

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA



Constitution and Bylaws

15 May 2011

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA**

PREAMBLE

For the more certain preservation and security of the principles of our Christian faith, and

To the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the accepted tenets of the Southern Baptist Convention, and

With the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member, and

For the assurance of freedom of action of this body with respect to its relations with other churches of the same faith and order,

We the undersigned declare and establish the Constitution following:

ARTICLE I

NAME

This body shall be known as the First Baptist Church, Mooresville, Indiana. It shall be a cooperating Southern Baptist Church, affiliated with the local Association, the State Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention as long as these agencies are true to God's Word.

ARTICLE II

CHARACTER

SECTION I POLICY

The government of the Church is vested solely in the body of believers who compose it. It is not subject to control by any other ecclesiastical body or organization; but this Church recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual council and consideration which are common among the Churches that make up the Southern Baptist Convention, provided that such mutual council and cooperation does not conflict with the independence of this body, nor interfere with its autonomy as a local church.

SECTION II DOCTRINE

It receives the Scripture as its authority in matters of faith and practice. Its understanding of Christian truth as contained therein as in essential accord with the belief of the Southern Baptist Churches as indicated in the Articles of Faith herewith.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

ARTICLE III

ARTICLES OF FAITH

THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, that God is the author, redemption its end, truth without error its content; that it is the sole and sufficient rule of faith and practice; that by its words we shall be judged, and that it is the supreme standard by which all conduct, creeds, and relationships should be tested.

(Luke 16:29-31; II Tim. 3:15-17; Eph. 2:20; Heb. 1:1-2; II Peter 1:19-21; John 16:13-15; Matt. 22:29-31; Psa. 19:7-10; Psa. 119:1-8)

THE TRUE GOD

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfection. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

(Gen. 1: 1; I Cor. 8:4-6; Deut. 6:4; Jer. 10: 10; Isa. 48: 12; Deut. 5:7; Exo. 3: 14; Heb. 11:6; John 5:26; I Tim. 1:17; John 1:14-18; John 15-26; Gal. 4:6; Matt. 28:19)

MAN

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

(Gen. 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3:9-6; Psa. 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; Isa. 6:5; Jer. 17:5; Matt. 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Rom. 1:19-32; 3:10-18; 23:5-6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; I Cor. 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Eph. 2:122; Col. 1:21-22; 3:9-11)

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins.

(Eph. 2:3-10; John 1:12; 3:16; Eph. 1:7; I Peter 1:18-19)

JUSTIFICATION

We believe that through faith of man in Jesus Christ he is justified before the law because the perfect righteousness of God is imputed to believers in Christ.

(Rom. 3:24; 4:2; 5:1-2; 8:30; Eph. 1:7; I Cor. 1:30-31; II Cor. 5:21)

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

REGENERATION

We believe that sanctification is God's setting apart the redeemed for holy service; that it is the progressive growth of the believers in the holiness of God which begins at the regeneration and ends with the resurrection.

(Acts 20; 32; John 17:17; Romans 7:5-6; Eph. 3:16; Romans 4:14; Galatians 5:24; Hebrews 12:14; Romans 7:18-25; II Cor. 3:18; Galatians 5:16, 25-26)

ELECTION (GRACE)

We believe that Election is the gracious purpose of God, through His grace, to regenerate and to save sinners, and to sanctify them; and this is consistent with the free agency of men.

(Romans 8:30; 11:7; Ephesians 1:10; Acts 26:18; Ephesians 1:17-19; II Timothy 1:9; Psalm 110:3; I Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:5; John 6:44-45, 65; Romans 10:12-15)

SECURITY OF BELIEVERS

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

(John 10:28-29; II Timothy 2:19; I John 2:19; I Corinthians 11:32; Romans 8:30, 9:11; Romans 5:9-10; Matthew 26:70-75)

CHURCH

We believe that a church of the New Testament is a group of baptized believers voluntarily bound together in the faith and fellowship of Christ for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel to the entire world; that Christ committed the preaching of the Gospel and ministry of the Holy Spirit to His churches.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ which includes all the redeemed of all the ages.

