

Constitution and By-Laws of Line Baptist Church of Foster RI Revised August 2023

For the more certain preservation and security of the principles of our faith; and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the teachings of the Bible; and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this church and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith, we do declare and establish this constitution and bylaws.

I. Name

This body shall be known as the Line Baptist Church of Foster, Rhode Island.

II. Affiliation

Line Baptist Church is an independent, non-denominational Baptist Church.

III. Statement of Faith

The statement of faith of Line Baptist Church is outlined in a separate document.

IV. Objectives

1. To be a dynamic spiritual organism, empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Christ with as many people as possible in our church, community, and throughout the world.
2. To be a worshiping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing His person, and responding in obedience to His leadership.
3. To experience an increasingly meaningful fellowship with God and fellow believers.
4. To teach and nurture people in a growing knowledge of God and man.
5. To be a church that ministers unselfishly to persons in the community and world in Jesus' name.
6. To be a church whose purpose is to be Christlike in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment of life, personality, and possessions to the lordship of Christ.

V. Church Covenant

We, the people of Line Baptist Church, do solemnly and joyfully covenant with God and with one another, that, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, we will for the advancement of this church, through regular attendance at its services and meetings, through cheerful and regular contributions to the support of its ministry and expenses, and through active participation in its worship, fellowship, ordinances, and purposes.

We engage also to maintain family and personal devotions, to raise our children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord," and to impart to them the principles embodied in this covenant.

We further engage to walk circumspectly in the world, maintaining a life-testimony consistent with the scriptures and with this covenant, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We likewise engage to exercise an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other, and faithfully admonish and entreat one another as occasion may require, that we will not neglect to pray for one another, that we will rejoice at each other's happiness and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows.

That we will not bring forward to the church a complaint against anyone for any personal trespass against us until we have taken the first and second steps pointed out by Christ in the 18th chapter of Matthew, verses 15 & 16, and that all private offenses which can be privately settled we will never make public.

We finally 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.

By God's command, and with the enabling ministry of the Holy Spirit, this we covenant to do. Amen.

VI. Character

Section 1: Polity

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who comprise it. The government of the church is subjected to the control of no other ecclesiastical body.

Section 2: Doctrine

The Bible shall be this body of believers' sole authority and guide in matters of faith and practice.

Section 3: Policies and Procedures

A current Policy and Procedures Manual will be maintained. Church Officers composition, Staff composition, responsibilities, regularly scheduled activities, and other information that would facilitate the normal operations of the church will be included in this document.

BYLAWS

Article I. Membership

Section 1: Purpose

The purpose of church membership is to follow the pattern witnessed in Scripture (*Acts 2:41, 6:1–6*) whereby the local body of Christ represents the universal body of Christ in purity (*2 Corinthians 6:14–18; Ephesians 5:25–27*) and witness (*Matthew 28:18–20; Revelation 7:9–10*).

Section 2: General

This is a sovereign and democratic Baptist church under the lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the exclusive right of self-government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this church. The membership reserves this exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.

Section 3: Candidacy

A. Qualifications for Membership

To be eligible for membership in this church, one must have had personal experience of regeneration by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, confessed Him as both Savior and Lord, been baptized as a believer (practiced by immersion), expressed willingness to enter into the church covenant, and been accepted by vote of the church members.

B. Admission of Members

1. The Elders are responsible for meeting with and verifying each candidate's qualification for membership, exercising discretion as appropriate. The Elders will rely upon the candidate's profession of faith, witness of current members, witness of previous church affiliations, and any other pertinent information concerning the candidate.
2. All candidates will complete the interview process.
3. All candidates who have completed the interview process will be presented to the church members at the first possible membership meeting and voted upon. All candidates will be voted in as members by three-fourths majority vote.
4. Should any member dissent to any candidate prior to a vote, the membership vote will be tabled, and such dissent shall be referred to the Elders for investigation and the making of a recommendation to the church at the next regular membership meeting. The results of the investigation will be communicated to the members and a recommendation will be made to the members at the next regular membership meeting.
5. All candidates approved by the church members will be presented as new members at the first possible Sunday morning service.

