

CHURCH BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1 – NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1.01 - NAME

This congregation of believers shall be known as the LIMESTONE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH.

SECTION 1.02 - - PURPOSE

This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, day-care centers, and camps; the evangelizing of the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; the educating of believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, both in the Sunday and weekday schools of Christian Education; and the maintaining of missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country.

ARTICLE 2 – STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 2.01 - - STATEMENT OF FAITH

The following comprise the scriptural beliefs of this church and its members.

- (A) Refer to the Treatise of the Faith and Practices of the National Association of Free Will Baptist, Inc., Published by the Executive Office of the National Association of Free Will Baptist, Inc.
- (B) **Civil Government.** We believe that God has ordained and created all authority of three basic institutions: 1) the home, 2) the church, and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblical assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb 13:17; I Peter 2:13-14)
- (C) **Human Sexuality.**
 - a. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen 2:24; Gen 19:5, 13; Gen 26:8-9; Lev 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; I Cor. 5:1; 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb 13:4)
 - b. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; I Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-24)

(D) **Family Relationships.**

1. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; I Tim 2: 8-15; 3:4-5; 12)
2. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are an heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including scriptural corporal correction. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deu. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; I Cor 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33;6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; I Pet. 3:1-7)

(E) **Divorce and Remarriage.** We believe that God disapproves of and forbids divorce and intends Marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication. Although divorced and remarried persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used o f God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or general board. (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; I Tim. 3:2. 12: Titus 1:6)

(F) **Abortion.** We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well being of the mother are acceptable. (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; m139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)

(G) **Love.** We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only towards fellow believers, but also toward both those who are not believers and those who oppose us. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat of the use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commends us to abhor sinful actions, We are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions. (Lev. Matt. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31ohn 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10; 17-21; 13:8-10; Phil. 2:2-4; II Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; I John 3:17-18)

(H) **Lawsuits Between Believers.** We believe that believers are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (I Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)

(I) **Missions.** We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8;II Cor. 5:20)

(J) **Giving.** We believe that every Christian , as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him or her, is obligated to support his or her local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but every Christian should also give other offerings

sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made. (Gen.14:20; Prov.3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; I Cor. 16:2; II Cor 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph..4:28; I Tim. 5:17-18; I John 3:17)

SECTION 2.02 - AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

SECTION 2.03 – COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise, by His grace, to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, to provide things honest in the sight of all men.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel; nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling that the kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday Schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 3.01 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMEBERSHIP

Upon a majority vote of the members present at any church service or meeting, membership shall be extended to all who have had and whose lives evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; who renounce sin; who endeavor to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord; who fully subscribe to the Statement of Faith contained herein; who enter into the church covenant contained herein; who agree to submit to the authority of the church and its leaders as set forth herein; and upon compliance with any one of the following conditions:

(A) *Having been baptized by immersion following salvation in this church: or*

(B) *By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing church of like faith and practice, or other written*

Statement of good standing from the prior church if the applicant has been baptized by immersion
Subsequent to a profession of faith;

(C) By testimony of faith, and having been baptized by immersion; or

(D) By restoration, if having been removed from membership, upon majority vote of the congregation after confession is made publicly before the church membership of the sin or sins involved, and satisfactorily evidencing repentance to the pastor (or the board of deacons if the office of pastor is Vacant)

SECTION 3.02 – DUTIES OF A MEMBER

On becoming a member of this church, in addition to the covenant contained in Article 2, Section 2.03, 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, tithes, offerings and with other financial support as the Lord enables; and in accordance with Biblical commands, to support through a lifestyle walk affirming the beliefs and practices of the church.

