

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF SOLWAY BAPTIST CHURCH



PREAMBLE

Reposing our faith wholly in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation and believing in the teaching and practices of New Testament Baptists. We do bind ourselves together, as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ and adopt for our government and plan of worship and service the following articles:

ARTICLE 1 CHURCH NAME AND MISSION

SECTION 1.01—NAME

This congregation of believers shall be known as **Solway Baptist Church**.

SECTION 1.02 – MISSION

The object of this church is the salvation of souls, the edification of Christians through the teaching of God's Word, the world-wide proclamation of God's saving grace expressed in the shed blood and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary; the promotion of Godly worship, the defense of "the faith once delivered" and cooperation with Christian activity functioning in harmony with God's Holy Word, the Bible, until He comes.

ARTICLE 2 STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 2.01—STATEMENT OF FAITH

- (A) *The Holy Scriptures.* We believe the Old and New Testament Scriptures are the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible and God-breathed and are, therefore, the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning, and all issues of interpretation and meaning shall be determined by the pastor. The Authorized King James Version of the Bible shall be the official and only translation used by the church in preaching and teaching. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF SOLWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

- (B) *Dispensationalism.* We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life that define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these dispensations—the law, the church, and the kingdom—are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture. (Gen. 1:28; 1 Cor. 9:17; 2 Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. 1:10; 3:2-10; Col. 1:24-25, 27; Rev. 20:2-6)
- (C) *The Godhead.* We believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; John 14:10, 26; 2 Cor. 13:14)
- (D) *The Person and Work of Christ.*
- (1) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8)
 - (2) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through the shedding of His innocent blood on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice of death, and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 2:24; 1 Peter 1:3-5)
 - (3) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Acts 1:9-10; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2)
- (E) *The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.*
- (1) We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14)
 - (2) We believe that He is the divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit. (Eph. 1:17-18; 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27)
 - (3) We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF SOLWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

church to do the work of the ministry. (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12)

- (4) We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing and prophecy were temporary. Speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit. Ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, although God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing and that prophecy ended with John the Revelator when God closed the book of Revelation (1 Cor. 1:22; 13:8; 14:21-22; Rev. 22:18-19)

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

- (G) *Salvation.* We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. We believe that all sins, except blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, are forgivable. (Matt. 12:31-32; John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:9)

- (H) *The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers.*
 - (1) We believe that once a person is saved, he is kept by God's power and remains secure in Christ forever. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet. 1:4-5)
 - (2) We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15)

- (I) *The Church*
 - (1) We believe that the local church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again believers. (1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27)
 - (2) We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament. (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)
 - (3) We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or controls, and any affiliations, societies, organizations, associations, or agencies this church affiliates with to further the objectives stated in the Purpose Statement are

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF SOLWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

not authoritative in matters of church practice or belief. (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1, 4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; 1 Pet. 5:1-4)

- (4) We recognize water baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the church in this age. (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 8:36-38; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)
- (J) *Separation.* We believe that believers should maintain a godly testimony and live in such a way that that their lives do not bring reproach upon their Savior. God commands His people to separate from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations, and to refrain from all immodest and immoderate appearances, piercings, and bodily markings. We stand against all worldly philosophies that seek to destroy or undermine the truth of Biblical Christianity. (Lev. 19:28; Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11)
- (K) *The Second Coming of Christ.* We believe in that blessed hope, the personal, imminent return of Christ, who will rapture His church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints, to establish His Earthly Messianic Kingdom, which was promised to the nation of Israel. (Ps. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; 1 Thess. 1:10; 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6)
- (L) *The Eternal State.*
- (1) We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13)
- (2) We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6)
- (3) We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment. (Matt. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15)
- (M) *The Personality of Satan.* We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10)
- (N) *Creation.* We believe that the Genesis account of creation is neither allegory nor myth but a literal, historical account of God's creation of the universe in six literal, 24-hour days.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF SOLWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin. (Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11)

