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CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE PINECREST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MCDONOUGH, GEORGIA, INC.

PREAMBLE

So that things may be done decently and in order in accordance with the accepted tenets of our faith and that we may more readily help each other in our Christian service, we the members of this Church declare, establish and adopt the following Constitution and Bylaws to which we voluntarily submit ourselves to be governed.

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1 - NAME

- (A) This body shall be known as Pinecrest Baptist Church of McDonough, Georgia, Inc.
- (B) This church is a Baptist church, free from the control of any council, convention or denomination or any other form of organic church union. This church will not enter into any union or association with those that make their actions binding upon the local church.
- (C) This church, believing in Bible to be the inspired and preserved Word of God, as the sole and supreme authority for faith and practice, and the supreme authority for man and all governmental or organizational bodies, does hereby incorporate by reference and make a part of this Constitution and By-Laws the Holy Scriptures as presented in both the Old and New Testaments. The Authorized Version (KJV) of the Bible is the standard text.

SECTION 2 - PURPOSE

- (A) This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, including, but not limited to, such purposes as the establishing and maintaining of religious worship; the building, maintaining, and operating of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, daycare centers (nurseries), camps, nursing homes, cemeteries, and any other ministry that the Church may be led of God to establish; and the exercise of all other powers conferred upon it by its charter or by the applicable nonprofit corporation law of the state of Georgia (all in accordance with its Bylaws as the same may be hereinafter amended).
- (B) The Church shall also ordain, license and/or commission men to the Gospel ministry; evangelize the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; educate believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, by means of Christian education; maintain missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country; and engage in any other ministry that the Church may decide to pursue from time to time, in obedience to the will of God.

ARTICLE II: STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 1 - STATEMENT OF FAITH:

(A) THE HOLY SCRIPTURES:

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men and supernaturally inspired; that it is truth without any admixture of error for its matter; and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the age the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; and that it is the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried. By "The Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written, does not only contain and convey the Word of God but is the very Word of God. By "inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old as they were moved by the Holy Spirit in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired.

II Timothy 3:16

II Peter 1:19-21

(B) THE TRUE GOD:

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God and infinite, intelligent Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth; that He is inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead, there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption and in the accomplishment of His eternal plan and purpose.

Genesis 1:1

Psalms 90

I John 5:6-12

(C) THE SON:

We believe that Jesus Christ, eternal with the Father, was begotten of the Holy Ghost and in miraculous manner; that He was born of Mary, a virgin, as no other person was ever born of woman; and that He is both the Son of God and God the Son. He is both true man, one person with two natures, tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin.

I John 1:1,2

Isaiah 7:14

Hebrews 4:14-17

(D) THE HOLY SPIRIT:

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person; eternal and equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same essence; that He was active in the creation; that in the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of judgment and of righteousness; that He bears witness of the truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the new birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, bears witness with, sanctifies, and helps the believer. Using Acts 1:8 as our criteria for evaluation, we believe that the evidence of the fullness of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is boldness to witness for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We also believe, according to Galatians 5:22-23, the Christian who is filled with the Holy Spirit will exhibit love, joy, peace, patience, a gentle spirit, goodness, meekness or humility, and self-control.

I John 5:7

Genesis 1:2

John 14:7

Romans 8:14-27

Galatians 5:22-23

(E) SATAN OR THE DEVIL:

We believe that Satan was once holy and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, he fell and drew himself a host of angels and is now the malignant prince of the power of the air and the unholy god of this world. We hold him to be man's great tempter, the enemy of God and Jesus Christ, the accuser of the brethren, the author of all false religions, the chief source of the present apostasy, the lord of anti-Christ, and the author of all of the powers of darkness; destined, however, to final defeat at the hands of God's Son and the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire, a place prepared for him and for his angels as well as all of the unbelievers of the ages.

Ezekiel 28:12-17

Isaiah 14:12-25

I Peter 5:8,9

Revelation 20:10

(F) THE CREATION:

We believe that the Genesis account of creation is to be accepted literally and not allegorically or figuratively; that the creation was accomplished in six (6), twenty-four (24) hour days; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly by God, and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind". We deny any form of atheistic or theistic evolution.

Genesis 1
 Genesis 1:5, 8, 13,
 19, 23,31; 2:2
 Exodus 20:11
 Genesis 1:26,27
 Romans 1:19,20

(G) THE FALL OF MAN:

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression, he fell from his sinless and happy state of perfection, in consequence of which, all mankind are now sinners and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse and are guilty before God.

Genesis 3
 Romans 5:12
 Psalm 51:5
 Romans 3

(H) THE ATONEMENT FOR SIN:

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God who by the appointment of the Father freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, and honored the divine law by his personal obedience and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement was not merely an example but was the voluntary substitution enthroned in Heaven and is uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection. He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

Hebrews 2:9
 II Corinthians 5:21
 Hebrews 10:4-14

(I) THE NEW BIRTH:

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is the new creation in Jesus Christ ; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith in newness of life.

John 3:3,5
 Ephesians 2:8,9
 John 1:13
 Titus 3:5

(J) JUSTIFICATION:

We believe that the great Gospel which Christ secures to such as believe in Him provides justification; that justification declares the sinner righteous through the merit of Jesus Christ and this divine pardon is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, and that His righteousness is imputed unto us; and that through justification we have peace with God.

Romans 3:21-26
 Romans 5:1, 9

(K) REPENTANCE AND FAITH:

We believe that repentance and faith are solemn obligations and also inseparable graces wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and being convinced of the way of salvation through Jesus Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time, we heartily receive the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confess Him as our only and all-sufficient Saviour.

