

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

GREEN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of preserving and making secure the principles of our faith to the end that this body be governed in an orderly manner, consistent with the accepted tenets of the missionary Baptist churches affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Southern Baptist Convention, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of the church, and to set forth the relationship of this body to other bodies of the same faith, we do declare and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I. NAME

This body shall be known as the Green Street Baptist Church, High Point, Guilford County, North Carolina.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this body shall be to provide regular opportunities for public worship, to sustain the ordinances, doctrines and ethics set forth in the New Testament for the church of our Lord Jesus Christ; to nurture its members through a program of Christian Education; to channel its offerings to the support of the objects of the Redeemer's Kingdom, and to preach and propagate among all people the gospel of the Revelation of God through Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

ARTICLE III. DEFINITION OF TERM

The pronoun "he" when used in this constitution shall refer both to the masculine and feminine gender as the case may be.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of this church shall be composed of persons who have given evidence of regeneration, who have been received by vote of the church and who have been baptized by immersion.

Section 2. A member of another Baptist church of like faith and order may be received by vote of the church and upon receipt of a letter from that church.

Section 3. Anyone who has once been a member of a Baptist church of like faith and order, and in consequence of peculiar circumstances has no regular church letter, may be received into our fellowship upon a statement satisfactory to the church.

Section 4. Letters may be granted to any church of like faith and order. When such letter or letters are granted, membership in this church will terminate.

Section 5. When a member of this church joins a church of different faith and order, membership in this church will terminate.

Section 6. In considering the duties involved, members are expected to be faithful in all the duties essential to the Christian life; to attend regularly the services of the church; to give regularly and systematically to its support; and to share in its organized work.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1. The church shall hold regular meetings for worship, teaching, training, and fellowship.

Section 2. The church shall hold regular business meetings at which time the material and spiritual conditions of the church will be discussed, and the plans projected for their improvement.

Section 3. Other meetings of the church as a whole or of authorized groups within the church shall be set according to the needs of the congregation.

ARTICLE VI. CHURCH OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers: The officers of the church shall be:

A. A pastor, and other vocational leadership as needed.

B. Deacons, trustees, clerk, treasurer, and such other officers as shall be required for the work of the church in any of its departments or organizations. All of these shall be members in good standing and shall be elected by the church.

Section 2. Election and Duties:

A. PASTOR

Whenever a vacancy occurs, a Pastor shall be called by the church to serve until the relationship is dissolved at the request of either the Pastor or the church. In either case, at least thirty days notice shall be given of termination of the relationship, unless otherwise mutually agreed, with both Pastor and the church seeking to follow the will of God and the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Whenever a vacancy occurs, or when the church desires to add a new senior staff position, a special committee shall be designated by the Diaconate for the purpose of selecting such a senior staff member. (It is understood and agreed that a senior staff member shall include the Pastor, Associate Pastor, Church Administrator, Minister of Music, Minister of Education, Minister of Youth and any other vocational leadership as may be desired by the church.) This special committee shall seek out an individual who, by Christian character, education and experience qualify him for the position to be filled. The committee's recommendation to the church, through the Diaconate, shall be as set forth in the calling of a Pastor. This special committee shall consist of five members. Unless the office of Pastor is vacant, the Pastor may serve in an advisory capacity. The committee shall consist of the following:

- One member from the Personnel Committee.
- One member from the Finance Committee.
- One member from the committee or the area of interest most closely associated with the staff position to be filled and
- Two members from the church membership.

The call of the Pastor shall take place at a meeting especially set for the purpose of which at least one week's notice has been given the membership. The election shall be upon the recommendation of a committee, to be designated a Pastor Search Committee, elected to seek out and nominate as Pastor, a minister of the gospel whose Christian character, education, and experience qualify him for the office of Pastor of this church.

The committee shall bring only one name at a time for consideration by the church, and no nomination shall be made except that of the committee. Election shall be by ballot. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present and voting shall be necessary for a Call.

