior pastor in visitation and all other evangelistic efforts of the church. They shall provide the pulpit supply and act as leaders for church meetings if the office of senior pastor is vacant. The board of deacons shall assist the senior pastor in caring for the administrative needs of the church's various ministries as requested by the senior pastor.

SECTION 3 - THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(A) The church shall elect a board of trustees to serve as the legal and cooperate officers of the church. The board of trustees shall be composed of three men for a term of three years, with one trustee's term to expire annually as another is elected.

(B) The board of trustees shall exercise the following powers:

(1) to purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the church;

(2) to sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church; to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of the church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges;

(3) to exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation if such action is mandated by a vote of the church membership.

SECTION 4 - THE CHURCH CLERK

The church clerk shall keep a record of church proceedings; of the membership roll; of all baptisms; of certificates of ordination, licenses, commissions and significant events in the life of the church; and preserve all documents, papers, and letters during the term of office. All records are to be kept in the church office and delivered to any successor upon leaving office.

SECTION 5 - THE CHURCH TREASURER

The church treasurer shall account for all funds contributed to the church and shall disburse the same as ordered by the church. The church treasurer shall present a written report of itemized disbursements at the quarterly church business meetings. All expenditures of the church except miscellaneous petty cash disbursements shall be paid by check.

SECTION 6 - THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM

The stewardship team shall consist of the church treasurer and four other members elected by the church; and in consultation with the senior pastor and the group leaders, shall submit an annual budget. The budget will be voted on during a business meeting called for this purpose in December.

SECTION 7 - THE SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR

The Sunday school director shall carry out the duties of this office under the supervision of the education group captain in consultation with the senior pastor. These duties shall include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Keeping the attendance records of the Sunday school,
- (2) Providing for the distribution of the curriculum literature and teaching aids,
- (3) Recommending the re-appointment of teachers, and

(4) Reporting on the progress of the Sunday school at the quarterly business meeting.

SECTION 8 - THE KITCHEN COORDINATOR

The kitchen coordinator is responsible for the everyday maintenance, inventory, and supply of the kitchen. The kitchen coordinator shall assist with church fellowships, dinners, social events, and other applicable activities as directed by the senior pastor or his delegate.

SECTION 9 - THE MINISTRY GROUP LEADERS

(A) The leaders of the ministry groups shall be appointed by the senior pastor with the approval of the church and shall serve under the senior pastor's supervision and direction.

(B) Group leaders will direct, through the team captains, the ministries of the teams assigned to each group.

(C) The number of leaders and their responsibilities will be determined by the senior pastor.

(D) The group leaders will act as the nominating committee.

SECTION 10 - THE ASSOCIATE PASTORS

Under the direction and guidance of the senior pastor, the associate pastors of the church shall assist the senior pastor in carrying out the ministries of the church.

SECTION 11 - THE CHURCH COUNCIL

(A) The Church Council shall serve the church by advising and assisting the senior pastor in planning, coordinating, conducting, and evaluating the ministries and programs of the church. Members of the council shall be the senior pastor, associate pastors, ministerial staff, outreach ministry group leader, education ministry group leader, worship ministry group leader, administration ministry group leader, facilities ministry group leader, deacons, church clerk, church treasurer, church trustees, Sunday school director, prayer coordinator, youth director, kitchen coordinator, and up to six at-large members elected from the church body.

(B) The at-large members must be active members in good standing for at least one year.

(C) The senior pastor or his designate will moderate the Church Council meeting. In the absence of the pastor (or his delegate), a Church Council member will be elected to moderate the meeting.

(D) All members of the church are welcome to attend, but will have no voting privileges.

(E) All Church Council recommendations must be approved by the church before action can be taken.

SECTION 12 - THE PULPIT COMMITTEE

The Pulpit Committee shall consist of five members appointed by the Church Council. The Pulpit Committee shall report to the Church Council who will make recommendations to the Church.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

SECTION 1 - MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Unless otherwise determined by the senior pastor, the church shall meet each Sunday for public worship, both morning and evening, and at least once during the week for Bible study and prayer.

