

Family Baptist Church

Membership Application



THE BYLAWS OF FAMILY BAPTIST CHURCH

PREAMBLE

ARTICLE I: NAME & OFFICES

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

ARTICLE III: STATEMENT OF FAITH

ARTICLE IV: DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

ARTICLE V: CHURCH COVENANT

The members of Family Baptist Church, in the presence of God and this congregation, as one body in Christ, will be expected to enter into a covenant with one another, to the limit of their abilities and understanding. The covenant reads as follows:

Section 1. FOR OURSELVES:

- A. We have been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and
- B. we have made a public profession of this faith and
- C. we have been baptized by immersion in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and
- D. we desire to live lives that honor Christ, to present ourselves to the world as a Christ-honoring congregation.

Section 2. TOWARD OUR CHURCH:

- A. To walk together in Christian love;
- B. to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort;
- C. to promote its prosperity and spirituality;
- D. to attend its services regularly;
- E. to uphold its worship, ordinance and doctrines;
- F. to give it a sacred pre-eminence over all institutions of human origin;
- G. to give faithfully of our time and talent in its activities;
- H. to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God enables us, for the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel throughout all the world;
- I. to support and submit to the biblical discipline practiced by this local church;
- J. to unite with another church of like faith and practice as soon as possible if or when we move from this community. In the event there is no such church, we shall seek to establish one.

Section 3. TOWARD OTHERS:

- A. To maintain regular family and private devotions;
- B. to train up our children by following the principles of the Word of God;
- C. to teach our children to follow the principles of the Word of God;
- D. to seek the salvation of our family and friends;
- E. to live Christ-like in this present world;
- F. to be just in our transactions, faithful in our commitments and a good testimony in our conduct;
- G. to avoid all gossip, backbiting, malice, jealousies, envies, strife and actions done in anger.

Section 4. AS A WITNESS:

- A. To avoid activities that bring dishonor to our Lord Jesus Christ;
- B. to avoid activities that knowingly, or with wanton disregard for the souls of others, cause fellow believers to stumble;
- C. to avoid activities that hinder a witness to others of Christ.

Section 5. AS A BROTHER OR SISTER:

- A. To encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return;
- B. to be considerate of one another in brotherly love;
- C. to remember each other in prayer;
- D. to aid each other in sickness and distress;
- E. to cultivate Christian empathy and courtesy in speech;
- F. to be slow to take offense and always ready to reconcile, being ever mindful of the commandments of our Savior to seek it without delay.

ARTICLE VI: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Profess to be born-again through faith in Jesus Christ.
- B. Have been baptized by immersion following the profession of faith in Christ (see baptism as defined in the Statement of Faith and Doctrinal Statement).
- C. Demonstrate a desire to live a consistent Christian life.
- D. Acknowledge the Statement of Faith and Doctrinal Statement define the accepted teachings of Family Baptist Church.
- E. Recognize and accept the authority of these bylaws and covenant.
- F. Membership in the church shall be open to all, regardless of race, sex, color or social status.

Section 2. PROCEDURE:

- A. Those desiring to join this church shall give their testimony, either in written form or so that it may be reduced to writing and thereafter be retained by the church.
- B. Those desiring to join this church shall sign a statement they have received, read and are in agreement with the Bylaws and Covenant and acknowledge the Statement of Faith and Doctrinal Statement define the doctrinal position and teaching of the church (revised June 7, 1997).
- C. The senior pastor and Board of Deacons shall determine whether there is need of any additional requirement for discipleship.
- D. After the senior pastor and Board of Deacons have examined and given unanimous recommendation to the church, the candidate will give a public testimony of salvation experience at a regularly scheduled service.
- E. The church will vote upon the recommendation of the senior pastor and the Board of Deacons. Upon a fifty-one (51%) affirmative vote, the candidate will be received into membership.

Section 3. RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIVILEGES:

- A. Every member of the church is encouraged to attend its meetings, to work for its growth, to represent our Lord and church in the community and to contribute regularly and according to their ability for its work in both its local and outreach programs.

