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CHURCH COVENANT

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 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 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 contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expense 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 and acquaintances; to 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 of, and use of intoxicating drinks and beverages and 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 one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

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

ARTICLES OF FAITH

I. THE SCRIPTURES

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. It reveals the principles by which God judges us; and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ.

Ex 24:4; De 4:1-2; 17:19; Jos 8:34, Psa 19:7-10; 119:11, 89, 105, 140, Isa 34:16; 40:8; Jer 15:16; 36:1-32, Mat 5:17-18; 22:29; Lu 21:33; 24:44-46, Joh 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Ac 2:16; 17:11, Rom 15:4; 16:25-26; 2Ti 3:15-17, Heb 1:1-2; 4:12; 1Pe 1:25; 2Pe 1:19-21

II. GOD

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience.

The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Gen 1:1; 2:7; Ex 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11; 20:1, Lev 22:2; De 6:4; 32:6; 1Ch 29:10; Psa 19:1-3, Isa 43:3, 15; 64:8; Jer 10:10; 17:13, Mat 6:9; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11, John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7, Rom 8:14-15; 1Co 8:6; Gal 4:6; Eph 4:6, Col 1:15; 1Ti 1:17; Heb 11:6; 12:9; 1Pe 1:17; 1Jo 5:7

B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ he was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself the demands and necessities of human nature and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, partaking of the nature of God and of man, and in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the

living and ever present Lord.

Gen 18:1; Psalm 2:7; 110:1; Isa 7:14; 53:1-12, Mat 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16, 27, Mat 17:5; 27; 28:1-6, 19; Mark 1:1; 3:11, Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46, John 1:1-18, 29; 10:30, 38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50, John 14:7-11, 16:15-16, 28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20, 28, Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5, 20, Rom 1; 3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3, 34; 10:4, 1Co 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8, 24-28; 2Co 5:19-21, Gal 4:4-5; Eph 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Php 2:5-11, Col 1:13-22; 2:9; 1Th 4:14-18; 1Ti 2:5-6; 3:16, Tit 2:13-14; Heb 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28, Heb 9:12-15, 24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1Pe 2:21-25; 3:22, 1Jo 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2Jo 7-9, Rev 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16

C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the assurance of God to bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Gen 1:2; Jud 14:6; Job 26:13; Psa 51:11; 139:7, Isa 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32, Mat 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mk 1:10, 12, Luke 1:35; 4:1, 18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49, John 4:24; 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-14, Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17, 39 Acts 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6, Rom 8:9-11, 14-16, 26-27; 1Co 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11, Gal 4:6; Eph 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1Th 5:19, 1Ti 3:16; 4:1; 2Ti 1:14; 3:16; Heb 9:8, 14, 2Pe 1:21; 1Jo 4:13; 5:6-7; Rev 1:10; 22:17

III. MAN

Man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of His creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence; whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin, and as soon as they are capable of moral action become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore every man possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Gen 1:26-30; 2:5, 7, 18-22; 3; 9:6, Psa 1:1-6; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isa 6:5; Jer 17:5, Matt 16:26; Acts 17:26-31, Rom 1:19-32; 3:10-18, 23; 5:6, 12, 19; 6:6, Rom 7:14-25; 8:14-18, 29; 1Co 1:21-31; 15:19, 21-22, Eph 2:1-22; Col 1:21-22; 3:9-11

IV. SALVATION

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal

redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, sanctification, and glorification.

A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Savior.

Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer into a relationship of peace and favor with God.

B. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual perfection through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

C. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Gen 3:15; Ex 3:14-17; 6:2-8, Mat 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6, uke 1:68-69; 2:28-32, John 1:11-14, 29; 3:3-21, 36; 5:24; 10:9, 28-29, John 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31, Acts 17:30-31; 20:32; Rom 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3, Rom 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18; 29-39; 10:9-10, 13, Rom 13:11-14; 1Cor 1:18, 30; 6:19-20; 15:10, 2Co 5:17-20; Gal 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15, Eph 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Php 2:12-13; Col 1:9-22; 3:1, 1Th 5:23-24; 2Tim 1:12; Titus 2:11-14, Heb 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8, 14, James 2:14-26; 1Pe 1:2-23; 1Jo 1:6-2:11, Rev 3:20; 21:1-22:5

V. GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is a glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the cause of Christ, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Gen 12:1-3; Ex 19:5-8; 1Sa 8:4-7, 19-22, Isa 5:1-7; Jer 31:31, Mat 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22, 31; 25:34, Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48, John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45, 65; 10:27-29, John 15:16; 17:6, 12, 17-18; Acts 20:32, Rom 5:9-10; 8:28-39;

10:12-15; 11:5-7, 26-36, 1Co 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Eph 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11, Col 1:12-14; 2Th 2:13-14; 2Ti 1:12; 2:10, 19, Heb 11:39-12:2; 1Pe 1:2-5, 13; 2:4-10, 1Jo 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2

VI. THE CHURCH

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.

This church is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In such a congregation members are equally responsible. Its Scriptural officers are pastors and deacons.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages.

Mat 16:15-19; 18:15-20, Acts 2:41-42, 47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23, 27, Acts 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Rom 1:7, 1Co 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12, Eph 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11, 21; 5:22-32, Php 1:1; Col 1:18; 1Ti 3:1-15; 4:14

VII. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to 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 the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Mat 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mk 1:9-11; 14:22-26, Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23, Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7, Rom 6:3-5; 1Co 10:16, 21; 11:23-29; Col 2:12

VIII. THE LORD'S DAY

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private, and by refraining from worldly amusements, and resting from secular employments, work of necessity and mercy only being excepted.

