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PROPOSED

CONSTITUTION # – SECTION ONE

Preamble

This Constitution of First Baptist Church Hurst (“FBCH”) is made to:

1. **Preserve** and secure the principles of our faith# ;
2. **Ensure that FBCH is governed in an orderly manner;**
3. **Uphold** the liberties # of each individual member of # FBCH; and#
4. **Ensure** freedom of action # independent of any religious body # or organization.

I. Name and Location

The name of this church is **First Baptist Church of Hurst**. This church maintains a **principal office** at 1801 Norwood Drive, Hurst, Texas, # 76054.

II.# Objectives

The First Baptist Church of Hurst# (“FBCH”), using the Bible as its ultimate source of authority, is a fellowship composed of baptized believers who adhere to a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. This church seeks to be a redemptive body in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We exist to glorify God and make disciples by demonstrating personal stories of grace, redemption, and restoration across generations and cultures. FBCH is guided by a set of core values, strategies, and measures, which are reviewed and updated periodically by the pastoral leadership team.

Statement of Objectives

The following objectives are statements of ultimate goals toward which this church aims its activities. # The objectives # of the # members of # FBCH are as follows:

To worship **God according to Christian ordinances** as a fellowship of believers seeking to provide opportunities for an encounter between God and man;

To share our faith in our neighborhoods and communities by witnessing for and about Jesus Christ in loving words and unselfish deeds to all persons# ;

To promote home and # **international** missions by sharing Jesus Christ through ministries to all # people throughout the world;

To grow through # **the study of God’s Word** as a fellowship of Christians whose learning results in responsible living;

To improve continuously the organizational structure and functional responsibility of church administration so as to meet the goals and objectives of this church; #

To enlarge the scope of Christian relations # **through** meaningful dialogue and cooperation with other churches and groups in ministering to the community and to the world.

PROPOSED

III.# Articles of Faith

FBCH's Articles of Faith were # adopted, in part, from the 1963 and 2000 versions of Southern Baptist Convention's The Baptist Faith # and Message#. See Southern Baptist Convention, **The Baptist Faith & Message (1963 & 2000)**, available at <http://www.sbc.net/bfm2000/bfm2000.asp#> (May 1, 2018).

A. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired by God and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to # man. It is perfect treasure of divine Instruction. It has God for its Author, salvation for its end, and truth, without mixture of error, for its matter.

Therefore, all Scripture is true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges # us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. # **All Scripture is a testimony to # Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.**

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalm 19:7-10; 119:11; 89, 105, 140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16 ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; **2 Timothy 3:1;-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 # Peter 1:# 19-21#**

B. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, **the Redeemer, the Preserver, and the Ruler** of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being# .

1. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of # human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become # **children** of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude # **towards man.**

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11 ff.; 20:1 ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3, 15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9 ff., 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7#

2. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the # **virgin** Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself the demands and necessities of human nature and identifying Himself completely with mankind, yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before

His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, partaking of the nature of God and of man, and in whose Person is effected # the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever-present Lord.

Genesis 18:1 ff.; Psalms 2:7 ff.; 110:1; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16, 27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6, 19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18, 29; 10:30; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16, 28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20, 28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5, 20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3, 34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:26; 8:6; 15:1-8, 24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-28; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15, 24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25, 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16#

3. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. He inspired holy men of old to write the # **Scriptures**. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls # **man** to the Savior and effects regeneration. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His Church. He seals the believers unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the assurance of God to bring the believers into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalm 51:11; 139:7 ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10, 12; Luke 1:35; 4:1; 18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17, 39; 10:44; 13:2; 16:6; 15:28; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11, 14-16; 26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8, 14; 2 Peter 1:1-21; John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:27#

C. Man

In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by # **his** Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan# man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence# whereby # **they** inherited a nature and an environment inclined toward sin#. **Therefore**, as soon as man is capable of moral action, # **they become transgressors and are** under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His **own** image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every # **person of every race** possesses **full** dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5; 7; 18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalm 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; **19:4; Mark 10:6**; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18, 23; 5:6, 12; 19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18; 29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19; 21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; **5:21-33**; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11#

D. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In the broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, sanctification, and glorification.

1. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart brought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire # person to Him as Lord and Savior. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer into a relationship of peace and favor with God.

2. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual perfection through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

- # 3. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22 through 28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14; 29; 3:3-21; 36; 5:24; 10:9; 28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 3:23-25; 4:3 ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18; 29:39; 10:9-10, 13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:18, 30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1 ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1 through 12:8; 14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6 through 2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1 through 22:3#

E. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man and comprehends all the means in connections with the end. It is a glorious display of God's sovereign goodness and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted # in Christ and sanctified by His Spirit will never fall away from the state of grace but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comfort, bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7; 19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31 ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22; 31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45; 65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6; 12; 17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7, 26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10; 19; Hebrews 11:39 through 12:2; 1 Peter 1:2-5; 13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2#

F. The Church

A New Testament Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, of serving the two ordinances of Christ# **(Baptism and the Lord's Supper)**, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.

