

CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS OF JERSEY VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH

Table of Contents		Page
I.	NAME	3
II.	PURPOSE	3-9
Section 1	MISSION	
Section 2	VISION	
Section 3	DOCTRINE	
	A. The Scriptures	
	B. God	
	1. God the Father	
	2. God the Son	
	3. God the Holy Spirit	
	C. Man	
	D. Salvation	
	E. God's Purpose of Grace	
	F. The Church	
	G. Baptism and the Lord's Supper	
	H. The Lord's Day	
	I. The Kingdom	
	J. Last Things	
	K. Evangelism and Missions	
	L. Education	
	M. Stewardship	
	N. Cooperation	
	O. The Christian and the Social Order	
	P. Peace and War	
	Q. Religious Liberty	
	R. The Family	
III.	MEMBERSHIP	9-11
Section 1	GENERAL	
Section 2	CANDIDACY	
Section 3	PRIVILEGES of MEMBERSHIP	
Section 4	TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP	
Section 5	DISCIPLINE	
Section 6	VOTING AND NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIPS	
IV.	CHURCH OFFICERS AND STAFF	12-15
Section 1	LEAD PASTOR	
	A. PASTORAL TERMINATION OR RESIGNATION	
	B. PROCESS FOR HIRING A LEAD PASTOR	

Section 2	CHURCH STAFF
	A. GENERAL
	B. MINISTERIAL STAFF
	C. SUPPORT STAFF
Section 3	DEACONS
Section 4	ELDERS
Section 5	CHURCH CLERK
Section 6	TREASURER
Section 7	TRUSTEES
Section 8	CHURCH MODERATOR

V. COMMITTEES: ORGANIZATION, DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES 15-17

Section 1	ORGANIZATION
Section 2	DUTIES
Section 3	RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Section 4	TERMS OF SERVICE AND STAFFING OF COMMITTEES
Section 5	COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

VI. PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONS 17

Section 1	GENERAL PROGRAMS
------------------	-------------------------

VII. ORDINANCES 17

Section 1	BAPTISM
Section 2	LORD'S SUPPER

VIII. CHURCH MEETINGS 17-18

Section 1	WORSHIP SERVICES
Section 2	MID-WEEK ACTIVITIES
Section 3	SMALL GROUP DISCIPLESHIP
Section 4	BUSINESS MEETINGS
Section 5	SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS
Section 6	QUORUM
Section 7	PARLIAMENTARY RULES
Section 8	POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

IX. AMENDMENTS 18

CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS OF JERSEY VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Jersey Village Baptist Church of Jersey Village, Texas, do hereby declare and establish this Constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith, to govern the body in an orderly manner, and to maintain the autonomy of this church in freedom of action in relation to other churches and organizations.

I. NAME

This body shall be known as Jersey Village Baptist Church located at Jersey Village, Texas. It is a Southern Baptist affiliated congregation.

II. PURPOSE

Section 1 MISSION

Jersey Village Baptist Church exists to ‘make disciples.’

18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

Section 2 VISION

Jersey Village Baptist Church believes vision is the process by which mission is accomplished. Mission never changes; however, vision changes with culture and seasons of church life. Jersey Village Baptist Church entrusts the process of developing and communicating vision to the lead pastor and other elders.

Section 3 DOCTRINE

Jersey Village Baptist Church holds the following doctrinal beliefs:

A. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us; and, therefore, is and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

B. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things past, present, and future including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with distinct personal attributes but without division of nature, essence, or being.

1. God the Father

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

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

2. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God by taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross, He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the Person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever-present Lord.

Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5, 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

3. God the Holy Spirit

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

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

Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

C. Man

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

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

D. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

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

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Savior.

2. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal, upon principles of His righteousness, of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

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

4. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

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

E. God's Purpose of Grace

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

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

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

F. The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.

G. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

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

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

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

H. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include both public and private exercises of worship and spiritual devotion. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.

I. The Kingdom

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

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

J. Last Things

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

Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.

K. Evangelism and Missions

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

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.

L. Education

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence and should receive, along with these, the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

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

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

M. Stewardship

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

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

N. Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations when the end to be attained is itself justified and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18.