Ex 20:8-11; Mat 12:1-12; 28:1; Mk 2:27-28; 16:1-7, Luke 24:1-3, 33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1, 19-28, Acts 20:7; 1Co 16:1-2; Col 2:16; 3:16; Rev 1:10

IX. THE KINGDOM

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

Gen 1:1; Isa 9:6-7; Jer 23:5-6, Mat 3:2; 4:8-10, 23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29, Mk 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32, Luke 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36, Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Rom 5:17; 8:19, 1Co 15:24-28; Col 1:13; Heb 11:10, 16; 12:28, Pe 2:4-10; 4:13; Rev 1:6, 9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22

X. LAST THINGS

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

Isa 2:4; 11:9; Mat 16:27; 18:8-9, Mat 19:28; 24:27, 30, 36, 44; 25:31-46; 26:64, Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40, 48; 16:19-26, Luke 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3, Acts 1:11; 17:31; Rom 14:10; 1Co 4:5, 1Co 15:24-28, 35-58; 2Co 5:10; Php 3:20-21, Col 1:5; 3:4; 1Th 4:14-18; 5:1; 2Th 1:7; 2:1-17, 1Ti 6:14; 2Ti 4:1, 8; Tit 2:13; Heb 9:27-28, James 5:8; 2Pe 3:7; 1Jo 2:28; 3:2, Jude 14; Rev 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13

XI. EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Gen 12:1-3; Ex 19:5-6; Isa 6:1-8, Mat 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19, Mat 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53, John 14:11-12; 15:7-8, 16; 17:15; 20:21, Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3, Rom 10:13-15; Eph 3:1-11; 1Th 1:8; 2Ti 4:5, Heb 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1Pe 2:4-10; Rev 22:17

XII. EDUCATION

The cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian schools is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

De 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Neh 8:1-8; Job 28:28, Psa 19:7; 119:11; Pro 3:13; 4:1-10; 8:1-7, 11; 15:14, Ecc 7:19; Mat 5:2; 7:24; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40, 1Co 1:18-31; Eph 4:11-16; Php 4:8; Col 2:3, 8-9, 1Ti 1:3-7; 2Ti 2:15; 3:14-17; Heb 5:12-6:3, James 1:5; 3:17

XIII. STEWARDSHIP

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Gen 14:20; Lev 27:30-32; De 8:18; Mal 3:8-12, Mat 6:1-4, 19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29, Luke 12:16-21, 42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47, Acts 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Ro 6:6-22; 12:1-2, 1Co 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2Co 8-9; 12:15, Php 4:10-19; 1Pe 1:18-19

XIV. COOPERATION

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine; and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

Ex 17:12; 18:17; Jud 7:21; Ezr 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15, Ne 4; 8:1-5; Mat 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20, Mk 2:3; Luke 10:1; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1; 4:31-37; 13:2-3, Acts 15:1-35; 1Co 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2Co 8:1-9:15, Gal 1:6-10; Eph 4:1-16; Php 1:15-18

XV. THE CHRISTIAN AND THE SOCIAL ORDER

Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in his own life and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Christ Jesus. The Christian should oppose in the spirit of Christ every form of greed, selfishness, and vice. He should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

Ex 20:3-17; Lev 6:2-5; De 10:12; 27:17, Psalm 101:5; Mic 6:8; Zech 8:16, Mat 5:13-16, 43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35, Mk 1:29-34, 2:3; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:2, John 15:12; 17:15; Rom 12-14; 1Co 5:9-10; 6:1-7, 1Co 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Gal 3:26-28; Eph 6:5-9, Col 3:12-17; 1Th 3:12; Phm 1:1-25; Jas 1:27; 2:8

XVI. PEACE AND WAR

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love.

Isa 2:4; Mat 5:9, 38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36,38, Rom 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Heb 12:14; Jas 4:1-2

XVII. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

Gen 1:27; 2:7; Mat 6:6-7, 24; 16:26; 22:21, John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Rom 6:1-2; 13:1-7, Gal 5:1, 13; Php 3:20; 1Ti 2:1-2; Jas 4:12, 1Pe 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

I. INCORPORATION

This congregation of the Body of Christ shall be known as the Southside Baptist Church of Decatur, Alabama, Incorporated.

II. CHURCH CHARACTER

Section 1 - POLITY. The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body; it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation, which are common among Southern Baptist Churches.

Section 2 - DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION. This church shall be a cooperating member of the Morgan Baptist Association, the Alabama Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Section 3 - DOCTRINE. This church is a congregation of baptized believers in Christ, united by covenant for worship of Almighty God, and associated in the faith and fellowship of the gospel to practice its precepts. The Church receives the Bible as the Word of God and as its authority in matters of faith and practice.

Section 4 - MEMBERSHIP. The membership of this Church shall be composed of individuals who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and affirm the tenets of the Southside Baptist Church Constitution, and who offer evidence, by their confession and their conduct, that they are living in accord with their affirmations and this Constitution and Bylaws, and are actively pursuing and continuing in a vital fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The membership of the Church shall have final authority in all matters of church governance, as set forth and described in the Bylaws.

