

Article 7 – Bylaws

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Section 1 – The Shepherd Role of Elders

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A. Congregational Authority

Recognizing Christ as the ~~h~~Head of the ~~Church~~ Church and Scripture ~~as the~~ ~~Church's~~ only rule for faith and practice ~~within the church~~, First Baptist ~~Church~~ Church is a community of saved ~~and~~, gifted individuals arranged by God as one body in Christ. ~~Subject to the authority of Scripture~~ In accordance with ~~s~~Scriptural authority, FBC members place their faith in God ~~so that in Christ they may govern the church in unity. as they govern the church for unification in Christ regarding matters of church governance.~~ ~~Further~~ Moreover, by recognizing ~~that~~ God established ~~the role of elder~~ elders to shepherd His ~~Church~~ Church, ~~church~~ members entrust a ~~ce~~ council of ~~ce~~ elders with the authority to lead, protect, and care for the ~~c~~ Church. ~~First Baptist Church~~ FBC observes congregational polity that finds its authority in the majority vote of the congregation. Regarding ~~church~~ church governance, no amendments to these bylaws shall limit the congregation's responsibility or authority to (a) approve the expenditure of ~~church~~ funds ~~under the control of the~~ ~~Church~~ Church, whether by predetermined budget limitation or individual approval; (b) elect those who will serve as ~~eld~~ Elders and ~~de~~ Deacons; (c) administer ~~c~~ Church discipline; and (d) approve ~~co~~ nstitutional changes ~~when the elder council recommends. recommended by the~~ ~~Elder~~ Elder elder Council Council.

FBC operates by a ~~Council~~ Council council of ~~Elder~~ Elder elders composed of ~~Regarding the operations of First Baptist Church, elders are~~ men called to the ~~elder~~ eldership responsibilities defined below. ~~Both vocational pastors and laymen called by God and approved by church vote fill the role of elder. The role of elder is filled by vocational pastors and lay men called to eldership by God and approved by church vote. The sSenior Pastor pastor. B~~ by virtue of his central preaching and teaching ministry, ~~the senior pastor~~ becomes an ~~elder~~ elder upon affirmative vote as ~~s~~ Senior Pastor pastor.

B. Qualifications

1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9 describe qualifications for service as an ~~Elder~~ Elder elder. ~~Qualifications for service are in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. Accordingly, a~~ A man who has been married then divorced; or divorced and then remarried to another other than his first wife, or who is married to a woman who was divorced, ~~shall be considered~~ is ineligible to be an ~~elder~~ elder.

The ~~Elder~~ Elder elder Council Council council will consider ~~eldership~~ eldership candidates ~~for~~ ~~elder~~ eldership as God calls and as leadership needs arise. ~~Men considered for elder~~ eldership shall participate in a one-year internship ~~that the Elder~~ Elder elder Council Council council ~~oversees and directs. Upon hire, determined and directed by the Council. a~~ All associate pastors enter the ~~elder~~ elder internship program ~~upon hire,~~ which ~~the Elder~~ Elder elder Council Council council may agree to waive. ~~may be waived upon Council agreement.~~ ~~Over~~ During the ~~one year period~~ internship, the candidate and the ~~Council~~ Council council elders

Comment [RT1]: I restructured this to emphasize what the Elders will be doing. I also restructured a few other sentences the same way, since this section deals with the Elders' responsibilities.

will determine ~~through by~~ prayer, study, and ministry partnership ~~the candidate's calling as an elder~~ whether the elder candidate qualifies for the position.

C. Responsibilities

~~Elder~~Elders are spiritually mature men ~~who~~ God calls to live and serve as shepherds of His flock. ~~They Elders~~ oversee and advance the spiritual life, ~~welfare~~welfare, and ministry of the ~~Church~~Church and have both spiritual and administrative responsibilities.-

1. Spiritual responsibilities:

1. ~~1. Laboring~~ Promoting spiritual growth in the ~~church~~church, laboring in prayer, and practicing visitation of the sick and the congregation; ~~in the church's spiritual growth, prayer and visitation of the sick and the congregation~~
2. Teaching and exhorting Christ-likeness and refuting those who contradict the truth;
3. Ensuring the pulpit is supplied and nominating all ~~candidates for pastoral positions~~pastoral candidates;
4. Approving all ~~church~~church membership applicants; ~~applicants for church membership~~;
5. Equipping and exhorting the congregation to fulfill the ~~Church~~Church's mission;
6. Overseeing ~~Church~~Church discipline issues according to the bylaws; (Section ~~32.D(D)~~);

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2. Administrative responsibilities:

1. Administrating all legal and operational requirements of the ~~Church~~Church, including but not limited to; ~~oversight and overseeing and managing the budget, management of budgeting, finances,~~ personnel, and volunteer activities;--
2. Communicating; at regular intervals; the activities and concerns of the ~~Elder~~Elder-elder Council;Councilcouncil;

