

**THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
EAST STROUDSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

REGISTERED OFFICE LOCATED AT:
N. COURTLAND AND E. BROAD STREETS
EAST STROUDSBURG, PA 18301

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Basic Reason for Change	Primary Author of Change	Revised & Adopted
Baseline	n/a	December 1, 1993
Major revisions across all sections.	David Orlando	July 20, 2010
1) Youth under Elders, 2) Word "non-voting" removed from Assoc. Members, 3) Teacher that are non-members are to be approved by the board of elders, 4) Elder must be 21.	Tom Fox	November 26, 2010

Section 1. Name

The name of the Corporation shall be THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, EAST STROUDSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

Section 2. Mission Statement

The Mission of the church shall be to promote the worship of God by the preaching of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ at home and abroad, seeking thereby the salvation of sinners and the edification of the believers in knowledge and holiness, and their organization and direction in Christian service.

Section 3. Covenant

Having been led, as we believe by the Holy Spirit of God, to trust as our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose blood and righteousness alone we trust as the ground of our redemption; and having been buried with Him by faith in baptism into the likeness of His death, and raised in the likeness of His resurrection, to walk in newness of life; and having thus been united to His visible church, we do now most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with God and with one another as one body in Christ.

We solemnly promise and engage that, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, we will love one another as brethren in the Lord; that we will exercise Christian care and

watchfulness one for another, bearing one another's burdens and thus fulfilling the law of Christ.

We engage to maintain personal and family devotions, to search the Scriptures with all diligence, and to train up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

We covenant that we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together in the house of the Lord, but will regularly attend its services unless providentially hindered; that we will pray and labor for its prosperity through its doctrines, its ordinances and its discipline; that we will earnestly and actively endeavor to win souls to our Savior, realizing that apart from Him there is no hope and that He has left us in the world as His ambassadors, in His Name to seek and to save the lost.

We covenant that we will regularly and systematically give of our substance, as the Lord prospers us, for the support of an evangelical ministry amongst us, for the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel in the whole world; that we will endeavor to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to remember each other in prayer; to comfort each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy and courtesy; to be slow to take offense, ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the teachings of our Savior to secure reconciliation without delay.

Desiring the triumph of Christ above all earthly good, and joyfully hoping for His coming again in heavenly glory, we covenant that by the help of His enabling Spirit, we will seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, trusting Him to add unto us all temporal necessities and the fullness of Heavenly grace.

Section 4. Articles of Faith

Each person, in order to become and remain a member of this church, shall subscribe to the following declaration of faith:

We believe in the verbal plenary inspiration of the Bible as the Word of God and as the supreme and final authority in matters of faith and practice.

We believe in One True God, eternal and infinite in every excellence. That in the unity of the Godhead there are three personal distinctions: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We affirm the absolute Deity of Jesus Christ, His eternal pre-existence, His Virgin Birth, Sinless Life, Vicarious and Atoning Death, Physical Resurrection and Ascension; that He is the one and all-sufficient Mediator between God and man. We believe in His personal, visible, premillennial return to earth, and that Salvation is the gift of God's grace through faith in Him.

We believe in the Personality of the Holy Spirit and that His ministry is to reveal Christ to men; to convince them of Sin in order to effect Repentance and Inspire Faith in Christ for the regeneration of their souls and the sanctification of their conduct.

We believe that Baptism is immersion of the Believer in water, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; that it sets forth the essential facts in redemption, namely, the death, the burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ; also, the essential experience in the life of the Believer - his death to sin and resurrection to newness of life. (Romans 6:4)

We believe that the Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the Lord's Death, and is to be observed as a memorial to Him until He comes again. (1 Corinthians 11:26)

We believe that the New Testament Church is a body of baptized Believers associated for worship, and organized for service, pre-eminently in the proclamation of the gospel in all the world.

Section 5. Organization

This church shall be affiliated with the Conservative Baptist Association of America and the Conservative Baptist Association of Pennsylvania, and shall cooperate with other Gospel preaching organizations in so far as they do not conflict with the doctrinal statements of this church.

Section 6. Rules of Order

"Let all things be done decently and in order." (1 Corinthians 14:40)

"Let all things to done with charity." (1 Corinthians 16:14)

"Let all things be done unto edifying." (1 Corinthians 14:26)

"Do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus . . . " (Colossians 3:17)

All questions of order shall be settled by the rules of governing bodies as given in The Modern Rules of Order (Pennsylvania Bar Association), 1992 edition.

