

10/20/2005

ELLCOTT BAPTIST CHURCH
DOCTRINAL STATEMENT
AND
CONSTITUTION

1Ti 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

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ELLCOTT BAPTIST CHURCH

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ARTICLES OF FAITH

I. THE HOLY BIBLE

We believe:

- That the Holy Bible is a supernatural Book
- That it is the very Word of God; that it is the full, the final, and the complete revelation of God's will to man
- That it has God, the Holy Spirit, for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any admixture of error for its matter
- That it was written by holy men of old under the immediate and direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit; that it is verbally inspired and a perfect treasure of holy instruction
- That it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and is, therefore, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried

We believe the King James Translation of 1611 is the preserved Word of God and is the Bible for the English-speaking people and it shall be the only textbook used in the church.

(II Sam. 23:2; Psa. 1:2; Psa. 12:6,7; Psa. 19:7-11; Psa. 119:89, 105, 130, 160; Prov. 30:5-6; Isa. 8:20; Zeph. 1:1; Matt. 5:18; Luke 24:25-27; John 10:35; John 3:32-34; John 12:48; John 17:17; Acts 1:16; Acts 3:21; Rom. 15:4; II Tim. 3:15-17; Heb. 1:1-3; II Pet. 1:19-21; II Pet 3:15-16; Jude 3; Rev. 22:18-19)

II. THE TRUE GOD

We believe:

- That there is one, and only one, true and living God
- That He is absolute in nature, perfect in attributes, holy in character, the creator and supreme ruler of heaven and earth
- That He is infinite in wisdom, marvelous in power, and amazing in love
- That He is holy, righteous, true, and worthy of all confidence and love
- That He unites in Himself the infinite, the eternal, and the Almighty Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
- That the three persons of the Godhead subsist in the same divine nature, essence and being
- That they are coexistent and coequal in every divine attribute, each one executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

(Gen. 1:1; Deut. 4:39; Mark 12:29; Gen. 17:1; Matt. 5:48; Isa. 6:3; I Chron. 29:11-12; Psa. 103:19; Rom. 11:33-34; Psa. 119:9; Matt. 28:19; I Pet. 1:2-3; I John 5:7; Ex. 3:14; Gen. 1:26; and Titus 3:3-7)

III. THE DIVINE TRINITY

A. GOD THE FATHER

We believe:

- That God the Father is the first person (masculine gender) set forth in the divine Trinity
- That He is almighty, merciful, and just; that He is holy, righteous, and true
- That He is eternally existent, glorious in nature, possessing the attributes of omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence
- That He, in harmony with His divine offices, loves, provides, and protects.

He is thus exercising providential watch-care over the sons of men and especially a fatherly care over the children of God.

(Matt. 28:19; Gen. 17:1; Matt. 19:26; Psa. 19:9; Isa 6:3; Psa. 100:5; Prov. 15:3; Psa. 139:1-6, 13-14; Psa. 103:13; Matt. 6:25-30; Matt. 10:29-31; Matt. 7:11)

B. GOD THE SON

We believe:

- That God the Son, Jesus Christ, is pre-existent with the Father is true God and true man, God in the flesh
- That He is holy, righteous, and glorious in nature, possessing the attributes of omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence
- That God the Father, through the Holy Spirit, is His divine Father, and Mary was His human, virgin mother
- That He, in harmony with His divine office, seeks, saves, and mediates, thus exercising the mediatorial office of redemption

(Matt. 28:19; John 1:1-3, 14; Isa. 9:6; Matt. 28:18; Titus 3:5-6; John 8:15-16; II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 13:8; Phil. 2:6; John 2:24; Matt. 28:20; Luke 1:35, 2:7-14; I Tim. 2:5-6; Luke 19:10; John 3:16)

C. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe:

- That God the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature
- That He was active in the creation
- That He convicts of sin, righteousness, and of judgment
- That He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony
- That He is the agent in the New Birth
- That He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer
- That He indwells the believer at the moment of salvation

We believe that the Word of God is the only authority and that the Holy Spirit acts in complete harmony with the Word of God in regard to spiritual gifts in ministries to men.