SECTION 3.03 – PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

- (A) Only members at least eighteen years of age who are physically present and consistent in attendance 3 out of 5 Sundays *each* month at a duly called meeting of the church shall be entitled to vote. There shall be no proxy or absentee voting.
- (B) The congregation of the Limestone Free Will Baptist Church functions as a body under the leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the pastor as the under-shepherd and the church board made up of the Committee of Deacons and the Committee of Trustees. Determinations of the internal affairs of the church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church's own policies and procedures.
- (C) Membership in this church does not afford the members with any property, contractual, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Although the general public is invited to all of the church's worship services, the church property remains private property. The pastor (or in his absence, an individual designated by the church board) has the authority to suspend or revoke the right of any person, including a member, to enter or remain on church property. If after having been notified of such a suspension or revocation, the person enters or remains on church property, the person may in the discretion of the pastor (or in his absence, an individual designated by the church board), be treated as a trespasser.
- (D) A member may inspect or copy the prepared financial statements of the church and minutes of the proceedings of church meetings and of board meetings, provided he shall have made a written request to the church and the church has received the written request five business days before the requested inspection date.
 - (1) A member may not, under any circumstances, inspect or copy any record relating to individual contributions to the church, the list of names and addresses of the church members.
 - (2) The church may impose a reasonable charge, covering the cost of labor and material, for copies of any documents provided to the member before releasing the copies to the member.

SECTION 3.04 -- INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

In certain cases including but not limited to members who are physically unable to attend services, an inactive membership status may be granted by the church. Inactive members are afforded membership in the church, but may not vote in any regular or called business meeting. Inactive membership status shall be determined by the pastor and the church board of committees.

SECTION 3.05 -- DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER

The Limestone Free Will Baptist Church may occasionally find itself responsible to exercise its solemn right to discipline members. In such cases, the regular procedures of the local church are followed in keeping with the scriptures.

- (A) Cases involving personal offense are to be handled according to Matthew 18:15-17.
- (B) In some cases, the church may have to effect a “break” in fellowship with a disorderly brother or sister who is yet not an “enemy” (II Thessalonians 3:6-15). Such cases may include but are not limited to divisive and disruptive efforts among the church’s membership. The determination of such cases will be at the discretion of the pastor and church board of committees.
- (C) Other cases may involve moral failure and / or doctrinal heresies that are in violation of the Church Covenant, Statement of Faith, and the fundamental doctrines of historic Christianity.
- (D) In all cases, the member is expected to submit to the discipline of the church. If the member does not choose to submit, the only course of action open to the church is to withdraw fellowship from the member.
- (E) Withdrawal of fellowship from a member can take place only by majority vote of the congregation and should take place only after every effort is exercised in a humble Christian spirit to restore the member and give him / her adequate opportunity to be heard.
- (F) When a member, without providential reason, absents himself from the meetings of the church or refuses to support it for one year, it is considered a violation of the covenant and sufficient reason for inactive membership.

SECTION 3.05A -- PROCESS FOR DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER

- (A) *Upon being made aware of Possible need of discipline of a member:*
 - 1. *Investigation of the error or offence by the pastor and a member of the committee of deacons will be discretely made, considering the members reputation with care.*
 - 2. *If disciplinary action or correction is needed as determined by the pastor and deacon; the pastor will establish a time for discussion with parties involved.*
 - 3. *At the appointed time the pastor and deacon will confront the issue to determine the truth and offer an opportunity to resolve the issue in accordance with provisions made in scripture and the church by-laws.*
 - 4. *Should repentance or resolve be determined, the member will be restored according to scripture.*
 - 5. *Should there be rejection of discipline by the church, the pastor will clearly appeal for reconsideration to the disciplined member.*
 - 6. *If there is no reconciliation the procedure acceptable in Section 3.05 will be determined and followed.*

SECTION 3.06 -- TRANSFER OF MEMEBESHIP

- (A) The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member in question has not attended a regular worship service of the church for one year. Upon good cause being shown, this provision for termination may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the pastor and board of committees.
- (B) No member of this church may hold membership simultaneously in another church. The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member unites in membership with another church.
- (C) The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member states that he or she is actively involved in any conduct described in Section 2.01 (C) a. or files a lawsuit in violation of Section 2.01 (H).
- (D) No provision contained in this section shall be subject to or governed by procedures regarding discipline of members set forth in Section 3.05.
- (E) *Upon notification from a sister church that a member of Limestone Free Will Baptist church has Joined their fellowship; a transfer letter of good standing will be granted if indeed they are in good standing with the church.*
- (F) 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 and board of committees.