- B. Members shall strive, with God's help, to keep their covenant obligations. They shall hold their pastors and deacons in esteem and pray for them, as well as other officers of the church. They shall endeavor to preserve the unity of the church.
- C. All members have the right to voice their opinion on any subject even if their opinions are different than the opinion of the senior pastor, deacons, officers, or other members; but all things shall be done decently and in order, with Christian concern. If the issue(s) cannot be resolved and they still find themselves opposed to the practice or teaching of the church, they shall not seek to disrupt its fellowship, but shall quietly withdraw from its membership. A disorderly member may be subject to discipline and exclusion by official action of the church pursuant to these bylaws.
- D. Following the command in I Corinthians 6:1-8, no member shall take any legal action against Family Baptist Church, its leadership or its members for its counsel, practices, ordinances, doctrine or any disciplinary action.
- E. Each member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members. There shall be no cumulative voting:
 - 1. Only members in good standing, as defined in these bylaws, are qualified to vote.
 - 2. Only members who are of legal voting age shall vote on matters pertaining to the purchase, sale or mortgaging of property.
 - 3. Members who have reached their sixteenth (16) birthday shall be eligible to vote on all other matters.

Section 4. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: This is provided for individuals, typically students, who desire to retain membership in their home church. Such persons must meet the same membership qualifications as a full member of this church and be a member in good standing of a church of like faith and practice. They may serve in any of the ministries of the church but do not have voting privileges. Associate memberships terminate each June 30 and may be renewed upon approval of the senior pastor and Board of Deacons.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. THE FISCAL YEAR: The fiscal year of the church shall be July 1 through June 30 of the following calendar year.

Section 2. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING: The Annual Business Meeting shall take place on the second Wednesday in June. The purpose of this meeting shall be the election of deacons, the election of officers, the adoption of the annual budget, the distribution of annual reports, and the consideration of any other such business as seems appropriate. If the annual Business Meeting of the members cannot, in the opinion of the senior pastor, be held as scheduled, then the Annual Business Meeting shall be held at a time and place designated by the Board of Deacons.

Section 3. SPECIAL MEETINGS: Special meetings of the members may be called by the senior pastor, the Board of Deacons, or not less than one-tenth (1/10th) of the members having voting rights, at a place designated by the Board of Deacons. If no designation is made the place of meeting shall be the principal office of the church in the State of Minnesota.

Section 4. NOTICE OF MEETINGS: Written or printed notice stating the place, date and hour of any meeting of members shall be delivered either personally or by mail to each member entitled to vote at such meeting, not less than five (5) nor more than twenty (20) days, before the date of such meeting, by or at the direction of the senior pastor, the Board of Deacons or persons calling the meeting. In case of a special meeting, or when required by statute or by these bylaws, the purpose(s) for which the meeting is called shall be stated in the notice. If mailed, the notice of a meeting shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited with postage thereon prepaid in the United States mail addressed to the member at his or her address as it appears on the records of the church.

Section 5. INFORMAL ACTION BY MEMBERS: Any action required by law to be taken at a meeting of the members, or any action which may be taken at a meeting of the members, may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, is signed by all the members entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof.

Section 6. QUORUM: Members holding ten percent (10%) of the votes that may be cast at any meeting shall constitute a quorum at such meeting. If a quorum is not present at any meeting of members, a majority of the members present may adjourn the meeting from time-to-time without further notice. When a quorum has been present at a meeting and members have withdrawn from the meeting so less than a quorum remains, the members present may continue to transact business until adjournment, provided the numeric number for a quorum for a membership meeting shall not be less than the numeric number required for a Board of Deacons' meeting.

Section 7. PROXIES: Only for the purpose of establishing a quorum for meetings may a member entitled to vote do so by proxy executed in writing by the member or by their duly authorized attorney-in-fact. No proxy shall be valid after two (2) months from the date of its execution, unless otherwise provided in the proxy.

Section 8. WRITTEN BALLOT: All elected personnel shall be elected by a written ballot. They shall assume their duties on the following July 1st.