O. The Christian and the Social Order

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed; selfishness; vice; and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends, Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16,43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.

P. Peace and War

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

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9, 38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36, 38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2.

Q. Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom, no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7,24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

R. The Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 GENERAL

Jersey Village Baptist Church is an autonomous 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 of this church will be composed of persons listed on the church rolls kept in the custody of the church secretary. Furthermore, the membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who will be members of this church and the condition of such membership.

Section 2 CANDIDACY

Jersey Village Baptist Church stands ready to receive any and all persons who come with a profession of faith in Jesus Christ, a desire to work and worship with the membership of the church, and a willingness to comply with our ordinances. Any person may offer himself, or herself, as a candidate for membership in this church at any regular church service in any one of the following three manners:

- A. By Profession of Faith and Baptism: A person of any age making a profession of faith in Jesus Christ is to be counseled by the ministerial staff or ministerial representative. Once the interview has been concluded and after the applicant has been baptized and completed the new member's orientation, he or she will be presented to the church body in oral, written, or digital format and will be considered a member of Jersey Village Baptist Church.
- B. By Promise of Letter of Recommendation from another Baptist Church: A letter of church standing will be requested by Jersey Village Baptist Church. Should no Letter of Recommendation be received within two months of request, a Jersey Village Baptist Church representative will mail a second request to the candidate's previous church. Should no reply be received within the next two month period, the applicant will be contacted by the church to see if they would like to change their request to Statement as shown below. If the Letter of Recommendation is received and after the completion of the new member's orientation, he or she will be presented to the church body in oral, written, or digital format and will be considered a member of Jersey Village Baptist Church.
- C. By Applicant's Statement that they have received "Believer's Baptism" in a church of similar faith and order: "Believer's Baptism" must fulfill two requirements. First, baptism must be by immersion. Second, baptism must take place after salvation and not have been considered a part of salvation. After the completion of a new member's orientation and presentation to the church body in oral, written, or digital presentation the applicant will be considered a church member.
- D. Restoration of membership after removal for unrepentant sin. (Section 5)

Section 3 PRIVILEGES of MEMBERSHIP

Each Voting Member of the Church:

- A. Is entitled to one vote at all elections and on all questions submitted at a church meeting. The member must be present at the meeting at the time the vote is taken.
- B. May serve in leadership positions within the church structure such as teachers, deacons, committee members, and small group directors.

Section 4 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership may be terminated in the following ways:

- A. Death
- B. By Church Letter to another Baptist Church,
- C. By action of this Church (see Section 5)
- D. At the member's own request for removal.
- E. Non-attendance in church worship and/or authorized activities for a period of 12 months or more (excluding military, mission service, extended business travel, or illness). Removal of any member using this method must be by church vote in a regular or special called business meeting.

Section 5 DISCIPLINE

A church member will come under church discipline if he or she becomes habitually involved in an unrepentant sin as detailed by Scripture.

19 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, 20 let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

James 5:19-20 ESV

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-20 ESV

All proceedings will be undertaken in a biblical fashion with a spirit of restorative Christian kindness and forbearance. The proceedings will follow the words of scripture:

1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:1-2 ESV

24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with Gentleness.

2 Timothy 2:24-25a ESV

- A. If a fellow church member sins against you, go to that member and speak to him privately.
- B. At the point the offender needs to be approached for a second time an elder (see IV, Section 4) should be included.
- C. If, however, after continued attempts at restoration it becomes evident that the exclusion of the member is necessary, and after a unanimously affirmative, written, secret ballot among the elders, the elders may recommend to the offender's assigned small group to exclude the offender from membership.
- D. The small group by 75% affirmative vote may declare the offender to no longer be a member of Jersey Village Baptist Church.
- E. If the offender desires to be restored to membership at a later time, he or she must seek restoration from his or her assigned small group through confession and repentance. If the small group agrees that confession and repentance have occurred, they may vote to restore membership to the offender.

15 If your Brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

Matthew 18:15 ESV

14 If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. 15 Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 ESV

6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.