Section 7. Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation, or at a special meeting called in the same manner as per BY-LAWS Article VI, Section 3, Meetings, provided that a written revision of the proposed amendment shall be available to the Church for two Sundays prior to the meeting at which action is desired.

Section 8. Net Earnings

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, directors, officers or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of Section 501 (c) (3) purposes. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (A) by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code) or (B) by a corporation, contribution to which are deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code).

**THE BY-LAWS OF
THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
EAST STROUDSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

ARTICLE 1

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. General

Henceforth in these By-Laws the terms "Corporation", "Membership" or "Church" shall refer to the active members of THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, EAST STROUDSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

Anyone professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior and giving evidence of a change of heart, and declaring himself or herself in accord with the principles, practices and doctrines of this Church, may become a candidate for Church membership after baptism by immersion.

Section 2. Receiving of New Members

Candidates may be received into membership upon fulfilling one of the four following conditions:

1. By baptism by immersion following profession of faith.
2. By letter from churches of like faith and practice having been previously immersed.
3. By statement of Christian experience, having been previously immersed.
4. By act of restoration, on recommendation of the Elders of the Church.

Persons requiring maintenance of Church membership elsewhere such as military personnel, missionaries, students, etc., desirous of taking an active role in the local assembly may be eligible for Associate Membership. They may be received through Section 2.1 or 2.3 above. They shall be eligible for all Church positions except elected positions and will assume the same responsibilities as regular members.

All candidates will meet with two Elders who shall pass upon their eligibility. If such persons are approved their names shall be submitted to the Church for acceptance or rejection. Any dissenting votes shall be cause for deferral of admission. Any member dissenting may be required to present grounds for his objection before the Board of Elders at their next meeting. The Elders shall examine the objection in the light of Scripture and rule on its validity and reach a decision regarding membership.

Candidates may be received into the membership of the Church at any business meeting, by affirmative vote of members present and be placed on the Church roll. They shall be considered voting members if they are eighteen years of age or older.

Section 3. Duties of Members

Each member shall aspire to the attainment of spiritual growth through the experience and expression of worship, the increase of spiritual knowledge and the ministry of Christian service. They shall constantly strive to walk worthy of their high calling and seek the control of every unholy disposition.

They shall strive to maintain the “unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” within the fellowship of the Church, to cherish a Christian affection for all its members, and a due regard for its officers and their co-laborers.

The honor, stability and effectiveness of the Church is dependent upon the prayers, labors and financial support of its members. Each one, therefore, is expected to faithfully bear a just proportion of the necessary expenses of the Church and contribute regularly of their means in proportion as God has prospered them.

Members failing to attend the Church for a period of one year (1) for other than medical reasons or required absences will be placed on the inactive list and their right to vote will be suspended. The Board of Elders shall periodically review this list and may reinstate inactive members to active status. Members continuing on the inactive list for more than one (1) year may be removed from the Church membership roll upon the recommendation of the Board of Elders and the vote of the Church.

Section 4. Transfer

Upon recommendation of the Board of Elders a letter of transfer may be granted to any member in good standing wishing to unite with another church of like faith and practice.

Any member desiring to unite with a church of another denomination may be granted a letter of Christian standing.

Section 5. Termination of Membership

Membership shall be terminated by the Board of Elders due to transfer, resignation, death, or in accord with Article III, Section 3 Paragraph 4, or in accord with Article II..

ARTICLE II

DISCIPLINE

The Board of Elders shall handle all disciplinary matters according to Matthew 18:15-17. The goal of the disciplinary process would be repentance and restoration. If necessary, the Board of Elders may decide to remove individuals from the membership of the Church. , the Board of Elders shall notify the Church, at a business meeting, of any exclusions from membership.