(Matthew 16:18, 18:15-18; Romans 1:7; I Corinthians 1:2; Acts 2:41-42; 5:13-14; II Cor. 9:13; Phil 1:1; I Timothy 4:14; Acts 14:23; 6:3, 5-6; Hebrews 13:14; I Corinthians 9:6, 14; Revelation 2-3)

THE ORDINANCES

We believe that the ordinances which are committed to the Visible Church are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in Christ, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and symbolizes the fact of the death of an individual to the old life, and identification with Christ. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration of His sacrificial death, and symbolizes the fact that the believer is continuously fed and nourished by Christ.

(Matthew 3:6, 3:13-17, 28:19-20; Mark 1:5, 9-11, 16:15; John 3:23, 6:35; Acts 8:36-38; I Tim. 6:4; Col. 2:12; Matt. 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:10-20; John 6:63; Acts 2:41-42; I Cor. 11:23-29)

THE LORD'S DAY

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private, and by refraining from worldly amusements, and resting from secular employment, work of necessity and mercy only being excepted.

(Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12, 28:1; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3, 33-36; John 4:21-24; 20: 1; 20:19-28; Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Col. 2:16, 3:16; Rev. 1:10)

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

THE KINGDOM

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

(Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10, 23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19)

LAST THINGS

According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth.

The dead in Christ will rise first, and then we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. After the judgment of God upon this sinful world in the Great Tribulation, Jesus our Lord_ will come with His Saints to establish His millennial Kingdom.

Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The redeemed of Christ in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their rewards and will dwell in heaven forever with their Savior. The unsaved will be separated from the Kingdom of God forever and will be consigned forever to a place of everlasting perdition.

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

EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

We believe it is the duty of every Christian, and the duty of every church of Christ to seek to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.

(Matthew 10:5; 13:18-23; 22:9-10; 29:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; 16:19-20; Luke 24:46-53; Acts 1:5-8; 2:1-12; 2:21,39; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2,30-33; I Thess. 1:8)

STEWARDSHIP

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

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

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

COOPERATION

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

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

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE SOCIAL ORDER

Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in his own life and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Christ Jesus. The Christian should oppose in the spirit of Christ every form of greed, selfishness, and vice. He should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth. It should be realized that social change must be the result of changed hearts. Therefore, the greatest contribution the Church can make to social betterment is to bring individual men to a heart-changing encounter with Jesus Christ. (Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101 :5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15-12; 17:15; Romans 12; 13; 14; I Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23; 11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; I Thess. 3:12; Philippians; James 1:27; 2:8)

CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that the Civil Government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society; and magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the prince of the kings of the earth.

(Romans 8: 1-7; Genesis 16:18; II Samuel 23:3; Matthew 22:21; Titus 3:1; I Timothy 2:1-8; Romans 13:1-7; Acts 4:18-20; Romans 14:4; Revelation 19:16)

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

ARTICLE IV

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 solemnly and 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 contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expense 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 other 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 or otherwise; and 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 feeling and sympathy and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules 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 with the principles of God's Word.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

