



Adopted September 25, 2011
As Amended on January 15, 2017

New England Shores Baptist Church

Church Constitution & bylaws



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NEW ENGLAND SHORES BAPTIST CHURCH CONSTITUTION

Preamble

As a body of baptized believers, we place our faith wholly in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation. Having bound ourselves together in fellowship that things may be done in accordance with the Word of God. Therefore, we declare and establish this constitution for New England Shores Baptist Church.

Article I — Name

The name of the corporation is *New England Shores Baptist Church* (to which this document shall refer when it employs the term “church”).

Article II — Purpose

We exist as a church to glorify God by leading people to an individual passion to know God through the Bible, and a corporate effort to make him known in his world. This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law). To this end, we seek to individually and corporately:

- A. Preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him as Savior;
- B. Educate believers through discipleship in a manner consistent with the standards of the Holy Scriptures;
- C. Maintain purity of doctrine based solely upon the Holy Scriptures;
- D. Meet regularly for the purposes of worship, discipleship, edification, and fellowship;
- E. Engage in and support the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, both locally and globally;
- F. Train, ordain, license, and send workers worldwide to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- G. Establish and promote Christian ministries and activities that are in harmony with God’s Word, including but not limited to . . . churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, rescue missions, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, camps, etc.

Article III — Associations

New England Shores Baptist Church shall be an independent, Bible-centered, preaching, and teaching Baptist church. It shall not be controlled or governed by any convention, association, or denominational authority.

Article IV — Statement of Faith

Section 1 — Doctrine of the Scriptures

We believe in the verbal (every word) and plenary (complete) inspiration of the Scriptures consisting of the Old (39 books) and New Testaments (27 books) without error in the original manuscripts (2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Proverbs 30:5-6); the Bible is the sole authority of faith and practice because they have been providentially preserved as God's eternal Word (Psalm 19:7-11; 1 Peter 1:23-25); the Bible is infallible, authoritative, accurate, and reliable in science, history, and every other matter they discuss (2 Peter 1:16-21); the Bible should be interpreted in a dispensational understanding based upon the unfolding of the divine mysteries from God with a historical-grammatical method (Hebrews 1:1-3; Ephesians 1:10); that the inspiration of Scriptures has been completed. Anyone who adds or subtracts from their completion is in danger of God's judgment (Revelation 22:18-19).

Section 2 — Doctrine of God

A. The Godhead

We believe that God is a Spirit (John 4:24), and does not have a physical body, although He took on flesh for the incarnation. He is a self-existent person who has no beginning or no end (John 8:58; Exodus 3:14; Deuteronomy 33:27); that there is only one God (Deuteronomy 6:4) who perfectly coexists in three equal, eternal persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14); that the three members of the Holy Trinity are equal in substance and every divine perfection and attribute (Genesis 1:26; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

B. The Father

We believe that God the Father is the first person of the Trinity (number not rank) who orders and disposes all things according to his own purpose and grace (Psalm 145:8-9; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 1:11; 3:11); that he is the Creator of all things (Genesis 1:1-31; Ephesians 3:9); that he is the absolute and omnipotent Ruler of the universe. He is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption (Psalm 103:19; Romans 11:36); that His fatherhood is both his designation inside the Trinity and inside his relationship with man. As Creator he is the father of all men (Ephesians 4:6), but only the spiritual father to believers (Romans 8:14; 2 Corinthians 6:18); that his holiness proclaims his sovereignty and sinlessness (Habakkuk 1:13; John 8:38-47).

C. Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only unique, eternal Son of God (John 3:16), who is the second member of the Trinity (Hebrews 1:8). He is co-equal in power, existence, and eternity to God the Father and God the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 1:1-2; Psalm 2; Matthew 28:19-20); that he is the absolute, eternal Deity of God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:1-3; John 8:58); that he was incarnated into a physical body while being both fully God and fully man (Philippians 2:5-8); that he was

conceived by the work of the Holy Spirit, and He was born of a human mother who was a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:26-38; Philippians 2:7-8); that after His birth He lived a sinless life on earth, died on the cross as the substitutionary atonement for sin, and was raised bodily from the tomb (Luke 24:1-6; 1 Peter 2:21-24; 1Corinthians 15:1-7, 23-26); that he now is in heaven as the great High Priest sitting at the right hand of the Father (Hebrews 4:14); that he will imminently return to rapture His bride (the church) prior to the tribulation period (1Thessalonians 4:16-17; Matthew 24:30-31; 1Corinthians 15:51-52); that Christ's second physical return to the earth shall occur and institute the Millennium (Revelation 20:1-7); that he will judge both the living and the dead at the end of time (Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15).

D. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine, eternal Person possessing all the attributes of personality and deity including intellect (1 Corinthians 2:10-13), emotions (Ephesians 4:30), will (1 Corinthians 12:11), eternity (Hebrews 9:14), omnipresence (Psalm 139:7-10), omniscience (Isaiah 40:13-14), omnipotence (Romans 15:13), and truthfulness (John 16:13); that his ministries include: restraining of evil in the world to the measure of the divine will; the conviction of the world regarding sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:7-11); that he is the agent of regeneration and baptizes all believers into the Body of Christ instantly upon salvation (1 Corinthians 12:13); that he permanently indwells all believers (Romans 8:9; John 3:16); that he continues filling for power, teaching, and service of all among the saved who are truly yielded to Him (Ephesians 5:18); that he produces His fruit in the lives of all believers (Galatians 5:22-23; Colossians 1:10, 12).

Section 3 — Doctrine of Man

We believe that man was created directly by God on day six of the creation week (Genesis 1:26-31), in His image (James 3:9), and in a state of sinlessness (Ephesians 4:24); that Adam freely chose to disobey the will of God, and thereby, brought upon himself sin, condemnation, physical and spiritual death (Genesis 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Ephesians 2:1-3); that all men born after Adam are sinners by nature and by choice, completely depraved, destitute of any moral good, and utterly unable to merit God's favor or contribute to his salvation (Romans 3:10; Jeremiah 17:9; Ephesians 2:9; Titus 3:5; Romans 4:5-6).

