

CONSTITUTION
of the
GOSPEL LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH
Keyser, West Virginia

Preamble

We, the members of Gospel Life Baptist Church, in orderly manner do hereby establish the following principles by which we mutually agree to be governed in the affairs of our church. We the members of Gospel Life Baptist Church having placed our faith solely in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, and having been scripturally immersed in baptism following our salvation, hereby adopt the following constitution. This constitution is neither a substitute for nor a supplement to the Word of God. It is simply an application of what we believe are the teachings and principles of the Bible as applied to the people of Gospel Life Baptist Church. It is a guide to aide in the application of biblical principles to church polity. The Word of God shall be the first and final authority on all church matters, and any issue whereon this constitution is silent shall be governed by the clear statement of the Word of God.

Article I. - Organization

Section 1.01 - Name

The name of this organization shall be **GOSPEL LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH** of Keyser, West Virginia.

Section 1.02 - Purpose

The purpose of Gospel Life Baptist Church is to glorify God 1.) by exalting Him in both public and private worship, 2.) by serving and encouraging each other unto love and good works, and 3.) by making disciples of all peoples.

Section 1.03 - Vision

Since we believe that the Gospel is at the root of all real change in our lives (justification, sanctification, and glorification), and is the fuel for our worship of God, fellowship with each other, and disciple-making efforts in the world, it is the vision of Gospel Life Baptist Church to be a congregation that is that is continually growing in our apprehension , appreciation, and application of the Gospel, both individually and corporately, and in that way bringing glory to God by our lives.

Article II. Beliefs

Section 2.01 -Statement of Faith

Throughout the Church age, from the Apostles to today, Christians have sought to articulate their beliefs in definitive statements. The Bible, however, as the Word of God, is to be the final and only authority in all matters of faith and practice. The following Articles of Faith express the basic doctrines of the Bible we as a church believe and teach. Where this statement is silent we generally refer and adhere to the historical Baptist Confessions of London (1646 & 1689) and New Hampshire (1833 & 1853).

- A. **THE SCRIPTURES** – We believe that the Bible, composed of the Old and New Testaments, is inspired of God and absolutely inerrant and infallible in the original manuscripts. The Bible is complete and sufficient: It is not to be added to or subtracted from. (II Timothy 3:16,17; II Peter 1:19-21; Revelation 22:18,19)
- B. **THE TRUE GOD** – We believe there is only one living and true God eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the same in substance: perfect in holiness, boundless in love, infinite in wisdom and measureless in power. We believe God is the creator of all mankind, but we reject the modernist and liberal teaching that God is the Father of all, and that all are Brothers. We believe God is the Spiritual Father only to those who are born again, and they are the brothers and sisters in Christ. (Gen. 1:1; Deut. 6:14; Mark 12:29; Mt. 3:16,17; 28:19,20; John 10:30; John 1:12; II Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6)
- C. **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST** – We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternally existing Son of God, begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He took upon Himself a human body and a human nature, yet without sin. We believe in His substitutionary death on the cross making atonement for the sins of the world, His bodily resurrection and ascension into heaven where He intercedes for believers (Luke 1:35; Ro. 3:25; John 3:16; I Cor. 15:3,4; Acts 1:3,9).
- D. **THE HOLY SPIRIT** – We believe in the deity and personality of the Holy Spirit; that He convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgement; that He is the Agent of the new birth; that He baptizes all believers at the time of conversion thereby placing them into the Body of Christ, which is the Church; indwelling and sanctifying them, sealing and securing them unto the day of redemption; that He endures with power, guides teaches and helps believers; that it is commanded to all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (John 16:7-11; Ro. 8; Eph. 1:13,14; 5:18; I Cor 12:13).
- E. **THE TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MAN** – We believe that man was created in the image of God; that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God. We believe that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and in the case of those who reach moral responsibility, sin in thought and deed by choice (Ro. 3:10-12; 5:10-19; Eph. 2:1-3).