Section 9. MINIMUM AGE: Voting members must be sixteen (16) years of age or older and in good standing with the church as stated in these bylaws.

Section 10. RULES FOR TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS:

A. The church may transact business at any of its regular services, provided announcement has been made as to the nature of the business at no less than three (3) previous services. Special business meetings may be called by the senior pastor, Board of Deacons or by petition of at least fifteen percent (15%) of the members in good standing. Notice of such meetings must be made from the pulpit in no less than three (3) previous Sunday services and appear in the bulletin on the Sunday preceding the meeting. The primary purpose of these meetings must be stated. Good taste will limit business conducted on Sunday to a minimum.

B. Normal matters of business to be presented to the congregation shall come by way of recommendation from the senior pastor or Board of Deacons.

C. Church action at all business meetings shall be determined by a majority vote of the members present and voting, unless otherwise specified in these bylaws.

D. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the voting members shall constitute a quorum for annual or special meetings. This quorum shall not apply to the reception of members or to the adoption of amendments.

E. The senior pastor shall preside at all business meetings of the church. In cases where he may be absent, someone else appointed by the senior pastor shall preside. When the business to be transacted is of such a nature as to involve him personally, the chairman of the Board of Deacons shall preside.

F. Robert's Rules of Order, to the extent approved by the congregation, shall be the parliamentary guide in all matters of business unless otherwise specified in these bylaws.

G. The election of the senior pastor and other elected personnel shall be by ballot. All other voting may be done by the method called for by the moderator, except as otherwise directed by the wishes of the congregation.

ARTICLE VIII: CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Section 1. DISMISSAL OR CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP STATUS:

A. *Voluntary.* Members in good standing may at their own request have their church letter sent directly to another church of like faith and practice with which they wish to unite. Upon favorable vote of the Board of Deacons, a letter shall be sent.

B. *Exclusion.* Membership may change as a result of church discipline as defined in these bylaws.

C. *Absenteeism.* Should any member be absent from the services of the church for a period of three (3) consecutive months without justifiable cause, the member may be considered inactive. This means the member forfeits *his* or her voting privileges and automatically becomes subject to the dismissal procedure if he or she does not become active. To become active the member must be regular in attendance, manifesting a sincere and cooperative spirit, for four (4) consecutive weeks.

1. Should the member choose not to become active, dismissal procedure consists of three steps:
 - a. If practical, the member is visited by the senior pastor and/or Board of Deacons after the member has been absent for three (3) consecutive months. At this visit the member is questioned concerning any problem and urged to become active.
 - b. Typically, the member shall be given two (2) consecutive weeks to show evidence in becoming an active member.
 - c. If the member fails to demonstrate satisfactory evidence, the member shall be notified that on a given date the member may be dismissed by vote of the congregation.
2. Members who move away will be allowed six (6) consecutive months to find a church of like faith and practice before this article will apply. In such cases, the above procedure will be carried out as

soon as possible by means of correspondence or some other reasonable alternative manner as determined by the senior pastor and the Board of Deacons.

D. *Erasure.* When it has been established the member has united with another church without notifying this church the member shall automatically be erased from the membership roll. No church action is necessary.

E. *Death.* The names of deceased members shall be removed from the active *membership* and be placed on a memorial membership list.

F. *Withdrawal.* A member in good standing and not under disciplinary action or review for disciplinary action may quietly withdraw from church *membership* by written request to the Board of Deacons. Any member who is no longer willing to abide by these bylaws has a duty to withdraw from membership. No church vote is required under these circumstances for such a withdrawal.

Any member who withdraws from membership is encouraged to communicate the reasons for withdrawal to the Board of Deacons and otherwise to be discreet, having regard for the unity and peace of the church. All names dropped from the membership shall be reported to the church at a regular weekly service.