ARTICLE 4 – OFFICERS

SECTION 4.01 -- CHURCH OFFICERS

The church officers are pastor, deacon, administrator, church clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer, trustees. One person may hold two or more offices, except that of pastor. The pastor, from time to time as he and board of committees deem appropriate, may appoint other church officers.

SECTION 4.02 -- DESIGNATION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS

As an accommodation of legal relationships outside the church, the pastor shall serve as president of the corporation; the church clerk shall serve as secretary of the corporation; the treasurer shall serve as the treasurer of the corporation; and the chairman of the committee of trustees shall serve as the vice president of the corporation.

SECTION 4.03 -- ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

- (A) Only church members in good standing are eligible for election or appointment to any church office or position.
- (B) All church officers must be approved by the pastor and the board of committees and the congregation in order for them to commence or continue in their offices.
- (C) All church officers must be faithful in tithing to The Limestone Free Will Baptist Church.
- (D) All church officers must affirm their agreement with the Statement of Faith. Any officer who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith relinquishes the right to serve as an officer.

SECTION 4.04 -- TERMS OF OFFICE

- (A) The relationship between the pastor and the church shall be on an indefinite call basis unless dissolved at the option of either party by giving of a 60 day notice or less by mutual consent. The calling of a pastor or severance of the relationship between the pastor and the church may be considered at any regular or called church business meeting, provided notice to that effect shall have been given from the pulpit to the church on Sunday and not less than one week prior to said regular or called church business meeting. A three-fourths majority of the eligible members present and voting shall be required to call a pastor *or to remove him from office*.
- (B) Deacons are recognized as servant-leaders in the church assisting the pastor in the ministry. While ordination is for life, unless there are grounds for disqualification, service on the board shall be on a rotating basis. Rotation shall be determined by the board. Upon completion of the term of service, a deacon may be placed on the board by the vote of the church.
- (C) Previously ordained deacons from other Bible-believing churches who are members in good standing of the Limestone Free Will Baptist Church may be considered for the office. These must meet all Biblical qualifications and be in full agreement with the Statement of Faith and the entire ministry of the church.
- (D) The term for all voluntary positions in the church shall be on an indefinite basis by the approval of the pastor and board of committees.
- (E) Vacancies occurring in any position during the fiscal year, except pastor and deacon, may be filled by the pastor with approval of the board of committees. No church officer or board member shall be nominated from the floor during a church business meeting. Church members may make recommendations to the pastor or board of committees member. All nominees must be approved by the pastor and the board of committees before recommending them to the church body for a vote.
- (F) Any officer, including pastor and deacons, may be removed from office for unbiblical conduct upon a majority vote of the board of committees and recommendation to the church for termination of office. Disciplinary removal of any officer, including pastor and board of committees member, shall be on the basis of a majority vote of the congregation.
- (G) All elected and appointed officers shall serve in their respective offices until their successors are duly elected or appointed.

SECTION 4.05 -- ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The appointment of officers if needed shall occur during the month of January at the annual church business meeting or in case of emergency, a specially called business meeting for that purpose.

SECTION 4.06 -- PASTORAL OVSIGHT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

- (A) The pastor may with the council of the board of committees, hire and / or terminate associates and assistants to aid in carrying out his God-given responsibilities.
- (B) All church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the pastor and / or those appointed by the pastor in the organizational function of the ministry. The pastor also has the authority to dismiss the same.
- (C) All staff whether paid or volunteer must be members and submit to a back ground check.