- F. **SALVATION** – We believe that salvation is by grace through faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. We believe that He died for our sins as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice. This redemption has been accomplished solely by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made to be sin for us, and that no feeling, no work, no ordinance of the church, can add in the least degree to the value of the blood and finished work wrought for us by Him. Any individual who by faith receives Him as his or her personal Savior is justified on the ground of His shed blood and His resurrection from the dead and is born again by the Holy Spirit and kept eternally secure. We believe that one exercising this faith is immediately out of spiritual death into spiritual life and is complete in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16-18; 5:24; 10:27-30; Ro. 1:16,17; 3:24-26; 10:9; Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 9:11-15).
- G. **THE CHURCH** – We believe that all true believers, upon trusting Christ as Savior are baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ, which is the church. The Church is the bride of Christ which began at Pentecost and has and will continue until the rapture. We believe that the believers banded together for edification, worship and to carry out the Great Commission. The scriptural ordinances of the church are baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:41-47; Ro. 12:4,5; I Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 1:20-24; Colossians 1:18).
- H. **SATAN** – We believe in the reality and personality of Satan who is the “god of this world.” We believe that God created an innumerable company of sinless Spiritual beings known as angels; the highest-ranking cherub sinned through pride, and became known as Satan. We believe that Satan originated sin, and under the permission of God and through subtlety, led our first parents into sin. By this he accomplished their moral fall and subjecting them and their posterity to his own power, He is the enemy of God and God's people. We believe that Satan was judged at the cross, though not then executed, and that at the second coming of Christ, Satan will be bound and cast into the abyss for a thousand years, and after the 1,000 years, he will be loosed for a little season and then cast into the Lake of Fire (Gen. 3; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:11-19; II Cor. 4:3,4; II Thes. 2:4; I Tim. 3:6; 4:1; I Pet. 5:8,9; II Pet. 2:4; Col. 2:15; Rev. 20:1-3,10).
- I. **SANCTIFICATION** – We believe that sanctification is a three-fold work. God sets us apart at the moment of salvation and we are positionally seated with Christ in Heaven. Sanctification is also a progressive work in the life of the believer as he daily becomes conformed to the image of Christ through His Word. This work will be brought to completion when all believers receive their glorified bodies (John 17:17; Ro. 8:17; I Thes. 4:3,4; Titus 2:11-15; Eph. 5:27).
- J. **SEPARATION** – We believe all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon the Savior. We believe that all believers are called to a life of separation from all worldly and sinful practices, and all forms of religious apostasy. We will not cooperate with the National and World Council of Churches, or any group associated with the Ecumenical movement. (II Cor. 6:14-17; 7:1; Ro. 12:1,2; James 4:4).

- K. **ORDINANCES** – The two Christ-ordained decrees to be remembered by the Church are water baptism by immersion for believers and Communion for those believers in proper fellowship with the Lord. Water baptism is an outward act of obedience in response to the already completed inward cleansing of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. Communion is the remembering of Christ's death till He comes by partaking in a worthy manner of the bread and grape juice as Christ did at the Last Supper (Mt. 28:19; Acts 8:36-39; Mark 14:22-25; I Cor. 11:22-34).
- L. **MISSIONS** – We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind and to support in prayer and give to those whom God would lead us to financially and regularly support in mission endeavors (Mk. 16:15; Acts 1:8; II Cor. 5:19,20; Philippians 4:14).
- M. **SECOND COMING** – We believe the end of the world is approaching. We believe in the personal, imminent, return of the Lord Jesus Christ for His Bride, the redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish His Millennial Kingdom (Zech. 14:4-11; Acts 1:11; I Thes. 4:13-18; Rev. 19:11-16).
- N. **THE ETERNAL STATE** – We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life; and the unsaved to judgement and everlasting punishment. (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28, 11:25,26). We believe that the souls of the redeemed are at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:45; Rev. 20:4-6; Philippians 1:23). We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgement, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-26; Mt. 25:41-46; II Thes. 1:7-9; Rev. 20:11-15).

