

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

of the

FORKED RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH

Lanoka Harbor, New Jersey

PREAMBLE

In order to affirm and preserve the principles of our faith, to guarantee that this body may be governed in an orderly and efficient manner consistent with the Scriptures, and for the purpose of preserving the unity of this church, the liberties inherent in each individual member and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith, we do declare and establish this Constitution.

I. NAME

The name of this church shall be the Forked River Baptist Church. The church may, for outreach purposes do business as some other name established by the Elders' and approved by the congregation, but shall for corporate and internal identification purposes remain a Baptist church.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose for which this church is established and ordained shall be:

1. To honor our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
2. To bear united witness to the faith of its members in the whole Bible as the Word of God.
3. To make known the Gospel to our fellow citizens here in Lacey Township, in other areas of our country and in the whole world in obedience to the mission given us in the final command of the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 1:8).
4. To build up our local body of believers to a place of spiritual maturity, fruitful service and mutual love.
5. To function properly as a Body of Christ in agreement with the Scriptures.

III. ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in the absolute authority and accuracy of the 66 Canonical books of the Bible; its full verbal inspiration in the original manuscripts and its all-sufficiency as the Christian's rule of faith and practice (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21).
2. We believe that there is but one God, the Creator, Preserver and Ruler of all things, who is perfect in holiness, and in love, infinite in wisdom and measureless in power, and who reveals Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Nehemiah 9:6, I Chronicles 29:11,12, Exodus 15:11; I John 4:8; Matthew 28:19).
3. We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal and only begotten Son of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, and that he is true God and true man and is the only and

sufficient mediator between God and man (Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:35; John 1:1,2,14; John 12:45, 14:9; I Timothy 2:5).

4. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, whose ministry is to convict the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment; to regenerate the unbelieving, to seal, sanctify, teach and comfort those who believe in Jesus Christ (John 16:8-11; 3:3,7; 14-26; Ephesians 1:13) .
5. We believe that man was created in the image of God by direct creation and that he sinned and thereby incurred both physical and spiritual death; thus, we believe that all men by nature and by choice are sinners and, apart from Christ, shall be forever separated from God (Genesis 1:26; 2:17; Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 3:23, 6:23).
6. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitution sacrifice, that all who believe on Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood (I Corinthians 15:3,4; Revelation 1:5).
7. We believe that salvation is by grace through faith, not of works, and that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior are born again of the Holy Spirit, referred to in the Scripture as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, thereby becoming children of God. We believe in the eternal security of the believer (Ephesians 2:8,9; John 3:3,7; I:12; 10:27-29).
8. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in his ascension into heaven and in His present ministry there for us as High Priest and Advocate. We believe in the personal, visible, imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ for His Church and in His coming in Glory with the believers to set up His Kingdom upon the Earth (I Corinthians 15:4; Revelation 19:11-16; Acts 1:8-11; Hebrews 4:14-16; I John 2:1,2, I Thessalonians 4:13-17; Revelation 10:1-15).
9. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just, the bodily resurrection of the unjust, the everlasting conscious blessedness of the saved and everlasting conscious punishment of the lost (I Corinthians 15:20-24; Revelation 20:12-15; II Corinthians 5:8).
10. We believe that the local church is a voluntary association of baptized believers equal in rank and privilege, subject to the Word of God, and independent of any external ecclesiastical control whatsoever. We believe that God's Word commands every believer to be baptized by immersion in water. Though baptism has no saving merit, it does show forth in solemn and beautiful symbol the believers faith in and union with the crucified, buried, and risen Savior (Acts 8:38; Acts 18:8; Romans 6:3-5).
11. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a provision of bread and the cup which are symbolical of Christ's broken body and shed blood; that the Lord's Supper is partaken of by saved individuals in commemoration of the suffering and death of their Lord and in anticipation of His soon coming again that its observance is to be preceded by faithful self-examination (Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 11:23-30).