Section 5 – STATEMENT OF MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY. We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Holy Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of sexual immorality such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one’s sex, or disagreement with one’s biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

III. RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1 - Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and giving evidence of

change of heart, may upon being baptized, be admitted to the fellowship and privileges of the church. Every applicant for membership by profession of faith, by letter, by statement, or restoration, shall appear in person before the church unless, in the judgment of the pastor, he or she is providentially hindered at the time request for membership is presented.

Section 2 - Members of other Southern Baptist Churches may be received into fellowship of the church on presentation of letters of dismissal and recommendation from their respective churches.

Section 3 - Persons who have once been members of Baptist Churches and in consequences of peculiar circumstances have no regular letters of dismissal, may be received into fellowship by statement of conversion experience, evidence of Christian character and former church relationship.

Section 4 - Candidates from churches of other faiths will be baptized unless such church holds to the baptism defined in Article VII of the Articles of Faith. The pastor will counsel all persons who are candidates by statement before presenting them to the church for membership.

Section 5 - Persons who have been expelled for cause may be restored to the fellowship of the church when they have so requested and manifested renewed interest, devotion and repentance to the satisfaction of the congregation.

Section 6 - Any member may object to the reception of any applicant for membership, in which case the matter shall be referred to the Deacons to investigate and make recommendations to the church in conference.

IV. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Letters of dismissal shall be granted upon request of any church of the same faith and practice.

Section 2 - Members will be retained on the roll until: (1) granting of letter (2) removed by death (3) removed upon uniting with a church of a different faith and practice (4) removed because of disciplinary action by the church in conference or, (5) removed because the member requested in writing that his or her name be taken off the church roll.

V. OFFICERS

Section 1 - The officers of the Church shall include a Pastor, Church Staff, Deacons, Trustees, Clerk, Director of Sunday School, Director of Discipleship Training, Director of Woman's Missionary Union, Director of Men's Ministry, Librarian, Church Hostess,

and such other officers as the Church may deem necessary.

VI. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1 – Pastor. The Pastor will give himself to the ministry of the Word and the leadership of the congregation. A job description will be written in a Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual.

Section 2 - Church Staff. The church shall call or employ such staff members as the church shall need. A job description will be written in a Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual. Vocational staff members, Secretaries and Custodians shall be recommended to the Church by the Personnel Committee and employed by church action.

Section 3 – Deacons. The Deacons shall consist of 15 members, each elected for three year terms, on a staggered basis with one third of the positions being filled each year. A deacon shall be ineligible for re-election as an active deacon for one year from the expiration of his own term or any un-expired term of which he may be serving two years or more. A member must be an adult male at least 25 years old and be active in attendance and support for one year before he is eligible to become an active deacon. A Deacon shall also meet the scriptural requirements as specified in I Timothy 3: 8-13. Staff members, either full or part-time, shall not be eligible to become an active deacon.

Duties - The duties of the Deacons shall be those prescribed in the New Testament. They shall promote peace, harmony and the spirit of cooperation among the membership. The deacons shall be diligent in their attendance of the services, and shall manifest at all times full cooperation with the church leadership and the entire program of the Church. The Deacons shall assist the pastor in the development of spiritual plans. The deacons shall be exemplary in their conduct, discreet in judgment, of honest report, and full of faith. The deacons shall ever be conscious that they are examples to the flock, and set a worthy example of love and loyalty in all Christian graces for the entire church family.

The Deacons shall constitute an Advisory Council in all matters relating to the affairs of the church. There shall be a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary. The Deacons shall meet monthly and more often when necessary. A majority of the Deacons shall constitute a quorum. The Deacons shall receive reports from various officers and committees as desired. The Deacons will carefully consider such reports and make such recommendations and suggestions as may seem judicious and for the best interest of the church. The Deacons shall be specifically charged with administering the Lord's Supper and the Deacon's Family Care Program. A deacon shall be present at every Deacons' meeting, (except for providential hindrance), and if unable to attend due to sickness or work obligation, a deacon should examine himself as to the effectiveness of his deaconship and if his attendance does not improve, ask to be put on the inactive status for one year

Election - No later than one month prior to Deacon election, any church member may submit a nominee believed to possess the Biblical requirements outlined in I Timothy 3:8-13, Acts 6:1-7, and Romans 16. Those making nominations should secure both the individual's permission to do so and a commitment to serve if elected. Nominees are to be at least 25 years old and a member of Southside Baptist Church for more than one year. Nominations are to be submitted in writing to the Pastor or Deacon Screening Committee that consists of the Pastor, Deacon chairman, and the five outgoing Deacons. After interviewing and hearing testimony from each nominee, the Screening Committee will submit to the church a list of those believed to meet scriptural qualifications. Church members will vote for no more than five names from the ballot. The five nominees receiving the most votes by the church will be elected to a three-year term. Deacon Ordination will be scheduled for those never having been ordained. Deacons must remain off the active body for one year immediately after serving a full term and are therefore ineligible for election that same year.

Vacancy -In the event a vacancy shall occur on the active board during the first 2 ½ years of a deacon's term, the vacancy will be filled. If a vacancy shall occur within the last six months of the third year the vacancy will not be filled. The man receiving the next highest number of votes in the last deacon election will be selected to fill the unexpired term. A vacancy occurs when a deacon resigns, transfers his church membership, moves out of the church area so that he is unable to serve or dies.