Section 2.02 –Positions on Contemporary Issues

- A. **SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE** – We believe in the sanctity of human life traceable to the “breath of life” breathed into Adam in the Garden of Eden. We believe that life begins at conception and that abortion and euthanasia are the unscrupulous ending of human life forbidden by God in the scriptures. We further believe there is a significant distinction to be made between the sacredness of human life created in the “image of God” and animal life instituted by God for man’s welfare. (Job 1:21, 12:10, & 27:3; Genesis 1:26-28 & 2:7; Ruth 4:13; Proverbs 6:17b; 2Kings 8:12)
- B. **MARRIAGE** –We believe in the holy covenant of marriage. After creating male and female, God created marriage for them (*Gen. 2:18-25*). Marriage is a covenant in which a man and woman leave their parents and form a lifelong monogamous bond for the purposes of: picturing the relationship of Christ and His Church (*Eph. 5:22-33*), companionship (*Gen 2:20*), procreation (*Gen 1:28; Mal. 2:15*), pleasure (*Prov. 5:18-20; Heb. 13:4*), and a deterrent from temptation (*I Cor. 7:2, 9*). Thus marriage is a permanent covenant broken only by death and specific scriptural exceptions such as unrepentant adultery, Mt 19:9. Furthermore, all expressions of sexuality outside of the bonds of marriage are deemed sinful sexual immorality. These include, but are not limited, to acts and lifestyles such as homosexuality, bestiality, prostitution, polygamy, polyandry, and polyamory. (Hebrews 13:4; Genesis 1:28 & 2:18; Matthew 19:1-6; Romans 1:26-28) We further believe that those practicing such acts should be treated with love, respect and presented the life changing news of the Gospel. Church membership is available to all those who repent of their sin and believe the gospel 1 Cor 6:11.
- C. **GENDER ROLES**- We believe that God deliberately created the equal yet distinct genders of male and female. Both genders, as image-bearers of God, share equal personhood and worth, with equal access to God (*I Cor. 11:11-12; Gal. 3:27-28; I Pet. 3:7*). The New Testament intensifies the equality between genders with equal baptism (*Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:41*) and reception of spiritual gifts (*Acts 2:17-18; I Cor. 12:7; I Pet. 4:10*). We believe that though equal in person and worth, God created complimentary (complimentarian) roles for each gender functionally (*Gen. 2:18; I Cor. 11:9; Eph. 5:22-28*). We believe that one’s gender is chosen by God and is part of one’s personhood, thus we oppose the transgender lifestyle.

Article III. - MEMBERSHIP

Section 3.01 Qualifications for Membership

Any individual may be a covenant member of Gospel Life Baptist Church if they have are a regenerate believer in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, have been scripturally baptized, desire to join this fellowship, and are in general agreement with the constitution and statement of faith. Voting members must be at least 18 years old.

Section 3.02 Basis of Membership (Receiving members)

- A. By profession: Upon profession of faith and following the lord in believer's baptism, and by acceptance of our Statement of Faith and Constitution.
- B. By transfer: Upon transfer via a letter, from another church of like faith and practice, and acceptance of our Statement of Faith and Constitution.
- C. By presentation at a public service, having already professed Jesus as Savior and having been scripturally baptized by immersion and acceptance of our Statement of Faith and Constitution.
- D. By restoration, disciplined members may be gladly and joyfully restored to membership on the condition of their confession and restitution of the sin in question and upon approval of the membership.
- E. By Pastoral call, pastors and family automatically become members upon accepting the call to this church and acceptance of our doctrinal statement.

Section 3.03 Procedures for Membership

Candidates for membership shall be interviewed by the Pastors and/or Deacons; upon the leadership's recommendation, the church shall vote to receive that person(s) into membership. Any person who has personally believed and received the Lord Jesus Christ as set forth in John 1:12; 3:16, and who has been water baptized by immersion, should present themselves for membership at the end of a regular service or to a Pastor or Deacon.