First Baptist Church – Mooresville
Core Values

- **Biblical Preaching & Teaching** – We believe that God’s Word is our foundation for living. Therefore we value biblical expository preaching and teaching as the basis for everything we do and are committed to exposing our lives to the whole truth of Scripture.
- **Prayer** – We believe prayer is the privilege of every child of God and connects us to the heart of God. We value intercessory prayer in every aspect of our lives, both corporately and individually and are committed to spending time in prayer in both settings.
- **Worship** – We believe that worship brings us into a life-changing, dynamic experience with the living God. We value corporate and individual worship that is authentic, biblically correct and culturally relevant.
- **Evangelism** – We believe the gospel should be made known to all people regardless of their life situation. Therefore, we value the proclamation of the gospel by every believer and are committed to training, equipping and mobilizing every member in sharing their faith.
- **Missions** – We believe that Christ’s command to all nations with the gospel is true for us. We value reaching our community, our state, our country and all of the world with the gospel. Therefore we are committed to systematically supporting our cooperative mission agencies and sending missionaries from First Baptist to the ends of the world.
- **Fellowship** – We believe biblical community is deepened through spending time with God’s people socially, in ministry and in times of personal distress. We value experiencing authentic relationships that strengthen our common bond and witness to our common Savior.
- **Lay Leadership** – We believe God has gifted every believer to perform the work of the ministry. We value a strong, involved laity in all positions of leadership and are committed to developing and equipping them for all areas of ministry.
- **Strong Families** – We believe the family is the basic unit in any congregation and has been ordained by God for the nurturing of every member’s faith. Whether single or married, every one belongs to a family and are called to honor and love those to whom they’re related. We value strong families and are committed to developing programs that enhance their welfare.

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA**

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I CANDIDACY

Any person regardless of race, color, or national origin, may offer himself in person or by proxy, as a candidate for membership in this Church at any regular worship service in any other following ways:

Membership at First Baptist is contingent on a personal conversion experience and Scriptural water baptism via immersion. Upon satisfactory evidence of a personal saving experience with Jesus Christ and upon a public profession of his faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior and a commitment of his life to him as Lord, a person may be received as a candidate for Baptism. New Testament Baptism symbolizes both a historical fact and a present experience. The historical fact is the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; the present experience is the death of the believer to his old life of sin, and his resurrection to new life in Christ. The believer submits to the Ordinance of Baptism as an act of obedience to his Lord, but the ordinance is not part of, nor essential to, his salvation. A person may be received upon presentation of, or promise of, a letter of dismissal from another church of like faith and order or upon his statement of a prior conversion experience and Baptism (as defined in Baptism above) when no letter is obtainable.

1. Having met the biblical requirements for membership, a candidate must attend a church membership class and upon successful completion, will be presented to the congregation for acceptance at a regularly scheduled business meeting.

SECTION II DISMISSAL

The continuance of membership shall be subject to the principles and usage of Baptist churches generally and particularly as follows:

1. The name of a deceased member shall be removed from the Church roll automatically by the clerk.
2. Any member in good and regular standing who desires to unite with another church of like faith and order is entitled to a letter of dismissal and recommendation to that specified church.
3. If a member in good and regular standing requests to be released from his or her covenant obligations to this congregation, for reasons which the Church shall finally deem satisfactory, after it shall have patiently and kindly endeavored to secure his or her membership terminated. The person's name then shall be removed from the Church roll.
4. Should a member become an offense to the Church and to its good name by reason of immoral and or unchristian conduct, or by persistent breach of his or her covenant vows, the church may terminate membership but only after due notice and hearing, and after faithful effort has been made to bring such a member to repentance and amendment of life in accordance with the instructions of Christ in Matthew 18:15-17.

At such times as the Senior Pastor and the Church deem wise, the Church roll shall be examined for names of members who are inactive and cannot be located. Every reasonable effort shall be made to find them and encourage them to reactivate their membership. Upon failure to accomplish this, and after thirty days notice in a prominent place publishing name, facts in the matter, and action intended, they may be then, by action of the Church, be terminated from membership and their names removed from the Church roll. The

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

names to be so terminated shall be read in the business meeting at which they are to be voted upon. Record shall be kept of the former membership and of the date and reason for action.

5. Cases of separation shall first be studied by the Senior Pastor and deacons, who shall then advise proper action.

SECTION III RESTORATION

Any person whose membership was terminated for any offense may be reinstated by three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the Church in attendance at a regular business meeting, upon evidence of his or her repentance and/or reformation.

SECTION IV DUTIES

Members are expected to be faithful in all the duties essential to the Christian way of life; to attend habitually the services of the Church; to give regularly to its support and its causes; and to share in its organizational work.