Section 4 – Trustees. There shall be three trustees who shall serve for three years. Each year a trustee shall be elected for a term of three years. The trustees shall constitute a regulatory body to oversee all matters pertaining to, but not restricted to, bonding, insurance, taxation, employment laws, real estate, trust funds and any other matter of a legal definition or nature which could have any bearing on the solvency and/or stability of the corporation. The trustees shall be charged with the business interest of the church, and shall receive reports from the various officers and committees. The trustees will then make recommendations and/or suggestions as may seem judicious and for the best interest of the church. In conjunction with the Pastor, they shall determine when the buildings or grounds shall be used for purposes other than regular church activities. Trustees shall periodically inspect the buildings and grounds for hazards or other items that might affect the insurance coverage or cause a possible liability against the church. Discrepancies will then be reported to the Building Committee and the Grounds Committee. The Trustees will be responsible for the security of all buildings and contents, and any other defined responsibility listed elsewhere in this document.

Section 5 – Clerk. The clerk shall be elected annually before September 1, of each year on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee. The clerk shall serve as the secretary of all business meetings of the church in conference and shall keep a record of all such meetings. The clerk will duly inscribe proceedings of meetings in a permanent book; prepare the annual letter and table of statistics concerning the work of the church. This material will be sent to the Morgan Baptist Association, and the clerk will perform such other duties as may arise in the execution of the clerkship. A copy of minutes of

each business session shall be filed in the church office.

Section 6 - Director of Sunday School. The Director of Sunday School shall be elected annually before September 1, of each year on recommendation of the Nominating Committee. The Director shall have general supervision of the Sunday School. The Director shall see that officers and teachers are provided, adequate space and equipment are available, and that the records are properly kept. The Director shall preside at the monthly workers' council, officers' and teachers' meetings, make a report on the condition of the Sunday School to the church conference, and make such recommendations as deemed for the best interest of the Sunday School to the Church Council. The Director shall also make an annual summary to the church at the close of the year.

Section 7 - Director of Discipleship Training. The Director of Discipleship Training shall be elected annually before September 1, of each year on recommendation of the Nominating Committee. The Director shall have supervision and direction of the activities of Discipleship Training. The Director shall see that leaders and adequate space and equipment are provided for doing the work in the departments and classes. The Director shall report on the activities of the Discipleship Training to the church conference and shall make such recommendations as deemed advisable to advance the work to the Church Council. The Director shall also make an annual summary to the church at the close of the year.

Section 8 - Director of Woman's Missionary Union. The Director of Woman's Missionary Union shall be elected annually before September 1, of each year on recommendation of the Nominating Committee. The Director shall have supervision and direction of the activities of the Union and its Auxiliaries. The Director shall be responsible for the cooperation of the members of the Union as they relate to the overall program of the church. The Director shall make reports to the church, with such recommendations and suggestions as deemed for the interest of the church.

Section 9 - Director of Men's Ministry. The Director of Men's Ministry shall be elected annually before September 1, of each year on recommendation of the Nominating Committee. The Director shall have supervision and direction of the activities of the Men's Ministry. The Director shall be responsible for the enlistment and participation of the men of the Church in the work of the Men's Ministry and shall encourage cooperation with the overall program of the church. The Director shall make reports to the church, with such recommendations and suggestions as deemed for the interest of the church.

Section 10 – Librarian. The Librarian shall be elected annually before September 1, of each year on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee. The Librarian shall have supervision and control of the church library. The Librarian will coordinate with the Media Committee in maintaining an adequate supply of media for use by the church. The Librarian will be accountable for the location of all materials and equipment. The Librarian shall have the authority to make purchases as necessary from budgeted or special funds to maintain an updated library.

Section 11 - Church Hostess/Wedding Coordinator. The church will elect the chairperson of this committee before January 1, of each year, for one year, on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee. The chairperson will have the responsibility of recruiting church members to perform responsibilities. The duties and responsibilities are: (1) Plan and take care of all church wide functions, such as fellowships, men's cake bake, and related functions, (2) Decorate for Deacon's Banquet and Mother-Daughter Banquet, (3) Plan receptions for incoming or departing staff, or any function that includes the entire church, (4) Meet with brides and assist with wedding plans if requested, (5) Plan wedding teas or showers for all of our church family.

VII. CHURCH COMMITTEES AND COORDINATING GROUPS

Church Council. The Church Council shall consist of the Pastor, Church Staff, Director of Sunday School, Director of Discipleship Training, Director of Woman's Missionary Union, Director of the Men's Ministry, Chairman of the Deacons, and other members or ex-officio members as the Pastor may appoint. The duties of the Church Council fall into three categories: Planning, coordinating, and evaluating the programs, program services, and administrative services of the church. In the area of planning, the Church Council has two tasks: (1) formulate and recommend to the congregation suggested church objectives and goals, (2) develop and recommend to the congregation strategies for reaching church goals. In the area of coordinating, the Church Council has two main tasks to perform: (1) review church officers, organizations and committees; and provide for adequate communication among church officers, organizations and committees, (2) review and report as appropriate to the congregation the use of resources in terms of the needs of church programs, as the church council works toward the objectives and goals of the church. In the area of evaluating, the Church Council has the task of evaluating program achievements in terms of church objectives and goals, and report evaluations to the congregation.

