

**BYLAWS**

**of**

**THE FIRST BAPTIST**

**CHURCH**

**OF**

**WICHITA FALLS**

**AMENDED DECEMBER 2020**

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OF  
THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WICHITA FALLS**

**ARTICLE I – NAME, POWERS AND OFFICES**

**1. NAME**

The name of the corporation is The First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls (the “Church”).

**2. PURPOSES**

The Church is organized and shall be operated exclusively for religious, educational, and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), including, without limitation, engaging in religious worship and promoting the spiritual development and well-being of individuals. The assets and properties of the Church are hereby pledged for use in performing its exempt functions.

**3. CORE MISSION AND VALUES**

We are a Christian evangelical church—a church whose primary purpose is to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

We believe in the following:

**a. The Scriptures**

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

**b. God**

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the

future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

### **1. God the Father**

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

### **2. God the Son**

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

### **3. God the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

### **c. Man**

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the

command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

#### **d. Salvation**

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

1. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

2. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.
3. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.
4. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

#### **e. God's Purpose of Grace**

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

#### **f. The Church**

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

#### **g. Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

#### **h. The Lord's Day**

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

### **i. The Kingdom**

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

### **j. Last Things**

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

### **k. Evangelism and Missions**

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

### **l. Education**

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

### **m. Stewardship**

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

### **n. Cooperation**

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

### **o. The Christian and the Social Order**

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

### **p. Peace and War**

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

### **q. Religious Liberty**

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

### **r. The Family**

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

#### **4. POWERS**

The Church is a nonprofit corporation and shall have all of the powers, duties, authorizations and responsibilities as provided in the Texas Business Organizations Code; provided, however, the Church shall neither have nor exercise any power, nor engage directly or indirectly in any activity, that would invalidate its status as a corporation that is exempt from federal income tax as an organization described in Section 501(c) (3) of the Code.

### **ARTICLE II – OFFICES**

#### **1. REGISTERED OFFICE AND AGENT**

The registered office and registered agent of the Church shall be as set forth in the Church's Restated Certificate of Formation.

#### **2. PRINCIPAL OFFICE**

The principal office of the Church shall be at such place as the members may from time to time determine.

#### **3. OTHER OFFICES**

The Church may also have other offices at such places, within or without the State of Texas, as the members of the Church may designate.

### **ARTICLE III – MEMBERS**

#### **1. MANAGEMENT**

The management of the affairs of the Church shall be vested in the members. Church membership is required in order to serve as a Deacon, Leadership member, or committee member.

#### **2. REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

The First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls is a family of believers in Jesus Christ. You can become a member of The First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls in one of four way

- a. Accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and being baptized by immersion (in a pool of water) under the authority of our church as a sign of your faith in Christ.
- b. If you have already accepted Jesus, but have not been baptized by immersion, you may join by being baptized.
- c. Transfer of membership from another church that practices believer's baptism by immersion.
- d. If you have trusted in Christ for salvation and been baptized by immersion but never joined a church or are unsure where your membership is, you may join by stating that you are a Christian who has been baptized.

### **3. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

The Church shall remove from its membership:

- a. Those who have passed away.
- b. Those who united with churches of other faiths to which this church does not grant letters.
- c. Those who unite with other Baptist churches, following the request for a letter and the granting of such letter.
- d. By personal written request.
- e. By action of the Church to remove those who have been charged with gross immorality, persistent failure to comply with covenant obligations or overt denial of any part of the doctrinal statement of this church. The Church will proceed with such action only after the member has been called before the pastor and deacons to be examined in regards to the charges. Failure of a member to appear when requested shall not serve to stay action of the examining body. The Senior Pastor and deacons will then make recommendations for appropriate disciplinary act to the church at a business meeting.

### **4. MEMBERSHIP ROLL**

A complete list of members eligible to vote at each meeting shall be maintained by the church business administrator.

### **5. MEETINGS**

Meetings of the members may be called by either the Senior Pastor or the Chairman of the Deacons. Members shall be notified of the time, date, and location for meetings of the members through regular church publications at least seven (7) days prior to such

meetings. The Chairman of the Deacons (or his designate) shall preside over meetings of the members.

## **6. QUORUM**

Those members present at a meeting for which notice has been given shall constitute a quorum.