ARTICLE 5 -- DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE OFFICERS.

SECTION 5.01 -- THE PASTOR

- (A) The pastor shall preach the Word of God and minister to the spiritual needs of the congregation. He shall administer the ordinances, supervise the teaching ministries of the church, and exercise general leadership over all the affairs of the church. He shall extend the right hand of fellowship to all new members on behalf of the church.
- (B) Only ordained Free Will Baptist ministers in good standing with the National Association of Free Will Baptist shall be considered for the office of senior pastor.
- (C) The pastor shall work closely with the board of committees and is ex-officio member of all standing boards and committees in the church.
- (D) The pastor shall serve as the president of the corporation.
- (E) All appointments for public worship, teaching, missions, and arrangements thereof, including time, place, and the use property belonging to the church for any purposes other than the stated appointments shall be under the auspices of the pastor and board of committees.
- (F) The pastor shall act as moderator of all business meetings of the church unless incapacitated by illness or other matters that may require assistance. In such cases, the chairman of the committee of deacons shall act as moderator.

SECTION 5.02 -- ASSOCIATE PASTORS

- (A) All associate pastors shall serve in the capacity for which they were hired and under the supervision of the senior pastor.
- (B) Associate pastors must be in agreement with the church's Statement of Faith and be supportive of the entire ministry of the church.
- (C) In the absence of the pastor, associates shall have the responsibility of filling the pulpit.

SECTION 5.03 -- THE BOARD OF COMMITTEES

The board of committees of the Limestone Free Will Baptist Church will be made up of the Committee of Deacons and the Committee of Trustees. The board of committees shall elect a chairman, vice-chairman, and a secretary to serve for a period of one year. Each may be re-elected to the position if the board so desires.

- (A) The board of committees shall meet regularly with the pastor to consider the business of the church. Records shall be kept of all board meetings.

SECTION 5.04 THE COMMITTEE OF DEACONS

- (A) The Committee of Deacons is comprised of members of the congregation of the Limestone Free Will Baptist Church that have been set aside for the period of one year under the watch-care of the church and thereupon ordained by the church to the office of service.
- (B) Men serving in the office of deacon must be men who meet the Biblical qualifications for the office (I Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6:1-7).

- (C) Deacons shall assist the pastor in such manner as he shall request in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church, ministering to the needs of the church congregation, especially the elderly, the home bound, widows, and orphans.
- (D) Deacons shall assist the pastor in the disbursements of benevolence funds, visitation of the sick, erring church members, and evangelistic efforts.
- (E) Upon the death, resignation, or dismissal of the pastor, deacons shall be responsible for the pulpit supply, choose a moderator for church business meetings, and act as the pulpit committee. They may choose others to assist on the pulpit committee with the approval of the church.
- (F) Deacons shall assist the pastor in the administration of the ordinances of the church.
- (G) Deacon candidates are suggested to the church by the pastor and the board of committees of the church.

SECTION 5.05 THE COMMITTEE OF TRUSTEES

The church shall be served by a committee of trustees which shall exercise only the following specific powers upon authorization by a majority vote of the members present at a duly called church business meeting.

1. To purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the church;
 2. To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of the church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges; and
 3. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation.
 4. The Trustees must be a member of the Limestone Free Will Baptist Church.
- (A) Each member of the trustee committee must be elected by a majority vote of the congregation at any regular church business meeting.
 - (B) The committee of trustees candidates are suggested to the church by the board of committees.
 - (C) The Committee of Trustees shall elect a chairmen of the committee.
 - (D) The chairman of the Committee of Trustees shall also serve as the vice president of the corporation.
 - (E) *Members of the Committee of Trustees shall serve for a 6 year term. They are eligible for Re-election after 1 year absence from the board of committees.*

SECTION 5.06 -- THE CHURCH TREASURER

- (A) The church treasurer shall be a member of the Limestone Free Will Baptist Church.
- (B) The treasurer shall serve as the treasurer of the corporation.
- (C) The treasure shall work with the administrator to verify all financial records and reports of contributions, gifts, and donations to the church.
- (D) *It is the responsibility of the treasurer to produce and control the church financial records, administer deposits, pay the bills of the church and its ministries, produce reports needed, and provide the discretion each member requires in personal accounting of tithes, and keep the pastor informed of items of concern.*
- (E) The treasurer shall work with the assistant treasurer as an assistant to the treasurer of the church.