Section 3.04 Termination of Membership

- A. Death
- B. Transfer – A member leaving this church may be granted a letter of transfer to join with another church of like faith and practice.
- C. Withdrawal – A member may withdraw his membership from this church upon a written request to the Pastors and Deacons.
- D. Discipline – The procedure of disciplining an erring member applies to Pastors, Deacons, officers and any other member. The goal of discipline is to correct a member in a loving, orderly, yet firm manner with the end result in restoring the erring one back to fellowship. In all cases of disorderly conduct, heretical doctrine or spiritual apathy that opposes the church's life and faith the following procedure will be enacted to exclude or terminate membership.
 - 1. All members who for a period of **six months** do not attend the regular services of the church, except for understandable circumstances, shall, after being contacted by a pastor, be removed from membership.
 - 2. Differences between individuals or sins not generally known should be handled by the wronged party or witness according to Matthew 18:15-17; that is one to one; then, two by two; finally, church to one. The church may or may not dismiss the individual depending on result of the meeting and/or secret ballot of membership (See 4. Below). Any one bringing a matter into the public or before the church having not followed scriptural procedure shall be subject to rebuke.
 - 3. Matters of formal accusation against a member shall be:
 - a. Public sins or sins known to the church or general public.
 - b. Holding and persistently propagating false doctrine.
 - c. Any failure to be reconciled to another member
 - 4. The following procedure shall be used in disciplining a member by terminating membership in a church meeting.
 - a. Charges against another member must be made in writing and presented to the Pastors and Deacons.
 - b. If Pastors and Deacons cannot resolve the problem, one week's written notice shall be given to the accused member to appear before the church at a designated meeting. The accused may call another member to speak for him. If the accuse or other member fail to appear the church may proceed.
 - c. A member formally accused is automatically released from any office or position.

- d. At the close of the meeting the membership shall vote by secret ballot. If the accused member is found guilty by simple majority, a statement of exclusion from membership, including reasons and admonitions, will be sent to him by mail.

Section 3.05 Privileges of Membership

- A. The privileges of membership include the right to vote when the member reaches the age of 18.
- B. Offices of the church are open to appointed and qualified members.

Section 3.06 Expectations of Membership

- A. Members are expected to attend services regularly (Hebrews 10:25), attend the Lord's Table in particular, as well as member's meetings.
- B. Members are expected to support the ministry through prayer and giving (Gal 6:6).
- C. Members are expected to build relationships within the body and get involved in the lives of other members. Rom 12:5, 1 Cor 12:12-26, Eph 4:15-16
- D. Members are expected to submit to the church's leadership, unless the leadership is in violation of scripture. Heb 13:17
- E. Members are expected to serve as God gives them opportunity and exercise their spiritual gifts in the context of the local church. 1 Cor 12:7

Article IV. Government

Section 4.01 Polity

This church is governed by elder led congregationalism; a congregational polity that is led by pastors who are assisted by deacons. The membership is represented by leaders holding offices listed in Section 4.02.

Section 4.02 Offices

- A. The offices of this church shall be the Biblical offices of Pastor and Deacon. There may also be auxiliary offices such as Trustee, Treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent, and Youth Director. Other offices may be established by the Pastors and Deacons as necessary.
- B. The Pastors, Deacons, and *other* Trustees *as necessary* make up the Leadership Team which by their consensus may also include the other auxiliary offices. All elected officers of the church shall be members in good standing, 18 years of age and older, and must agree with the doctrinal statement and by-laws, and meet the qualifications for officers before they can be nominated.

Section 4.03 Pastor/Elders

- A. The duties of the Pastors shall be the spiritual oversight of the church. The Pastors shall have charge of all preaching services and prayer meetings. The pastoral team has executive power over scheduling and execution of events of the church. The Lead Pastor is the ex-officio officer of all church groups, committees, and teams. It is the ultimate responsibility of the pastors to oversee membership.
- B. The qualifications of the pastor are those given in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. We believe that women are excluded from the office of pastor.
- C. The Pastor shall act as the moderator in all meetings of the church. In the Senior Pastor's absence, the Assistant Pastor shall preside. In the event of the church being without any Pastor, a Deacon shall preside.
- D. The Pastor shall be called for an indefinite term, which shall terminate upon thirty days written notice by either the Pastor or the church. If at any time the Pastor's personal life, belief, preaching, or teaching shall not be in full accord with the doctrinal standards of this church, his services as Pastor shall be terminated immediately following a membership meeting called by the Deacons two weeks in advance and agreed to by a vote of three fourths of the members present.