Section 4 — Doctrine of Sin

We believe the origin of sin in the universe was when Satan disobeyed God and was expelled from heaven (Jude 1:6); that the introduction of sin into the human race took place when Adam chose to eat of the forbidden fruit willingly, which was in direct disobedience to God's command (Genesis 3:1-7); that God was not the author or creator of sin, but allowed his created being with a free will to make a choice to obey or disobey Him (James 1:13); that sin changed the relationship between God and man through separation (Ephesians 4:18); that as a result of the fall, mankind is blind and deaf to spiritual truth (1 Corinthians 2:14; Titus 1:15); that the reign of sin is universal, all men are under its power, and consequently no one is righteous (Romans 3:10-12); that

without Christ as personal Savior all men will be judged for their sin, and suffer for eternity (Revelation 20:14-15).

Section 5 — Doctrine of Salvation

We believe that salvation is gift of God based on the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, through his substitutionary death, burial, and resurrection (John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19); that regeneration is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which spiritual life is given (John 3:3-7; Titus 3:5). It is instantaneous and is accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of the Word of God (John 5:24) when the repentant sinner responds in faith to the divine provision of salvation (Acts 2:38); That election is the act of God by which, before the foundation of the world, God chose in Christ those whom He graciously regenerates, saves, and sanctifies (Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:4-11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 2:10; 1 Peter 1:1-2); that sovereign election does not contradict or negate the responsibility of man to repent and trust Christ as Savior (Ezekiel 18:23, 32; 33:11; John 3:18-19, 36; 5:40; Romans 9:22-23; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12; Revelation 22:17); that justification is an act of God (Romans 8:33) by which He declares righteous those who repent of their sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 11:18; Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Isaiah 55:6-7); that in salvation the believer is called, regenerated, Spirit baptized into union with Christ, justified, adopted, sanctified, and glorified; that the genuine believer will continue in his faith and show evidence of his faith in Christ until he meets the Lord (James 2:20); that all the elect of God, once saved, are kept by God's power and are secure in Christ forever (Romans 8:38-39; Philippians 1:6; John 3:16).

We believe that sanctification is not the direct act of salvation, but it is a result of salvation. The believer is sanctified (set apart by God) in his position (Romans 6:11; Hebrews 10:10). The believer is also sanctified to the process of becoming more like Jesus Christ through living by the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 12:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:3). While living on this earth, a Christian will never be fully sanctified and without sin (Gal. 5:17; Rom. 7:18-25).

We believe the Bible teaches a believer should separate from worldly actions (1 John 2:15-17; 2 Corinthians 6:15-7:1), false teachers (Galatians 1:8-9; 2 John 9-11; Romans 16:17-18), and all disobedient brethren (1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15). We believe all Christians should live personal lives of holiness from worldliness and ungodliness, which are separated unto God. Life under grace does not imply freedom from all obligations to godly living, but rather to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age (Titus 2:11-12).

Section 6 — Doctrine of The Church

We believe that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual Body, the church (1 Corinthians 12:12-13), the bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23-32; Revelation 19:7-8), of which Christ is the Head (Ephesians 1:22; 4:15; Colossians 1:18); that the formation of the church, the Body of Christ, began on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-21, 38-47) and will be completed at the coming of Christ for His own at the Rapture (1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1

Thessalonians 4:13-18); that the church is thus a unique spiritual organism designed by Christ, made up of all born again believers in this present age (Ephesians 2:11, 3:6), and is distinct from Israel (1 Corinthians 10:32), a mystery not revealed until this age (Ephesians 3:1-6; 5:32); that the autonomy of the local church, free from any external authority or control, with the right of self-government and freedom from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations (Titus 1:5); that the purpose of the church is to glorify God (Ephesians 3:21) by building itself up in the faith (Ephesians 4:13-16), by instruction of the Word (2 Timothy 2:2, 15; 3:16-17), by fellowship (Acts 2:47; 1 John 1:3), by keeping the ordinances (Luke 22:19; Acts 2:38-42) and by advancing and communicating the gospel to the entire world (Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8; 2:42).

We believe that two ordinances have been committed to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:38-42).

We believe that Christian baptism by immersion (Acts 8:36-39) is the solemn and beautiful testimony of a believer showing forth his faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, and his union with Him in death to sin and resurrection to a new life (Romans 6:1-11). It is also a sign of fellowship and identification with the visible Body of Christ (Acts 2:41-42).

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration and proclamation of His death until He comes, and should be always preceded by solemn self-examination (1 Corinthians 11:28-32); That whereas the elements of Communion are only representative of the flesh and blood of Christ, the Lord's Supper is nevertheless an actual communion with the risen Christ who is present in a unique way, fellowshiping with His people (1 Corinthians 10:16).

Section 7 — Doctrine of Angels

We believe angels are created (Psalm 148:1-5; Colossians 1:16), immortal (Luke 20:35), spiritual beings with moral judgment and higher intelligence than man (Luke 4:34), but without physical bodies (Hebrews 1:7); that angels were created as sinless spirits with a free will to choose between right and wrong (Jude 6); that angels were never created for their own worship (Revelation 22:8; Hebrews 1:6); that the existence of Satan is stated from the beginning of creation (Genesis 3:1; Job 1:6), and He fell from an elevated position in Heaven taking 1/3 of the angels with him into sin (Revelation 12:4; Jude 1:6); that Satan is a wretched foe for the child of God; that he must be resisted (James 4:7), guarded against (Ephesians 6:11) and watched out for (1 Peter 5:8); that God has predetermined a time of judgment for Satan, and Satan will be removed, bound, and judged for eternity (Revelation 20:10).

Section 8 — Doctrine of End Times

We believe in the imminent rapture of the church to Heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Titus 2:13) followed by a seven-year period of tribulation upon all the Earth (Revelation 3:10); that at the end of the period of tribulation, Jesus Christ shall come back to Earth in power and glory with His Church (Revelation 19:11-16); that he shall reign for one

thousand years during which time peace and righteousness will cover the earth, Satan shall be bound, and Israel shall be established in her own land (Revelation 20:4-7); that at the end of this glorious reign, Satan shall lead a rebellion against Christ, shall be defeated, and shall be forever banished to the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:8-10); that the wicked dead shall be judged at the Great White Throne, and shall be condemned to everlasting conscious punishment in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:11-15); that the righteous shall be in eternal conscious blessedness in the presence of the Lord (Revelation 21-22).

