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**Constitution and By-Laws**  
**Of First Baptist Church of New Ulm, Minnesota**  
**(\* means By-Law)**

**Article 1: Name**

The name of this organization shall be First Baptist Church of New Ulm.

**Article 11: Declaration of Faith**

The standard of faith held by this church is contained in the Scriptures and formulated in what is commonly known as the "Revised New Hampshire Baptist Confession of Faith" as adopted by the Minnesota Baptist Association.

**Concerning the Scriptures**

We believe that the Holy Bible was written inerrant in its original languages by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction;<sup>1</sup> that it has God for its Author, salvation for its end,<sup>2</sup> and truth without any mixture of error, for its matter;<sup>3</sup> that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us;<sup>4</sup> and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the true center of Christian union<sup>5</sup> and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.<sup>6</sup>

**Concerning the True God**

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent, perfect Spirit and personal Being the Creator, Preserver, and Supreme Ruler of the Universe,<sup>7</sup> inexpressibly glorious in holiness<sup>8</sup> and all other perfections, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love;<sup>9</sup> that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost;<sup>10</sup> equal in every divine

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Timothy 3:16,17. (Also 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Samuel 23:2; Acts 1: 16; 3:21; John 10: 3 5; Luke 16:29.3 1; Psalm 119:111; Romans 3:1,2).

<sup>2</sup> 2Timothy3:15. (Also 1 Peter 1:10-12; Acts 11:14; Romans 1:16; Mark 16:16; John 5:38,39).

<sup>3</sup> Proverbs 30:5, 6. (Also John 17:17; Revelation 22:18,19; Romans 3:4)

<sup>4</sup> Romans 2:12. (Also 1 Corinthians 4:3,4; Luke 10:10-16; 12:47,48)

<sup>5</sup> Philippians 3:16. (Also Ephesians 4:3-6; Philippians 2:1, 2; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Peter 4:11).

<sup>6</sup> 1 John 4: 1. (Also Acts 17:1 1; I John 4:6; Jude; Ephesians 6:17; Psalm 119:59, 60; Philippians 1: 9-11).

<sup>7</sup> John 4:24. (Also, Hebrews 3:4; Romans 1:20; Jeremiah 10:10).

<sup>8</sup> Exodus 15:11. (Also, Isaiah 6:3; 1 Peter 1: 15, 16; Revelation 4:6-8).

<sup>9</sup> Mark 12:30. (Matthew 10:37; Jeremiah 2:12, 13).

<sup>10</sup> Matthew 28:19. (1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 1 John 5:7).

1 perfection,<sup>11</sup> and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of  
2 redemption.<sup>12</sup>

### 3 **Concerning the Fall of Man**

4 We believe that man was created by the special act of God, as recorded in  
5 Genesis. "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him;  
6 male and female created He them."<sup>13</sup> "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the  
7 ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."<sup>14</sup>

8 We believe that the days of creation in Genesis Chapter 1 were solar, that is,  
9 twenty-four hour days.<sup>15</sup>

10 We believe that man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his  
11 Maker,<sup>16</sup> but through the temptation of Satan he voluntarily transgressed and fell from  
12 this holy state;<sup>17</sup> in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners,<sup>18</sup> not by  
13 constraint, but choice,<sup>19</sup> being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law  
14 of God, positively inclined to evil, and therefore under Just condemnation to eternal  
15 ruin,<sup>20</sup> without defense or excuse.<sup>21</sup>

### 16 **Concerning the Way of Salvation**

17 We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace;<sup>22</sup> through the  
18 mediatorial offices of the Son of God;<sup>23</sup> Who pre-existed,<sup>24</sup> and Who by the appointment  
19 of the Father, and Who by the Holy Spirit was conceived, and born of the virgin Mary,  
20 freely took upon Him man's nature, yet without sin;<sup>25</sup> honored the divine law by His  
21 perfect obedience,<sup>26</sup> and after a miraculous ministry, by His death made a full atonement  
22 for our sins;<sup>27</sup> that having risen from the dead bodily He is now enthroned in heaven<sup>28</sup> to  
23 reign in eternal sovereignty and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies

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<sup>11</sup> John 10:30. (John 5:17; 14:23; 17:5, 10; Acts 5:3, 4; 1 Corinthians 2:10, 11; Philippians 2:5, 6).

<sup>12</sup> Ephesians 2:18. (Revelation 1:4, 5; compare 2:7).

<sup>13</sup> Genesis 1:27

<sup>14</sup> Genesis 2:7.

<sup>15</sup> Exodus 20:9, 11. (Exodus 31:17).

<sup>16</sup> Genesis 1:27. (Ecclesiastes 7:29; Acts 17:26-29; Genesis 2:16, 17).

<sup>17</sup> Genesis 3:6-24. (Romans 5:12).

<sup>18</sup> Romans 5:19. (John 3:6; Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:15-19; 8:7).

<sup>19</sup> Isaiah 53:6. (Genesis 6:12; Romans 3:9-18).

<sup>20</sup> Ephesians 2:13. (Romans 1:32; 2:1-16; Galatians 3:10; Matthew 20:15).

<sup>21</sup> Ezekiel 18:19-20. (Galatians 3:22).

<sup>22</sup> Ephesians 2:8. (Matthew 18:11; 1 John 4:10; 1 Corinthians 3:5, 7; Acts 15:11).

<sup>23</sup> John 3:16. (John 1:1-14; Hebrews 4:14; 12:24).

<sup>24</sup> John 8:58.

<sup>25</sup> Philippians 2:6, 7. (Hebrews 2:9, 14; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

<sup>26</sup> Hebrews 5:8, 9. (Philippians 2:8; Galatians 4:4, 5; Romans 3:21).