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D. Organization

Recognizing ~~that they are equal church members with diverse gifts, their equality among members and diversity of gifts,~~ the ~~Elder~~Elder-elder Council;Councilcouncil shall organize and operate as they best determine to ~~ensure fulfill~~ their ~~responsibilities are fulfilled.~~ responsibilities. ~~However~~Consequentlyresponsibilities. ~~Consequently, the~~The Council;Councilcouncil shall always have more lay ~~elder~~elders than staff ~~elder~~elders as voting members.-- Should the ~~Church~~Church have more staff ~~elder~~elders than non-staff ~~elder~~elders, the ~~Council~~Councilcouncil shall determine which staff ~~elder~~elders will serve as voting members and which as non-voting members.-- ~~Minutes of all The Council~~Councilcouncil shall maintain minutes of all their meetings and decisions. ~~Council meetings and decisions shall be maintained.~~

E. Call/Vote

If the ~~Elder~~Elder-elder Council;Councilcouncil recommends an ~~elder~~elder or pastoral ~~candidate~~candidate, the ~~Church~~Church will approve an ~~elder~~elder or pastor by ballot vote. ~~The approval of an elder or pastor shall be by ballot vote of the Church, acting upon recommendation of the Elder Council.~~ A three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of the active members of the ~~Church~~Church; eighteen (18) years of age and older,--present and voting; shall be required ~~in calling to call~~ an ~~elder~~elder or pastor.-- A pastor and his wife shall automatically become ~~church~~members upon an affirmative vote.

F. Term and Number

There are no specific terms or required numbers of ~~elder~~elders. ~~Thus, the~~ ElderElder-elder Council shall determine the number of men who shall serve as ~~elder~~elders. Each ~~elder~~elder and pastor shall hold office as long as he is faithful to his calling and has the confidence of the CouncilCouncilcouncil and ~~chur~~church members. The CouncilCouncilcouncil shall conduct an internal review of each ~~elder~~elder, not less frequently than every three years, to reconfirm each ~~elder~~elder's commitment and calling.

~~Recognizing~~Because the ~~important~~ task of ~~elder~~eldership ~~is significant and~~ is accomplished while continuing care of family and vocational responsibilities, ~~elder~~elders may need to take ~~temporary~~ leave of ~~elder~~eldership responsibilities ~~for periods of time~~. ElderElderElders shall arrange such sabbatical times through the CouncilCouncilcouncil's mutual consent. ~~Such sabbatical times will be arranged through mutual consent of the Council.~~

G. Resignation or Removal

~~Elder~~ElderElders and pastors shall serve until ~~resignation~~they resign. However, if the majority of the ~~Elder~~Elder-elder CouncilCouncilcouncil recommends, the ~~Church~~Churchchurch can remove an ~~elder~~elder or pastor by a three-fourths majority ~~evote~~.

Comment [RET3]: Church vote vs. congregational vote

~~or by three fourths majority vote of the church as recommended by a majority of Elder Council.~~

H. Provision applicable ~~only to Pastor~~pastoral staff ~~only~~

~~Elders hold pastors accountable for organizational responsibilities and reserve the right to suspend pastors if necessary.~~

1.

A. Organization

~~Pastor~~Pastors are accountable to the ~~Elder~~Elder-elder CouncilCouncilcouncil for their vocational ministry. The ~~s~~Senior ~~Pastor~~pastor coordinates pastoral activities on a ~~week to week~~weekly basis.

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2.

B. Suspension

~~If, in a majority of the~~ ElderElder-elder CouncilCouncilcouncil judges that a pastor is guilty of misconduct ~~the judgment of a majority of Elder Council, a pastor is guilty of misconduct that may~~ tends to bring reproach upon the ~~Church~~Churchchurch, then the CouncilCouncilcouncil may immediately suspend him. ~~he may be immediately suspended by the Council. The CouncilCouncilcouncil will also determine the terms of his suspension, excluding the accused. The terms of suspension will be determined by the~~

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~~Council, excluding the accused.~~ All accusations of misconduct shall follow the admonitions of Matthew 18:15-17 and I Timothy 5:19.

Section 2 – The Servant ~~R~~ole of ~~Deacon~~~~Deacon~~~~Deacons~~

~~Deacon~~~~Deacon~~~~Deacons~~ serve under the leadership of the ~~Elder~~~~Elder~~~~elder~~ ~~Council~~~~Council~~~~council~~. ~~They to~~ minister to ~~church~~~~the~~ needs ~~of the church~~~~church~~~~and to~~ allow the ~~elder~~~~elders~~ and pastors to devote themselves to spiritual leadership, prayer, and ~~ministry of the~~ ~~Word~~~~biblical ministry.~~ ~~Deacon~~~~Deacon~~~~Deacons~~ assist the ~~Elder~~~~Elder~~~~elder~~ ~~Council~~~~Council~~~~council~~ and pastors in accomplishing ~~the~~ spiritual and administrative work of the ~~c~~Church.

A. Qualifications:

~~The qualifications for service as a Deacon are in~~ I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-4 ~~describe the qualifications for service as a~~ ~~Deacon~~~~Deacon~~~~deacon.~~ ~~Accordingly, A~~ a man who has been married then divorced, or divorced then remarried to another other than his first wife, or who is married to a woman who was divorced ~~is~~ ~~shall be considered~~ ineligible to be a ~~Deacon~~~~Deacon~~~~deacon.~~

B. Responsibilities

~~Deacons have both spiritual and administrative responsibilities.~~ ‡

- ~~1.~~ ~~Performing all responsibilities as delegated by the Elder~~~~Elder~~~~elder~~ ~~Council~~~~Council~~~~council~~ ~~that the elder council delegates:~~
- ~~2.~~ ~~Collecting and administering a~~ ~~Deacon~~~~Deacon~~~~deacon~~ ~~b~~ Benevolent ~~f~~ Fund ~~and~~ reporting to the ~~church~~~~church~~ its total receipts and total disbursements only;
- ~~3.~~ ~~Assisting with the fulfillment of the ordinances to fulfill~~ ~~church~~~~church~~ ~~ordinances.~~
- ~~4.~~ ~~Administering the membership process.~~

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Section 32 – Membership

A. Eligibility

A.