Article V — Contemporary Issues

Section 1 — Life

We believe that God alone is the rightful giver and taker of life, granting to all men the principle of life (which is in the blood) and breath, bestowing upon all men his own image, and sustaining all men by the word of his power. (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7; 9:4, 6; Leviticus 17:11; Job 1:21; Psalm 139:13-16; John 1:9; Acts 17:5; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3)

Section 2 — Abortion

We believe that human life begins at conception; that the unborn child is a living human being; that abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life and amounts to murder; that we must reject any teaching that promotes abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother. (Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5; 139:13-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)

Section 3 — Euthanasia

We believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention; that life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death; that an act or omission, which causes death in order to eliminate suffering, constitutes a murder contrary to the will of God; that discontinuing medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be a legitimate refusal of treatment. (Exodus 20:13; 23:7; Matthew 5:21; Acts 17:28)

Section 4 — Civil Government

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: the family, the church, and the state; that every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word; that God has given each institution unique and specific Biblical responsibilities; that each institution is equal and sovereign in its respective, Biblically assigned sphere of responsibility under God. (Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-24; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13-14)

Section 5 — Family Relationships

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and in the church; that the husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (elders, and deacons) of the church (accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church); that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society; that the husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church; that the wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ; that children are a heritage from the Lord; that parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction. (Genesis 1:26-28; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 127:3-5; Proverbs 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mark 10:6-12; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7)

Section 6 — Human Sexuality

We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman; that God has commanded abstinence from intimate sexual activity outside of a marriage between a man and a woman; that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex; that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Genesis 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 7:2; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)

Section 7 — Marriage

We believe that God has designed marriage for one man and one woman for one lifetime (Genesis 2:23-24); that all divorce is caused from a sinful distortion of God's plan (Matthew 19:8); that God hates divorce (Matthew 19:6; Malachi 2:16). We further recognize the importance of incorporating divorcees into our membership with the grace and love that God grants to all who seek to follow his will. Divorcees may not serve in the offices of elder or deacon.

We believe that physical violence and immorality inside of a marriage relationship is a perversion of God's Law; that no spouse should be subject to any abuse; that our duty is to protect, provide for, love, and encourage any spouse within our membership that is the victim of an abusive relationship; that separation may be necessary with the hope and prayer, repentance, restoration.

Marriage ceremonies performed by any pastor of New England Shores Baptist Church are a privilege reserved for members of New England Shores Baptist Church.

The engaged must be Active Members of New England Shores Baptist Church, not under church discipline, and approved by the Administrative Team (Article 10 Section 1:A).

Marriage ceremonies may be performed if one of the engaged is not a member of New England Shores Baptist Church only if he/she is an active member of a church of like faith and doctrine (Articles IV and V), not under church discipline, and approved by his/her senior pastor.

Section 8 — Love

We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward all those who are not believers, both those who oppose us, and those who oppose themselves by engaging in sinful actions; that we are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly; that God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or the use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice; that although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions. (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Romans 12:9-10, 17-21; 13:8-10; Philippians 2:2-4; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; 1 John 3:17-18)

Section 9 — Lawsuits Between Believers

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes; that the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members; that a Christian may bring a civil lawsuit against a former church member, whose membership has been terminated as a result of his refusal to heed the advice of the church and/or its leadership; that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (Matthew 18:17; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8; Ephesians 4:31-32)

Section 10 — Giving

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe every Christian should also give offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made. (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)

Section 11 — The Charismatic Movement

We believe that the Charismatic Movement, while containing some who are genuine and sincere believers, is based upon a misunderstanding of the teaching of Scripture regarding the spiritual gifts, particularly the gift of tongues and healing. These gifts were given as a special signs to the nation of Israel as an authentication of the apostolic message, not as a gift to be used throughout this dispensation (Hebrews 2:3-4). Speaking in tongues and healing were temporary sign gifts which ceased with the

completion of the Canon of Scriptures (Corinthians 13:8). We stand firmly opposed to the experience-centered, unscriptural emphasis of the Charismatic Movement.

Section 12 — Eternal Security

We believe that once a person receives Christ as Savior, he is eternally secure; that is he cannot lose his salvation. True converts of Christ can never lose, misplace, or reject their salvation (Romans 8:38-39; Philippians 1:6; John 3:16).

Article VI — Authority of Statement of Faith

This Statement of Faith (Articles IV-V) does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members.

Article VII — Church Government/Offices

Section 1 – Church Offices

We believe that there are two active offices inside the local church: Elder and Deacon. The New Testament uses three different Greek words to describe the Office of Elder. The first term *Elder* (*presbuteros*) refers to the office's character that is mature in the faith. The second term *Overseer* (*episkopos*) refers to the administrative responsibilities of overseeing the church. The third term *Pastor* (*poimen*) refers to the gift of the shepherd that Christ gave to the church (Ephesians 4:11). We believe these three terms are used to describe the same individual in Scripture (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1-4). We believe a pastor is an overseer who is an elder. When possible, we believe the local church should have a plurality of elders (Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23).

Section 2 — Qualifications of Senior Pastor

- A. The pastor of this church shall be in harmony with the Statement of Faith (Article IV), its stand on Contemporary Issues (Article V), and the full constitution and bylaws of New England Shores Baptist Church.
- B. The pastor of this church shall be a male. He must display the personal qualifications for the office of pastor described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-3. The pastor of this church shall not be man who has been divorced following his conversion to Christ.
- C. He shall not be a member of any ecclesiastical group or fellowship associated with ecumenism, New Evangelicalism, or spiritual compromise.
- D. The head pastor will be known as Senior Pastor will also serve as the president of the corporation.

Section 3 — Duties of Senior Pastor

- A. According to 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4, the office of pastor

provides tender leadership in the work of the ministry. As such, his authority is not dictatorial, but self-sacrificing (i.e., as the Chief Shepherd – Christ).

- B. He shall devote himself to prayer and the ministry of the Word and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him (Acts 6:3).
- C. He shall have the general oversight of the spiritual life of the church, regular services, and the administration of the ordinances of the church.
- D. He shall be moderator at all church meetings and ex-officio member of all committees and organizations of the church.
- E. He shall be responsible to the church as its delegated authority for the creation, direction, assignment, operation, and evaluation of all the church's ministries (programs, positions, and personnel), including the assignment of positions and duties of the pastoral staff and other employees.
- F. He shall approve and invite all guest speakers for organizations and ministries.
- G. The senior pastor is entitled to an annual vacation with pay after one year of service, not to exceed three (3) weeks.
 - 1. The pastor may be absent at other times to do ministry works, such as Bible conferences, evangelistic meetings, mission's activities, etc.
 - 2. He may also attend professional conferences, seminars, etc., that will enhance his ministry to New England Shores Baptist Church.