SECTION V RIGHTS

Only those members who are in good standing may act and vote in the deliberations of this Church.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

ARTICLE II

CHURCH OFFICERS

SECTION I

The officers of this church shall be as follows: Pastors, Deacons, Trustees, Clerk, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and officers of all the organizations that the church may deem necessary to carry out a full church program. All organizations of the church shall be under the control of the church and report regularly to the church. The senior pastor is ex-officio head of all the organizations named and his leadership is to be recognized in them all. Officers serve in their positions for an indeterminate period of time unless specified differently in these by-laws.

SECTION II

SENIOR PASTOR

1. Calling of: The Senior Pastor of this Church shall be called by a vote of the Church upon the recommendation of a duly appointed pulpit committee, nominated and elected by the congregation that shall be comprised of at least three persons, one of whom shall be a deacon.

The Senior Pastor under consideration is to be a minister of good report who shall be required to subscribe to the doctrinal statements and covenant of this Church, being in agreement with the policies of the body as herein stated. The pulpit committee shall obtain this assent prior to placing his name before the church for a formal vote.

2. Election of: Election shall be by secret ballot, an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the members present being necessary to constitute a call. The meeting for such votive action shall be given at least two weeks' notice.
3. The Senior Pastor shall give the church a thirty day notice before leaving the work. If the church desires the Senior Pastor's resignation, it would become effective immediately on a majority vote of the church at a regular or special-called meeting by the moderator or chairman of deacons, held three or more days after written notice has been mailed by the church clerk to all members. The Senior Pastor would receive all pay and benefits except auto and church-related expenses for a period of thirty days and the last week's pay withheld until all church property is vacated and verified by the trustees. If either the Senior Pastor or the church desires the thirty day period to be extended and both Senior Pastor and church mutually agree, the period can be lengthened.
4. The Senior Pastor shall secure evangelists for all meetings, in cooperation with the active deacons.
5. The Senior Pastor shall be responsible for supplying the pulpit except when:
 1. On vacation
 2. Illness
 3. On business for the church
 4. On holding revivals
6. The church shall send the Senior Pastor to the Southern Baptist Convention each year, as circumstances warrant.
7. The Senior Pastor shall have a minimum of an annual two-week vacation with pay.
8. The church shall pay its part and the Senior Pastor's part of the Minister's Retirement Plan.
9. The senior pastor shall be ex-officio member of all organizations, ministry teams and committees, and

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

may call a special meeting whenever a need for a special meeting arises.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

DEACONS

SECTION I

The church shall have a minimum of seven (7) active deacons, and as many more as it may deem essential.

SECTION II

Term of Office: Service as a deacon is generally regarded as a commitment to a ministry. Men who meet the Scriptural qualifications are called by the church to fulfill this role. As such, it is generally understood that a deacon continues to fulfill that role unless and until they no longer meet those Scriptural qualifications or intentionally withdraw themselves from this service to the church body. Certain deacons will form a deacon council/body. The deacon council is charged with fulfilling the duties of Section V and are to meet regularly

It shall be pertinent for the church to elect to honorary life membership in the deacon council, any deacon who, by reason of age or infirmities, shall after honorable service, be no longer able to render active service.

SECTION III

Nomination and Election: At least one (1) week before nomination of deacons, each church family will receive by mail the following:

1. A list of all resident male members 21 years of age or older.
Men presently serving as deacons shall be excluded along with those who do not meet eligibility requirements.
2. A statement of the spiritual qualifications.
3. A notice of the date for nominations.

On the Sunday of nominations, each church member will nominate, by means of ballot, the exact number of men required to fill existing vacancies. All ballots must be in the hands of the Tally Committee at the close of services on Sunday. The Tally Committee, consisting of the CHURCH CLERK and other designated members, will have the responsibility of counting the ballots. Those men nominated will be arranged in a summary listing order of most votes received. All information will be held confidential to the Tally Committee. The Tally Committee will then present this ordered list of nominations to the Senior Pastor and the Chairman of Deacons. It will be their responsibility to contact each nominee and to review the spiritual qualifications and church commitments of a deacon. As many men will be contacted as are needed to fill the vacancies. When a man refuses, the next man on the list will be contacted. All information will be held confidential by this committee.

