

Oakland Baptist Church

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

CONSTITUTION

Preamble

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

Article I. Name and Affiliation

This congregation shall be known as Oakland Baptist Church of Gum Spring, Virginia; and shall be affiliated with the Goshen Association, the General Baptist Association of Virginia and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Article II. Objectives

To be a dynamic spiritual organism empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Christ with as many people as possible in our church, community and throughout the world.

To be a worshipping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing his person, and responding in obedience to His leadership.

To experience an increasingly meaningful fellowship with God and fellow believers.

To help people experience a growing knowledge of God and man.

To be a church which ministers unselfishly to persons in the community and the world in Jesus' name.

To be a church whose purpose is to be Christ like in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment to life, personality, and possessions to the Lordship of Christ.

Article III. Statement of Basic Beliefs

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired word of God and the basis for our beliefs. This church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963. We voluntarily band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to lost mankind. The ordinances of the church are believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Article IV. Relationship

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. Persons duly received by the members shall constitute the membership.

All internal groups created and empowered by the church shall report to and be accountable only to the church, unless otherwise specified by church action.

This church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches. Insofar as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the association, the state convention, and Southern Baptist Convention.

Article V. Church Covenant

Having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and 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 and this assembly most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body of Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian Love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, doctrines and discipline; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, and the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to use our influence to combat the abuse of drugs and the spread of pornography; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; 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 engage that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

BYLAWS

Article I. Church Membership

Section 1. General

This is a sovereign and democratic Baptist church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The membership retains unto itself the exclusive right of self-government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this church.

The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.

Section 2. Application for Membership

- (a) **Baptism:** Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and giving evidence of a change of heart, and upon baptism by immersion may be received into the membership of the church.
- (b) **Letter:** Any person upon the receipt of a letter from another Baptist church may be received into the membership of the church.
- (c) **Statement:** Any person who has made public profession of faith in Christ in another Protestant church, upon the statement of his or her Christian experience may be received into the membership of the church without the requirement of being baptized, if they were previously immersed.
- (d) An orientation class is available to all new Christians.
- (e) The church membership will vote on all new members.

Section 3. Termination of membership

- (a) Any member who desires to unite with another Baptist church shall be granted a letter of transfer upon written request of the member or said church.
- (b) If any member desires to unite with another Protestant church a letter of transfer may be sent to the church of the member's choice upon written request by the member.
- (c) If a member desires to terminate his membership, the church may upon written request and after a majority vote by the church, remove the terminated member's name from the roll, and notify the person in writing.

Section 4. Rights of Members

- (a) Every member of the church, 16 years of age or older, is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the church in conference, provided the member is present.
- (b) Every member of the church is eligible for consideration by the membership as candidates for elective offices in the church.
- (c) Every member of the church may participate in the ordinances of the church as administered by the church.

Section 5. Discipline

It shall be the basic purpose of Oakland Baptist Church to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The pastor, other members of the church staff and Deacons are available for counsel and guidance. Redemption rather than punishment should govern the attitude of one member toward another.

Should some serious condition exist which would cause a member to become a liability to the general welfare of the church, every reasonable measure will be taken by the pastor and by the Deacons to resolve the problem. All such proceedings shall be conducted in a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance as marked out by the Savior in the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth verses of the eighteenth chapter of Matthew (Matt. 18:15-17). Finding that the welfare of the church will best be served by the exclusion of the member, after notification of all active Deacons for a meeting called for the purpose and upon two-thirds majority vote of all active Deacons, they may recommend to the church that the offender no longer be in the membership of the church. In order to terminate the member, the membership must approve the recommendation by a two-thirds majority vote in a regular or called business meeting. Any person whose membership has been terminated for any condition which has made it necessary to exclude him, may upon request to the active Deacons and evidence of his repentance, be restored to membership in accordance with Section 2 under membership.

