

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
TEMPLE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

ARTICLE I
NAME, LOCATION, AND PURPOSE

- Section 1 Name and Location
This church shall be known as Temple Heights Baptist Church, 5020 Puritan Road, Tampa, Florida 33617.
- Section 2 Purposes
The object of this church shall be:
- A. To glorify God in the salvation of souls through the preaching of the crucified, glorified and coming Savior, Christ Jesus.
 - B. To promote by every possible scriptural means the world-wide proclamation of the glorious and saving gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
 - C. To maintain regular services for the promotion of prayer, worship and Bible study.
 - D. To provide a haven of fellowship for all who have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ
 - E. To instruct its members in the things of God, thus contributing to their spiritual edification and thus encouraging them in holy living.
 - F. To observe and administer the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and baptism.
 - G. To contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints and to defend it vigorously against every onslaught of the enemy. II Cor. 6:14-7:1, II Peter 2.
 - H. To cooperate with Christian activity functioning in harmony with God's Holy Word, the Bible.
 - I. To provide for education at every academic level that is approved by the Board of Deacons.
 - J. To confer ministerial credentials to and conduct ordination services for individuals of like faith upon the recommendation of the pastor and the approval of the church.

ARTICLE II
CHURCH COVENANT AND ARTICLES OF FAITH

I. Of the Bible

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired; that it has truth without any admixture of error for its matter; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

1. By the "Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but is the very Word of God.
2. By "inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.

Psa. 19:7-11, 119:89, 105, 130, 160; Provo 30:5-6; Isa. 8:20; Luke 16:31,24:25-27,44-45; John 5:39,45-47,12:48,17:17; Acts 1:16,28:25; Rom. 3:4, 15:4; Eph. 6:17; II Tim. 3:16-17; I Pet 1:23; II Pet 1:19-21; Rev. 22 :19

II. Of The True God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent spirit, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Gen. 17:1; Ex. 15:11,20:2-3; Psa. 83:18, 90:2,147:5; Jer. 10:10; Matt. 28: 19; Mark 12:30; John 4:24, 10:30, 15:26, 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; Rom. 11 :33; I Cor. 2:10-11, 8:6, 12:4-6; II Cor. 13:14; Eph. 2:18,4:6; Phil. 2:5-6; I Tim. 1:17; I John 5:7; Rev. 4:11

III. Of The Holy Spirit

That the Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of judgment and of righteousness; that He bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the new birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.

Gen. 1:1-3; Matt. 3:11,28:19; Mark 1:8; Luke 1:35,3:16,24:49; John 1:33, 3:5-6,14:16-17, 14:26,15:26-27,16:7-11,13-15; Acts 5:30-32,11:16; Rom. 8:14,16,26-27; Eph. 1:13-14; II Thes. 2:7, 13; Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 1:2

IV. Of The Devil Or Satan

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

Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:14-17; Matt. 4:1-3,13:25,25:41,37:39; Mark 13:21-22; Luke 22:3-4; John 14:30; II Cor. 11:13-15; Eph. 2:2; 1 Thes. 3:5; II Thes. 2:8-11; I Pet. 5:8; II Pet. 2:4; 1 John 2:22,3:8,4:3, II John 7; Jude 6; Rev. 12:7-11,13:13-14,19:11,16,20,20:1-3,10)

V. Of Creation

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind."

Gen. 1:1, 11,24,26-27,2:21-23; Ex. 20:11; Neh. 9:6; Jer. 10:12; John 1:3; Acts 4:24,17:23-26; Rom. 1:20; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 11:3; Rev. 10:6

VI. Of The Fall Of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, in consequence, of which, all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but of choice; and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

Gen. 3:1-6,24; Ezek. 18:19-20; Rom. 1:18,20,28,32.3:10-19,5:12,19; Gal. 3:22; Eph. 2:1, 3

VII. Of The Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of woman, and that He is both the Son of God, and God, the Son.

Gen. 3:15; Psa. 2:7; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Mark 1:1; Luke 1:35; John 1:14; I Cor. 15:47; Gal. 4:4; 1 John 5:20

VIII. Of The Atonement Of Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin. honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement of our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that, having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior.