Should the one recommended by the committee fail to receive a three-fourths affirmative vote, the committee will be instructed to seek out another minister, and the meeting shall be adjourned without debate.

The Pastor shall have as his responsibility the spiritual welfare and the general oversight of the church. He shall be ex-officio member of all organizations, departments, and committees; he may call a special meeting of all organizations, departments, and committees; he may call a special meeting of the Diaconate or any committee according to procedures which may be set forth in the By-laws.

He shall conduct religious services on stated and special occasions, administer the ordinances, minister to members of the church and community, and perform other duties that usually pertain to that office; he shall have charge of the pulpit ministry of the church and shall, in cooperation with the Diaconate, provide for pulpit supply when he is absent and arrange for workers to assist in revival meetings and other special services.

The Pastor shall preside at all meetings of the church except as otherwise provided in the By-laws. He shall be the administrative head of the church.

B. DEACONS

1. Election

The church shall have 39 Deacons, all of whom shall not be less than 25 years of age **and who have been members of the church for a period of at least three years**, who shall be nominated and elected as follows: The term of office for Deacons will be for three consecutive years to coincide with the regular church year (July 1- June 30) except as otherwise specified in the Constitution and By-laws. The number of men representing one third of the active Deacons (those normally retiring at the end of the present church year) as well as additional men needed to fill the vacancies which have occurred during the present church year, shall be elected according to the Constitution and By-laws. A Deacon who has served a full three-year term will not be eligible for another term until the lapse of **two years**. A Deacon elected to fill an unexpired term of one year or less becomes eligible for re-election at the end of the unexpired term.

The plan of election of Deacons shall be as follows: **during the month of January each year voting members of the church may nominate men to be Deacons. The nominees should be men who are not less than 25 years of age, members of the church for a period of at least three years, and who fulfill the qualities of deacon as described in I Timothy Chapter 3. A list of men eligible for nomination will be available.**

The Deacon Election Committee, described below, will collect the nominations. Based on their willingness to serve if elected, their Biblical qualifications, and the needs of the deacon body, the Deacon Election Committee will, after interviews of nominees, select the number of nominees needed to fill the vacancies for the coming year.

At the regular business meeting in May the Deacon Election Committee will present their recommendation to the church. The church will have the right to reject, in part or in total, the recommendations of the committee, and should any rejection occur, the committee will continue selecting nominees until all vacancies have been filled. After the church has elected men to fill the vacancies, should an ordination service be required, the Pastor and the Chairman of the Deacons shall then arrange the required ordination service.

Deacons shall at all times consider themselves as servants of the church. With the Pastor, and as the Holy Spirit may direct, they are to consider and make recommendations to the church in all matters pertaining to its work and progress, including oversight of the discipline of the church.

They shall arrange for regular meetings and such committees as are necessary to the discharge of their duties. The Pastor, or the Chairman of the Diaconate, may call the Diaconate into special session whenever need for such arises.

2. Termination

Should a man serving as active Deacon find it impossible to continue to participate in the work to which he has been elected, he shall advise the Pastor and Chairman of the Deacons. They, in turn, shall request the church, at the next regularly scheduled time of election, to select a replacement. Should the church or the active Deacons feel that one duly elected should be replaced, they shall, after careful study, bring their recommendation to the church.

3. Deacon Election Committee

The Deacon Election Committee shall be composed of the Chairman of the Deacons, two currently serving Deacons, and three at-large members of the church. The currently serving Deacon body will select the members of the Election Committee.

C. TRUSTEES

The church shall elect seven members to serve as Trustees. Their term of office shall be for seven years. Vacancies may be filled at any time with the one elected filling out the un-expired term of the one whose vacancy is being filled. After the completion of a full seven-year term, no Trustee shall be eligible to re-election until after the lapse of one year. At the first election after the adoption of this constitution, one Trustee will be elected for a term of one year, one for two years, one for three years, one for four years, one for five years, one for six years, and one for seven years. The Trustees shall elect annually their own Chairman.