C. Privileges and Duties of Membership.

1. In accordance with the duties enumerated in the Church Covenant, each member shall be privileged and expected to participate in and contribute to the ministry and life of the church. Only members of this congregation shall be privileged to serve as leaders in ministry. Non-members may serve on an ad-hoc basis (in non-leadership roles or in support roles) after approval by the Elders, under supervision of the ministry team leader. Non-members may be contracted to serve the church for purposes of service, administration, and professional consultation.
2. Under Christ, this congregation shall be governed by the membership. Therefore, it is the privilege and responsibility of members to attend members' meetings and vote on the election of officers, decisions regarding membership status, and such other matters as may be submitted to a vote.
3. All members shall have the privilege of training, care, and counseling according to the Bible to promote their spiritual growth and to equip them for service.

D. Termination of Membership

The member will clearly communicate intent to depart from the covenant commitment of membership. Membership will be terminated under the following circumstances:

1. Membership will be terminated upon physical death of a member.
2. Membership will be terminated when the member joins another church.
3. Membership can be terminated as an act of church discipline, following the procedure set forth in Article 1 Section 3.E.2.c.

E. Discipline

1. Scripture exhorts our membership to take every reasonable measure to assist any troubled member (2 Corinthians 5:18–20). The Elders, other members of the church, Deacons, and Staff are available for counsel and guidance. Redemption rather than punishment will be the guideline which governs the attitude of one member toward another. All such proceedings shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance.
2. In accordance with the Scriptures, any member who is chronically absent from the church without response to communication from the church membership or guilty of conduct by which the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be dishonored, or failing to fulfill duties of membership, and so opposing the welfare of the church, shall be subject to church discipline. Church discipline can include admonition by any church member, deposition from office or service, or removal of membership. The above actions should be carried out within the context of the discipline process given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 18:15–17 and detailed below:
 - A. The process begins with a private, one-on-one restoration of the member, through repentance of his/her offense. Depending on the nature of the offense, this same process may be repeated multiple times over a period of time.
 - B. If the member refuses to repent during the one-on-one restoration, then the process will continue privately with two or three members restoring the member, calling him/her to repentance, perhaps many times. If the member still refuses to repent, then the offense will be brought before the church.
 - C. At a membership meeting, the members will be informed of the name of the member and the offense for which he/she is being disciplined. The membership may vote to exclude the member from a position of leadership. If the member refuses to listen to the church's call to repent, then at a subsequent members' meeting there shall be a vote to remove the member from church membership. (Matthew 18:15–17; 2 Thessalonians 3:14–15; 1 Timothy 5:19–20; 1 Corinthians 5:4–5; 2 Corinthians 2:5–11). The church may take this action by three-fourths majority vote of the members present at the meeting.
3. The purpose of such discipline should be for:
 - A. The repentance, reconciliation, and spiritual growth of the individual disciplined (see Proverbs 15:5; 29:15; 1 Corinthians 4:14; Ephesians 6:4; 1 Timothy 3:4–5; Hebrews 12:1–11; Psalms 119:115; 141:5; Proverbs 17:10; 25:12; 27:5; Ecclesiastes

- 7:5; Matthew 7:26–27; 18:15–17; Luke 17:3; Acts 2:40; 1 Corinthians 5:5; Galatians 6:1–5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14–15; 1 Timothy 1:20; Titus 1:13–14; James 1:22).
- B. The instruction in righteousness and good of other Christians, as an example to them (see Proverbs 13:20; Romans 15:14; 1 Corinthians 5:11; 15:33; Colossians 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:14 [note: this is written to the whole church, not just to leaders]; 1 Timothy 5:20; Titus 1:11; Hebrews 10:24–25).
 - C. The purity of the church as a whole (see 1 Corinthians 5:6–7; 2 Corinthians 13:10; Ephesians 5:27; 2 John 10; Jude 24; Revelation 21:2).
 - D. The good of our corporate witness to non-Christians (see Proverbs 28:7; Matthew 5:13–16; John 13:35; Acts 5:1–14; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 3:7; 2 Peter 2:2; 1 John 3:10).
 - E. Ultimately, for the glory of God by reflecting His holy character (see Deuteronomy 5:11; 1 Kings 11:2; 2 Chronicles 19:2; Ezra 6:21; Nehemiah 9:2; Isaiah 40, 52:11; Ezekiel 36:20; Matthew 5:16; John 15:8, 18:17, 25; Romans 2: 12–24; 15:5–6; 2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1; Ephesians 1:4; 5:27; 1 Peter 2:12).
4. Any person whose membership has been terminated by the congregation may, upon personal request, be restored to membership by a vote of the church upon evidence of repentance and reformation.