IV. CHURCH MEMBER'S STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND DESIRE

Having been led by the Spirit of God, I have received Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord (John 1:12). I have been born again through the Holy Spirit (John 3:6-7; 1:13) and have publicly confessed my faith by word (Romans 10:8-10) and in Baptism (Romans 6:3-5). I subscribe to the articles of faith of my church and do now, with other members of the church as one body in Christ, state my purpose and desire as a member of Forked River Baptist Church:

1. To walk lovingly (John 13:34-35) and humbly with my brethren (1 Peter 5:6; Romans 12:3); to pray for them (James 5:16); to separate myself from worldly and unchristian practices that would hinder my relationship with Christ or my progress in spiritual maturity.
2. To pray for the advancement of my church in knowledge, spiritual growth and fruitfulness (John 15:8-16); to uphold its program of worship, training and teaching; to observe its ordinances (Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:24-27); and affirm its teachings (1 Peter 3:15; Jude 3).
3. To give regularly and cheerfully as God prospers for the support of an evangelistic, teaching, and training ministry among us (11 Corinthians 9:6,7; 1 Corinthians 16:2); for the relief of the needy (Proverbs 19:17) and for the spread of the Gospel both here in Forked River and over all the Earth (Matthew 28:19-20).
4. To serve faithfully in some activity in the church body according to God's leading and according to my spiritual gifts and abilities (Romans 12:4-8; James 1:22-24; 2:18); taking care to assume only such duties as can be effectively performed (1 Corinthians 4:2); to improve my service by prayerful study of God's Word (11 Timothy 2:15).
5. To maintain Christian training and discipline in my home. To encourage family prayer, Bible Study and spiritual growth for any under my care (Ephesians 6:1-4; Proverbs 22:6).
6. To endeavor by my example (Matthew 5:16) and effort to point people to Christ and to do my part in building them up in the faith (Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 1:28).
7. To follow the Bible as my rule of faith and practice (11 Timothy 3:16, 17).
8. To endeavor to understand and appreciate my fellow members in the church, especially those who may have personalities, ministries and backgrounds quite different than I (Romans 14:1-7; 1 Corinthians 12 4-7, 18-27; Galatians 3:26-28).

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 - QUALIFICATIONS: To be received into this church any person shall have:

1. Confessed Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior.
2. Experienced Christian Believer's Baptism by immersion.
3. Expressed agreement with the Articles of Faith, the Church Member's Statement of Purpose and Desire, and the By-Laws.

The Elders shall recommend applicants for membership of this church to the congregation after having given satisfactory testimony as to conversion, Baptism and views of Christian faith and practice.

The Membership of this church shall consist of those who are received without protest by the congregation on recommendation of the Elders. Prospective members' names will be presented to the church for three weeks and then automatically accepted into membership. If for any reason someone has knowledge of why a person should not become a member of the church, they should go to the Elders with such knowledge. Then the Elders shall take appropriate action. If deemed necessary by the Elders the matter can be taken to the congregation for a vote.

SECTION 2 – RECOGNITION: The Elders and Members shall extend to all new members the Right Hand of Fellowship in recognition of their admission to all rights and privileges of the church. All persons uniting with the church shall be made acquainted with the church Constitution and By-Laws.

SECTION 3 – DUTIES: Members are expected to be faithful in all the duties essential to the Christian life; they should be faithful in attendance and service; supporting the purpose of the church; giving regularly to the support of the work and finding an active place of service in the work of the church. All members are also strongly encouraged to participate in a small group whose purpose is to build the faith of the member.

SECTION 4 – TERMINATION: All dismissals shall be made upon the recommendation of the Board of Elders to the church.

1. Any member in good and regular standing, who so desires, may obtain a letter of transfer to another Baptist Church.
2. Any member in good and regular standing, who so desires, may obtain a letter of fact for transfer to other than a Baptist Church.
3. Any member who shall unite with any other church without such letter of transfer shall be dropped automatically from the church roll.
4. Any member absent from six consecutive communion services without satisfactory excuse to the Elders may be dropped from the church membership on recommendation of said officers. However, every available effort should be made to restore the member to active fellowship.
5. Any member may be subject to dismissal by church discipline (see ARTICLE II – DISCIPLINE).
6. Since it is the desire and purpose of the church to maintain an active membership, the Board of Elders, Pastors and Church Clerk shall constitute a committee for revising the roll. They shall meet before the Annual Business meeting and take into full consideration the attitude of the members, their loyalty, their willingness to support the church: and after proper notice, shall recommend at that meeting the exclusion of delinquent members (See item (d) above). (Matthew

18:15-17; Titus 3:10; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 5:19-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Romans 16:17).