This church is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In such a congregation members are equally responsible. Its Scriptural officers are pastors and deacons.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ, which includes all of the redeemed of all ages.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42, 47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23, 27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11, 21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 3:1-15; 4:14; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3#

G. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic set of obedience whereby members of the church through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; Acts 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

H. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private# .

Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1 ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3, 33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1, 19-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 15:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation # 1:10

I. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over # **those** who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which # **believers** enter by trustful, child-like commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the # **Kingdom** may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2, 3; 4:8-10; 23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:14-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10, 16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6, 9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22#

J. Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be # **sent** to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their rewards and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27, 30, 36, 44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40, 48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17-31; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:11 ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7 ff.; 2; 2 Timothy 4:1-8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; **James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7 ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1 through 22:13**

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K. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a necessity of the regenerate life and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-50; 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; **1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39 through 12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17**

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L. Education

The cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is coordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian schools is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

Deuteronomy 4:1; 5; 9; 14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; **Psalms 19:7 ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13 ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24 ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3, 8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12 through 6:3; James 1:5; 3:17**

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M. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the # **Kingdom of God** on earth.

Genesis 14# :20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4; 19-21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21; 42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19#

N. Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions 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 the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word, as revealed in the New Testament.

Exodus 17:12; 18:17 ff.; 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; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1 ff.; **Acts 1:13-14; 2:1 ff.; 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**

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O. The Christian and the Social Order

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in # **their** own life 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 Christ Jesus. The Christian should oppose, in the spirit of Christ, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice. # **Christians** should work to provide for the orphaned, aged, the helpless, and the sick#. Every Christian should seek to bring the 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 should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

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; Mark 1:29-34; **2:3 ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3 ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; I Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23 through 11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; I Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8**

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P. Peace and War

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ, they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for # war # is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations and the practical application of His law of love.

Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9; 38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:3; 38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2#

Q. Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which 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 end. 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.

Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7; 24; 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#

R. Prayer

We believe that prayer is our most fundamental demonstration of dependence upon the Lord and, therefore, is essential to fruitful ministry. Prayer is one of the facets and foundations of our faith which sets us apart from many other religions. It signifies a loving relationship between us and our God, Whom we are privileged to call our Father. Power is found by the faithful saint who yields himself to the Lord of Creation, coming before the throne of grace not by his own good standing but by the righteousness of Christ Who has granted us permission and has bid us, "Come." God hears our prayers and no prayer is wasted, if even it seems to have not been answered. The power of prayer lies in the object of our prayers—Jesus Christ, Who is seated at the right hand of God the Father. When we pray we do so in faith that God hears, checking our motives to be in line with our Father, and that we have confessed and repented of any known sin which may hinder our prayers, and having reconciled with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ if we have done to them any wrong. We desire to live lives of continual prayer and intercession for ourselves, our brothers and sisters in Christ, those who do not know Christ as Savior and Lord, the universal church (the body/bride of Christ), and ultimately for God's will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

Ephesians 6:18; Luke 11:1-13; Hebrews 4:14-16; Daniel 9:18; Revelation 8:1-5; Psalm 110, Revelation 5; 1 John 5:14; James 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; John 17; Acts 26:18; Matthew 6:10

S. Gender and Sexuality

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image, and gender is part of the goodness of God's creation. God created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. Biological sex being congruent with God-given gender, any departure from the biblical standard of God-given gender, whether that be a rejection of biological gender, an attempt to alter biological gender, or any form of identification as a different gender than that which was assigned by God at birth, is a violation of both God's design and Scripture.

God designed and ordained sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. Any form of sexual immorality, including, but not limited to, adultery, homosexuality, bisexuality, polygamy, bestiality, incest, and pornography, is sinful and offensive to God.

Genesis 1:26–28, 2:18–24; Exodus 20:14; Lev. 18:6–23; 20:10–21; Job 31:1; Prov. 5:1–20; Matthew 5:27–28; 15:18–20; Mark 7:10–23; Romans 1:26–27; 1 Corinthians 6:9–20; 7:2–5; Galatians 5:19–21; Ephesians 5:3–5; Colossians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3–5; Hebrews 13:4

T. Marriage and 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 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 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 lovingly lead his family. A wife, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to lovingly respect her husband.

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.

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; Psalms 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 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7

IV.# Church Covenant

Members and candidates for membership of FBCH will aspire to the following covenant:

We believe God, in His infinite wisdom and sovereign grace, has called and joined together every member of FBCH as a visible expression of His Church on the earth.

Having been led# by the Holy Spirit # to # follow Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior#, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy # Spirit, # as members of FBCH, we covenant, by God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit...