Jeremiah 8:6
 Acts 17:30; 26:20

(L) THE CHURCH:

We believe that a New Testament church is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers of ordination are pastors or elders and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures; we believe the true mission of the church is found in the “Great Commission” which instructs us first to make individual disciples; second, to baptize the converts; and third, to teach and instruct as He commanded. We do not believe in the reversal of this order. We also believe that fellowship and worship are included in the purposes of the church.

I Timothy 3:1-13

Titus 1:6-9

Matthew 28:19, 20

Ephesians 1:19-23

Jude 3

Matthew 18:15-20

Acts 5:29

I Corinthians 6:1-8

We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; that Christ is the Head of the church and superintends over the work of the local church through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for the true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its cooperation on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, and of benevolence, and that the will of the local church is final.

(M) BAPTISM AND THE LORD’S SUPPER:

We believe that the New Testament baptism is the immersion in water of a born-again believer in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, with the authority and approval of the local church to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, as it pictures our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; and that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of church membership and to the observing of the Lord’s Supper. We believe the Lord’s Supper should always be preceded by solemn self-examination and that the sacred use of unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ until He returns.

Matthew 28:19, 20

Matthew 26:26-29

I Corinthians 11:30

John 10:28, 29

Romans 8:30

Romans 8:34

I John 2:1

Ephesians 4:30

I Peter 1:5

Romans 8:29

(N) THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER:

We believe that the preserving attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes true believers from superficial professors; that it is a work of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation. We believe that God’s eternal election and predestination guarantee their ultimate conformity to the image of Christ.

Romans 8:1-10

Romans 3:19-23

Revelation 20:11-15

(O) THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED:

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and sanctified by the Spirit of our God are truly righteous in His esteem; all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in life and after death in the everlasting conscious blessedness of the saved and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost.

(P) CIVIL GOVERNMENT:

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good of human society and that magistrates are to be prayed for and conscientiously honored and obeyed except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, the only Lord of conscience, the coming Prince of the Kings of the earth.

I Timothy 2:1-3

Acts 5:29

Romans 13:1-5

(Q) THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST:

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself is coming again in the air at any moment to catch up all born-again believers and to reward their service; the unbelievers left behind will go through a seven-year period called the Tribulation, after which Christ shall return visibly to the earth to set up His kingdom of 1,000 years of righteous rule; after this, the unbelievers of all ages will stand at the Great White Throne to be judged and cast into the lake of fire, separated from God forever, while the believers spend eternity in the fullness of joy and in the presence of our Lord forever.

I Thessalonians 4:15-17

I Corinthians 3:12-14

Revelation 20:11-15

(R) MISSIONS AND MISSIONARIES:

We believe that all men everywhere are lost and condemned, that the command to go and preach the Gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable, and that this commission was given to the churches. Following New Testament precedent and example, we believe that all missionary endeavors should be under the ultimate sponsorship of the local congregation and that no mission board should ever misconstrue its purpose to attempt to hold or to assign authority to itself.

Matthew 28:19, 20

Acts 13

(S) THE GRACE OF GIVING:

We believe that God's method of financing His earthly work of spreading the Gospel to all nations, the care of the churches and the support of the ministry, is by the tithes and offerings of God's people. We believe that they are to be given to the Lord through His church or storehouse and are to be distributed as directed by the leadership of the Holy Spirit as the need arises. We believe that the time to tithe is upon the first day of the week. We also believe that everyone is accountable to the Lord for a minimum standard of giving of one tenth of his income and that offerings are to be given above the tithe as God has prospered the individual.

Malachi 3:8-10

I Corinthians 16:2

(T) ASSOCIATION AND COOPERATION:

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations 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 like-minded, Bible-believing churches and para-church organizations for common goals and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament. Our association and cooperation with other ministries will be based upon doctrinal and ecclesiastical unity and practice.

Exodus 17:12; 18:17

Judges 7:21

Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69;

5:14-15;

Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5

Matthew 10:5-15;

20:1-16; 22:1-10;

28:19-20;

Mark 2:3

Luke 10:1

Acts 1:13-14; 2:1

4:31-37; 13:2-3;

15:1-35;

1 Corinthians 1:10-17;

3:5-15; 12:2

Corinthians 8-9

Galatians 1:6-10

Ephesians 4:1-16

Philippians 1:15-18

(U) 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 covenant-keeping love Christ has for His church, to display 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 of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth and dignity 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 also has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Because of the divine mysteries revealed through the covenant of marriage and because of God's sovereignly ordained plan and purpose of marriage, God hates divorce and forbids it on all grounds except adultery and desertion by an unbelieving spouse. Although God hates divorce and considers divorce without a biblical basis as sin, it is not an unpardonable sin. God offers forgiveness from every sin where there is genuine repentance, and can greatly use previously divorced people in His service in ministry in and through the local church. However, previously divorced men may not be considered for the office of pastor or deacon.

We believe that God has created humans in such a way, created the institution of marriage in such a way, and commanded our lives in such a way that any form of sexual activity outside that between one man and one woman who are married to each other is a sinful perversion of God's gift of sex. Among the current practices that would violate God's holy standard that He as our Creator commanded for our best interests are homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, transvestitism, transsexuality, polygamy and any other form of sexual activity outside of God's plan for marriage.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. 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.

