

SIXTH AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS OF WILKESBORO BAPTIST CHURCH

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of preserving, propagating, and making articulate the principles of our Faith, and to the end that this body of believing Christians may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with Scripture and the accepted tenets of Baptist Churches, for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of Wilkesboro Baptist Church, and in order to set forth the relationship of this body to other Baptist bodies, we do adopt and establish these Bylaws.

~~Given the transition in polity described hereafter in these Bylaws, we do set forth that 2023 is to be a year of transition to discern and describe the particular responsibilities and relationships between a plurality of Elders, Deacons, and the Members of Wilkesboro Baptist Church. For 2023, committees and Deacons would meet and function consistent with previous years. A plurality of Elders is to begin in 2023 and is to use the year to understand and enumerate their responsibilities regarding shepherding and overseeing the congregation.~~

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ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this body shall be **WILKESBORO BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.**, a nonprofit corporation of Wilkes County, North Carolina. Hereafter, Wilkesboro Baptist Church will be referred to as WBC.

ARTICLE II. MISSION

The mission of WBC is to lead our neighbors and the nations to follow Jesus. WBC is organized for the purposes of advancing and promoting Jesus Christ's disciple-making mission and engages in this mission by worshiping, learning, serving, and replicating.

Section 1. Worshiping. Worshiping God consists of but is not limited to: reading and studying the Holy Bible as the revealed Word of God; teaching and preaching the gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; and conducting regular services of praying, singing, and observing the ordinances of the church.

Section 2. Learning. Learning about God consists of but is not limited to: creating flexible educational opportunities where members grow as followers of Jesus through learning environments (e.g. Sunday school, discipleship groups, and other such opportunities) for the purpose of edifying members in their relationship with Jesus Christ and equipping members to lead others to follow Jesus Christ.

Section 3. Serving. Serving God consists of but is not limited to: using one's spiritual gifts to edify the body of Christ and to encourage unbelievers to experience the love of Christ. Serving takes place within the ministries of WBC and alongside the mission partners of WBC.

Section 4. Replicating. Replicating followers of Jesus consists of but is not limited to: followers of Jesus inviting others to worship, learn, and serve alongside each other; inviting unbelievers to hear and respond to the gospel; and training others to serve in the church. The desired leadership culture we aim to create is one where leaders replicate leaders.

In order to carry forward effectively the objects and purposes set forth above, WBC will have full power and authority to purchase, lease, and acquire by gift, devise, or bequest and hold, mortgage, convey, and dispose of all kinds of property, both real and personal.

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ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The doctrine, purposes, and mission of WBC are explained in our **Next Steps Class** (Introduction to Membership Class). After attending a **Next Steps Class**, prospective members shall undergo an Elder interview where prospective members can provide testimony of a public profession of faith and evidence of a regenerate ongoing relationship with Jesus Christ. Our [core beliefs](#) can be found on our church website: www.wilkesborobaptist.org and are derived from the [Baptist Faith and Message](#).

The membership of WBC shall be composed of persons who have met the following expectations:

- A. Have publicly professed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. Have given evidence of regeneration by the Spirit of God.
- C. Have been baptized by full immersion.
- D. Have subscribed to the doctrine and mission of WBC.
- E. Have been received into membership by a simple majority vote of those members of WBC then present and voting at the service/meeting in which such membership is requested.

Section 2. Given the five membership expectations above, a person may present themselves a candidate for membership at WBC in one of the following ways:

- A. **Profession of Faith and Baptism.** An applicant may be received on profession of faith as a candidate for baptism, and after the administration and completion of the expectations in Section 1, Paragraphs A through E above, the applicant shall enjoy membership in WBC. **While believer's baptism by immersion is necessary for membership, baptism does not automatically confer membership upon a person. It will be the responsibility of the Elders and Church Staff to create pathways for children and students, in particular, and adults, in specific cases, to move a person from baptism toward membership (e.g. Next Steps Class and other classes that are age specific that articulate member responsibilities for children, students, and adults).**
- B. **Statement of Faith and Baptism.** Any person to whom the ordinance of baptism by full immersion has been administered, and after the administration and completion of expectations in Section 1, Paragraphs A through E above, may be received as a member upon his or her statement of experience and faith in Christ.
- C. **Transfer of Letter.** A member from another church of like faith and order, who has received the ordinance of baptism by immersion, and after the administration and completion of requirements in Section 1, Paragraphs A through E above, may be