Article II. Church Officers

The officers of this church shall be as follows:

Section 1. Pastor

(a) **Election:** When the church is without a pastor, a Pulpit Committee shall be elected by the congregation in a regular or called business meeting. This committee shall consist of one representative from the Deacon Fellowship, and four from the church at large or alternative recommendation voted on and approved by the church. This committee shall bring to the consideration of the church only one person at a time. An affirmative vote of at least three-fourths majority of those present at the church business meeting shall be necessary to call a pastor. During the period in which the church is without a pastor, it shall be the responsibility of the Deacon Fellowship to secure pulpit supply.

In the event an interim pastor is desired, he shall be approved by the church, upon recommendation of the Deacon Fellowship.

(b) **Term of Office:** The pastor shall serve as long as he and the church both feel that the relationship should be maintained. In the event either party comes to believe that the relationship should be terminated, the party initiating the termination shall give the other party not less than thirty (30) days notice. Should the pastor initiate the termination, he shall present a written resignation to the church. Two weeks prior notice will be given to the church membership announcing a special called business meeting if termination is to be considered. It shall be necessary to secure a vote of three-fourths majority of the members present to approve the termination.

(c) **Duties and Responsibilities:** Among the many and varied duties and responsibilities incident to the office of pastor, the following are specified, not to impose limitations, but to point out definite cases where the leadership of the pastor is expected.

(1) To seek under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to interpret the Word of God to the church through sermons, teachings and personal counseling.

- (2) To give special care to the sick and shut-ins.
- (3) To function as the coordinator of the program and activities of the church which are designed to advance the Kingdom of God.
- (4) Report monthly to the Deacons.

Section 2. Deacons

The body of Deacons shall be known as "the Deacon Fellowship". It shall be composed of church members carefully chosen to give assistance to the pastor and the staff in providing for the spiritual growth and material welfare of the members.

- (a) **Qualifications:** The qualifications of a Deacon are those set forth in Acts 6:1-6 and I Timothy 3:8-13. They must be willing to accept, without any reservation, the church covenant and the biblical teaching of stewardship, witnessing, tithing and sacrificial giving. Members must be 21 years of age and an active member Oakland Baptist Church for at least one (1) year.
- (b) **Number:** The Deacon Fellowship shall consist of nine (9) members.
- (c) **Election:**
 - (1) Deacons shall serve for three years, and shall not be eligible for re-election until the lapse of at least one year.
 - (2) On the second Sunday of August, nominations will be accepted for Deacon elections.
 - (3) The Deacon Fellowship will be responsible for the screening of those nominated, as per the qualifications for Deacon, set forth in Article II. Section 2. Subsection (a) in the Constitution and Bylaws of Oakland Baptist Church.
 - (4) On the first Sunday of September, all qualified nominees will be listed in the Sunday Morning Bulletin, in alphabetical order.
 - (5) On the second Sunday of September, all qualified nominees shall be placed on a ballot, in alphabetical order. Those nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.
- (d) **Interim Deacons:**
 - (1) In the event of a vacancy, the Deacon Fellowship shall recommend a Deacon from the inactive Deacon list to fill the unexpired term. Upon approval by the church membership at a regular or called business meeting, the Deacon shall become active.

Section 3. Clerk

The church shall elect annually a clerk as its clerical officer. The clerk shall keep a full and faithful account of the proceedings of all business meetings of the church; keep an active up-to-date church roll; and write letters of transfer or termination of membership in the church as directed by the Constitution and Bylaws. He/she shall make a statistical report of the enrollment of the church at the July Quarterly Business Meeting of the church. The church clerk shall maintain an up-to-date record of the church membership. A copy of this roster shall be filed in the clerk's record; a copy shall be given to the pastor; and a copy shall be given to the Chairman of the Deacons. He/she shall keep the minutes of the business meetings and file copies in the same manner as the membership roster. This duty shall be completed as soon as practical.

Section 4. Treasurer(s)

- The Co-Treasurer(s) shall be elected annually by the church membership.
- One Co-Treasurer is authorized to deposit all monies contributed to the church to the appropriate account and to disburse designated funds. She/he will be responsible for recording all members' gifts into personal contribution records and to prepare and distribute statements before February 1st of each year.