...to uphold the Scriptures, the Articles of Faith, and ordinances of the church; to work and to pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; to express Christian love to one another; to strive for the advancement of God's Kingdom and this church.

...to admonish those who are disobedient to God's Word, encourage the timid, help the weak, exercise patience toward all, and work for reconciliation. We will ask God for grace to speak, think, and act toward one another in love at all times.

...to support God's work by cheerfully, sacrificially, and voluntarily giving our time, talents, and treasures to support the ministry of this church, # the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations# .

...to gather weekly to worship God, engage in biblical community, and seek to serve those within and outside the church. If we leave the church for any reason, we will notify the appropriate pastor at the campus where we attend and will seek to unite with another church where we can carry out our biblical responsibilities as a believer.

...to fulfill the law of Christ by bearing one another's burdens; by engaging to care for one another in brotherly love;# by praying for one another; by aiding one another in sickness and distress; # by rejoicing with those who rejoice; and mourning with those who mourn.

...to pursue the Lord Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines.

...to do the following when we sin: confess our sin to God and to others as led by the Holy Spirit; repent and seek help to put our sin to death.

... to live in a manner worthy of the Lord Jesus Christ, to please Him in every way as an act of worship; bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all His power; that the watching world may observe our holy and distinct lives and glorify our Father in heaven.

...to make disciples of Christ beginning in our homes and spheres of influence by sharing the message of the Gospel whenever and wherever God gives opportunity; to build multigenerational faithfulness by telling the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, His might, and the wonders He has done.

V.# Relationships

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers # **composing its membership.** This church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical # **or governing body. However, FBCH** recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches. # **When** practical, this church will cooperate with and support the Tarrant Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Southern Baptist Convention# , **and other churches # and organizations that share FBCH's faith and values.**

VI.# Membership

The membership of FBCH reserves the exclusive right to determine who # **will** be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.

A.Candidates for Membership

Any person may offer himself as a candidate for membership **# at FBCH** at any regular church service, at **# a new member orientation class**, or in an interview with a pastoral staff member by any of the following ways:

1. by profession of faith, requesting baptism and church membership;
2. by transfer of letter from another Baptist Church of like faith and order;
3. by statement of prior conversion experience and biblical baptism, provided that neither the applicant nor the church can secure a letter of transfer.

B.Granting of Membership

All candidates for membership **# must offer a testimony of saving faith in Jesus Christ, must have been baptized following salvation, and must affirm FBCH's Articles of Faith outlined in section III. above. Candidates for membership must be approved by a member of the pastoral staff and complete a new member orientation class before being granted membership at FBCH.**

Candidates for membership will be presented # to the church # in writing. Any member of FBCH who has concerns about a candidate # for membership# should express those concerns in writing to the # pastoral staff.

#

C. Duties of Membership

All members of FBCH are expected to be faithful in all duties essential to the Christian life, to **# actively participate in worship and growth opportunities** of the church, to give regularly to its support, and to share in its **# ministries**.

D.Rights of Members

Every member of the church, in full and regular standing is entitled to **# participate** in all **# business meeting votes** and on all questions submitted to the church in conference, provided the member is present or provision has been made for absentee balloting.

E.Termination of Membership

Membership **# may** be terminated in the following ways:

1. death;
2. transfer of letter to another Baptist church;
3. exclusion by action of this church;
4. **#** upon request by the individual.

F. Discipline of Members

It shall be the basic purpose of # FBCH to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The # pastoral staff, deacons, and other members of the church staff# are available for counsel and guidance. Redemption rather than punishment should be the attitude of one member toward another.

The following procedure shall be followed to resolve differences or administer discipline:

1. should any unhappy differences arise between members, the aggrieved member shall follow in a tender spirit the # example and instructions given by # Jesus in Matthew 18:15-19;
2. should any case of gross breach of covenant or public scandal occur, the pastoral staff and deacons # will endeavor to remove the offense# ;
3. if the church votes to entertain a complaint (which must be made in writing), it shall appoint a reasonable place and time of hearing and notify the person in question and furnish him with a copy of the charges;
4. at such hearing, the accused member may call to his aid any member of the elected church leaders. If he shall fail to present himself at the time appointed or give satisfactory reasons for his neglect to do so, the church may proceed in his absence;
5. all such proceedings should demonstrate Christian kindness and forbearance, but should an adverse decision be reached, the church may proceed either to admonish or to declare the offender to be no longer in the membership of the church;
6. in case of grave difficulty, the church shall be ready, if requested, to ask the advice of acceptable council from neighboring churches.