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received by letter of dismissal and recommendation. When a person is received upon the promises of a letter and such a letter cannot be secured within ninety (90) days, the Clerk shall automatically record such member as “Received on Statement of Faith” (see paragraph B).

The Elders shall be responsible for determining each person’s qualification for membership. In making this determination, they may rely on the person’s profession of faith, or such other evidence, as the Elders deem appropriate.

Section 3. Each member at WBC shall be privileged and expected to participate in and contribute to the ministry and life of the church, consistent with God’s leading and with the gifts, time, and material resources each has received from God. Only those who are members of this congregation shall be entitled to serve in offices or positions of leadership at WBC. Under Christ this congregation is governed by its members. Therefore, it is the privilege and responsibility of members to **participate in the church’s mission of leading our neighbors and the nations to follow Jesus by worshiping, learning, serving, and replicating. It is also the privilege and responsibility of members to** attend Member Meetings and **cast a vote** in the election of officers, on decisions regarding membership status, and on such other matters as may **be presented to the membership** (e.g., annual budget, property expenditures). Members shall have access to the principal records of the church, including minutes of its governing **bodies** and principal financial reports. However, consistent with Baptist doctrine and practice, these rights shall not include the right to review or inspect individual donor records or personnel files.

Section 4. Associate Membership. Students and others ~~temporarily~~ residing in the Wilkesboro area (e.g., someone working temporarily with Samaritan’s Purse) who are members of an evangelical church may apply for associate membership, subject to the recommendation of the Elders. Qualifications are identical to those for full membership as set out above, except that home church membership is retained. Generally, a letter of recommendation will be sought from the applicant’s home church. Duties and privileges of associate members are the same as for other members, except that:

- A. When absent from the Wilkesboro-area for extended periods of time, they are released from the responsibility to attend WBC services.
- B. While encouraged to participate in Member Meetings, they will not be eligible to hold any office or to vote.

Section 5. Membership in WBC may be terminated in any of the following ways:

- A. Personal request of the member.

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- B. At the member's death.
- C. Transfer of letter to another church. A letter of transfer to unite with another Baptist Church may be issued upon request of the church which the member is planning to join. All such applications will be voted upon by WBC in Member Meetings (church conference/business meeting). A statement of acknowledgment to a person uniting with a church of another denomination may be issued upon request.
- D. When it is verified that the person has united with a fellowship of another church.
- E. Exclusion by the vote of three-fourths (3/4) of those members present and voting at a duly called and convened meeting. Exclusion may occur after sincere efforts for reconciliation have taken place and after notice and opportunity to be heard have been provided to the member, and where the meeting and its purpose have been made known or bona fide efforts have been undertaken to make known to the church membership and the member. (Note Section 6 below on church discipline).

Section 6. Church Discipline. The Elders may recommend to the congregation the removal of any member if for a period of **greater than** one year the member has not participated in any manner in the life, support, worship, or ministry of WBC. Such recommendation is not to be presented to WBC unless diligent efforts have been made to restore the member to fellowship with WBC. Upon such recommendation, the congregation and member concerned shall be notified in writing of the recommendation and pending action not less than ten (10) days preceding such congregational meeting. A three-fourths (3/4) majority of those **present and** voting shall be required for the removal of a member under this Section 5. Paragraph E.