ARTICLE III

GOVERNANCE OF THE Church

Section 1. Government

The government of The First Baptist Church shall be vested in the Board of Elders with the following qualifications:

1. The Membership shall elect Elders and has within its authority the dismissal of Elders based upon Scriptural procedure. (1 Timothy 5:17-20)
2. The Membership shall approve the calling, ordaining, and dismissing of Pastors. Voting shall be at a regularly scheduled or specially called business meeting by secret ballot. An affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the voting members present shall be required for issuing a call.
3. Any revision, temporary or permanent, to these By-Laws shall be made by two-thirds vote of voting members present at any regular or special business meeting.
4. The Membership shall approve the Annual Budget and shall have the final approval in buying, selling or otherwise controlling, when not included in the approved budget, capital assets in excess of \$4,000 and individual operating expenditures in excess of \$3,500
5. Individual line items within the limit of a budget category may be overdrawn at the discretion of the Committee Chair responsible for that particular part of the budget. A Category may be overdrawn only by a vote of the Church. The Committee Chair shall recommend to the Church transfers from one budget category to another or one fund to another

within legal restrictions.

6. A Member should hold only one elected position at a time..
7. The Chairman of the Deacon Board will have check signing authority when the Treasurer is unable to do so.
8. The Financial Deacon will be responsible to act as backup to both the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer. The Financial Deacon can not hold both positions at the same time. The Financial Deacon will not have check signing authority.
9. All committees and Boards will elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and all other necessary official positions needed to operate the committee at their first meeting of the new year.
10. All committees and Boards have the ability to create sub-committees. The committee or Board must vote on the members of the sub-committee. Anyone within the congregation can be placed on a sub-committee. Sub-committees are not recognized as official committees of the church. No authority or responsibility can be delegated to the sub-committees.

Thus, Elders are responsible for the general direction and rule of the ministry of The First Baptist Church.

Section 2. Officers

The Church Officers shall be Elders, Deacons, Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Church Clerk. The Pastors are Elders, ex-officio. Every officer shall be a member of the Church in good standing. No No member shall serve as Elder and Deacon at the same time. Officers shall begin their term January 1st of the year following their election. Officers terms shall end on December 31st of the year that their term expires. Upon expiration of the maximum terms, a one (1) year sabbatical must be observed before re-election to the same office. Persons elected to fill mid-term vacancies shall begin their term upon election.

Section 3. Board of Elders

1. The Board of Elders shall ideally consist of at least five (5) men elected for a term of three (3) years, on a staggered basis, plus the Pastors. No person may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms except the Pastors. The Elders shall be understood to be the Trustees of the Corporation for legal purposes.:Scriptural references: 1 Peter 5:1-2; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-7; Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Timothy 5:17; Hebrews

13:7-17.

2. Qualifications

- a. Lay Elders shall have been members of First Baptist Church for a minimum of one year prior to election as an Elder and shall be at least 21 years of age upon taking office.
- b. To be an Elder, a man must have a willingness to serve; be faithful, available, and teachable; and be willing to commit meaningful time to the work in the ministry. 1 Peter 5:1-2.
- c. To serve as an Elder, a man must believe in “Total Depravity” and “Perseverance of the Saints”

3. Responsibilities

- a. The Board of Elders’ primary responsibilities shall be to oversee the spiritual welfare of the Congregation.
- b. The Board of Elders shall request and consider recommendations from the Congregation for qualified persons to be appointed to ministries as deemed necessary for the operation of the Church.
- c. The Board of Elders shall be responsible for the pulpit ministries.
- d. The Board of Elders shall be responsible for additional ministries including but not limited to: Women’s Ministries, Men’s Ministries, and Small Groups & Youth.
- e. On a quarterly basis, the Board of Elders shall report, to the Church summarizing the actions taken and decisions made by the Elders during the preceding three months.

4. Accountability Areas

- a. The Board of Elders shall be accountable for setting Church policy and direction regarding all ministries of the Church.
- b. The Board of Elders shall be accountable for the oversight of all appointed boards and committees.

- c. With respect to each ministry, board, and committee, the Board of Elders shall be accountable for direction, soundness, encouragement and support.
5. Authority - Acts 20:17-28; 1 Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:7, 17
 - a. Subject to the authority of the Bible, the Board of Elders shall be vested with the leadership responsibility and authority in the Church subject to this Article.
 - b. Ad-hoc Committees of limited authority shall be created as may become necessary.
6. Meetings
 - a. The Board of Elders shall meet regularly, preferably at least once per month.
 - b. The Chairman of the Board of Elders or another Elder of the Chairman's choosing shall chair all business meetings of the Membership and represent the Board of Elders and the Membership in matters of business outside The First Baptist Church.
 - c. At least two thirds of Elders must be present at Elder meetings to constitute a quorum.
 - d. All decisions of the Board of Elders shall be made by a unanimous vote of the Elders present. Philippians 2:2-3; Romans 12:16; James 2:1; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 1:27; Ephesians 4:3-6
7. Resignations
 - a. Should any Lay Elder be led to resign his duties as an Elder, thirty (30) days advance notice must be given to the remaining Elders unless otherwise agreed to by the Board of Elders.
 - b. Resignations shall be submitted in writing.
 - c. Upon resignation or removal from the pulpit a Pastor shall cease to be an Elder.
8. Discipline