<sup>27</sup> Isaiah 53:4, 5. (Matthew 20:28; Romans 4:25; 3:21-26; 1 John 4:10; 2:2; 1 Corinthians 15:1-3; Hebrews 9:13-15).

<sup>28</sup> Hebrews 1:8. (Hebrews 1:3; 8:1; Colossians 3:1-4).

1 with divine perfections, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and  
2 all sufficient Savior and Lord.<sup>29</sup>

### 3 **Concerning Justification**

4 We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ<sup>30</sup> secures to such as  
5 believe in Him is Justification;<sup>31</sup> that Justification includes pardon of sin;<sup>32</sup> and the  
6 promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness;<sup>33</sup> that it is bestowed, not in  
7 consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith  
8 in the Redeemer's blood;<sup>34</sup> by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely  
9 imputed to us of God;<sup>35</sup> that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with  
10 God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.<sup>36</sup>

### 11 **Concerning the Freeness of Salvation**

12 We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel;<sup>37</sup>  
13 that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient  
14 faith;<sup>38</sup> and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth by his own  
15 inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel;<sup>39</sup> which rejection involves him  
16 in an aggravated condemnation.<sup>40</sup>

### 17 **Concerning Grace in Regeneration**

18 We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again;<sup>41</sup>  
19 that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the soul;<sup>42</sup> that it is effected, in a  
20 manner above our comprehension, by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with  
21 divine truth,<sup>43</sup> so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel;<sup>44</sup> and that its proper  
22 evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Hebrews 7:25. (Hebrews 7:26; Psalm 89:19; Psalm 34).

<sup>30</sup> John 1:16. (Ephesians 3:8).

<sup>31</sup> Acts 13:39. (Isaiah 53:11, 12; Romans 8:1).

<sup>32</sup> Romans 5:9. (Zechariah 13:1; Matthew 9:6; Acts 10:43).

<sup>33</sup> Romans 5:17. (Titus 3:5-7; 1 Peter 3:7; 1 John 2:25; Romans 5:21).

<sup>34</sup> Romans 4:4, 5. (Romans 5:21; 6:23; Philippians 3:7-9).

<sup>35</sup> Romans 5:19. (Romans 3:24-26; 4:23-25; 1 John 2:12).

<sup>36</sup> Romans 5:1, 2. (1 Corinthians 1:30, 31; Matthew 6:33; 1 Timothy 4:8).

<sup>37</sup> Isaiah 55:1. (Luke 14:17).

<sup>38</sup> Romans 16:25, 26. (Mark 1:15; Romans 1:15-17).

<sup>39</sup> John 5:40. (Matthew 2:37; Romans 9:32; Proverbs 1:24; Acts 13:46).

<sup>40</sup> John 3:19. (Matthew 11:20; Luke 19:27; 2 Thessalonians 1:8).

<sup>41</sup> John 3:3. (John 3:6, 7; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Revelation 14:3; 21:27).

<sup>42</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:17. (Ezekiel 36:26; Deuteronomy 30:6; Romans 2:28, 29; 5:5; 1 John 4:7).

<sup>43</sup> John 3:8. (1 Corinthians 1:30; Philippians 2:13).

<sup>44</sup> 1 Peter 1:22-25. (Ephesians 4:20-24; Colossians 3:9-11).

<sup>45</sup> Ephesians 5:9. (Romans 8:9; Galatians 5:16-23; Ephesians 2:14-21; Matthew 3:8-10; 7:20; 1 John 5:4, 18).

1           **Concerning Repentance and Faith**

2           We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable  
3 graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God;<sup>46</sup> whereby, being deeply  
4 convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ,<sup>47</sup>  
5 we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy;<sup>48</sup> at the  
6 same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as the only and all-sufficient Savior.<sup>49</sup>

7           **Concerning God's Purpose of Grace**

8           We believe that Election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he  
9 graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners;<sup>50</sup> that being perfectly consistent with  
10 the free agency of man it comprehends as well as embraces all the means in connection  
11 with the end;<sup>51</sup> that it is a most glorious display of Cod's sovereign goodness, being  
12 infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable;<sup>52</sup> that it utterly excludes boasting, and  
13 promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free  
14 mercy;<sup>53</sup> that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree;<sup>54</sup> that it may be  
15 ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel;<sup>55</sup> that it is the foundation of  
16 Christian assurance;<sup>56</sup> and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and  
17 deserves the utmost diligence.<sup>57</sup>

18           **Concerning Sanctification**

19           We believe that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of  
20 God, we are made partakers of His holiness;<sup>58</sup> that it is a progressive work;<sup>59</sup> that it is  
21 begun in regeneration;<sup>60</sup> and that it is carried in the hearts of believers throughout their  
22 earthly life, by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in

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<sup>46</sup> Mark 1:15.

<sup>47</sup> John 16:8. (Acts 16:30, 31).

<sup>48</sup> Luke 18:13. (Luke 15:18-21; James 4:7-10; 2 Corinthians 7:11; Romans 10:12, 13; Psalm 51).

<sup>49</sup> Romans 10:9-10. (Acts 3:22, 23; Hebrews 4:14; Psalm 2:6; Hebrews 1:8; 7:25; 2 Timothy 1:12).

<sup>50</sup> 2 Timothy 1:8, 9. (Ephesians 1:3-14; 1 Peter 1:1, 2; Romans 11:5, m6; John 15:16; 1 John 4:19).

<sup>51</sup> 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 14. (Acts 13:48; John 10:16; Matthew 20:16; Acts 15:14).