Termination of membership through the process of church discipline is a last resort. Any member consistently neglectful of his or her duties or guilty of conduct by which the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be dishonored, and so opposing the welfare of WBC, and/or rendering doubtful a profession of faith, shall be subject to the admonition of the Elders and the discipline of the church, according to the instructions of our Lord in Matthew 18:15-17 and the example of Scripture. Church discipline, then, should ordinarily be contemplated after individual private admonition has failed. Church discipline can include admonition by the Elders or congregation, deposition from office, and excommunication (see Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Timothy 5:19; 1 Corinthians 5:4-5). ~~The Elder Manual will develop and maintain an Elder Manual with a section on church discipline to serve as a guide in this process.~~ **The Elder Manual will serve as a guide in this process.**

Section 7. Any former member, whose membership has been terminated under Section 5. Paragraphs A., C., D., E., upon satisfactory evidence of his repentance and reformation (e.g., a situation of church discipline), or upon satisfactory explanation (e.g., a transfer of

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membership), may be restored to full fellowship and membership by a simple majority vote of those members **present and** voting.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS AND NOTICE

Section 1. WBC shall hold regular **gatherings for worshiping, learning, training in service, fellowshiping, and developing leaders.**

Section 2. WBC shall hold **at least** (6) Member Meetings annually as hereinafter set forth in these Bylaws for the disposition of all business matters not otherwise provided for, to hear reports from the various church organizations, and to consider other matters essential to the spiritual welfare and prosperity of the congregation. These Member Meetings will generally be held every other month and the meeting in August shall be considered the annual meeting, unless the Elders assign a different meeting to be the annual meeting. The dates and content of these meetings will be designated by the Elders.

Section 3. A quorum shall be understood to be ten percent (10%) of the total number of active, resident members. A quorum at any meeting shall be necessary to conduct the business of the members of WBC except for the following items:

- A. Approving the minutes of a previous meeting or meetings
- B. Approving the Treasurer's report
- C. Voting on membership, Transfer of Letter or Statement of Faith as set forth in Article III Section 2.

All other business items shall require a quorum present. A simple majority vote of those present and voting shall be sufficient for passage of any measure with the specific exceptions outlined in these Bylaws.

Section 4. Special business meetings of the members may be called at any time by **a majority of the** Elders, ~~a majority of the Deacons~~, or upon the written request of ten percent (10%) of the then total number of members of WBC.

Section 5. Except as otherwise specifically provided by North Carolina General Statute 55A-7-05, as presently in effect and as hereafter amended, notice of any and all meetings of the membership, including all regular, annual, and special meetings, shall be conspicuously set forth in the church "Beacon" or newsletter, and, when required by law or these Bylaws, the purposes for any such meeting shall be set forth under such notice. Such newsletter shall not be required to be mailed by first class mail and shall be deemed fair and

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reasonable notice, consistent with these Bylaws. In addition, oral notice of any meeting shall be construed to be valid notice, provided that at least one-third (1/3) of the then total membership of WBC is present at any such meeting(s) where the notice is given.

Section 6. Notwithstanding the foregoing, and subject to the specific requirements of North Carolina General Statute 55A-7-05, as presently in effect and as hereafter amended, at least one week's advance notice must be provided in the WBC newsletter of any special meeting, together with the purposes of such meeting.

ARTICLE V. VOTING BY MEMBERSHIP

Voting by the members on all matters shall be by show of hands in person unless otherwise specified in these bylaws or prescribed by the Elders ~~with sufficient notice to the church.~~

ARTICLE VI. OFFICES

Section 1. There are two offices mentioned in the New Testament, those of Elder and Deacon (1 Timothy 3:1-13). The NT uses the terms elder, pastor, and overseer interchangeably (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 4:14; 5:17; 1 Peter 5:1-5). Elders shall include the Senior Pastor, any appropriately affirmed pastoral staff (see Section 3 below), and lay Elders whose responsibility it will be to teach, oversee, shepherd, and **equip for ministry** the members of WBC. The NT also describes the office of Deacon whose primary biblical task is to serve the ongoing ministry needs of WBC. ~~The Elders shall organize by electing a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary.~~ **The Elders shall organize as they deem necessary.** The Deacons shall organize by electing a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary **and by filling committees/ministries to support the direction set by the Elders.**

