

CONSTITUTION OF LIMESTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

Article I NAME

This congregation shall be known as The Limestone Baptist Church of Cochran, GA.

Article II MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Limestone Baptist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to help them grow in His likeness. This is done by maintaining the Worship of God, providing and encouraging members in Christian Fellowship, Discipleship, and Training for Ministry and Evangelism.

Article III 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 Spirit, 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 promise, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit:

1. To walk together in Christian love.
2. To strive for the advancement of the church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort.
3. To promote its prosperity and spirituality.
4. To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrine.
5. To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.
6. To maintain family and secret devotions.
7. To educate our children in the principles of our religion.
8. To seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances.
9. To walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment.
10. To avoid tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger.
11. To abstain from sale of, and use of destructive drugs or intoxication drinks as a beverage; to shun pornography.
12. To be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.
13. To watch over one another in brotherly love.
14. To remember each other in prayer.
15. To aid each other in sickness and distress.
16. To cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech.
17. 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, promise that when we remove from this place we will as soon as practical, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Article IV ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in one true and living God and that there are three Persons in the Godhead—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Matt. 28:19; John 10:30; Eph. 2:11-18; 2 Corinthians 13:14
2. We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God and the only rule of faith and practice. 2 Tim. 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21
3. We believe man cannot save his own soul and that he is saved by grace through faith. John 3:16; Heb. 7:25-27; Eph. 1; Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Peter 1:18-21
4. We believe that if you are once saved you are always saved. Phil 1:6; Phil 2:12-13; John 10:26-29; Romans 8:28
5. We believe that baptism is one of two New Testament ordinances, that nothing is baptism but immersion, and that believers are the only subjects of this ordinance. Matt. 3:13-17; Romans 6:4; Col. 2:12; Acts 8:38
6. We believe that the Lord's Supper is one of two New Testament ordinances, that is a memorial supper, and that we are to observe it in remembrance of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus Christ. Matt. 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:26-29
7. We believe the punishment of the lost will be everlasting and the joy of the saved will be eternal. 2 Thessalonians 1:5-9; Rev. 20:11-15; Matt. 25:46
8. We believe the obligation is on every church and every saved person to witness. Matt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 8:4

Article V FAITH, PRACTICE AND CHURCH POLICY

All members shall:

1. Subscribe to the church covenant.
2. Subscribe to the articles of faith.
3. Subscribe to the general policy of this church in the promotion of the Baptist principles by supporting the work of the Pulaski/Bleckley Association, the Georgia Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.
4. Believe in the fundamental principles and Christian faith as contained in the Holy Scriptures and accept the New Testament as the sole doctrine of Baptists.

Article VI MEMBERSHIP/EMPLOYEES AND LEADERSHIP

Section 1 Membership

This church shall consist of baptized believers in Christ who voluntarily and wholeheartedly subscribe to the views of faith, practice, and church policy as set forth in Article V of this Constitution. Membership in this church may be attained as follows:

1. By ordinance of baptism after profession of faith.
2. By letter from any church of like faith.
3. By restoration to the rolls after having been dropped or excluded.
4. By statement of Christian experiences indication previous compliance with #1 above.

Membership in this church shall be terminated as follows:

1. By letter of dismissal to another church of like faith.
2. By exclusion.
3. By death.
4. By erasure.

Section 2 Employees/Leadership

Believing that God's Word declares same-sex relations to be an abomination, (Leviticus 18:22; I Corinthians 6:9) and believing that God ordains the sexual status of a person at conception (Psalm 139:13-16) no person shall be employed or allowed to serve in any leadership position in this church who condones or practices same-sex relations or who has had their sexual status altered. Official background checks will be conducted on persons who have an on-going responsibility working with children eighteen years and under. After the initial background check, subsequent background checks will be conducted every fifth year. The ministerial staff will be responsible for seeing that the background checks are completed and on file.

Article VII OFFICERS

The following shall be officers in this church:

1. Pastor
2. Deacons
3. Clerk and Assistant Clerk
4. Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer
5. Trustees
6. Sunday School Director
7. Discipleship Training Director
8. Women's Ministry Director
9. Men's Ministry Director
10. Music Director
11. Pianist and/or Organist
12. Finance Chairperson
13. Children /Youth Minister
14. Moderator

The duties of these officers shall be as follows:

Section 1 Pastor

The Pastor shall be called for an indefinite period of time. No one may be called as Pastor who does not hold, without reservation, to the Articles of Faith of this church. Pastorates may be terminated by resignation or by dismissal. Such call or dismissal, when suggested by 2/3 of the Deacons, shall require 2/3 of the votes cast at a regular or special business meeting of the church. Notice of time and object of such meeting shall be given by the secretary of the deacons at the worship services or in the church bulletin. Resignation or dismissal shall become effective 30 days following church action. By mutual consent, this 30-day period may be disposed of.