- E. Accusations or questions regarding a pastor's qualification, teaching, and conduct should be handled in accordance with 1 Timothy 5:19-20.
- F. The Pastors' salaries shall be reviewed annually, or as necessary, by the Deacons and other officers. Their recommendations may be brought before the membership at the next business meeting or included in the next year's proposed budget. Upon approval, any adjustment will become effective by vote of the membership.
- G. The duties of Assistant Pastors shall be determined by the Senior/Lead Pastor upon counsel from the Deacons. The qualifications, term of office, and official call shall be the same as those of the Senior Pastor. Any assistant to the Pastor must be a man the Pastor feels he can freely work with.

Section 4.04 Deacons

- A. The duties of the Deacons are to be servants to the Pastors and the church as needed. Per biblical example (Acts 6), the deacons are responsible to ensure that physical needs of the church and membership are met so that the pastors may focus on prayer and the ministry of The Word. They shall assist the Pastors on visitation and in distributing the elements of the Lord's Supper. They shall also, act as the spiritual advisors to the Pastors and assist them in matters of church discipline.
- B. The qualification of the Deacons, and their wives, are those found in I Timothy 3:8-13. Membership in this church must be for one year before being considered for this office. To hold this office, a man must be at least twenty-one years of age.
- C. Deacons are elected by Congregational vote. The process begins with nomination from the congregation or current member of the leadership team. Candidates are confirmed by the current leadership team (made up of pastors, deacons, and trustees) and then confirmed by congregational vote. (Acts 6)
- D. The term of office for a Deacon shall be four years at the end of which he may not serve again as a Deacon for the period of one year unless requested by the Pastors to remain due to need. Any Deacon can be renewed four more years by majority vote of the Pastors and other current Deacons and confirmation by the membership.
- E. The number of Deacons shall be determined by the Pastors and existing Deacons upon approval by the membership.
- F. The Deacons shall meet at least once a month. A majority of the Deacons at any of their meetings shall constitute a quorum.
- G. To share wisdom and insight without additional responsibilities, any Deacon upon reaching the age of 70 years old shall be eligible to be named "Deacon Emeritus." Attendance at monthly leadership meetings is not required.
- H. Should a Deacon not be able to complete his term of office due to resignation, health, moving, failure to meet the biblical qualifications, or death; the remaining Deacons shall nominate a replacement to fill the unexpired term.

Section 4.05 Trustees

- A. The trustees of the corporation of Gospel Life Baptist Church are made up of the pastors and deacons. This leadership team shall function as the board of the corporation. The senior/lead pastor shall function as the president & chairman of the corporate board. This board will have the authority to sign all official documents connected with legal transactions, financial transactions, and any documents required by local, state, or federal governments.
- B. The number of Trustees shall be at least four in accordance with the laws of the State of West Virginia. More Trustees may be added when deemed necessary by the existing Trustees and Pastors, upon approval by the membership. Pastors and Deacons shall serve as Trustees for the full term of their ministries.
- C. If there are not four qualified individuals on the board. Additional individuals may be designated as "trustees" who will function similar to that of deacons without holding the official office title & functions.
- D. The term of office for a Trustee shall be two years at the end of which he may not serve again as a Trustee for a period of one year unless requested by the Pastors to remain due to need. Any Trustee can be renewed two more years by majority vote of the Pastors and other current Deacons and confirmation by the membership.
- E. The Trustees shall meet with the Pastors and Deacons unless Pastors and Deacons agree otherwise.
- F. Any organization or individuals apart from this church must receive permission from the Pastors or Deacons or Trustees for the use of church properties and equipment.

Section 4.06 Treasurer

The duties of the Treasurer are to oversee the reception and disbursement of all funds of the church as authorized. The Treasurer is to keep a careful record of all church finances and to submit a written monthly report to the church.