General. The Church Committee members shall be recommended by the Committee on Committees and elected by the church unless otherwise indicated. The committees shall include: Baptism, Benevolence, Building, Capital Improvements, Flower, Food, Greeters, Grounds, History, Homebound, Lord's Supper, Media, Missions, Nominating, Personnel, Publicity, Security, Stewardship, Ushers, and Van. The Nominating Committee will recommend the following committee members: Committee on Church Cooperation Representative, Committee on Committees, Church Clerk, Fellowship, and Morgan Baptist Executive Representative.

Section 1 - Baptism Committee. The Baptism Committee is a rotating committee composed of six members, three men and three women. The church will elect the members before January 1, of each year for three years on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. This committee is to provide the name of the chairperson to the Committee on Committees. The duties and responsibilities are: (1) Assist the candidates in and out of the baptistery. After baptism, give each candidate as much privacy as possible in assisting them back to their dressing room, (2) Remain with candidates until all are dressed and ready to leave for the worship service, or for home if the service is held at the close of the worship hour, (3) Appoint one male member of the committee to assist the Pastor before and after the ordinance to assure a minimum of time needed for dressing, (4) Arrange for baptismal garments, towels, and other supplies to be ready for the next baptismal service.

Section 2 - Benevolence Committee. The Benevolence Committee will be composed of three members. The church will elect one member before January 1, each year for three years on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. The Woman's Missionary Union Director, the Men's Ministry Director and the Chairman of the

Deacons will be ex-officio members of this committee, and will meet with the elected members at least once a year. This committee will provide the name of the chairperson to the Committee on Committees. The duties of this committee are: (1) Develop ministry guidelines to follow and to make recommendations to the church as to what kind and how much assistance will be provided, (2) Make a thorough study of all needs for assistance in the church membership and respond to requests in the community. Work closely with the Pastor, Deacons and other leaders and members of the church in locating and meeting these needs, (3) Serve as a clearinghouse, or coordinating group, for all benevolent actions carried out by the Sunday School classes, Women's Missionary Union, Deacon Family Ministry groups and other church organizations, (4) Determine available community agencies that provide various types of assistance, and refer persons to appropriate agencies that would have help available, (5) Decide on criteria for considering requests for help, and investigate all requests, (6) Recommend to the church requests for budget allocations and resources needed for ministering to the needs of people, (7) Review and evaluate periodically all assistance being provided, (8) Involve church members in benevolent ministries when possible, (9) Make yearly reports to the Pastor, Deacons and church.

Section 3 - Building Committee. The Building Committee is a rotating committee composed of four members. The church will elect either one or two members before January 1, of each year, for three years, on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. The committee is to provide the name of the chairperson to the Committee on Committees. The duties and responsibilities are: (1) Assure that all church buildings are properly maintained, (2) Inspect church buildings periodically, (3) Develop and recommend policies and procedures concerning maintenance of buildings, (4) Prepare recommendations for the Stewardship Committee, and administer a maintenance budget on all buildings, (5) Evaluate responsibilities and recommend improvements as needed.

Section 4- Capital Improvements Committee. The Capital Improvements Committee is a standing committee composed of not less than five members. The church will elect the members before January 1, of each year, for three years, on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. This committee is to provide the name of the chairperson to the Committee on Committees. The duties and responsibilities are: (1) Determine present and future needs for capital improvements, (2) Evaluate facilities needed for education, worship, fellowship and recreation, (3) Identify potential properties for purchase that fit into the master building plan, (4) Coordinate the formation of sub-committees as needed for special purposes, (5) Make recommendations and reports to the church.

Section 5 - Committee on Committees. The Committee on Committees shall have six members who serve on a three-year rotation system with two members to be elected each year. Members of the committee will be recommended by the Nominating Committee and begin service on September 1, of each year. The duties and responsibilities are: (1) Recommend church members to serve on all standing church committees except for those excluded below, (2) Recommend to the church, persons to fill vacancies during the year, (3) Review as needed and make recommendations to the church regarding changing the name of a committee, updating the duties of a committee, creating a new committee, or

abolishing a committee that is no longer needed. The Committee on Committees shall not be responsible for filling the following committees: Deacon Screening Committee, Pastor Search Committee, Trustees, Committee on Committees, and the Church Hostess/Wedding Coordinator.

Section 6- Flower Committee. This is a rotating committee composed of three members. The church will elect one member before January 1, of each year by the church for three years on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. This committee is to provide the name of the chairperson to the Committee on Committees. The duties and responsibilities are: (1) Provide (within the limitations of the budgeted amount of dollars) flowers for the sanctuary each Lord's Day as services require, and on other special occasions as the church desires, (2) Select, purchase, and schedule delivery of floral arrangements, (3) Display arrangements in sanctuary, vestibule or other suitable locations with as much professional skill as possible, (4) Secure suitable storage and care for permanent arrangements, (5) Recommend to the Stewardship Committee the amount of dollars needed annually to purchase floral arrangements.

Section 7- Food Committee. The Food Committee is a rotating committee composed of six members. The church will elect two members before January 1, each year, for three years on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. This committee is to provide the name of the chairperson to the Committee on Committees. The duties and responsibilities are: (1) Provide a meal for bereaved families of our church on the day of the funeral. This service is offered to church members, their spouse, children, mothers and fathers, (2) The committee members will serve the meal if requested by the family. The Fellowship Hall and kitchen facilities will not be used unless unusual circumstances exist and then only with the approval of the pastor, (3) A committee member will contact the bereaved family and determine the time and approximate number of people for the meal, (4) The church will furnish meat and ice. Paper or plastic plates, forks, spoons, cups and napkins will be used from the church kitchen. A committee member will record the number of items removed from the kitchen so they can be replaced as needed, (5) Church members that are contacted will provide vegetables (two or three, depending on the number to be served) salads, desserts and tea.