ARTICLE II - *DISCIPLINE*

SECTION 1 – DEFINITION OF DISCIPLINE

1. Definition – The term “Discipline” as used in this Article refers to the method of correction for problems and difficulties in the church body. It is that procedure including Christian teaching, training, admonition, and also rebuke (both public and private) with a view to helping the individual Christian to grow spiritually in the faith and to overcome unchristian attitudes and practices.
2. Attitude for discipline – An attitude of prayer, love, patience, calmness, and understanding shall be the under-girding factor in all matters of church discipline, regardless of the nature of the difficulty or violation.

SECTION 2 - CAUSES FOR DISCIPLINE: A member of this church shall be subject to church discipline for any one of a number of causes, among which are:

1. For any outward violation of the moral law of God’s Word.
2. For holding and advocating teachings or practices opposed to those set forth in the constitution and By-Laws of this church.
3. For pursuing any course of conduct which, in the judgment of the church, is considered unbecoming good citizens and believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, or is considered disgraceful to the truth as we hold it.
4. For treating the acts and decisions of the church contemptuously, or pursuing such a course which produces discord, disunity or dissension.
5. For being absent habitually without good reason from the church at the times of service and meetings.
6. For dishonesty or improper conduct in performing any church responsibility.

SECTION 3 - PREVENTION OF SERIOUS DISCIPLINE: The Elders, in order to help safeguard the standards and peace of the church, and with a view toward preventing the need for eventual serious discipline by the church, shall move with special promptness to warn, correct or admonish anyone who is known to be obstructing the work or disturbing the peace of the church by slander, falsehood, gossip, conspiracy or other unfair or unchristian practices. However, this should be done in true love, patience and understanding with a calm spirit.

SECTION 4 – PROCEDURE FOR DISCIPLINING: When other means have failed to correct difficulties within the membership of this church and the matter becomes one which may lead to church discipline, the principles and steps laid down in Matthew 18:15-17 will be followed as a guide. In this case, the Pastor and one other Elder will answer to the “one or two more” of Matthew 18:16. Two Elders will act as the "one or two more" if the Pastor is the one involved.

1. Any member of the church after he has discussed an alleged violation of Article II, Section 2, or any other difficulty with the member in question, and has failed to resolve the difficulty properly in

line with the Scriptures and the church's faith and practice (Matthew 18:15) shall bring the facts to the attention of one of the Elders in writing. Then, if the situation warrants it, the Elders will accompany the alleging member when he returns to talk with the member concerned. Every attempt will be made to resolve the difficulty properly in line with the Scriptures and the church's faith and practice (Matthew 18:16).

2. If the member in question "neglects to hear them" (Matthew 18:17) and a proper solution in line with the Scriptures and the Church's faith and practice cannot be worked out, the alleging member shall "tell it to the church" (Matthew 18:17) at a meeting called for this purpose (Article V, Section 2(c)).
3. If the member in question neglects to "hear the church" (Matthew 18:17) and a proper solution in line with the Scriptures and the church's faith and practice still cannot be worked out, the member who is found guilty will be dismissed from membership of the church by a majority ballot vote of the members present and voting at this meeting.

ARTICLE III - CHURCH OFFICERS / GOVERNMENT

SECTION 1 - AUTHORITY

The head of the church is Jesus Christ, and so it shall be at Forked River Baptist Church. His authority is revealed through His Word, the Bible, through consistent prayer and yielding to the Holy Spirit.

SECTION 2 - THE CONGREGATION

As the "priesthood of believers", members of Forked River Baptist Church shall be independent of any denominational hierarchies. Each member is responsible to God to pursue peace and the building up of one another, to be diligent in prayer and active in service. Authority to govern the church by His Word and through His Spirit is delegated to the Leadership Council by affirmation of the membership.

SECTION 3 - THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Through the Biblical qualifications of proven leadership, faithful service, and godly character, the Leadership Council shall consist of all Elders and Deacons. They shall lead and give example as ministers of Christ, having His authority to maintain the vision, mission and work of the ministry. The Council shall uphold the Word of God in all decisions, under-girding itself with humility, prayer and a forbearing spirit.