Unless otherwise scheduled by the senior pastor, the Lord's Supper shall be observed quarterly.

SECTION 2 - MEETINGS FOR CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

(A) A quarterly business meeting shall be held on the third Wednesday of January, April, July, and October unless circumstances dictate a change. A quorum shall consist of the members present.

(B) For any meeting under this article, the moderator, in his sole discretion, shall have full and unilateral authority to order the immediate removal of any member or other person present who is deemed by the moderator to be disruptive to the proceedings by act or presence. The moderator shall have full authority to order the removal of all children (ages to be determined by the moderator) if the moderator determines, in his sole discretion, that circumstances so warrant. If the moderator determines that compliance with his order of removal is unsatisfactory, the moderator may, in his sole discretion, order an usher or other church officer to escort a disruptive person out of the meeting place or, in the alternative, order a postponement of the meeting until a future date when satisfactory compliance may be assured.

SECTION 3 - CALLED MEETINGS

(A) The senior pastor (or a man elected by the church if the office of senior pastor is vacant) may call a church business meeting by giving notice of such a meeting and the purpose for which it is called to the church from the pulpit at least one Sunday and not less than one week prior to said meeting unless extreme emergency renders such notice impractical. An election of a senior pastor may be called by the pulpit committee and held during any regular church meeting that has been announced at least two weeks in advance.

(B) Bible conferences, missionary conferences, revivals, seminars and other services essential to the advancement of the church's objectives may be scheduled as the senior pastor deems beneficial.

SECTION 4 - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the church shall begin January 1 and end December 31.

ARTICLE VII MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

SECTION 1 - PURPOSE

The church believes that it is to provide for its members and their families an education which is based upon and consistent with Biblical teachings. The church believes that the home and church are responsible before God for providing a Christian education. To this end, the church shall engage in ministries in education in keeping with the following dictates:

SECTION 2 - CHURCH PARTICIPATION

All educational programs or courses of instruction offered by the church shall be primarily for the benefit of the members of the church. The senior pastor may permit non-church members to participate in these educational programs if he deems it in the best interest of the church.

SECTION 3 - STAFF MEMBERSHIP

All instructors, teachers, and administrators shall be members of this church. This provision shall not apply to visiting teachers, missionaries, evangelists, or preachers engaged for the purpose of delivering sermons, conducting revivals, or other special meetings on a temporary basis.

SECTION 4 - STATEMENT OF FAITH ACCORD

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be taught and presented in full accord with the statement of faith of the church. All literature, books, and curriculum used in the educational ministry of the church shall be in complete agreement with the statement of faith.

SECTION 5 - UNITY

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted as a ministry of the church.

SECTION 6 - TEACHING

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted consistent with the teaching of the inerrant Word of God. Any assertion or belief which conflicts with or questions a Bible truth is a pagan deception and distortion of the truth which will be disclaimed as false. It is the responsibility of every instructor or teacher to present the inerrant Word of God as the sole infallible source of knowledge and wisdom.

SECTION 7 - CHRISTIAN WALK

All administrators, instructors, and teachers shall continue or adopt a life-style consistent with the precepts which they teach, whether in or out of the classroom.

ARTICLE VIII UNAUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES

Expenditures which exceed \$250 and which are not authorized in the annual budget must be approved by the Stewardship Team. Non-budget expenditures exceeding \$500 must be approved by the church.

ARTICLE IX ORDINATION

SECTION 1 - ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS

Upon a conference with and the approval of the senior pastor, any member of this church or its mission churches who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry and possesses the qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9 may be ordained as a minister of the Gospel.

SECTION 2 - ORDINATION PROCEDURE

(A) The senior pastor shall call a council of ordained ministers of like faith to examine and pass approval on the qualification of the candidate.

(B) After the candidate is found worthy of ordination, the ordination council will ordain the candidate on behalf of the church during a formal ordination service.