- G. The treasurer shall be appointed by the Pastors and Deacons and approved by the membership. The Pastors and Deacons may remove or replace the Treasurer when deemed necessary by them and upon approval by the membership.
- H. The treasurer shall be a member in good standing at least 21 years of age and have been a member for at least one year prior to serving as treasurer.
- I. Other members may be appointed to assistant the treasurer as needed. Membership in this church must be for one year before being considered for either office.
- J. The duties of the Assistant Treasurer shall be determined by the Treasurer.
- K. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall have the power to write checks.
- L. The term of office for a Treasurer shall be three years at the end of which he may not serve again as a Treasurer for a period of one year unless requested by the Pastors to remain due to need.. Any Treasurer can be renewed three more years by majority vote of the Pastors and other current Deacons and confirmation by the membership.
- M. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall also meet once a month with Pastors and Deacons.

Section 4.07 Committees & Teams

- A. To effectively and efficiently fulfill the mission of the church committees and teams may be set up as deemed necessary by the leadership.
- B. The Pastor(s) act as ex-officio officers of all church groups, committees, and teams.
- C. Standing committees shall be chaired by a deacon. If none is available the chair person will be appointed by the leadership.
- D. Ad-hoc committees shall dissolve after their function is completed.
- E. Ministry Teams work together to accomplish a particular function in keeping with the mission of the church.
- F. Ministry Team Leaders shall be appointed by the pastor and deacons.
- G. Terms of team members shall be determined by the pastors.

Section 4.08 Building & Grounds Committee

- A. The Building & Grounds Committee shall oversee the care and development of the physical campus of the church.
- B. A deacon shall chair this committee. If a deacon is not available the pastor(s) shall appoint the chair.
- C. The committee shall coordinate projects with the vision set forth by the pastors.

- D. The committee shall coordinate with the housekeeping team regarding routine cleaning and maintenance.
- E. The committee shall seek to involve volunteers and schedule church work days when necessary.
- F. The terms of service for committee members shall be one year.
- G. Committee Members shall be approved by the membership.

Section 4.09 Missions committee

- A. The missions committee shall oversee the missions outreach
- B. The missions committee shall keep the congregation informed of the ministries of our missionaries and mission agencies.
- C. A deacon shall chair this committee. If a deacon is not available the pastor(s) shall appoint the chair.
- D. The terms of service for committee members shall be one year.
- E. Committee Members shall be approved by the membership.
- F. The Missions committee shall review annually the church's missions support and make recommendations to the congregation.

Section 4.10 Pulpit Committee

- A. In the absence of a senior/lead pastor a pulpit committee (also named pastoral search committee) shall be formed. A pulpit committee may also be formed for the acquisition and hiring of associate pastors.
- B. The Pulpit Committee is an Ad Hoc committee and will dissolve immediately after the installation of the pastor.
- C. The Pulpit Committee shall be composed of a minimum of five (5) with seven (7) being the ideal number.
- D. The members of the committee shall be composed of the officers of the church. Individuals who are members in good standing and mature in their Christian walk may also be selected to serve on the committee. The committee shall elect a chairman and secretary from its members at their first meeting. If available, the chairman shall also be a deacon.
- E. Men shall be invited to preach who are in full accord with the Constitution of this church. Only one candidate at a time may be brought before the membership for their consideration. An official call shall be extended to the candidate upon three-fourths of the members present voting in his favor.

Section 4.11 Removal of officers

- A. We believe that those in leadership positions in this church have been given a great privilege and also a greater responsibility to protect the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we require that all officers and teachers be faithful in attendance to the services of the church when possible; be faithful in support of the Pastors and leaders; and be faithful in support of the programs of the church with offerings, testimony, and attitudes (Romans 12:1,2; Ephesians 4:1-3; I Timothy 4:12-16; James 3:1).
- B. Any officer not performing the duties of his/her office or whose life is found not to be consistent with the Word of God may be removed following the guidelines in the articles on discipline.