Isa. 53:4-7, 11-12; Matt. 18:11; John 3:16, 10:18; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24-25; 1 Cor. 15:3,20; 11 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 1:4; Eph. 2:8; Phil. 2:7-8; Heb. 2:14, 7:25, 9:12-15, 12:2; 1 Pet. 2:24, 3:18; 1 John 2:2, 4: 10

IX. Of Grace In The New Creation

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

Luke 5:27; John 1:12-13, 3:3, 6-7, Acts 2:41; Rom. 6:23; II Cor. 5:17, 19; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 2:1, 5:9; Col. 2:13; II Pet. 1:4; 1 John 5:1

X. Of The Freeness Of Salvation

We believe in God's electing grace; that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his

own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

Isa. 55:1,6-7; Matt. 11:28; Jolm 3:15-16,18,36,5:40,6:37, Acts 2:38; Rom. 8:29-30, 10:13; I Cor. 15:10; Eph. 2:4-5; Cot. 3:12; 1 Thes. 1:4; I Tim. 1:15; Titus 1:1; 1 Pet. 1:2; Rev. 22:17

XI. Of Justification

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done; but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed unto us.

Isa. 53:11; Hab. 2:4; Zech. 13:1; Acts 13:39; Rom. 1:17,4:1-8,5:1,9; 8:1; Gal. 3:11; Titus 3:5-7; Heb. 10:38

XII. Of Repentance And Faith

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

Psa. 51:1-L, 7; Isa. 55:6-7; Mark 1:15; Luke 12:8, 18:13; Acts 2:37-38,20:21; Rom. 10:9-11, 13

XIII. Of The Church

We believe that a church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its offices of ordination are pastors (elders, bishops) and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures; we believe the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission:

First, to make individual disciples;

Second, to build up the church;

Third, to teach and instruct as He has commanded.

We do not believe in the reversal of this order; we hold that the local church has the absolute right of self government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in

contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; all all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

Lev. 27:32; Mai. 3:10; Malt 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42, 6:5-6,14:23,15:2223,20:17-28; 1 Cor. 5:11-13,6:1-3,8:11,11:2,12:4,16:1-2; n Cor. 8:2324; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:11, 5:23-24; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 3:1-7, 8-13; I Pet. 5:14; Jude 3, 4

XIV. Of Baptism And The Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer; in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, with the authority of the local church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith of the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper; in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and the fruit of the vine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Matt. 3:6,16,28:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42,8:36-39; Rom. 6:3-5; I Cor. 11:23-28; Col. 2:12

XV. Of The Perseverance Of The Saints

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation.

Matt. 6:20,13:19-20; John 8:31-32,10:28-29,16:8; Rom. 8:28, 35-39, Cot. 1:21-23; I John 2:19

XVI. Of The Righteous And The Wicked

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

Gen. 18:23; Provo 11:31,14:32; Mat. 3:18; Matt. 7:13-14, 25:35, 41; Luke 9:26,16:25; John 8:21, 12:25; Acts 10:34-35; Rom. 1:17,6:16-18,23, 7:6; 1 Cor. 15:22; Gal. 3:10; I Pet. 4:18; I John 2:7,29,5:19

XVII. Of Civil Government

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

Ex. 18:21-22; 118am. 23:3; Psa. 72:11; Dan. 3:17-18; Matt. 10:28,22:21,23:10; Acts. 4:19-20, 23:5; Rom. 13:7; Titus 3:1; Phil. 2:10-11; I Pet. 2:13-14,17

XVIII. Of Human Sexuality

We believe God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity is to be engaged in outside of the marriage of a man and a woman. Any form of child molestation, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, bisexuality, incest, pedophilia, or pornography is a sinful perversion of God's gift of sex. We believe God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance.

Genesis 2:22-24; 19:5,13; Leviticus 18:1-30; Matthew 19:4-6; Romans 1:26-29; 7:2; First Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; Gal. 3:28; Ephesians 5:22-23; First Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)"

XIX. Of the Sanctity of the Home

We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman.

Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23

We believe that God disapproves of and forbids divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses die. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the office of pastor or deacon.

Mal. 2:14-17, Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6

XX. Of The Resurrection And Return Of Christ And Related Events

We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their face and full value. Of the resurrection, we believe that Christ rose bodily, "The third day according to the Scriptures;" that he ascended, "to the right hand of the throne of God;" that he alone is our "merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God;" and "that this same Jesus which was taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" - bodily, personally and visibly; that the "dead in Christ shall rise first;" that the living saints "shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump;" and "that the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David;" and that "Christ shall reign a thousand years in righteousness until he hath put all enemies under his feet."