- a. Any request for discipline of an Elder must follow the procedures of 1 Timothy 5:19.
 - b. Disciplinary action should follow the steps described in Matthew 18:15-17 with the clarification that prior to bringing the matter before the Church, it shall be brought before the remaining Elders for review.
 - c. If the Elder in question, other than a Pastor, fails to heed the counsel of his fellow Elders, they shall have the authority to dismiss him from his duties as an Elder.
 - d. Following the action of the Board of Elders and if the matter has not been settled, either the originator of the disciplinary action or the Board of Elders may bring it before the Church for final resolution in accordance with Matthew 18:17.
9. Vacancies
- a. The remaining Elders may fill vacancies at any time by appointment with Membership approval.
 - b. The replacement Elder shall serve for the remainder of the previous Elder's unexpired term and may then be considered as a candidate for election. The partial term served will not count against the two (2) consecutive term maximum.

10. Communion

Elders shall arrange for the preparation for the Lord's Supper and the serving of the elements. Communion shall be served regularly, preferably monthly.

Section 4. Pastors

Pastors shall adhere to all requirements of an Elder. Pastors shall be chosen and called by the membership, by a two-thirds vote of those present at a regularly scheduled or specially called business meeting, for an indefinite term of service.

Pastors may terminate their office in the Church by giving notice in writing to the Elders not less than ninety (90) days before his intended date of discontinuance of his ministry unless otherwise as may be conveniently and mutually agreed.

In special circumstances where a Pastor refuses to comply with the qualifications of an Elder, the remaining members of the Board of Elders may immediately suspend the Pastor from his duties pending church actions as defined in this paragraph. Following

this action, written notification will be given to the Pastor of the intention to vacate the position. Sixty days after written notification, the church may, by a two-thirds vote of those present at a regularly scheduled or specially called business meeting, declare the Pastor terminated and the position vacant.

Section 5. Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons shall ideally consist of not less than seven (7) servant-spirited men, at least twenty-one years of age, who shall help organize and administer various areas of the Church's ministry, physical assets and financial affairs in responsibility to the Board of Elders. In addition to Article III, Section 1 number 9, The Board of Deacons should also have a Financial Deacon. Deacons shall be elected for staggered terms at the Annual Business Meeting for a term of three (3) years and may serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms. They shall be elected by the Membership in accordance with New Testament qualifications, as spiritually minded men to organize and administer various areas of the Church's ministry, including, but not limited to: property, finance, benevolence, caring for the distressed and ushering.

The Board of Deacons shall appoint members of the Board to be responsible for Finance, Property, or other areas. They shall keep accurate account of their transactions. They shall meet regularly, preferably once a month and may be called to order by the Chairman, or two-thirds vote of the full membership of the Board. A majority of the total number of the Board shall constitute a quorum for business to decide questions and set policy.

The Board of Deacons shall receive and review the monthly financial reports of the Treasurer and authorize the payment of all bills not previously authorized by Budget at the Annual Meeting as general administrative expenses of the Church.

The Board of Deacons shall be accountable to the Board of Elders and through them to the Church. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Deacons to have an audit of all Church financial records each year and published and made available at the Annual Meeting. No person is eligible to perform the audit who holds an office pertaining to the official affairs of the Church. In the event there are no willing and capable members available to perform the audit, the Board of Deacons may then consider nonmembers for the task of auditing. Qualified regular attendees and then those of like faith with no association with First Baptist will be considered. If a paid audit is required, the general financial guidelines for disbursements in these bylaws apply.

The Board of Deacons in consultation with the Senior Pastor is responsible for all non-pastoral employees of the church. They will be responsible for hiring and termination of all employees, annual reviews and compensation. The supervision and oversight of an employee can be delegated to other members of the church.