VII.# Amendments

This Constitution, adopted by the First Baptist Church of Hurst in conference held # June 17, 2018, supersedes all prior resolutions, procedures, and action of the church#. This # Constitution can be amended in the following manner:

Any changes in the # Constitution must be made at the annual meeting or at a business meeting called specifically for that purpose. Each proposed amendment must be presented to the church in writing at least one month prior to the time of either a called business meeting or the annual meeting. Printed copies of the changes shall be made available to the membership prior to the proposed action. Notification of the change and date of the vote shall be announced in the church publications and # during worship services prior to the proposed action. The change must be approved by a three-fourths vote of all members present at the meeting.#

BYLAWS # – SECTION TWO

I. Church Officers

All church officers shall be members of this church. The church year # **begins** April 1, and church # **officers'** terms # begin at this time. The length of term of office is indicated in each description of office **below**.

The Scriptural officers of this church shall be # **pastors** and deacons. # **As needs arise, the church shall create salaried positions on the church staff for the efficient operation of its programs.**

As vacancies occur during the year, they may be filled at any time for the remainder of the church year in accordance with # practice # **outlined in these Bylaws**.

The officers of the church shall be as follows and shall be elected by the congregation except as provided by the Constitution and Bylaws# .

A. **Lead Pastor(s)**

The # **Lead Pastor(s) will** be responsible for leading the church to function as a New Testament church. The # **Lead Pastor(s) will** lead the congregation, deacons, church staff, # **ministry teams, and church committees#** .

A Lead Pastor, or a person designated by the Lead Pastor(s), must preside at all meetings of the congregation with the exception of electing a Pastor Search Committee **as outlined below**.

The # **Lead Pastor(s) are** the # **leaders** of the pastoral ministries of the church# **and will** work with the church staff, the deacons, and the church leadership as follows:

1. to lead the church in # **carrying out its mission**;
2. to lead the church to engage in a fellowship of worship, witness, # **spiritual growth**, ministry, and application;
3. to proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers;
4. to care for church members and # persons in the community.

The # **Lead Pastor(s) will** serve for an indefinite period of time with the understanding that # **they** may # **tender their** resignation at # **any** regular or **specialty** called business meeting. # **The services of any Lead Pastor** may be terminated by a majority vote of the # **membership of FBCH** at any business meeting provided that **one month notice** [1]of intention to vote or to call for a vote on that question shall have been given to the church at any business meeting, or in the event of the pastor's resignation. **One month notice is not required to vote or call for a vote to remove a Lead Pastor(s) because of a moral failure or other behavior not in accordance with scripture.**

A Lead Pastor may be chosen and called by the church **membership** whenever a vacancy # **occurs or the membership of FBCH determines a Lead Pastor is necessary**.

When a vacancy occurs **or the membership of FBCH determines there is a need for a Lead Pastor**, a Pastor Search Committee **# will** be elected by the church **membership will** to seek a **# Lead Pastor**. The recommendation **# of the Pastor Search Committee will** constitute a nomination, although any church member has the privilege of making other nominations. The Pastor Search Committee **# will** bring to the consideration of the church only one **# recommendation** at a time. The election of **# a Lead Pastor will** take place at any business meeting, or a business meeting specifically called for that purpose, provided the Pastor Search Committee has **# presented its recommendation** to the church at least seven days before the vote is taken. Election shall be by secret ballot with an affirmative vote of at least **75# %** of those present being necessary for a choice.

B. Deacons

1. General

In accordance with the meaning of the word and the practice of the New Testament, as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:8-12, deacons are to be servants of the church. They shall serve as council for advice and confer with the **# Lead Pastor(s)**.

Deacons shall be zealous to guard the unity of the spirit within the church in the bonds of peace.

2. Tasks and Objectives

The general tasks and objectives of the deacons are as follows:

- a. to serve with the pastor and church staff in performing the tasks of the pastoral ministries;
- b. to proclaim the gospel to both believers and non-believers;
- c. to care for church members and other members of the community;
- d. to lead the church to engage in fellowship of worship, witness, education, ministry, and application.

3. **# Qualifications** for Service

The qualifications for service as deacons are as follows:

- a. one having no reason, scriptural or personal, why they would not care to be considered to serve as a deacon of **# First Baptist Church of Hurst# (1 Timothy 3:8; 1 Corinthians 8:12, 13);**
- b. one who believes that the tithes and offerings are God's plan for support of the church **# and** one who tithes and would promote and encourage tithing at all times **# (1 Corinthians 16:2; Matthew 23:23; 1 Timothy 3:8; Malachi 3:10);**
- # c.** one who **# is temperate, exercising moderation, restraint, and # self-control (1 Timothy 3:8; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Corinthians 6:12, 8:12, 13; # Galatians 5:13);**