Hebrews 12:6 ESV

SECTION 6 VOTING MEMBERSHIP

VOTING MEMBER

A voting member is a member of JVBC who is at least 18 years of age and attends worship services and a church-authorized small group at least once a month. Exceptions include sickness, missionary or military service, or extended job relocation. Voting members will be called upon for major church votes including, but not limited to, calling a pastor, electing church officers, calling ministerial staff, approving annual budgets, calling deacons, electing elders, and approving property sales.

IV. CHURCH OFFICERS AND STAFF

All church officers must be voting members of this church. The officers of this church will include, but not be limited to, the lead pastor, staff, elders, deacons, church clerk, church treasurer, trustees, and church moderator. Staff, as officers, shall be defined as those staff members who are duly elected by the church body.

Section 1 LEAD PASTOR

The lead pastor is responsible for leading the church. The lead pastor is considered the steward of Christ's church, specifically the church of Jersey Village Baptist. The lead pastor will lead the church congregation and staff to perform their responsibilities. The lead pastor, assisted by the elders, is to oversee all the functions of the church. He is to work alongside staff, elders and deacons to perform the following:

1. Ensure the church is engaged in the mission of making disciples
2. Ensure the Gospel is being proclaimed
3. Ensure pastoral care is being provided for the members and non-members of the church
4. Preach sound doctrine and protect the church from false doctrine
5. Ensure the equipping and enabling of the members for ministry
6. Work to ensure the church is bearing fruit in faith and growth
7. Provide time and resources to allow him to fulfill all responsibilities as a husband and father

A. PASTORAL TERMINATION OR RESIGNATION

There are three possible scenarios for the removal of the lead pastor:

1. RESIGNATION, DEATH or RETIREMENT

The lead pastor may choose to remove himself as the Pastor of JVBC. The lead pastor will give at least three weeks written notice to the elders. Once the elders have received the lead pastor's resignation they will inform the deacon body and the Personnel Committee of the need for a lead pastor. The elders will be responsible for forming the Pastor Search committee and delegating or completing the ongoing duties of the lead pastor until the office is filled.

2. UNQUALIFIED TERMINATION

In the event that a lead pastor's vision, personality or skill sets are not congruent with the expectations of the church body, the unqualified termination of the lead pastor can be determined by a unanimous vote of the elders, presentation to the church, and 80% approval of the voting members of the church body in a special called business meeting.

3. DISQUALIFIED TERMINATION

In the unfortunate event that a lead pastor commits a disqualifying or habitual sin as described in 1 Timothy 3:2-4 (unfaithful to his wife, given to addiction, fails to teach sound biblical doctrine, given to drunkenness, violent, quarrelsome, a lover of money, not managing his own household well in a manner worthy of full respect) the elders are authorized to take the following action. After discussing with the lead pastor his disqualifying or habitual sin and after attempts at confession, repentance and restoration have proved unsatisfactory, the elders can unanimously vote for his immediate termination. No church vote is needed. Once the lead pastor's termination is complete, the elders will personally inform the deacon body, the Personnel Committee, and the church body of the need for a lead pastor and the reason for the lead pastor's termination. The elders will be responsible for forming the Pastor Search committee and delegating or completing the ongoing duties of the lead pastor.

B. PROCESS FOR HIRING A LEAD PASTOR

1. The process for hiring a lead pastor shall be initiated by the elders within 30 days of the lead pastor's departure.
2. In the event that a Pastor Search Committee is needed (*i.e.*, a succession plan is not in place), the elders will select a Pastor Search Committee of 10 members from the eligible voting members of the congregation within 60 days of the pastor's departure. The elders will present the committee as a whole to the congregation for approval. The committee will meet with the elders within the first month of forming to determine who should chair the committee (the chair must be a deacon or an elder) and how often they will meet.
3. The Search Committee will publish (by print or electronically) a monthly progress report to the congregation.