(V) SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE:

We believe that because humans were created in the image of God, human life has an inherently sacred attribute that should be protected, respected, and treated with dignity at all times. We further believe that God is the sovereign Creator, and He alone has the authority and ability to give and take away life. While God gave humans the authority to kill and eat other forms of life, the murdering of other human beings is expressly forbidden, with the penalty being death.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25;
3:1-20
Exodus 20:12
Deuteronomy 6:4-9
Joshua 24:15
1 Samuel 1:26-28
Psalm 51:5; 78:1-8; 127;
128; 139:13-16
Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20;
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
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9;
Malachi 2:14-16
Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5;
19:3-9
Mark 10:6-12
Romans 1:18-32
1 Corinthians 7:1-16
Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4
Colossians 3:18-21
1 Timothy 3:1-13; 5:8,14
2 Timothy 1:3-5
Titus 1:5-9; 2:3-5
Hebrews 13:4
1 Peter 3:1-7

Genesis 1:26; 2:18-25; 9:3-6;
19:5,13; 26:8-9
Leviticus 18:1-30

We believe that life begins at conception. Therefore, abortion is unjustified and inexcusable murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical^[1] or mental wellbeing of the mother are acceptable.

We further believe that euthanasia is also unjustified and inexcusable murder. Our belief that rejects euthanasia would not forbid withholding or discontinuing medical procedures and practices that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome. Although abortion and euthanasia are typically the first two issues that Christians think about when they think of the sanctity of life, our belief in the sanctity of human life should motivate us to combat all forms of evil and injustice that are perpetuated against human life. Violence, abuse, oppression, human trafficking, and many other evils are also violations of the sanctity of life.

[1] We recognize that there may be exceedingly rare cases where it is a medical certainty that the baby is not viable and that carrying the non-viable baby to term would severely threaten the mother's life. In those extremely rare cases, we recognize that biblical sanctity of life principles may dictate preserving the mother's life.

(W) THE CHRISTIAN AND SOCIAL ORDER:

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives 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 Jesus Christ.

In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death.

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 may find themselves working with others who share their morality, but do not share their faith. In such cases, Christians should always be careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

This spirit of love should be demonstrated not only toward fellow believers, but also towards those who are not believers, those who oppose us, and those who engage in the sinful actions we oppose. 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 justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions.

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other believers or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve such disputes. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice.

Romans 1:26-29

1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Hebrews 13:4

Exodus 20:3-17

Leviticus 6:2-5

Deuteronomy 10:12;
27:17

Psalms 101:5

Micah 6:8

Zechariah 8:16

Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48;
22:36-40; 25:35

Mark 1:29-34; 2:3; 10:21;

Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37;
20:25;

John 15:12; 17:15

Romans 12-14

1 Corinthians 5:9-10;

6:1-7; 7:20-24;

10:23-11:1

Galatians 3:26-28

Ephesians 6:5-9

Colossians 3:12-17

1 Thessalonians 3:12

Philemon

James 1:27; 2:8

(X) GOD ORDAINED INSTITUTIONS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY:

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: a) the home, b) the church, and c) 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.

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men that 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. While we believe in the separation of church and state, we do not believe in the separation of God and the State. The State is “under God” and should conduct itself as thus.

SECTION 2 - AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH:

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We believe that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore is binding upon all members.

SECTION 3 - COVENANT:

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and upon profession of 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 endeavor, 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; 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 endeavor to maintain family devotions; to educate our children in religious dogma; to seek the salvation of our kindred, acquaintances, and all others; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealing, faithful to our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to practice Biblical separation; to avoid being unequally yoked with unbelievers; to abstain from illegal drugs, or intoxicating drink; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

Genesis 1:27; 2:7
Matthew 6:6-7,24;
16:26; 22:21
John 8:36
Acts 4:19-20
Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7
Galatians 5:1,13
Philippians 3:20
1 Timothy 2:1-2
James 4:12
1 Peter 2:12-17;
3:11-17; 4:12-19

We further endeavor to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and in distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and by courtesy of speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and being mindful of the rules of our Saviour, to secure reconciliation 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 & the principles of God's Word.

BYLAWS OF THE PINECREST BAPTIST CHURCH OF McDONOUGH, GEORGIA, INC.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 - QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

The members of this Church shall be Christians who have been baptized by immersion and who have been received into the membership of the Church by a majority of the voting members present, voting and qualified (regularly attend the services of Pinecrest Baptist Church and conduct themselves in compliance with Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws and any amendments thereto) as determined by the Pastor and/or Deacons and with any one of the following conditions:

- (A) By profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and baptism by immersion;
- (B) By transfer of letter from another church of like faith;
- (C) By statement of faith and baptism by immersion;
- (D) By restoration. Any member, who has lost his membership for any reason and has shown fruit of repentance, may be qualified upon recommendation by the pastor and deacons.

SECTION 2 - DUTIES OF MEMBERS:

Upon becoming a member of this Church, in addition to following the covenant contained in Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution and any amendments thereto, each one further covenants to love, honor, and esteem the Pastor; to pray for him; to recognize his authority in spiritual affairs of the Church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the Church; to support the Church in prayer, weekly attendance unless providentially hindered; regularly remit tithes, offerings and other financial support as the Lord enables; and in accordance with Biblical commands, to live a lifestyle consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church according to the Scriptures.

SECTION 3 - PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP:

This congregation functions, not as a pure democracy, but as a body under the Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the Pastor as the Under-shepherd with the counsel of the Deacons. Membership in this Church does not afford individuals with any property, contract, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. No member shall have any vested right, interest or privilege of, in, or to the assets, functions, affairs or franchises of the church, or any right, interest or privilege which may be transferable or inheritable, or which shall continue if membership ceases. Determination of the internal affairs of this church is ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the Church's own rules and procedures. The Pastor shall oversee and/or conduct all aspects of the activity of this Church. The Deacons shall give counsel and assistance to the Pastor as requested by him. The membership of the Church has certain limited areas in which to exercise voting privileges. Therefore, members may not vote to initiate any Church action, but rather, the vote of a member is to confirm and ratify the direction of the Church as determined by the Pastor and/or Deacons.