~~An individual eligible~~ ~~Those eligible for the privilege of membership in this~~ ~~church~~~~church~~ ~~affirm~~ FBC affirms ~~in writing~~ the following in writing:

- ~~• The individual has~~ ~~that they have received~~ ~~accepted~~ the Lord Jesus Christ ~~as their~~ personal Savior and King.;
- ~~• The individual has participated in believer's baptism by immersion. have been~~ ~~baptized by immersion as a believer.~~
- ~~• The individual heartily agrees with the articles~~ ~~Articles of f~~ Faith, ~~c~~ Covenant, and ~~b~~ By-Laws ~~of this church~~~~church~~ FBC.
- ~~• The individual; wholeheartedly engages to fulfill~~ ~~FBC the provisions of~~ ~~membership in it~~ ~~membership provisions.~~
- ~~• The individual; and is~~ ~~are~~ not under another ~~church~~~~church~~ 's disciplinary ~~course of~~ ~~action.~~

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- ~~The individual does not hold membership in a secret organization that holds beliefs or practices contrary to those of FBC.~~
~~Applicants cannot hold membership in a secret organization or society that holds belief or practices contrary to those of First Baptist Church of Rochester.~~ Those applying for restoration of membership must also give evidence of having resolved the matter that resulted in loss of membership.

A. Admission

B.

Membership ~~privileges and responsibilities~~ becomes effective when an applicant fulfills all of the following requirements:

1. Membership class
2. Membership application
3. Membership interview

4. Church vote
- 4.

C. Categories of Membership

FBC establishes certain categories of membership as detailed below.

1. Active Member

These individuals have all the privileges and responsibilities as set forth defined in FBC's Constitution.

2.

2. Associate Member

FBC recognizes that ~~Recognizing that~~ college students away from home and those with temporary occupational transfers may desire to fellowship with and serve the church fellowship with the church and to serve. Thus, such individuals can apply for associate privileges and responsibilities. ~~application can be made for associate privileges and responsibilities.~~ The applicant must be a member of a church of like faith, and practice and meet the same requirements as FBC designates, and follow the same regular membership procedures. ~~as would an applicant for regular membership.~~ However, they will not be ~~They will not be eligible to be elected to a position to hold elected positions; nor will they have~~ voting privileges. Associate ~~When an associate members who makes a permanent moves from the area, they are automatically removed from the associate roll, their associate membership automatically.~~

3. Inactive Member

The Deacons will declare Any member of the Church.

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~~inactives determined by the Deacons, any member of the Churchchurch shall be declared an inactive member, if the memberwho fails to attend ehurehchurch or does not actively participate in church services take an active part in the serviees of the ChurchChurchchurch over a period of three (3)-months. The deacons will determine reasonable explanations of inactivity. , without a reasonable explanation or cause presented to and accepted by the DeaconDeacondeacons.~~

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~~Anyone on the inactive membership list shall lose all membership privilegesprivileges of membership. If deemed necessary, the DeaconDeacondeacons shall undertake reasonable efforts to communicate with inactive members so that the members may explain their inactivity. to determine an explanation for inactivity. The DeaconDeacondeacons will determine whether they shall recommend termination as determined in section F to the cChurch.if termination, as defined in section F, should be recommended to the Church. The DeaconDeacondeacons shall post a list of inactive members in the ChurchChurchchurch and shall communicate a reasonable notice of the meeting to the ehurehchurch members. reasonable notice of the meeting shall be communicated to the.~~

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~~The DeaconDeacondeacons will certify to the cChurch cClerk any Any-member who has been placed on the inactive membership list who has returned to active support of the Church shall be certified to the Church Clerk by the Deacons as being an active member.~~

A. Discipline and Reconciliation
D.

The basic meaning of the word discipline is "standard or measurement." ~~Commonly, the word denotes comparing an individual to standards to determine if that person matches expectations. A common usage of the word is making a comparison to standards to determine if someone "measures up" to what is expected. However, muchMuch of the discipline practiced in the Churchthe ChurchChurchchurch practices is not what is readily associated with the concept of "ChurchChurchchurch dDiscipline": ChurchChurchchurch formative and corrective discipline.~~

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1. Formative Discipline

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~~According to Proverbs 27:17, Romans 15:14, and Hebrews 3:13 and 10:25-25, formative discipline is an important part of the sanctification process thatFormative Discipline is the type of discipline that constructively promotes a person to become more like Jesus Christ. This: it is what takes place the vast majority of the most often within time in the bBody of Christ. Of course, I this individuals should actively pursue formative discipline, should also be actively pursued on a personal/individual level as wel I. Disciplines like such as holiness, separation from the world, self-control, and obedience, and a myriad of other examples encourage Christians to conform, which is to the character of Christ. the achieving of the~~

standard of the Christian life, which is conformity to the character Christ. Formative Discipline is an important part of the process of sanctification. Prov. 27:17, Heb. 3:13; 10:24-25, Rom. 15:14

