

THE CHANDLER BAPTIST CHURCH

Constitution

Preamble

We declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith, and to govern the body in an orderly manner. This Constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of this body in its relation to other churches.

Article I

The Names and Officers

Section 1. The name of this Church is and shall be “The Chandler Baptist Church, Clay County, Liberty, Missouri” hereafter referred to as Church.

Section 2. The officers of the corporation, “The Chandler Baptist Church, Clay County, Liberty, Missouri,” shall be a President, a Vice President, a Clerk and a Treasurer.

Section 3. The officers of the corporation shall be elected from the membership using the procedures outlined in the Church Operations Manual.

Article II

Membership

Section 1. Any person may become a candidate for membership in this Church. All such candidates shall be presented to the Church at a regular Church service in one of the following ways:

A. By profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, giving evidence of a change of heart, and adopting the views of faith and practice held by this Church, based on New Testament scripture. Such candidates may, upon baptism by immersion, be received into membership.

B. By promise of dismission and recommendation from another Baptist church.

C. Upon recommendation by the Pastor, by statement of prior conversion experience and believer’s baptism by immersion; or in consequence of any unusual circumstances whereby a regular letter of dismission and recommendation is unobtainable.

D. Upon recommendation by the Pastor and Deacons, an individual with extreme circumstances which preclude immersion, may be accepted for membership based on a statement of faith and saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 2. Candidates for membership by any means other than the normal letter from another Baptist church, shall be examined in the presence of the Church or by the Pastor, in which case the Pastor shall report to the Church. When it is deemed expedient, the candidate shall go before the Pastor and Deacons for advice and instruction before the name is presented for membership.

Section 3. The admission of a candidate shall be by an affirmative vote, without objection, at the next business meeting. If an objection is voiced, the Pastor and/or Deacons shall inquire into the objection and a recommendation regarding membership shall be submitted at the next business meeting.

Section 4. Application for admission to membership or for letters of dismissal to other churches of like faith and order, may be voted upon at any business meeting of the Church.

Section 5. Persons who do not wish to become full members, may be received into the fellowship of this Church in a status known as "Watchcare."

- A. The person may enjoy all rights, privileges and responsibilities of membership except the right to vote at a business meeting.
- B. The person's letter is not moved from the home church; hence, the person is not a member of this Church in the strictest sense of the word.
- C. The person's home church does not have to be a Baptist church. However, the basic denominational beliefs of the home church shall not be opposed to Baptist beliefs.

Article III

General Duties of Members

Section 1. The Church Covenant and the Church Operations Manual give the general duties of members.

Section 2. It is the duty of members to honor and support their Pastor and church staff and to pray for them fervently.

Section 3. It is the duty of all members of this Church to contribute out of a willing mind, as God has prospered them, to the support of the Church and to its missionary and benevolent efforts.

Article IV

Church Leadership

Section 1. Leaders of this Church shall consist of the following: Pastor, Ministerial Staff, Deacons, Clerk, Treasurer, Bible Study/Sunday School Director(s) and additional leaders as may be considered advisable by the Church.

Section 2. Responsibilities of the Church Officers, Church Leaders and the committees and their duties shall be listed in the Church Operations Manual.

Section 3. The Pastor will serve as overall spiritual leader of the church, developing and promoting the church's vision.

- A. Duties—The Pastor will oversee the ministerial responsibilities, which include preaching, teaching, evangelizing, leading worship, and giving pastoral care. The person and work of Jesus Christ will be the model. The Pastor will administer the programs and activities of the church.

- B. Notice of Change—Should any change in the pastorate be desired by the pastor of the Church or by the Church, at least one month’s notice must be given by the party desiring the change.
- C. Pastor Search Committee—Whenever the church learns it will be without a pastor, the ranking corporate officer shall call a special Church Council meeting as soon as possible to nominate a Pastor Search Committee consisting of seven church members. The Church Council shall present the Pastor Search Committee to the church at a regular or special business meeting within 30 days for election.
 - 1. The Pastor Search Committee shall select its own chair and will serve for an indefinite term. The Committee shall take the necessary steps to secure a pastor. It shall investigate the merits of each person under consideration regarding personal character, education, ministerial record, preaching ability, Christian experience, and call to the ministry, in determining the candidate’s fitness for the pastorate. When the Committee finds a suitable person, it shall invite the person to come before the church to speak in view of a call. The Committee shall present only one candidate at a time. The Committee shall follow the procedure outlined in the Church Operations Manual.
- D. Election—The Pastor shall be elected by secret ballot, each member present casting one ballot. In the case of a vacancy in the pastorate, the Church at a regular or called business meeting, due notice of which shall be published at least two weeks prior to the meeting, may extend a call to a pastor, provided that two-thirds (2/3) of the members present cast an affirmative vote.