- # d. one who believes that being a deacon is a place of service and not # a place of honor and that the place # given a deacon in the church is # **one** of service beyond the call of ordinary Christian responsibility (Acts 6:2, 3);
- # e. one who would support and promote the total church programs by his attendance at the regular services unless providentially hindered (1 Timothy 3:10; Hebrews 10:25);
- # f. one who will endeavor to lead his family in daily worship (1 Timothy 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 17:18);
- # g. one who realizes that a deacon should be a spiritual man with an understanding heart who, in the event of any misunderstanding between himself and any other church member, would go to that individual and endeavor to come to an understanding with his Christian brother (**Galatians 6:1**);
- # h. one who believes the cardinal truths of the Bible# and # **affirms FBCH's Articles of Faith** (1 Timothy 3:9-10);
- # i. one who would keep the contents of the deacons' # **meetings** confidential and within the confines of his own home and sees that his family does the same (**1 Timothy 3:8**);
- # j. one who would, if he realizes that he must consistently miss the regular church service and deacons' meetings, voluntarily resign (1 Timothy 3:10);
- # k. one who makes a conscious effort to win the lost to Christ (1 Timothy 3:12);
- # l. one whose wife is faithful in the spiritual support of her husband (1 Timothy 3:11);
- # m. one who is the husband of one wife (1 Timothy 3:12);
- # n. one who has been a resident church member for at least six months.

4. Method of Selection

Deacons shall be selected as needed. The method of selection shall be as follows:

- # a. the church body# shall # **nominate** by secret ballot # the persons for whom they feel led to vote, whom they feel are qualified.
- # b. the ballots shall be presented to # **the Lead Pastor(s) and deacon officers** from the deacon body. # **They** shall consult with the individuals selected by the church. The # individuals # that are both qualified and willing to serve shall be elected to the deacon body.

5. Resignation and Removal

A deacon may resign or be removed from office as follows:

- a. a deacon may resign by written resignation addressed to the church and delivered to the Chairman of Deacons;
- b. a deacon may be removed by the members of the church whenever in the judgment of the members the best interest of the church would be served thereby.

6. Deacon Emeritus

Upon recommendation of the deacon body, a member of the church having a record of distinguished service as a deacon may be designated by the members as a Deacon Emeritus.

7. Organization

The whole body of deacons **# will** be organized as a unit for the consideration of all **# needs of FBCH** and **# must** meet **# regularly**. The deacons may organize themselves into such committees as their wisdom may direct for efficiency in service.

The deacons **# will** elect bi-annually their own chairman and other officers which they deem necessary to perform their duties.

C. Moderator

A Lead Pastor will be the moderator. In the absence of **# a Lead Pastor**, the chairman of the deacons **#** or **# a person designated as moderator # by the Lead Pastor(s) will preside**.

D. Clerk

The clerk of the church **# will** keep **#** a record **on file** of all the actions of the church except as otherwise provided **# in these Bylaws**.

The clerk will preserve on file all communications and written official reports, and give legal notice of all meetings where such notice **# is required by** these Bylaws.

All church records are church property and should be filed and protected in the church office.

These duties are to be performed or assigned by the **# Business Administrator**.

E. Treasurer

The church **# will** elect a church treasurer annually **only** in the event there is no **# Business Administrator**. **When there is a Business Administrator, he will perform the following duties of the treasurer#**.

It **# will** be the duty of the treasurer to receive, preserve, and disburse all money received by the church. The treasurer **# will use best practices when handling all money of FBCH and** keep records of all receipts, deposits, and disbursements in accordance with generally accepted book-keeping practices. The treasurer's records **# will** be **# reviewed** by the **# Finance Committee** every church year and a report **# made available** to the **# members of FBCH upon request**.

The treasurer # will pay only bills as have been properly # approved by authorized personnel, or upon approval of the # Finance Committee, or upon direct action of the church membership.

The treasurer shall # ensure that FBCH maintains insurance# adequate to properly insure all funds of the church, # coverings incidents of burglary, fire, and mishandling of funds.

F. Trustees

Three trustees elected by the church # will hold the church property in trust. They # will have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property without a specific vote of the church authorizing each action. It # will be the function of the trustees to affix their signatures to legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchase, or rental of property. # The trustees will also sign other legal documents which require the signature of trustees. Trustees # will serve on a rotating basis with one new trustee being elected each year. They # will hold the # property in trust until their successors # are elected.

II.# Church Staff

This church # will call and employ such staff members as the church # ministries require. Job descriptions for each church staff member # will be # written in accordance with the current church # personnel policies, which shall be reviewed and revised when necessary.

Called staff members, other than the # Lead Pastor(s), will be sought by the # Personnel # Committee cooperating with the # Lead Pastor(s). Their recommendation # will constitute a nomination#. The election of any called staff member # will take place at any business meeting, or a business meeting specifically called for that purpose# , provided the # Personnel # Committee has recommended the nominee at least seven days before the vote is taken. Election # will be by secret ballot with an affirmative vote of at least 75# % of the members present.

At least two-# weeks notice from the time of resignation should be given by any called staff member before the date of resignation is effective.

Ministry associates, ministry assistants, maintenance staff, # child care workers, and other employees # will be hired by the # Lead Pastor(s) and appropriate staff members, # working with and informing the # Personnel Committee # .