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2. Corrective Discipline

Corrective discipline is the process by which one who violates the set standard is made becomes aware of the violation, instructed receives instruction in how to correct the matter, and receives accepts the appropriate consequences if the matter is not solved. biblically. Because FBC members have a responsibility to As members of this Church, we believe we have a responsibility to live in biblical harmony and unity within the bounds of the Word of God. any Any member who displays behavior which behavior that is contrary to the truths of Scripture, or which is out of harmony with FBC's this Church's c Constitution, shall be subject to corrective Church discipline. There is a significant distinction in the The New Testament makes significant distinctions in dealing with private offenses and public offenses. While The goal of any discipline is to "restore the brother who has been overtaken in a fault" (Galatians 6:1). However, the c Church must make every effort possible to keep doctrinal purity within the b Body of Christ (Romans 16:17, Titus 3:10) and to maintain a clear Biblical biblical testimony of the members of FBC R FBC this Church (I Corinthians 5:9-13, II Thessalonians 3:6-15). Fraternal fellowship must not supersede Biblical biblical truth, cannot be violated for the sake of fraternal fellowship.

- Comment [RT10]: body or Body

3. Private Offenses Defined

These are offenses that Private offenses occur between members. These matters are private in nature and involve a small number of individuals. Therefore, members should handle these offenses these offenses should be handled privately/discreetly privately without ; not involving involving unnecessary individuals, and should pursued in a biblical manner follow Biblical biblical guidelines. This includes making sure Members should confirm that facts are correct, that we pursue the matter in love, that we desire good for the offending person, and even exercise the option of overlooking personal offenses altogether in accordance with. Matthew 5:23-24; James 3:13-18 and; 5:16; Romans 14:19; I Peter 3:8-12 and; 4:8; Colossians 3:1-15; Galatians 6:1-2; and II Thessalonians 3:15. Ensure

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- Comment [RT12]: Would you like to make a person/officer specifically responsible for this duty or keep it vague?

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4. Public/Blatant Offenses Defined

A public offense is one that Public offenses occurs beyond the sphere of a an individual or small group of individuals, it is an offense that goes and goes beyond the bounds of formative discipline. Some have labeled these types of offenses as "gross sins," or "sinning as a lifestyle." However, p Public offenses do not necessarily include personal issues. Because the church church must protect its doctrine and the name of Christ, This is less about a personal offense and more about protecting the Church and the name of Christ. It is also unrepentant unrepentant members must undergo disciplinary action. This can be done in

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several ways, but the main areas of public offense are Public offenses that warrant disciplinary action include but are not limited to the following:

1. Significant mistreatment of a fellow believer such as hatred (1 John); or going to court over a matter (1 Corinthians: 6:6)
2. False Doctrine (Galatians: 1:9; 2 John 10; 2 Timothy: 3:5)
3. Contention, strife, and sowing discord (Proverbs: 6:16,19; Romans: 16:17; Titus 3:10)
4. Immorality (1 Corinthians: 5:11)
5. Disorderly conduct (1 Cor. 5:11; 2 Thessalonians: 3:6,14-15)

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5. Process of Corrective Discipline

FBC has established a process of corrective discipline according to Scripture.

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a. Seeking restitution and reconciliation

FBC members must seek resolution and restoration if they realize another church member

- a. holds has a grievance against them. According to Matthew 5:23-24 and 18:18, it is If a member of this Church realizes that a brother/sister holds something against him/her or that he/she has a grievance against a brother/sister, it is his/her first responsibility to go to that brother/sister and seek resolution and restoration. (Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 18:18) the offending party's first responsibility to seek reconciliation.

If the matter is a particular offense to the doctrine or testimony of this Church FBC, it is the responsibility of the Elder(s) the Elder Elders are responsible to go to the erring brother/sister member to seek repentance and restoration. If reconciliation can be made the member will reconcile the issue, the matter is considered resolved and closed.

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b. Involving witnesses

- b. If reconciliation is not reached If the members does not reach cannot seek reconciliation, one (1) or two (2) others witnesses will go with the initial person to seek reconciliation member who first sought restoration of the offending brother/sister member to resolve the matter with the offending person (Matthew 18:16). In accordance with Matthew 18, FBC holds that "witnesses" We believe "witnesses" in the Mathew 18 context constitute are neutral parties included to witness and be able who will to truthfully testify to this step in the concerning the reconciliation process. If reconciliation is made the member makes reconciliation, the matter is considered resolved and closed.

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c. Involving elders

- c. If members cannot make reconciliation after two witnesses testify and the matter is not a public offense. If reconciliation is not reached after the inclusion of two witnesses and the matter is not a public offense, the members at odds with one another will meet with at least three Elder Elders as a final step of mediation. As

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members, the parties will be subject to this mediation and to the judgment of the mediators. ~~If reconciliation is made~~ the members reconcile the issue, the matter is ~~considered handled resolved~~ and closed.

If one or more parties does not submit to the findings of the mediators in a Christian fashion, then the party(ies) will be considered committing blatant, unrepentant sin ~~and the matter will be brought before the Church.~~ the Elder/Elders will bring the matter before the church.