SECTION 5.07 -- THE CHRUCH ADMINISTRATOR

- (A) The church administrator shall be a member of the Limestone Free Will Baptist Church.
- (B) The administrator shall work under the supervision and be responsible to the pastor.
- (C) He shall oversee the general administration of the programs and affairs of the services of the church, of the special needs of the officers, directors, of the office of the church, as well as any special program needs or assistance which expedite the success of the worship services as a whole.
- (D) He is to oversee the house keeping staff of the church.

SECTION 5.08 -- THE CHURCH CLERK

The church clerk shall:

- (A) Certify and keep all documents of the church, records, minutes, and pertinent materials, including but not limited to the original bylaws or a copy, all amendments or alterations to the bylaws.
- (B) Sign, certify, or attest documents as may be required by law.
- (C) See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws. (In case of the absence or disability of the secretary, or his or her refusal or neglect to act, notice may be given and served by the pastor or by the chairman of the committee of deacons.)
- (D) Be custodian of the records of the church, including the membership roll, baptisms, and certificates of ordination, licenses and commissions;
- (E) See that the reports, statements, certificates, and all other documents and records required by law are properly kept and filed;
- (F) Keep an accurate record of the proceedings of each church business meeting. These records shall be made available at reasonable times to proper persons on terms provided by law, as well as the bylaws and minutes of proceedings of the board of committees or the minutes of the meetings of the church members.
- (G) Keep an account of any special events in the life of the church which are of historical interest.

- (H) Serve as the secretary of the corporation.

SECTION 5.09 -- DUTIES OF ALL OFFICERS

- (A) All officers shall surrender all records in their possession to the church clerk at the close of their term of office to be filed as a permanent record of the work of the church. All records are the property of the church and must be kept in the church office.
- (B) All officers shall be faithful in attendance to the church and their respective meetings. Any officer who neglects his duties for a period of three months may be removed from office, at the discretion of the pastor and the board of committees, and another may be appointed by the pastor to serve the un-expired term.

SECTION 5.10 -- INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

A public recognition of newly elected officers of the church shall be accomplished during any regular service of the church following their election by the church. The ordination of a deacon will be announced and held as a public service allowing the church as well as the candidate to appropriately prepare.

ARTICLE 6 -- MEETINGS

SECTION 6.01 -- 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. Ordinances of the church will be observed at the discretion of the pastor.

SECTION 6.02 -- MEETINGS FOR CHURCH BUSINESS

- (A) The annual church business meeting should it be necessary shall be held in the month of January at which time the regular church business shall be considered. A quorum shall consist of the members present.
- (B) All church business meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer for divine guidance and blessing.
- (C) As a rule church business meetings shall be announced at least one regular service in advance. It is recognized, however, that emergencies may arise where a business meeting is called for at the end of any regular service. Such meetings are at the discretion of the pastor and the board of committees.
- (D) Any item presented to the body for deliberation and adoption must first come through and be recommended by the pastor and the board of committees. Any member of the church may present to the pastor or the board of committees items they desire reviewed for possible consideration or adoption by the church body.
- (E) The moderator shall conduct the business session in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order Revised (c.2004).
- (F) For any meeting, the moderator, in his sole discretion, shall have full and unilateral authority to require nonmembers to leave the meeting room and to order the immediate removal off any member or other person present who is deemed by the moderator to be disruptive to the

proceedings by act or presence. The moderator shall have full authority to order the removal of all children (ages to be determined by the moderator) if the moderator determines, in his sole discretion, that circumstances so warrant. If the moderator determines the compliance with his order of removal is unsatisfactory, the moderator may, in his sole discretion, revoke the disruptive person's right to remain on the premises in accordance with Section 3.03 and treat the person as a trespasser.