Article II. Officers & Duties

Section 1: Officers of the Church

The Biblical offices in the church are Elders and Deacons. All Elders shall be considered pastors of the congregation.

Section 2: Elders

A. Qualifications

1. Elders will be men who meet the qualifications for the office of Elder set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:5–9.
2. The Elder body will include Staff Elders (Article II. Section 3).
3. Elders will give wholehearted assent to the Statement of Faith and Church Covenant.
4. Elders, excluding Staff Elders, must be a member of Line Baptist Church of Foster for at least six months in order to be eligible for nomination.

B. Responsibilities

1. The Elders will:
 - A. Devote their time to prayer, teaching, guarding sound doctrine, and shepherding God's flock, in keeping with the principles set forth in Acts 6:1–6 and 1 Peter 5:1–4.
 - B. Oversee the development of the church's vision and mission.

- C. Meet regularly with the Deacon body to promote communication and collaboration across ministry teams within the church.
- D. Lead in setting budget priorities working together with the Deacons and Staff.
- E. Assess, appoint and equip members for the teaching ministry of the church. This function may be delegated to Deacons, Staff or members of the church as determined by the Elders.
- F. Oversee church discipline as appropriate and in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Article 1 Section 3.E.
- G. Meet with prospective members as set forth in Article 1 Section 3.
- H. Lead the church, within the framework of authority and accountability set forth in Scripture, this Constitution, and congregational church government.
- I. Oversee Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- J. Oversee local, regional, and global missions.
- K. Hire, evaluate and dismiss Staff as outlined in the constitution.
- L. Keep a register of the names of members, with dates of admission, dismissal, or death, together with a record of baptisms and shall issue letters of dismissal voted by the church.

- 2. One of the members will serve as the Clerk of the church.

C. Guiding Principles Regarding Numbers

- 1. The majority of the Elders will be non-Staff Elders. Additional Elders may be elected as needed.

D. Term

- 1. Elders, excluding Staff Elders, will serve one term and may be re-elected for a second term, but will take at least one year off following two consecutive terms.
- 2. Terms shall be three years, except when filling an unexpired term. Serving an unexpired term of more than one year shall constitute a regular term.
- 3. With the exception of Staff Elders, no more than approximately one-third of the Elders shall be up for election in any given year.

E. Resignation or Removal

- 1. An Elder's term of office may be terminated by resignation or removal.
- 2. Any two members (1 Timothy 5:19) in good standing with reason to believe that an Elder should be dismissed should express this concern to the Elders. If warranted the Elders will present the issue to the congregation at an appointed congregational meeting. The Elder may be dismissed by a three-fourths vote of those present and voting.

Section 3: Staff Elder(s)

A. Summary

- 1. The Senior Pastor and Associate Pastors are considered Staff Elders.

2. The Staff Elder(s) will perform the responsibilities described above (Article II. Section 2.B.), but are also recognized and called by the church to the ministry of shepherding, teaching, and oversight occupationally.
3. The Staff Elder(s) may preach on Sundays and perform other duties as outlined in the Constitution, in their job descriptions or as determined by the Elders.

B. Responsibilities

1. The Staff Elder(s) shall serve under the conditions of their call as mutually agreed by the church and the Staff Elder(s). The conditions of call shall be stated in the form of a written job description.

C. Resignation or Removal

1. Each Staff Elder will serve under a continuing call until the relationship is dissolved at the request of the Elder or of the church, or according to the removal procedure for Elders described in Article II Section 2.E.
2. The Staff Elder must give at least eight (8) weeks advance notice in writing to the Elders of his intention to resign his position, unless otherwise mutually agreed. The written notice shall be presented to the church.