- (O) *Civil Government.* We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home, 2) the church, and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. We believe that we must obey the state unless it requires us to act contrary to our faith at which time we must obey God rather than the state. (Matt. 22:15-22; Acts 5:29; Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Titus 3:1-2; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-14)
- (P) *Human Sexuality.*
- (1) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one naturally-born man and one naturally-born woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1: 26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)
 - (2) We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one naturally-born man and one naturally-born woman for life. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)
- (Q) *Family Relationships*
- (1) We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)
 - (2) We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4, Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF SOLWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

- (R) *Divorce and Remarriage.* We believe that God disapproves of and forbids divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon. (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6)
- (S) *Abortion.* We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well-being of the mother are acceptable. (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)
- (T) *Euthanasia.* We believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death. Thus, we believe that an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder contrary to the will of God. Discontinuing medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be a legitimate refusal of over-zealous treatment. (Ex. 20:13, 23:7; Matt. 5:21; Acts 17:28)
- (U) *Love.* We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward those who are not believers, those who oppose us, and those who engage in sinful actions. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions. (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10; 17-21; 13:8-10; Phil. 2:2-4; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; 1 John 3:17-18)
- (V) *Lawsuits Between Believers.* We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32; Matt. 18:15-17)
- (W) *Missions.* We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF SOLWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

SECTION 2.02—AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teachings of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members. All literature, whether print or electronic, used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith.

SECTION 2.03—COVENANT

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

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spreading of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and personal 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 to 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 as a beverage; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

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 courtesy of speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Saviour 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.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF SOLWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

ARTICLE 3 CHURCH GOVERNMENT AND AFFILIATION

SECTION 3.01 – GOVERNMENT

This church is an autonomous body of baptized (immersed) believers and the government being vested in its active membership and exercised through its duly elected officers. The instruments of government are the King James Version Holy Bible (All 66 Canonized Books), the Articles of Faith, Church Covenant and Bylaws.

SECTION 3.02 – AUTONOMY

- (A) We, Solway Baptist Church of Knoxville, Tennessee, shall be known as an Independent Fundamental Baptist Church.
- (B) This church reserves the right to fellowship with and Christian organization that clearly holds to our Articles of Faith and in no way lays claim to any of our property. In no wise shall this church become a permanent “affiliate” or “member” of an organization; we forever hold the right to withdraw fellowship.

SECTION 3.03 – SEPERATION

In no wise shall this church cooperate, fellowship or contribute to any organization identified as the National Council of Churches and/or connected with the so-called “charasmatic renewal.”

ARTICLE 4 CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 4.01 – CHURCH MEMBERSHIP DEFINED

This church shall consist of baptized (immersed) believers in Christ, who take the King James Version Bible as their only rule of faith and practice.

SECTION 4.02 – MEMBERSHIP ACQUISITION

Persons may be received into membership of this church by:

- (A) By letter of recommendation from another baptist church of like faith and order.
- (B) By relation (statement) of their christian salvation experience, having previously been baptized into a baptist church of like faith and order.
- (C) By confession of faith in Jesus Christ as personal saviour and following Him in scriptural water baptism.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF SOLWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

In each case, the candidate must give clear evidence of a change of heart, the testimony of a christian life and the adoption of the views of faith and practice upheld by this church.

SECTION 4.03 – MEMBERSHIP DISMISSAL AND STATUS

- (A) A member in good standing may be dismissed to the fellowship of another baptist church by letter of recommendation. A member wishing to withdraw from the church to enter some other denomination shall be dropped from membership role.
- (B) To be considered an active member of this church and maintain ones voting privledges, a member must have attended at least twelve (12) regular services during the preceding six (6) months, unless providentially hindered. Those who willfully absent themselves for the stated period of time shall automatically be placed on an inactive list, forfeiting the voting privledge afforded to active members.