Section 2. The Board of Directors of the Corporation for WBC shall be constituted by the duly elected Elders, as provided herein, and the duly elected Deacon officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary). The Board of Directors of the Corporation shall have only such powers as are provided by the Articles of Incorporation, the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act, and these Bylaws for WBC. The President of the Corporation will **be a lay Elder assigned annually. It is the President of the Corporation who shall be responsible to sign legal documents for Wilkesboro Baptist Church.**

Section 3. Elders. There shall be a Body of Elders consisting of **at least** five elected male members of WBC which includes elected members of pastoral staff. When fully implemented, the Body of Elders shall be made up of more lay Elders than staff Elders.

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These Elders shall have the option of appointing pastoral staff members to serve as Elders who have served at WBC for at least two years. **Staff Elders, just as lay Elders, must be approved by the members of WBC.**

- A. **Qualifications of Elders.** Elected Elders shall be men who endeavor by God's grace to meet the scriptural qualifications and standards found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, Hebrews 13:17, and 1 Peter 5:1-3. Paid non-pastoral staff personnel shall not be eligible for nomination or election as Elders. Elders must **have been** members of WBC at least two years prior to nomination.
- B. **Terms of Service.** Elected lay Elders shall serve a three-year term with the possibility of serving a second, successive three-year term. A lay Elder that has served two successive three-year terms shall not be eligible for re-election for two years after the completion of his second term. **A lay Elder that has declined to serve a second, successive three year term shall not be eligible for re-election for one year after the completion of his first term.**
- C. **Responsibilities of Elders.** Elders are responsible to seek the mind of Christ through the Word of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they undertake the work of overseeing the ministry of WBC. They serve WBC and are responsible to the members of WBC in these matters. Elders shall at all times regard themselves as servant **leaders** of WBC. In keeping with their biblical expectations, Elders are to fulfill the following responsibilities:
- Shepherd the **church** of God (1 Peter 5:2, Acts 20:20, 1 Timothy 3:5).
 - Be an example to the **church** (1 Peter 5:3).
 - Teach and exhort, thereby equipping the **church** for ministry (1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:9, Eph. 4:12).
 - Refute those who contradict truth **and guide the process of formal church discipline** (Titus 1:9, 11, **Matthew 18:15-20, 1 Cor. 5**).
 - Hold one another mutually accountable (1 Timothy 5:17-20).
 - Pray for the sick (James 5:14-15).
 - **Oversee the membership, ministries, and mission of WBC** (1 Timothy 3:5, 5:17).
 - Embrace and embody the mission of WBC in leading our neighbors and the nations to follow Jesus by worshiping, learning, serving, and replicating **as outlined by Jesus' command to make disciples by baptizing new believers and through teaching his commands** (Matthew 28:18-20).
- D. **Oversight of Elders.** **The Elders** shall consider and make recommendations to the members in all matters pertaining to the work and progress of the WBC, including the oversight, establishment, and maintenance of the spiritual and fraternal

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relations with all members of WBC, and **they** shall **work with** the Deacons in observance of ordinances. In administrative areas **the Elders** shall exercise general oversight regarding the administrative needs and ministries necessary for the ongoing work and mission of the church. The Body of Elders shall meet on a regular basis (e.g., monthly), and may also be called into special session upon the joint request of any three Elders. A quorum shall be a majority of the current Body of Elders. The Elders shall coordinate and communicate on a regular basis with staff, Deacons, committees, teams, or individuals to oversee and ensure the accomplishment of the ongoing work and mission of WBC. Any Elder with a conflict of interest in a decision shall disclose the conflict to the Body of Elders and recuse himself from that decision.