<sup>52</sup> Exodus 33:18-19. (Ephesians 1:11; Romans 9:23, 24; Jeremiah 31:3; Romans 11:28, 29; James 1:17, 18; 2 Timothy 1:9; Romans 11:32-36).

<sup>53</sup> 1 Corinthians 4:7. (1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Romans 3:27; 4:16; Colossians 3:12; 1 Corinthians 15:10; 1 Peter 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:12, 13; 1 Peter 2:9; Luke 18:7).

<sup>54</sup> 2 Timothy 2:10. (John 6:37-40; 2 Peter 1:10).

<sup>55</sup> 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10.

<sup>56</sup> Romans 8:28-31. (Isaiah 42:16; Romans 11:29).

<sup>57</sup> 2 Peter 1:10, 11. (Philippians 3:12; Hebrews 6:11).

<sup>58</sup> 1 Thessalonians 4:3. (2 Corinthians 7:1; 13:9; Ephesians 1:4).

<sup>59</sup> Proverbs 4:18. (Hebrews 6:1; 2 Peter 1:5-8; Philippians 3:12-16).

<sup>60</sup> 1 John 2:29. (John 3:16; Philippians 1:9-11).

1 the continual use of the appointed means, especially the Word of God, self-examination,  
2 self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.<sup>61</sup>

3 We believe that the gift of tongues was among those temporary spiritual gifts  
4 bestowed by God upon His churches in apostolic times. When its purpose was completed,  
5 the gift ceased. It was never the required outward demonstration of either the baptism or  
6 the filling of the Spirit.<sup>62</sup>

### 7 **Concerning the Preservation of the Saints**

8 We believe that all real believers endure unto the end;<sup>63</sup> that their persevering  
9 attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial  
10 professors;<sup>64</sup> that a special Providence watches over their welfare;<sup>65</sup> and that they are kept  
11 by the power of God through faith unto salvation.<sup>66</sup>

### 12 **Concerning the Harmony of the Law and the Gospel**

13 We believe that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral  
14 government;<sup>67</sup> that it is holy, just and good;<sup>68</sup> and that the inability which the Scriptures  
15 ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin;<sup>69</sup> to  
16 deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience  
17 to the holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with  
18 the establishment of the visible church.<sup>70</sup>

### 19 **Concerning a Gospel Church**

20 We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized  
21 believers,<sup>71</sup> associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel;<sup>72</sup> observing  
22 the ordinances of Christ;<sup>73</sup> governed by His laws;<sup>74</sup> and exercising the gifts, rights, and  
23 privileges invested in them by His Word;<sup>75</sup> seeking to extend the Gospel to the ends of

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<sup>61</sup> Philippians 2:12, 13. (Ephesians 4:11, 12, 30; 6:18; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Luke 9:23; 11:35; Matthew 26:41).

<sup>62</sup> Acts 2:8. (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:18ff; 1 Corinthians 12:30; 1 Corinthians 13:8).

<sup>63</sup> John 8:31. (1 John 2:27, 28; 3:9; 5:18).

<sup>64</sup> 1 John 2:19. (John 13:18; Matthew 13:20, 21; John 6:66-69).

<sup>65</sup> Romans 8:28. (Matthew 6:30-33; Jeremiah 32:40; Psalm 91:11, 12; 121:2).

<sup>66</sup> Philippians 1:6. (Philippians 2:12, 13; Jude 24, 25; Hebrews 1:14; 13:5; 1 John 4:4).

<sup>67</sup> Romans 3:31. (Matthew 5:17; Luke 16:17; Romans 3:20; 4:15).

<sup>68</sup> Romans 7:12. (Romans 7:7, 14, 22; Galatians 3:21; Psalm 119).

<sup>69</sup> Romans 8:7, 8. (Joshua 24:19; Jeremiah 13:23; John 6:44; 5:44).

<sup>70</sup> Romans 8:2-4. (Romans 10:4; Hebrews 8:10; 12:14; Jude 20, 21).

<sup>71</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:1-13 (Matthew 18:17; Acts 5:11; 8:1; 11:21-23; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 14:23; 3 John 9)

<sup>72</sup> Acts 2:41, 42 (Acts 2:47; 1 Corinthians 5:12, 13)

<sup>73</sup> 1 Corinthians 11:2 (2 Thessalonians 3:6; Romans 16:17-20; 1 Corinthians 4:17)

<sup>74</sup> Matthew 28:20 (John 14:15; 15:12; 1 John 4:21; John 14:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:2; 2 John 6; Galatians 6:2; all the epistles)

<sup>75</sup> Ephesians 4:7

1 the earth;<sup>76</sup> that its only Scriptural officers are Bishops, or Pastors, and Deacons,<sup>77</sup> whose  
2 qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus.

### 3 **Concerning a Gospel Church in its Independence and Relationships**

4 We believe that the local visible church of Christ is a voluntary and independent  
5 autonomous group of baptized believers;<sup>78</sup> that it is a pure democracy, which organically  
6 can join nothing;<sup>79</sup> and that it has the power and right within itself to confess its own faith  
7 in accordance with the New Testament;<sup>80</sup> and that each congregation recognizes its own  
8 democratic self-containing government as its highest authority for carrying out the will of  
9 the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>81</sup>

### 10 **Concerning Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

11 We believe that both Christian Baptism and the Lord's Supper are each a  
12 memorial, a symbol and a prophecy.<sup>82</sup> We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion  
13 in water of a believer,<sup>83</sup> in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost;<sup>84</sup> to show  
14 forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen  
15 Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life;<sup>85</sup> that it is  
16 prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; and a prerequisite to the Lord's  
17 Supper;<sup>86</sup> in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and fruit of the  
18 vine commemorate together the dying of Christ,<sup>87</sup> preceded always by solemn self-  
19 examination.<sup>88</sup>

### 20 **Concerning the Lord's Day**

21 We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, and is a Christian  
22 institution;<sup>89</sup> it is to be kept sacred to spiritual purposes,<sup>90</sup> by abstaining from all  
23 unnecessary secular labor and sinful recreations,<sup>91</sup> for it commemorates the resurrection

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<sup>76</sup> Matthew 28:20

<sup>77</sup> Philippians 1:1 (Acts 14:23; 15:22; 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1)

<sup>78</sup> Matthew 18:15-18. (Matthew 23:8-10; 1 Peter 5:3).