SECTION 4.04 – CHURCH DISCIPLINE

- (A) All members of this church shall hold themselves subject to the discipline of this church and shall conduct themselves in accordance to the Constitution and the Covenant of Faith of this church.
- (B) In a case where offence is believed to have been given and that, for the sake of the church's purity and integrity, the offender should be disciplined by the church; those who are in possession of evidence concerning the alleged offender must present that evidence in writing to the Discipline Committee for condideration. Because the office of Pastor is worth double honor, no accusation shall be received against the pastor without two (2) or three (3) witnesses (1 Timothy 5:17,19).
- (C) A member under church discipline is prohibited from all the rights of membership, including dissmisal to another baptist church. If found guilty of the charges made, he/she may, by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active membership present and voting, be excluded; provided, however, that due notice of the meeting be given to all active members in advance and the accused member afforded an opporotuniy to appear in his/her own behalf; and provided, also, that the steps pointed out by Jesus Christ in the 5th and 18th chapters of the Gospel of Matthew be strictly followed in attempt to secure reconciliation and forgiveness, if possible, before the church takes action.
- (D) If a member under church discipline shall voluntarily make confession to the church and manifest an evidence of true repentance, no further proceedings shall be entertained. One who has been excluded from membership may be reinstated to full fellowship by making a voluntary confession, showing true repentance and by expressing a desire to reunite with the church in fellowship.

ARTICLE 5 CHURCH OFFICES AND QUALIFICATIONS

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF SOLWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

SECTION 5.01 – THE EXISTENT OFFICES

The offices of this church shall consist of pastor, deacon(s), trustees, church clerk, church treasurer, assistant treasurer and financial clerk. All persons holding such offices shall be members of this church.

SECTION 5.02 – THE OFFICE OF PASTOR

- (A) A pastoral candidate for this church must meet the qualifications of that office as listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and rigorously adhere to the Articles of Faith adopted by this church.
- (B) The pastor shall be, elected for a term of office of two (2) years by the active church membership at the annual Election (Administrative) Business Meeting, by the process described in paragraph (E) of this section.
- (C) The pastor/church relationship may be dissolved by mutual agreement after thirty (30) day notice. This time may be extended to meet the needs of the pastor or church by mutual agreement.
- (D) On occasion of a pastor or church desire to terminate the relationship without mutual agreement, either party may disregard mutual agreement and terminate the relationship. If the pastor terminates the relationship, the church is automatically relieved of any further obligation as to salary or regular extent of church facilities. Other arrangements may be made by mutual agreement. If the church should terminate the relationship, the church will extend regular church facilities and salary for one (1) month.
- (E) The call or dismissal of a pastor shall come before the church at a regular or specially called business meeting, with notice of such meeting and its purpose having been announced from the pulpit on two successive Sundays previous. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of all active members present and voting shall be necessary to make such action valid.
- (F) In the event of a vacancy occurring in the pulpit due to death, resignation or termination, the Board of Deacons shall constitute the Pulpit Committee.
- (G) Any speaker occupying the pulpit or otherwise addressing this church membership must first be approved by the pastor or pulpit committee if pulpit vacancy exists.

SECTION 5.03 – THE OFFICE OF DEACON

- (A) Those individuals designated as Church Deacons must meet the qualifications of that office as listed in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. A proving period (as mentioned in verse 10) shall be defined as six (6) months prior membership in this church and eighteen (18) months tenure as a born again believer.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF SOLWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

- (B) This church shall have sufficient number of deacons (such a number determined by the pastor), who constitute the Board of Deacons, provided such men are available who meet the requirements of paragraph A of this section.
- (C) An incumbent deacon, derelict in his qualifications or duties, shall be asked to resign his office. If a resignation is refused, said deacon may be removed from office in a special church business meeting, duly announced, by a simple majority vote of active church members present and voting.
- (D) All nominations for the office of Deacon shall be submitted to and accepted by the Nomination Committee within a period of one to three (1-3) weeks prior to the annual Election (Administrative) Business Meeting. Those individuals nominated for the office of Deacon shall be screened by the Nomination Committee so as to determine candidate status.
- (E) Each deacon shall be elected for a term of office of three (3) years by the active church membership at the annual Election (Administrative) Business Meeting and shall hold office until successor is elected or he vacates that office as prescribed in paragraph C of this section.
- (F) Whenever the number of deacon offices is increased (such need determined by the pastor), the total number required to fill the vacancies will be elected at the next annual Election (Administrative) Business Meeting. Newly elected deacons shall be installed according to Acts 6:1-7.