- E. **Election of Elders.** The Elder nomination and election process shall be as follows: **church** members may nominate a male to serve as an Elder **anytime during the year.** ~~during the months of August and September.~~ Nominated candidates must then be vetted by the Body of Elders at WBC. ~~The first Elder nominations for these lay Elders will be vetted by the Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, and Pastor Emeritus.~~ Vetting **of Elder candidates** will be led by the current Body of Elders. Elders that pass the vetting process (who are qualified to serve based on the scriptural qualifications enumerated above and are willing to serve) will be presented to the congregation **in one of two ways: at one of the six Member Meetings or at a regular worship gathering of the congregation. The presentation of the Elder candidate should come at least one month prior to the vote of the church members.** That month **(two months in the case of Member Meeting to Member Meeting)** will consist of specific times and opportunities for the **church members** to become familiar with **the Elder candidate.** Election shall be by secret ballot, with an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of those members present and voting necessary for a positive affirmation. The Body of Elders will maintain an Elder Manual describing the roles and responsibilities of Elders along with the process of Elder elections with particular regard to Elder qualifications and vetting of Elders.

Section 4. Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor shall be an Elder and shall perform the duties of an Elder previously described above. He shall be recognized by the church as particularly gifted and called to the full-time ministry of preaching and teaching. He shall have special charge of the pulpit ministry, oversee the administration of the ordinances of baptism and communion, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office. He shall seek to fulfill the mission of the church personally by leading in worshiping, learning, serving, **and replicating.** The Senior Pastor shall take personal responsibility for creating a leadership culture at WBC that replicates leaders.

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- A. A Senior Pastor shall be called by WBC to serve until the relationship is dissolved at the request of either the Senior Pastor or WBC. The call of the Senior Pastor shall take place at a meeting especially set for that purpose of which at least ten (10) days' notice has been given the membership. The election shall be upon the recommendation of a special **pastor search** committee recommended by the Elders and approved by WBC to seek out and nominate as Senior Pastor as a minister of the gospel whose Christian character and qualifications fit him for the office. The **pastor search** committee shall bring only one name at a time for the consideration of WBC and no nominations shall be made except by the committee. Election shall be by secret ballot, with an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of those members present and voting necessary for an extension of a call. The type of ballot, the procedure for voting, the procedure for tallying the votes, and the manner of notification of the results of the voting shall all be determined by the Elders. Should the candidate recommended by the **pastor search** committee fail to receive a three-fourths (3/4) vote, the committee will be instructed to seek out another candidate, subject to the terms and provisions set forth herein.
- B. The relationship between the Senior Pastor and the congregation or membership may be dissolved upon the request of either the Senior Pastor or WBC. In either case, at least thirty (30) days' notice shall be given of termination of the relationship, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon, with both Senior Pastor and WBC seeking to follow the will of God through the leadership of the Holy Spirit. In the case of terminating the Senior Pastor's relationship with WBC considered by its membership, a simple majority of the Elders must vote in favor of bringing a motion of termination to the members. Then a simple majority of members actually present at a meeting called for such a purpose shall be required to vote for termination by secret ballot to cause termination.

Section 5. Additional Pastoral Staff. The church may call additional pastors to serve the needs of the congregation. They shall perform the duties of an Elder, if vetted and appointed by the Elders, and properly elected by the congregation as set out in Section 3. These additional pastors shall be recognized by WBC as particularly gifted and called to the ministry of preaching and teaching. They shall assist the Senior Pastor in the performance of his regular duties and shall perform any other duties as usually pertain to the office of pastor, or which may be specifically assigned to them by the congregation. In the absence or incapacity of the Senior Pastor for defined periods of time (e.g., sabbatical or illness), the Elders shall assume the responsibility for his duties. Additional ministers (e.g., children, music, students), directors (e.g., preschool, communication), or other assigned staff shall have those duties and regulations as shall be assigned to them by the Elders. They shall perform their duties under the supervision of the Senior Pastor and the Elders.