Vacancies:

- a. The remaining Deacons may fill vacancies at any time by appointment with Membership approval.
- b. The replacement Deacon shall serve for the remainder of the previous Deacon's unexpired term and may then be considered as a candidate for election. The partial term served will not count against the two (2) consecutive term maximum.

Section 6. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of one (1) year. The Treasurer shall receive an accounting from the Financial Secretary of all monies for the General Fund and disperse such funds as directed by the Board of Deacons. A true record of all accounts shall be submitted monthly to the Board of Deacons and at the Annual Meeting.

All payments shall be made by check or electronically. All payments must be done by the Treasurer or In the Treasurer's absence, the Chairman of the Board of Deacons.

Section 8. Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of one (1) year. The Financial Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the envelope and cash offerings and provide yearly accounting to those members who request the same for tax purposes. The Financial Secretary and the Deacons shall collaborate in the tabulation of all receipts.

All monies shall be received by the Financial Secretary and deposited in the designated bank accounts.

The Financial Secretary shall make a detailed report of all receipts at the Annual Meeting of the Church and shall report to the Board of Deacons as requested. He shall make a weekly report of all receipts to the Treasurers involved.

Section 9. Church Clerk

The Clerk of the Church shall be elected for a term of one (1) year at the annual meeting. The Clerk shall keep a record of all business conducted by the Church and maintain the register of the members as directed by the Board of Deacons; record all matters of historical importance including membership, baptism, marriages, dedications and deaths.

ARTICLE IV

STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Nominating Committee

At least 12 weeks before the Annual Meeting a Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Senior Pastor then approved by the Board of Elders and be constituted as follows: Senior Pastor, another member of the Board of Elders, one person from the Board of Deacons, one person from the Christian Education Committee, a member representing youth ministry, and one or more persons selected from the membership at large.

This Committee shall submit the list of nominees for all elected positions at the Annual Meeting. All nominees shall be members of the Church in good standing who seem qualified to fill the offices that are vacant. The elected positions are: Elders, Deacons, Church Clerk, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, one or more Members-at-large for the Christian Education committee, and one or more Members-at-large for the Missions Committee.

No person on the inactive membership list shall be placed in nomination for any office.

It is deemed advisable that no person shall hold more than one elected position.

All nominees for Church office shall be interviewed by the Committee to ascertain their willingness to serve and subsequently their names shall be read and/or posted in a prominent place for public notice two Sundays prior to the time of election. It is understood that these nominations do not prevent additional nominations being made from the floor at the Annual Meeting upon consent of the person being nominated.

Section 2. Worship Committee

The Worship Committee shall consist of at least five (5) members of the Church appointed by the Board of Elders and will serve for a period of one (1) year.

The Committee shall have responsibility to encourage the church in its worship by designing the services and organizing the music and other aspects of worship.

Section 3. Ushers

One or more Head Ushers shall be appointed by the Board of Deacon for a one (1) year term.

The Head Usher shall appoint and supervise others for all public meetings of the Church. In his absence an assistant, appointed by the Head Usher, shall have charge. The Usher in charge shall arrange to courteously welcome attendants and seat them at times of least disturbance to the service; check and regulate room conditions during the service; make sure all facilities are locked after the services; help maintain the dignity of the worship service and keep order both in the auditorium and vestibules; receive offerings & deliver them to the Financial Secretary; count and keep a record of the attendance in the services.

Section 4. Missions Committee

The Missions Committee consists of member(s) at large elected by the church, and other members appointed by the Board of Elders for a term of one (1) year.. It shall consist of at least five (5) members of the Church including one member of the Board of Elders and the Board of Deacons..

The committee shall promote missions and evangelism of the church through Mission Conferences, and other activities, define the missions policies of the Church, prepare an annual budget for submission to the Board of Deacons for review and to incorporated into the annual budget.

Section 5. Christian Education Committee

The Christian Education Committee shall consist of ,a representative from the Board of Elders, a representative from the Board of Deacons, and the member(s)-at-large elected by the church. The committee shall serve for a term of one (1) year.