Section 4: Deacons & Ministry Leaders

A. Qualifications

1. Deacons will be men and Ministry Leaders may be men or women who meet the *relevant* qualifications for the office of Deacon set forth in 1 Timothy 3:8–13 and Acts 6:1–7.
2. Deacons and Ministry Leaders will give wholehearted assent to the Statement of Faith and Church Covenant.
3. Deacons and Ministry Leaders must be a member of Line Baptist Church of Foster for at least six (6) months in order to be eligible for nomination.

B. Responsibilities

1. The Deacons and Ministry Leaders are faithful servants of the church tasked with:
 - A. Assisting the Elders in any area of service that shall support and promote the ministry of the Word, new and existing ministries of the Church, and the physical care for the members of the congregation.
 - B. Administering the benevolence fund.
 - C. Assisting with Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
2. The Deacons and Ministry Leaders will recruit, train, and equip members of the church to help serve alongside the Deacons and Ministry Leaders in their particular ministry teams.

C. Guiding Principles Regarding Numbers

1. Deacons and Ministry Leaders are responsible for leading ministry teams including, but not limited to:

- A. Hospitality - Welcome members and visitors during worship services, organize and be responsible for set-up and clean-up before and after congregational meetings.
 - B. Treasurer - Receive, preserve, and pay out all monies or things of value paid or given to the church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. Payment of bills for local work and expenses shall be made promptly, and all funds received for denominational or other causes shall be remitted at least monthly. An annual financial report shall be prepared, and presented to the church for approval. All books, accounts, and records shall be considered the property of the church. The books shall be open to inspection at all times, and at reasonable hours, by any member of the church. This team requires a minimum of two (2) Deacons and/or ministry leaders.
 - i. The church shall elect a Treasurer and an Assistant Treasurer to serve on the Finance team. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer may or may not be Deacons and/or ministry leaders.
 - ii. The Treasurer will maintain regularly updated backup information with account names and numbers, passwords, etc. in a confidential and secure location that may be accessed by the Assistant Treasurer and/or the Elders in an emergency. This information will be maintained so that church business may be conducted without interruption in the event that the Treasurer is unexpectedly unable to carry out these duties.
- 2. Trustees - Entrusted with the care and maintenance of all church physical and personal property. They shall be responsible for maintaining the property in good repair, making such alterations as may be voted on by the church, and for keeping the property and contents insured. They shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property without church approval by a three-fourths vote of those present and voting at an appointed congregational meeting. This team requires a minimum of two (2) Deacon and/or Ministry Leaders.
 - 3. Moderator - The Moderator shall preside at congregational meetings, adhering to Robert's Rules of Order. In the absence of the Moderator, an Elder shall preside. The Moderator shall call congregational meetings to order; call on persons to speak in meetings; move meetings forward to the next item on the agenda as appropriate. The Moderator will recruit team members to regularly record minutes during congregational meetings.

D. Term

- 1. Terms shall be three years, except when filling an unexpired term. Serving an unexpired term of more than one year shall constitute a regular term.
- 2. Deacons and Ministry Leaders will serve one term and may be re-elected for a second term, but will take at least one year off following two consecutive terms.
- 3. No more than approximately one-third of the Deacons or Ministry Leaders shall be up for election in any given year.

E. Resignation or Removal

1. A Deacon or Ministry Leaders term of office may be terminated by resignation or by removal.
2. A Deacon or Ministry Leaders term of office may be terminated by an act of church discipline, following the principles set out in Article I Section 3.E.2.C

Section 5: Selection of Church Officers

The election process will express that spirit of mutual trust, openness, and loving consideration that is appropriate within the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A. Nominations for Elders

1. At least once a year, the elders will request nominations to fill Elder openings. Nominations will be accepted for at least 14 days.
2. The Elders will review all nominations from the members of the congregation and assess the qualifications of each nominee.
3. Qualified nominees who have not previously served as an elder will complete Elder training.
4. The list of qualified nominees who have completed the Elder training will be published at least two weeks prior to election.
5. Nominees shall be elected by three-fourths (75%) vote from the members present and voting at the appointed congregational meeting.
6. Elders will be commissioned before the church.