Section 4. The Deacons

- 1. The Deacons will support the pastoral ministry and serve the spiritual and ministry needs of the church family.
- 2. Deacons chosen by the Church shall be consecrated and commissioned for service to the Lord and His people through a special ordination service.

Article V

Ordinances

Section 1. The ordinance of Baptism shall be conducted when guidelines are met as stated in Article II, Section 1. A. Baptism shall be administered by the Pastor or whomever the Pastor or the Deacons shall authorize.

Section 2. The ordinance of the Lord’s Supper shall be observed by the Church quarterly, or as the Church may decide. The Pastor and Deacons shall be responsible for the administration, including the serving, of the Lord’s Supper.

Article VI

Church Organizations

- Section 1. The Church shall maintain such organizations within the Church as deemed advisable to carry out the total program of the Church.
- Section 2. The officers of these organizations within the Church shall be selected subject to approval of the Church; and these organizations shall be under the authority of the Church, and at each Business Meeting may give reports of work done by them.
- Section 3. The Church Operations Manual shall outline the duties of church committees and church organizations.

Article VII

Meetings

- Section 1. The Annual Business Meeting of the Church shall be held on the fourth Sunday in January of each year as specified in the Church Operations Manual. Other business meeting times shall be specified in the Church Operations Manual. Special meetings may be called as detailed in the Church Operations Manual. There must be a quorum, which is defined in the Church Operation Manual, present for the transaction of business.

Article VIII

Associations with other Baptists

- Section 1. The Chandler Baptist Church shall seek fellowship with the local, state, and national Baptist organizations.

Article IX

Licensing and Ordaining

- Section 1. Any member or former member, who, in the judgment of the Church, gives evidence of being called of God to the work of the ministry, may be licensed to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, provided that two-thirds (2/3) of the members present agree to at any Regular or Special Business Meeting of the Church.
- Section 2. If the Church by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present decides at any Regular or Special Business Meeting that an individual possesses the Scriptural qualifications for full ordination, it shall convene an Ordaining

Council which may include neighboring Baptist pastors and deacons to examine the qualifications of the candidate and, upon a positive recommendation of the Ordaining Council, ordain the individual in a service arranged for that purpose.

Article X

Church Indebtedness

- Section 1. The Church shall have the authority to borrow money and to secure payment by pledging Church property by deed of trust or similar document. The Church shall authorize such indebtedness and security by affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of members present at a business meeting at which a quorum exists, as defined in the Church Operations Manual. The proposal shall state the total amount of the indebtedness, the payment terms, the security terms, and the name of the lender. Once approved by two-thirds (2/3) vote, the President and Treasurer shall sign the applicable loan agreement, deed of trust, or other similar documents.

Article XI

Church Operations Manual

- Section 1. In addition to the Constitution, the operation of the church shall be governed by the Church Operations Manual.
- Section 2. The Church Operations Manual may be modified or amended by action of the Church at a Business Meeting by a simple majority provided that the membership of the Church shall receive notice of any change to be made through publication in the Church bulletin and/or newsletter.

Article XII

Dissolution

- Section 1. Upon dissolution of the corporation, the officers of the Corporation, after all debts and expenses of the corporation have been paid, shall distribute the remaining assets of the corporation to another entity qualifying as a charitable organization under the provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, which has been determined by a majority vote of the members present at a regular or special called Business Meeting.

Article XIII

Amendments

Section 1. Any Church member at a business meeting may propose to amend the Church Covenant, Statements of Faith, or Constitution for action at the next regular business meeting. If the proposal receives a second, the Church shall consider it at the next regular business meeting.

Section 2. The amendment requires affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of members present at the business meeting at which a quorum exists, as defined in the Church Operations Manual.

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