- The second Co-Treasurer is responsible for recording all funds deposited to the General Fund and to make disbursements from that fund according to the budget.
- On the first banking day after each Sunday, the Co-Treasurer shall make the deposit into the church's bank accounts.
- A written report of all receipts and disbursements is to be distributed at each Quarterly Business Meeting.
- The Co-Treasurers shall give the Chairman of Stewardship a copy of the bank statements on a monthly basis.
- Co-Treasurers cannot be from the same family.
- The Co-Treasurers' records shall be reviewed annually by the Stewardship Committee within 90 days after the books are closed.

Section 5. Assistant Treasurer

- The Assistant Treasurer shall be elected annually by the church membership.
- She/he shall serve in the absence of either of the Co-Treasurers.

Section 6. Director of Sunday School

The Director of Sunday School shall be elected by the church membership annually. He/she shall have direction of the Sunday School in all of its departments and it shall be his/her duty to call meetings of all officers, teachers and workers of the Sunday School as needed. These meetings will be for the purpose of advancing and building the Sunday School in all its programs. The Sunday School Director will also open and conduct the Pre-Sunday School service each Sunday morning.

Section 7. Assistant Sunday School Director

The Assistant Sunday School Director shall be elected by the church membership annually. He/she will be responsible to make sure all classes have teachers. He/she shall cooperate with the Sunday School Director in advancing the interest of the church and the Sunday School. It shall be his/her responsibility to serve in the absence of the director or in his/her ability to serve. He/she will be directly responsible for the Sunday School visitation program.

Section 8. Sunday School Secretary

The Sunday School Secretary shall be elected by the church membership annually. The Secretary is to keep accurate records of Sunday School membership and the attendance and offerings each Sunday. The Secretary is to post each Sunday's offering and attendance on the board in the Sanctuary. The Secretary shall order all Sunday School literature and obtain envelopes for classes to use for Sunday School offerings.

Section 9. Women on Mission/W.O.M. Director

The Women on Mission/W.O.M. Director shall be elected by the church membership annually. The W.O.M Director shall have complete direction of the W.O.M. work of the church and shall see that a written report of the work is made to the church at least once a year. The organization and fostering of the junior auxiliaries of the W.O.M. shall be the responsibility of the Baptist Women.

Section 10. Media Center Director

The Media Center Director shall be elected by the church membership annually. The Media Center Director shall be a resource person for the church and shall be responsible for directing the audio/visual/printed ministry of the Media Center.

Section 11. Music Directors

The Music Directors shall be elected by the church membership annually.

- (a) **Music Director - Adult Choir:** The Music Director shall be responsible for the music programs of the church securing assistance as needed to provide music programs. It will be the Director's responsibility to make arrangements for selections to be sung or played in all regular services, revivals and special services or activities. The Director is responsible to lead choir and congregational singing. The Director shall serve as Chairperson of the Music/Worship Committee.
- (b) **Music Director - Youth Choir:** The Music Director shall be responsible for the music programs of the Youth Choir securing assistance as needed to provide music programs. The director shall serve as a member of the Music/Worship Committee.
- (c) **Music Director - Children's Choir:** The Music Director shall be responsible for the music programs of the Children's Choir securing assistance as needed to provide music programs. The director shall serve as a member of the Music/Worship Committee.

Section 12. Assistant Music Directors

The Assistant Music Directors shall be elected by the church membership annually.

- (a) **Assistant Music Director - Adult Choir:** The Assistant Music Director - Adult Choir shall serve in the Music Director's absence. He/she shall assist the director in all responsibilities. The Assistant Director will be a member of the Music/Worship Committee.
- (b) **Assistant Music Director - Youth Choir:** The Assistant Music Director - Youth Choir shall serve in the Music Director's absence. He/she shall assist the director in all responsibilities. The Assistant Director will be a member of the Music Worship Committee.
- (c) **Assistant Music Director - Children's Choir:** The Assistant Music Director - Children's Choir shall serve in the Music Director's absence. He/she shall assist the director in all responsibilities. The Assistant Director will be a member of the Music Worship Committee.