B. Nominations for Deacons and Ministry Leaders

1. At least once a year, the Elders will request nominations to fill Deacon and Ministry Leader openings. Nominations will be accepted for at least 14 days.
2. The Elders will review all nominations from the members of the congregation, assess the qualifications of each nominee, and interview as needed.
3. The list of qualified nominees will be published at least two weeks prior to election.
4. Nominees shall be elected by three-fourths (75%) vote from the members present and voting at the appointed congregational meeting.
5. Deacons and Ministry Leaders will be commissioned before the church.

C. Staff Elder(s)

1. The Elders or their designees will:
 - A. draft a job description and present it to the congregation for their approval.
 - B. determine appropriate procedures for seeking a candidate with congregational approval. When the church is without a Senior Pastor, the elders will convene a Pastoral Search Team, with congregational approval.
 - C. publicize the church's interest in filling this position if needed.
 - D. present a candidate for consideration in person to the congregation prior to a congregational vote.

2. Candidates shall be elected by three-fourths (75%) vote from the members present and voting at the appointed congregational meeting.

Article III: Staff

A. Summary

1. In addition to Staff Elders and Deacons, the church may employ additional personnel.

B. Responsibilities

1. Staff will serve at the will of the church under an agreed job description.
2. Staff will serve under the general direction of the Elders.

C. Hiring

1. The Elders, or their designees, will be responsible for crafting a written job description detailing the duties of such personnel, with the approval of the church.
2. Candidates shall be elected by three-fourths (75%) vote from the members present and voting at the appointed congregational meeting.

D. Resignation or Removal

1. A Staff member's term of office may be terminated by resignation or by removal.
2. A Staff member's term of office may be terminated by an act of church discipline, following the principles set out in Article I Section 3.E.2.c

Article IV. Audit Committee

A. Members

The audit committee shall consist of three (3) members elected annually for a one (1) year term. The members of this committee shall be nominated from the church floor at an appointed congregational meeting as needed.

B. Duties

The audit committee will audit the financial records of the church before the end of the fiscal year and submit a written report with any recommendations to the church. The report should include a statement of the adequacy of the recording and disbursement system as well as the accuracy of the records.

Article V. Indemnification

In performing their duties, the Church's officers, directors, and committee members shall be insulated from liability as provided for under Rhode Island law and as otherwise provided by the Constitution. Officers, directors, and committee members shall discharge their duties in a manner that the officers, directors, and committee members believe in good faith, to be in the best interest of the Church, in accordance with Biblical principles and with the care that an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances. Officers, directors, and committee members are entitled to rely on information, opinions, reports, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, prepared, or presented by others.

Article V. Liability and Indemnification (compensation for harm or loss)

A. Liability

1. The Church's officers, directors, and committee members shall not be liable for any mistake of judgment, negligent or otherwise, or for any action taken or omitted in such capacities, except for their own individual willful misfeasance, malfeasance, misconduct, or bad faith. The officers, directors, and committee members shall have no personal liability with respect to any contract or other commitment made or action taken in good faith on the Church's behalf.

B. Indemnification

1. The Church shall indemnify every present and former officer, director, and committee member against all damages and expenses, including counsel fees and expenses, reasonably incurred in connection with any action, suit, or other proceeding (including settlement of any suit or proceeding, if approved by the then appropriate Church body) to which he or she may be a party by reason of being or having been an officer, director, or committee member, except that the Church shall have no obligation to indemnify any individual against liability or expenses incurred in connection with a proceeding:
 - A. brought by or in the right of the Church, although it may reimburse the individual for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the proceeding if it is determined, by the court or in the manner provided above, that the individual met the relevant standard of conduct; or
 - B. to the extent that the individual is adjudged liable for conduct that constitutes:
 - i. appropriation of funds, in violation of his or her duties, of any business opportunity of the Church; or
 - ii. intentional misconduct or knowing violation of the law or Biblical principles;
 - iii. an unlawful distribution to members, officers, directors, and committee members; or
 - iv. receipt of an improper personal benefit.