The Trustees shall as provided by law and the action of the church hold in trust the title to all property of the church and shall represent the church in all matters of legal responsibility regarding the purchase, improvement, and disposal of church property. They shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property of the church without the passing of a resolution authorizing same by church in a regular business meeting. The resolution shall be considered passed if and when two-thirds of the members present at the business meeting, at which vote is taken, shall vote in favor of same. Neither shall they have any control over the use of the church property except by a like vote of the church. The signing of any legal paper or document by six Trustees would be authentic, legal, and official.

D. CLERK

The clerk shall be elected for a term of one year and shall not be eligible to serve for more than three successive years. It shall be his duty to attend, or be represented at all church business meetings, to keep an accurate record of all business transactions, to see that the annual associational letter is prepared, and to see that all officers, members of committees, and messengers are notified of their election or appointment. He shall issue letters of transfer as authorized by the church, and preserve a true history of the church. It shall also be the duty of the clerk to see that an accurate roll of the church membership is kept with dates and methods of admission and dismissal, change in name, and correct mailing addresses, and other pertinent information.

E. TREASURER

The Treasurer shall be elected for a term of one year and shall be eligible to be re-elected from year to year at the pleasure of the church. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to secure offerings on Sunday morning and evening; to assist in collection and/or securing of special offerings or love offerings; to co-sign checks with the Church Business Administrator or Finance Secretary; to assist the Financial Secretary as needed in the proper receipt and accounting and disbursements of income. The financial books of the church shall be audited annually.

ARTICLE VII. GENERAL

Section 1. LICENSE. When a person announces to the church that he feels the call to the ministry, the church, by majority vote of those present at the business meeting, may license him as an acknowledgment of his call to the ministry. The clerk of the church may furnish the person with a copy of the minutes or a certificate of license as his credentials. It is understood that the performance of civil duties by the person shall be governed by state law.

Section 2. ORDINATION. In the event this church has been requested to ordain a person who has been called

in to Christian service, the following procedure shall be followed: The church may invite the Associational Council on Ordinations to examine the candidate and report to the church, or form its own council to examine the candidate and make recommendations to the church. Then, in the event the report of the committee is favorable, the church shall proceed with the ordination.

Section 3. AFFILIATION WITH ASSOCIATION AND CONVENTIONS. We recognize the there is mutual helpfulness in the association of churches who are in such agreement in faith and practice as to encourage the spirit of fellowship and good will. We also recognize that organizations have been devised, through the voluntary cooperation of churches of like faith and order, whose purpose it is to implement the missionary, educational, and benevolent interests and obligations of the individual Christian and his church family.

Believing that the Central Baptist Association, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and the Southern Baptist Convention are organizations which have as their sole purpose the promotion and support of missions, education, and benevolence of the character and in keeping with the spirit of the constitution and the Articles of Faith of this church (see Article IX) we, therefore, agree to participate in these organizations through our duly elected messengers and our support of the causes which these organizations represent.

Section 4. Property Holding. It is agreed that the securing and maintaining of real property, building, and equipment by this church shall be for the express purpose of providing facilities for public worship and for the furtherance of the missionary, educational, and benevolent interests of this church, of the character and in the spirit of the constitution and Articles of Faith of this congregation.

If at any time this church shall determine to alter the quality or nature of its beliefs and practices so as in important respects to be at variance with the character described in this constitution and in these Articles of Faith, and if the decision is by less than a three-fourths vote of those present at a regular business meeting of the church, after two weeks notice of such regular meeting shall have been given to the membership of the church, it is understood that the rights of the property of the church shall inhere in that part of the congregation which shall agree to continue to use the property for the purpose for which it was purchased and has been to that time maintained.

ARTICLE VIII. CHURCH COVENANT

Section 1. This church holds at all times that the New Testament is its final authority in matters of faith and practice.

Section 2. A copy of the Covenant of this church is as follows:

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

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort;

To promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrine;

To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;

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 and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our effort to advance the kingdom of the Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love;

To remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech;

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.