SECTION 5.04 – THE OFFICE OF TRUSTEE

- (A) The pastor shall be chairman of the Board of Trustees. In the event of a pulpit vacancy, the president of the Board of Deacons shall act as chairman. The trustees of this church shall be the Pastor, President of the Board of Deacons, Treasurer and two (2) Trustees at Large.
- (B) In the event of a non-existent deacon board or insufficient number of deacons; the trustees or balance of such, shall consist of men nominated by the pastor and duly elected by the active church membership. Each trustee shall be elected for a term of office of one (1) year by the active church membership at the annual Election (Administrative) Business Meeting and shall hold office until successor is elected or he vacates that office.

SECTION 5.05 – THE OFFICES OF TREASURER, ASSISTANT TREASURER AND CHURCH CLERK

The church treasurer, assistant treasurer and church clerk shall be elected from active church membership. Each shall be elected for a term of office of one (1) year by the active church membership at the annual Election (Administrative) Business Meeting and shall hold office until successor is elected or he vacates that office.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF SOLWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

SECTION 5.06 – THE OFFICE OF FINANCE CLERK

The finance clerk shall be appointed by the pastor.

ARTICLE 6 DUTIES OF CHURCH OFFICES

SECTION 6.01 – GENERAL RESPONSIBILITY

In order to promote a high spiritual standard in the church, all officers, teachers and committee men will be members of this church and will be expected to attend regular services or the church faithfully when not providentially hindered.

SECTION 6.02 – DUTIES AND AUTHORITY OF THE PASTOR

- (A) The pastor shall preach the Gospel regularly, administer the ordinances, act as moderator of all meetings for the transaction of business, supervise the teaching ministry of the church, tenderly watch over its membership and spiritual interest and organize and develop its strength for the best possible service.
- (B) In the event of illness, absence or pulpit vacancy, the associate pastor shall act as business meeting moderator. If there be no associate pastor, the President of the Board of Deacons shall act as moderator and make provisions to fulfill pastoral duties throughout the vacancy. If the President is not available, someone duly elected from the Board of Deacons shall moderate that particular meeting.
- (C) The pastor shall be given liberty by the church to conduct revivals, Bible conferences or other such meetings as he feels led of the Holy Spirit to do so. He shall be at liberty to attend seminars, fellowship meetings and conferences he deems necessary to his ministry. When the pastor is absent from his pulpit, he is responsible to engage a suitable supply.
- (D) The pastor shall hire, discharge and accept or reject resignations of all salaried personnel of this church.
- (E) The pastor shall possess authority for the appointment and removal of all church staff not holding elected positions (superintendents, teachers, clerks, etc.).
- (F) The pastor shall be Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Chief Executive Officer of this church.

SECTION 6.03 – DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

- (A) The Board of Deacons shall constitute a standing committee of finance and committee to whom church officer nominations shall be submitted. In the event of a non-existent deacon board, church office nominations shall be submitted to the pastor.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF SOLWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