Hebrews 13:17

Acts 6:3,4

I Timothy 3:8-13

Titus 3:1, 2

SECTION 4 - TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP:

In accordance with Article III, Section 1 and Section 2 of the Bylaws and any amendments thereto, members may at their request and on recommendation of the Pastor and Deacons receive letters of transfer to another church of like faith.

SECTION 5 - TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP:

- (A) No member of this Church may hold membership in another church while a member of this church. If any member unites in membership with another church while a member of this church, that person is automatically terminated without notice from the membership.
- (B) A member may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such resignation, except at the discretion of the Pastor.
- (C) Death will terminate membership in the church.

SECTION 6 - RESIGNATIONS:

Members who are under discipline by this Church forfeit and waive the right to resign from membership in this church. Resignations from membership are possible only by those members in good standing who are not under any disciplinary action.

SECTION 7 - DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS:

- (A) **Grounds** - Discipline is an exercise for which the Church is responsible. The purpose of discipline is to promote repentance and restoration through exposing sinful behavior. It is redemptive in nature as well as corrective. Any member of this Church is subject to discipline on the basis of unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Statement of Faith, Policy, Constitution and Bylaws and any amendments thereto, and/or other rules promulgated by the leadership of the Church.
- (B) **Procedure** - The church will follow the disciplinary procedure set forth in Matthew 18:15-18. This procedure consists generally of the following steps: (1) The Pastor or a designated member of the Deacons discusses the charges with the member in an effort to resolve the matter privately; (2) if the first step does not resolve the matter, then the member shall meet with the Pastor and Deacons or with at least two designated members of the Deacons in an effort to resolve the matter privately; (3) if the first or second steps do not resolve the matter, then the member or the Pastor and/or Deacons may submit the matter to the membership in a special business meeting called for that purpose. The decision of a majority of the voting members present, voting and qualified (regularly attend the services of Pinecrest Baptist Church and conduct themselves in compliance with Article III, Section 2 of the ByLaws and any amendments thereto) at such a meeting shall be final. A member found guilty may be dismissed from membership in the Church (Matthew 18:17). However, lesser sanctions may be imposed as appropriate, depending on the circumstance of each case.

Matthew 16:19
 Matthew 18:15-20
 Luke 17:3
 John 20:23
 Acts 16:4
 Ephesians 5:11
 I Timothy 5:20
 II Timothy 4:2

Matthew 18:15-18

ARTICLE IV: ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES

Inasmuch as the Scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to the saints and not to the civil courts, all disputes which may arise (1) between any member of this Church and the Church itself, or (2) between any member of this Church and any pastor, officer, director, employee, volunteer, or other member of this Church, shall be resolved by final and binding arbitration if efforts to mediate or conciliate the dispute have failed. This does not prevent any member, pastor, officer, director, employee or volunteer of this Church from seeking compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. Either party to the dispute may initiate the arbitration process by filing with the other party a written request for arbitration within a reasonable time after the dispute has arisen and efforts to mediate or conciliate have failed. In such a case, the member and the Church shall each name an arbitrator, and the two so selected shall name a third. All arbitrators must be born-again believers who are members of Pinecrest Baptist Church or some other church of like faith and doctrine, be legally classified as an adult, have some prior experience or exposure to arbitration, mediation or conciliation, and further have at least five years of church membership in his/her present church, two of which must have been in leadership capacity in their respective church. The third arbitrator chosen by the other two shall disclose, before accepting the appointment, any financial or personal interest in the outcome of the arbitration, and any existing or past financial, professional, family, or social relationship which is likely to affect impartiality or which might reasonably create an appearance of partiality or bias. Either of the parties to the arbitration, regardless of the stage of the arbitration process, may on the basis of such disclosures disqualify such a person from further participation. The arbitration process shall not proceed until the third arbitrator is selected.

Matthew 18:15-20

Ephesians 4:30, 31

The arbitrators shall appoint the time and place for the hearing and cause notification to be served personally or by registered mail not less than fifteen (15) days before the hearing. Appearance at the hearing waives such notice. The arbitrators may adjourn the hearing from time to time as necessary and, on request, may postpone the hearing to a later date. The arbitrators may hear and determine the controversy upon the evidence produced, notwithstanding the failure of a party duly notified to appear. The parties are entitled to be heard, to present evidence material to the controversy, and to cross-examine witnesses appearing at the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by all arbitrators, but a majority of them may determine any question and render a final award. If during the course of the hearing an arbitrator for any reason ceases to act, he/she shall be replaced in the same manner in which he/she was originally selected. The arbitrators may in their absolute discretion admit as evidence any affidavit or declaration concerning the matters in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least three (3) days previously to the party against whom the same is offered, but the person's evidence so taken shall be subject to cross-examination by such party. The arbitrators shall have the power to order and direct what they shall deem necessary to be done by either of the parties relating to the matters in dispute. Cost of the arbitration shall be determined and assessed by the arbitrators. Any submission of a dispute to arbitration shall not be revoked by the death of any party to the dispute, and award shall be binding upon the parties to such dispute and their heirs and successors.

The decision of the arbitrators shall be final and binding on both parties, and both parties submit themselves to the personal jurisdiction of the courts of Georgia, both state and federal, for the entry of a judgment confirming the arbitrators' award.