<sup>79</sup> Romans 12:16. (1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:3; Philippians 1:27).

<sup>80</sup> 1 Timothy 3:15. (Jude 3; Revelation 2 and 3).

<sup>81</sup> Matthew 18:15-18. (Acts 1:23-26; 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 5:4,5,13).

<sup>82</sup> Romans 6:3. (Mark 10:38; Romans 6:4; Galatians 3:27; 1 Peter 3:21; Ephesians 4:5; 1  
Corinthians 12:13; 1 Corinthians 15:12,22).

<sup>83</sup> Acts 8:36-39. (Matthew 3:5,6; John 3:22,23; 4:12; Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:12;  
16:32-34; 18:8).

<sup>84</sup> Matthew 28:19. (Acts 10:47, 48; Galatians 3:27,28).

<sup>85</sup> Romans 6:4. (Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:20,21; Acts 22:16).

<sup>86</sup> Acts 2:41,42. (Matthew 28;19,20; Acts and Epistles).

<sup>87</sup> 1 Corinthians 11:26. (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20).

<sup>88</sup> 1 Corinthians 11:28. (1 Corinthians 5:1,8; 10:3-32; 11:17-32; John 6:26-71).

<sup>89</sup> Acts 20:7. (Genesis 2:3; Colossians 2:16,17; Mark 2:27; John 20:19; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2).

<sup>90</sup> Exodus 20:8.

<sup>91</sup> Isaiah 58:13,14.

1 of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead;<sup>92</sup> by the devout observance of all the means of  
2 grace, both private<sup>93</sup> and public;<sup>94</sup> and by preparation for the rest that remaineth for the  
3 people of God.<sup>95</sup>

#### 4 **Concerning Civil Government and Religious Liberty**

5 We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and  
6 good order of human society;<sup>96</sup> and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously  
7 honored and obeyed;<sup>97</sup> except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus  
8 Christ,<sup>98</sup> Who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the Kings of the  
9 earth;<sup>99</sup> and that church and state should be separated, the state owing the church  
10 protection and full freedom;<sup>100</sup> no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be  
11 preferred above any other by the state,<sup>101</sup> the state should not impose taxes for the support  
12 of any form of religion; a free church in a free state is the Christian ideal.<sup>102</sup>

#### 13 **Concerning the State of the Righteous and the Wicked**

14 We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous  
15 and the wicked;<sup>103</sup> that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord  
16 Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in His sight;<sup>104</sup> while all  
17 such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the  
18 curse;<sup>105</sup> and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.<sup>106</sup>

#### 19 **Concerning the Resurrection**

20 We believe the Scriptures clearly teach that Jesus rose from the dead bodily, His  
21 grave was emptied of its contents;<sup>107</sup> that He appeared to the disciples after His  
22 resurrection in many convincing manifestations;<sup>108</sup> that He now exists in His glorified

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<sup>92</sup> Acts 20:7. (Mark 16:9; John 20:19).

<sup>93</sup> Psalm 118:15.

<sup>94</sup> Hebrews 10:24,25.

<sup>95</sup> Hebrews 4:3-11.

<sup>96</sup> Romans 13:1-7. (Deuteronomy 16:18; 2 Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21-2; Jeremiah 30:21).

<sup>97</sup> Matthew 22:21. (Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13; 1 Timothy 2:1-3).

<sup>98</sup> Acts 5:29. (Daniel 3:15-18; 6:7-10; Acts 4:18-20).

<sup>99</sup> Matthew 23:10. (Psalm 72:11; Psalm 2; Romans 14:9-13).

<sup>100</sup> 1 Timothy 2:1,2. (2 Peter 1:18-21).

<sup>101</sup> James 4:12.

<sup>102</sup> 1 Corinthians 3:5. (Matthew 22:21; Mark 12:17).

<sup>103</sup> Malachi 3:18. (Proverbs 12:26; Isaiah 5:20; Genesis 18:23; Acts 10:34,35; Romans 6:16).

<sup>104</sup> Romans 1:17. (1 John 3:7; Romans 6:18,22; 1 Corinthians 11:32; Proverbs 11:31; 1 Peter 4:17,18).

<sup>105</sup> 1 John 5:19. (John 3:36; Isaiah 57:21; Psalm 10:4; Isaiah 55:6,7).

<sup>106</sup> Proverbs 14:32. (John 8:21-24; Luke 12:4,5; 9:23-26; John 12:25,26; Ecclesiastes 3:17; Matthew 7:13,14).

<sup>107</sup> Matthew 28:1-8. (1 Corinthians 15:1-58; 2 Corinthians 5:1-8).

<sup>108</sup> Matthew 28:6. (John 20:9,20; Acts 1:3; 10:39-41).