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d. Involving the church

- d. If the first two ~~(2)~~ steps ~~(section 3.D.5.a-b)~~ fail to bring about reconciliation in the case of public offenses ~~—~~, or the first three ~~steps (3)~~ ~~(section 3.D.5.a-c)~~ ~~steps~~ in the case of private offenses ~~—~~, the matter shall then, and only then, ~~—~~ come before the ~~c~~Church (Matthew 18:17). ~~—~~ The ~~Elder/Elders~~ shall examine the issues, and; if ~~they determine that the offense violates the~~ the offense is found to violate the standard of Scripture or the spirit of the ~~Constitution of this Church~~ FBC's constitution, they shall ~~humbly and prayerfully~~ inform the ~~Church~~ humbly and prayerfully, while still seeking reconciliation of the erring individual, ~~who is exhibiting conduct unbecoming a child of God.~~

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If a member brings a charge against another member, each member has the ~~Every member against whom a charge is brought shall have the~~ privilege of speaking in his/her own defense ~~self-defense~~. ~~—~~ If after hearing the matter, the ~~c~~Church determines the validity of that the charge(s) of public/blatant ~~blatant, unrepentant sin is/are valid~~, then the ~~Church~~ will seek repentance from the offending party. ~~—~~ If the erring member genuinely repents, the church will forgive and the member and restore the member to the church body. ~~If there is genuine repentance on the part of the member who is living in disobedience to the Word of God, then he/she shall be forgiven and restoration shall be complete.~~ ~~—~~ If there is no repentance the member does not repent, then the Elder/Elders will ask the church to revoke the member's membership and withdraw that member's the member's fellowship. ~~Church shall be asked to revoke the membership and withdraw fellowship from the unrepentant individual. —~~ To exclude a member from the Church, a three-fourths ~~(3/4)~~ affirmative ballot vote of majority ~~majority~~ of active members of the ~~Church~~ Church; eighteen years of age and older, ~~present and voting~~, must submit an affirmative vote.

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- e. a the active members of the Church, eighteen (18) years of age and older, present and voting, shall be required for exclusion from the Church.

- f. If at any point an individual reaches true repentance—a turning away from sin to righteousness—then it must be noted that when an individual is confronted about his/her sin and at any point there is true repentance (i.e. turning away from sin to righteousness), then the process of corrective discipline is stopped ~~ends~~ at that level. Although the person is forgiven by God ~~Although God forgives the individual, that person still must submit to the consequences of disobedience. Depending on the circumstances, a member may need to confess publicly, reconcile relationships, and~~

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~~may face limitations on service. The congregation will determine any measures necessary to protect both the individual and the congregation. -this does not eliminate the consequences and other ramifications stemming from the individual's disobedience. Circumstances may require a public confession, reconciled relationships, and limitations on service and/or other measures deemed necessary for the protection of the individual as well as the Congregation. The offending party mustis to make the situation(s) right to the best of their ability.~~

~~B.A. Restoration~~

~~E.~~

~~Reconciliation to God, to the ChurchChurchchurch, and/or to an individual(s) is always the goal of cCorrective dDiscipline. - The ElderElder-elder CouncilCouncilcouncil may recommend restoring to full fellowship excluded members who have confessed to error and given evidence of repentance to the elder. An exeluded member who has confessed his/her errors, and given evidence of his/her repentance to the ElderElderelders, may be recommended by the Elder Council of the Church for restoration to full fellowship. - To recommend an individual for restoration, a simple majority of active members of the ChurchChurehchurch, eighteen years of age and older, present and voting, must submit an affirmative vote. A simple majority affirmative vote of the active members of the Church, eighteen (18) years of age and older, present and voting, shall be required for a recommendation to the Church for restoration.~~

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~~F. Termination~~

~~FBC may terminate an individual's membership for reasons as detailed below.~~

~~1. By PhysicalPhysical dDeath~~

~~If a member should pass away, the church membership will effectively terminate that person's membership.~~

~~2. Request~~

~~By Request - A member in good standing (i.e., not under discipline) may submit a written request to the churchchurch thatto terminate membership. his or her membership be terminated. The churchchurch leadership will effectively terminate the membership on the date they receive the request and inform the congregation at Membership will be terminated effective on the date the request was received by church leadership. The congregation will be informed of the termination at the next regular business meeting.~~

~~3. Discipline~~

~~By Discipline - Any member who knowingly lives in willful and continued disobedience to God shall be disciplinedshall receive discipline according to the bibleabiblical steps outlined in sSection D above. As the final step of the process, elders will revoke that individual's membership. his or her membership will be revoked. Once the ElderElderelders become involved in the discipline of a~~

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~~member process, the member cannot terminate membership until a request for termination will not be honored until the matter is resolved.~~

4. Exclusion ~~By Exclusion~~

~~The deacons may suggest that the church exclude individuals who are habitually absent for more than six months from church services without reasonable explanation. The deacons may also suggest that the church exclude members who relocate but fail to maintain vital contact from the church. –The deacons will bring the matter to the church for approval. If a member is habitually absent for more than six months from the services of the Church Church church without valid reason as determined by the Deacon deacon deacon's or if due to relocation he or she ceases to maintain a vital contact with the church church, he or she may be removed from membership. This will be brought to the church church membership for approval.~~