## **7. VOTING**

Any member whose name is on the membership roll shall be eligible to vote in meetings of the members. Voting by proxy is not permitted. Unless otherwise provided by these Bylaws, a vote of a majority of the members in attendance at a meeting shall constitute the action of the members; provided, however, that a two-thirds majority of the members in attendance at a meeting shall be required for the following actions: (i) dissolution of the Church, (ii) merger or consolidation with another church, (iii) sale of substantially all of the Church's assets, (iv) amendment to the Church's Certificate of Formation or Bylaws.

# **ARTICLE IV – LEADERSHIP**

## **1. LEADERSHIP**

The Leadership of the Church shall include the Senior Pastor, the Executive Pastor, the Executive Pastoral Staff which consists of the Pastor of Business Administration, Pastor of Worship Ministries, Pastor of Education, and the Pastor of Media and Missions and any position the Pastor and Personnel Committee deem necessary; the Clerk, the Treasurer, and the Chairman of the Deacons; and such other positions as deemed necessary.

## **2. SENIOR PASTOR**

The Senior Pastor shall be a duly ordained Baptist minister.

The Senior Pastor must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach (I Tim. 3:2); Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous (I Tim. 3:3); One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity (I Tim. 3:4); Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil (I Tim. 3:6); Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil (I Tim. 3:7); Be willing to watch over the souls of the membership, doing so with joy, not with grief (Heb. 13:17).

The Senior Pastor shall lead the Church and other staff and shall direct the coordination of the Church's programs. The senior Pastor shall serve as an ex-officio member of all committees of the Church. The Senior Pastor and his wife shall be official church messengers to the Southern Baptist Conventions, all state-wide conventions of Southern Baptists and the Wichita, Archer, Clay Association meetings. Additional messengers can be elected by the Church as desired.

When there is a vacancy in the Senior Pastor position, a Pastor Selection Committee shall seek out and nominate a candidate for the position. A candidate nominated for the position shall be elected as Senior Pastor if approved by the members of the Church, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at a meeting of the members called for such purpose. The Senior Pastor shall serve until he resigns or is dismissed by the members of the Church.

The Senior Pastor may resign by giving at least two weeks written notice by letter delivered to the Chairman of the Deacons. The members of the Church may dismiss the Senior Pastor by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members present at a meeting of the members called for such purpose.

In the event of the Pastor's absence due to resignation, termination, death, or a temporary leave of absence, the Executive Pastor shall assume the daily duties of the Pastor, including the operations of the Church not necessarily including the regular preaching duties, and the supervision of church personnel.

If there is no Executive Pastor, the Personnel Committee shall designate an Executive Church Staff member to be responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the Church and supervising church personnel.

### **3. EXECUTIVE STAFF**

- a.** The term "Executive Staff" shall include all executive level pastoral positions deemed necessary at the time by the Senior Pastor and Personnel Committee, which positions have pastoral, administrative, or managerial responsibility at the executive level of the church.
- b.** The Executive Staff assists the Senior Pastor as designated by the Pastor, through the Executive Pastor in the ministry of the church. In the absence of an Executive Pastor, members of the Executive Staff shall work under the direct supervision of the Senior Pastor. They assume supervisory duties as established by the current organizational chart. They also assume other duties and responsibilities assigned by the Senior Pastor and/or the Executive Pastor. The Executive Staff shall be comprised of those outlined as Executive Staff in the current staff organizational chart.

**c.** Executive Staff members shall be selected upon recommendation of the Senior Pastor and/or the Executive Pastor, with the approval of the Personnel Committee. They can be involuntarily discharged only upon the recommendation of the Senior Pastor and/or the Executive Pastor, with the approval of the Personnel Committee who will then inform the Church. They shall be subject to the current personnel policy and procedure manual and Executive Staff details set forth by the Personnel Committee.