The Pastor shall faithfully perform the duties of that office, i.e., preach on each Lord's Day—morning and evening—or cause the same to be done; administer the New Testament ordinances; lead the mid-week prayer service or cause the same to be done; visit the members of the church, especially the sick and distressed; act as moderator at church business meetings; and perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office or as set forth in this constitution and by-laws. He shall be ex-officio member of all church organizations and committees.

His duties are four-fold: as preacher-to preach the gospel; as bishop-to superintend the work of the church; as pastor-to be the shepherd of the flock; and as minister-to serve the people for Jesus' sake.

The Pastor shall receive such compensation for his service as the church may determine. The agreements governing vacations, revivals, and other conditions of a Pastor's call shall be passed on by the church in conference, shall be included in the minutes of the church business, and shall be binding on the Pastor and the church until altered at a later date by the church in conference. (We have recorded in the minutes the following: The Pastor may have five revivals each year and two full weeks of vacation, both to be taken at the Pastor's discretion.)

Section 2 Deacons

There shall be a minimum of seven Deacons for the first 300 members whose names are on the church membership roll and one additional Deacon for each additional 100 members or a fraction thereof.

Election of Deacons shall be as follows: Nominations for the office of Deacon shall be by secret ballot in the regular July business meeting of the church. A man must receive a minimum of three votes to be nominated for the office of Deacon. Those men not previously ordained by Limestone Baptist Church shall be examined by the active Deacons and the Pastor as to scriptural requirements (1 Timothy 3: 8-13 and Acts 6: 3-4) and doctrinal beliefs. Should upon examination, a nominee be determined ineligible or should any decline the nomination, the other nominees will be considered in order of votes received. Nominees meeting the qualifications of a Deacon shall be presented to the church in the August business meeting for election and ordination. In addition, to be eligible for the office of Deacon, male members must be 21 years of age and a resident member for at least one year. The Deacons shall be elected for a three-year period. The number elected and the number coming off each year shall be adjusted by the membership growth. Other Deacons may be elected to fill the unexpired terms.

There shall be regular monthly meetings of the Deacons prior to the regularly scheduled business meeting that is held each month. There shall be called meetings by the Pastor and/or the Deacons whenever necessary. Unless prevented by old age or other physical handicap, any Deacon who fails to attend at least one regular church service and one regular Deacon's meeting within a 13-weeks' period shall be placed on the inactive roll. Once so placed, he shall remain as inactive until the church in regular conference votes to reinstate such Deacon to the active roll by 2/3 majority of the votes.

Each year in September, the Deacons shall elect by secret ballot the following offices: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary as well as such committees as they deem wise.

The Deacons shall be spiritual assistants and advisors to the Pastor and with him shall have general oversight of the membership and the spiritual and business affairs of this church. All matters of dismissal from the church and church discipline shall have their approval before being brought before the church. They shall assist the Pastor in administering the ordinances, in visiting the sick and aged members, and in all the spiritual affairs of the church. The active Deacons shall be responsible for filling the pulpit when the church is without a Pastor and while the Pastor Search Committee is working to find a permanent Pastor.

Section 3 Clerk and Assistant Clerk

It shall be the duty of the clerk to record the minutes of all regular and special business meetings of the church; to preserve an accurate roll of the membership of the church; to prepare the annual letter and table of statistics concerning the work of the church to the Pulaski-Bleckley Association; to notify in writing or otherwise all persons of their election or appointment to any office of the church; to render reports as requested by the Pastor, the Deacons, or the church; and to perform such other duties that may be prescribed in the constitution and by-laws.

The assistant clerk shall perform the duties of the clerk in the absence of the clerk. The clerk and assistant clerk shall be elected each year.

Section 4 Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer

The church treasurer shall cooperate with the church office in receiving and disbursing, in the name of the church at a local bank, all moneys received through all channels unless otherwise designated by the Finance Committee. The treasurer shall supervise the payment of all accounts consistent with the budget of the church; any exceptions are to be made upon the authority of the church in conference.

The treasurer shall make monthly and annual reports to the church in conference and through the church bulletin as to the financial standing of the church. The treasurer shall be a member of the Finance Committee.