Section 43 – Committees ~~&and~~ Elected or /Appointed Positions

~~To accomplish the church church's mission and objectives, the Elder elder Council council may recognize the need to form committees and appointed positions that will to engage and utilize the gifts and abilities of the church church family. – Committees and appointed positions shall operate in accordance with the duties and authority specifically delegated by the Elder elders in a written committee charter, mission statement, or position description. – The Elder elders may amend or modify these duties and communicate them to the congregation. These duties and responsibilities may be amended or modified by the Elders at which time they would be communicated to the congregation. – Based on FBC's missions and objectives the mission and objectives of FBC R FBC, examples of elected committees could include facilities, missions, financial, CE, and deacon deaconess deacon committees committees. – Committees may include at least one Elder elder or staff member, appointed by the Elder elder Council council, with equal rights and responsibilities of other committee members. – The Elder elder Council council will maintain and make available a handbook of each committee's specific policies and procedures. shall be maintained and be readily available to the congregation after approval by the Elder Council.~~

~~Each committee Committees is expected must to perform their duties and specific missions in accordance with according to the following guidelines:~~

- ~~• Each committee shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and secretary but may form other potential positions at its leadership's discretion with other potential positions being at the discretion of each committee.~~
- ~~• Committees shall keep minutes of their meetings and may need to report to the congregation according to their specific responsibilities.~~

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• ~~Minutes shall be kept of all committee meetings, and each committee may be asked to report back to the congregation as to their specific responsibilities. If necessary, committees may form sub-committees or teams. It may be necessary that sub-committees (hereafter referred to as Teams) be formed under the leadership of the parent committee. The parent committees will structure these Teams and form them (Teams). The structure of each Team is at the discretion of the parent committee but should be formed~~ for the distinct purpose of fulfilling the committee's charter or mission.

Comment [RT17]: Here and a few places in this section, I tried to structure the sentences to focus on who is doing what.

• ~~The parent team (i.e., the committee) must include is responsible to include (Teams' activities in its minutes. Reporting of these Teams should be consolidated and included in the parent committee's minutes.~~

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~~Committees with budgeted monies can spend those monies until they reach the Each committee that has budgeted monies that they are responsible for, can spend those monies up to the congregational-approved budgeted amount without further approval. The congregation and committee must vote on anyAny non-budgeted expenditures, spending limits, or special spending authorizations will be voted on by the congregation and followed by the appropriate committee.~~

~~The Elders shall communicate committee and position needs to the church to allow sufficient time for the nominating and election process to nominate and elect individuals. The nominating committee shall consist of a representative from selected committees as well as a Pastor/pastor and at least one (1) Deacon/deacon rRepresentative. The nominating committee will prepare a list of church members qualified for election to committees and elected positions according to the voting section of these bylaws, subject to the voting section of these bylaws. The Elderelder Council will give final approval to candidates that the nominating committee elects. Those candidates that the nominating committee qualifies will be given final approval by the Elders of FBCR.~~

~~The Elderelder council will appoint individuals to serve in vacant positions to fill terms or until elections. Vacancies in office shall be appointed, if deemed necessary, by the Elders of FBCR to either fill the remaining term or until the next election. The Elders will first consider appointments based on qualified candidates from the most recent election's ballot results, of the most recent elections and the ballot results. Persons appointed to fill vacanciesAppointees shall be considered will be eligible to be elected-eligible to serve for a full term at the next election.~~

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Comment [RT19]: check

~~All committee members Members of all committees shall be members of FBCRFBC, in good standing and faithful to its mission and services. Except when a pastor or staff member leads a committee, Unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws, no committee officer, except when a Ppastor or staff member is leading a committee, shall serve longer than two successive (2) years in succession in the same officer position, unless the bylaws plainly state otherwise.~~

Comment [RT20]: look up this number thing

~~All who serve FBCRFBC shall be held must adhere to the highest standard of godly conduct: (Article 19-Personal Separation). In order to preserveAll the testimony of our Lord as well as FBCRFBC, and to safeguard against any accusation of hypocrisy, who serve the Lord it shall be understood that all who serve our Lord shall be an example in word, conduct, love, spirit, faith,~~

Comment [RT21]:

and purity (I Timothy 4:12); and faithful as good stewards (I Corinthians 4:2).— Those who serve shall keep themselves unspotted from this world (James 1:27); and abstain from all appearances of evil (I Thessalonians 5:22) so that FBC may protect its testimony and avoid hypocrisy.;

If an individual serving FBC engages in questionable conduct. If there is a question concerning the conduct of anyone who serves FBC/FBC, the Elder/Elder elder Council/Council/council shall examine that person's behavior it shall be the responsibility of the Elder Council to examine themselves—(Galatians 6:1-6) and then lovingly approach that individual according to Scripture if necessary (Matthew 18:15-17).— In order to preserve FBC's testimony and the congregation's spiritual welfare/the spiritual welfare of that believer and the testimony of FBC/FBC, the Elder/Elder elders may ask that individual to relinquish all responsibilities until that individual may be asked to relinquish their responsibilities until the issue is resolved to the satisfaction of the Elders.;

Section 54 – Meetings of the Church/Church/church

A. — Services

A. FBC will maintain Regular weekly services shall be maintained.

A. — Ordinances of the Church/Church/church

B. The Elder/Elder elders shall schedule regular observations of T/The Lord's Supper. shall be observed on a regular schedule to be determined by the Elders. — When appropriate, candidates who have completed the membership process shall Baptism shall be observed when appropriate as candidates have gone through the membership process and if necessary observe/follow the Lord in obedience to b/Believer's b/Baptism.