Section 4 — Termination of Senior Pastor

- A. The senior pastor shall be free to resign as he feels led of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. Out of Christian courtesy, he shall give at least sixty (60) days written notice to the Administrative Team, who shall then forward the resignation to the church. At no time is the senior pastor to verbally announce his resignation directly to the congregation without first submitting a written notice and discussing his resignation with the Administrative Team.
 - 2. He shall receive his salary for at least thirty (30) days from the time of his resignation.
- B. When dismissal proceedings are in order against the pastor on grounds of immorality, heresy in doctrine, apostasy, sin, or failure to attend to his duties as the pastor of the church, the Administrative Team shall bring to the congregation a recommendation for dismissal, subject to a vote. The vote to dismiss the senior pastor must be at least 75%.
- C. In the event the congregation votes the pastor's services to terminate abruptly, the salary involved shall continue for at least thirty (30) days from the time of the vote.

Section 5 — Vacancy and Succession of Senior Pastor

A. Succession

1. Upon the termination of the senior pastor (via resignation, death, or dismissal), leadership privileges will immediately and automatically transferred to the assistant pastor. If the church does not have an assistant pastor, the privileges will be transferred to the chairman of the Administrative Team as vice president of the corporation.
2. Leadership privileges may be transferred (in whole or in part) to an interim pastor upon the majority approval of the church.
3. Leadership privileges will automatically be transferred (in entirety) back to the office of senior pastor upon the physical arrival of the newly-called senior pastor.

B. Vacancy

1. Upon the termination of the senior pastor (via resignation, death, or dismissal), a Pulpit Committee will be appointed by the Administrative Team, having at least two (2) non-deacon members, and all current pastors with the chairman of the Administrative Team as its chairman. The Pulpit Committee shall designate its own secretary.
2. The Pulpit Committee may seek the help of an interim pastor in their search for a senior pastor. An interim pastor should not normally be considered as a possible candidate for the senior pastorate.
3. The Pulpit Committee is to seek, interview, and introduce one (1) unanimously agreed upon prospective candidate to the church.
4. The Pulpit Committee will invite the candidate to preach at least two (2) services before the congregation. As the Lord leads, the Pulpit Committee shall then interview and negotiate with the candidate. Once the Pulpit Committee agrees on a candidate, his name shall be submitted to the church for further discussion before a vote.
5. A call is extended to a candidate if 75% or more of the voting members present at a duly called meeting vote affirmatively.
6. If a call is extended to a (married) candidate, and he accepts, it is understood that both he and his wife are simultaneously elected to membership within the church. Their children shall be voted into membership according to the normal provisions of the constitution.
7. No other candidate may be presented to the church until after the vote on the first candidate has been completed.
8. The salary and benefits shall be agreed upon by the church at the time of the election of a senior pastor.

Section 6 — Pastoral Accountability

We believe that all members of New England Shores Baptist Church should pray for, promote, and protect the pastor's (1) focus on the calling of his ministry (1 Timothy 4:14) and (2) live a life that is above reproach (Titus 1:6). We believe that the pastor(s) needs to be held responsible and accountable for these two aspects of his calling. The Administration Team shall keep the pastor accountable in his vision, call, and exercising of local church ministry. The deacons shall keep the pastor(s) accountable in living a godly, pure, and moral life. This does not grant the Administrative Team or deacons unbiblical authority, but it does provide a method of accountability (Proverbs 27:17).

Section 7 — Assisting Pastors

- A. Need: When the need for an assisting pastor occurs, the senior pastor shall examine the candidate and, present him to the church.
 - 1. He shall be voted into office by a 75% vote of the members present and voting at a special membership administration meeting.
 - 2. His salary range shall be agreed upon at the time of his election.
 - 3. The assisting pastor(s) shall be entitled to an annual vacation with pay, not to exceed two (2) weeks.

B. Qualifications

The qualifications of the assisting pastor(s) must be the same as that of a senior pastor as listed in Article VII Section 2, while preferably demonstrating proficiency in the field in which he is called to serve. These may include positions such as, but not limited to, Youth Pastor, Music Pastor, Outreach Pastor.

C. Duties

The assisting pastor(s) shall be responsible to the church through the senior pastor and is under the supervision of the senior pastor for his duties.

D. Termination

The same policies apply to the resignation and dismissal of an assisting pastor that apply to the senior pastor.

Section 8 — Deacons

We believe that the term *deacon* (*diakonos*) should be understood according to its Biblical definition. The term *deacon* means *minister* or *servant* in the Scriptures. The purpose of a deacon in New England Shores Baptist Church is to follow the Biblical model by ministering to, serving, and meeting the needs of the congregation. A deacon never holds a position of authority, rule, or overseeing in the New Testament. Overseeing, administration, and rule are tasks assigned to a pastor, and not a deacon. For this reason, a "deacon board" will not administrate New England Shores Baptist

Church.

- A. The deacons of this church shall be male. The qualifications of deacons shall be those set forth in 1 Timothy 3:8-12 and Acts 6:1-6.
- B. The number of deacons serving shall be determined by need designated by the senior pastor.
- C. Deacons will serve for a period of two (2) years, after which they are eligible for re-election.
- D. Deacon candidates will be nominated by the church one (1) month prior to the scheduled election.
- E. The slate of nominees shall be prepared and presented to the congregation for review two (2) Sundays prior to the scheduled election.
- F. A candidate who receives at least 75% of the vote will be installed as deacon.

Section 9 — Deacon Duties

- A. According to Acts 6:1-6 and 1 Timothy 3:8-12, the office of deacon provides assistance to the pastor[s] in the work of the ministry.
- B. The deacons are responsible to the church at all times and in all matters.
- C. All deacons' meetings, except those explicitly pertaining to the senior pastor, shall be conducted in conjunction with (or with the consent of) the senior pastor, and shall require a majority of deacons to be considered binding.
- D. Furthermore, the deacons shall:
 - 1. Assist the pastor(s) in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church, and in the conducting of the religious services, and in the administration of the ordinances;
 - 2. Assist the pastor(s) in considering all applicants for membership before making recommendation to the church;
 - 3. Assist the pastor(s) in ministry by visiting the church membership as needed;
 - 4. Administer, at their discretion, the Deacons' Fund of the church, which exists for the relief of the needy in the church and in the community.