Psa. 72:8; Isa. 11:4-5; Matt. 24:27,42,28:6-7; Mark 16: 6, 19; Luke 1:32, 24: 2,4-6,39,51; John 14:3,20:27; Acts 1:9, 11; I Cor. 15: 4, 25, 42 44,51-53; Phil. 4:20-21; I Thes. 4:16-17; I Tim. 2:5; Heb. 2:17,5:9-10,8:1, 6,9:28,12:2; 1 John 2:1; Rev. 3:21,20:1-4,6

Mark 16: 15, "And he said Unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

John 20:21, "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."

Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Romans 10: 13-15, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

XXI. Of Missions

The command to give the gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this commission was given to the churches.

Matt. 28: 18-20, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and to I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

XXII. Of The Grace Of Giving

Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the faith.

II Cor. 8:7, "Therefore as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also."

We are commanded to bring our gifts into the storehouse (common treasury of the church) upon the first day of the week.

I Cor. 16:2, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

Under grace we give, and do not pay, the tithe. "Abraham GAVE a tenth of the spoils," Hebrews 7:2, 4. This was four hundred years before the law, and is confirmed in the New Testament. Jesus said concerning the tithe, "these ought ye have done, and not to leave the other undone [tithe]" Matthew 23:23.

We are commanded to bring the tithe into the common treasury of the church.

Lev. 27:30, "The tithe is the Lord's."

Mat. 3: 10, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open up the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

In the New Testament it was the common treasury of the church.

Acts 4:34,35,37, "And brought the prices of the things that were sold and laid them down at the apostles' feet Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it AT THE APOSTLES' FEET."

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our 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 Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly most joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christ in love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating or addictive substances such as alcohol, cigarettes, and non-prescription drugs and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rule of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We, moreover, engage that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

ARTICLE III
PREAMBLE

Reposing our faith wholly in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation, believing in the teachings and practices of Baptist distinctive principles, namely:

- A. The preeminence of Christ as our Divine Lord and Master.
- B. The supreme authority of the Bible and its sufficiency as our rule of faith and practice.
- C. The right of private interpretation and the competency of the individual soul in direct approach to God.
- D. The absolute separation of church and state.
- E. A regenerate church membership.
- F. The beautiful symbolic ordinance of believer's baptism (immersion) in obedience to the command of Christ.
- G. The complete independence of the local church and its interdependence in associated fellowship with the other Baptist churches.
- H. The solemn obligation of majority rule, guaranteeing equal rights to all and special privileges to none.
- I. The spiritual unity of all believers, for which the Master so earnestly prayed.
- J. A world-wide program of missionary fervor and evangelism in obedience to the final command of the Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE IV
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Any person desiring to be a member of this church and meeting the qualifications contained in the following sections of this article may be admitted to membership-in the manner provided in the Articles of Incorporation.

Section 2 Membership by Baptism (Immersion)
Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior and declaring it as his purpose to follow Him as His disciple, may, by affirmation of the congregation at any church meeting, be received through baptism into full membership of this church.

Section 3 Membership by Letter
Members of other Baptist churches of like doctrine or churches of Baptist practice and like doctrine, who have been baptized according to the New Testament, may be received into full membership of the church in good and regular standing upon receipt of letters of dismissal from those churches.

Section 4 Membership by Statement

Any person who has at some time been a member of a Baptist church of like doctrine or churches of Baptist practice and like doctrine or who has been baptized according to the New Testament, but whose membership has lapsed or been lost, may upon statement of the facts, and the vow of their faith and love to Christ, be restored and received to membership by affirmation of the congregation at any of its public services. Where there is doubt as to spiritual intention, the candidate shall be questioned by the pastor or his designee and recommendation shall be made by the pastor.

Section 5

Dismissal of Members

Any active member of our church may be granted a letter of dismissal to unite with some other Baptist church. The letter shall be sent only to the church where the member desires new membership. Any member who has united with any other church without such a letter shall have his name dropped from the church roll. (No letters are to be granted personally to a member.)

Section 6

Removals

Whenever any member removes to a distance inaccessible to our church, he shall supply the church with his new address, and move his membership within one year, providing there be a church of the same faith and order in the place to which he moves. In case there is not such a church or there are circumstances, which render it inadvisable to change, it shall be his duty to maintain membership in this church.