Section 3. A copy of the Covenant of this church shall be printed and inserted in THE BAPTIST HYMNAL or such hymnal as may be in use for congregational worship at all times.

ARTICLE IX. ARTICLES OF FAITH

The Articles of Faith of this church are the same as those adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963, and amended in 1998, and are as follows:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

XIII. STEWARDSHIP

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and all 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

XVIII. THE FAMILY

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church, and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel for sexual expression according to Biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on Biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Gen.1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Ex.20:12; Deut.6:4-9; Josh.24:15; ISam.1:26-28; Ps.51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Prov.1-8; 15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Eccl.4:9-12; 9:9; Mal.2:14-16; Matt.5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Rom.1:18-32; ICor.7:1-16; Eph.5:21-33; 6:1-4; Col.3:18-21; ITim.5:8,14; 2Tim.1:3-5; Titus2:3-5; Heb.13:4; IPeter3:1-7.

ARTICLE X. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This constitution shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when three-fourths of the members present at the business meeting at which vote is taken shall vote in favor of same. This vote shall be taken not less than fourteen days after formal presentation of the constitution to the church. Such vote shall be by secret ballot.

Section 2. This constitution may be amended, altered, or repealed by a three-fourths vote of the members present at any regular business meeting of the church; provided, however, that such amendment, alteration, or repeal shall be given to the clerk in writing; and this proposed change shall be presented by the clerk to the church at the next business meeting of the church, and that vote on such proposed change be not less than fourteen days thereafter, and that notice of the time such proposed change will be voted upon and be published in the official weekly publication of the church at least seven days before such vote is taken. Such vote shall be by secret ballot.

Section 3. The adoption of this constitution shall affect a repeal of all previous documents, rules, and regulations in conflict therewith.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. DEFINITION OF TERM

The pronoun "he" when used in these By-laws shall refer both to the masculine and feminine gender as the case may be.

ARTICLE II. MEETINGS

Section 1. The regular worship services of the church shall be held on Sundays and Wednesday evenings, unless otherwise agreed upon by the church. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at least once a quarter at a time approved by the church.

Section 2. The regular business meeting time of the church shall be the Wednesday evening after the regular monthly meeting of the Deacons.

Such regular business meeting may be postponed from time to time due to conflicts or other good causes. Special business meetings may be called by the Pastor or the Chairman of the Diaconate at such time as they may be needed, with reasonable notice of the time and place of meeting given to the congregation. The elected Moderator shall preside at the church business sessions. In his absence or upon his request, the Chairman of the Diaconate or Vice-Chairman of the Diaconate may preside.

Section 3. Committee meetings shall be called by the chairman of the committee. He shall preside.

ARTICLE III. OTHER CHURCH OFFICERS

In addition to those named in the constitution, other officers of the church may be a Director of the Sunday School, Director of Discipleship, Director of the Brotherhood, Director of the Woman's Missionary Union, Associate Pastor, Church Administrator, Minister of Education, Minister of Music, Minister of Youth, Pianist, Organist, Parliamentarian, and such other officers as may be requested by the church.

Section 1. Director of Sunday School. The Director of Sunday School shall have general oversight of the entire school, and shall administer its affairs in cooperation with the plans and methods of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, subject to the approval of the local church. He shall acquaint himself with the best methods of religious education and endeavor to adopt them in this school. It shall be his duty to counsel weekly or monthly with his officers and teachers through Officers and Teachers Meetings in the work of the school, giving advice and receiving suggestions from his co-workers. He shall make a report of the work of the Sunday School at the regular business meetings of the church. The Director of Sunday School shall be elected for a term of one year and shall not be eligible to serve for more than five successive years.

Section 2. Director of Discipleship. The Director of Discipleship shall have charge of the activities of the Discipleship Training Program. He shall acquaint himself with the program and methods outlined by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention for this organization and shall endeavor to adopt such programs in this church, subject to the approval of the church. He shall make a report of the work of the Discipleship Training Program at the regular business meeting of the church. The Director of Discipleship Training shall be elected for a term of one year and shall not be eligible to serve for more than five successive years.