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The foregoing pastoral staff members, other than the Senior Pastor, shall be called and voted upon by the congregation by the same procedure utilized in the call of the Senior Pastor. Non-pastoral staff positions may be recommended by the ~~Deacons~~, personnel committee or Elders. Non-pastoral staff members may be approved and hired by the Personnel Committee, working with the Elders. Pastoral and non-pastoral staff members, other than the Senior Pastor, may be discharged from employment by the vote of a simple majority of the Elders, working with the Personnel Committee.

Section 6. Deacons. There shall be a minimum of twenty-one (21) deacons. When fully implemented the Body of Deacons will operate with sufficient servants to fulfill the ministry needs of WBC as determined by the general oversight of the Elders working with the Deacons.

- A. **Qualifications of Deacons.** Deacons shall be men who give testimony of a genuine conversion experience and evidence of consistent growth in the spiritual life. The biblical qualifications as set forth in Acts 6:1-6 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13 shall apply to **diaconal candidates**. **Diaconal candidates** shall support the entire church program in its ministries and functions through regular attendance, biblical stewardship, and general spiritual **service**. They shall have been members of WBC for at least two years.
- B. **Terms of Service.** Each Deacon shall serve a term of three (3) years. The Body of Deacons shall be divided into three classes of equal, or as nearly equal classes, with the term of each class being staggered, such that only one class shall be elected in each year for a three (3) year term. Upon expiration of serving such three (3) year term, or two (2) years or more of a term when filling a vacancy, an individual shall not be eligible for re-election or appointment to the diaconate for a period of one (1) year.
- C. **Responsibilities of Deacons.** Deacons are to be servants of the church in accordance with the meaning of the word "deacon" in the New Testament. Their primary responsibilities shall be to **facilitate** the ministry needs of WBC and to organize themselves, **under the advisement of the Elders**, to minister to the congregation and community (e.g., **committees, teams, and ministries**). This servant's role shall include being guardians of the unity of the fellowship of WBC and serving with the Elders in guarding the spiritual health of the **church**. Deacons shall, along with the pastors and Elders, administer the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and Baptism. Deacons shall coordinate and communicate regularly with the Elders. The Body of Deacons shall meet on a regular basis (e.g., monthly) ~~and may also be called into special session upon the joint request of any three Deacons. A~~ ~~quorum shall be a simple majority of Deacons present.~~ They shall appoint from their

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number such committees **and ministries** as are necessary to discharge their duties **with the advisement of the Elders.**

- D. **Deacon Elections.** Deacon nominations and elections shall be as follows. In the month of October, members of the church may nominate qualified men to serve as Deacons. Nominated **candidates** will be vetted by the Deacons and Elders according to 1 Timothy 3:8-13. A list of vetted candidates shall be presented back to the membership of WBC in November. Ballots containing the vetted candidates will be voted upon annually by the members in November or December selecting at least one third (1/3) of the total number of Deacons currently serving WBC. If a tie occurs in the voting to elect Deacons and the tie is applicable to the last position to be filled, then the individual who shall serve shall be selected by a random method (e.g., drawing lots), **or both candidates who were tied shall be elected to the office.** Upon the death or resignation of a Deacon, the Body of Deacons shall consider nominated Deacons from the previous year's election based on the next highest number of votes received and appoint a substitute to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the term of the Deacon who has died or resigned. The presently elected members of the Body of Deacons shall continue to serve in such capacity and in their staggered terms from the time of the adoption of these Bylaws until their successors have been duly elected at the next three succeeding annual meetings of WBC.

Section 7. Other Leadership. In addition to the two biblical offices of Elder and Deacon, WBC may employ other called professional leadership (e.g., pastors, ministers, and directors), as well as lay leaders (e.g., Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer), and such servants as shall be required to do the work of WBC in any of its departments or organizations.