4. The Search Committee is free to determine the qualifications of the next pastor. However, those qualifications must be (fulfilled by a man who is living) within the requirements of 1 Timothy 3:2-7 ESV

2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

1. Once the Pastor Search Committee has come to a unanimous agreement, the candidate must be interviewed by the elders and Personnel Committee.
2. After the Search Committee, elders, and Personnel Committee have agreed on a candidate, he will be introduced to the congregation.
3. Following this introduction the candidate will come 'in-view-of-a-call' to preach on a Sunday morning.
4. Following this sermon the voting members of the church body will vote by secret, written ballot. The vote must achieve at least a 75% affirmative "call" by the church body.

Section 2 CHURCH STAFF

GENERAL

The lead pastor holds final authority over all staff. All staff will follow guidelines as dictated by the pastor regarding dress, attendance, and or any other duties deemed necessary to complete the task of ministry. The Personnel Committee will provide the lead pastor input as to the perception of church members concerning the overall performance of the staff. The Personnel Committee is to assist in the hiring of all staff and will be informed regularly of any significant changes to staff obligations and/or performance.

MINISTERIAL STAFF

The pastor and the Personnel Committee will jointly recommend all ministerial staff to the church body for employment. Ministerial staff positions will change from time to time and therefore the positions shall be determined by the pastor and Personnel Committee. Job descriptions for staff shall be written by the pastor and/or direct report supervisor, reviewed by the Personnel Committee, and shall be kept on file at all times. It is required that a ministerial staff person also become a member of this church body.

SUPPORT STAFF

The church shall hire additional support staff as necessary. These recommendations shall come from the pastor and the direct report supervisor. The new support staff member shall be approved by the Personnel Committee but shall not require a church vote. The pastor and the Personnel Committee shall develop and maintain an organizational chart for supervisory purposes. Each staff member must clearly understand to whom they report and must follow the organizational chart. The pastor is the spiritual leader of the church and all staff members must be responsive to his leadership.

The Personnel Committee shall keep clear guidelines on all policies related to dismissals. All staff shall be informed of these policies and made aware of any changes.

Section 3 DEACONS

The organization of the deacons will be known simply as the deacon body. In accordance with the meaning of the word and the practice of the New Testament, deacons are to be servants of the church. The deacons will develop, document and maintain a formal organization structure that does not require church approval.

The tasks of a deacon include the following:

- A. Serve with the pastor, elders, and church staff in performing pastoral ministry tasks
- B. Proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers
- C. Care for church members and other persons in the community
- D. Be willing to perform any service that will assist the ministries of Jersey Village Baptist Church
- E. Prepare and administer the Lord's Supper
- F. Prepare for the ordinance of Baptism
- G. Promote harmony of the entire body of the church
- H. Nominate voting members of the church to serve on the Committee on Committees

ACTIVE DEACON: An “active” Deacon will be considered one presently serving as a member of the deacon body, and is a man who has been elected to that place of service by JVBC. The procedure to elect deacons is set forth in the Deacon Election Procedures as part of the church’s operating manual. The Deacon Election Procedures must be approved by the church body prior to deacon elections. Unless noted otherwise in these Bylaws, any time the word deacon appears it will apply to “active” deacons.

IN-ACTIVE DEACON: Any man who has been previously ordained a deacon in a Baptist church of similar faith and order, has not had their deacon status revoked in any manner, but is not on an “active” status in this church for any reason is considered an “inactive” deacon. An “inactive” deacon will be expected to conduct his personal and spiritual life in the same manner as an “active” deacon. The inactive deacon will not attend a deacons’ meeting unless specifically invited by the deacons, and then will have no official vote. “Inactive” deacons will be encouraged to participate in serving the Lord’s Supper and to assist the deacon body in any other manner when requested.

The reactivation of deacons who have been previously elected by JVBC shall be allowed by majority affirmative vote of the deacon body.

DEACON MINISTRIES: The deacon body shall have a written mission statement which sets out that the mission of the deacon body is to serve the church body. These ministries are to be detailed in the Deacon Ministries and Organization document. The Deacon Ministries and Organization document is to be reviewed at least once every three years by the deacons with the counsel of the elders to meet the changing needs of the church.