1 body at God's right hand;<sup>109</sup> and that there will be a resurrection of the righteous and the  
2 resurrection of the wicked, separated in time;<sup>110</sup> that the bodies of he righteous will  
3 conform to the glorious spiritual body of the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>111</sup>

#### 4 **Concerning the Return of the Lord**

5 We believe that the end of the age is approaching;<sup>112</sup> that the return of the Lord  
6 Jesus Christ for His own is pre-tribulational and premillennial; "For the Lord Himself  
7 shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the  
8 trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain  
9 shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so  
10 shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."<sup>113</sup>  
11 "Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall  
12 hear His voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of  
13 life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."<sup>114</sup> "But the rest of  
14 the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first  
15 resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the  
16 second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall  
17 reign with Him a thousand years. And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall  
18 be loosed out of his prison ..."<sup>115</sup> that a solemn separation will then take place;<sup>116</sup> that the  
19 wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy;<sup>117</sup> and  
20 that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven and hell, on principles  
21 of righteousness.<sup>118</sup>

#### 22 **Concerning Christian Education**

23 We believe that Christianity is the religion of enlightenment and intelligence; that  
24 in Jesus Christ are hidden all he treasures of wisdom and knowledge;<sup>119</sup> and that all sound  
25 learning is therefore a part of our Christian heritage;<sup>120</sup> that the new birth opens all human  
26 faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge; that an adequate system of schools is  
27 necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's church; and that the cause of

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<sup>109</sup> 1 Peter 3:22; Hebrews 4:14.

<sup>110</sup> John 5:28,29; Acts 24:15.

<sup>111</sup> Philippians 3:21.

<sup>112</sup> 1 Peter 4:7. (1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Hebrews 1:10,12; Matthew 25:31; 28:20; 13:39-43; 1 John 2:17; 2 Peter 3:3-13; Acts 1:11).

<sup>113</sup> 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.

<sup>114</sup> John 5:28,29.

<sup>115</sup> Revelation 20:5-7.

<sup>116</sup> Matthew 13:49. (Matthew 13:37-43; 24:30,31; 25:31-33).

<sup>117</sup> Matthew 25:31-46. (1 Corinthians 6:9,10; Mark 9:43-48; 2 Peter 2:9; Jude 7; Philippians 3:19; Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:10,11; John 4:36; 2 Corinthians 4:18).

<sup>118</sup> Romans 3:5,6. (Hebrews 6:1,2; 1 Corinthians 4:5; Acts 17:31; Romans 2:2-16; Revelation 20:11,12; 1 John 2:28; 4:17).

<sup>119</sup> Matthew 28:20; Colossians 2:3.

<sup>120</sup> Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,13,14; 6:1,7-10; Psalm 7:8; Proverbs 8:1-7; 4:1-10; Nehemiah 8:1-4.

1 education among New Testament churches is coordinate with the causes of evangelism,  
2 missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support  
3 of the churches.<sup>121</sup>

#### 4 **Concerning Social Service**

5 We believe that every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of  
6 Christ regnant in his own life and in human society;<sup>122</sup> to oppose in the spirit of Christ  
7 every form of greed, selfishness, and vice; to provide for he orphaned, the aged, the  
8 helpless, and the sick; to support everything that is good and righteous in industry,  
9 government and society as a whole for the benefit of men so that all men may life  
10 spiritually and righteously before God;<sup>123</sup> and that all means and methods used in social  
11 service for the amelioration of society and the establishment of righteousness among men  
12 must finally depend on the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in  
13 Christ Jesus.<sup>124</sup>

#### 14 **Concerning Human Sexuality**

15 We believe that human sexuality is a gift from God to be enjoyed for the  
16 advancement and propagation of human life, not its degradation.<sup>125</sup> All powers, capacities  
17 and gifts of the human person are given by God and must be exercised with consideration  
18 and respect due to self, others, and God.<sup>126</sup> Any and all acts of sexual exploitation,  
19 harassment and abuse constitute sin against God,<sup>127</sup> against the church body, against the  
20 victim/s, and against the integrity of the offender.

21 We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one  
22 woman.<sup>128</sup> Consequently, we believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual  
23 activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.<sup>129</sup> We believe  
24 that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication,  
25 adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that  
26 God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or  
27 appearance.<sup>130</sup>

28 We believe that the church, as ordained by Christ, is intended to be a Spirit-  
29 guided arena for confronting and confessing human sinfulness; for healing all human

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<sup>121</sup> Matthew 28:20.

<sup>122</sup> Luke 10:25-27; Exodus 22:10,14.

<sup>123</sup> Leviticus 6:2; Deuteronomy 20:10; 15:2; 27:17; Psalm 101:5.

<sup>124</sup> Hebrews 2:15; Zechariah 8:16; Exodus 20:16; James 2:8; Romans 12:14; Colossians 3:12-17.

<sup>125</sup> Genesis 1:28.

<sup>126</sup> Galatians 2:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:8.

<sup>127</sup> Psalm 51:4.

<sup>128</sup> Genesis 1:27; 2:24; Romans 7:2; Ephesians 5:22,23.

<sup>129</sup> 1 Corinthians 7:8,9.

<sup>130</sup> Genesis 2:24; 19:5,13; 26:8,9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4.

1 brokenness, including the brokenness caused by sexual violations and experienced by  
2 victims, by offenders, and by the larger witnessing community.<sup>131</sup>

### 3 **Article III: Government and Doctrine**

4 The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it.  
5 It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it reserves the right to  
6 affiliate with any other Christian organization which takes a like position with regard to  
7 faith and practice.

8 It accepts the Scriptures as its sole authority for faith and practice.

### 9 **Article IV: Incorporation**

10 The title of the property of this church shall be vested in a corporation consisting  
11 of the members of First Baptist Church of New Ulm, acting through our legal trustees  
12 chosen from among the Deacons (as prescribed in the By Laws) functioning under the  
13 Certificate of Incorporation and the laws of the State of Minnesota.