The arbitration process is not a substitute for any disciplinary process set forth in the Constitution and ByLaws of the Church, and shall in no way affect the authority of the Church to investigate reports of misconduct, conduct hearings, or administer discipline.

Any matter not provided for herein shall be governed by the provisions of the Uniform Arbitration Act.

If the dispute has the potential of resulting in an award of monetary damages, then use of this arbitration procedure is conditioned on acceptance of the procedure by the liability insurer of the Church, and the insurer's agreement to honor any arbitration award up to any applicable policy limits. The arbitration procedure is understood to be the sole and exclusive remedy available to the Church, its Pastor, directors, officers, employees, volunteers or any member. Therefore, all members, including the Pastor, directors, officers, employees and volunteers waive all rights to litigation of any matter of any kind before any administrative body or court of any kind, except to compel enforcement of this arbitration procedure or any award rendered by the arbitrators.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

SECTION 1 - CHURCH OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

- (A) The officers and directors of this Church shall consist of the following: a Pastor who shall serve as the President and a director of the Corporation; members of the Deacons of which the Chairman of the Deacons shall serve as the Vice-President and a director of the Corporation, the Secretary/Clerk of the Deacons shall serve as the Church Clerk and a director of the Corporation, and the Treasurer of the Deacons shall serve as the Treasurer and a director of the Corporation.
- (B) Only members of the Church in good standing are eligible for election or appointment to any office of the Church.
- (C) To the event not inconsistent with the laws of the state of Georgia, every person who is or was a director, officer, member, employee, volunteer, or agent of the Corporation shall be indemnified by the Corporation against all liability and reasonable expense that may be incurred by him in connection with or resulting from any claim, action, suit or proceeding (a) if such director, officer, member, employee, volunteer or agent is wholly successful with respect thereto or (b) if not wholly successful, then if such director, officer, member, employee, volunteer or agent is determined to have acted in good faith, in what he reasonably believed to be the best interest of the Corporation and, in addition, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, is determined to have had no reasonable cause to believe that this conduct was unlawful. The Pastor and Deacons are authorized and empowered to purchase insurance covering the Corporation's liabilities and obligations under this Section and insurance protecting the Corporation's directors, officers, members, employees, volunteers or agents.
- (D) No director, officer, deacon or any agent or representative duly authorized in any of the foregoing capacities shall be liable to the corporation for monetary damages for an act or omission in any such capacity, except and only for the following:
 - 1. A breach of the involved duty or loyalty to the corporation;
 - 2. An act or omission not in good faith or an act or omission that involves intentional misconduct or knowingly a violation of law;
 - 3. A transaction from which the involved person gained any improper benefit whether or not such benefit resulted from an action taken within the scope of his/her duty; or
 - 4. An act or omission by the involved person for which liability is expressly provided by law.

SECTION 2 - SELECTION AND TERMS OF OFFICE:

The selection and length of terms of office shall be as follows:

- (A) In selecting a Pastor, the pulpit committee shall consist of the Deacons, plus three (3) members of the congregation who are elected by the members present at a regular or special business meeting. The committee shall secure names and qualifications of potential candidates for the pastorate. If these qualifications are found to be in accord with the Word of God, Statement of Faith, and doctrinal position of the Church, the prospective candidates may be contacted one at a time to set up an interview with the pulpit committee and to be heard by the congregation. After hearing the candidate preach and after the Deacons lovingly question him thoroughly, the pulpit

committee may duly call a special church business meeting for the purpose of voting on the candidate in question. The call shall be extended at a duly called meeting of the Church, at which a quorum is present, with a two-thirds vote of the majority of voting members present, voting and qualified (regularly attend the services of Pinecrest Baptist Church and conduct themselves in compliance with Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws and any amendments thereto) provided that said meeting was announced two (2) Sundays before the vote was taken. If the candidate is rejected or if he refuses the call, the committee shall seek another candidate in the described manner until a pastor is called or until the committee is released by the church. The relationship between the Pastor and the Church shall be a permanent one until dissolved at the option of either party by giving a notice of one month, or by resignation, or by death, or incapacitation. However, removal of the Pastor for apostasy (divergence from the doctrinal statement) or for immoral or unethical practices shall be made only after due trial by the Deacons and at a duly called meeting of the Church, at which a quorum is present, voting and qualified (regularly attend the services of Pinecrest Baptist Church and conduct themselves in compliance with Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws and any amendments thereto). The severance of the relationship between the Pastor and the Church due to doctrinal, immoral or unethical reasons may be considered at a duly called meeting of the Church at which a quorum is present provided notice to the effect shall have been given to the membership two (2) Sundays prior to said Church business meeting.