A. — Elections

C. FBC will hold elections Elections shall be held during the October quarterly business meeting. — The church must receive reasonable notice of the meeting and its purpose. Reasonable notice of the meeting and its purpose shall be communicated to the Church/Church/church.

A. — Annual Budget Business Meeting

D. FBC will hold an The annual budget business meeting shall be held during the October quarterly business meeting; or at a special business meeting called for that purpose prior to the beginning of the next calendar year. — The church must receive reasonable notice of the meeting and its purpose. Reasonable notice of the meeting and its purpose shall be communicated to the Church/Church/church.

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A. Annual Business Meeting

E.

FBC will hold an annual business meeting of the Church in January unless the church votes otherwise. The church must receive reasonable notice of the meeting and its purpose. Reasonable notice of the meeting and its purpose shall be communicated to the Church.

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A. Quarterly Business Meetings

E.

FBC will hold quarterly business meetings of the Church in April, July, and October unless the church votes otherwise. The church must receive reasonable notice of the meeting and its purpose. Reasonable notice of the meeting and its purpose shall be communicated to the Church.

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A. Special Business Meetings

G.

The Elder Council may call a special business meeting if they deem it necessary. The church must receive reasonable notice of the meeting and its purpose. Reasonable notice of the meeting and its purpose shall be communicated to the Church.

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A. Quorum

H.

One-fifth (1/5) of the active members of the Church eighteen (18) years of age and older shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any church business meeting of the Church. The Church Clerk shall determine the quorum number shall be determined prior to each quarterly business meeting. Before calling the business meeting to order, the moderator shall verify by a public count that a quorum is present. The quorum must be maintained throughout the business meeting.

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A. Procedures

I.

All business meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer.

Biblical principles will guide the church in all business meetings. The moderator may use Robert's Rules of Order as a guide to procedural best practices; however, the moderator is not bound by any rules of order, and has final

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authority in all meeting practices.

Section 65 – Voting

A. Qualifications

A. Only members eighteen (18) years of age and older shall be entitled to vote on any matter of business of this Church Church FBC. – Only active members present in the meeting at time the vote is cast may vote. ~~The right to vote shall be limited to active members who are actually present in the meeting room at the time the vote is cast.~~

A. Procedures and Requirements

B. FBC establishes a ~~necessary~~ proportion of votes ~~that must be cast~~ required before it adopts any voting matter. ~~Necessary proportion of votes that must be cast for the adoption of any voting matter.~~

Table 1. Required voting proportions

<u>Voting m</u> Matter	<u>Simple</u> m <u>Majority</u>	<u>3/4</u>	<u>Vote t</u> Type
Elections	X		ballot
Non- specified <u>Specified</u> budget expenditures requiring a Church <u>Church</u> church vote	X		ballot
<u>Calling any</u> Pastor <u>pastor/Elder</u> Elder		X	<u>ballot</u>
<u>Dismissing any</u> Pastor <u>pastor/Elder</u> Elder		X	<u>ballot</u>
<u>Purchasing, selling</u> <u>Sale, or</u> Mortgage of <u>mortgaging property</u> Property		X	<u>ballot</u>
<u>Amending the c</u> Constitution		X	<u>ballot</u>
<u>Discipline Member</u> Disciplining a <u>member</u>		X	<u>ballot</u>

~~Votes on all matters other than those listed above require a simple majority.~~

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At any business meeting at which a quorum is present, there is no requirement as to the number of votes which must be cast for approval of an action or choice.

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The number of votes cast shall be the total number of votes cast by legal voters. Abstentions cast by legal voters are not taken into account in determining the number of votes cast for purposes of computing the adoption of an action or choice.

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Following is an example of the determination of a voting result where the necessary proportion of votes cast for adoption is a simple majority.

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When tabulating a ballot vote, only the tellers shall be present. Tellers will communicate the results to the church in an expedient and reasonable manner. Votes on all matters other than those listed above require a simple majority. FBC also establishes the following polices for the voting process:

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- At any business meeting at which a quorum is present, there is no requirement as to the number of votes that must be cast for approval of an action.
- The number of votes cast shall be the total number of votes cast by legal voters. Abstentions cast by legal voters are not taken into account in determining the number of votes cast for purposes of computing the adoption of an action or choice.
- FBC determines that a necessary proportion of votes to adopt measures is a simple majority. The following is an example of determining voting results:

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Table 2. Determining voting results

Type of vVote	Quantity
Votes for mMotion (yYes)	40
Votes aAgainst (nNo)	26
Abstention	(nNot cCounted)
Total Votes Counted	66
Votes Necessary for aAdoption (50% +1)	34

Motion adopted: 40 is greater than the 34 votes necessary.

Motion Adopted: 40 is greater than the 34 votes necessary.

For the purpose of tabulating a ballot vote, only the tellers shall be present. Results will be communicated to the ChurchChurchchurch in an expedient and reasonable manner.