In addition to the requirements of Article III, Section 1 number 9, the elected members of the Christian Education Committee must also appoint from among the members of the church all necessary coordinators to operate the Christian Education of The First Baptist Church. Some of those coordinator positions are but not limited to: Boys Ministries, Girls Ministries, Children's Church, Sunday School Vacation Bible School and Nursery.. The people accepting these appointments are also members of the Christian Education Committee.

Elected positions from among the committee, the representative from the Board of Elders and the representative from the Board of Deacons are the only people on the committee eligible for the Chairperson position.

The entire committee will act as a coordinating committee for education activities of the Church and select the appropriate persons to conduct these ministries. The committee will define the Christian Education policies of the Church that are not already under the responsibility of the Board of Elders.

Section 6. Pulpit Committee

The Pulpit Committee shall consist of: two members of the Board of Elders, two members of the Board of Deacons, a member from the Christian Education Committee, a member of the Financial Committee, a member from the Missions committee, a member representing youth ministry to be selected by the Christian Education Committee, and other members at large as agreed to by the Board of Elders. Each committee will select their own representative to the Pulpit committee. All members of the Pulpit Committee must be members of the church. The Committee shall be formed by the Chairman of the Elders.

.The purpose of the committee is to solicit and review qualification of potential candidates for pastoral positions. In agreement with the Board of Elders the Pulpit committee would then recommend a candidate(s) to the church.

Notice for the proposed choice of a Pastor shall be given from the pulpit on two successive Sundays preceding the election. It is understood that only one (1) candidate at a time is to be presented to the Church.

Section 7. Financial Committee

The Board of Deacons oversees and governs the Financial Committee. The Financial Committee will consist of the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, a member of the Board of Elders and a member of the Board of Deacons. The Board of Deacons may appoint other members of the Church to the committee as necessary in order to operate the committee

ARTICLE V

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The organization and operation of the Sunday School shall be subject to the guidance of the Christian Education Committee. It shall maintain the closest relationship and integration with the Church that is possible in order to support the Church in its administration, its worship, missionary and evangelistic efforts.

All teachers of the Sunday School shall be members of the Church except as individually approved by the Board of Elders. They shall be persons who are exemplary in life and faithful in their support and attendance of the Church's services and ministry.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

Section 1. Corporation Officers

The Board of Elders shall be understood to be the Trustees of the Corporation for legal purposes. The President of the Corporation is the Chairman of the Board of Elders, Vice-President is the Chairman of the Board of Deacons, Secretary is the Church Clerk and the Treasurer is the Treasurer.

Section 2. Meetings of the Church for Worship

The Church shall meet regularly every Lord's Day for worship.

The Church will promote prayer meetings and Bible studies of various types.

Special meetings for evangelistic services, Bible and Missions Conferences, etc. shall be scheduled after consultation and mutual agreement of the Board of Elders.

Section 3. Meetings of the Church for Business

Quarterly Business Meetings shall be held at 3-month intervals on dates to be determined by the Board of Elders and are to be announced at least two weeks in advance. The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports and handle such business as may properly come before them. If for some reason a meeting is canceled, the next meeting shall be held at a date determined by the Board of Elders.

For legal purposes, the third quarterly meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Church and will be held in October. At the Annual Meeting the election of Elders, Deacons, Church Clerk, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, any members at-large on the Christian Education Committee and the Missions Committee shall be undertaken along with the appointment of special and standing committees. The Annual Budget for the next fiscal year will be presented by the Board of Deacons, amended as necessary and approved by the Church.

At the first Quarterly Business Meeting of the year, Annual reports from the various committees, boards and ministries as deemed necessary by the Board of Elders will be submitted for approval by the Church. The Board of Deacons will also submit the year end financial results of the previous year for review and approval by the Church.

The Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Board of Elders shall be authorized to call a special meeting by providing notice of the same at Sunday Worship Service(s) at least six (6) days preceding the date, except those meetings set for the calling or dismissing of a Pastor, when notice shall be given for two preceding Sundays, at least twelve (12) days.

Twenty percent (20%) of the voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Church business. The membership count will be established at the beginning of each Annual meeting. The membership count at the annual meeting will be used for all regular and special meetings for that year to determine a quorum.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting of the Church, or at a called meeting, provided that a written copy of the proposed amendment(s) shall have been available for two Sundays prior to the meeting at which action is desired.