(John 14:16-17, 26; John 15:26; John 16:7-13; Heb. 9:14; I Pet. 4:14; Isa. 40:12-15; I Cor. 2:10-12; Psa. 139:12; II Thess. 2:6-7; John 3:6,8; Eph. 1:13-14; Acts 1:8; I Pet. 1:2; Isa. 61:1)

IV. THE CREATION

We believe:

- That the Genesis record of creation is literal, and not allegorical or figurative
- That God personally created the heaven and the earth
- That He miraculously brought forth all original matter out of nothing
- That He fashioned all organic forms as specific creations subject to limited changes within the species
- That He definitely ordained each species to bring forth after its kind
- That He formed man out of the dust of the ground, not by any process of evolution but by instant action, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became immediately a living soul
- That He created man in the image and likeness of God
- That His every creative act was complete and perfect in itself
- That not one of His creations was conditioned upon antecedent changes naturally wrought during interminable periods of time

(Gen. 1:1; John 1:1-3, 14; Heb. 11:3; Gen. 1:21, 24-27; Gen 2:7; and Col. 1:16)

V. THE FALL OF MAN

We believe:

- That man was created innocent, in the image of God, but by voluntary transgression fell in Adam and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God
- That therefore all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are totally unable to save themselves from their lost condition

(Gen. 1:27; Rom. 3:10-19; Ezekiel 18:19,20; Gen. 2:16, 17; Isa. 53:6; Romans 1:20, 28,32; Gen 3:1-24; Psa. 51:5; Gal. 3:22; Rom. 5:12; Eph 2: 1,3; Eph. 2:8,9; Rom. 5:19; Rom. 1:18; Titus 3:5)

VI. OUR SALVATION

We believe:

- That salvation is the gift of God
- That man is saved purely by the grace of God because of his faith in Jesus Christ as the sacrifice acceptable to God
- Saving faith results when one, being convicted and drawn by the Holy Spirit, repents of his sin and exercises his will to receive Jesus Christ as his personal Savior

(Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:5, 6; II Cor. 5:21; John 3:16; Acts 3:19; Acts 17:30)

A. THE BLOOD ATONEMENT

We believe:

- That the lost sinner is guilty and already under just condemnation
- That he is by nature alienated from God and, because of sin, condemned to die
- That atonement for sin was effected through the mediatorial office of the Son of God, who, by divine appointment, satisfied the penalty in the sinner's stead by the shedding of His blood on the cross of Calvary

(Isa. 53:6; Rom. 6:7; Rom. 8:23; I Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 2:17; II Cor. 5:21; Matt. 5:17-18; I Pet. 2:24; Heb. 10:10-12; I Pet. 3:18; Rev. 1:5; Isa. 55:7; John 14:27; Matt. 11:28; I John 1:7; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 9:22)

B. REPENTANCE AND FAITH

We believe:

- That repentance and faith are solemn and inseparable prerequisites of salvation
- That they are inseparable graces wrought in the heart by the quickening of the Holy Spirit
- That the sinner, being convicted of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment to come by the personal ministry of the Holy Spirit, and by Him having his understanding enlightened so that he can see the way of salvation through Christ, does actually repent, turning to God, surrendering himself wholeheartedly to the Lord Jesus, immediately receiving Him as personal and all-sufficient Savior and openly confessing Him before all men.

(Acts 20:21-22; Mark 1:15; Acts 11:18; Eph. 2:8; John 6:44; John 16:8-11; Matt. 3:1-2,8; Acts 3:19; Luke 13:3; Luke 18:9-14; Acts 9:6; Rom. 10:10)

C. REGENERATION

We believe:

- That regeneration is a re-creative act of God far beyond human comprehension, wrought in the believer's heart
- That it is an instantaneous act, and that the proper evidence of regeneration appears by the obedient willing faith of the believer

(John 3:3-5, 7; II Cor 5:17; John 3:8, 16; John 1:12-13; Isa. 1:18; Titus 3:5-7; Eph. 2:1, 5; Rom. 6:23; John 16:8-11; Matt. 7:16-18; James 2:17-20)

D. JUSTIFICATION

We believe:

- That justification is a legal and divine decree, declaring the believing sinner just
- That it is thus a state of being free from condemnation; that it secures, through faith, freedom from legal bondage exemption from the wrath of God, and possession of peace which passes all understanding

(Rom. 3:24-25, 28; Rom. 8:1, 33; John 5:24; Rom. 4:3-8; Rom. 6:6; Rom. 5:1, 9; Phil. 4:7; Rom. 8:31-33; Gen. 15:6; Heb. 2:4)

VII. THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

We believe:

- That salvation by grace is everlasting
- That the saved shall not be brought into judgment of the wrath of God but are kept by the power of God
- That no one can lay anything to the charge of God's elect
- That true believers cannot apostatize and will be kept until the coming of Christ

(John 3:16; I Thess. 5:9; Jude 24; Rom. 8:33,34; Eph. 1:13, 4:30; John 10:28, 29)

VIII. THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

We believe:

- That the New Testament Church is the sole institution to accomplish God's purpose in this age of grace is the product of the death, burial and resurrection of His Son, Christ the Lord; that Christ is the first, the founder, and the fullness
- That He is pre-eminent, the very head; that there is no concept of the church universal
- But that it is both physical and spiritual, yet one in substance; that the physical existence on earth is manifested in local, visible, indigenous and autonomous assemblies of born-again, baptized believers associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel
- That there are two scriptural offices (pastor and deacons); that it exercises two orders – baptism and the Lord's Supper
- That the church received and is responsible for the great commission, being in existence at the time it was given
- That we, as the Church, are to disciple all nations, identifying our converts through believer's baptism and to teach all things pertaining to the believer's walk in life

(Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:20; Col. 1:18; Heb. 9:16; Rom. 4:25; Rev. 1:20-3:22; Acts 2:41; Phil. 1:5; Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Matt. 26:26)

A. ORDINANCES

1. BAPTISM

We believe

- That Christian baptism is commanded by our Lord
- It is the immersion in water of a believer to show forth as a solemn and beautiful testimony of faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, symbolizing our death to sin and resurrection to a new life
- That it is a prerequisite to the privileges of New Testament church membership
- That the authority was given solely to the New Testament Church.

(Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:36; Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:3-5; Acts 10:47)

2. THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe

- That the Lord's Supper is a memorial observance
- It is administered by the authority and instruction of the local church in which the participants, by the sacred use of unleavened bread and the pure fruit of the vine, are to commemorate together the undying love of Christ, preceded always by a solemn self-examination
- That it symbolizes the broken body and the shed blood of the Son of God

We believe that these ordinances are not sacraments, but are sacred symbols, pointing to the world's only Savior, and bidding the sons of men to look unto an everlasting fellowship with the King of kings and Lord of lords when he shall return to take over the reins of all government.

(Matt. 26:26-29; I Cor. 11:23-26)

B. MISSIONS

We believe:

- In both “home” and “foreign” missions
- That missions is biblically the sole responsibility of the local church; that the mission endeavors are to be supported prayerfully and financially by the offerings of the members
- We believe that all mission works and missionaries are to be in total agreement with our Articles of Faith and sent out by a local church of like faith and order
- That any mission work sponsored by missionaries sent out by this local church are to be under the authority of and accountable to this church as being a member on staff

(Matt. 16:8; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15; Rom. 10:13-17; Eph. 6:19; I Cor. 16:1-3)

C. THE GRACE OF GIVING

We believe:

- That each member is encouraged to enter into the blessings of giving and by returning to the Lord the tithe and love offerings
- That each member should bring their tithes and freewill offerings into the storehouse (common treasury of the church) upon the first day of the week

(Mal. 3:8-10; I Cor. 16:1,2; II Cor. 9:6-7; Matt. 6:3-4, 19-21)

IX. THE RESURRECTION

We believe:

- In the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the grave
- That it sets a precedent for all mankind
- That the first resurrection involves the righteous dead into eternal life with Christ, followed by the resurrection of the unrighteous to eternal damnation

(I Cor. 15:1-5; Rev. 20:6,11-15; John 5:28,29; I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:51-53)

X. THE RETURN OF CHRIST

We believe:

- In the bodily, imminent, personal, pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ
- That He will first come to catch up His Church
- That He will later return to establish His earthly kingdom

(I Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:4-6)

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to give it a sacred pre-eminence over all institutions of human origin; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger, to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

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

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

(Matt. 28:18-20)

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF ELLICOTT BAPTIST CHURCH

PREAMBLE

This Church is a Fundamental Baptist Church, independent, soul-winning, and pre-millennial. The Word of God (KJV) is our sole rule of faith and practice. Since the Lord admonished believers to do all things decently and in order (I Cor. 14:40) and, since it is necessary that every organized body should have certain rules and regulations according to which its affairs are conducted, we, the members of Ellicott Baptist Church, in orderly manner, do hereby establish the following principles by which we mutually agree to be governed in the affairs of our church. This constitution and by-laws shall supersede any and all previously published documents.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this Church, as incorporated under the laws of the state of Colorado shall be ELLICOTT BAPTIST CHURCH.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this Church as an independent, fundamental, autonomous, sovereign, local Baptist Church shall be:

- To carry out the great commission of Christ, as given in Matthew 28:19-20 by the preaching and teaching of the Word of God; the administration of the ordinances of the New Testament Church; the spiritual edification (and fellowship) of its members; the daily teaching and training of disciples; the evangelization of the lost in its local and larger area; and the spreading of the gospel throughout the world. (Eph. 4:12-16)
- To observe the ordinances of the New Testament, baptism and the Lord's Supper. (Acts 2:41-47; Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:3-6; Matthew 26:26-30; I Corinthians 11:23-33)
- To edify the saints of God through preaching and teaching of the Word of God. (Matt. 28:18-20)

ARTICLE III: DEFINITION AND COVENANTS

SECTION I: DEFINITION

This is an independent, fundamental, autonomous, local Baptist Church.

- A. Independent: The Church is never to join or affiliate with other churches or organizations, except on the basis of fellowship. Therefore, no other church organization can have any control over this church.
- B. Fundamental: This Church stands without apology for the fundamentals of the faith that are clearly stated in the Word of God. These fundamentals have been stated in our Articles of Faith.
- C. Autonomous: All authority rests in the local church. No one person, group, or committee has any power or authority other than the authority given to them by the church.
- D. Baptist: Not a denomination, but a local church with Baptist distinctives. The roots of these Baptist distinctives go back to apostolic times. These distinctives include the following:
 - The Bible is the final authority for all Christian faith and practice. This distinctive is by far the most important statement in this Constitution. The Church must be directed by the Word of God in every area. We believe that God has preserved His Word and that the King James Bible (1611) is God's Word for the English-speaking people today.
 - The autonomy and independence of the local church.
 - Salvation by grace and security by grace.
 - Baptism by immersion, after salvation, a requirement for membership.

- Church membership made up of regenerated (born again) baptized believers.
- Priesthood of believers.
- The Lordship of Christ.
- Two ordinances of the Church (scriptural baptism and the Lord's Supper)
- Separation of church and state.
- The fulfillment of all three parts of the Great Commission.

SECTION 2: CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit:

- To walk together in Christian love
- To strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort
- To promote its prosperity and spirituality
- To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines
- To give it a sacred pre-eminence over all institutions of human origin
- To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations

We also engage:

- To maintain family and secret devotions
- To religiously educate our children
- To seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances
- To walk circumspectly in the world
- To be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment
- To avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger
- To abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage
- To be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior

We further engage:

- To watch over one another in brotherly love
- To remember each other in prayer
- To aid each other in sickness and distress
- To cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech
- To be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rule of our Savior to secure it without delay

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

ARTICLE IV: CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: QUALIFICATIONS AND RECEPTION

- A. New converts shall be received as members upon profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ after submitting themselves to the ordinance of water baptism by immersion.
- B. Members can be received by letter from New Testament Baptist Churches of like faith and order upon their profession of faith, and having been examined by pastor and/or deacons.
- C. Persons from other churches who have made a profession of faith, but have not been scripturally baptized, may be received by baptism.
- D. New Testament Baptists of like order and faith may be received into the membership by statement,

- after examination, if for some reason their previous membership has been dissolved.
- E. Restoration of any person whose membership has been terminated, upon confession of his sins or errors, and having displayed a Christian Spirit, may call for a special meeting with the Pastor and Deacons (as Discipline Committee), wherein it shall be frankly and fully discussed as to the individual's future intentions and relationship to the church. Should the results of said meeting be satisfactory, the Pastor may cause said person to be recommended to the church for membership and upon the vote of the church shall be received into membership. No restored member shall hold office or vote for a period of six months following restoration.

SECTION 2: DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

- A. The New Testament recognizes three principal causes for discipline:
- Personal difficulties that hinder the ministry and fellowship of the church. (Matt. 18:15-17)
 - Heresy in doctrine. (Titus 3:10, II Tim. 2:14-18, II John 10,11)
 - Immorality. (I Cor. 5; II Thess. 3:6)
- B. Delinquency: Any member who avoidably misses all services for a period of 3 months, shall be known as delinquent and the Pastor shall cause his name to be placed on an inactive roll. (I John 2:19; Matt. 18:15-17).
- C. A member placed on the inactive list shall be visited in an attempt to determine and reconcile the difficulty. If they remain on the inactive list for 3 months without a special request to remain on that list indefinitely, their name shall be removed from all membership rolls.
- D. A person who has not attended or contributed financially for a 3-month period has automatically lost his voting privileges.