The assistant treasurer shall perform the duties of the treasurer in the absence of the treasurer.

The treasurer shall sign all checks for disbursements. In the absence of the treasurer, the checks may be signed by the assistant treasurer or the finance chairperson. The treasurer and assistant treasurer shall be elected each year.

Section 5 Trustees

The trustees shall consist of three members, shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee at the annual business meeting of the church, and shall be elected for a term of three years with no two terms expiring the same year. They cannot succeed themselves in office. They shall have title to the church property and shall perform such duties as are required by law, subject to the approval of the church. They shall provide necessary insurance on church property and personnel. To insure adequate insurance coverage, a complete review of all church properties and employees will be conducted at the beginning of each church year.

Section 6 Sunday School Director

The Nominating Committee shall present a nomination for the Sunday School Director for church consideration each year. This person shall have had Sunday School experience, shall be at least 21 years of age, must have a cooperating spirit, and must have the whole church program at heart. The Sunday School Director with the Pastor shall have the general oversight of the whole Sunday School and in cooperation with the other workers shall provide the best plan of Bible study that can be provided as organized. The Director shall preside at the quarterly Sunday School Teachers' meeting. Any reports/recommendations shall be made to the church through the approval of the church council and active deacons. The Director shall have no authority to go beyond the limits of this constitution or these by-laws or beyond the limitation of the church budget.

Section 7 Discipleship Training Director

The Nominating Committee shall present a nomination for the Discipleship Training Director for church consideration each year. This person shall have had Discipleship Training experience, shall be at least 21 years of age, must have a cooperating spirit, and must have the whole church program at heart. The Discipleship Training Director with the Pastor shall have the general oversight of the whole Discipleship Training and in cooperation with the other workers shall provide the best plan of Bible study that can be provided as organized. The Director shall preside at the quarterly Discipleship Training teachers' meeting. Any reports/recommendations shall be made to the church through the approval of the church council and active deacons. The Director shall have no authority to go beyond the limits of this constitution or these by-laws or beyond the limitation of the church budget.

Section 8 Women's Ministry Director

The Women's Ministry Director shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church for one year. The Women's Ministry Director with the pastor shall have the general oversight of the Women's Ministry. The Women's Ministry Director shall provide mission related ministries, and projects related to the Women's Ministry. She shall preside at the organized meetings of the Women's Ministry and shall present such matters that are to be referred to committees or the deacons. She shall appoint officers as needed within the Women's Ministry and she shall hold regular monthly meetings at such times as is convenient and agreeable with the church calendar.

Section 9 Men's Ministry Director

The Men's Ministry Director shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church for one year. The Men's Ministry Director with the pastor shall have the general oversight of the Men's Ministry. The Men's Ministry Director shall provide mission related ministries, and projects related to the Men's Ministry. He shall preside at the organized meetings of the Men's Ministry and shall present such matters that are to be referred to committees or the deacons. He shall appoint officers as needed within the Men's Ministry and he shall hold regular monthly meetings at such times as is convenient and agreeable with the church calendar.

Section 10 Music Director

If the church does not have a paid Music Director, the Nominating Committee shall nominate a Music Director for church consideration. The work of the Music Director shall be under the general supervision of the Pastor, and he or she must work in close harmony with the Pastor in regard to the music program of the church. This director must be responsible for the presentation of the special music, the directing of the choirs, the leading of congregational singing, and such other duties that may be prescribed by the Pastor and the Deacons.

Section 11 Pianist and/or Organist

Having been nominated by the Nominating Committee, the church shall elect a Pianist/Assistant Pianist and/or Organist/Assistant Organist each year. The Pianist and/or Organist shall perform such duties as usually pertain to that office and shall be under the direction of the Pastor and the Music Director.

Section 12 Finance Chairperson

The Finance Chairperson shall lead in the performance of the duties of the Finance Committee as are prescribed in Article VIII, A Section 4 of these by-laws. The Finance Chairperson shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church each year.

Section 13 Children/Youth Minister

The Children/Youth Minister shall be called for an indefinite period of time. No one may be called as Children/Youth Minister who does not hold, without reservation to the Article of Faith of this church. The Children/Youth Minister may be terminated by resignation or by dismissal. Such call or dismissal, when suggested by 2/3 of the Deacons, shall require 2/3 of the votes cast at a regular or special business meeting of the church. Notice of the time and object of such meeting shall be given by the secretary of the Deacons at the worship services or in the church bulletin. Resignation or dismissal shall become effective 30 days following church action. By mutual consent, this 30-day period may be dismissed.