Following the work of this committee, the names of the recommended men will be presented to the church by the Church Clerk or Chairman of the Deacons. These men will be presented as a group and their election recommended.

SECTION IV

Eligibility and Qualifications. All adult male members of the church shall be eligible providing the following conditions have been met:

- a) All deacons must be qualified according to the Scriptures.
- b) They must have been a Christian for at least two (2) years.
- c) They must have been a member of First Baptist, Mooresville for at least one (1) year.
- d) They must be twenty one (21) years or older. As a convenience to the church, a list shall be provided at least one (1) week before the election of those who are eligible as stated under b), c) and d) in this section.

SECTION V

Duties. In accordance of the meaning of the word and the practice of the New Testament, deacons are to be servants of the church.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

- a) They must be zealous to guard the unity of the spirit within the church in the bonds of peace.
- b) They are to serve as a council for advice and conference with the Senior Pastor in all matters pertaining to the Spiritual and material welfare and work of the church.
- c) They will designate those members of the deacon body who will serve the Lord's Supper.
- d) They are to maintain personal oversight of all the membership of the church. They are to seek to know the physical needs and moral and spiritual struggles of the brothers and sisters. They are to serve the whole church in relieving, encouraging, and developing all who are in any such needs.
- e) The deacons annually shall elect a chairman, a vice-chairman, secretary, and any other officers that they may deem necessary to carry out the functions of the deacon body.
- f) In council with the Senior Pastor they are to have oversight of the discipline of the church. They are to be guided by principles set forth in Matthew 18, I Corinthians 5, I Thessalonians 5:12-14. They shall seek to minister to members who have broken their covenant relationship as indicated in Section II of Article I of the by-laws.
- g) Each deacon shall freely confer with the Senior Pastor about matters and cases of discipline which, in his judgment, would be most wisely and spiritually handled in private.
- h) Generally, the function of the deacons shall be twofold: first, to consider all matters pertaining to the welfare of the church, its individual members, and to make recommendations to the church. Second, to execute instructions given to them by the church.

TRUSTEES

SECTION I

Trustees shall be elected by the church to serve a three-year term. No trustee may be re-elected until the lapse of one year. The first trustees shall be elected: the most votes-three years, next votes-two years, next votes-one year. Thereafter, replacements shall be elected each year.

SECTION II

Trustees shall be four (4) in number, or as the state law requires.

SECTION III

Trustees must be citizens of the United States and be twenty-one (21) years of age or older.

SECTION IV

Responsibilities

In general, it shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to hold in trust all deeds to Church property, to care for and maintain all Church property, to oversee the use of all Church property, and to attend to all legal matters related to the above. Church property as referenced in these By-laws shall include land, buildings, easements, and fixed assets. This includes equipment such as computers, copy machines, sound equipment, vehicles, etc. which have \$100.00 or more in value. Specifically, the Board of Trustees shall:

- 1. Act in behalf of the Membership in areas involving the buying, selling, mortgaging, leasing or renting of real property.
- 2. Oversee the care and upkeep of all Church property including necessary utilities, improvements, repairs, minor alterations, and general maintenance, with the delegation of responsibilities as required.
- 3. Maintain adequate property and liability insurance coverage for all Church property and facilities.
- 4. Provide input to the Deacons and Senior Pastor(s) relative to planning for future expenditures on property and facilities.
- 5. Trustees will be responsible for oversight of the church custodial staff

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

CLERK

SECTION I

The Church shall elect a clerk. He shall keep a record of all actions of the church; keep a correct list of names and addresses of members, noting the time and manner of their reception, removal, death or expulsion; to write letters of recommendation of membership, to furnish statistics of the church for the Association, State, and Convention; and to attend all correspondence as directed by the church.