Elders and Deacons on the council may, and should, meet separately as necessary for work sessions consistent with their unique ministry responsibilities. The Leadership Council must reach a consensus (agreement to go forward in unity) before bringing decisions to the congregation.

SECTION 4 - ELDERS

Elders shall rule well in all spiritual matters and reflect the character of overseers and Biblical Elders as stated in the Pastoral letters of Timothy and Titus and other areas of Scripture. They shall maintain the oversight of the spiritual life of Forked River Baptist Church, both in corporate and in individual matters. Their primary responsibilities include: preaching, worship, teaching, shepherding, outreach, discipline and appointing other Elders. They shall be responsible for pulpit supply, for the selection and discipleship of new Elders and for critical and practical explanation of scriptural truth, both in teaching and in private counseling. They shall protect the flock from false teaching, divisiveness and sinful behavior, having authority in these areas.

SECTION 5 - NOMINATION, TENURE, NUMBER, ELECTION, ETC.

1. **PASTORS:** Serving as Elders, Pastors shall be ordained men, or be seeking ordination by a council of Pastors of like faith. They may be financially supported by the congregation, part or full time, so as to be free to serve. While their general ministry and authority shall be the same as other Elders, their particular duties shall be outlined in a ministry description developed by the Elders and/or Leadership Council incorporating his gifts, his call, and the need of the church.
2. **SENIOR PASTOR:** The Forked River Baptist Church shall seek the unifying grace of calling one full time Senior Pastor. Serving as an Elder, the Senior Pastor shall additionally be ordained by a council of like-faith, or be seeking such ordination. He shall primarily serve in the areas of preaching, teaching, discipleship and counseling, and with the other Elders, maintain spiritual unity, vision & oversight of the church. He shall financially be supported full time by the congregation in manner agreed upon beforehand. His general ministry and authority shall be the same as other Elders. His particular duties and any additional delegated authority shall be outlined in a ministry description developed by the Leadership Council incorporating his gifts, his call and the need of the church.
3. **DEACONS:** Deacons shall serve well in all practical matters and reflect the character of Deacons as stated in the Pastoral letters and the Book of Acts. Deacons shall maintain the spiritual administration of particular ministries, budgets, church funds, property, use of space, and outreach to individuals, both in practical and spiritual areas (ministries of service and mercy). They shall be responsible for Biblical application in practical areas of ministry, including the training, encouragement and management of others in the congregation to participate fully in ministering to one another.
4. Other leadership positions overseeing ministries within the Forked River Baptist Church gaining authority from the Deacon Board appointed by, and accountable to them, after being approved by the Elders, may include as determined by the Elders, but are not limited to:
 - A. The "Moderator", which is a position filled by the Head Deacon, or in his absence another member of the Deacon Board.
 - B. Clerk
 - C. Treasurer
 - D. Financial Secretary
 - E. Sunday School Superintendent
 - F. Head Usher
5. **NUMBER OF ELDERS AND DEACONS:** The number of Elders and Deacons, as well as Pastors and staff shall be determined by the needs of the congregation, the number of spiritually called and qualified members, the discernment of the current leadership, and prayer.
6. **THE ELDER BOARD:** The Official Board shall consist of all the Elders when there are three or more. When there are less than three Elders, one or more Deacon(s) may be appointed to serve in the interim, with the affirmation of the membership.

SECTION 6 – TIME QUALIFICATION FOR OFFICE: No person may be elected to any board, committee, or office until he has been a member for six months. The time qualification may be waived at the discretion of the Senior Pastor, in conjunction with the Elders Board.

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

SECTION 1 – WORSHIP

1. Public services shall be held regularly on the Lord's Day, morning and evening.
2. Under the guidelines of the Leadership Council, home groups may meet weekly or bi-weekly for Bible study, prayer, fellowship and mutual encouragement. Small Group Leaders must be members and approved by the Elders if they are to be affiliated with, and sanctioned by the Forked River Baptist Church.
3. The Lord's Supper shall be observed once a month if possible. A Fellowship offering shall be taken at this service.
4. Other meetings shall be held from time to time as the interest of the Lord's work may necessitate.
5. Due to special circumstances, the Elders may alter temporarily any of the above meetings.