Article V. Meetings and Elections

Section 5.01 Worship Services

The church shall meet regularly on the Lord's Day for worship. The church may also meet at other times for prayer and Bible study. While scripture does not dictate explicitly we believe that it prudent that the Lord's Supper shall be observed at least every other month.

Section 5.02 Business Meetings

The church shall hold its regular quarterly business meetings in the months of February, May, August, and December as needed.

Section 5.03 Fiscal Year

The Fiscal Year of Gospel Life Baptist Church shall be from January 1st to the end of the calendar year. The annual business meeting shall be the 1st Sunday in December.

Section 5.04 Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the Pastors, the Deacons (when the church is without a Senior Pastor), or at the written request of ten members in good standing presented to the Pastors and Deacons.

Section 5.05 Election of Officers

- A. The regular election of officers shall be held during the December quarterly business meeting.
- B. The election shall be by raised hand or secret ballot. New officers shall assume their duties immediately.
- C. Per Acts 6, nominations for officers are accepted from the congregation. Nominations from the membership shall be submitted two weeks in advance of the election to the Pastors and Deacons. The Pastors and Deacons shall serve as the nominating committee.
- D. There shall be no nominations from the floor. Nominations from the membership are subject to review and approval of the Pastors and Deacons.
- E. Nominations will not be made public before final approval from the nominating committee since the individual may not be biblically qualified.

Section 5.06 Voting

- A. Those members present shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.
- B. Members must be 18 years of age and in good standing to vote.
- C. Two-thirds majority shall be necessary in order to carry out action except where otherwise stated in this constitution.
- D. A vote by voice or show of hands is binding. Matters of more importance shall be decided by secret ballot or whenever requested by a voting member.

Article VI. Auxiliary Organizations

Auxiliary organizations may be created to supplement and support the purpose and ministry of the church. Auxiliary organizations should not distract or conflict with the primary objectives of a New Testament local church. Auxiliary organizations must have the approval of the leadership team.

Article VII. Finances

Section 7.01 Operating Expenses

Church operations shall be financed primarily by free will offerings.

Section 7.02 Budget

The Pastors, Deacons, and Trustees shall assist the Treasurer in establishing a church budget each year. The budget shall be submitted to the membership for their approval.

Section 7.03 Expenditures

Normal budgeted expenditures need not be brought before the membership for approval. Non-budgeted expenditures over \$600 must be voted on by the membership. Non-budgeted expenditures over \$300 must have the approval of the leadership team.

Section 7.04 Benevolence Funds

The fellowship of deacons act as the benevolence committee (Acts 6) and distribute the benevolence funds.

Article VIII. Ordinations

Section 8.01 Qualifications

Such men who possess the scriptural qualifications for ordination, upon recommendation by the Pastors and vote of the membership, may be considered as a candidate for ordination. The Pastor shall then call a council of no less than Four Ordained Ministers of like faith and practice. Upon examination by the council of the candidate concerning his salvation, family and personal character qualifications, call to the ministry, and doctrinal beliefs; and their unanimous decision; the candidate may then be ordained into the Gospel Ministry.

Article IX. Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by two-thirds vote, provided two week's notice has been given with the proposed amendment stated.

Article X. Dissolution

In the event this church becomes incapable or unwilling to carry out its purpose, the church may be dissolved or merged with another assembly of like faith and practice. This shall be done by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present at a meeting called for the consideration of dissolution. In the event of dissolution, the title to all remaining assets of the church, after all salaries and debts are paid, shall pass to (a) non-profit organization(s). Recipient organizations must hold to the inerrancy of the Bible and the Gospel of King Jesus. Those recipient organizations shall be chosen by the current leadership and approved by the remaining members. No remuneration or assets will go to any of the members or officers of this church.

Article XI. Final Authority

It is understood that we regard this Constitution to be a setting forth of principles whereby things may be done decently and in order in the House of God. Never the less, we do not regard this to be an end in itself. The inerrant scriptures are now are always to be our final authority of all matters of faith a conduct.

Revised September, 2010

Revised April 23, 2012 (Name Change Only)

Revised October, 2013

Revised April, 2014

Revised July, 2015