Section 13. Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees shall consist of not less than three (3) members. The Board of Trustees shall be nominated and elected annually from the floor at a regular or called business meeting. The Trustees shall hold in trust all properties of the church, except funds in the various treasuries and execute all deeds of conveyance on behalf of the church.

Section 14. Youth Leader/Minister

- (a) **Election:** When the church seeks a youth leader/minister, the Youth Committee and the Pastor shall initiate the process. This Youth Committee shall bring to the consideration of the church only one person at a time. An affirmative vote of at least three-fourths majority of those present at the church business meeting shall be necessary to call a youth leader/minister
- (b) **Term of Office:** The youth leader/minister shall serve as long as he/she and the church both feel that the relationship should be maintained. In the event either party comes to believe that the relationship should be terminated, the party initiating the termination shall give the other party not less than thirty (30) days notice. Should the youth leader/minister initiate the termination, he/she shall present a written resignation to the church. When the church initiates the termination, two weeks prior notice will be given to the church membership announcing a special called business meeting at which the termination will be discussed and considered. It shall be necessary to

secure a vote of three-fourths majority of the members present to approve the termination.

Article III. Church Committees and Representatives

Section 1. General Policies:

- (a) Church committees shall be of two (2) types: (1) standing committees which work throughout the year and have a list of duties requiring regular and continuing performance. (2) Special committees which have a unique job to do and upon completion of that task are dismissed.
- (b) All standing committees members, shall be recommended by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church membership at the July business meeting, any vacancies can be filled during the year. The term of service will begin October 1st.
- (c) Each standing committee shall normally have at least three (3) members.
- (d) No person shall serve at the same time as chair-person of more than one standing committee.
- (e) The pastor has the privilege of serving in an ex-officio capacity on each committee.
- (f) Special committee members shall be recommended by the Nominating Committee unless otherwise specified by the church.
- (g) All committees shall furnish the Stewardship Committee a line item budget for funds requested no later than October 31st.
- (h) Each committee receiving or spending non-budgeted funds shall submit a written quarterly report at the regular scheduled business meetings.

Section 2. Standing Committees

- (a) **Audio Committee:** The Audio Committee shall consist of at least two (2) members. They will be responsible for setting up and operating the audio equipment for worship services and other activities of the church as needed.
- (b) **Baptismal Committee:** The Baptismal Committee shall consist of at least two (2) women and two (2) men. They shall take charge of the preparation of the Baptismal Pool, and assist the candidates and the pastor in preparation for the ordinance of baptism.
- (c) **Building and Grounds Committee:** The Building and Grounds Committee shall consist of no less than five (5) members. It shall have the general supervision of the grounds, buildings and all equipment. It shall be authorized to contract with such persons as may be needed to carry out the duties of keeping the church and grounds neat, clean and in good repair. The committee shall obtain a written contract from anyone where services are obtained and shall be kept on file in the church office.
- (d) **Cemetery Committee:** The Cemetery Committee shall consist of at least five (5) members. The duties of the committee shall be guided as outlined in the Rules and Regulations of the Cemetery. A copy of these Rules and Regulations will be kept in the church office.
- (e) **Children's/Pre-teen Committee:** The Children's/Pre-teen Committee shall consist of at least three (3) people. They will be responsible for planning activities, games, Bible Study and trips for the children.