Section 10 — Deacon's Positions

A chairman of the deacons will be appointed by the senior pastor as a representative of the deacons to administrate any deacon activities. The chairman of the deacons will also act as the deacon's secretary to record any business, activities, or ministries of the deacons.

Section 11 — Dismissal of Deacons

- A. A deacon shall be free to resign as he feels led of the Holy Spirit.
- B. Any deacon absent from three (3) consecutive deacons' meetings without just cause shall have his situation reviewed by the senior pastor.
- C. A majority vote of the voting membership present at a membership administration meeting called at the recommendation of the Administrative Team concerning the matter will result in dismissal of the deacon.

Article VIII — Church Government/Administrative Team/Officers

The purpose of the Administration Team is to assist the senior pastor, pastoral staff, and church in ministry and operation as a corporation and non-profit organization. We recognize that certain requirements are placed upon the church to meet these designations in the culture that we live. For this purpose, an Administrative Team will exist to meet these requirements.

Section 1 — Administrative Team

- A. The Administrative Team shall consist of the pastor(s), deacons, treasurer, and clerk with the senior pastor serving as the chairman of the Administrative Team. The Administrative Team may create new team positions for ministry when necessary.
- B. As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church, the pastor shall serve as the president of the corporation. The Administrative Team shall elect a vice chairman bi-annually who shall also act as the vice president of the corporation. The recording secretary shall act as the secretary of the corporation, and the treasurer of the church as the treasurer of the corporation.
- C. The Administrative Team shall constitute the board of “trustees and/or the board of directors” of the corporation. As the board of trustees, the Administration Team shall exercise only the following specific powers, upon authorization by a majority vote of the members present at a duly called membership administration meeting:
 - 1. To purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the church.
 - 2. To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church; to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of the church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges; and
 - 3. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation.
- D. As the trustees and/or directors, the Administrative Team may not purchase, sell,

mortgage, or encumber any real estate or gift of any kind given to the church without authority granted by the church at a regular or specially called membership administration meeting.

- E. As the trustees and/or directors, the Administrative Team shall approve the types and kinds of assemblies to allow on church property.
- G. The Administrative Team shall meet monthly, when possible.

Section 2 — Church Officers

The senior pastor, from time to time as he deems appropriate, may appoint other church officers, subject to a confirmation vote of the church membership.

A. The Clerk

1. Certify and keep the records of the church, the original bylaws or a copy, including all amendments or alterations to the bylaws;
2. Keep a record of the proceedings of meetings of the Administrative Team, with the time and place of holding, the notice of meeting given, the minutes of the meeting, and the names of those present at certain meetings;
3. Sign, certify, or attest documents as may be required by law;
4. See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws. (In case of the absence or disability of the clerk, or his or her refusal or neglect to act, notice may be given and served by the senior pastor or by the chairman of the Administrative Team.);
5. Be custodian of the records of the church, including the membership roll, conversion records, baptisms, visitor records, and certificates of ordination, licenses, and commissions;
6. See that the reports, statements, certificates, and all other documents and records required by law are properly kept and filed;
7. Exhibit at all reasonable times to proper persons on terms provided by law the bylaws and minutes of proceedings of the Administrative Team or the minutes of the meetings of the church members;
8. Keep an account of any special events in the life of the church which are of historical interest and give a report at the annual church administration meeting of the status of the church membership roll in the past year;
9. Deliver all church records to any successor upon leaving office; Serve as the secretary of the corporation.
10. Serve as the secretary of the corporation.

B. The Treasurer

1. Have charge and custody of, and be responsible for all funds of the corporation, and deposit all funds in the name of the church in banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected by the Administrative Team;
2. Receive, and give receipt (when necessary) for all contributions, gifts, and donations to the church;
3. Count and verify weekly offerings in the presence of one other church member approved by the Administrative Team.
4. Disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the church as may be directed by the Administrative Team, or the budget adopted by the members of the church at the annual church administration meeting, taking proper vouchers for the disbursements;
5. Keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the church's properties and business transactions including account of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, and capital;
6. Make all expenditures of the church (except miscellaneous petty cash disbursements) by check;
7. When and as requested, render to the Administrative Team accounts of all his transactions as treasurer and of the financial condition of the church;
8. Present a written report of itemized disbursements and financial transactions on a monthly basis and make a general report for the year at the annual church administration meeting;
9. Keep all church financial records and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office;
10. Serve as treasurer of the corporation.

Section 3 — Election of Officers

A. Nominating Committee

1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Administrative Team.
2. The Administrative Team shall nominate candidates one month prior to the scheduled election held at the annual business meeting in order to provide opportunity for church review and prayer.
3. Candidates are to be selected on the basis of spiritual and personal qualifications, demonstrating a willingness to faithfully fulfill the responsibilities of their respective position.

4. The slate of nominees shall be prepared and presented to the congregation for review two (2) Sundays prior to the scheduled election.
 5. In the event a nominee does not receive a majority vote of the membership, the Administrative Team is to submit the name of another candidate at a subsequently called congregational meeting.
- B. Qualifications
1. Must be an active member of the church for a period of at least six (6) months.
 2. Must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
 3. Must receive a majority vote of approval by the congregation.
- C. Term of Office
1. A typical term for any elected office shall begin February 1, following the 4th quarter elections. Officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years.
 2. Any officer of the church against whom disciplinary action is taken will be immediately relieved of all duties and privileges of the position held, once it enters the stage of “public announcement” in the disciplinary process.

Section 4 — Failure in Office

- A. Should an elected official fail to give evidence of carrying out his/her duties, the Administrative Team shall review the situation and attempt to resolve it.
- B. Failure to resolve the matter by the Administrative Team will result in a membership administration meeting called at the recommendation of the Administrative Team concerning the matter, whereupon the officer in question may be removed from office by a majority vote of the voting members present.
- C. Elected official vacancies of an unexpired term of six (6) months or less may be filled at the discretion of the Administrative Team, without congregational vote.
- D. All elected vacancies of unexpired terms of more than six (6) months shall be filled by congregational vote as a newly elected position for the remainder of the term.