SECTION 3: DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS

- A. By letter: A member may, on application, receive a letter of commendation and dismissal from his church, with which to unite with another of same faith, and thus, not pass out of church relations, but be transferred from one fellowship to another.
- B. By exclusion: After the exercise of scriptural church discipline according to Matt. 18:15-17 and after a fair hearing given to the member by the Pastor and Deacons, a member may be dismissed by the church by exclusion by a majority of the votes cast (for conduct unbecoming a Christian, or for any other cause that brings discord and injures the unity and effectiveness of the church), and the name be taken off the membership roll.
- C. By erasure: The name of a member who desires to unite with other than a Baptist church shall be erased from the membership roll and a letter of notification sent directly to the church. A member uniting with another church or regularly attending without notifying this church, shall automatically be erased from the membership roll (in accordance with Sec. 2, B).

ARTICLE V: CHURCH OFFICERS

SECTION 1: THE OFFICERS

The officers of this church shall consist of the two scriptural offices of pastor and deacons as set forth in I Timothy 3. Also, any of the following positions that are necessary for the advancement of the gospel, that all things be done decently and in order: A church clerk, treasurer, song leader, educational superintendent, teachers, pianist, ushers, and financial secretary. The positions of treasurer and church clerk shall be elected annually by a simple majority vote of members present.

SECTION 2: OFFICE OF PASTOR

- A. The pastor shall be called for an indefinite term, the relation to be dissolved by mutual agreement after at least thirty days' notice.
- B. The call or dismissal of a pastor shall come before the church at a regular, called business meeting. All eligible members in good standing shall be notified of this meeting, and the announcement

- of this meeting and its purpose shall be read from the pulpit in at least one public service preceding the called meeting.
- C. A three-fourths majority vote of all members present in good standing shall be necessary to make such action valid.
 - D. The pastor shall be entitled to an annual vacation of not less than three weeks with full salary. Deacons and church shall be notified.
 - E. The pastor's beginning salary shall be taken care of by mutual agreement between the pastor and church. Any change in the pastor's salary shall be taken care of by the deacons and pastor.
 - F. The pastor may enlist special speakers and schedule special meetings as he feels led. The church will care for the expenses.

SECTION 3: STAFF MEMBERS

- A. The pastor may hire whom he desires as his staff members.
- B. The staff members will be directly responsible to the pastor. The pastor shall assign and supervise their duties.
- C. The pastor may, upon scriptural grounds, without the vote of the church, relieve any staff member of his duties.
- D. Any staff member shall be entitled to an annual vacation of not less than two weeks with full salary.
- E. Any staff member's salary shall be taken care of by mutual agreement between the pastor and church. Any change in a staff member's salary shall be taken care of by the deacons and pastor.

SECTION 4: VACANCY

In case of a vacancy in any of the elective offices, the church shall call a business meeting to elect someone to fill out the unexpired term.

SECTION 5: ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meetings shall be scheduled for the last Wednesday in January of each new year.

ARTICLE VI: DUTIES OF CHURCH OFFICERS

SECTION 1: PASTOR - DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

- A. The word "pastor" means (Webster) a shepherd or spiritual overseer. The Scriptures refer to the office commonly called pastor, as elder or bishop. I Tim. 3:1-5; I Pet. 5:1-4; I Tim. 5:17; I Thess. 5:12-13; Acts 20:24; Heb. 13:7, 17 are examples of such and also show clearly that the pastor is to oversee and supervise the affairs of the church. He shall not only have the general supervision of the church but shall have the unrestricted liberty in presenting any matter he deems necessary to the church for its consideration and instruction.
- B. It shall be the duty of the pastor to preach regularly at the Church, to administer the ordinances of the Church (Baptism and the Lord's Supper), and to perform the various duties incumbent on his office.
- C. He shall be the moderator of the Church and preside at all its business meetings; ex-officio member of all the committees and organizations, which includes the privilege of voting; in charge of the pulpit and responsible for supply speakers. In legal matters he shall act as president.
- D. I Tim. 3:1-6 and Titus 1:7-9 give the qualifications of pastor. The life of the pastor and his family should be an example of godliness and spirituality. They must not indulge in worldly or sinful practices which would tend to weaken the testimony of this church (I Thess. 5:22). No one who indulges in the use of intoxicating liquors, drugs or tobacco in any form; or who belongs to a secret society; or who brings disrepute upon his ministry through sinful language, practice, or associations shall be considered for pastor or, having fallen into such, be retained as pastor, if he persists in such a course (Rom. 12:1-2; II Cor. 6:11-18).
- E. Because of the office, the pastor shall be counted worthy of double honor (I Tim. 5:17). No accusation shall be accepted against him without two or three witnesses (I Tim. 5:19).
- F. No person who has been divorced shall be pastor of this church (Matt. 19:3-9).
- G. Any person who is considered for the office, or serves as pastor of this church must believe and teach