SECTION 2 – BUSINESS

1. **THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING** shall be held during the month of June unless another date is specific, with proper notice given, at which time the annual reports shall be presented and officers approved, and such other business be transacted as may be specified in the call or authorized in the By-Laws.
2. **SPECIAL MEETINGS** may be called by the Board of Elders or by written request of ten members who are 18-years or older and are in good standing. Only such business can be transacted as is stated in the call for the meeting.
3. **THE APPROVAL OF CHURCH OFFICERS** and standing Committee members, adoption of the church budget, and any other business stated in the call or authorized in the By-Laws shall be conducted at the Annual Corporate meeting, and the terms of office of said positions shall commence on July 1st following the meeting and continue until June 30th of the next year. All committee persons and officers will remain in office until their successors, chosen at the Annual Meeting, replace them upon the expiration of their term.
4. **NOTICE OF MEETINGS:** Congregational meetings shall be announced from the pulpit and/or through the bulletin at two regular Lord's Day services preceding the meeting, stating the general purpose, time, and location of the meeting. In emergencies, meetings may be called on short notice through phone notification of the membership, without bulletin insert.
5. **CONGREGATIONAL QUORUM:** For congregational meetings, a quorum shall be 1/3 of the membership in good standing ("good standing" as determined by the Elders). Given a quorum, a majority vote constitutes the will of the congregation regarding matters that require voting. For the calling of any Pastor or Elder, for the buying or selling of property, or for any constitutional change, a 80% majority is necessary. Members must be present to be counted, except by prior permission of the Elders. In cases of illness, accident or special circumstance an absentee ballot may be accepted if the member is properly informed of the issue and has Elder approval. This does not apply to those on extended leave, those on vacation or who have a casual excuse.
6. **LEADERSHIP QUORUM:** For leadership meetings (Elder, Deacon or Leadership Council), a quorum shall be 50% of the leaders in good standing. Given a quorum, a 80% vote shall carry any properly presented proposal at Leadership Council, Elder or Deacon meetings. This is to give the Leadership Council freedom to operate in areas of disagreement and provide an

opportunity for minority opinions and discussion. All decisions shall require consensus (agreement to move forward in public unity when a 80% vote is achieved). The goal shall always be Biblical unity of spirit in decision making. Whenever the minority view presents Biblical evidence, prayer shall precede any decision. All leadership decisions that are brought to the congregation shall be presented as the "consensus" of the leadership. Absentee leaders must be informed, and be in consensus when feasible, of all decisions before being presented to the congregation.

7. **QUALIFICATION FOR VOTING:** All members of the church, in good and regular standing, 18-years of age or older shall be eligible to vote at all business meetings.
8. **ABSENTEE BALLOTS:** If a member in good standing is not able to attend a meeting in which a vote is being conducted, a vote may be cast, in writing that will not be kept anonymous. This ensures accountability of the voter and their decision during the vote. All absentee ballots **MUST** be present and counted at the meeting. Any vote received after the meeting in which the vote was taken will not be counted.
9. **CONGREGATIONAL VOTE:** Leadership must request a quorum vote at a scheduled meeting for the Following items:
 - A. Any Constitutional Change
 - B. Annual budget (or interim changes exceeding 10 %.
 - C. Purchase or sale of building and/or property. Including mortgages and encumbrance
 - D Election of Pastors, Elders or Deacons, and hiring of paid staff
 - E. Matters of Public Discipline
10. **ORDER OF BUSINESS:** Order of business at all meetings shall be as follows:
 - A. Call of Meeting (pulpit announcement two weeks preceding the meeting)
 - B. Opening Prayer
 - C. Reading of previous minutes
 - D Reports
 - E. Communications
 - F. Old Business
 - G. Appointment of Officers
 - H. New Business
 - I. Benediction/Adjournment

ARTICLE V - ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1 - GENERAL: This church shall have such organizations as are needed to minister to the different age groups and varied interests of its members. All organizations shall be formed with the approval of the Board of Elders. All officers and by-laws of such organizations shall be consistent with this Constitution and subject to the oversight of the Board of Elders.