Section 5 — Committees

- A. The Administrative Team, at its discretion, may appoint standing committees to assist in the operations of the church. Furthermore, they shall designate a chairperson for each standing committee and, except when otherwise specifically provided in these bylaws, shall determine the membership of each standing committee.
- B. The Administrative Team, at its discretion, may appoint special committees to provide them with advice and information regarding matters submitted to the committee by the Administrative Team for consideration. The committee shall have

no authority to act on behalf of the corporation. The members of the committee shall be chosen by a majority vote of the Administrative Team and shall serve solely at the pleasure of the Administrative Team. The special committee shall be subject to the control and direction of the Administrative Team at all times.

Section 6 — Membership Administration Meetings

A. Moderator of Meetings

The senior pastor shall be the moderator of all membership administration meetings (except in matters pertaining to himself – then the chairman of the Administrative Team will act as moderator).

1. The moderator shall determine the rules of procedure according to his sense of fairness and common sense, giving all members a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a matter. The moderator is the final authority on questions of procedure, and his decision is final and controlling.
2. For any meeting, the moderator, in his sole discretion, shall have full and unilateral authority to require nonmembers to leave the meeting room and to order the immediate removal of any member or other person present who is deemed by the moderator to be disruptive to the proceedings by act or presence. The moderator shall have full authority to order the removal of all children (ages to be determined by the moderator) if the moderator determines, in his sole discretion, that circumstances so warrant. If the moderator determines that compliance with his order of removal is unsatisfactory, the moderator may, in his sole discretion, revoke the disruptive person's right to remain on the premises and treat the person as a trespasser.

B. Quarterly Meetings

The fiscal year of the church shall begin February 1 and end January 31, with four (4) regularly scheduled Administrative Team meetings: one in each of the months March, June, September, and December. The Annual Business Meeting shall be held on the last Sunday each January in the PM service.

C. Posting of Meetings

All membership administration meetings shall be announced from the pulpit and a tentative agenda posted two (2) weeks immediately preceding the meeting. Questions concerning the agenda are to be addressed to the Administrative Team in writing at least one (1) week in advance of the meeting.

D. Special Meetings

1. The pastor and/or the Administrative Team have the authority to call a special membership administration meeting by giving notice of such a meeting and the purpose for which it is called to the church from the pulpit at least one (1) Sunday and not less than one (1) week prior to said meeting. A meeting for the

calling of a pastor or the severance of the relationship between the church and pastor or the consideration of amending the constitution or Statement of Faith shall be called in accordance with a two (2) weeks provision.

2. Upon written request of 25% of the voting membership, the Administrative Team shall call a special membership administration meeting.
 - a. This will occur within three (3) weeks after receipt of the request.
 - b. The request will state the purpose of the meeting and that shall be the only issue addressed at the meeting.

E. Quorums for Meetings

A quorum of all voting members must be present to conduct an official membership administration meeting of the church.

1. A “voting member” shall be defined as an active member at least eighteen (18) years of age, physically present at a duly called meeting.
2. 33% of the voting membership will be considered a quorum for any membership administration meeting.
3. There shall be no proxy or absentee voting.

F. Passage of Church Business

1. Business requiring a 51% majority vote
 - a. Business requiring a 51% majority vote shall be defined as all business not requiring a 75% majority vote.
 - b. Business requiring a 51% majority vote will be done by a show of hands.
 - c. Tabulation of each vote (yeas and nays only) will be done by at least two (2) church members duly appointed.
 - d. Abstentions will not be counted nor tabulated against the total vote.
2. Business requiring a 75% majority vote
 - a. Business requiring a 75% majority vote shall be defined as:
 - i. Election of pastoral staff, deacons, and church officers
 - ii. Ordination to gospel ministry
 - iii. Disciplinary removal from membership
 - iv. Temporarily waiving a provision of the constitution
 - v. Amending the constitution or Statement of Faith

- b. Business requiring a 75% majority vote will be done by secret ballots.
 - c. Tabulation of all ballot results (yeas and nays only) will be done by at least two (2) church members duly appointed.
 - d. Abstentions will not be counted nor tabulated against the total vote.
- G. Minutes of Meetings

Minutes of all membership administration meetings shall be taken by the church clerk and kept for official recording and will be reviewed and accepted at the subsequent membership administration meeting.

Article IX — Church Government Model

Section 1 — Definition of Baptist

- B - Bible is the Authority (2 Timothy 3: 15-16)
- A - Autonomy of the Local Church (Acts 6:1-5; 1 Corinthians 16:1-3)
- P - Priesthood of Believers (1 Peter 2:5,9)
- T - Two Ordinances
 - 1. Baptism (Matthew 28: 18-20)
 - 2. The Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
- I - Individual Soul Liberty (2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Corinthians 5:10)
- S - Saved Church Membership (Acts 2:41f)
- T - Two Offices (1 Timothy 3; Philippians 1:1)
 - 1. Elder
 - 2. Deacon
- S - Separation of Church and State (Matthew 22:21)

Section 2 — A Biblical Model

- A. We church acknowledges Jesus Christ as our only head, and the Bible as its only infallible guide in matters of faith and leadership (Ephesians 5:23).
- B. Upon his ascension, Christ gave gifts for the foundation and continuance of the local church (Ephesians 4:11). The Pastor is the remaining active spiritual gift acting as Christ's undershepherd to teach, administrate, and guide the local church (1 Timothy 3:1-7).
- C. We recognize the importance and wisdom of a plurality of elders to undershepherd the local church. If, at any time, this church chooses to call more pastors for specific functions (such as assistant, youth, senior ministries, ect...), they shall be under the leadership of the senior pastor.

- D. The Administration Team is to assist the senior pastor, pastoral staff, and church in ministry and operation as a corporation and non-profit organization.
- E. This congregation functions not as a pure democracy, but as a unified body under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the pastor as the undershepherd. Determinations of the internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church's own rules and procedures. The pastor(s) shall oversee and/or conduct all aspects of these ecclesiastical matters. The Administrative Team may give counsel and assistance to the pastor(s) as delineated herein or as requested by him.
- F. New England Shores Baptist Church must remain independent and autonomous.

Article X — Membership

Section 1 — Definitions

A. Active Member

An active member is a person over the age of eighteen (18) who ascribes to the Statement of Faith, respects the statements of this constitution, and actively seeks to accomplish the purposes of this church (see Article II). Furthermore, a member shall be considered active when striving to live in obedience to God's Word; supporting the services and activities of the church with attendance, prayers, ministry, and financial giving; and demonstrating love for his fellow members, praying for them regularly, and manifesting a tender regard for their reputation. Only active members may vote on official business or serve as an officer of the church.