- (B) The relationship between the deacon(s) and the church shall be dissolved by one of the following acts: the deacon resigns, the deacon passes away, or the deacon is removed from the board by a two-thirds majority vote of the active deacon board. Deacons may be removed for divergence from the doctrinal statement, moral failure, unethical practices, or failing to carry out the duties of a deacon as defined in I Timothy 3:10-13. The active service of a deacon is subject to any rotation schedule the pastor and deacon board may choose to implement. An annual meeting will be held (as determined by pastor and deacons) to review the doctrinal statement and requirements of service. At this time (or any other time) a deacon may choose to go on indefinite inactive status. To be reinstated, he and his wife must be in full agreement with the Scripture and program as they were when ordained.
- (C) Regular meetings. The regular meeting of the active deacon body shall be quarterly, (4) times a year, plus any other meetings deemed necessary by the pastor, and shall be determined at times specified by the Pastor. Special meetings may be called by the Pastor and/or the active chairman of the deacons. A majority of the active deacon body will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the active deacon body. The act of a majority of the deacons present at a meeting at which a quorum is present will be the act of the active deacon body.
- (D) There shall be at least three (3) deacons. The number of deacons needed will be determined by the pastor. In selecting new deacons, the pastor shall ask the Church congregation to submit the names of prospective qualified men for an appointment at a duly convened church business meeting. Newly selected deacons shall not be employees of Pinecrest Baptist Church or any of its related ministries. The pastor shall meet with each one that is Scripturally qualified and convey the honor that the church has bestowed upon him and explain to him the responsibilities and qualifications for said office. If the candidate does not want his name placed before the Church for a vote by the congregation, he may ask that his name be withdrawn. Those men who have been approved by the pastor as candidates for the office of deacon and who have agreed to have their name presented before the Church for a vote shall be presented by the pastor at a special duly called business meeting of the Church. The Church shall vote to confirm the selected candidates. A majority of voting members present, voting and qualified (regularly attend the services of Pinecrest Baptist Church and conduct themselves in compliance with Article III,

Section 2 of the Bylaws and any amendments thereto) shall be sufficient to fill the office of Deacon. Any Deacon who neglects his duties and responsibilities or who is not in agreement with the Word of God, Statement of Faith, and doctrinal position of the Church may be removed from his office as deacon by the pastor, provided such action is ratified by a majority of voting members present, voting and qualified (regularly attend the service of Pinecrest Baptist Church and conduct themselves in compliance with Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws and any amendments thereto at a special meeting of the membership duly called for such purpose.

- (E) In the event that the pastor or any deacon should resign, the resignation shall take effect as submitted and when accepted (except as otherwise provided in Article V, Section 2 of the Bylaws and any amendments thereto). Any officer, director or deacon may resign his position at any time by giving written notice of his resignation to the Pastor and/or Chairman of the Deacons of the Church or Corporation.
- (F) The church clerk and the treasurer shall be elected by the active Deacon body in December of each year and shall serve for a period of one year beginning the first day of January, or until the election of their respective successors.
- (G) The chairman of the deacons shall be elected by the active deacon body and approved by the pastor from among their number at the deacons' meeting in December and shall serve for a period of one year or until the election of his successor.
- (H) Removal and Vacancies. Any officer, other than the pastor, elected by the members may be removed, or a vacancy filled, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at any business meeting and any officer elected by the active deacon body may be removed, or a vacancy filled, by a majority vote at any regular or special deacons meeting.
- (I) Treasurer. The treasurer will supervise the keeping of adequate records of receipts and disbursements. The funds of the church will be deposited in such banks or other depositories as may be determined by the active deacon body. The treasurer will serve as an ex-officio member of the finance committee and will, in general, perform all of the duties incident to such office and other such duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the pastor.
- (J) Secretary/Church Clerk. The Secretary/Church Clerk will keep the minutes of business meetings of the members. He will be custodian of the church records and seal and see that the seal of the church is affixed to all documents which require it and have been approved for execution by the active deacon body. He shall issue letters of dismissal and recommendation. He shall keep a register of members and in general perform all duties incident to the office of church clerk, and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the pastor.

ARTICLE VI: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1 - THE PASTOR:

The Pastor shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach as the Lord leads him. He shall be administrator of ordinances, act as moderator at all meetings of the Church for the transaction of business, supervise the teaching ministry of the Church, tenderly watch over the spiritual interest of its membership, and organize and develop the ministries of the Church. The Pastor shall serve as corporation President and director; it shall be his duty publicly to inform all newly elected officers of the particular function and responsibility of their respective offices. He shall retain final authority of all personnel changes subject to budget limitations and deacon board counsel. All duties and hours of the support staff shall be determined by the pastor. If the Church is without a pastor, the chairman of the Deacons shall serve as moderator. The Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees of the Church and its related and accessory organizations "with

power to vote". The Pastor shall be free to choose the means and methods by which he exercises the ministry that God has given him concerning all of the activities of the Church. It shall be understood that the pastor is responsible to communicate with the deacons and the church concerning these matters in a timely fashion.

SECTION 2 - THE DEACONS:

- (A) The Deacons shall assist the Pastor in promoting the spiritual welfare of the Church and in organizing and developing its ministries. They shall make proper provision for the observance of the ordinances of the Church, and members of the Deacons shall assist the Pastor in serving the Lord's Supper. They shall also assist the Pastor in home visitation, in other personal work and in all other evangelistic efforts of the Church. They shall also assist in securing the funds necessary to maintain and advance the work of this Church and cooperate with the Pastor at his request in caring for the administrative needs of the church-related ministries.
- (B) The Deacons shall be appointed as Directors of the Corporation. The Deacons shall from their own membership elect a Chairman who shall serve as the Vice-President of the Corporation and a Secretary/Church Clerk who shall serve as the Secretary/Church Clerk of the Corporation of which all appointments are subject to approval of the Pastor. They shall also serve as trustee directors for the Church or any related ministry as deemed necessary.