Section 8 – Greeters Committee. The church will elect the chairperson of the Greeter's Committee before January 1, of each year, for one year, on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. The chairperson will have the responsibility of recruiting church members to perform responsibilities. The primary role of the Greeter's Committee is to help create a good first impression of our church on all guests. Duties and responsibilities include: (1) Be friendly and helpful, (2) Assist guests entering church buildings, (3) Meet and register guests, (4) Escort guests and their families to prospective Sunday School Departments, (5) Introduce guests to Department Directors, teachers and other members.

Section 9- Grounds Committee. The Grounds Committee is a rotating committee composed of four members. The church will elect either one or two members before January 1, of each year for three years on the recommendation of the Committee on

Committees. The committee is to provide the name of the chairperson to the Committee on Committees. The duties and responsibilities are: (1) Assure that all church grounds and parking lots are properly maintained, (2) Inspect all church grounds periodically including parking lots, (3) Develop and recommend policies and procedures concerning maintenance of grounds, (4) Assure that the grounds are kept neat and clean, (5) Prepare recommendations for Stewardship Committee and administer budget for all the grounds, (6) Evaluate responsibilities and recommend improvements as needed.

Section 10 - History Committee. The History Committee is a rotating committee composed of six members. The church will elect two members before January 1, of each year, for three years on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. This committee is to provide the name of the chairperson to the Committee on Committees. The duties and responsibilities are: (1) Collect, maintain, and safely preserve all records of the church including, but not limited to, business meeting minutes, weekly newsletter, Sunday bulletin, important legal documents, and photographs, (2) Encourage church leaders to maintain records of their various areas of ministry, (3) Help members appreciate and understand the heritage of their congregation, its ministries, its relationship to the local community, to other Baptists, and to the larger Christian world, (4) Promote and give special recognition to significant events and milestones in the life of the congregation and assist the staff with special celebrations when needed, (5) Strive to keep all records organized and current.

Section 11 - Homebound Committee. The church will elect the chairperson of this committee before January 1, of each year, for one year, on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. The chairperson will have the responsibility of recruiting church members to perform responsibilities. The duties and responsibilities are: (1) Visit each homebound member at least once a month, (2) Deliver Sunday School quarterly, Open Windows, and Mature Living, (3) Visit members in nursing homes, (4) Make favors and deliver to each person at Easter, during the summer months and Thanksgiving, (5) Prepare and deliver fruit baskets to each Homebound family in December.

Section 12 - Lord's Supper Committee. The Lord's Supper Committee is a rotating committee composed of three members. The church will elect one member before January 1, of each year, for three years, on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. This committee is to provide the name of the chairperson to the Committee on Committees. The duties and responsibilities are: (1) See that all necessary equipment and materials are available and in place prior to each observance of the ordinance, (2) Recommend to the church additional equipment needed, (3) Work with the Pastor, Deacons and Minister of Music in developing dates when the ordinance will be observed throughout the year, (4) See that all equipment is gathered, cleaned and stored after each observance.

Section 13 - Media Committee. The Media Committee is a standing committee composed of five members. The church will elect one or two members before January

1, of each year, for three years, on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. This committee is to provide the name of the chairperson to the Committee on Committees. The duties and responsibilities are: (1) Provide and promote use of printed, audio, and visual resources, (2) Maintain control of tapes, recorders, projectors and other audio equipment belonging to the church, (3) Provide consultation to church leaders and members in use of printed, audio, and visual resources, (4) Work with librarian as a resource center for the church.

Section 14- Missions Committee. The Missions Committee is a rotating committee composed of not less than five members. The church will elect the members before January 1, of each year, for three years, on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. This committee is to provide the name of the chairperson to the Committee on Committees. The duties and responsibilities are to lead the church in (1) Discovering, (2) Promoting, (3) Coordinating and (4) Executing missions ministry action, and education to assist the church and its members in fulfilling THE GREAT COMMISSION.

Section 15- Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is a rotating committee composed of three members. The church will elect one member before January 1, of each year for three years on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. This committee is to provide the name of a chairperson to the Committee on Committees. The duties and responsibilities are: (1) Select, interview, and enlist church program organization leaders and general church officers, (2) Approve volunteer workers before they are invited to serve in church elected positions, (3) Assist church leaders to discover and enlist qualified persons to fill church elected positions of leadership in their respective organizations, (4) Present volunteer workers to the church for approval and election, (5) Nominate special committees as assigned by the church, (6) Select and submit to the church in conference, a complete slate of all elective church officers whose terms of office shall be from September 1 until August 31. These shall be elected, when possible, on or before the August church conference, (7) Any elected officer of the church whose term differs from the above stated term of office, shall be as designated by the committee or church.