ARTICLE VIII

DIVISION OR DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Division

In case of a division of the membership within the Church, all property of the Church shall belong to those members who continue to abide by the Articles of Faith as set forth in Section 4. of this Constitution and who adhere to the other provisions of this Constitution as determined by the Counsel of the Regional Director of the Conservative Baptist Association of America.

Section 2. Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of this Church, all right, title and interest in all property of the Church shall be transferred to the Conservative Baptist Association of America or as directed by a two thirds vote of all members of the Church.

1. Such transfer of property shall be in accordance with Section 9. of this Constitution.
2. The Elders holding office at the time such dissolution is enacted shall act with full powers on behalf of the Church. Their terms of office shall be automatically extended, if necessary, until such dissolution has been accomplished.

Appendix:

Terms:

- 1) **Total Depravity** - When man fell, sin permeated his entire being. This fall was so complete that man had no desire for God and righteousness. Man is so totally enslaved by sin that he can only choose evil; he cannot choose good. He is incapable of choosing God and His salvation. Man is totally blind and deaf to the gospel. Apart from a supernatural intervention from God, the gospel message absolutely has no effect on a person. Total depravity is also called total inability. *Scripture references:* Ephesians 4:18; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Romans 1:30; John 15:25; Luke 19:14; John 5:40; Isaiah 5:20; Titus 1:15; Deuteronomy 32:18; Hebrews 2:1; John 12:39; John 6:44+65; John 3:18
- 2) **Perseverance of the Saints** - Since God has determined who will get saved and they cannot resist His call, they are unconditionally and eternally secure in that election. Therefore, those who have been chosen to be saved will always stay saved. They cannot resist or lose their salvation. *Scripture references:* 1 Peter 1:5; James 4:6; Philippians 1:6+19; John 6:39; John 10:28+29; Romans 8:38+39; Romans 8:8; Galatians 5:13-26.
- 3) **Trustee** - A person to whom property is legally committed in trust, to be applied either for the benefit of specified individuals, or for public uses; one who is entrusted with property for the benefit of another; also, a person in whose hands the effects of another are attached in a trustee process.
- 4) **Policy** - A policy is a predetermined course of action established as a guide toward accepted objectives and strategies of the organization. A Policy is to help set consistent guidance and direction in the decision making process. A Policy is not a hard and fast Rule or a Law.
- 5) **Standing Committee** - A Standing Committee is a committee outlined in Article IV of the Bylaws.
- 6) **Ad-hoc Committee** - An ad-hoc committee is a temporary committee formed by the Elder Board to accomplish a specific set of tasks within the church. The Elder Board or the Church by way of membership vote may delegate responsibilities and authority to an ad-hoc committee as deemed necessary.
- 7) **Sub-Committee** - A sub-committee is formed by a board or another committee. It is to perform some task as outlined by board or committee. No authority can be delegated to a sub-committee. All authority and responsibilities remain with the board or committee that formed the sub-committee.
- 8) **Pastor** - Must be a man ordained by CBA or of a denomination of like faith and practice. He is hired to be a shepherd of a defined church position involving worship and/or service ministries of the Church.

- 9) **Minister** - Is the same as a Pastor without ordination and is not automatically given the rights of a Pastor as defined in this document.
- 10) **Congregation** - The congregation is the body of attendees at First Baptist Church. This includes both members and non-members.
- 11) **Corporation, Member, Church** - "Corporation", "Membership" or "Church" shall refer to the active members of THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, EAST STROUDSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.
- 12) **"Verbal Plenary Inspiration"** - "God the Holy Spirit so supernaturally directed the human writers of Scripture that, without waiving their intelligence, their individuality, their personal feelings, their literary style, or any other human factor of expression, His Complete and Coherent Message to mankind was recorded with perfect accuracy in the original languages of Scripture: the very words bearing the Authority of Divine Authorship." So "Verbal" means, "the Bible in its original languages, from first to last (Autograph), is an exact record of the Mind and Will of God as He intended it to be." So "Plenary" means, "the entire text of the Bible is equally from God, but not necessarily equally-important." So "Inspiration" means, 2Tim3:16's "God-breathed" (theopneustos): just as God breathed into Adam's nostrils AFTER MAKING HIS BODY and that made Adam EXHALE and thus become a living soul, so also God's breathing of the Word into the Scripture writers produced an 'exhale' of Canon, without waiving any of their own personal attributes.