The Minister shall receive such compensation for this service as the church may determine. The agreements governing vacations, revivals, and other conditions of the Children/Youth Minister's call shall be passed on by the church in conference, shall be included in the minutes of the church business, and shall be binding on the Children/Youth Minister and the church until altered at a later date by the church in conference.

The work of the Children/Youth Minister shall be under the supervision of the Pastor, and He shall perform such duties as pertain to that office and as suggested by the Pastor and the Deacons.

At such time when the Children/Youth Minister vacates his position a committee of five shall be elected along with the pastor by secret ballot. In the absence of a pastor the committee shall act alone. They shall be elected the following Sunday and shall proceed with as little delay as possible to select a minister of the Gospel, whose Christian character and qualifications fit him for the office of Children/Youth Minister of this church. The procedure for presenting and voting on a candidate for Children/Youth Minister shall follow the method as outlined in Article VII Church Organization, Section 15 Pastor Search Committee.

Section 14 Moderator

The Pastor, as moderator, shall preside at all business meetings of the church and all meetings of the Church Council. In the absence of incapacity of the Pastor, his duties as moderator shall be performed by the Chairman of the Deacons. In the absence or incapacity of the Chairman of the Deacons, his duties as moderator shall be performed by the Vice-Chairman of Deacons. In the absence of these, the clerk shall preside in the election of a moderator. It shall be the duty of the moderator to see that the stated meetings of the church and Church Council are regularly held and that required reports are submitted to the church by various officers, groups, committees, and departments.

Article VIII CHURCH ORGANIZATION

The function of this church shall be performed through the following committees, groups, etc, which will consist of active members of Limestone Baptist Church.

A. Standing Committees and Groups

1. Deacons
2. Trustees
3. Church Council
4. Finance Committee
5. Nominating Committee
6. Baptism Committee
7. Lord's Supper Committee
8. Custodian Committee
9. Usher Committee
10. Benevolence Committee
11. Cemetery Committee
12. Recreation Committee
13. Transportation Committee
14. Counting Committee
15. Pastor Search Committee
16. Senior Citizen Committee
17. Youth Committee
18. Children/Preschool Committee
19. Food Committee
20. Decorating Committee
21. Visitation Committee
22. Youth Choir Committee
23. Children/Preschool Choir Committee
24. Librarian
25. Technology Committee
26. Constitution/By-law Committee
27. Shower Committee
28. Children's Church Director

29. Personnel Committee
30. Vacation Bible School Director
31. Evangelism Strategy Team

B. Standing Departments

1. Sunday School
2. Discipleship Training

A. Standing Committees and Groups

Section 1 Deacons

For a description of the office and duties of a Deacon refer to Article VII entitled Officers and Section 2 entitled Deacons in this constitution.

Section 2 Trustees

For a description of the office and the duties of a Trustee refer to Article VII entitled Officers and Section 6 entitled Trustees in this constitution.

Section 3 Church Council

The Church Council shall consist of the Pastor, Children/Youth Minister, Chairman of Deacons, Music Director, Sunday School Director, Discipleship Training Director, Men's Ministry Director, Women's Ministry Director, Senior Citizen's Director, Food Committee Chairperson, and the Decorating Committee Chairperson. The Pastor shall serve as chairman. The council shall be advisor to the pastor, the church, and interested parties with regard to coordinating ministries, programs, and events to the best interest of the church. Any recommendations will be made to the church in conference with the active deacons' approval. The council will develop and maintain a calendar of activities for the church. Regular meetings shall be held semiannually and special meetings may be called by the pastor.

Section 4 Finance Committee

The Finance Committee shall consist of five members. The treasurer shall be a member. The Nominating Committee shall nominate the finance chairperson and the other three members. This committee shall be elected for one year.

This committee shall be responsible for the proper spending of church funds according to the authorized budget; it shall promote stewardship; it shall be responsible for obtaining new and renewing old tithers; it shall supervise all the financial life of the church; and it shall provide, in cooperation with the heads of each department, the budget for the next year. There must be one or more meetings between these departmental heads and this committee to draw up the proposed budget for church consideration.

This committee shall be responsible for presenting requests of additional budget funds. If a committee foresees overages in its budget, the committee chairperson is responsible for contacting the finance committee. In this case, additional funds may be added to the committee's budget through the recommendation of the finance committee and approval by the church in conference.