- (f) **Chrismon Committee:** The Chrismon Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members. This committee shall plan and coordinate all Chrismon activities.
- (g) **Christmas Committee:** The Christmas Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members and shall be responsible for planning and implementing the Christmas season program.
- (h) **Children's Consignment Sale Committee:** The Children's Consignment Sale Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members. This committee shall plan and coordinate the children's clothing and toy consignment sale.
- (i) **Missions Committee:** The Missions Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members. This committee shall be responsible for community mission activities.
- (j) **Church Council:** The Church Council shall consist of the following: The pastor as chairman, the chairman of the Deacon Fellowship and the Chairperson of all standing committees. The primary function of the council shall be to recommend suggested objectives and church goals, to review and coordinate program plans recommended by the church officers, organizations and committees; to recommend use of leadership, calendar time and other resources according to program priorities; and to evaluate program achievements in terms of church goals and objectives. All matters agreed upon by the council calling for action not already provided by the constitution/bylaws shall be referred to the church for approval.
- (k) **Communion Committee:** The Communion Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members. They shall have the responsibility of preparing the elements for the Communion Service, which shall take place the first Sunday of each quarter.
- (l) **Stewardship Committee:** The Stewardship Committee shall consist of at least five (5) members, three of which will be the Co-Treasurers and Assistant Treasurer. It shall initiate proposals for and have full responsibility of the financial program of the church with respect to current expenses and benevolences; recommend to the congregation such deficit financing as may be considered necessary. It shall be authorized to approve expenditures of sums not to exceed \$100.00 in each instance on non-budgeted items in any fiscal year provided all members are in agreement. It shall prepare a proposed annual budget of the church which will be made available for review by the members at least two weeks prior to the presentation for approval at a special called business meeting in December. It shall review the books of the General Fund within ninety (90) days after the books are closed.
- (m) **Flower Committee:** The Flower Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members. They will be responsible for providing flowers for the morning worship and for special services and revivals. The committee may ask for and receive help from other people and/or buy arrangements for the services.
- (n) **Hospitality Committee:** The Hospitality Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members. This committee is responsible for supporting activities such as church-wide fellowships and arranging for food and lodging for visiting evangelists. This committee shall be responsible for the use and the cleaning of the kitchen. They will also procure the usual supplies for church functions involving the kitchen.
- (o) **Music/Worship Committee:** The Music/Worship Committee shall consist of all the Music Directors, all Assistant Music Directors, the Organist, the Pianist, the Pastor and the chairman of the Audio Committee. The committee's duties are: (1) selection of special music and preparation of music for worship services, revivals and special programs; (2) plan order of the worship service; (3) to be custodian of all hymn books owned by the church and to keep same in good repair; (4) to be custodian of all musical instruments owned by the church and to keep same in good repair; (5) to be constantly on the lookout for suitable talent for the choir and to recommend

same to the Music Directors.

- (p) **Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members. They shall be responsible for nominating all officers and teachers for the Sunday School and other activities of the church and all members of standing committees. The pastor shall serve in an advisory capacity with this committee. In the event of vacancies during they year, it shall present nominations to the church at a feasible time to fill these vacancies.
- (q) **Pre-School Committee:** The Pre-School Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members. They will be responsible for planning and implementing activities for pre-schoolers.
- (r) **Revival Committee:** The Revival Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members. This committee shall be responsible for the planning and coordinating the Revival activities.
- (s) **Tellers Committee:** The Tellers Committee shall consist of at least five (5) members. They shall be responsible for counting all offerings received in the worship services and shall be responsible for receipts until they are given to a Co-Treasurer for deposit or to a teller, under the direction of a Co-Treasurer, for deposit.
- (t) **Visitation Committee:** The Visitation Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members. This committee shall be responsible for coordinating the visitation program of the church.
- (u) **Youth Committee:** The Youth Committee shall consist of at least five (5) members, including at least two (2) young people. The committee shall be responsible for planning and directing all youth (7th through 12th grades) activities. They shall be available to the youth for encouraging ideas and participation of the youth in the church.

Section 3. Representatives

- (a) **Goshen Executives:** It shall consist of at least two (2) members. They shall represent the church to the Goshen Executive Committee in accordance with the Goshen Constitution and Bylaws.
- (b) **Representative to Goshen:** It shall consist of at least three (3) members. They shall represent the church to the Goshen Association in accordance with the Goshen Constitution and Bylaws.

