

PRIOR TO READING THIS REPORT

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

The Transition Team is appreciative of the work of the temporary committees and their associated working groups. All reports and suggestions are being made available to the church body and have been forwarded to appropriate committees and staff members for review.

Encouraged by the Transition Team some recommendations within the routine church-authorized service of our staff and lay leadership are being enacted.

Any major recommendations rising to the level of church approval will not be performed without first being presented to the church in an announced business meeting.

Please accept the content of this report as counsel from members of our church asked to provide thorough consideration to the assigned matter. They have each offered their considered suggestion for the betterment of our church. We are grateful to their dedicated and heartfelt labor on our behalf.

BYLAWS OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BRYAN, TEXAS

PREAMBLE

We declare and establish these Bylaws to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the Church in an orderly manner. These Bylaws will guide this Church in conducting Christ's ministry locally, nationally or across all borders as He leads.

ARTICLE I NAME

The Church shall be known as the First Baptist Church of Bryan, Texas, located at 3100 Cambridge Drive, Bryan, Texas 77802.

ARTICLE II MISSION STATEMENT

First Baptist Church of Bryan is a body of baptized believers who strive to live with a passion for Jesus Christ and His purposes in the world by leading people to a personal, growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

I. CANDIDACY

- A. Any person may offer himself as a candidate for membership in this church. All such candidates shall be presented to the church at any regular worship service for membership in any of the following ways:
 - 1. By profession of faith and for baptism, according to the policies of FBC Bryan;
 - 2. By promise of a letter from another Baptist church of like faith and order;
 - 3. By statement of prior conversion experience and baptism in a Baptist church of like faith and order, when no letter is obtainable.
- B. Names of candidates for membership will be presented for confirmation at the next regular business meeting.
- C. If a person chooses not to ask for membership but wishes to be closely related to the church, such person may be confirmed under the watchcare of the church at the next regular business meeting. Individuals under watchcare may not vote on matters of church business and shall not serve in a leadership capacity or elected position.

II. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

- A. Each member shall have the right to vote in the governance of the church, with each member having one (1) vote on any matter submitted to a vote of the membership when present.
- B. The majority of the votes cast by the members present shall be the act of the members meeting, unless the vote of a greater number is required by law, the Constitution, these Bylaws or the motion.
- C. Each member may vote on the following matters:
 - 1. Annual budget and subsequent changes to the budget,
 - 2. Amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws and Standard Operating Policies,
 - 3. Calling of or dismissal of Senior Pastor,
 - 4. Land mortgages, purchases and sales,
 - 5. Capital building programs,
 - 6. Formation and membership of Teams, Committees and Councils,
 - 7. Plans for merger or consolidation with another church,
 - 8. Sale, lease, exchange, or mortgage of all or substantially all of the property and/or assets of the church,
 - 9. Dissolution of the church,

10. Expulsion of church member,
11. Reinstatement of church member,
12. Other committee or ministerial staff recommendations for which church approval is desired.

D. Each member shall have the responsibility of participation in programs and activities of the church and of financial support of the church.

III. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership shall be terminated in the following ways:

1. Death,
2. Letter of transfer to another Baptist church,
3. Request of the member,
4. Affiliation with a church of another faith or denomination,
5. Exclusion by action of this church.

B. If a member becomes an offense to the Church and its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct or by denying acceptance of fundamental doctrines of the Church, it shall be the responsibility of the Senior Pastor and deacon officers to take steps to resolve the offense in accordance with Biblical principles. If it is determined that exclusion of the member is necessary, the church may terminate membership by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the votes cast at the duly-called business meeting where the expulsion recommendation is presented.

ARTICLE IV CHURCH OFFICERS

I. OFFICERS

A. The officers of the Church, acting as a non-profit corporation, shall be the Chairman of Deacons, Vice-Chairman of Deacons, Secretary of Deacons, Chairman of the Finance Committee, Chairman of the Properties Committee, and Church Clerk.

B. Each of these officers shall have been elected to serve in their capacity for the current calendar year by the members of their designated group, with the exception of the Church Clerk.

II. CHURCH CLERK

A. There shall be at least one individual who shall fulfill the function of keeping records of church proceedings and keeping and making available at business meetings copies of the Constitution and Bylaws, financial policy, personnel rules, rules regulating election of deacons and any other rules, policies or procedures adopted by the church. Such individual shall be familiar with methods and

practices used in the church office to maintain a correct register of church members.

- B. The clerk will be elected to serve a three-year term as provided for in the Standard Operating Policies.

III. DUTIES

- A. They shall act for the church in legal matters, but they shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer any property without a vote of the church authorizing such action.
- B. The signatures of not fewer than two officers shall be required for such action.