Section 5 Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall be composed of the Pastor and five to seven members of the church. Five members will be elected by secret ballot in the month of April. Of the five, the person receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected the chairperson. The Sunday School Director and Discipleship Training Director will fill the remaining two positions upon their nomination by the nominating committee and election in the month of May. Each person will serve a one-year term. All officers, teachers, and committee member shall be nominated by the nominating committee and elected by the church in its August business meeting for the period of one year (with the exception of the Constitution and By-law committee members), beginning 1 September.

Section 6 Baptism Committee

The Nominating Committee shall nominate for church consideration two men and two women to serve for one year as the Baptism Committee. This committee shall have general charge of baptism services, i.e., to see to it that the water is prepared and that robes are ready, etc.

Section 7 Lord's Supper Committee

The Lord's Supper Committee shall consist of the Deacons and their wives. It shall be their duty to prepare the Lord's Table once each quarter for the church's observance of the Lord's Supper. The usual time for such observance shall be the first Sunday in each quarter but may be changed to some other Sunday under the direction of the Pastor if circumstances make it advisable.

Section 8 Custodian Committee

The Custodian Committee shall consist of a chairperson and four members nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church. They shall be elected for one year. At regular intervals, they shall thoroughly inspect the church properties, make necessary repairs to keep the properties in good physical condition, supervise repairs authorized by the church, and spend such moneys as authorized by the church. They shall be responsible for the maintenance contract for the grounds of the church. If structural changes to the church property need to be made, the custodian committee shall make their recommendations to the deacons before presenting their recommendations to the church in conference. In emergency situations in which an item or items of necessity, such as heating or cooling units, need to be purchased between scheduled conferences, the Custodian Committee Chairperson, Finance Committee Chairperson, and Deacon Chairman together may authorize the purchase.

Section 9 Usher Committee

The Usher Committee shall consist of a chairperson and a co-chairperson. They shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church. They shall be elected for a period of one year. They shall designate four ushers to:

1. Welcome all who attend and create a welcome atmosphere at the entrance of the church building.
2. Especially welcome visitors.
3. Orderly seat the people, keep quiet, and order during services.
4. Receive the offerings at the regular services in which offerings are to be received.

Section 10 Benevolence Committee

This committee shall consist of a chairperson and four committee members nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church each year. The Benevolence Committee will be responsible for looking after the welfare of the church membership and others in our church community that might have a physical and a financial need. They shall visit and investigate before any financial help is given by the church.

Section 11 Cemetery Committee

The Cemetery Committee shall consist of a chairperson and three committee members nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church to serve for one year. This committee's duties shall be to look after the sale and deeding of all lots. They shall also see that the recommendations approved by the church are properly administered. They shall each year study and recommend any changes as they see necessary on rules and prices.

Section 12 Recreation Committee

The Recreation Committee shall consist of a chairperson and four committee members nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church each year. This committee is responsible for all church approved church-wide recreational activities. The committee shall name other persons as needed to oversee the planned recreation activities. After the Recreation Committee is approved by the church, a planning meeting shall be held to outline activities for the coming

year. Other meetings shall be held as necessary to carry out these activities. They shall see that all rules and regulations approved by the church are fulfilled.

Section 13 Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee shall consist of a chairperson and four committee members nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church each year. This committee shall appoint qualified drivers for church approval. By regular inspection, they shall see that the church owned vehicles are properly maintained and safe. They shall coordinate trips and see that the rules are carried out as approved by the church.

Section 14 Counting Committee

The Counting Committee shall consist of four members nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved by the church each year. This committee shall be responsible for the counting and depositing of all moneys received through the church offerings.

Section 15 Pastor Search Committee

At such time when the pulpit is vacated and after a reasonable period of time, a committee of five shall be elected and shall proceed with as little delay as possible to select some minister of the Gospel, whose Christian character and qualifications fit him for the office of Pastor of this church. This committee shall consist of the chairman of the deacons, as chairman, and four other members who have been nominated from the floor and approved by the church by secret ballot. When the committee has made a choice, it shall give at least one-week's notice of the meeting at which it will submit its report. At any meetings held for the election of a pastor, no name shall be considered nor shall any nomination be made except that presented by the committee. The vote shall be on the adoption of the report of the committee, and the question put by the moderator shall be, "Shall the report of the committee be received and its recommendation adopted?" If $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members present vote to approve the committee's report and recommendation, the moderator shall declare the nominee elected. Should the committee's report fail to receive the necessary $\frac{3}{4}$ vote, the moderator shall declare the nominee not elected and shall refer the matter to the committee for further choice. The meeting shall then be adjourned without debate.