- A. **Clerk.** The Clerk shall be **appointed to serve a one-year term**, upon the recommendation of Elders, and shall be eligible to serve **additional terms**. It shall be the responsibility of the Clerk to attend or be represented at all WBC business meetings, to keep an accurate record of all business transactions, to prepare the annual associational letter, and to see that **the annual associational letter** is properly transmitted to the associational Clerk. The Clerk shall issue letters of dismissal, as authorized by WBC, and preserve a true history of WBC, keeping the same in a safe place. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to **keep** an accurate roll of the WBC membership, the dates and methods of admission and dismissal, and other pertinent information concerning the membership.
- B. **Treasurer.** **The Treasurer shall be appointed to serve a one-year term**, upon recommendation of the Elders, and shall be eligible to serve **additional terms**. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive, keep in a bank, and disburse by check upon proper authority, all money or things of value that are given to WBC in

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accordance with instructions from the WBC. Unless otherwise provided by WBC, **the Treasurer** shall keep at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. **The Treasurer** shall render an account regularly to WBC. **These accounts are** to be preserved by the Clerk. **The Treasurer will prepare** a final report **to be distributed** annually to all members. The Assistant Treasurer shall be the Deacon of Finance (**Finance Chairman**), who will assist the Treasurer as needed in the performance of the above duties. **The Treasurer serves alongside the Assistant Treasurer and under the Finance Committee and Body of Elders.** The Body of Elders or Finance Committee may require that the Treasurer's books be audited. All books, records, and accounts kept by **the Treasurer** shall be the property of WBC. The Treasurer shall, upon invitation, meet with the Elders and shall meet regularly with the Finance Committee and Budget Committee.

ARTICLE VIII. CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Section 1. The government of WBC shall be congregational in nature and shall be vested in the membership.

Section 2. The Elders, ~~with the Deacons~~, shall serve as the coordinating agents of WBC. To this end the Elders shall be advised of all actions and reports, which shall be recommended or made to WBC by any standing or special committee. **The process of motions presented to the members is as follows: Motions may originate from a committee, from the Deacon body, or from Elders. Motions beginning with committees or the Deacon body must be approved by a majority of the Elders to be presented to the members. Any member, following Robert's Rules of Order (Section 6 below) may bring a motion to the Member Meeting. A motion presented at a Member Meeting by a member is subject to be ruled by the Moderator to be referred to the Elders for discussion. Motions referred to the Elders will be addressed at the next Member Meeting.**

Section 3. The Senior Pastor or another of the Elders shall preside over Member Meetings as Moderator.

Section 4. A quorum at any meeting shall consist of not less than ten percent (10%) of the resident and active members of WBC except as otherwise stated in these Bylaws.

Section 5. The Church Clerk shall keep minutes of each business meeting and shall record whether a quorum was present and what actions were taken by WBC.

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Section 6. In matters of parliamentary procedure, Roberts Rules of Order (latest revision) shall be followed.

ARTICLE IX. AFFILIATION

Section 1. WBC is a free, autonomous, independent body, congregational in nature with authority to determine for itself in the manner set forth in these Bylaws (free of any outside control, authority or power, whether governmental or otherwise) the use of its property and all WBC policies.

Section 2. WBC recognizes the value and mutual helpfulness in the voluntary association of churches which are in such agreement in faith and practice as to make possible a spirit of fellowship and goodwill. It is recognized that association and cooperation between such churches will influence the missionary, educational, and benevolent interest of each other. WBC does declare its intention, as far as conscience will allow, to work in mutual cooperation with other Baptist groups.

ARTICLE X. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be adopted, amended, altered, or repealed by a simple majority vote of the members entitled to vote and present at any regular **Member Meeting** of WBC; provided, however, that a quorum is in attendance, that any such proposed adoption, amendment, alteration, or repeal shall have been given to the Clerk in writing; and, that the proposed change shall have been included in proper notice to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the time any such vote is taken.

ARTICLE XI. INDEMNIFICATION

WBC shall, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, indemnify its Elders, Deacons, Officers, Directors, Employees, and Agents (e.g., leaders, teachers, and other volunteer workers) against liability and expenses arising out of their status as such or their acting in any or the foregoing capacities. This indemnification shall also include costs, expenses, and attorney's fees in connection with the foregoing and such indemnification.