The Church shall, as a budgeted expense, maintain adequate general liability and officers', directors', and committee members' liability insurance to fund this obligation, if such insurance is reasonably available. The Church may indemnify an employee, trustee, accountant, attorney, or other agent of the Church against all liability asserted against such person by reason of serving, or having served, in his or her capacity for the Church in the same manner as above.

Article VI. Property

All property is owned by the Line Baptist Church of Foster, Rhode Island. If the church is dissolved, property ownership shall be assumed, in its entirety, by a church of like faith and practice.

Article VII. Meetings

Section 1: Regular Worship Meetings

The meetings of the church or of church groups shall be those, which complement the Lord's work and in general may include, but shall not be limited to the following:

1. Morning worship and Bible study each Sunday.
2. Midweek services each Wednesday evening.
3. Revival services and special worship services as authorized by the elders.
4. Special emphasis on visitation and organizational meetings, which have been properly correlated with church calendar of events.

Section 2: Business Meeting

1. The church shall convene an annual business meeting as specified in the church's annual calendar.
2. The following shall govern the regular annual business meeting:
 - A. The church fiscal year shall extend from July 1st – June 30th.
 - B. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised Edition, shall govern the business sessions of this church in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution. When interpretation of a ruling is required, the interpretation shall be made by the moderator.
 - C. 25% of the resident church membership shall constitute a quorum for the conducting of church business at any business meeting, except:
 1. Election of deacon/ministry leaders or disciplinary action relative to a member shall require 35%.
 2. The call of any employee, including the call of a pastor shall require 35%.
 3. The moderator may call the church into a special business meeting.
3. The elders may call a special business meeting to consider matters of special nature and significance. Two-week notice must be given for a specially called business meeting. The announcement must be made to the membership in attendance at least two (2) Sunday mornings prior to the desired meeting date. In matters of extreme urgency, the meeting may be called by the pastor in agreement with the elders. The notice shall include the subject, the date and the time and place. The meeting may be called by any one of the following:
 - A. (1) the moderator (2) the pastor (3) the elders
 - B. The quorum requirements of paragraph B (3) shall apply.

Section 3: Precedence of Meetings

The precedence of the church and its regular or special meetings shall take precedence over any and all meetings and activities or any organization either within or outside the framework of the church.

Article VIII. Church Ordinances

A. Baptism

This church shall baptize any person who has received Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith, who professes Him publicly at any worship service, and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord.

1. Baptism shall be by immersion in water.
2. The pastor, or in the pastor's absence, any ordained person the church shall authorize, shall administer baptism.

B. The Lord's Supper

The church shall observe the Lord's Supper at least once a quarter. The observance shall be open to any person in attendance who professes to have had an experience of regeneration by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, having confessed Him as both Savior and Lord. The observance shall be administered by the pastor with the assistance of the elders and deacons.

Article IX. Licensing and Ordaining

Section 1: Licensing

Any member, who in the judgment of the church, gives evidence of piety, zeal and "aptness to teach," that is called of God to the work of the ministry, after having preached in the hearing of the church, may be licensed to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, provided a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at any regular business meeting shall agree thereto.

Section 2: Ordination

If the church, by majority vote, decides, in a regular business meeting, that a licensed preacher possesses the Scriptural qualification for full ordination, it shall call an ordination council. The council shall consist of ordained ministers and/or elders from the congregation and the associated church who will examine the qualifications of the candidate and shall be vested with the authority for recommending that the church proceeds with the ordination.

Article X. Amendments

The Constitution and Bylaws of this church may be amended by a three-fourths (75%) vote of the members present and voting at a special business meeting called for that purpose, provided the amendment has been offered in writing, at a previous regular business meeting. However, any change in the "Statement of Faith" or "Church Covenant" will be aligned to Biblical principles and require the following:

1. The proposed change must be offered, in writing, at a previous regular business meeting not less than (1) one month before the time of the vote.
2. The proposed change must be read from the pulpit at the regular Sunday morning worship service preceding the vote on such a proposal.
3. The proposed change must be approved by a three-fourths (75%) vote of the church members present and voting at a regular business meeting.

Conclusion

This constitution supersedes all previous constitutions from this body and shall be available to all church members.