

# **WAXAHACHIE BIBLE CHURCH**

## **CONSTITUTION**



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The mission of WBC is to:

Worship God

Become mature disciples

Carry Christ's love to the world



# WAXAHACHIE BIBLE CHURCH

## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE ONE

The name of the Church shall be called Waxahachie Bible Church.

### ARTICLE TWO

#### Purpose and Goals

##### 1. Purpose

The purpose for which this church exists is to worship Almighty God as revealed through the Scriptures and to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by attaining unity in the faith and increasing in the knowledge of the Son of God, that by doing so we may become a body of mature believers in accordance with Ephesians 4:13.

##### 2. Goals

We believe our purpose can best be accomplished by a two-fold emphasis.

A. The first emphasis is to promote evangelism as we are commanded to do in Matthew 28:19-20. We choose to define evangelism as the proclaiming of the Gospel as it is stated in Acts 10:38-43 and in 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. We offer ourselves and our resources as instruments of the Holy Spirit to reach others with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by whatever means He chooses, whether at home or abroad.

B. The second emphasis concerns the edification of the body of Christ. We choose to define edification as involving the presentation of God's Word, prayer and fellowship.

## ARTICLE THREE

### Doctrinal Statement

1. We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and life. II Timothy 3: 16; II Peter 1:21.
2. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19; Mark 12:29.
3. We believe that God created a great number of angels; that the greatest angel became proud and rebelled and is called Satan; that with the other angels who rebelled with him, called demons, he is seeking to destroy the kingdom of God. We believe that Satan was defeated at the cross and will be condemned to everlasting punishment at the end of the age. Rev 12:3-9; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezek 28:11-19; Eph 6:11-12; Col 2:15; Rev 20:10.
4. We believe that God created the universe and created man in His own image; that all men have sinned in the transgression of Adam as well as in personal experience; that they are dead in sin, and, apart from the grace of God, are totally lost and on their way to everlasting separation from God in “the lake of fire.” Genesis 1:26; Romans 5:15-19; Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:14-15.
5. We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, that He is true God and true man. Luke 1: 30-35; John 1: 1-2.

6. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a substitutionary sacrifice to satisfy divine justice and to completely reconcile us to God; and all who truly trust him as Savior are justified and eternally saved on the ground of His shed blood. Romans 5: 6-9; II Cor 5:21; Gal 3:13; Eph 2: 8-9.

7. We believe in the personal resurrection of our Lord and Savior in His glorified body, in His ascension into heaven, in His present life at the right hand of God the Father, and in His work on our behalf as high priest, mediator and advocate. Eph 1:20; John 20:19-20; I Cor 15: 3-6; Acts 1: 9-11; 22; Heb 7: 24-28; I John 2:1.

8. We believe that all who by faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior are “born again” of the Holy Spirit into the family of God, and that the Holy Spirit dwells within every believer to enlighten, guide and enable him in life, testimony and service. John 1:12; John 3:16; Romans 1:16-17, 8:9.

9. We believe that divine enabling gifts for service are bestowed by the Spirit upon all who are saved. While there is diversity in gifts, each believer is energized by the same Spirit, and each is called to his own divinely appointed service as God wills. These gifts are not signs of deeper spirituality. Each believer has at least one gift, and it should be used to build up the body of Christ. Romans 12:6-8; I Corinthians 12: 4-11; I Peter 4:10-11; Ephesians 4:11.

10. We believe that water baptism and the Lord’s Supper are the only ordinances of the church, that they are for those who have accepted Christ as Savior, and that they are a scriptural means of testimony for the church of this age. Matt 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; I Corinthians 11:23-26, 12:12-13.

11. We believe in the blessed hope and the personal and bodily return of Christ to receive believers unto himself. Titus 2:13; John 14:1-3; 1 Cor 15:51-52; 1 Thess 4:13-18.

12. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved in glory and the everlasting punishment of the lost. Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; Luke 16:19-26, Philippians 1:23; Revelation 20:10-15.

## **ARTICLE FOUR**

### **Membership**

1. We believe that all those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ are members of the universal church, the body of Christ. Eph 4:4-6. However, the New Testament also emphasizes the importance of believers gathering together in local churches. Hebrews 10:25. The criterion for membership in the local church should be the same as in the universal church; therefore, membership in Waxahachie Bible Church shall be based upon affirmation of personal faith in Jesus Christ as well as affirmation of the Waxahachie Bible Church Constitution.

2. The applicant for membership shall be interviewed by an elder or deacon in regard to personal salvation and all members received by an elder or deacon shall be presented to the church and placed on the church roll.