B. Associate Member

An associate member carries the same qualifications and responsibilities as an active member, but may not vote on official business nor serve as an officer of the church. Associate membership would include:

1. A minor under the age of 18 whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) is and active member;
2. A temporary resident in the area that retains membership in a distant church;
3. Active members who have become "shut-in" and cannot regularly attend services for a period of six months.
4. Any status change would be individually reviewed and applied by an action of the Administrative Team, and may be reversed by the same process at any time.

Section 2 — Qualifications

B. Membership shall be extended to any individual who:

Has had (and whose life evidences) a genuine experience of regeneration through

faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; has been baptized by immersion subsequent to conversion; currently demonstrates a desire to live a consistent Christian life, renouncing sin, and endeavoring to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord; ascribes to the Statement of Faith, respects the statements of this constitution, and actively seeks to accomplish the purposes of this church; agrees to submit to the authority of the church and its leaders as set forth herein.

- C. A member of a secret lodge will not be eligible for membership in this church (i.e., Masons, Shriners, Knights of Columbus, etc.)

Section 3 — Procedure

A. To become a member:

1. Persons may be received into the church membership in the following ways:
 - a. By profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and subsequent baptism by immersion;
 - b. By testimony of salvation and previous baptism by immersion;
 - c. By restoration (for those excluded members giving private evidence and public testimony of repentance).
2. An applicant for membership shall meet with a member(s) of the Administrative Team to review their qualifications and acceptance of Articles IV and V.
3. All candidates must appear before the church and give public testimony of their faith in Jesus Christ and desire to join the church.
4. All candidates must be voted into membership by an appropriate quorum of Active Members.

B. Termination of Membership

1. Should an active member fail to give evidence of a vital interest in the church (see Articles IV-V) after due efforts have been made by the Administrative Team to encourage his interests, and if the condition prevails for a period of six (6) months, his name shall be dropped from the roll by an action of the Administrative Team. Where possible, he shall be notified by mail.
2. No member of this church may hold membership in another church. The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member unites in membership with another church.
3. A member may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such resignation, except at the discretion of the Administrative Team.
4. A member may be removed from membership by a 75% majority vote of the

church membership, based upon their own unwillingness to be reconciled, following the formal process of corrective discipline.

Section 4 — Privileges and Responsibilities

- A. Only members of this congregation shall be entitled to serve within the ministries of the church; non-members may serve on an ad-hoc basis with the approval of the Administrative Team. Notwithstanding, non-members may serve the church for purposes of maintenance, administration and professional consultation.
- B. Therefore, it is the privilege and responsibility of members to attend regularly the membership administration meetings and to vote on the election of deacons, on decisions regarding membership status, on financial decisions, and on such other matters as may be submitted to a vote by pastor(s).
- C. Membership in this church does not afford the members with any property, contractual, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Although the general public is invited to all of the church's worship services, the church property remains private property. The pastoral staff (or in their absence, the Administrative Team) has the authority to suspend or revoke the right of any person, including a member, to enter or remain on church property. If, after being notified of such a suspension or revocation, the person enters or remains on church property, the person may, in the discretion of the pastoral staff (or in their absence, the Administrative Team), be treated as a trespasser.
- D. A member may inspect or copy the prepared financial statements of the church and the minutes of the proceedings of membership administration meetings, provided he shall have made a written request upon the church and the church has received the written request at least five business days before the requested inspection date.
 - 1. A member may not, under any circumstances, inspect or copy any record relating to individual contributions to the church, the list of names and addresses of the church members, or the accounting books and financial records of the church for personal gain.
 - 2. The church may impose a reasonable charge, covering the costs of labor and material, for copies of any documents provided to the member before releasing the copies to the member.

Section 5 — Discipline

Discipline in the church is a New Testament practice (I Corinthians 5) in obedience to the commands of God (Matthew 18:15-20; Galatians 6:1). It is thus a matter of conviction, not preference, by this body. There are two general applications of this practice:

A. Formative Discipline

This refers to the public and private instruction and application of God's Word in one's everyday life with the goal of helping one another to live a life pleasing unto

the Lord. Such encouragement and exhortation is the responsibility of every member to one another.

B. Corrective Discipline

This refers to the private and public confrontation of a member who has fallen into moral or doctrinal error or who causes division in the body. The purpose of such confrontation is to 1) restore the erring brother; 2) preserve the purity of the church; 3) maintain the testimony of the church body; and 4) provide instruction for the church body. Corrective discipline can include admonition by the pastor or congregation, removal from office and/or removal from membership. The process this church will seek to follow is based upon the model provided in Matthew 18:15-20, and will include:

1. Private Reproof (Matthew 18:15)

This is done by the one who is affected or aware of a brother's wrong-doing.

2. Private Confrontation (Matthew 18:16)

When private reproof is ineffective, the erring believer is to be approached by two or three other members (including the one who did the private reproof) in order to promote repentance.

3. Private Review (by Administrative Team)

A member who refuses to repent after steps "1" and "2" shall have their situation reviewed by the Administrative Team. The Administrative Team shall then make a recommendation to both parties (the one accused of the offense, and the one[s] accusing the other of the offence) by a minimum of a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

4. Public Announcement (Matthew 18:17a)

If the erring member refuses to heed the counsel given, the matter will be brought to the attention of the entire church body so as to bring a united, concerted endeavor of the body to encourage repentance. (Cases carried this far may continue through to a conclusion [via repentance or exclusion], regardless of whether or not the offending member removes his membership.)

5. Public Exclusion (Matthew 18:17b)

If, after the body has had time to contact the erring party, the member continues to refuse the counsel given, the church body will vote on whether or not to retain that person's membership in the body. The decision of a 75% majority of members is considered final. Once dismissed, a member giving satisfactory evidence of repentance may be restored.

C. Discipline of Minors

Minors (anyone under the age of 18) are not subject to formal church discipline as stated in Article X, Section 5. Minors are still expected to abide by this constitution and bylaws, and may be asked to cease attendance by the pastor(s) or Administration Team upon careful examination and admonition to abide by this constitution and bylaws.