Section 16 Senior Citizens Committee

The Senior Citizens Committee shall consist of a chairperson and two members nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church. They shall be elected for one year. Their duties will consist of planning senior programs and meals.

Section 17 Youth Committee

The Youth Committee shall consist of a chairperson and five members, but more if needed, nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church to serve for one year. They shall have responsibility for planning and coordinating all church-wide youth activities. In the event a paid Children/Youth Minister is on staff, the Youth Committee will work with him or her and coordinate planned activities.

Section 18 Children/Preschool Committee

The Children/Preschool Committee shall consist of a chairperson and five members, but more if needed, nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church to serve for one year. They shall have responsibility for planning and coordinating all church-wide children/preschool activities. In the event a paid Children/Youth Minister is on staff, the Children/Preschool Committee will work with him or her and coordinate planned activities.

Section 19 Food Committee

The Food Committee shall consist of a chairperson, a co-chairperson, and five members nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church to serve for one year. It will be the responsibility of the chairperson to order food related supplies and facilitate church-wide meals/refreshments. This committee shall be responsible for coordinating any church-wide meals including the monthly Family Night meals and any planned church-wide refreshments.

Section 20 Decorating Committee

The Decorating Committee shall consist of a chairperson and five members nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church to serve for one year. They shall be responsible for seeing that the church is decorated properly during special occasions. They shall be responsible for obtaining bids to furnish the sanctuary flowers and will present these bids as a recommendation to the church during a regular business meeting.

Section 21 Visitation Committee

The Visitation Committee shall consist of a chairperson and members, as necessary, nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church to serve for one year. They shall be responsible for a church-wide visitation program.

Section 22 Youth Choir Committee

The Youth Choir Committee shall consist of at least two persons, but more if necessary and available, one of which is to be the Choir Director. They shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church to serve for one year. Their responsibility shall be to lead the Youth music programs. All programs must be approved and coordinated with the Pastor and Music Director.

Section 23 Children/Preschool Choir Committee

The Children/Preschool Choir Committee shall consist of at least two persons, but more if necessary and available, one of which is to be the Choir Director. They shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church to serve for one year. Their responsibility shall be to lead the Children/Preschool music programs. All programs must be approved and coordinated with the Pastor and Music Director.

Section 24 Librarian

The Librarian shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church to serve for one year. The Librarian shall maintain the library for use by the church; check out books, sermon audio cassettes, TV/VCR and other equipment.

Section 25 Technology Committee

The Technology Committee shall consist of a chairperson and three persons nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church to serve for one year. The Music Director shall be an ex officio member of the committee. The Technology Committee and the Music Director shall have the responsibility for the audio, video, and network systems of the church.

Section 26 Constitution and By-law Committee

The Constitution and By-law Committee shall consist of the Pastor, a chairperson, and two members nominated every fifth year beginning October 1995 by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church to serve actively for the first year and inactively for the remaining four years. During the first year, the committee shall review the Constitution and By-laws and, if necessary, recommend changes to the church. If during the four inactive years, issues are identified that involve the operations of the church, the church body in conference will reactivate the committee to address the issues.

Section 27 Shower Committee

The Shower Committee shall consist of a chairperson and two members nominated by the Nominating Committee annually. They shall be responsible for securing members to host a shower for members or children of members of the church. Occasions for such showers will be weddings and baby showers for the firstborn child.

Section 28 Children's Church Director

The Children's Church Director shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church to serve for one year. In conjunction with the Children and Youth Minister, the Children's Church Director shall coordinate children's church curriculum and lead the workers for one year.

Section 29 Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee to serve a five year term on a rotating basis. The Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of the committee. The responsibilities of the committee are to guide in the oversight of the paid staff and personnel of the church. No person can serve on the committee who is an immediate relative of a compensated employee.

Section 30 Vacation Bible School Director

The Vacation Bible School Director and Assistant Vacation Bible School Director shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church to serve for one year. The Vacation Bible School Director shall plan and implement the VBS program for the upcoming year.

Section 31 Evangelism Strategy Team

The Evangelism Strategy Team shall consist of three to seven members who have a passion for the lost and shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church each year. In conjunction with the ministerial staff of Limestone Baptist Church, the team shall lead and guide the church in intentional outreach to the lost. As God leads, the members of the team shall coordinate strategic evangelistic outreach events (servant, relational, verbal) with a local, state, and worldwide mindset and view. The members shall seek to involve Limestone Baptist Church in ways that demonstrate the love of Christ in a practical manner.