#

III.# Committees

A. General

All church committee members **# must** be members of this church and **# will** be recommended by the Committee on Committees and elected by the church, unless otherwise indicated in the description that follows. The members **# will** be enlisted by the Committee on Committees and committed to serve, if elected, before their names are presented to the church for election.

The chairman of a committee shall notify ex officio members when matters relating to their work is to be discussed or when they may contribute to the work of the group.

There are three types of committees: Standing, Teams, and Special.

1. Standing Committees

A standing committee is one that functions throughout the year and has a standing list of duties that require regular performance or progress reports. It meets at regular intervals, carries out responsibilities that have continuity, and reports to the church.

After serving a term, a standing committee member may be re-elected to a committee after one year's absence from the committee unless otherwise indicated. Committees shall serve during the normal church year unless otherwise indicated.

Each standing committee will nominate a committee chairman annually. A person may serve as chairman of only one committee at any time. Each chairman shall be responsible for seeing that his committee remains active. A committee member is eligible to be elected chairman after having served on the committee for one year.

2. Teams

Any church member **#** is **# eligible** for team membership **# and** will not have a rotating term. Anyone that is interested can participate at any time on the team. It will be the responsibility of the **# team leader** to keep the church office informed of the current members of the teams. All teams will have no more than 12 active members at one time.

3. Special Committees

A special committee is one that is authorized by the church to fulfill a special need or function that terminates at a specific time. When the assignment is completed, the committee is dismissed. When this committee is authorized, its special function and related duties shall be clearly outlined and be placed in the church minutes. While functioning, it shall be considered a **# bylaw** committee.

#

The called staff member is considered an ex officio member of the committees which relate to his area of ministry. Each committee shall be responsible for recommending a budget for its area of work. A quorum **# will** consist of at least one-half of the committee members currently serving.

Every committee member must be **#** notified of each meeting.

Each committee **# will** work through the appropriate related committees, deacons, staff, and individuals when carrying out its duties.

All qualified men and women, age eighteen and up, will be considered by the Committee on Committees. No specific ratio by age or **# gender** is necessary. Detailed minutes of all meetings **# will** be written in order to keep a record and to provide a history of what was done. Minutes **# will** be turned over to the **business** administrator **#** for filing and future reference by committee and staff.

B. Standing Committees

A regular or standing committee is one that functions throughout the year and has a standing list of duties that require regular performance or progress reports. It meets at regular intervals, carries out responsibilities that have continuity, and reports to the church. The Standing Committees are:

1. Personnel Committee
2. Finance Committee
3. Committee on Committees

1. Personnel Committee

Principal Function: The Personnel Committee shall assist the church in matters related to employee personnel administration. **# The work # of the Personnel Committee will** include the areas of determining staff needs, employment, salaries, and personnel services.

Membership: The Personnel Committee **# must** consist of seven members elected by the church. The **# Lead Pastor(s) will** make recommendations to the Committee on Committees on the individuals nominated for the Personnel Committee. Each member shall serve a term of three years with two members rotating off the committee each year. A member may be reelected to the committee after a year's absence. Whenever possible, the members should have expertise in personnel administration. **# The Lead Pastor(s)** are ex officio members and will work **# closely** with the committee.

Duties: The Personnel Committee shall:

- a. survey the need for additional and new positions and make recommendations to the church;
- b. **# review** job descriptions for **# all employees#** and **# approve revisions,** as necessary**#**;

- c. develop and recommend **# compensation**, services, and employee benefits for **# staff members** and keep this information on file;
- d. **# be informed of** problems involving personnel as they arise**#** , and will be **involved as needed in conjunction with the Lead Pastor(s)**;
- e. develop, recommend, and update the personnel policies and **# procedures** manual as needed;
- f. **#** . meet regularly and submit **# reports** to the church **as needed**.

2. Finance Committee

Principal Function: The Finance Committee shall review, direct, and coordinate the financial transactions of the church. Its work shall include supervision of disbursements of all funds for the current fiscal year, **and** the planning of the budget for the coming year**#** .

Membership: The Finance Committee shall consist of seven members elected by the church. Each member shall serve for a term of three years with two members rotating off the committee each year. A member may be reelected to the committee after a year's absence. Whenever possible, the members should have experience in finance or accounting. The **# Lead Pastor(s)**, business administrator, and treasurer are ex officio members and will work closely with the committee.