Article XI — Finances

Section 1 — General

- A. The tithes and offerings of the members of the church shall support the operations of this church; certain ministries of the church may be fully or partially supported by fees charged for tuition, programs, merchandise, trips, events, etc. The church shall not violate Scripture in any methods for raising funds. Therefore, all methods for raising funds must be thoroughly reviewed and approved in advance by the person(s) responsible for the affected ministry, along with the Administrative Team. All ministries are subject to the same controls and procedures relating to the accounting for funds under the unified budget system.
- B. All paid employees shall be active members of the church.
- C. To protect the treasurer and the church, an unannounced audit of the financial records shall be conducted once a year by a member appointed by the Administrative Team or by an outside accounting firm.

Section 2 — Budget

- A. The budget will be a general fund budget and will include all ministries of the church in a departmental breakdown of a single unified budgetary system.
- B. The budget will be presented to the church at the Annual Membership Meeting for approval by the members.

Section 3 — Assets

Only the church, at a regular or special membership administration meeting, has the authority to purchase, sell, mortgage, or encumber any real estate belonging to the church.

Section 4 — Special Funds

On occasion the church, in the exercise of its religious, educational and charitable purposes, may establish special funds to accomplish specific goals. Any special fund proposed by any organization of the church should be established only if approved by the Administrative Team. These funds shall be separate from the general fund, with the exception of the Deacons' Fund.

Section 6 — Designated Contributions

It is intended that any designated contributions by members be above their tithes and

offerings. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions, but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Article II. In order to protect the validity of the annual budget, all contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the Administrative Team. When possible, any contribution or special designation not approved by the Administrative Team will be returned to the contributor.

Section 7 — Non-budgeted Expenditures

The Administration Team may, without membership approval, spend money in excess of the annual budget so long as the total over-expenditure does not exceed 2% of the total budget by year-end. This provision does allow over-expenditure in excess of the 2% of a line item so long as the 2% is maintained in the total budget. Expenditures that exceed these limits must be presented to the church for approval.

Section 8 — Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall begin February 1 and end January 31.

Section 9 — Annual Business Meeting

The Annual Business Meeting will be held on the last Sunday of the month each January.

Article XII — Ordinances and Ordination

Section 1 — Ordinances

This church shall observe the two ordinances of believers' baptism and the Lord's Supper.

- A. The ordinance of baptism shall be administered upon request, according to the Statement of Faith (Article IV).
- B. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be regularly observed by the church in accordance to the Statement of Faith (Article IV).The senior pastor has the discretion to schedule the Lord's Supper during any service times or days.

Section 2 — Ordination

- A. Ordination Prospects

Any member of this church or its mission churches who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry and possesses the qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9 may be ordained as a minister of the Gospel.

- B. Ordination Procedure

1. Upon a conference with the senior pastor and after the Administrative Team has approved the candidate for ordination, the senior pastor shall call a council to examine and pass on the qualification of the candidate. The ordination council shall consist of ordained and/or licensed ministers of like faith invited to participate in the examination of the candidate determined by the senior pastor.
2. If the candidate is found worthy of ordination by the council, the ordination council may make recommendation to the church to ordain the candidate or may ordain the candidate on behalf of the church.
3. The senior pastor shall arrange for the ordination service and the procedure by which the candidate shall be ordained.

Article XIII — Adoption

Adoption of this constitution immediately supersedes all previous documents. All bylaws, rules, resolutions, or regulations heretofore adopted or in force in this church are hereby repealed. The provisions stated herein shall become effective immediately.

Article XI — Amendments

This constitution may be altered or amended so long as the proposed amendments are consistent with the teaching of the Word of God and do not violate the purpose for which this church was established nor the doctrinal basis on which it was founded. This may occur at any regular or specially called meeting of the church by a 75% vote of the active members present and voting, provided the notice of such alterations or amendments is presented to the church in written form and announced from the pulpit at least two (2) weeks before action is taken. Amendments that are approved shall become effective immediately unless other provision is made by action of the church.

Article XIV — Dissolution of the Corporation

The right of any property, real or personal, that may be acquired by the church shall be and remain vested in the membership of the church who shall remain faithful to the Statement of Faith of New England Shores Baptist Church. No part of the assets of the corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any donor, member, director, officer of the corporation, or any private individual. Upon dissolution, twenty-five percent (25%) of any assets of the corporation must be distributed to Gospel Fellowship Association upon agreement of the Statement of Faith (Article IV). Any other assets of the corporation must be distributed to one or more organizations recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as organized exclusively for religious purposes. The organization(s) must adhere to the Statement of Faith of this church (Article IV) and is/are to be selected by the members of the dissolving corporation.

Amendments

Amendment 1 - Adopted by unanimous vote of January 15, 2017

Article V Section 7 Original Reading:

Section 7 — Marriage

Marriage ceremonies performed by any pastor of New England Shores Baptist Church are a privilege reserved for members of New England Shores Baptist Church. Permission to officiate a marriage ceremony for nonmembers may be obtained by a simple majority vote of the Administrative Team.

Article V Section 7 Amended Reading adopted on January 15, 2017

Section 7 — Marriage

Marriage ceremonies performed by any pastor of New England Shores Baptist Church are a privilege reserved for members of New England Shores Baptist Church.

The engaged must be Active Members of New England Shores Baptist Church, not under church discipline, and approved by the Administrative Team (Article 10 Section 1:A).

Marriage ceremonies may be performed if one of the engaged is not a member of New England Shores Baptist Church only if he/she is an active member of a church of like faith and doctrine (Articles IV and V), not under church discipline, and approved by his/her senior pastor.

Amendments

Amendment 2 - Adopted by unanimous vote of January 15, 2017

Article VIII Section 3:C:1 Original Reading:

C. Term of Office

1. A typical term in any elected office shall begin February 1, following the 4th quarter elections. Officers shall be elected for a term of up to two (2) years. Officers who have been elected to and have served a first term may be elected to a second term. There shall be a lapse of at least one (1) year before they can be eligible for re-election to that office.

Article VIII Section 3:C:1 Amended Reading adopted on January 15, 2017

C. Term of Office

1. A typical term for any elected office shall begin February 1, following the 4th quarter elections. Officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years.

Amendments

Amendment3- Adopted by unanimous vote of February 5, 2023

ARTICLE VII — SECTION 8, C

Previous Reading: Deacons will serve for a period of no longer than two (2) years. There shall be a lapse of at least one (1) year before they can be eligible for re-election.

Amended Reading: Deacons will serve for a period of two (2) years, after which they are eligible for re-election.