Section 4 ELDERS

The elders assist the lead pastor in the pastoral oversight of the church. According to 1 Timothy 5:17 the lead pastor is the first among equals in his relationship with the elders. Elders are active deacons who have been active for at least one year. They are nominated by the deacon body and voted on by the church body. They must fulfill the biblical qualifications of an elder as defined by Scripture in Titus 1:5-9.

The duties of the elders include the following:

- A. Accomplishing the mission and vision of JVBC
- B. Ensuring pastoral accountability through a one-on-one personal relationship with the lead pastor and each other
- C. Ensuring the doctrinal purity of the church as defined by Scripture
- D. Assisting in the pastoral care of the church
- E. Coordinating the deacon activities with the needs of the church body through communication with deacon leadership
- F. Acting as ex-officio members to the three standing committees
- G. Ensuring all laity positions are occupied by qualified church members
- H. Promoting harmony of the entire church body
- I. Formation of lead pastor search committees as needed

The lead pastor and elders will meet monthly to discuss and pray over the church and related items. The elder body must have a minimum of 5 members and a maximum of 10 members. The number of elders needed at any time shall be determined by the lead pastor and elders. Elders will serve on a renewable rotation basis for no less than one year and no more than three years. If an elder fails to maintain the qualifications of an elder, he may be immediately removed by a majority vote of the elder body.

The elders shall have the responsibility to review the Bylaws no less than once each three years. The elders shall present all of their recommended amendments to the church for a proper vote.

Section 5 CHURCH CLERK and CHURCH SECRETARY

There will be a church clerk and an assistant church clerk elected by the church each year. The church clerk is responsible for recording minutes of all regular or special business meetings of the church. Minutes of the church will be readily available to church members for review or study within one week of the respective meeting taking place.

There will be a church secretary chosen by the ministerial staff and approved by the elders and Personnel Committee. The church secretary is responsible for keeping a register of the names of members with dates of admission, dismissal, or death and a record of baptisms. This person will issue letters of dismissal voted by the church, will preserve or file all communications and written official reports, assist the church clerk in preparing recorded minutes of all church meetings as defined herein and will give proper notice of all meetings where such notice is necessary, as indicated in these Bylaws. All church records are church property and will be kept in the church office.

Section 6 TREASURER

There will be a treasurer and assistant treasurer elected by the church body each year. These officers will not serve more than three successive terms and will be bonded in the amount determined by the Stewardship Committee. It will be the duty of the treasurer to provide oversight and monitor the activities of all monies, or other negotiable items paid or given to the church. Further, this person will receive monthly reports of itemized account receipts and disbursements from the staff. The treasurer or a chosen representative will render financial reports through written or digital means at least quarterly. The report will contain receipts and expenditures for the preceding quarter and any other matters pertaining to the general financial condition and operation of the church. This report will be presented in a form which has been approved by the Stewardship Committee. The treasurer is to ensure that the financial systems of the church are reviewed by an outside auditing firm as directed by the church staff once per year. The financial department of the church will keep and preserve these records as part of the permanent records of the church. These records will be accessible to church members for review upon request. It will be the duty of the assistant treasurer to serve with and to assist the treasurer in whatever ways possible.

Section 7 TRUSTEES

There will be three trustees elected by the church each year. An elder must be one of the three trustees. All terms shall be for one year and shall commence at the beginning of the fiscal year of the church. A trustee may serve no more than 3 successive terms, but may be elected again after one year of non-service.

The trustees shall hold all church property in trust for the church. They shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property without an authorizing vote of the church, unless otherwise authorized herein. The trustees have the responsibility to oversee all transactions related to church property; and upon approval granted by the church, it will be the function of the trustees to execute all legal documents where the signature of the church is required. However, where the trustee's signature is required, 2 of the 3 trustee's signatures are sufficient to bind the church. Notwithstanding anything above, approval of only one trustee is required in order to sell stocks or bonds given to the church as donations or executes legal documents needed to consummate any transaction worth less than 1% of the annual budget of the church.