SECTION 2 - SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School is an organization of the church. It shall be considered as the church at work in the field or religious education providing a program of systematic Bible study.

The Sunday School Board of Education, consisting of the Sunday School Superintendent, Sunday School teachers and the Pastors, will be responsible for reviewing the curriculum and any other matters pertaining to the Sunday School ministry.

ARTICLE VI - MISSIONS

There shall be an adequate missionary program to carry out the Great Commission of the Lord.

SECTION 1 - THE POLICY OF MISSIONARY GIVING: Missionary giving is a priority to the Forked River Baptist Church. The determination of specific giving will be coordinated through the "Missionary Committee" and approved by the congregation with no restrictions on giving to missionary organizations and mission boards whose policy and program is in basic agreement with our Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII - FINANCES

SECTION 1 – POLICY: All monies raised through the church will be made through tithes and offerings. Discernment of other methods rests upon the Board of Elders (Malachi 3:10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-3; 11 Corinthians 8 and 9).

ARTICLE VIII - AFFILIATIONS

This is an autonomous Baptist Church, independent of external ecclesiastical control. This church shall be, at the discretion of the Leadership Council, affiliated with organizations sharing our doctrine and passion. With the approval of the Board of Elders, the church may send the Pastor(s) as its representative to affiliated associations and defray his expenses to such meetings.

ARTICLE IX - GENERAL

SECTION 1 - FISCAL YEAR: The fiscal year of the church shall begin on the first day of July and operate through June 30th of the next year. The budget shall be approved at the Annual Corporate Meeting, but the church shall continue to operate on the previous budget until the new budget is implemented.

SECTION 2 – PASTORS' SALARY: It shall be the duty of the Board of Elders to review the financial needs of the Pastors annually.

It shall be the policy of the Forked River Baptist Church to handle all employment related decisions, such as, but not limited to; salary, benefits, hiring, dismissal, discipline, etc., according to the following :

- a) A majority of the Elder Board is required to render decisions pertaining to the listed matters.
- b) Where the matter(s) in question require congregational ratification (budget, calling or dismissal of a Pastor, etc.), the decision of the Elder Board will be presented to the congregation for a vote where ratification of the decision will be subject to the church constitution.
- c) For decisions regarding individual members of the Elder Board, the board member(s) involved must be excluded from the process, although their recommendations may be taken into consideration.
- d) When making Pastoral Salary recommendations, the Senior Pastor and the majority of the Lay Elders will set the value in the recommended budget.
- e) Salary recommendations for the Senior Pastor will be made exclusively by the majority of the Lay Elders so that no Pastor will be in the position to determine their own salary, or the salary of their superior.

SECTION 3 - WILL OF THE CHURCH: When the church, by vote, has expressed itself and is not in conflict with the scriptures, this Constitution and By-Laws, or with the Religious Corporation Law of the State of New Jersey, the will of the church shall be carried out by all officers, committees and organizations.

SECTION 5 – LICENSING: The church may grant a license to preach to any male member who gives evidence of his ability and spiritual preparedness, provided he is recommended by the Board of Elders. The licensee must have preached within hearing of the church before any church action is taken.

SECTION 6 – ORDINATION: The church may ordain any male member who gives evidence of having been called of God. The procedure shall be as follows:

- (a) The Board of Elders shall examine the candidate to determine whether he has been called of God. The qualifications recommended by the Mission Mid-Atlantic should be taken into consideration.
- (b) Upon church approval, the Secretary of the Leadership Council shall call a Council of Messengers of like faith to further examine the candidate.
- (c) The Board of Elders shall present his name to the church at a Special Meeting for action, only as they are satisfied with his testimony and qualification.

SECTION 7 – AMENDMENTS:

- (a) The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by an 80% vote of a quorum of the active voting members at any Special or Annual meeting. The general meaning of the amendment must appear in the call for the meeting. The “Articles of Faith” as previously defined in this document reflect the core beliefs of the Forked River Baptist Church and are not to be subject to any changes.
- (b) The notice for the proposed amendment shall be given on four consecutive Sundays preceding the Special Annual corporate meeting.

SECTION 8 – DISSOLUTION:

Upon dissolution of the corporation, the assets will be distributed to the organization(s) in affiliation with this body of believers.