Duties: The Finance Committee shall:

- a. review budget expenditures within the framework of the approved church budget and current financial policies;
- b. review budget categories periodically in terms of budget allocations and call attention to any unusually high or low expenditures;
- c. **# conduct an annual # review #** of the financial records, and **# see that an audit is performed by an outside firm every three years**;
- # d.** take responsibility for the insurance program of the church;
- e. **#** prepare the annual church budget;
 - #1#**. estimate the anticipated income based on church income of the previous year, prevailing economic conditions, the giving record of the membership, and anticipated church growth;
 - #2#**. request that staff, general officers, committee chairmen, and **# ministry leaders** submit an itemized list of budget needs for the year according to approved procedure;
 - #3#**. **#** prepare the budget for presentation to the church for approval;
- # f.** initiate, plan, and direct in cooperation with the **# Lead Pastor(s)** and business administrator the plan for **# implementing** the church budget**#** .
#

3. Committee on Committees

Principal Function: The Committee on Committees shall coordinate the staffing of the positions of the standing committee members.

Membership: The Committee on Committees shall consist of **# three** members nominated by the Committee on Committees. Each member shall serve for a term of three years. A member may be reelected to the committee after one year's absence.

Duties: The Committee on Committees shall:

- a. select, interview, enlist, and commit nominees for the positions of the standing church committees# (Personnel, Finance, and Committee on Committees). Before being presented to the church all nominees shall agree to serve if enlisted# ;
- b. **# select**, interview#, **and** enlist the Trustees.

C. Teams

A team is authorized by the church and **# may** have a rotating term. **# Teams may be formed at any time as needed at the discretion of the appropriate staff member(s).**

Any member of the church that is interested can participate at any time on **# a** team. It will be the responsibility of the **# team leader** to keep the church office informed of the current members of the teams. **# Examples of such teams include: missions, welcome team#, and women's ministry.**

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D. Special Committees

A special committee is one that is authorized by the church to fulfill a special need or **limited** function that terminates at **the end of a # designated** time. When the **# special need or limited function** is completed, the committee is **# dissolved**. When this committee is authorized, its special function and related duties shall be clearly outlined and be placed in the church minutes. While functioning, it shall be considered a **# bylaw** committee.

1. Pastor Search Committee

Principal Function: The Pastor Search Committee shall be elected by the church **#** when **# needed**. The committee shall search for and recommend to the church **#** suitable candidate**(s)** for the office of **Lead Pastor# (s)**.

Membership: The Pastor Search Committee shall consist of **# nine** members including the chairpersons of the Deacons, Personnel Committee, and Finance Committee, and **# six** at large members that shall be elected by secret ballot without open nominations from the floor. The election may be at a regular or called business meeting, but the church must be given a minimum of seven days advance notice about the meeting. The **# six** at large members receiving the highest number of votes, who will accept, shall be elected to **the** committee.

Duties: The Pastor Search Committee shall:

- a. # meet with the Personnel Committee to discuss and clarify any questions relating to the job # **descriptions**, responsibilities, and **compensation** the **Lead Pastor(s)** would have;
- # b. search for and recommend to the church body # suitable candidate# **(s)**;
- # c. present only one # **recommendation** to the church at a time for consideration# , the committee's recommendation constituting a nomination;
- # d. **provide opportunity** to the church# **for the presentation of candidate(s)**, and answer any questions asked before a vote is taken;
- # e. be responsible# for the distribution, collection, and counting of the secret ballots;
- # f. **coordinate with church staff in supplying** the pulpit during the interim period that the church is without # **any Lead Pastor**.

PROPOSED

IV. # Church # Administration#

A.Church Business # Meeting Decisions

The church has certain decisions that must be made regularly by its members to move it forward in its work for Christ. These decisions provide guidance for the work of the church and are decisions that can only be made by the church assembled in business # meeting. These decisions cannot be delegated to lesser church groups.

These church business # meeting decisions # will:

1. govern the life and work of the church under the Lordship of Christ;
2. provide and allocate resources for the total work of the church.

B. Administrative Services

Administrative services shall be those business activities which are impossible for the church to perform in # meetings but are delegated to the church staff, or appropriate church officers# .

The church staff and church officers # will perform the continuing administrative activities. The church staff, church committees and teams # will study, plan, and recommend # procedures and solutions # in the ongoing ministries and mission of the church.

Those persons responsible for these administrative services shall:

1. govern the continuing life and work of the church under the Lordship of Christ;
2. establish and coordinate the programs and # ministries of the church;
3. establish and maintain the relationships of the church;

4. conduct studies and prepare plans for the allocation of the leadership, facilities, and # financial resources of the church and administer the approved plans as assigned.

V. Ordinances

A. Baptism

A person who receives Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord by personal faith, who professes Him publicly# , and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord, shall be received for baptism.

The requirements for baptism are:

1. the candidate shall be accepted by the church;
2. the candidate shall be immersed;
3. the church's pastors or their designee (or approved and assisted by the pastoral staff) shall administer baptism# ;
4. baptism shall be administered as an act of worship during any worship service or any specially selected time and/or place as approved by the church's pastors.

A person professing Christ who fails to be baptized after a reasonable length of time shall be counseled by the pastor and/or staff and deacons.