Section 7

Inactive Member

When a member shall fail to manifest any interest in the church, by his normal church attendance for a successive period of three months, showing no desire or intention of returning to the church, such member shall automatically become an inactive member. People whose names are on the inactive list are not entitled to vote in any business meeting of the church.

Section 8

Discipline

All matters of discipline of members shall be in the hands of the deacons and pastor, except that no one shall be expelled from the membership except by majority vote of the members present at the regular business meeting. All discipline shall be for the purpose of reclaiming the individual, expulsion coming only after all other measures have failed. The Board of Deacons may constitute a standing committee on discipline, or the Board of Deacons may, with concurrence of the pastor, designate from time to time a committee on discipline to whom cases of grievances and moral delinquencies shall be referred; and no one shall have the right to accuse any member of the church at any public meeting of the church unless this person, or group of persons, has first presented the charge to the committee on discipline

ARTICLE V
MEETINGS

Section 1 Church Year

The church year shall run from January 1 through December 31 of each year.

Section 2 Business Meetings

- a. An annual business meeting will be held prior to the beginning of the calendar year and shall be announced well in advance. This business meeting shall be the annual business meeting of the church. Notice of such meeting shall be given by publication, in advance of such meetings, in the church bulletin for two successive weeks; provided however, that if no church bulletin is being published, then such notice shall be sufficient if given by regular mail to the last post office address of each member on record at the church office. The primary purpose of the meeting is to receive and adopt the annual report and next year's church budget.
- b. The pastor or the Chairman of the Board of Deacons may call additional business meetings as required.
- c. Quarterly business meetings shall be held for the primary purpose of presenting the quarterly financial report.
- d. The Chairman of the Board of Deacons shall be the moderator of all business meetings. He may elect to appoint a moderator if needed.
- e. A quorum shall consist of one-third of the voting membership.

Section 3 Voting

- a. At all meetings of the church corporation each member of the corporation shall be entitled to one (vote which must be cast in person.)
- b. All scripturally baptized members of the church who are in good standing shall be entitled to vote in regular routine matters.
- c. A two-thirds affirmative vote of an members present and voting who are at least eighteen (18) years of age is required, for the call or dismissal of a pastor or in the case of a serious problem and in business matters affecting the financial obligations of the church. These matters of church business shall be conducted by a ballot vote.

ARTICLE VI
OFFICERS

Section 1 The officers of the church shall consist of the pastor, deacons, trustees, clerk, financial secretary and treasurer. Others may be added as deemed necessary.

Section 2 The Pastor

a. The qualifications of pastor shall be consistent with those in I Timothy 3:1-7.

b. The pastor shall be the chief executive officer of the church and the head of all departments of church work. The pastor shall seek the counsel and will be responsible to keep the deacon board concurrent with all matters pertaining to the church to ensure that the church leadership are all in one accord;. The pastor's specific duties shall be to give special attention to the spiritual needs of the members, to preach, to administer the ordinances of the New Testament, to maintain and exert leadership in the progress of church growing, and to have supervision of the church staff. The employment or termination of office, of paid staff including school staff, unless otherwise specifically provided, shall be with the full knowledge and consent of the pastor, within the limits of the budget, and in counsel with the deacons.

c. The pastor is God's man to lead and to exhort and will be treated with a spirit of trustworthiness and respected as such by the members. The pastor is entrusted with the daily governing of the church at large. He is to be looked to as counselor for every phase of the church ministry. The membership is to sympathize with the many decisions that he must make in connection with the daily affairs of the church. It is assumed by all that his decisions, etc., are in the best interest of the church and for the exaltation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

d. Upon the death, resignation or removal of the pastor, the church shall without unnecessary delay call to its pastorate some minister of good report, provided that notice of such intention to vote on the call shall be given by the Pulpit Committee (as defined by Article VII, Section 2) publicly from the pulpit at the regular Sunday morning worship service, or through the church bulletin on the Sunday immediately preceding the date of the church's vote to call the new pastor. In the permanent absence of a pastor, the chairman of the Pulpit Committee may call the church into conference for the purpose of calling a new pastor at any Sunday service, providing proper notice has been given on the preceding Sunday. The church's vote to call a new pastor shall be upon the recommendation of the Pulpit Committee, and shall be upon at least two-thirds majority vote of those members present and voting. The pastor shall be elected to an unlimited tenure of office to be terminated at his own pleasure, or a two-thirds affirmative vote of the church.