Section 8 CHURCH MODERATOR

There will be a moderator and an assistant moderator elected by the church each church year and they may serve successive terms. The moderator shall preside at all authorized business meetings of the church, must be versed in Robert's Rules of Order, and shall conduct the business meetings under parliamentary rules commonly known as "Robert's Rules of Order" as amended from time to time. The moderator will serve a one year term but may serve successive terms. If the moderator is absent at a church business meeting, the assistant moderator shall then preside in the same manner as the moderator would. If neither the moderator nor the assistant moderator is available to preside, then an elder will preside. Regarding matters where a church vote is appropriate, the moderator shall determine the method of vote to be used (by voice, by hand, written ballot or secret written ballot) unless specifically stated in these Bylaws. The moderator is responsible for the procedure to be used in the counting of the church vote.

V. COMMITTEES: ORGANIZATION, DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES

The church, in regular or called business meeting, may approve such committees as it deems necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the church, both spiritual and temporal. Committee duties and responsibilities are set by the church acting on recommendations from the Committee on Committees or from the floor and may be changed or terminated by the church in conference by a simple majority vote. Individuals serving on committees must be voting church members.

Section 1 ORGANIZATION

A. The Committee on Committees will select the members and chair of each committee. The chair of the committee will preside over the first meeting at which time a vice chair and secretary for the committee will be elected. The secretary of the committee will keep and maintain an official book of minutes of the proceedings of all committee meetings, actions, and recommendations to the church. Either this minute book or duplicate copies of same will be maintained and kept in the church office where it will be readily available for inspection by any member of the church. In the event of default of responsibility by a committee and a clear and immediate need for committee action is required, the Committee on Committees will take appropriate action.

The Committee on Committee members and chair will be nominated by the deacons and presented to the church at a regular or called church business meeting. Each nominee will be personally contacted by the deacons and agree to serve for the time and duties noted.

B. A church staff member and an elder will serve as ex-officio members of all church committees. The Committee on Committees will be responsible for seeing that a current list of committees, their membership, and terms of office are maintained.

Section 2 DUTIES

A copy of the duties of each committee and service team will be kept in the Church Operations Manual. These duties are defined by the elders specifically for Committee on Committees and by the Committee on Committees in the case of all others.

Section 3 RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMITTEE AND SERVICE TEAM MEMBERS

Each committee or service team chair is responsible to the church to attend meetings, see to it that the meetings are effectively led, and that each meeting begins and ends in prayer. Each committee or service team member is to seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit, is responsible to cooperate with fellow members, and is responsible to attend called meetings. Each member is expected to support the overall vision of the church by attending worship services frequently and contributing financially to the church.

Section 4 TERMS OF SERVICE AND STAFFING OF COMMITTEES

Terms of service on church permanent standing committees will be one year but not to exceed three (3) terms, unless otherwise specified. In an effort to reduce duplication and to obtain a maximum utilization of as many church members as possible, it is requested that the chair of the Committee on Committees meet with representatives of the church staff to review selections before nominees are contacted. This only needs to be done prior to electing people for the new church year when large numbers of volunteers are being selected. No spouse can serve at the same time on any of the permanent standing committees. Every individual must have a one year sabbatical from serving on any committee.

Section 5 COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

This committee is responsible to God's people in the Jersey Village Baptist Church for the following:

A. The coordination and staffing of the trustees, treasurers, church clerks and moderators as well as the Personnel Committee, the Stewardship Committee and all other committees and service teams set up by the church in regular or called business meeting. This staffing is to be completed by the beginning of each church year. The three permanent standing committees are: 1) Committee on Committees, 2) Stewardship, and 3) Personnel.

B. Recommending to the deacons the dismissal of non-functioning elected members from committees or service teams when correspondence with that committee indicates the necessity. The non-functioning member will be contacted to determine whether inactivity is from a lack of interest or is a correctable situation. Action will be taken pending the results of a two-thirds vote of the deacons present at a regular or specially called deacons' meeting.

C. Recommending replacements for resigned or replaced committee or service team members to the deacons. Each new member to a committee or service team will be furnished with a copy of that committee's duties from the Church Operations Manual before taking office.

D. The annual up-dating of committee and service team functions as shown on individual committee responsibility sheets in the Church Operations Manual. Minor changes do not require church action, but major changes do. All changes to committee or service team functions, minor and major, must be entered into the minutes at the next regularly scheduled church business meeting.