#### 14 **Section 1: Legal Trustees**

15 At least three shall be chose from among the deacons by vote of the church to  
16 serve as legal trustees. The deacons shall act as a nominating committee. Terms of office  
17 shall be three years with terms expiring in successive years.

### 18 **Article V: Covenant**

19 Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus  
20 Christ as our Savior, and upon the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the  
21 Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in t presence of  
22 God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant with  
23 one another as one body in Christ.

24 We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to study the Bible; to walk  
25 together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of the Church in knowledge,  
26 wisdom, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its  
27 worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly as  
28 God has prospered us to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief  
29 of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

30 We also engage to maintain family and individual devotions; to rain our children  
31 in the fear and admonition of he Lord; to Seek the salvation of our kindred and  
32 acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in  
33 our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and

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<sup>131</sup> Galatians 6:1.

1 excessive anger; to abstain from everything that will bring disrepute to the cause of  
2 Christ; and to earnestly seek to live to the honor and glory of Him who loved us and gave  
3 Himself for us.

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

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

### 11 **Article VI: Objectives**

12 Following the example of the New Testament local church we declare our  
13 adherence to biblical doctrine, and we state as objectives:

14 To promote the worship of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in regular  
15 services as was practiced by New Testament churches.

16 To provide a total education program consisting of Sunday School, Christian Day  
17 School, Training Hour, Awana Clubs, Christian Camps, Bible Institute, and such other  
18 ministries as the church may deem necessary.

19 To obey the great commission both in personal evangelism and the support of  
20 home and foreign missions.

21 To provide the opportunity for Christian fellowship.

22 To defend the faith against all forms of apostasy and liberalism.

### 23 **Article VII: Membership**

24 The membership of this church shall consist of persons who have made a  
25 profession of their faith in Christ as Savior and Lord, who desire to be numbered among  
26 His disciples, who have experienced New Testament baptism by immersion, who are in  
27 sympathy with the faith and practices of this church, and have given evidence of their full  
28 endorsement of the beliefs to which this church subscribes. Admission and termination of  
29 membership shall be prescribed in the By-Laws.

#### 30 **Section 1: Admission**

31 **Clause A:** This church shall welcome into its membership any person who has  
32 accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and who has followed his Lord in baptism by  
33 immersion and gives assurance of his desire to abide according to this constitution and  
34 by-laws.

1           **Clause B:** Every candidate for admission to this church shall relate his Christian  
2 experience to the Pastor and deacons.

3           **Clause C:** Every candidate desiring transfer of membership to this church by  
4 letter, shall appear before the Pastor and deacons and relate his Christian experience.

5           **Clause D:** The Pastor, and deacons, having satisfied themselves that the candidate  
6 for admission is eligible to church membership, shall recommend the same to the church.  
7 Candidates shall be given an opportunity to give their testimony before the congregation  
8 and shall be accepted upon a majority vote of the members present at a regular church or  
9 business meeting.

10           **Clause E:** Excluded persons may be reinstated to membership upon  
11 recommendation of the Pastor and deacons after such persons have given satisfactory  
12 explanation or acceptable evidence of honest repentance and have made confession of  
13 wrongdoing, and upon a majority vote of the members present at a regular church or  
14 business meeting.

## 15           **Section 2: Duties of Members**

16           The duties of members are set forth in general terms in the church covenant in  
17 Article V.

## 18           **Section 3: Suspension of Members**

19           **Clause A:** If any member shall, by his own will, neglect the privileges and duties  
20 of church membership for a period of six months, he shall be automatically on the  
21 inactive list. At the end of each six month period, the Pastor and deacons shall review the  
22 list. At this time the Pastor and deacons shall write a letter of notification to those  
23 concerned. AT the end of a six month period those who have not replied or reacted  
24 favorably shall be placed on a dismissal list which shall be brought to the attention of the  
25 church for action.

26           **Clause B:** Any person whose name is on the inactive list shall not be privileged to  
27 speak or vote at any business meeting of the church, and he shall not be eligible for a  
28 letter of dismissal to any other church.

29           **Clause C:** Where charges are made against a member, the accused shall be  
30 notified personally, or by letter, of the nature of the charges and shall be summoned to  
31 appear before the Discipline Committee to make answer to the charges. At least five days  
32 notice of such meeting shall be given to the party involved. If the accused does not  
33 appear in response to the summons, unless satisfactory reason is given for non-  
34 appearance, the Discipline Committee shall recommend to the church the exclusion of the  
35 member. If the accused appears before the Discipline Committee, there shall be a full and  
36 fair hearing of the case and the Discipline Committee is empowered to acquit the  
37 accused, if a majority of the Discipline Committee members present vote that the accused  
38 is innocent of the charges. If, on the other hand, a majority of the committee members  
39 present vote that the accused is guilty of the charges preferred, they shall recommend to

1 the church that the accused be excluded from the membership of the church, or such other  
2 discipline as the case may warrant. The church must either approve the recommendation  
3 of the Discipline Committee or hear the case itself. The accused must be notified in  
4 writing of the final decision of the church.

5 **Section 5: Dismissal of Members**

6 **Clause A:** A letter of dismissal may be granted by a majority vote to any member  
7 in good and regular standing who wishes to unite with a church of like faith and practice.

8 **Clause B:** Letters of dismissal will not be granted except to specifically named  
9 churches upon their written request.

10 **Article VIII: Officers**

11 The elected officers of this church shall be those chosen to fill the Scriptural  
12 offices or Pastor/Pastors, Deacons, and Deaconesses. Other positions of service shall be  
13 filled by appointment upon ratification by the church (Note Article VIII, Section 5). The  
14 terms of office, and the duties and qualifications of the officers shall be prescribed in the  
15 By-Laws.