SECTION 6.03 -- SPECIAL MEETINGS

- (A) The pastor (or committee of deacons if the office of pastor is vacant or the pastor is the subject of possible disciplinary action) may call a special meeting by giving notice of such a meeting and the purpose for which it is called to the church at least one Sunday and not less than one week prior to said meeting. A meeting for the calling of a pastor or the severance of the relationship between the church and pastor shall be called in accordance with the provision of section 4.04 (A).
- (B) Conferences and revivals may be held as the pastor deems beneficial. Speakers for these meetings may be suggested to the pastor, but the pastor makes the final decision.

SECTION 6.04 -- FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the church shall begin on January first and end on December thirty one.

ARTICLE 7 -- ORDINATION

SECTION 7.01 ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS FOR MINISTERS

Any man who is a member in good standing with this church, 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 as a minister of the Gospel by the local church body in coordination with the Union Association of Free Will Baptist, contingent upon the procedures for ordination adopted in the Treatise of the Faith and Practices of the National Association of Free Will Baptist, Inc. revised 2001.

Section 7.02 -- ORDINATION PROCEDURES FOR MINISTERS.

- (A) The candidate shall meet with the pastor for examination regarding calling, doctrine and lifestyle.
- (B) Upon the approval of the pastor and the board of committees, the candidate shall be recommended to the church to be granted a license for the ministry. The period of licensure shall be for one year unless otherwise determined.
- (C) Upon completion of the term of licensure, the church shall vote to recommend the ordination of the candidate to the Union Association of Free Will Baptist Conference. The candidate shall be examined by the council of ordination from the Union Association of Free Will Baptist. Upon their approval the candidate shall be recommended to The Union Association in conference at the annual meeting and ordained in the ordination service during the conference.
- (D) The Limestone Free Will Baptist Church, in accordance with the teachings of Scriptures in Romans 1:25-27 and I Corinthians 6:9-11 and related Old Testament passages, does not ordain nor recognize the ordination of Homosexuals.
- (E) The Limestone Free Will Baptist Church, in accordance with the teachings of Scriptures and the fact that the New Testament church has no record of women preachers, does not ordain nor recognize the ordination of women to the gospel ministry. (I Timothy 2:9-15)

SECTION 7.03 -- ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEACONS

Only men who are members in good standing with the Limestone Free Will Baptist Church and meet the qualifications outlined in I Timothy 3:8-13 shall be considered for the office of Deacon. Others may be considered in accordance with Section 4.04 (C).

SECTION 7.04 -- ORDINATION PROCEDURES FOR DEACONS

- (A) The pastor and the board of committees shall recommend to the church any and all candidates for the office of deacon. Deacons are elected by majority vote of the church in any regular business meeting.
- (B) Upon election, the pastor shall set aside a church service for the formal ordination or installation of any and all candidates to the office of deacon.

ARTICLE 8 -- INDEMNIFICATION

SECTION 8.01 -- ACTIONS SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION

The church may indemnify any person who was, or is a party, or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, including all appeals (other than an action by or in the right of the church) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the church, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the action, suit, or proceedings; and if that person acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit, or proceedings by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or on a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner that he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

SECTION 8.02 -- EXPENSES SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION

To the extent that the pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding referred to in this Article, or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter in that action, suit, or proceeding, he or she may be indemnified against expenses, including attorney's fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding.

