

approved 5/17/15

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN

CONSTITUTION

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ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the "First Baptist Church of Waukesha, Wisconsin."

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE and STATEMENT OF FAITH

The purpose of this church shall be to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the community and to the world.

We believe salvation, forgiveness and eternal life are by faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We, as a caring fellowship, gather to worship Jesus Christ, and study the Bible to grow in faith and the knowledge of God. All are welcome.

ARTICLE III - AFFILIATION

Section 1 - Baptist: This church shall affiliate with and be considered a part of the Associated Congregations Together Serving (ACTS), the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Baptist State Convention, the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A., and the Baptist World Alliance or their successor organizations.

Section 2 - Interdenominational - This church endorses and supports the Hope Center, the Wisconsin Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and the World Council of Churches.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section I – Qualification for Membership - Persons professing faith in Jesus Christ and avowing allegiance to the kingdom of God, who accept the Church's Covenant hereto, and whose faith and practices are in accord with those held by this church, may be admitted to membership.

Section 2 - Duties: Members are expected to participate faithfully in activities of the church by regular attendance as defined by the Board of Deacons, by contributing to the support of its financial needs, and by participating in its mission and its program life.

Section 3 – Active Members - Upon action of the Board of Deacons, candidates may be received into active membership by baptism, by letter of transfer of membership, by profession of Christian faith, or by restoration of a former lapsed or inactive membership.

Section 4 - Associate Members: Persons who wish to enter into active fellowship with First Baptist Church of Waukesha, but who have substantial reasons for retaining their existing full church membership elsewhere than in this church, may, at the discretion of the Board of Deacons, be received into Associate Membership in First Baptist Church of Waukesha. Associate Members while actively participating in the life of this church shall have all the responsibilities, duties, and privileges of members of the church, including the holding of an office, except on the Board of Deacons.

Section 5 - Inactive Members:

- a. Inactive Membership List: When a member shall have been inactive for a period of one year, without participating in the life of the church, by action of the Board of Deacons, the member's name may be transferred to the "Inactive Membership List." Such action shall be taken only after the failure of reasonable attempts at encouraging a renewal of the member's covenant relationship. The Board of Deacons shall make due allowance for circumstances of sickness, lack of income, or other reasonable cause for activity.
- b. Inactive Status: Persons whose names are on the Inactive Membership List shall not be counted or reported as members, may not take part in church business meetings, and may not hold offices in the church.

Section 6 – Transfer or withdrawal: Membership in this church may be transferred or withdrawn by action of the Board of Deacons in any of the following ways:

- a. By Letter: Members may, upon application, unite with some other church they designate. A letter of transfer shall be sent by the clerk of this church to the Pastor or clerk of the church designated. When the designated church requires Baptism by immersion, and if the member has not been immersed, that shall be stated in the letter of transfer. If the member was received by letter from a church of another denomination, that shall be stated in the letter of transfer.
- b. By Request: The Board of Deacons may remove the name of a member from the church membership roll if the member wishes to withdraw from the church.
- c. By Removal: The Board of Deacons may remove the names of inactive members from the church membership roll if no positive response is received to the church's attempts to reactivate the member. The Board of Deacons may also remove the names of deceased members from the church membership roll.

ARTICLE V - ORGANIZATION

Section 1 - Government: The government of this church is vested in its members.

Section 2 - Quorum: A quorum for all corporate meetings of the church shall be fifteen percent of the active members.

Section 3 - Officers: The officers of this church shall be:

- a. Moderator
- b. Moderator-Elect
- c. Clerk-Historian
- d. Treasurer and Asst. Treasurer
- e. Financial Secretary(ies)

Section 4- Advisory Board: The Advisory Board shall be composed of the following:

- a. The officers in section 3 above
- b. The chairs of the following boards: Trustees, Deacons, Christian Education and Finance.
- c. The Pastor(s)

Section 5 - Election or Appointment. Responsibilities, and Term of Offices: These matters shall be as described in the By-Laws appended hereto.

Section 6 - Ex-Officio Members: An Ex-Officio Member of a board or committee shall have a voice but no vote.

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENT

This Constitution may be amended at any properly called corporate meeting of the church membership by a three-fourths vote of the active members present provided a quorum is present. Notice of any proposal to amend the Constitution shall be presented to the Advisory Board. If approved by the Advisory Board, notice of the proposal to amend the Constitution shall be presented to all members by mail or email at least one week prior to the meeting and notice of the meeting shall be given during each Sunday worship prior to the meeting so as to provide at least two full weeks notice to the members.

ARTICLE VII - RULES OF ORDER

Roberts' Rules of Order shall be a standard in deciding the questions of parliamentary practice.

ARTICLE VIII - IMPLEMENTATION

This Constitution and accompanying By-Laws shall take effect as provided in the proposal, upon the affirmative vote of the members (two-thirds affirmative vote being necessary for adoption).