16 **Section 1: Personnel**

17 **Clause A:** Those elected or appointed to office shall first be proven to be  
18 scripturally qualified and shall be subject to questioning by the church regarding their  
19 Christian beliefs and practice.

20 **Clause B:** All nominees of office and officers of this church shall be active  
21 members of this church and shall be required to subscribe yearly, either orally or in  
22 writing, at the annual business meeting to the Articles of Faith and the Constitution of his  
23 church.

24 **Section 2: Pastor**

25 **Clause A:** A pulpit committee shall consist of the deacons. They shall endeavor  
26 to secure a candidate who meets the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus  
27 1:5-9. After careful examination of the candidate, this committee shall make its  
28 recommendation to the church. Only one candidate may be voted on at any one business  
29 meeting. During the time that the church is without a pastor, the pulpit committee shall be  
30 responsible for pulpit supply.

31 **Clause B:** The pastor shall be elected at a special or regular meeting of the  
32 church, public notice of such action having been given from the pulpit at least two  
33 Sundays immediately preceding the date of said meeting, and a three-fourths majority  
34 vote of the ballots cast shall be necessary for his election. He shall be required to  
35 subscribe to the Constitution and By-Laws upon his election and yearly thereafter with  
36 the other officers.

1           **Clause C:** The pastor, his wife and family shall follow the same procedure for  
2 membership as all other members (See Article VIII).

3           **Clause D:** As an Undershepherd, the senior pastor is therefore responsible to  
4 shepherd the flock. This includes faithful visitation (Acts 20:20) as well as diligent prayer  
5 and study of the Word in order to properly “feed the flock of God” (Acts 20:28-31). As a  
6 Bishop (overseer) he is responsible to superintend all the work of the church (1 Peter 5:2;  
7 Hebrews 13:17). As an Elder he is responsible to lead the services of the church and to  
8 officiate in the business meetings of the church (Acts 14:23; 15:1-6). As a teacher he is  
9 responsible to instruct the church (1 Timothy 3; Matthew 28:20; 2 Timothy 2:15). As a  
10 preacher he is responsible to uncompromisingly “preach the Word” (1 Timothy 2:7; 2  
11 Timothy 4:2). Further duties of the pastor shall be to administer the ordinances and  
12 promote the spiritual welfare of the church. He shall make a report of the year’s work at  
13 the annual business meeting of the church. He shall be an ex-officio member of all  
14 committees. This means he is automatically a member of all committees with the  
15 privilege of voting if he desires.

16           **Clause E:** The pastor shall continue in office until he resigns or his resignation is  
17 requested at a special meeting called for that purpose. In the event of his resignation, the  
18 Pastor shall give a minimum of thirty days notice before termination of his service. If his  
19 resignation is requested, it shall be handled in the following manner: The question of  
20 severing the pastoral relation may be considered at any regular or special business  
21 meeting by presentation to the deacons of a written request for such action, signed by  
22 fifty per cent (50%) of the voting members in good standing, provided public notice of  
23 such meeting for such action shall have been given on two successive Sundays, before  
24 such meeting is held. A three-fourths majority vote is required to dismiss the pastor.  
25 Charges for dismissal must be of a moral or doctrinal nature. In case it is voted to request  
26 his resignation, his membership in the church is automatically terminated with  
27 appropriate severance pay.

### 28           **Section 3: Deacons**

29           **Clause A:** The church shall elect the number of deacons it deems necessary to  
30 assist in the affairs of the church. The function of the office of deacon is described in  
31 Acts 6:1-3, with qualification set forth in Acts 6:3 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Their terms of  
32 office shall be three years. Deacons may be re-elected as often as the church determines.  
33 While they shall elect a chairman annually, it will be the responsibility of the pastor to  
34 exercise leadership in the deacon’s meetings.

35           Deacons shall meet Scriptural qualifications. This means demonstrating a Spirit-  
36 filled life as set forth in Acts 6:3; faithful participation in the total church ministry, such  
37 as attending as many services as possible, active involvement in visitation and soul-  
38 winning, giving at least a tithe to the local church ministry, willing to follow the  
39 Scripturally prescribed leadership of the pastor. He must also have proven his Scriptural  
40 qualifications before being elected (1 Timothy 3:10).

1           **Clause B:** In keeping with the Scriptural meaning of the term, “deacon”, and with  
2 the Scriptural function of the office it is understood that the office of deacon in an office  
3 of service. It shall be the responsibility of the deacons to assist in every area of the church  
4 ministry. This includes the observance of the ordinances, regular services, visitation, and  
5 all other phases of ministry the church has approved. It shall be the responsibility of the  
6 deacons, in cooperation with the pastor, to care for the physical properties of the church  
7 including counting, depositing and handling of all monies. The deacons shall serve as the  
8 Budget committee with the responsibility of preparing a budget prior to the annual  
9 meeting to be voted on at the annual meeting. Further, the deacons shall assist the pastor  
10 in examining and recommending new members to the church. They shall act as the  
11 nominating committee in recommending individuals to fill vacancies at the January  
12 meeting. The church shall have the opportunity to submit nomination ballots at least one  
13 month prior to the annual election (Acts 6:3).

14           In case of vacancies during the fiscal year, the pastor and the deacons shall  
15 appoint a qualified member to serve the balance of the fiscal year, at which time the  
16 church will elect a qualified member to full the vacant office. However, such  
17 appointments shall be approved by the church. Deacons shall submit a report at the  
18 annual business meeting through their chairman.