- in accordance with the Articles of Faith, and must declare himself to be a Fundamental, Pre-Millennial, Independent Baptist, and believe in and use exclusively the King James Version of the Holy Bible.
- H. No person shall be considered for the office, nor serve as pastor, who maintains any connection with the National Council of Churches or any of its agencies; conventions, or other ecclesiastical body or bodies.
 - I. No woman shall be considered for, nor serve as, pastor of this church.
 - J. The term of pastor shall be for an undesignated period of time and shall be left in the hands of the pastor, unless dismissed by the church for sinful conduct or unscriptural teaching.

SECTION 2: CALL OF PASTOR

Whenever it is necessary, by the death or resignation or dismissal of the pastor, the church shall, without unnecessary delay, proceed to secure a new pastor in the following manner:

- The Deacons will act as a standing Pulpit Committee. Other men may be selected by the Deacons, subject to the approval by the majority vote of the Church. The total number shall not exceed five men.
- The Chairman of Deacons shall automatically be Chairman of the Pulpit Committee. He shall invite to the pulpit of the church some minister of good report who is in accordance with and meets the requirements of the Constitution and By-laws. He shall be in accordance with the Articles of Faith. An interview is recommended. No person shall be invited to the pulpit of the church in said case without consent of a majority of Pulpit Committee. Earnest prayer, seeking the will of our Lord, should be made preceding such an invitation.
- It shall be announced at least one week prior to the meeting that the visiting speaker is a candidate for the office of pastor. On the recommendation of the pulpit committee the time of voting will be announced.
- A three-fourths majority of members present and voting shall be necessary for the calling of a pastor.

SECTION 3: DEACONS, DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

- A. The word translated Deacon, in the King James Bible, means servant, attendant, aide, waiter, etc. The Greek word translated "Deacon" in I Tim. 3:10, 13, means "to be an attendant, to wait upon" (menially or as a host or friend). The Greek words translated "Deacon" in Phil. 1:1; I Tim. 3:8, 12 are given to mean "one who runs errands, an attendant, a waiter" (at tables or any other menial duties), specifically to a Christian teacher and pastor (definitions taken from James Strong's Concordance with Greek Dictionary of the New Testament). In Acts 6:1-4, the first servants were chosen by the church and were appointed to their tasks by the overseers of the church for the purpose of performing such tasks as would free those in charge of the services for prayer and the study of the Word. Therefore, because this Church accepts the Scriptures as final authority, rather than tradition, the office of Deacon shall not in any way be taken to mean authority over the Church and Pastor.
- B. The general duties of deacon, aside from appointed tasks, shall be to assist the Pastor in building up the Church numerically, financially, and spiritually; to visit the sick, the sorrowing, and the needy; to personally strive to win the lost to Christ; to guard and protect the reputation of the Church and Pastor against gossip, lies and false accusations; to investigate delinquents and to endeavor to remedy any spiritual weakness in the lives of its members; to cooperate with the Pastor in the care, operation, and repair of the physical property of the Church. Duties toward the Pastor shall be to pray for him earnestly and continually; to act as a host and friend in behalf of the Church; to see that his material and physical needs are taken care of; to strive in every way to help him in the performance of Scriptural duties.
- C. I Timothy 3:8-13 gives the qualifications of Deacon and wife, and they shall, by the help of God, try to live thereby. The life of a Deacon and his family must be one of godliness and spirituality. They should not indulge in worldly and sinful practices which would tend to weaken the testimony of this Church (I Thess. 3:22). No one who uses intoxicating liquors, drugs, or tobacco in any form; or belongs to any secret society; or who brings disrepute upon the Church through sinful language, practice, or associations shall be considered for Deacon or having fallen into such practices and persisting in same, be retained. In keeping with the Scriptures, gossiping tattling, backbiting,