E. Recommending to a church business meeting the merging of committees or service teams when deemed advantageous to the church by the Committee on Committees.

F. The Committee will make a concerted effort through prayer and careful consideration to obtain God's person in each place of service. An effort will also be made to enroll church members qualified for service but not presently involved in service.

G. The Committee on Committees will consist of five to seven church members serving three year terms. Committee members shall serve on a rotating basis. Members of this committee are recommended to the church by the deacons. The deacons will also recommend the individual to serve as chair. No recommendations will be brought to the church until the involved person has been contacted, has had responsibilities of the job explained and has accepted the position.

New members of the committee will begin serving at the start of the fiscal year of the church.

VI. PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1 GENERAL PROGRAMS

Programs of the church shall include but not be limited to the following: Small Groups/Discipleship Training; Music/Worship; Family/Benevolence; Singles; Student Ministry [College, High School, and Middle School]; Children; Preschool; and Missions. The church shall add or remove any or all programs it deems necessary to fulfill its mission.

VII. ORDINANCES

Section 1 BAPTISM

Baptism is a symbolic act of obedience, whereby a born-again believer depicts the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. A person who has received Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior; who has professed Christ publicly at any worship service of the church; and who indicates a commitment to follow Jesus Christ as Lord of his or her life, will be received for baptism.

- A. Baptism will be only by immersion in water.
- B. Baptism will be administered by the pastor or whomever the church shall authorize. Deacon(s) designated by the deacon body will assist in the preparation of the baptismal services.
- C. Baptism will be administered as an act of worship during any worship service.

Section 2 LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine, commemorate the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate His second coming. The observance of the Lord's Supper will be restricted to born-again, baptized believers in Jesus Christ.

- A. The Lord's Supper will be observed regularly as scheduled by the pastor, but no less than quarterly.
- B. The pastor and deacon body will be responsible for the administration of the Lord's Supper.
- C. The deacon(s) designated by the deacon body will be responsible for the physical preparations of the Lord's Supper.

VIII. CHURCH MEETINGS

Section 1 WORSHIP SERVICES

The church will meet regularly on the Lord's Day for public worship at times set by the lead pastor and staff.

Section 2 MID-WEEK ACTIVITIES

The church will also meet for a mid-week service unless the lead pastor and elders determine that other times would be appropriate for a short period.

Section 3 SMALL GROUP DISCIPLESHIP

The church will provide regular small group opportunities for prayer and Bible study. The time is to be determined by elder action.

Section 4 BUSINESS MEETINGS

Regular business meetings will be held at least quarterly at a time determined by elder action. The day and time of a regular business meeting will be published in an oral, written, or digital format at least one month prior to the meeting.

Section 5 SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS

A special business meeting may be called by the pastor or elders. Only matters for which a special business meeting is called may be considered. A special business meeting and the topic of the meeting must be announced in two (2) regularly scheduled church services (e.g. Sunday, Wednesday) at least one week prior to the special business meeting.

Section 6 QUORUM

The quorum consists of those church members in attendance at a business meeting, provided it is a regular business meeting or a properly called special business meeting.

Section 7 PARLIAMENTARY RULES

Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised is the authorized rule of procedure for all business of the church.

Section 8 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Church policies and procedures will be described in the Church Operations Manual. The manual will be kept in the church office and made readily available to any member of the church. Maintenance of the manual shall be the responsibility of the church clerk. Changes in policies and procedures may be initiated by any church member or organization. Additions, revisions, or deletions of church policies require the following: the recommendation of the church officer, organization or committee to whose area of assignment the policy relates, discussion and recommendation by the Committee on Committees, and approval by the church body as a whole at any properly called regular or special church business meeting.

IX. AMENDMENTS

Changes in the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws may be made at any regular or special called business meeting of the church provided each amendment will have been presented in writing at two meetings of the church open to all members at least one (1) week apart and copies of the proposed amendment be furnished to each member present. Amendments to the Article of Incorporation or Bylaws must have approval of at least a two-thirds majority of the voting members present.

Date Approved By the Church

Church Clerk