Section 6. FORMATIVE AND CORRECTIVE DISCIPLINE: In matters of discipline that do not require action by the congregation as otherwise provided herein, the investigation and action of the Board of Deacons, under the direction of the senior pastor, shall be confidential in nature, and the senior pastor and the Board of Deacons shall be the sole determiner of the discipline. Any member found living contrary to the teachings of Scripture or the bylaws of this church shall be admonished by the Board of Deacons in brotherly love, in accordance with the applicable principles of Scripture (Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1; Hebrews 10:24,25). In all cases restoration and reconciliation shall be desired and prayerfully sought. The Board of Deacons, by affirmative vote of two-thirds (67%) of all of the members of the board, may suspend the activities of a member, if appropriate.

A. The purpose of church discipline shall be:

1. In love, to help errant members recognize and repent of their sins so they may be restored to fellowship with the Lord and this church (Galatians 6:1).
2. In love, to maintain the purity of this church by removing those who are unrepentant toward their sins (I Corinthians 5:7,11).
3. In love, to restrain others from committing sin (I Timothy 5:20).

B. The New Testament recognizes three (3) principle causes for exclusion:

1. Sins of carnal behavior that obscure the holiness of God, such as moral impurity, perversion, covetousness, idolatry and/or personal difficulties hindering the ministry and fellowship of the church (Matthew 18:15-17; II Thessalonians 3:6; I Corinthians 5:11).
2. Sins of divisiveness that bringing confusion and schism to the congregation (Romans 16:17).
3. Sins that violate the truth of God by promoting false doctrine or heresy in doctrine (Titus 3:10; II Timothy 2:14-18; II John 10,11; II Peter 2:1-3).

C. When a member falls into either moral or doctrinal error, or causes division within the church, corrective discipline may be required.

D. In matters between individuals the offender must be confronted first on an individual basis. If there is no repentance, the offender must be confronted with the original individual and an additional individual who will act as a witness. If there is still no repentance, the matter will go to the senior pastor and the Board of Deacons. Offenses shall be examined by the senior pastor and the Board of Deacons and, if deemed appropriate, presented to the congregation (Matthew 18:15).

E. A member who claims to have been unjustly disciplined after an attempt to resolve the matter directly with the senior pastor and the Board of Deacons may petition the Board of Deacons to address the congregation. The member's request must be submitted in writing to the senior pastor and the Board of Deacons no later than thirty (30) days after the judgment of the Board of Deacons. The senior pastor or his designee shall submit the member's request to the congregation. If the congregation does not vote to hear the matter, the decision shall stand as the final ruling on the matter and the member shall not have any further right of appeal to the congregation. However, if the congregation votes to hear the matter, the

senior pastor or his designee shall present the matter to the congregation for a vote pursuant to these bylaws, which vote shall then be the final resolution of the matter by the church.

F. A member who has been removed from membership under this section and desires re-admittance may be restored to membership by giving satisfactory evidence to the senior pastor and the Board of Deacons of repentance and reformation. The applicant shall then follow the regular procedure for membership as defined in these bylaws (Galatians 6:1).

Section 8. TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP: Membership in this church is not transferable nor assignable.

Section 9. EXAMINATION OF CHURCH ROLLS: The church roll shall be examined quarterly and annually by the church clerk, senior pastor and the Board of Deacons, and shall be brought up-to-date as necessary and the results published.

ARTICLE IX: PASTORAL STAFF

ARTICLE X: BOARD OF DEACONS

ARTICLE XI: MEETINGS OF DEACONS

ARTICLE XII: DEACONESSES

ARTICLE XIII: ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

ARTICLE XIV: COMMITTEES AND CHURCH MINISTRIES

ARTICLE XV: ORDINATION, COMMISSIONING, LICENSING

ARTICLE XVI: POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

ARTICLE XVII: AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE XVIII: DISPOSITION OF CHURCH PROPERTY

ARTICLE XIX: PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

ARTICLE XX: BOOKS AND RECORDS

ARTICLE XXI: CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS, FUNDS

ARTICLE XXII: CORPORATE SEAL

ARTICLE XXIII: WAIVER OF NOTICE

FAMILY BAPTIST CHURCH

AMMENDMENT TO

Bylaw Article X, Section 1, A, B, C