Section 3. Director of the Brotherhood. The Director of the Brotherhood shall promote the work of the Brotherhood as outlined by the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, seeking to enlist the men of the church in an active program for Christ. He shall see that a report is given at the regular business meeting of the church. The Director of the Brotherhood shall be elected for a term of one year and shall not be eligible to serve for more than three successive years.

Section 4. Director of the Woman's Missionary Union. The Director of the Woman's Missionary Union shall seek to enlist all the women and young women of the church in a program of missions, training, giving, and activity according to plans promoted by the Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention. She shall have available a report which is given at the regular business meetings of the church. The Director of the Woman's Missionary Union shall be elected for a term of one year and shall not be eligible to serve for more than three successive years.

Section 5. Associate Pastor. The Associate Pastor shall work under the direction of the Pastor in all the activities of the church and assist in carrying out the program of the church as outlined by the Pastor. He shall serve at his own pleasure and the pleasure of the church.

Section 6. Church Administrator. The Church Administrator shall work under the direction of the Pastor in all the activities of the church and assist in carrying out the program of the church as outlined by the Pastor. He shall have charge of all business matters of the church and care, maintenance, and custody of church property. He shall serve at his own pleasure and the pleasure of the church.

Section 7. Minister of Education. The Minister of Education shall be responsible for the entire educational program of the church. He shall work with and assist the Director of Sunday School, Director of Discipleship Training, Director of Brotherhood, and Director of Woman's Missionary Union in putting into effect the plans and methods of the agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention, subject to the approval of this church. He shall work under the direction of the Pastor in all of the activities of the church and assist in carrying out the program of the church as outlined by the Pastor. He shall serve at his own pleasure and the pleasure of the church.

Section 8. Minister of Youth. The Minister of Youth shall direct and be responsible for the entire Youth Program of the church. He shall seek to enlist the youth of our church in the various activities of the church in cooperation with the graded choir program, the W.M.U., G.A. program, and the Brotherhood - R.A. program. He shall work under the direction of the Pastor in all the activities of the church and assist in carrying out the program of the church as outlined by the Pastor. He shall serve at his own pleasure and the pleasure of the church.

Section 9. Minister of Music. The Minister of Music shall be responsible for providing worship music at all services. He is to direct the choir, or choirs, in practice and public singing and is to work with and under the supervision of the Pastor and work with other leaders in the selection of suitable music, and the devising of appropriate musical programs for all occasions where such services are needed. He shall serve at his own pleasure and the pleasure of the church.

Section 10. Pianist and Organist. The pianist and organist shall play for all public services and shall serve under the Minister of Music in planning and carrying out a suitable program of music for the church. Each shall serve at his own pleasure and the pleasure of the Personnel and Music Committees.

Section 11. Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian should be one versed in the rules and usages of Parliamentary procedure, according to ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, assist the presiding officer in making decisions as to correct procedure during a business meeting. He shall be elected by the church for a term of one year. In the event that the duly elected Parliamentarian is unavailable to serve at any meeting and such official is needed, the Moderator and Chairman of the Deacons may appoint a qualified individual to serve.

Section 12. Moderator. The moderator shall be the presiding officer during church business sessions. He shall be elected by the church for a term of one year. In the event the moderator is absent from a business session, he shall designate the Chairman of the Diaconate or Vice-Chairman of the Diaconate to preside.

Section 13. Minister of Childhood Education. The Minister of Childhood Education is responsible for planning, promoting, implementing, and evaluating a comprehensive program for the Preschool and Children's Division (birth-6th grade) of the church ministries. The minister is responsible to the Minister of Education and Pastor. She/he shall serve at her/his pleasure and the pleasure of the church.