Section 3 Trustees

The deacons shall elect not less than three (3) or more than nine (9) trustees, to be chosen from the list of deacons. Trustees shall serve for a

term of three (3) years, unless during which time a trustee's position as deacon is terminated; in which case, the trustee's position would terminate and would have to be filled by an elected deacon. It shall be the function of the trustees to sign any legal documents requiring the signature of the trustees for and in behalf of the church. They shall have no power to have action on any property of the church valued at \$5,000 or more without a specific vote of the church authorizing each action.

Section 4 Deacons

The deacons shall be elected by the congregation to a three year term. At the end of three years they are eligible for renomination after one year. If there are no new candidates presented then those whose term is completed are immediately eligible to be a candidate. A deacon may resign at his own pleasure or the pleasure of the church or a majority vote of the Deacon Board. There shall be a minimum of six (6) deacons. The deacons must meet the qualifications as set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13. New deacons are to be elected in the following manner:

1. Candidates are chosen by the Deacon Nominating Committee as defined in Article VII. Section 1.
2. Candidates to be prayed over by pastor and deacons to seek God's will.
3. Candidates to be interviewed by pastor as to qualifications, etc.
4. Candidate and his wife are to meet with present deacons for purpose of interviewing, discussing duties, qualifications, etc.
5. Candidates and wives to be introduced to congregation and recommended after testimonies for election.
6. Election of new deacons to be a majority vote of membership present at such meeting.

The deacons shall have general management of the affairs and business of the church corporation. The deacons shall in all cases act as a board, regularly convened, by a majority and they may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of their meeting and the management of the corporation affairs as they may deem proper.

Every motion passed by the board of deacons shall be presented to the pastor for review and approval. He may decide to veto the motion for reconsideration and return a written reason back to the deacons. If the pastor takes no action within 10 days, the motion shall take affect. If a veto did occur the deacons shall reconsider and may override the veto with a two-thirds vote.

Deacons are to be servants of the church. Their task is to serve with the pastor and staff in performing the pastoral ministry tasks of:

1. Leading the church in the achievement of its mission
2. Proclaiming the gospel to believers and unbelievers
3. Caring for church members and other people in the community
4. Seek to solve any fellowship problem of the church
5. Assist the pastor in administering the church ordinances

If a deacon position becomes vacant, notice shall be given to the Deacon Nominating Committee at the next worship meeting of the vacancy and nominations will then be received. The deacon position shall be voted on at the next scheduled meeting, being that there was appropriate time for candidate nominations and interview.

Section 5 Clerk

The duties of the church clerk shall be to keep a correct record of all proceedings of the regular and special business meetings of the church. The clerk will sign all letters of dismissal of members and keep a complete registry of the membership. The duties of the clerk shall be given to a church secretary assigned by the pastor with the concurrence of the Board of Deacons.

Section 6 Treasurer

The treasurer shall be appointed by the pastor with the approval of the Board of Deacons or elected by the church. The treasurer shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the corporation; keep accurate accounts of the corporation's transactions; receive and give receipts for moneys due and payable to the corporation: from any source whatsoever and deposit all such moneys in the name of the corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws; and in general perform all the duties incident to the office of treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the chairman of the Board of Deacons. The treasurer shall submit a financial summary to the Deacon Board as requested by the board.

Section 7 Financial Secretary

The financial secretary shall be appointed by the pastor with the approval of the Board of Deacons or elected by the church. The financial secretary shall maintain detailed records of contributions to the corporation; be custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of the corporation and see that the seal of the corporation is affixed to all documents, the execution of which on behalf of the corporation under its seal is duly authorized in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws; and in general perform all duties incident to the office of financial secretary and such

other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the chairman of the Board of Deacons.

- Section 8 No officer shall serve in multiple positions unless stated within the position description.
- Section 9 In order to promote a high spiritual standard in the church, all officers, teachers, and committee members will be expected to attend the regular services of the church faithfully when they are not providentially hindered.

ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES

- Section 1 Deacon Nominating Committee
The Deacon Nominating Committee of Temple Heights Baptist Church is the adult membership. As stated in Article VI Section 4, the pastor meets with those nominated and, after stating thoroughly the jobs and the qualifications, those who meet the qualifications and feel it is the Lord's will for them to be on the official ballot are then placed on the official ballot. It is understood by all that spiritually unqualified persons will not be asked to serve.

- Section 2 Pulpit Committee
In case of death, resignation, or removal of the pastor, a pulpit committee composed of the deacons and all paid male staff members of the church corporation shall be responsible for filling the pulpit and shall investigate possible pastors and shall make recommendations to the church concerning the call of a pastor.

During his ministry the pastor shall be in charge of the pulpit at all times. The chairman of the deacons will be the chairman of the Pulpit Committee, with the option to appoint, from within the committee, those he deems necessary to assist and moderate the committee and its duties.

The committee shall be authorized by the church to investigate and consider all names of candidates received by them, and to invite such candidates to visit the church who in their judgment are qualified to meet the needs of the church. After a candidate has been invited to visit the church in view of a call, then if the Pulpit Committee desires to consider him as their pastor, he will be presented to the church to be voted upon before another candidate is considered.

The committee shall be responsible for interviewing the candidate while on the field, placing in his hands a copy of this instrument, the Articles of Faith, and the Church Covenant.

Section 3 Finance Committee

The Finance Committee shall be selected by the Board of Deacons. The Finance Committee shall select a chairman and shall supervise the care for all offerings. It shall submit a proposed yearly budget for the following calendar year to the deacons for approval. The proposed budget then shall be recommended to the church membership by the deacons for a vote. This committee shall control all deposits and withdrawals. It shall see that all departments operate within their budgets, or if this is impossible, this matter should be brought before the deacons.

A financial summary shall be submitted to the deacon board as requested by the board.

The Finance Committee shall be empowered to use such funds as are available to purchase or sell materials and equipment necessary to carry out the objectives of the church. The committee shall care for all the property of the church and to all things incidental to the maintenance and upkeep of said property, and to transact any other business as outlined in the church budget. The Finance Committee may appoint subcommittees from the church membership to carry out its functions.

An audited financial statement shall be prepared at least once every five years. Financial reviews/compilations shall be prepared annual or as necessary as determined by the Finance Committee.

ARTICLE VII FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Temple Heights Baptist Church is committed to being debt free and recognizes that this is God's church and He will provide for the needs of the church through the faithfulness of its people. Borrowing money therefore makes us servant to the lender (Proverbs 22:7). We are committed to taking care of the Lord's money in a responsible manner and being an example to the community in handling money (Deuteronomy 28:12).

ARTICLE VIII CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS, SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS

It shall be understood that all organizations of the church are a part of the church and are subject to its jurisdiction. They shall conduct themselves at all times becoming to our Christian faith and shall be careful not to bring discredit to the body of which they are a part. The pastor is the head of the church and subsidiary organizations.

ARTICLE IX
PROPERTY DISSOLUTION

“Dissolution” means the complete disbanding of the Church so that it no longer functions as a congregation or as a corporate entity. Any dissolution must be done in compliance with the notice provision of these by-laws.

Dissolution can only occur upon approval of two-thirds vote of the Deacons and by two-thirds vote of the membership of the church.

In the event of the dissolution of Temple Heights Baptist Church, or in the event it shall cease to carry out the object and purposes herein set forth, all the business property, and assets of the corporation shall go and be distributed to another church of like faith, organized and existing and within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and compatible with this Church in faith and practice as set forth and defined in Article I of these by-laws so that the business properties and assets of Temple Heights Baptist Church shall then be used for, and devoted to, the purpose as stated herein. In no way shall any of the assets or property, in the event of dissolution, go or be distributed to members either for the reimbursement of any sums described, donated, or contributed by such members, or for any other such purpose.

ARTICLE IX
AMENDMENTS

The bylaws of the corporation shall be made, altered or rescinded upon a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regularly called business meetings of the corporation.

The church, under the leadership of the pastor, may adopt additional bylaws in harmony herewith at any regular or called meeting.

ARTICLE X
ADOPTION OF BYLAWS

These bylaws shall supersede all other bylaws adopted by, or action taken by the church in previous meetings, and become effective immediately when approved by the church.

Ratified by a meeting of the membership on July 28, 2013. Replaces March 30, 2008 version.