FINANCE

SECTION I

This Church recognizes and adopts the scriptural method of tithes and offerings as its plan of finance. It shall operate with a unified budget, with one treasurer. The Church Council, elected by the Church, will provide regular oversight of expenditures in accordance with the approved budget. They will prepare annually a budget and submit the same to the church for approval at the regular or special-called meeting in the month prior to the beginning of budget year.

TREASURER

SECTION II

The Church shall elect a Church Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive, preserve, and payout, upon receipt of vouchers approved and signed by authorized personnel, all money or things of value paid or given to the Church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to render to the Church, at each regular business meeting, an itemized report of the receipts and disbursements for the preceding period. The treasurer's report shall be the property of the church and shall be open for inspection at any time. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer may not be members of the same family.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

SECTION III

The Church shall elect an Assistant Treasurer. His duties shall be to aid the Church Secretary in case of the Treasurer's absence.

COUNTING COMMITTEE

SECTION I

The Counting Committee shall be made up of Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and three (3) members elected by the Church. Chairperson of this committee shall be the Assistant Treasurer. This committee is charged with the responsibility to count the weekly offerings and tithes, to count and report on any measures requiring the casting of ballots and any other duties deemed necessary in keeping with their intent.

CHURCH COUNCIL

SECTION I

The church council is composed of the pastor, treasurer, chairman of deacons and the leader of each ministry team. The church council may invite others to participate in the meetings in a non-voting status.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

The scheduling and financing of the churches programs is ultimately a responsibility of the congregation as a corporate body. However, in recognition that this requires a smaller group to effectively discharge this task, the congregation delegates responsibility to the church council to accomplish these specific tasks:

- Recommend to the church coordinated plans for evangelism, missions, Christian development, worship, stewardship, and various church ministries.
- Coordinate the church's schedule of activities, special events, and use of the facilities.
- Develop a proposed budget with the ministry teams for the upcoming financial year no later than 15 November.
- Ensure all obligations and expenditures of church funds are in accordance with the church approved budget. The church must approve any reallocation of budgeted funds.

EMPLOYEES AND STAFF MEMBERS

SECTION I

All paid Staff Members shall be recommended according to personnel policy to the person or committee which the church has designated with the responsibility of the selecting of new personnel. Assistant or associate pastor, minister of education, minister of music shall have the necessary spiritual and educational qualifications for the performance of their respective ministries.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

OFFICERS OF ORGANIZATIONS

SECTION I

All organizations of the church shall be under church control; all officers being affirmed annually by the church and reporting regularly to the church. The Senior Pastor is "ex-officio" head of all organizations and his leadership is recognized in them all.

ARTICLE III

MINISTRY TEAMS

The church has adopted the ministry team concept as a means for organizing the work of the church and attaining church objectives and goals. In the ministry team structure, the church is organized around functional ministry areas. Each ministry team is responsible for a specific aspect of church life and ministry in coordination with the other ministry teams. It is called a team because it is composed of various parts of the whole that each has valuable input and a share in the effectiveness of the team. As with all structures, the ministry team has a leader or a representative of the whole team. This leader is not responsible for the actualization of the work involved but leads the team to accomplish its goal. The leader represents that team to the rest of the church body and specifically to the church council; ministry team leaders should make every effort to attend council and church business meetings, sending a representative if unable.

Worship.

The Worship Team is responsible for all aspects of providing worshipful music for all services, and shall have general oversight and direction of all the music programs, instruments, and the sound system. Additionally, the Worship Team, in coordination with the Pastor, will establish the order of Sunday services. The leader of this team shall serve as the music director and is directly responsible for all musicians & praise teams. The Worship Team leader is responsible for the church choir and oversees all other choirs.

Discipleship.

The Discipleship Team is responsible for all areas of discipleship and education of church members. This includes, but is not limited to: adult Sunday School, adult discipleship training, small groups and men/women's ministries. This team will plan, coordinate, and execute various educational programs and arrange for leadership training classes.