B. Standing Departments

Section 1 Sunday School

The Sunday School shall be administered as follows:

There shall be a Sunday School Director, assistant director, and a secretary. Other assistant workers shall be appointed as needed at the recommendation of the director. The Sunday School shall be divided into the following departments: Nursery, Preschool/Children, Youth, Adults, and Extension.

All officers and teachers of the Sunday School shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church at the August business meeting for a period of one year beginning September first. Nominees for vacancies to be filled during the year shall be carried out in the same manner in which vacancies in the Sunday School are filled.

There shall be a quarterly Sunday School teachers' meeting.

Section 2 Discipleship Training

The Discipleship Training shall be administered as follows:

There shall be a Discipleship Training Director, assistant director, and a secretary. Other assistant workers shall be appointed as needed at the recommendation of the director. The Discipleship Training shall be divided into the following departments: Nursery, Preschool/Children, Youth, Adults, and Extension.

All officers and teachers of the Discipleship Training shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church at the August business meeting for a period of one year beginning September first. Nominees for vacancies to be filled during the year shall be carried out in the same manner in which vacancies in the Discipleship Training are filled.

There shall be a quarterly Discipleship Training teachers' meeting.

NOTE:

The membership, term of office, and duties of the above groups, departments, and committees, unless provided for in this constitution shall be prescribed in the by-laws.

Article IX MEETINGS

The meetings of the church shall be as follows:

Section 1 Worship/Prayer Service

Worship services shall be held each Lord's Day—both morning and evening (with the exception of Easter—Article IX Section 5) and there shall be a regular mid-week prayer service. Worship services/prayer meeting may be cancelled only at the recommendation of the pastor and active deacons with approval in church conference. In cases of emergency the pastor and chairman of deacons may act without church approval.

Section 2 Business Meeting

There shall be a monthly business meeting on the Wednesday night following the first Sunday. The business meeting on the Wednesday night following the first Sunday in August shall be the annual business meeting. All officers and leaders not already elected or covered in the constitution and by-laws shall be elected at this time and shall assume office on September first.

Special business meetings may be called by the Pastor and/or the Deacons. This must be announced on Sunday, Wednesday, or in the church bulletin for the following Wednesday night, or Sunday as the case may be.

Section 3 Sunday School/Discipleship Training

There shall be a Sunday School and Discipleship Training service each Lord's Day. Sunday School and Discipleship Training services may be cancelled only at the recommendation of the pastor, chairman of deacons and said director.

Section 4 Revivals

There shall be generally held at least two revivals each year—one in the spring and one in the fall. The Pastor, working in cooperation with the Deacons, will be in charge of the arrangements.

There may be others, such as weekend Youth revivals, when deemed necessary by the Pastor and his council.

Section 5 Homecoming/Easter

Homecoming Day shall be observed the last Sunday in March each year.

Evening services on Easter shall be cancelled.

Article X GENERAL ITEMS

Section 1 Commitments

No officer of the church nor any committee shall have the power to create debt or other obligations of the church except within the guidelines of the budget and with approval of proper committee chairman or officer.

Section 2 Public Offerings

No public offering shall be taken in the church for any purpose unless approved by the Pastor, the chairperson of the finance committee, and the chairman of the deacons.

Article XI QUORUMS

Section 1 Quorum for Church Business Meetings

Those members attending the standard business meetings or the properly called meetings shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2 Quorum for Deacons' Meetings

Those members attending the standard deacons' meeting or the properly called meetings shall constitute a quorum.

Article XII ELECTIONS

The election of the officers, groups, and committees shall be held annually except those otherwise provided for in the constitution and by-laws. Names of nominees, unless otherwise provided for, shall be presented by the nominating committee at the August business meeting at which time the election shall proceed along the lines prescribed by the moderator and in conformity with the constitution and by-laws. The moderator shall declare elected all persons receiving a clear majority of all votes cast for any office, group, or committee. The persons elected to any office, group, or committee shall assume their respective duties as of September first. Elections to fill vacancies that occur may be held at a monthly business meeting upon the suggestion of the nominating committee and will be conducted in the same manner as regular nomination and election. In cases where the ballot is used and such person elected refuses to accept the position, the procedure shall begin as though it were the first balloting. It shall be the duty of the nomination committee to prepare all necessary ballots unless otherwise instructed.