SECTION 8.03 -- LIMITATIONS OF INDEMNIFICATION

Any indemnification made under this Article, may be made by the church only as authorized in the specific case on a determination that indemnification of the pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent is proper in the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Section 8.01. The determination shall be made (a) by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of pastor and the board of committees who were not and are not parties to or threatened with the action, suit, or proceedings; (b) if the desired quorum is not obtained or if a majority vote of a quorum of disinterested committee members directs, by independent legal council in a written opinion; or (c) by a majority vote of the members of the church.

SECTION 8.04 -- TIMING OF INDEMNIFICATION

Expenses of each person seeking indemnification under this Article may be paid by the church as they are incurred, in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit, or proceedings, as authorized by the board of committees in the specific case, on receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent to repay the amount if it is ultimately determined that he or she is not qualified to be indemnified by the church.

SECTION 8.05 -- EXTENT OF INDEMNIFICATION

The indemnification provided by this Article shall be deemed to be discretionary unless otherwise required as a matter of law or under any agreement or provided by insurance purchased by the church, both as to action of each person seeking indemnification under this Article in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding that office, and may continue as to a person who has ceased to be a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent and may inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators or that person.

SECTION 8.06 - INSURANCE

The church may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the church against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in that capacity, or arising out of his status in that capacity, whether or not the church would have the power to indemnify him against liability under the provisions of this Article.

ARTICLE 9 COMMITTEES

SECTION 9.01 -- STANDING COMMITTEES

The pastor (or board of committees if the office of pastor is vacant) shall appoint standing committees and designate a chairperson for each standing committee and, except when otherwise specifically provided in these bylaws, shall determine the membership of each standing committee. The pastor may appoint other standing committees as he deems appropriate.

SECTION 9.02 -- SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The pastor and board of committees may create special committees to provide advice and information regarding matters submitted to the committee. The committee shall have no authority to act on behalf of the church or corporation. The special committee shall be subject to the control and direction of the pastor and board of committees.

ARTICLE 10 -- DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTORS

From time to time the church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various 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 control and discretion of the pastor and board of committees. 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 Section 1.02.

ARTICLE 11 -- BINDING ARBITRATION

SECTION 11.01 -- SUBMISSION TO ARBITRATION

Believing that lawsuits between believers are prohibited by Scripture, all members of this church agree to submit to binding arbitration any matters which cannot otherwise be resolved, and expressly waive any and all rights in law and equity to bringing any civil disagreement before a court of law, except that

judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.

SECTION 11.02 -- NOTICE OF ARBITRATION

In the event of any dispute, claim, question, or disagreement arising out of or relating to these bylaws or any other church matter, the parties shall use the best efforts to settle such disputes, claims, questions, or disagreements as befits Christians. To this effect, they shall consult and negotiate with each other in good faith and, recognizing their mutual interest not to disgrace the name of Christ, seek to reach a just and equitable solution. If they do not reach such solution within a period of sixty (60) days, then upon notice by either party to the other, disputes, claims, questions, or differences shall be finally settled by arbitration as described in Section 11.04, below.

SECTION 11.03 -- LIMITATIONS ON ARBITRATION DECISIONS

- (A) Should any dispute involve matters of church discipline, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures for church discipline as outlined in Section 3.05 were followed.
- (B) Should any dispute involve the removal from the office of the pastor or any church officer, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures set forth in Sections 4.04 or 5.09 were followed.

SECTION 11.04 -- ARBITRATION PROCEDURES

The procedures for Arbitration shall be as adopted by the pastor and committee of deacons.

ARTICLE 12 -- AMENDMENTS

Amending of the By-Laws of the Limestone Free Will Baptist Church shall be in accordance with Section 6.02 and may be revised or amended by a simple 75% majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular or called church business meeting, provided that said revision or amendment has been submitted in writing and announced from the pulpit seven (7) days before the vote is taken.

ADOPTION

These bylaws were adopted by a three-quarters (75%) majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the church in which a quorum was present.

These bylaws supersede any other bylaws of the Limestone Free Will Baptist Church.

Signature on file

Date _____

Church Clerk