Section 14. Minister of Senior Adults. The Minister of Senior Adults is responsible to the congregation and pastor for leading in a program of visitation, outreach, ministry, and programming to meet needs of Senior Adults and lead them to be useful in church and community service. He shall serve at his own pleasure and the pleasure of the church.

Section 15. Minister of Single Adults. The Minister of Single Adults is responsible to the congregation and pastor for leading in a program of visitation, outreach, ministry, and programming to meet needs of Single Adults. He shall serve at his own pleasure and the pleasure of the church.

Section 15. Pastor to the Deaf. The Pastor to Deaf is responsible to the Senior Pastor for a ministry to the deaf of our community. He shall lead in worship services, administer the ordinances, minister to members of the deaf church and community, and provide for program of Christian Education and ministries. He shall serve at his own pleasure and the pleasure of the church.

ARTICLE IV. CHURCH COUNCIL

Section 1. Church Council. The Church Council shall be composed of the church officers, the Chairman of Deacons, each committee Chairman, and the Associational Representatives.

Section 2. The Duties of the Church Council. The Church Council shall meet at least on a quarterly basis. The Church Council shall work with the Pastor and staff in developing a program of evangelism, training, teaching, and enlistment for the church. The Church Council shall be responsible for cooperating with the staff in developing a church calendar of activities for accomplishing the programs of the church, and coordinating the church program ministries and activities. The Church Council shall evaluate the results of all programs, ministries, and activities and be prepared to recommend changes where needed.

ARTICLE V. STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Number of Committees. The church shall elect such standing committees as may be deemed necessary to carry on the various phases of the program of the church efficiently and effectively. In any event, the church shall at all times have the following standing committees: Nominating, Finance, House, Grounds, Personnel, Missions, Constitution and By-laws Committee.

Section 2. Members of all standing committees, shall be elected for a term of three years, except when the committee is first created for one year, one-third for two years, and one-third for three years. No member shall serve for more than three successive years, and all standing committees, shall be on a rotation basis. No person shall serve on more than one standing committee at one time. Members are elected to serve January-December on committees. The Nominating Committee shall bring its report by the November business meeting.

Section 3. Duties of Committees:

A. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The members of the Nominating Committee shall consist of six members of the church serving a three year staggered term. The two shall be nominated by the Pastor, Chairman of the Diaconate, the Director of WMU, the Director of Brotherhood and the two people who currently rotate off the Nominating Committee. The nomination for new members of this committee shall be brought to the church for election not later than the first Wednesday in December each year. The Pastor, Associate Pastor, Minister of Education, Church Administrator, Minister of Music, Minister of Youth, Minister of Childhood Education, Minister of Senior Adults, Minister of Single Adults shall be ex-officio members of this committee. The committee will elect its own Chairman.

Throughout the year, this committee shall have the responsibility of nominating to the church persons to serve in the various capacities and positions of the church and its organizations, and on standing and special committees vacated from time to time, by removal, death, expiration of term of office, or failure to function.

The first report of the committee each year shall consist of nominations for the office of Sunday School Director, Director of Discipleship, Woman's Missionary Union Director, and Brotherhood Director and shall be made not less than ninety days prior to the beginning of their term of office. Upon their election, these persons shall become members of the Nominating Committee, to assist with the selection of other personnel for the organization and committees of the church.

The report of the committee shall be suggestive to the church, and any member of the church will have the privilege of making nominations from the floor. No member shall be eligible to serve for more than three successive years, except that Sunday School and Discipleship Training Directors shall serve throughout their tenure. Members who hold a position on this committee shall be exempt from any restrictions on holding two committee assignments.

B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

This committee shall be composed of 9 members and may consist of members of the Diaconate of the church and/or of persons selected from the membership at large. In any event, at least three members of the Diaconate shall be members of the committee. This committee shall meet monthly, or at other regular intervals, to consider the financial condition of the church and shall make regular reports of the same to the church in business meetings. This committee shall prepare annually a proposed budget including local expenses, education, missions, and benevolence, and shall submit the same to the deacons. After due consideration by the deacons, the proposed budget shall be presented to the church. Upon adoption, it becomes the duty of the Finance Committee, together with such other as may be needed, to secure pledges to underwrite the budget and to provide the members with envelopes for the paying of pledges.

C. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

This committee shall have six members. It shall be the duty of this committee to assist the Pastor in the supervision of the salaried personnel of the church. This committee is responsible for setting personnel policies, which will include such things as establishing regular working hours and all absences and vacations of all church employees. It shall, with the advice and counsel of the Pastor, and/or Church Administrator, make recommendations to the Diaconate regarding the employment or termination of employment of all church employees. On minor personnel matters the committee may delegate this authority to the Church Administrator.

D. GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Principal Function: The Grounds Committee ensures proper care and upkeep of the church grounds.

Membership: The committee shall consist of six members recommended by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church.

Responsibilities:

1. Make recommendations concerning the landscaping and care of the grounds around the church complex.
2. Arrange for lawn maintenance contract on an annual basis.
3. Plan preventive maintenance, maintenance, and proper use of all parking lots, drives, sidewalks, grass, shrubs, and trees.
4. Develop and recommend plans for arranging, equipping, and administration of parking spaces.

E. HOUSE COMMITTEE

Principal Function: The House Committee ensures the proper care of all church buildings.

Membership: The committee shall consist of six members recommended by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church.

Responsibilities:

1. Inspect church buildings periodically. Give attention to the mechanical, electrical, and structural conditions of the buildings.
2. Plan for preventive maintenance work. Be responsible to see that all the equipment is properly operating.
3. Maintain an inventory of all church owned equipment and its location within the complex.
4. Establish fees for use of the complex for groups other than Green Street Baptist Church, Central Baptist Association, North Carolina Baptist Convention, or Southern Baptist Convention.
5. Develop and recommend policies and procedures related to church buildings.
6. Prepare Budget recommendations in consultation with Administrator and Pastor.
7. Consult with church organization leaders and other groups concerning adequate furnishings.
8. Evaluate the Security Service annually.

F. MISSION COMMITTEE

This committee shall have six members. It shall be the duty of this committee to work with the Pastor and Deacons in the establishment and operation of local missions; that is, the establishment of Sunday Schools and preaching stations in and around High Point and the operation of the same. It shall also be the duty of this committee to direct surveys looking toward the establishment of missions and to recommend buildings for such missions and in general to supervise missions and Sunday Schools being sponsored by this church.

G. CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

The Constitution Committee shall have six members. It shall be the duty of this committee to review the constitution and to make recommendations for any changes. It shall also be the duty of this committee to call to the attention of the church any action or activity in variance with the constitution.

Section 4. Other Standing Committees

The church will have other standing committees as needed.

Section 5. Service Groups.

The church shall have Service Groups as needed.

ARTICLE VI. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Special committees shall be elected for specific purposes as desired by the church. These committees shall be elected by the church upon the recommendations of the Diaconate unless the church directs their appointments in a different manner.

ARTICLE VIII. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These By-laws shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when a majority of the members present at the business meeting at which vote is taken shall vote in favor same. This vote shall be taken not less than fourteen days after formal presentation of the By-laws to the church and shall be by secret ballot.

Section 2. Any of the rules in these By-laws may be amended, altered, or repealed by a majority vote of the members present at any business meeting of the church; provided, however, that notice and proposal of such amendment, alteration, or repeal shall be given in writing at a preceding business meeting of the church and provided further that such proposal of such amendment, alteration, or repeal be published either in the official weekly publication of the church or the Sunday church bulletin before any vote is taken.

ARTICLE IX.

Section 1. The adoption of these By-laws shall affect a repeal of all previously adopted rules in conflict herewith.

Amendments to Constitution and By-Laws

Amended October 3, 1984

Amended April 23, 1986

Amended September 30, 1987

Amended April 28, 1991

Amended September 2, 1992

Amended September 1998

Amended June 15, 2005