#### 19           **Section 4: Deaconesses**

20           **Clause A:** The deaconesses may be the deacon’s wives or other spiritually mature  
21 women as t church so determines. Their terms of office shall be three years with terms  
22 expiring in successive years. The number of deaconesses shall be in proportion to the  
23 needs of the church as the church may determine. Any deaconess may be re-elected.  
24 Procedure for nomination and election will be the same as that of deacons. They  
25 chairman shall be elected annually.

26           **Clause B:** A Biblical basis for the office of deaconesses is found in Romans 16:1.  
27 Qualifications for the office of deaconess shall be based upon Biblical principles of  
28 spiritual maturity and faithfulness (Titus 2:3-5). Only women who are faithful to the  
29 services of the church, active in visitation and soul-winning, as well as demonstrating a  
30 submissive spirit at home and elsewhere shall be considered for the office of deaconess.

31           **Clause C:** It shall be the duty of the Deaconesses to assist the Pastor in visiting  
32 the sick and those in distress, to give spiritual help whenever possible, to seek out and  
33 call upon new families in the church area, to prepare the elements of communion, to  
34 assist in the ordinance of baptism. It is also understood that all women’s activities within  
35 the church shall be directed through the deaconesses in cooperation with the pastor. The  
36 deaconesses shall submit a written report at the annual meeting through their chairman.

#### 37           **Section 5: Other Positions of Service**

38           Other responsibilities or positions of service within the church, such as Clerk,  
39 Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Sunday School Superintendent, Training Union Director,

1 head Usher, Music Director, and Church Hostess shall be filled by appointment from the  
2 Pastor and deacons and approved by the church. They shall be required to subscribe to  
3 the Constitution and By-Laws.

4 **Section 6: Additional Pastoral Staff**

5 Positions such as part-time Associate Pastor, part-time Assistant Pastor, Youth  
6 Pastor, Director of Education, Day School Principle, Supervisors, shall be appointed by  
7 the pastor after consultation with the deacons and approval of the church. The individuals  
8 may or may not receive remuneration from the church. Salaries shall be determined by  
9 the Pastor and deacons with consideration given to the qualification and financial needs  
10 of the individual. However, any full time Associate Pastor or Assistant Pastor shall be  
11 called by a three-fourths majority vote of the church and his salary shall be approved by  
12 the church. All other personnel, such as monitor, secretary, building superintendent, or  
13 custodian shall be appointed by the Pastor after consultation with the deacons.

14 **Article IX: Business Meetings**

15 Annual, quarterly and special business meetings shall be held as prescribed in the  
16 by-laws.

17 **Section 1: Business Meetings**

18 **Clause A:** The fiscal year shall be January 1<sup>st</sup> though December 31<sup>st</sup>.

19 **Clause B:** Quarterly business meetings shall be held in January, April, July, and  
20 October. At these meetings the clerk shall read the minutes of the previous meeting, the  
21 treasurer shall give a report of the cash received and disbursed since the previous  
22 meeting, and report the total cash on hand. Chairmen of any existing church committees  
23 shall give their reports, and then old and new business shall be considered. At the January  
24 meeting (Annual Meeting) the church's yearly financial report will be rendered and  
25 written reports of officers, organizations, and departments shall be given. The annual  
26 budget will be presented for adoption. Election of officers will take place at the January  
27 meeting. Two weeks notice of each Quarterly Meeting shall be given from the pulpit.

28 **Clause C:** A special business meeting may be called without extended previous  
29 notice by the Pastor, or deacons in the absence of the Pastor.

30 **Clause D:** Thirty per cent of resident voting members constitute a quorum.

31 **Clause E:** The manual for parliamentary procedure for the conduct of business  
32 meetings of this church shall be *Robert's Rules of Order*. In cases of conflict, this  
33 constitution shall take precedence.

34 **Clause F:** All members in good standing, having attained the age of eighteen  
35 years, are qualified to vote in al business meetings.

1           **Clause G:** In the absence of the Pastor, the chairman of the deacons shall act as  
2 moderator.

3   **Article X: Elections**

4           The annual and special elections of officers shall be held as provided in Article  
5 VIII, Section 3, Clause B.

6   **Article XI: Ordinances**

7           **Section 1: Ordinances**

8           The ordinances shall be Baptist and the Lord's Supper.

9           **Section 2: Baptism**

10          Baptism shall be by immersion.

11   **Article XII: Amendments**

12          The Constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the church  
13 by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided a quorum exists,  
14 and provided the amendment shall have been made from the pulpit two successive  
15 Sunday mornings immediately preceding the meeting.

16   **Article XIII: Financial Audits**

17          The Pastor and deacons shall appoint at least two adults to serve as the auditing  
18 committee at the annual meeting of the church. They shall serve one year. They shall  
19 make a thorough examination of all church accounts at least once a year. Reconcile the  
20 cash on hand as set forth in the Treasurer's Report, examine the checkbook balances, and  
21 make a report at the annual meeting of the financial condition of the church at the close  
22 of the fiscal year.

23   **Article XIV: Dissolution**

24          In the event of the disbanding of this church, the property, both real and personal,  
25 as well as all other assets, shall become the property of those designated by the church.  
26 Every effort shall be made to place these properties into the hands of those of like faith  
27 and practice.

28   **Article XV: Non-Political Activities**

29          No substantial part of the activities of this organization shall be to carry on  
30 propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and this organization shall

1 not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements)  
2 and campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

3

4

5 The constitution was adopted by unanimous vote at a duly called business  
6 meeting by:

7

8 First Baptist Church

9 315 So. Payne St.

10 New Ulm, MN 56073

11 Date: May 5, 1982

12 This constitution was last amended by unanimous vote at a duly called business  
13 meeting by First Baptist Church, August 7, 2005.