- (B) The deacons shall officiate, with the pastor at the Lord's supper, attend to the necessities of the poor and act as an advisory committee to the pastor in planning the work of the church financially and otherwise. With the pastor, they will make such recommendations to the church as they deem wise and aid the pastor in zealously guarding and fostering the spiritual life of the church. A quorum for the transaction of business shall be a majority of the deacons.
- (C) All deacon board meetings shall be called by the pastor, who will also act as moderator of the meetings. No meeting is to be called in the absence of the pastor except to conduct necessary routine business. Such meeting may be called by the elected President of the Board of Deacons.
- (D) No changes in accepted policies shall be voted on at a meeting where the pastor is not present.
- (E) It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee (Board of Deacons) to make recommendations to the church for overall distribution of all funds. It shall be their duty and responsibility to keep the expenditures of the church within limits conducive to sound business and in proportion to the income of the church. When it is necessary to consider a major expense or to assume additional expanded expenses due to church growth, it shall be the duty of the Finance Committee, after careful study, to report to the church in detail and secure church approval before legally committing such funds.
- (F) Such expenditures as the purchase of office equipment and supplies, special missions gifts and/or other similar expenditures may be made with the approval of the Finance Committee and the pastor.
- (G) It shall be the duty of the Nomination Committee (Board of Deacons) to interview and screen individuals nominated for offices to be filled and to obtain favorable advance commitment for qualified nominees to serve if elected.

SECTION 6.04 – DUTIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The trustees of this church, at the direction of the membership (such direction having been attained by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of all active members present and voting), shall conduct all legal business of the church. General upkeep expenses will be governed by the trustees and the pastor. Anything outside of the general upkeep will be voted on for approval by the church.

SECTION 6.05 – DUTIES OF THE CHURCH CLERK

The church clerk shall:

- (A) Keep a current record of the proceedings of the church at all meetings (e.g. business meetings, deacon board meetings and various committee meetings necessitating his/her presence).

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF SOLWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

- (B) Keep a complete registry of current membership.
- (C) Be responsible for the issue of dismissal letters and call for letters of recommendation as directed by the church.
- (D) Preserve all papers and letters coming into his/her hands during the term of office and delivering the same and all records kept by the church clerk to his/her successor.

SECTION 6.06 – THE DUTIES OF THE TREASURER AND ASSISTANT TREASURER

- (A) The church treasurer and assistant treasurer shall receive and account for all funds contributed and shall disburse the same as ordered by the church and finance committee.
- (B) The church treasurer shall present a monthly financial report of church receipts and disbursements to the finance committee. A detailed report showing the financial condition of the church will be submitted to the entire church at each business meeting.

SECTION 6.07 – DUTIES OF THE FINANCE CLERK

The finance clerk shall assist the treasurer and/or assistant treasurer in the receiving and accounting of all funds contributed. He/she shall not possess legal or administrative authority.

ARTICLE 7 CHURCH BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

SECTION 7.01 – GENERAL PRINCIPLES

It shall be understood that organizations of the this church are part of this church and subject to its jurisdiction. They shall not conduct themselves in any way that is unbecoming of the christian faith or that shall bring discredit to the body of which they are a part of. They shall, in no way, allow any activities that are contrary to scripture or disapproved of by this church.

SECTION 7.02 – ROLE OF THE PASTOR

- (A) The pastor shall be ex-officio, voting member of all boards and committees of this church

SECTION 7.03 – THE ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEES

- (A) Any subsequent committee, deemed necessary for a proper church function by either the pastor or board of deacons, will be reviewed by the pastor and board of deacons, whereby its necessity and outline of duties will be determined.
- (B) A decision by both parties (pastor and deacon board) to create any permanent church committee (e.g. Missions Committee) will require the submission of such recommendation to a church vote. If the approval is obtained, an amendment will be made to these bylaws listing the committee in article 7 and outlining its duties in article 6.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF SOLWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

- (C) A decision by both parties (pastor and deacon board), in accordance with paragraph A, to create any temporary committee (e.g. Building Committee) will not require a church vote or bylaw amendment.