Article XIII DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS

Members of this church in good standing may be granted letters of dismissal so as to unite with some other church of like faith. Such letters may be granted at any regular business meeting of the church by a majority vote of the members present and voting. Under no circumstances will letters of dismissal be granted to individuals except upon request from a church of like faith.

Article XIV REMOVAL OF MEMBERS

By vote of the church, names of members designated by the Deacons and the Pastor who cannot be located and who have not been heard from for a period of one year shall be removed from the regular church roll and placed on an inactive list after such names have appeared in the church bulletin or have been announced from the pulpit at least thirty days prior to action.

The names may be restored to the active roll of the church at the request of the person who had been removed by vote of the church upon recommendations of the Deacons.

Names of inactive members shall not be included with active membership of the church in making reports, etc.

Article XV ERASURE OF NAMES

The names of those of our membership joining churches of a different faith and order shall be erased from our church roll by vote of the church upon recommendation of the Pastor and the Deacons.

Article XVI REPRESENTATION IN DENOMINATIONAL MEETINGS

Section 1 To Pulaski/Bleckley Association

The church will be represented by messengers who are elected in the September business meeting by the church each year to serve as our representatives along with the ordained ministerial staff to the Pulaski/Bleckley Association. These messengers shall meet on the dates prescribed by the Pulaski/Bleckley Association and shall cooperate with the messengers of other churches in promoting the interest of the Kingdom of Christ.

Section 2 To The Georgia Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention

Messengers may be elected each year to attend the sessions of the Georgia Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention to represent the church in such convention.

Section 3 Ordained Ministerial Staff and Denominational Meetings

By virtue of their office, the ordained ministerial staff shall be considered appointed messengers to the denominational meetings. Their expenses in connection with such meetings shall be paid by the church.

Article XVII VOTING

Section 1

Voting on all matters not otherwise covered in the constitution and by-laws shall be: Those who favor say “aye”; those who oppose say, “no.” If deemed necessary by the moderator a show of hands may be called for.

Section 2

All matters not otherwise covered in the constitution and by-laws shall require a 2/3 majority vote of the members present and voting for carriage.

Article XVIII DISCIPLINE

Section 1

In all cases of personal difficulty between members of the church, the parties involved shall endeavor to bring about reconciliation in the manner laid down by our Savior and recorded in Matthew 18:15-17.

Section 2

When a member is accused of any offense against the requirement and discipline of our church, the Deacons shall at once give notice to the persons implicated and shall proceed immediately to investigate it. Should the investigation result in favor of the accused, the Deacons shall investigate the motive of the accuser; and if the motive be covered in Section 4 of the Article, they shall proceed as in other disciplinary matters.

Section 3

In every case in which a member is charged with an offense that would subject him or her to expulsion, the Deacons shall invite such one to meet with them, hear the charges, and offer such explanation and evidence as may be desired. After hearing all, the Deacons shall, by themselves, express a judgment upon the merits of the case and shall communicate their judgment and recommendations to the church. The accused shall be duly notified of their proposed action and the church shall adopt or reject their recommendations without discussion, unless the accused demands a re-hearing in which case the examination before the church shall be conducted in the same manner as before the Deacons. It shall be understood that all matters of discipline must be brought before the Deacons first, and any person not being satisfied with their decision may appeal directly to the church.

Section 4

If any member shall hold any disseminate views of doctrine considered by the church as unscriptural and hurtful or shall be the cause of strife and division and after proper labor to reclaim him, if he still persists in the harmful practice, it shall be considered a disciplinary offense.

Article XIX PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Robert’s Rules of Order shall be used as the guide for Parliamentary Procedure unless otherwise stated in the constitution and by-laws.

Article XX INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Any person wanting a personal interpretation of the constitution or the by-laws shall consult the Pastor. If they cannot come to a satisfactory decision, the person shall present, in writing, the question to the Deacons for an interpretation. Any department wanting an interpretation shall present the question, in writing, to the Deacons. In any case that the Deacons make an interpretation, they shall present it to the church in conference for adoption or rejection.

Article XXI AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS

This constitution and these by-laws may be amended or revised by $\frac{3}{4}$ -majority vote provided such intention is given in writing 30 days prior to such action.

Article XXII PRIORITY OF THIS WORK

This constitution and these by-laws shall supersede all former actions taken by this church herein covered.

Committee: Mark Shaw, Pastor
Shirley Smith, Chairman
Peggy Phillips
Hugh Barlow
Date: NOV 2012

NOV 2012