Section 16 - Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee is a rotating committee composed of five members of which at least two shall be females. Either one or two members will be elected before January 1, of each year by the church for three years on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. This committee is to provide the name of the chairperson to the Committee on Committees. The duties and responsibilities are: (1) Survey the need for additional and new staff positions, (2) Prepare position descriptions for new staff personnel, rewrite job descriptions as needed, and prepare an organizational chart for all church staff personnel, (3) Recruit and interview prospective staff personnel and recommend their employment. Special committees may be elected by the church to work with the Personnel Committee in recommending members of the professional staff to include: Pastor, Assistant Pastor, Minister of Music, Minister of Youth and Education and Minister of Children, (4) Develop and

recommend salaries and benefits for church staff personnel, (5) Develop and recommend a personnel policies and procedures manual consisting of organizational chart of the staff, job descriptions of each staff member, policies and procedures in the following areas: Working days and hours, working schedules, employee absences, vacation time and holidays, salary and benefits program, staff meetings, supervision and staff relationships, training opportunities for self-improvement, attendance at conventions and conferences, and pay periods.

Section 17- Publicity Committee. The Publicity Committee is a rotating committee composed of three members. The church will elect one member before January 1, of each year, for three years, on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. The committee will provide the name of the chairperson to the Committee on Committees. The duties and responsibilities are: (1) Determine, create and promote effective ways to advertise services and programs for the church, both ongoing ministries and special events, (2) Suggest ideas of improving all church produced literature such as the bulletin, newsletter and letterhead stationary. This includes items impacting overall quality such as artwork, design and print work, (3) Maintain a line of open communication with church staff and office personnel regarding changes to our web site that includes format and overall appearance.

Section 18 - Security Committee. The Security Committee is a rotating committee composed of four members. The church will elect either one or two members before January 1, of each year for three years on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. This committee is to provide the name of a chairperson to the Committee on Committees. The duties and responsibilities are: (1) Establish and maintain a key log and to change locks as required, (2) Establish a patrol roster for internal and external church security, (3) Establish an inventory list of all church property and conduct periodic inventory of church property, (4) Have periodic evaluations of church security system and make recommendations to the church as needed, (5) Prepare an itemized budget request each year for the committee work, (6) Prepare a yearly report to the church.

Section 19- Stewardship Committee. The Stewardship Committee is a rotating committee composed of six members. The church will elect two members each year before January 1, for three years on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. This committee is to provide the name of the chairperson to the Committee on Committees. The Deacon chairman and the Pastor can serve as ex-officio members. The principle function of the committee is to assist the church in stewardship planning, promotion, and financial administration. This committee should be concerned with their own personal development in Christian stewardship and seek to lead every church member to become distinctive Christian stewards. The church shall operate under a unified budget sufficiently detailed to indicate specific items for which expenditures may be charged and financial obligations shall be controlled within budget limitations, with exceptions provided herein. The duties and responsibilities are: (1) Prepare budget proposal by estimating anticipated income based on previous year's church income,

prevailing economic conditions, past year's giving record and anticipated plans for its growth, (2) Prior to first meeting of budget planning the church leadership should submit an itemized list of budget needs for the year, (3) Bring all these lists together for the first meeting of the committee and if it is necessary, notify church leaders to be present at a subsequent meeting to speak to their request, (4) After evaluation and necessary adjustments are made, prepare budget for presentation to the deacons for approval, (5) Present the recommended budget to the church for approval, (6) After church approval, administration of the budget becomes the responsibility of the Stewardship Committee, (7) Consider all requests for expenditures of budget items when money is not currently available in any given section, (8) Hear requests for extra budgeting of financial expenditures and budget revisions and make recommendations as necessary to the church, (9) Advise the church on financial undertakings as to soundness and effect on financial structure and credit standing of the church, (10) Review the monthly financial report which will subsequently be presented to the deacons at their monthly meeting. Similar financial reports will be prepared and presented to the church, (11) Consider all requests to receive additional special offerings and make the recommendations, (12) Provide for all annual audits of all church financial records and books.

Section 20 - Ushers Committee. A morning and evening chairperson and assistant of this committee will be elected before January 1, of each year by the church for one year on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. The chairperson will have the responsibility of recruiting church members to serve as ushers. The duties and responsibilities are: (1) Assist leaders and participants before, during and following worship and special congregational services, (2) Greet and seat persons at worship services, (3) Make certain the sanctuary is orderly before and after the services, (4) Hand out bulletins and assist in receiving offering, (5) Assist in handling parking of visitors when needed.

Section 21 - Van Committee. The Van Committee is a rotating committee composed of six members. The church will elect two members before January 1, of each year for three years on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. The committee is to provide the name of the chairperson to the Committee on Committees. The duties and responsibilities are: (1) Determine policies and procedures concerning the use of the church vans, (2) Assure policies and procedures are followed, (3) Maintain a list of individuals who are approved to drive the vans, (4) Assure the vans are kept clean, (5) Arrange for preventive maintenance and any needed repairs, (6) Maintain sufficient records to assure vans are receiving proper maintenance.

VIII. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Section 1 – General. All church officers and members of the church committees shall be elected before January 1, of each year. No individuals, except members in good standing, shall hold an elected office in Southside Baptist Church or any of its representative educational organizations.

Section 2 - Church Committees. All church committees shall be composed of no less than three members selected by the Committee on Committees and approved by the church before January 1. The terms of all shall be for three years except where otherwise stated.

Section 3 - Special Committees. Special committees shall be appointed by the Moderator, or elected by the church conference for a specific service, and are automatically dissolved upon completion of their duty.

Section 4 - Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Deacons. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Deacons shall be eligible for no more than two consecutive year's service, and shall be nominated and elected by the deacons at their regular meeting in September of each year.