SECTION 7.04 – THE PULPIT COMMITTEE

- (A) The Board of Deacons shall constitute the pulpit committee. The President of the Board of Deacons shall act as chairman of the Pulpit Committee and shall convene the committee at the earliest possible time after the pulpit has been vacated.
- (B) In the event of a pulpit vacancy and there be no deacons, a minimum of three (3) men or an odd number, duly elected by the church, shall convene for the sole purpose of seeing pastoral candidates. After a pastor is named, this interim Pulpit Committee shall be dissolved.
- (C) The Pulpit Committee shall be authorized by the church to investigate and consider all names of pastoral candidates received by them and to invite such candidates to visit the church. Each pastoral candidate invited to visit, in anticipation of a call, shall be voted on by the church before another candidate is invited to visit.
- (D) The Pulpit Committee shall be responsible for interviewing the pastoral candidate and placing in his hand a copy of this instrument, the Articles of Faith and church Covenant. A pastor can only be called by this church at a duly called meeting (see Article 5).

ARTICLE 8 CHURCH BUSINESS MEETINGS

SECTION 8.01 – CHURCH BUSINESS MEETINGS

- (A) The pastor shall moderate at all church business meetings.
- (B) All church business meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer.
- (C) The names of all who make, and second motions shall be included in the church minutes. Those individuals making, and seconding motions shall stand and respectfully address the moderator.
- (D) Another motion shall not be entertained until all consideration and discussion of the current motion has been disposed of.
- (E) Salaries of full-time employees of this church will be set and regulated from time to time, as necessity requires, by active church membership during business meetings.
- (F) Discourteous language or remarks intended to injure the reputation or feelings of any other member shall be ruled out of order and such a speaker shall forfeit his/her right to be heard.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF SOLWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

- (G) The introduction of any matter foreign to the subject at hand shall be ruled out of order.
- (H) Special business meetings, with a minimum of advance notice of three (3) days given at regularly scheduled service, may be called by the pastor whenever such meetings are deemed necessary.
- (I) A special business meeting may be called by any active member of this church by submitting a petition, which states clearly the date, time and purpose of such meeting, and includes the names of the petitioners. Said petition shall be by the church clerk, endorsed by three (3) church officers and three (3) unrelated members at large. Such a meeting shall be announced from the pulpit on two (2) successive Sundays previous, stating the date, time and purpose of the meeting.
- (J) All special business meetings must be in references to those topics duly announced (see paragraphs H and I). Any motion to the contrary shall be ruled out of order.
- (K) Any and all “secret” or unauthorized meetings of this church shall be invalid.
- (L) A quorum for all regular and special business meetings of the church shall consist of at least twenty (20) percent of the active church membership, eighteen (18) years of age or older.

ARTICLE 9 CHURCH VOTING

SECTION 9.01 – METHOD

Unless otherwise authorized by this church, all voting at this church shall be by a showing of hands.

SECTION 9.02 – QUALIFICATIONS

All scripturally baptized members of this church who are in good standing, eighteen (18) years of age or older and in possession of “active member” status shall be entitled to vote.

SECTION 9.03 – REQUIREMENTS

Unless otherwise stated, a simple majority vote of all members present and voting, who are in compliance with the qualifications Section B, is required for all church business.

ARTICLE 10 AMENDMENTS

SECTION 10.01 – BYLAWS

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF SOLWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

These bylaws may be changed and/or amended at any regular or special business meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of all active members present and voting, provided however, a written notice of such changes have been proposed and announced at a regular service to the church at least one month previous and such alteration does not conflict with the Articles of Faith or Covenant of the Church.

SECTION 10.02 – ARTICLES OF FAITH AND CHURCH COVENANT

- (A) In no wise shall an amendment, change or alteration be considered or enacted with reference to the Articles of Faith and/or Church Covenant, or Bylaws so related.
- (B) Any member or group of members, who shall subject the Articles of Faith and/or Church Covenant to ridicule, unbelief or amendment shall face charges of apostasy before the Discipline Committee.

ADOPTION

I, the undersigned officer of the church, certify that these bylaws were adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the church in which a quorum was present.

These bylaws supersede any and all previous bylaws of Solway Baptist Church.

Date

Church Clerk