SECTION 3 - SPECIFIC POWERS:

The Pastor and the Deacons shall exercise the following specific powers and authorize acts binding the Corporation:

- (A) They shall have the authority to purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the Church and its related ministries and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the Church and its related ministries; to institute and settle lawsuits; to establish pension plans; and other business endeavors essential to perpetuate the exempt purposes of the Church;
- (B) to sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of church property and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the Church and its related ministries; to borrow money and incur indebtedness not to exceed the amount specified by the Church and/or Article VII Section 1 of the Bylaws and any amendments thereto for the purposes and the use of the Church and its related ministries; and in the name of the Church to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment of loans, mortgages, or other obligations of the Church;
- (C) to conduct and carry out all other ministry business activity on behalf of and in the interest of the Church and its related ministers, provided such actions are consistent with the law;
- (D) and to exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the Church Corporation if such action is mandated by a vote of the Church membership.
- (E) The Pastor and Finance Committee shall select all banks, trust companies or other depositories for funds to be deposited from time to time on behalf of the Church or its related ministries including extension ministry accounts. All contributions which are tax deductible contributions under Section 170 (c) (2) and 509 (a) (1) of the Internal Revenue Code and Regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended shall be considered as given unto the Lord and are not refundable except as otherwise provided under the Uniform Management of Institutional Funds Act.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

SECTION 1 – FINANCE TEAM:

- (A) The Finance Team shall consist of at least two members of the Deacons. In addition to the deacons, members may be appointed by the approval of the Pastor and Deacons to the Finance Team. The number will be determined by the Pastor and the active Deacon body. They shall be appointed by the Pastor subject to approval by majority vote of the Deacons and shall serve in the capacity of Finance Team for the period of one year. The maximum number of people appointed to serve on the Finance Team shall be determined by the Pastor and Deacons with a minimum of five (5) being necessary at times for the Finance Team to be duly constituted. The Finance Team is responsible for the adoption of the Church budget and for approving the budgets of all related ministries. The Finance Team will make recommendations to the Pastor and Deacons to borrow money, to purchase, to lease, to exchange, to transfer, to acquire or to dispose of real and personal property on behalf of the Corporation.
- (B) The Finance Team may appoint an independent certified public accountant who shall audit the books of the Corporation at the close of the fiscal year or as otherwise determined to be necessary.
- (C) The Finance Team shall approve checking accounts, drafts and other orders for the payment of monies out of the funds of the Church or its related ministries including extension ministry accounts in which at least one (1) officer or director shall be authorized to sign on each and every account.
- (D) The Finance Team shall approve all financial statements of the Church and its related ministries and shall cause all disbursements to be paid by check except miscellaneous petty cash disbursements as set forth by the Finance Team in which two (2) individual signatures shall be required on all checks for the disbursement of funds.
- (E) The Finance Team shall secure reasonable insurance or bonding as deemed necessary designed to protect against losses resulting from those who handle Church or related ministry funds, money, securities or other tangible personal property as defined by the insurance or bonding policy.
- (F) The Finance Team is authorized to approve all major expenditures or indebtedness of the Church in excess of five-hundred dollars (\$500.00) not included in the budget, provided each expenditure is not more than one percent (1%) of the Church's operating revenue budget. Any purchase or indebtedness in excess of that amount must be approved by the Deacons and the Church. It is understood, however, that this restriction shall not apply to budget items and regular and established business matters of indebtedness, purchases or equipment replacement in which the Church has been engaged and to which it is accustomed. Neither shall this restriction apply in case of any emergency where delay would likely cause material or irreparable loss, damage, or injury either to persons, employees, property, or the welfare of the Church or its related ministries. All purchases or indebtedness by extension or related ministries in excess of five-hundred dollars (\$500.00) not included in the annual budget of the involved ministry shall be approved by the Finance Team. Any indebtedness in excess of five percent (5%) of the extension or related ministry annual operating revenue budget shall be approved by the Finance Team and Deacons.
- (G) The Accounting Team shall consist of at least four (4) people, two of which shall be members of the Finance Team.

SECTION 2 - PULPIT COMMITTEE:

- (A) The pulpit committee shall consist of all members of the Deacons, plus three (3) members (in good standing according to Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws) as stated in Article V, Section 2, (A).
- (B) The pulpit committee shall recommend extending a call to a prospective pastoral candidate in accordance with Article V, Section 2 (A) of the Bylaws and any amendments thereto.

SECTION 3 - OTHER COMMITTEES:

- (A) Committees of Deacons. The active deacon body may by resolution duly adopt, designate, and appoint one or more committees, each of which will consist of two or more deacons to perform such functions as may be determined by the active deacon body.
- (B) Committees of Members. The pastor may appoint from the members of the church such committees and for such purpose or purposes as he thinks advisable. The pastor may also designate one of the members as a chairman of the committee.

SECTION 4 - TRUSTEES:

- (A) Qualifications. The qualifications for trustees of the church include that the trustee be a man of the highest moral quality, that he be a man in full agreement with the entire program of the church, that he support and uphold the pastor and leadership, and that he be faithful to the church in attendance and tithing.
- (B) Appointment. The active deacon body and pastor shall appoint men qualified for the position of trustee.
- (C) Duties. The trustees shall not represent the church in legal matters. The trustees shall look after the physical needs of the church buildings which includes up-keep and maintenance. The trustees shall make up the Maintenance Committee with the custodian answerable to the Maintenance Committee. The trustees shall choose a chairman and vice-chairman among themselves.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

SECTION 1 - MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP:

Unless otherwise determined by the Pastor, the Church shall meet each Sunday for public worship both morning and evening and at least once during the week for Bible study and prayer. All appointments for public worship and Bible study and the arrangements thereof including time and place and the use of the property belonging to the Church for purposes other than those stated in Article I Section 2 of the Constitution and any amendments thereto shall be under the control of the Pastor and/or Deacons.

SECTION 2 - SPECIAL MEETINGS:

- (A) The Pastor (or Deacons if the office of Pastor is vacant or the Pastor is the subject of possible disciplinary action) may duly call a special meeting to consider matters of Church business and administration without prior notice unless otherwise provided by the Constitution or any amendments thereto.
- (B) Bible conferences, missionary conferences, and revivals may be held as the Pastor deems beneficial.