Section 5 - Calling of a Pastor. When the necessity arises to call a Pastor, a Pulpit Committee, composed of at least five members shall be elected by the church. Such committee shall elect a Chairman, Vice-chairman, and Secretary from their number and proceed immediately to select a Minister of the Gospel, coordinating with the Personnel Committee.

The Pulpit Committee shall: (1) give at least one week's notice of the meeting at which it will make a report, (2) at any meeting held for the election of a pastor, no name shall be presented, nor any name considered, except the recommendation of the committee; (3) the church shall vote to accept or reject the recommendation of the committee. If 75% of the members present vote to approve the committee's recommendation, the Moderator shall declare the nominee called. If the recommendation should not be approved, the Moderator shall declare the nominee not called and refer the matter to the committee for further choice. The meeting shall then be adjourned without debate.

IX. GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH

Section 1 - Meeting of the Church Assembly. The government of the church shall be in the hands of the members. Twenty-five members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Nothing herein shall prevent the receiving of members or conducting minor business where no division of spirit may develop.

Section 2 - Administrative Year. The church year shall begin September 1, and run through August 31.

Section 3 - Financial Year. The church financial year shall begin January 1, and run through December 31.

X. BUSINESS MEETING

Section 1 - When Held. The church shall meet in business session once each quarter on the Wednesday evening following the second Sunday during the following months: February, May, August and November.

Section 2 - Special Meetings. The Pastor and Deacons shall convene the church in special conference whenever they deem it expedient, or when requested to do so in writing by not less than twenty-five members. At least one public notice shall be given as to special meetings, but this rule shall not prevent the church from transacting minor business at any time where no division of spirit may develop.

Section 3 - Prayer. The Moderator shall open and close every business meeting with prayer.

Section 4 - Moderator in Absence of Pastor. The Chairman of the Deacons shall serve as Moderator in the absence of the Pastor, and the Vice-Chairman of the Deacons shall serve in the absence of the Chairman.

Section 5 - Rules of Order. In conducting business meetings of the church, the assembly shall be guided by Robert's Rules of Order, except in cases that have special provisions in the manual.

Section 6 - Notice of Regular Meeting. Notice of regular business meetings shall be published in the church bulletin the Sunday preceding the meeting.

XI. EMPLOYEES AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 1 - Employment. The employment and dismissal of staff personnel shall be the responsibility of the Personnel Committee coordinating with the Pastor and subject to the approval of the church. The Pastor shall be charged with the administrative supervision of staff members and other employees.

Section 2 - Duties. The duties of church employees will be outlined in the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual of the church.

XII. DISCIPLINE

Section 1 - General. In the event of the necessity of disciplinary action against some member of the church, the Deacons shall investigate and bring a full report to the Pastor and then to the church, always keeping in mind Jesus' admonition to forgive a brother or sister seventy times seven.

XIII. LICENSE AND ORDINATION

Section 1 - License. Any member who may, in the judgment of the church, give evidence that he is called of God to the work of the ministry, may be licensed to preach the Gospel, provided three-fourths of the members present at any regular church business meeting agree thereto.

Section 2 - Ordination. Ordination may be authorized only after proper call of the candidate by a church of like faith and order, following his license to preach, at which time he will be properly examined by a Presbytery appointed by the church to examine the candidate as to his faith, Christian conduct and knowledge of the Bible and the plan of salvation. The Presbytery shall consist of not less than three members and these shall be Southern Baptist Ministers.

XIV. MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1 - Entertainment. No entertainment or activities for which a fixed admission fee is charged shall be allowed on church property at any time. An exception to this would be for fellowship suppers, banquets, or other church group activities with charges to cover only the expenses involved.

Section 2 - Special Collections or Sales. No special collections or sales will be made without the consent of the Deacons or Pastor. No guest speaker or groups will be allowed to sell books, tapes, records or other materials in the sanctuary or foyer. Persons or groups having the above items for sale, will confine the exhibits and sales to a designated area removed from the sanctuary or foyer.

Section 3 - Removal of Fixtures: Chairs, tables, kitchen utensils or other furniture, fixtures, or equipment shall not be loaned, or otherwise removed from the church, unless approved by the Trustees or Pastor.

Section 4 - Weddings. The church auditorium may be used by any member, their children and grandchildren, for his or her wedding as long as it does not conflict with previously scheduled activities. There is an updated wedding policy in the church's policy manual.

Section 5 - Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at least once a quarter, preferably on the first Sunday.

Section 6 - Baptismal Service. The Ordinance of Baptism may be administered at any worship service. The Baptismal Committee will see that the necessary physical arrangements are made. The ordinance may be administered only by the pastor or any properly ordained Baptist minister.

XV. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT

Section 1 - Adoption. The articles of this manual shall be considered adopted if two-thirds of the members voting at the conference to which they are presented, shall vote for adoption.

Section 2 - Amendment. Any of the articles of this document may be amended, altered or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the members voting at any regular conference, provided, however, such is proposed in writing at the preceding regular church conference.

Section 3 - Repeal. The adoption of this document shall affect a repeal of all previously adopted rules which are not re-adopted herein.

Section 4 - Copies. A copy of this document shall at all times be kept in the records of the church clerk and in the church office. Any amendments or revision thereof shall be incorporated and a hard copy of the official document shall be maintained in the church office and available for review by any member. This shall apply also to any resolution adopted for the permanent or temporary government of the church.

This document was approved by vote of the church membership on February 16, 2011.