- undermining, holding grudges, violent uncontrolled temper, etc., are unbecoming of the office of Deacon and if indulged in by either a Deacon or his wife, shall be grounds for dismissal.
- D. No person shall be elected to the office of Deacon who has not been a faithful member of the Church for a period of one year or more (I Tim. 3:10), or does not go on visitation.
 - E. A Deacon is to be faithful in all things (I Tim. 3:11); regular in attendance at all meetings, including visitation.
 - F. There shall be at least three Deacons unless qualified men are not available.
 - G. Deacons shall be elected at the annual business meeting. First-term Deacons shall serve for a period of one year and may be re-elected for consecutive three-year terms.
 - H. No one shall be considered for, nor serve as Deacon, who is not in accordance with the Articles of Faith of this Church.
 - I. The Deacons shall meet at least once each quarter or when needed.
 - J. A three-fourths majority of members present and voting shall be necessary for the calling of a Deacon.

SECTION 4: CHURCH TREASURER

- A. This position shall be by election, by the church, out of the Deacons, for the period of one year.
- B. The treasurer shall receive and count all money and offerings of the church and make sure an accurate record is kept.
- C. The treasurer shall see that deposits are made, bills are paid, quarterly financial reports are given, and will sign the checks.
- D. An assistant treasurer shall be elected to assist the treasurer and take over his duties temporarily during his absence.

SECTION 5: CHURCH CLERK

- A. The clerk shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the church at all business meetings, keep a complete registry of membership, issue letters of dismissal, and write for the letters of new members coming into the church.
- B. The clerk shall conduct all official correspondence and preserve all documents, papers and letters coming into his hands during his term of office, delivering the same and all records kept by him to his successor.
- C. The clerk shall have an assistant to help and take over upon the clerk's absence.
- D. The office of clerk and assistant clerk shall be elected at the annual business meeting by a majority vote.

SECTION 6: EDUCATIONAL SUPERINTENDENT

- A. The superintendent shall be chosen by the pastor and shall conduct the sessions designated to his ministry.
- B. He shall assist the pastor in the appointment of teachers and shall seek to promote the growth and spiritual fervor of the church as a whole.
- C. He shall see that each teacher fulfills his obligation and that the Word of God is magnified in each class, seeking the salvation of all who are under his care.
- D. The assistant superintendent shall assist the superintendent in his duties and help him keep an accurate record of attendance and superintend in his absence.

SECTION 7: TEACHERS

- A. Each teacher shall zealously attend to the class assigned to him.
- B. He must live a separated life and strive for the salvation and spiritual growth of each pupil in the class.
- C. Each teacher shall seek new prospects, provoke the class to good works, contact those in the class who are absent, and do everything humanly possible to build up the class.
- D. In case of absence, each teacher shall contact the pastor or superintendent, who shall select a suitable substitute.

SECTION 8: SONG LEADER

- A. The song leader shall be appointed by the pastor.
- B. He shall lead the congregational singing, be responsible for all specials and strive to promote the spiritual fervor of the church.
- C. In case of absence, he shall notify the pastor.

SECTION 9: PIANIST AND ORGANIST

- A. The pianist and organist shall be appointed by the pastor and shall strive to be present at all services and cooperate in every way possible with the song leader and pastor.
- B. In case of absence they should notify the song leader, who will select a suitable substitute.
- C. All musical talent in the church is to be encouraged and nurtured by the pianist, organist, and the song leader.

SECTION 10: USHERS

- A. The ushers shall be responsible for the handing out of song books, seating people attending church services, passing offering plates, maintaining discipline during services, and before and after each service shall greet visitors and members with a warm welcome and friendly handshake.
- B. A head usher shall be appointed by the pastor, and shall be in charge of all ushers.

ARTICLE VII: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

SECTION 1: NOMINATING

- A. Each year, at least two weeks before the Annual Election, the Pastor and Deacons shall carefully and prayerfully examine the scriptural qualifications of each nominee for the different offices in the Church and determine if they are in accord with the doctrines and policies of the Church, as set forth in the Constitution.
- B. All nominees must have been faithful members of the Church for a period of one year or more.
- C. Any member of the Church has the privilege of making nominations personally to a member of the nominating committee.
- D. They should do this prior to the first of January.
- E. On the second Wednesday night of January the Nominating Committee shall present the nominees' names to the Church.