3. The New Testament stresses the importance of church discipline for those continuing in unrepentant sin, 1 Cor 5. Following the procedure set forth in Matthew 18:15-19, if the member who has sinned



will not turn away from the sin, even after a fellow believer, a group of fellow believers, and the elders have pleaded with the individual to do so, the member will be denied fellowship. The individual will be asked not to partake of the Lord's Supper and other members of the church will be asked not to have social fellowship with the unrepentant believer, I Corinthians 5:9-11, 11:27

4. The disciplined member may be reinstated at any time by coming to the elders and repenting of the sin. The rest of the church is to be informed of this reinstatement and is to renew fellowship with the restored member, II Corinthians 2:6-8

## **ARTICLE FIVE**

### **Statement on Marriage and Sexuality**

1. We believe that term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. Gen 2:24; Mark 10:6-9
2. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. Hebrews 13:4
3. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. Hebrews 13:4
4. We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God. I Cor 7:2; Lev 20:12; Rom 1:25-27; Rom 13:9; Gal 5:19-21; I Tim 1:9-10; Rev 21:8
5. We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volun-

teers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly. Psalm 133:1; John 17:23; Philippians 3:15-17

6. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:9; James 5:16
7. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church. Colossians 3:12-17

## **ARTICLE SIX**

### **Church Officers**

The church shall be ministered to by two groups of official church officers, the Board of Elders and the Board of Deacons together designated as the Church Board.

### **ELDERS**

#### **I. Appointment**

- A. Elders shall be men who have sensed the leading of God to serve in this role, have met the character qualifications of 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1; have been nominated by the Board of Elders; have completed a study on elders and given assent to the Doctrinal Statement as outlined in Article 3 of the Constitution; have been examined by and received unanimous approval of the Board of Elders and have obtained confirmation by the members of the church.
- B. The candidate shall be presented to the church body for a period of two weeks. If any church member has Biblical reasons why the

candidate is unqualified to serve, they shall contact one of the elders and state their reasons. After two weeks the elders will consider any objections and make a final decision on the candidate.

## **2. Responsibilities**

- A. Shepherds - The primary responsibility of the elders shall be to shepherd the congregation. This involves: making sure they are adequately fed and exhorted in sound doctrine (Acts 20:31), striving to ensure their spiritual, physical and emotional needs are met, protecting them from false doctrine (Acts 20: 28-30), being quick to pursue and assist any who have fallen into temptation, being devoted to prayer for the church and studying the Word, healing the debilitated, sustaining the hurting, guiding the wavering and reconciling the broken, and being responsible for disciplining, in love, the unruly and unrepentant. Above all it entails personally knowing individuals by being involved in caring relationships with the members.
- B. Elders - Elders are to serve as examples of godly men, above reproach, men to be imitated and emulated, men to who people can look for godly wisdom and advice.
- C. Overseer - Elders shall serve as those with primary responsibility for oversight of all that happens in the church. They shall be the governing body and legal officers of the church. They provide guidance and direction. They rule, manage, guard, take care of and watch over the church family. This is to be done voluntarily, according to the will of God, with eagerness, by being examples. It is not to be done under compulsion, for personal gain, or by lording it over the congregation (1 Peter 5: 2-3).

## **3. Removal**

- A. Elders may be removed from office by unanimous vote of the elder board, excluding the member in question.

#### **4. Number**

- A. There shall be a sufficient number of elders to adequately shepherd the congregation (Titus 1:5). The number shall not be less than seven. Should the number fall below seven, the elder board shall take immediate steps to add additional elders.
- B. The senior pastor shall be one of the elders.

### **DEACONS**

#### **1. Appointment**

- A. Deacons shall be men who have sensed the leading of God to serve in this role, have met the character qualifications of 1 Timothy 3, have been nominated by the Board of Deacons, have completed a study on deacons and given assent to the Doctrinal Statement as outlined in Article 3 of the Constitution, have been examined by and received unanimous approval of the Board of Elders and the Board of Deacons and have obtained confirmation by the members of the church.
- B. The candidate shall be presented to the church body for a period of two weeks. If any church member has Biblical reasons why the candidate is unqualified to serve, they shall contact one of the elders and state their reasons. After two weeks the elders will consider any objections and make a final decision on the candidate.

#### **2. Responsibilities**

- A. The deacon's primary responsibilities shall be to assist the elders in serving and ministering to the members of the congregation (Acts 6: 2-4). Deacons may be assigned to work under specific elders and may also function as a single separate group, deciding how to best implement ministries delegated to them by the elder board.

#### **3. Removal**

- A. Deacons may be removed from office by unanimous votes of the elder and deacon boards excluding the member in question.

## **PASTORAL STAFF**

The addition or removal of pastoral staff shall be done by unanimous vote of the elder board.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

The hiring or removal of administrative staff shall be the responsibility of the Administrative Pastor. The creation of new administrative positions shall be done by the Administrative Pastor.

## **AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended or revised on recommendation from the elders and deacons by a two-thirds majority of the members of the church. A copy of such proposed amendments must be sent to the members of the church and a copy posted in a prominent place in the church at least two weeks prior to a vote.

## **Restriction and Dissolution**

### **1. Restriction**

No part of the contributions to the church shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, officers or other private persons, except that the church shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article Two.

### **2. Dissolution**

In the event of the dissolution of the church, the Deacons and Elders shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the church, dispose of all the assets of the church exclusively for the purposes of the church as stated in Article Two, or to such organizations operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious

or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as a tax exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the IRS Code of 1954 (or any future US IRS law) as the elders and deacons shall determine.



# Waxahachie



**BIBLE CHURCH**

**June 24, 2024**