(C) The senior pastor, or others appointed by the senior pastor for this purpose, shall arrange for the ordination service.

ARTICLE X

TAX-EXEMPT PROVISIONS

SECTION 1 - PRIVATE INUREMENT

No part of the net earnings of the church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article I, Section 2 hereof.

SECTION 2 - POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

No substantial part of the activities of the church shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The church shall not formally organize, participate with, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of a political party or individual candidate for public office. It is to be understood that this prohibition is to include labor strikes, political protests, boycotts, and the like. This section does not prohibit individual church members from following their consciences in these matters.

SECTION 3 - DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the church, the trustees shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the church, dispose of all of the assets of the church to such organization or organizations formed and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the trustees shall determine. Assets may be distributed only to organizations which agree with the church's Statement of Faith.

SECTION 4 - NONDISCRIMINATION

This church has a nondiscriminatory policy and therefore shall not discriminate against members, applicants, students, and others on the basis of race, color, gender, national/ethnic origin.

ARTICLE XI

DONATIONS

SECTION 1 - DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

The church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. Contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the senior pastor and the stewardship team or the senior pastor and other teams as approved by the church. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Article I, Section 2.

SECTION 2 - GIFTS IN KIND

The church will receive gifts-in-kind at the discretion of the stewardship team in consultation with the senior pastor. The applicable income tax law in force at the time of the donation will govern the transfer of such gifts. No real property will be received by the church without the owner first having completed a satisfactory Phase One environmental evaluation. All tangible and/or appreciated assets which cannot be used by the church must be sold within ninety days of receiving the donation. The designated value of any gift will be the fair market value at the time of the donation.

ARTICLE XII

AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be revised or amended by a two-thirds vote of the active members present and voting at any church business meeting, provided that said revision or amendment has been submitted in writing and announced from the pulpit fourteen days before the vote is taken.

ADOPTION

This constitution was adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly-called meeting of the church. This constitution and bylaws supersedes any other constitutions and/or bylaws of Lakeland Northside Baptist Church, Inc.

Clerk

Date

Church

BYLAWS

NUMBER 1

Associate members and active members under eighteen shall be entitled to vote on all matters except:

- (1) The disciplining of members,
- (2) The purchase or sale of real property,
- (3) The dismissal or calling of a senior pastor, and
- (4) The revising of the church constitution or bylaws.

NUMBER 2

All appointments for public worship and Bible study and the arrangements thereof including time and place and the use of the property belonging to the church for purposes other than the stated appointments shall be under the control of the senior pastor.

NUMBER 3

All literature used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the statement of faith.

NUMBER 4

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised will be the guide for conducting the church business meeting:

- (a) Call to order and prayer
- (b) Reading, correction, and approval of minutes
- (c) Reception, deletion, and dismissal of members
- (d) Financial Report
- (e) Church officers' reports (Sunday school and other ministries)
- (f) Church Council report
- (g) Standing and temporary committee reports
- (h) Unfinished matters (old business)
- (i) New matters
- (j) Prayer and adjournment

NUMBER 5

No tobacco products, intoxicating drink, or illegal drugs may be used on the grounds or in the buildings of Northside Baptist Church.

NUMBER 6

These bylaws may be altered, suspended, or amended at a regular church business meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of the qualified members present and voting.

CONSTITUTION

AND

BYLAWS

OF

LAKELAND
NORTHSIDE BAPTIST
CHURCH, INC.

REVISED: NOVEMBER 14, 2002

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All appointments for public worship and Bible study and the arrangements thereof including time and place and the use of the property belonging to the church for purposes other than the stated appointments shall be under the control of the senior pastor.

NUMBER 3

All literature used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the statement of faith.

NUMBER 4

No individual or family may receive benevolent fund assistance more than two times in a 12-month time period without church approval.

NUMBER 5

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised

- (a) Call to order and prayer
- (b) Reading, correction, and approval of minutes
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