SECTION 3 - QUORUM FOR MEETINGS:

A majority of voting members present, voting and qualified (regularly attend the services of Pinecrest Baptist Church and conduct themselves in compliance with Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws and any amendments thereto), constitute a quorum. A quorum shall be present for all business and special meetings conducted by the Church and/or its related ministries. All decisions concerning the number of the majority voting members present who are qualified to vote will be determined by the Pastor and/or Deacons.

SECTION 4 - FISCAL YEAR:

The fiscal year of the Church shall begin January 1 and end December 31.

SECTION 5 - RULES OF ORDER:

All questions of order shall be governed by the parliamentary procedures loosely governing deliberate bodies as set forth in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Revised in all cases where they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws and any amendments thereto and any other special rules of order the Church may adopt in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

SECTION 6 - BUSINESS MEETINGS:

- (A) Each member of the Church shall be entitled to vote in all matters of business, except that only members of at least eighteen (18) years of age shall be permitted to vote on matters pertaining to the disciplining of members, the purchase or sale of real property, and the calling or dismissal of the Pastor. All regular and special business meetings shall be called and held at any time and place designated (except as otherwise deemed necessary by the Constitution and ByLaws and any amendments thereto) by the Pastor and/or Deacons and shall be so opened and closed with prayer for divine guidance and blessing. All recommendations for motions when requested shall be presented by the Pastor or Moderator. The Pastor or Moderator shall call for the motion to be acted upon. In the absence of the Pastor or Chairman of Deacons the Church Clerk shall call the membership to order and shall serve as moderator.
- (B) The annual business meeting shall be held on the first Wednesday following the first Sunday in December unless another date is deemed necessary by the Pastor and Deacons. At this meeting the annual budget shall be presented to the church for a vote of approval by the majority of members present (in accordance to Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws).

SECTION 7 - VOTING:

Voting may be cast orally, by show of hands, or by secret ballot. The method used will be governed by the Pastor and/or Deacons. The members of the Church shall not be entitled to vote by proxy on any matter, unless otherwise provided by the Constitution and Bylaws and any amendments thereto. Members who regularly attend the services of Pinecrest Baptist Church and conduct themselves in compliance with Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws and any amendments thereto may be entitled to vote by absentee ballot when the matter involves considering the calling or dismissal of the Pastor. Such a decision shall be approved by the Deacons.

ARTICLE IX: ORDINATION

SECTION 1 - ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS:

Any member of this Church or its mission churches who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry and possesses the qualifications stated in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9 may be ordained, licensed and/or commissioned as a minister of the Gospel. A certificate of ordination or license enables him to perform ministerial functions such as: conducting worship services, preaching, baptizing, Lord's Supper, weddings, funerals, and other ministerial services as pertain to an ordained or licensed minister of the Gospel.

I Timothy 3:1-7

Titus 1:6-9

SECTION 2 - ORDINATION PROCEDURE:

- (A) Following a conference with the Pastor after which the Pastor approves the candidate for ordination, the Pastor shall call a council to examine and accept the qualification of the candidate. The ordination council shall consist of the pastor, deacons, and any ordained minister invited to the council by the pastor.
- (B) If the candidate is found worthy of the ordination by the council, the ordination council may recommend that the candidate in question be ordained on behalf of the Church.
- (C) The Pastor shall arrange for the ordination service.

ARTICLE X: TAX-EXEMPT PROVISIONS

SECTION 1 - PRIVATE INUREMENT:

No part of the net earnings of the Church or its related ministries shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution and any amendments thereto.

SECTION 2 - POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT:

No substantial part of the activities of the Church shall be for the perpetrating of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The Church shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

SECTION 3 - DISSOLUTION:

Upon the dissolution of the Church, the Deacons shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the Church, dispose of all of the assets of the Church to such organization or organizations established and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Deacons shall determine. Assets may be distributed only to organizations which agree with the Church's Statement of Faith.

SECTION 4 - RACIAL NONDISCRIMINATION:

The Church shall have a racially nondiscriminatory policy and therefore shall not discriminate against members, applicants, students, and others on the basis of race, color, nationality or ethnic origin.

ARTICLE XI: DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

Pinecrest Baptist Church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various designated and benevolent funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions, but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive administrative and accounting control and discretion of the Pastor and the Deacons. The Pastor and the Deacons may consider suggested designations, but in no event are they bound in any way to honor such designations since they are accepted only on the condition that they are mere suggestions or recommendations. Donors wishing to make contributions to the designated or benevolence fund subject to these conditions may be able to deduct their contributions if they itemize their deductions. Checks should be made payable to the Church with a notation that the funds are to be placed in the Church's designated or benevolence fund. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the Church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution and any amendments thereto.

ARTICLE XII: SEAL

The active deacon body shall approve a form of seal to be used by the church.

ARTICLE XIII: AMENDMENTS

The foregoing Amended Constitution and Bylaws may be revised or amended at a duly called meeting of the Church, at which a quorum is present, with a two-third's vote of the majority of voting members present, voting and qualified (regularly attend the services of Pinecrest Baptist Church and conduct themselves in compliance with Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws and any amendments thereto).

ARTICLE XIV ADOPTION

The foregoing Amended Constitution and Bylaws were adopted at a duly called meeting of the Church, at which a quorum was present, with a two-thirds vote of the majority of voting members present, voting and qualified (regularly attend the services of Pinecrest Baptist church and conduct themselves in compliance with Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws and any amendments thereto), after having been submitted in writing and distributed to the membership.