ARTICLE V LEADERSHIP

I. SERVANT TEAM

- A. Senior Pastor. When a vacancy occurs a pastor shall be chosen and called by the church in a manner outlined in the Standard Operating Policies. The pastor elected shall serve at the will of the church or until the pastor chooses to resign.
 - 1. The pastor serves as the spiritual leader of the church and promotes the interests of the church.
 - 2. The pastor's role of leadership in the church shall in no way diminish the congregational authority of the church.
- B. Ministerial Staff. The church shall call as ministers of the gospel those men and women who have been called of God and whom the church deems necessary to serve it. The most recent personnel policies and procedures included in the Standard Operating Policies shall be followed in the calling of such ministers.
- C. Non-ministerial Employees. The church may secure the services of full-or part-time employees, such as secretaries, clerks or maintenance persons, as needed. These positions shall be filled in accordance with current personnel handbook as provided for in the Standard Operating Policies.
- D. All Members. We believe in the priesthood and ministry of all believers. All are called to serve as Christian ministers under the voluntary principle.

II. DEACONS

A. PURPOSE

- 1. The deacons of First Baptist Church, Bryan are the servant leaders and spiritual leaders of the church.
- 2. Deacons are to be zealous in maintaining and guarding the unity and integrity of the church's ministries.

3. Deacons are expected to use the spiritual gifts granted them by the grace of God to partner with the pastor and church staff to proclaim the gospel, assist with pastoral tasks, care for church members and others in the community, and lead the church to engage in fellowship, witness, education, ministry and application.

B. OTHER DUTIES

1. Deacons should strengthen the Sunday School/Bible Fellowship ministry through personal involvement and leadership.
2. Deacons should listen carefully to the congregation.
3. Deacons should give wise counsel to the pastor, church staff, committees and congregation.
4. Deacons should work with the pastor to consider and formulate plans in the progress of the church.
5. Deacons should conduct themselves in a manner that provides role models for Godly living.

C. OPERATING PROCEDURES

1. The Deacon Standard Operating Procedures (“SOP”) discusses in detail the operations of the deacon body.
2. The Deacon SOP should be consulted in regards to the election of deacon officers, deacon status, the deacon selection process, deacon training and other deacon matters.

ARTICLE VI CHURCH GOVERNANCE

I. COMMITTEES, TEAMS AND COUNCILS

- A. The Committee on Teams and Committees shall be composed of nine or more church members who have been elected by the church. The Committee on Teams and Committees shall nominate members of standing committees, teams and councils for election by the church.

B. COMMITTEES

1. Committee members shall be elected by a majority of the church members present at a business meeting. Members shall have the right to nominate from the floor additional members to serve on any committee.
2. In addition to the committees specified in the Standard Operating Policies, the church shall authorize such additional committees as are necessary to attend to the activities of the church.
3. All who serve on committees shall be members of the church.

C. **MINISTRY TEAMS AND COUNCILS**

1. Church ministry teams shall be composed of church members united by a common vision using their spiritual gifts in Christian service to God, His church, and His children.
2. Councils shall be composed of church members who are normally appointed based on their representative positions within the church.

II. **BUSINESS MEETINGS**

- A. Church business shall be conducted during regularly scheduled and specially called business meetings as provided for in the Standard Operating Policies.
- B. The current edition of Roberts' Rules of Order shall be the guideline for parliamentary rules of procedure for all business meetings.

III. **RULES FOR GOVERNANCE**

- A. The church shall be governed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, the Articles of Incorporation, this Constitution, Bylaws and such Standard Operating Policies as the church and its committees may adopt which are not in conflict herewith.

**ARTICLE VII
DISSOLUTION**

The First Baptist Church of Bryan, Texas, may be dissolved only with authorization by its membership giving direction to the church officers. This authorization shall be presented at a special meeting called for that purpose and approved by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the membership present. Upon dissolution or other termination of First Baptist Church, Bryan, TX, all remaining assets of the Church, after payment in full of its debts, obligations, and necessary final expenses, or after the making of adequate provision thereof, shall be distributed to a qualified church of like faith and order or other mission cause affiliated with the Creath Brazos Baptist Association or the Baptist General Convention of Texas as shall be chosen by the Church Officers. A quorum for this vote shall be established as 20% of the average Sunday school attendance for the past month.

**ARTICLE VIII
AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the Bylaws must be proposed in writing at any duly-called business meeting of the Church. Within seven days, copies of the proposed amendment will be furnished to the membership. To allow time for discussion, voting cannot occur for at least 30 days after completing distribution. Amendments to the Bylaws shall be approved by three-fourths (3/4) ballot vote of the church members voting in a duly-called business meeting. A quorum for the ballot vote shall be established as 20% of the average worship attendance for the past month.

ARTICLE IX
ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

Should any conflict or discrepancy arise between the Constitution, Bylaws or Standard Operating Policies, the Constitution takes precedence, with the Bylaws following in order of precedence.

These Bylaws supersede all previous Bylaws.

Adopted on _____