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~~indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue, or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable for intentional misconduct in the performance of his or her duty to FBC, then such individual may request indemnification from FBC.~~

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~~At their discretion, the ElderElder-elder CouncilCouncilcouncil may grant full or partial. The granting of full or partial indemnification shall be at the discretion of the Elder Council of FBC as set forth in sSection 3 herein.~~

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~~If a person who is currently serving as an officer requests indemnification, makes an indemnification request, then the remaining disinterested officer members will determine whether if the indemnification request is being made by a person who is currently serving on the officers, then the indemnification decision (whether to indemnify the requesting party, and the dollar amount of such indemnification by a majority vote.~~

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~~), will be made by the remaining disinterested members of the officers. A decision on the indemnification request by a majority of disinterested members of the officers will be final.~~

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~~If a quorum of the ElderElderelder's cannot determine indemnification because the majority of elders are seeking is not available for an indemnification determination because of the number of ElderElderelder's seeking indemnification, then the membership or special legal counsel that the membership appoints will determine the requisite indemnification. Either the membership or the special legal counsel which the membership appoints shall make the requisite determination. The requisite determination may be made by the membership or by special legal counsel appointed by the membership.~~

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4. Payment of expenses in advance:

~~FBC may pay expenses incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit, or proceeding Expenses incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit, or proceeding may be paid by FBC in advance of the final disposition of such case as the officers authorize. Officers shall determine whether action, suit, or proceeding, as authorized by the officers in the specific case, upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the a pastor, director, officer, leader, employee, paid staff, committee member, or volunteer shall receive indemnification when they receive a receipt to repay such amount, unless it shall ultimately be determined that he or she is entitled to be indemnified by the ChurchChurchchurch as authorized in this aArticle.~~

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A. Dissolution Clause

C.

~~In the event that FBC should disband~~~~of the dissolution of this Corporation~~~~this corporation,~~
~~all of its debts shall be fully satisfied.~~ FBC will not divide any of its assets or holdings
among members of the congregation or other individuals. Prior to dissolution, FBC will
irrevocably designate by church vote one or more not-for-profit religious corporations
~~None of its assets or holdings shall be divided among the members or other individuals~~
~~but shall be irrevocably designated by Church~~Church vote prior to dissolution to such
~~other not-for-profit religious corporation(s) as that~~are in agreement with the letter and
spirit of the ~~a~~Articles of ~~F~~Faith adopted by FBC, and in conformity with the requirements of
the United States Internal Revenue Service Code, Section 501(c)(3).

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A. Requirements for Children Ministry Workers Clause

D.

~~The Church~~Churchchurch has voluntarily enacted ~~(The Child Abuse Prevention Policy~~
~~(CAPP) in order to proactively~~ address the societal problem of child sexual abuse. FBC
shall maintain and administer this policy ~~to~~ ~~to assist in contributing~~contribute to a safer
and more secure environment ~~for our~~its children and young people.

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A. Internal Matters

E.

~~The Church~~Church'sFBC's own rules and procedures will exclusively determine
~~Determinations of the~~its~~the~~ internal affairs of the ~~Church~~Church are ~~and~~ ecclesiastical
matters. These rules and procedures may be amended periodically. ~~and shall be~~
~~determined exclusively by the Church~~Church's own rules and procedures, as amended
from time to time.

A. ChurchChurchChurch Records

F.

FBC has established policies concerning requesting, copying, redacting, and recording church records.

1. Requesting records

A member may request to inspect the most recent financial statements that have been reviewed or audited by an independent CPA firm. ~~A member may also request to review,~~
~~minutes of church meetings, the minutes of the proceedings of Church~~Churchchurch
~~meetings, Deacon~~Deacondeacon mMeetings, and ~~Elder~~Elder-elder CouncilCouncilcouncil

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meetings ~~with by~~ a prior written request. Documents requested will be available five (5) business days after receipt of the written request. Documents may not be copied or removed. ~~Officers reserve the right to redact information and are subject to the right of the officers to redact confidential information.~~

2. Copying records

A member may not, under any circumstances, inspect or copy any record relating to member discipline, individual contributions to the ChurchChurchchurch, any non-public lists of names and addresses of ChurchChurchchurch members, or ~~the~~ accounting books and financial records of the ChurchChurchchurch. Church accounting books and financial records include but are not limited to: benevolent disbursements or including, but not limited to personally identifiable information such as compensation, leave, and benefits; ~~or benevolent disbursements.~~

3. Redacting records

In accordance with FBC's constitution and bylaws, ~~Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the ChurchChurchFBC~~ shall have the discretion, exercised in good faith, to redact from any records information that the officers reasonably believe should remain confidential.

4. Recording

Electronic recording (including audio, video, photographs, ~~etc.)and the like~~) of ChurchChurchchurch meetings is forbidden without express approval of each individual present and documented in the meeting minutes. This includes public meetings (such as a business meeting, ~~etc.~~) or private ChurchChurchchurch related meetings including committee, ~~counseling, etc~~ meetings, counseling sessions and the like. State and local laws may also apply.

~~g) Chair the Nominating Committee which shall prepare a list of the names of members of the Church who it believes are qualified to serve. Unless otherwise provided for, each term of office shall be for a period of three (3) years and shall expire at the end of the calendar year of the last year in office. Board members whose term has expired shall not be eligible for re-election to that same Board until he/she has been out of that office for one (1) year.~~

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