Article IV. Church Ordinances

Section 1. Baptism

This church shall receive for baptism any person who has received Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith, who professes him publicly at any worship service and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord of their life.

- (a) Baptism shall be by immersion in water.
- (b) The pastor, or whomever the church shall authorize, shall administer baptism. The Deacons and the members of the Baptismal Committee shall assist in the preparation for, and the observance of, baptism.
- (c) Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship during any worship service of the church.
- (d) A person who professes Christ and is not baptized after a reasonable length of time shall be counseled by the pastor. If negative interest is ascertained on the part of the candidate, he/she shall be deleted from those awaiting baptism. All candidates for baptism will attend counseling conducted by the pastor prior to the observation of baptism.

Section 2. The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper shall be observed by the church quarterly, the first Sunday of the quarter, unless otherwise scheduled by the Deacons. The observation will be held during the morning worship service. The pastor and Deacons shall administer the Lord's Supper and the Communion Committee will prepare the table and elements.

Section 3. Worship Service

The church shall meet each Sunday morning for the worship of Almighty God. Prayer, praise, preaching, instruction and evangelism shall be among the ingredients of these services. The pastor shall direct the services for all the church members and for all others who may choose to attend.

Section 4. Special Service

Revival services and any other church meetings essential to the advancement of the church's objectives shall be placed on the church calendar.

Section 5. Regular and Special Business Meetings

- (a) The regular quarterly business meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of January, April, July and October, or, in the event of necessary postponement, as soon as possible.
- (b) A special business meeting may be called by the pastor, Chairman of Deacons or by written request by ten (10) or more voting members of the church.
- (c) The special business meeting shall be announced for two (2) consecutive weeks in advance of the meeting in the church bulletin. The only business that can be conducted is that purpose to which the meeting has been called.
- (d) Regulations: (1) The Chairman of the Deacons shall preside at all business meetings, and in his absence, the Vice-Chairman of the Deacons, and in his absence, such person as may be elected by those present; (2) No meeting shall be conducted without a quorum of at least twenty (20) members; (3) No business meeting shall be held in the sanctuary so long as other suitable space is available; (4) The meetings will be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

Article V. General Provisions

Section 1. Pulpit supply expense shall be borne by the church in case of the pastor's short-term illness, attendance at denominational meetings, and vacations.

Section 2. The church shall reserve the right to entertain nominations from the floor during a business meeting for any vacant office except the pastor. This power to nominate is in addition to the work of the Nominating Committee.

Section 3. When the church desires to ordain a member to the Ministry, it shall petition the Goshen Association to examine the candidate. After the association recommends the candidate's ordination, the church shall plan an appropriate ordination service.

Section 4. There shall not be held in behalf of the church any sales of merchandise or any entertainment for the purpose of raising money without the consent of the church membership.

Section 5. All church committee chairpersons shall be members of Oakland Baptist Church.

Article VI. Adoption and Amendment of this Constitution/Bylaws

- Section 1.** This Constitution and Bylaws shall be considered adopted and in effect when two-thirds of the members present vote in favor of adoption. Copies of the revised Constitution and Bylaws, recommended by the Deacon Fellowship, shall be made available thirty (30) days prior to the called business meeting for review by the membership. This vote on adoption shall be taken only after these rules have lain on the table for thirty (30) days after the formal presentation to the church.
- Section 2.** Any of the rules in this constitution may be amended, altered, or repealed by a two thirds vote of the members present at any regular business meeting of the church.
- Section 3.** The adoption of this Constitution shall affect a repeal of all previously adopted rules.
- Section 4.** A copy of this Constitution/Bylaws shall at all times be kept by the clerk among his/her records, by the Chairman of the Deacons, the pastor, and another copy shall be kept in the church office and all amendments to or revisions thereof shall, after passage by the church, be prepared in typewritten form by the clerk and placed with the copies of the Constitution/Bylaws so kept.
- Section 5.** Each time the Constitution/Bylaws are revised they will be dated with the date of approval.