B. The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the Church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, commemorate the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate # His Second Coming. These are established procedures for the Lord's Supper:

1. this ordinance shall be observed at least 4 times per year;
2. the Lord's Supper may be observed in any worship service;
3. the # Lead Pastor(s) and # deacons shall be responsible for administration of the Lord's Supper;
4. the deacons shall be responsible for the necessary physical preparations for the Lord's Supper.

VI. Licensing and Ordaining

This Church has the authority to and will from time to time set apart through licensing# or ordaining, # those who have given evidence that God has called them into the Gospel Ministry.

A. Licensing

As representatives of the church, the Deacon Body shall, by vote of a majority of the members present, have authority to license to the Christian ministry any member of the church, who gives evidence that he or she is called of God to Christian ministry.

B. Ordaining#

An individual may be ordained # to the Gospel Ministry upon the recommendation of the Deacon Body. Upon such recommendation, the **Lead Pastor# (s) will convene** a council of ordained# ministers and deacons to examine # **the candidate**. First Timothy 3:1-7 constitutes the primary # **biblical** reference for a minister's qualifications. The council reports their recommendation to the church. Upon approval of the recommendation by the church, a service for ordaining# is # **conducted**. Those so ordained # are given the authority to conduct worship and administer the ordinances of the church.# **Unless revoked by action of the church, the** ordination of this # **church** is valid for the lifetime of the minister.

C. Revocation

The # **church** reserves the right to withdraw upon majority vote any licensing# or ordination # it has issued should the life of the minister cease to bear those qualities required for such recognition.

VII.Church Meetings

A. Worship Service

The church shall meet regularly for preaching, instruction, evangelism, and for worship of Almighty God. These meetings shall be open to the entire church membership and to all others. The worship services shall be conducted under the direction of the # **Lead Pastor(s)** or whomever # **the Lead Pastor(s) designate**.

B. Special Services

Special services and any other church meetings which will be essential to the promotion of the objectives of the church shall be placed on the calendar. When a special or church wide meeting such as a study course or conference is being conducted, no other church program activity shall be scheduled in conflict.

C. Special Business Meetings

A called business meeting may be held to consider matters of a significant nature. A one-week notice on the subject, date, time, and location must be given for the called business meeting unless extreme urgency renders such notice impractical.

D. Business During Regular Worship Services

At any of the regular meetings for worship, the church may without special notice, act upon the reception of members and upon the appointment of messengers to associational meetings or conventions. Other business matters may be conducted at special business meetings.

E. Annual Meeting

An annual meeting of the church shall be held in March. At this time the annual reports # will be # available, leadership elected, and such other business transacted as may be specified or authorized in the # bylaws.

F. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of those members present at a called business meeting.

G. Parliamentary Rules

Roberts Rules of Order, Revised, shall be the authority for parliamentary procedure for all business # meetings of the church.

VIII. Church Finances

A. Unified Budget

The church shall have a unified budget which shall support all phases of the operation and program of the church. This budget shall be voted on and accepted by the church.

B. Special Offerings

Special offerings # may be conducted during the year # as # determined by the # pastoral staff.

C. Budget Planning and Support

The Finance Committee shall prepare and submit to the church for approval an inclusive unified budget indicating by ministry categories the amount needed and sought for church expenses.

It is understood that membership in this church involves financial obligation to support the church and its causes with regular, proportionate gifts. Annually, plans shall be put into operation for securing support from the church body.

D. Receiving and Disbursing Gifts

The business administrator shall supervise the receiving, counting, and recording of all money given to the church. The business administrator, under the guidance of the Finance Committee, shall disburse all church money.

If the church does not have a staff position of business administrator at any time, the Finance Committee shall supervise the receiving of all church money and the treasurer, under the guidance of the Finance Committee, shall disburse all church money.

E. Accounting Procedure

The business administrator shall keep all receipts, deposits, and disbursements in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The business administrator shall make written reports to the church. The financial records and record books shall be audited or reviewed annually and a report of the audit or review made available to the church.#

In the event the church does not have a staff position of business administrator, these duties shall be performed by the treasurer.

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IX. Amendments

These Bylaws, adopted by the First Baptist Church of Hurst in conference held # **June 17, 2018**, supersede all prior resolutions, procedures, and action of the church not in harmony with its provisions. These Bylaws may be amended in the following manner:

Changes in the Bylaws may be made at # **the annual meeting or at a business meeting** called # **specifically for that purpose**. Each **proposed** amendment must be presented **to the church** in writing at # **least one month** prior to the time # **of either a called business meeting or the annual meeting**. Printed copies of the proposed amendments shall be made available to the membership. Notification of the # **proposed amendments and date of the vote** shall be # **announced** in the church publications and # **during worship services** prior to the proposed action. **The change must be approved by a majority vote of all members present at the meeting.**