Outreach.

The Outreach Team is charged with the responsibility of training individuals and/or groups in witnessing and discipleship. Additionally, the team will plan, execute and evaluate local and regional missions activities to involve the church body in reaching the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The team leader will be the central point of contact for liasoning with outside mission agencies and will coordinate the activities of partnership churches. The team leader, in conjunction with the Discipleship team, will also maintain a current church prospect file for reaching the unsaved, the unchurched, and church visitors.

Fellowship.

The Fellowship Team is responsible for planning and conducting events that deepen the sense of biblical community within the church body. This team arranges and supervises all aspects of church-wide social functions. Additionally, they will also make arrangements for all other social functions in which the church participates. They are responsible for acquiring kitchen supplies and maintaining the kitchen equipment.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

Youth.

The Youth Team shall consist of the team leader and appropriate youth ministry workers. This team should plan, execute, and evaluate youth ministries, including outreach, Bible study, discipleship, fellowships, outings, and meetings with other Christian Youth Groups. Sunday School and discipleship material is a responsibility of the team leader.

Children.

This team should plan, execute, and evaluate children's ministries, including outreach, Bible study, discipleship, fellowships, and outings. Vacation Bible School is a function of the children's ministry and is coordinated with Outreach team for publicity issues. Establishing/staffing the nursery schedule and the arrangements for children's church is a function of the Children's Team. Sunday School and discipleship material is a responsibility of the team leader.

Properties.

The Properties Team is responsible for the care, maintenance, furnishings, and equipment of the buildings and property. This team will also control the scheduling and maintenance of church vehicles. The Properties team shall develop a rolling plan to ensure church furnishings and equipment is updated. New construction of church buildings may be delegated to this team at the direction of the church body. The Trustees form the integral part of this ministry team.

Daycare.

The Daycare ministry team is lead by the Daycare directors. The daycare functions according to its established and published regulations. As a ministry of First Baptist, the daycare will coordinate with the Discipleship team to arrange for educational opportunities for parents of daycare children and with the Outreach team in order to provide suitable prospects for ministry by the church body.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

The meetings of the church shall be as follows:

- A. The church shall maintain full-time ministry and services.
- B. Business meetings:
 - 1. The church year shall begin October 1st and end September 30th in agreement with the Associational year. The financial year shall begin January 1st and end December 31st.
 - 2. The church shall hold regular business meetings, but not less than once per quarter. The church may call a special business meeting to take care of emergencies at any time, provided announcement is made by the moderator as to time and purpose of the meeting in either the Sunday morning or evening service or the regular midweek service. No special business meeting can be held on the same day it is announced.
 - 3. The Senior Pastor shall serve as moderator of the business sessions of the church. In his absence the chairman of the deacons shall serve as moderator. In the event of conflict of interest, any other member of the church or churches of the Crossroads Baptist Association chosen by the church shall serve as moderator.
 - 4. The members present at a regular or special business meeting constitute a quorum.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

5. All business considered by this body shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present.
6. The decorum for this body will be guided by Robert's Rules of Order Revised.

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA**

ARTICLE V

ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

SECTION I

This constitution shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when two-thirds of the members present at the business meeting at which vote is taken shall vote in favor of the same. This vote shall be taken not less than one week after formal presentation of the constitution to the members of the church in a regular church service.

SECTION II

This constitution and these by-laws may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present and voting at a regular business meeting of the church. The proposed change must be presented, in writing, at a business meeting not less than a month before the time of the proposed action, and presented from the pulpit on the Lord's Day next preceding such proposal.

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORESVILLE, INDIANA**

Approved by decision of the congregation, in business on 15 May 2011

_____ Date: _____
Rebecca Williams
Church Clerk

_____ Date: _____
Robert Koval
Chairman of Deacons

_____ Date: _____
Guy Lancour
Senior Pastor