SECTION 2: VOTING

- A. At the annual election, the election of officers shall be by ballot.
- B. Other voting may be done by the will of the church on other business.

SECTION 3: THOSE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

- A. All members not in good standing are deprived the privilege of voting.
- B. This also includes those stated in Article IV, Section 2-A & B.
- C. Therefore, all adult members in good standing, at least eighteen years of age, may vote.

ARTICLE VIII: BUSINESS MEETINGS

SECTION 1: SEMIANNUAL MEETING

- A. The semiannual business meeting shall be held on the last Wednesday of January, and on the last Wednesday of July.

SECTION 2: MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

- A. Announcement of special business meetings should be made once preceding said meeting.
- B. The frequency of congregational business meetings shall be determined by the amount of major business confronting the church.

SECTION 3: CHAIRMAN

The pastor shall be chairman of all business meetings unless he asks someone else to take the chair, and no business meeting shall be valid without his presence, except where there is no pastor of the church, in which case, the chairman of the deacons shall preside.

SECTION 4: SPECIAL MEETINGS

- A. The pastor may call special business meetings when needed.

SECTION 5: TYPE OF BUSINESS

- A. Much of the business can be handled by the Pastor and Deacons, providing funds are available.
- B. Business involving a sum of money exceeding \$1000.00 must be brought before the church in a formal business meeting.
- C. All Church business must have a simple majority vote in order to carry.
- D. The Pastor shall be authorized to spend up to \$500.00 on any one item, providing funds are available.

ARTICLE IX: MISSIONS

SECTION 1: SUPPORT

Mission work shall be supported through our Faith Promise Missions Program.

SECTION 2: MISSIONARIES MEMBERSHIP

- A. The support of foreign and home missionary works shall be through Independent Baptist groups
- B. All missionaries must be a member of a church of like faith and sign a commitment to our Articles of Faith.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: CHANGING ARTICLES

These articles, with the exception of Articles II and III, may be changed or amended at any regular business meeting by a three-fourths majority vote of qualified members present and voting, provided however, that a written notice of such change shall have been proposed and posted at a regular business meeting of the church at least one month previous and announced from the pulpit three Sundays previously.

SECTION 2: CHANGING ARTICLES II AND III

It shall be possible to amend or change Articles II and III in this Constitution only upon a unanimous vote of all qualified members present and voting.

ARTICLE XI: ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

The ordinances of the church shall be BAPTISM and THE LORD'S SUPPER.

SECTION 1: BAPTISM

- A. Baptism shall be by immersion in water.
- B. Those qualified for baptism shall be those who have accepted Christ as personal Savior, being born

again and having presented themselves for church membership.

SECTION 2: THE LORD'S SUPPER

- A. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at a time decided upon by the pastor.
- B. Those qualified shall be, according to the Scriptures (I Cor. 11:23-34), those who are saved and have followed the Lord in Scriptural Baptism.
- C. The position of this church is that open communion is unscriptural and not to be practiced in this church.

ARTICLE XII: QUORUM

- A. No business meeting shall be considered to have a quorum without the presence of the pastor and twenty-five percent of the qualified voters.
- B. A simple majority shall rule on all matters unless otherwise specified by the Constitution.

ARTICLE XIII: RULES OF CONDUCT

- A. Rules of conduct for all business meetings shall be according to parliamentary rules by Roberts Rules of Order.
- B. Any person (or persons) who meet for matters pertaining to the church and not having met with qualifications of Article XIII shall automatically have their name taken off the church roll.

ARTICLE XIV: POLICY OF THIS CHURCH

SECTION 1: WORD OF GOD

The King James Bible shall be the text used. No other text shall be acceptable.

SECTION 2: CHURCH SERVICES

The church shall meet twice every Lord's Day (first day of the week) for worship, and at least once during the week for prayer and Bible study.

ARTICLE XV: ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. All business meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer.
- B. The following order will be observed at all regular business meetings of the church. It may be altered as time and circumstances permit.
 - 1. Devotional and prayer.
 - 2. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.
 - 3. Reading of treasurer's report.
 - 4. Other reports, if any.
 - 5. Unfinished business.
 - 6. New business
 - 7. Adjournment

BE IT RESOLVED, that Ellicott Baptist Church, including all of its ministries, educational or otherwise, does not discriminate in any manner on the basis of race, color, and national or ethnic origin. This resolution includes administration and admission policies, or any other policy whatsoever, of the church and its ministries.