#### **4. CHURCH MINISTRY STAFF**

- a.** The Church Ministry Staff assists the Executive Staff in the ministry of the Church. Church Ministry Staff are all other ministers, pastors, and directors who are not Executive Staff members. They shall fill vacancies and needs within the various offices, organizations, and ministry committees within the church. They also assume other duties and responsibilities that are assigned by the Senior Pastor to an Executive Staff member and approved by the Executive Pastor.
- b.** Church Ministry Staff members shall be selected upon the recommendation of the Executive Pastor with the approval of the Senior Pastor and notification of the Personnel Committee. They can be terminated by the Senior Pastor and/or the Executive Pastor with the approval of the Personnel Committee. They shall be subject to the current personnel policy and procedure manual set forth by the Personnel Committee.

#### **5. CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF**

- a.** All employees of the Church who are not Executive Staff or Church Ministry Staff shall be referred to as Support Staff. They assist the Senior Pastor, Executive Pastor, Executive Staff and Church Ministry Staff in the ministry of the church.
- b.** The Church shall employ support staff as the members of the Church determine are necessary. Each Church staff member shall serve under the direction of the Senior Pastor and/or the Executive Pastor. Church Support Staff shall be hired and/or terminated following the hiring and termination procedures established by the Personnel Committee.

#### **6. CLERK**

The Clerk shall attend all meetings of the members of the Church and shall have recorded all votes and the minutes of all proceedings. The Clerk shall give or cause to be given notice of all meetings of the members of the Church and shall perform such other duties as the Senior Pastor, or the Deacons may prescribe. The Clerk shall be a member of the Executive Committee. If the Clerk position becomes vacant, the Committee on

Committees shall nominate a successor for election by the members of the Church. The Clerk may be removed by vote of the members of the Church.

## **7. TREASURER**

The Treasurer shall act as the secondary signature authority for financial documents of The Church. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as the Senior Pastor, or the Deacons may prescribe. The Treasurer shall serve as a member of the Personnel Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Fiscal Committee. If the Treasurer position becomes vacant, the Committee on Committees shall nominate a successor for election by the members of the Church. The Treasurer may be removed by vote of the members of the Church.

## **8. CHAIRMAN OF THE DEACONS**

The Chairman of the Deacons (or his designate) shall preside at all meetings of the members of the Church as well as all meetings of the Deacons and shall perform such other duties as the members of the Church or the Deacons may prescribe. The Chairman of the Deacons shall serve as a member of the Personnel Committee and the Executive Committee. The Chairman of Deacons' term shall be for one year and may only serve two consecutive terms. The Chairman of the Deacons shall be elected each year by a majority vote of the active Deacons present and voting at a meeting of the Deacons

If a vacancy occurs during the term, the Deacons shall elect a replacement Chairman by majority vote of the active Deacons present at the meeting at which such election is held.

# **ARTICLE V – DEACONS**

## **1. PURPOSE**

Deacons shall be elected to provide service and leadership to the Church and to assist the Senior Pastor and other staff members in the work of the Church.

## **2. CHARACTER and QUALIFICATIONS**

As when the first deacons were added to the church in Acts 6, the Church expects deacons to be “men of good reputation”, “full of the spirit and of wisdom” and called to serve the people of the church. His Godly character should be evident and proven both in the church and in the community. While perfection exists only in the person of Christ, his character and testimony should be evident by the attributes and qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-15:

1. Believer- He should be a man who is called to serve both the Lord and the church and to be found to have a Christ-like character (v 1-2).
2. Devotion to Family-As evidenced by being faithful to his wife, a good manager of his children and fulfilling his responsibilities to his household (v 12).
3. Integrity- He must strive to be honest, worthy of respect both inside and outside of the church and above reproach (v 8 & 10).
4. Self-controlled and spirit controlled – A deacon is never to be drunk with alcohol nor abuse any other intoxicating substance (v 8).
5. Money and Giving- He shall be a good steward of what God has entrusted to him and free of the love of money (v 3 & 8). He shall also be willing to tithe to the Church as outlined in Mal 3:10, Matt 23:23, 1 Cor. 16:2, and Prov. 3:9-10.

### **3. ELECTION**

Each year, the Deacon Nominating Committee shall nominate candidates to serve as Deacons, and the members of the Church shall elect Deacons from those candidates nominated.

### **4. STRUCTURE**

The categories of Deacons are: (i) those currently serving as an active Deacon, (ii) those who are currently inactive following three years of service as an active Deacon, and (iii) those Deacons who have requested to be on reserve status and are not currently part of the active/inactive rotation. When active Deacons complete a three year term of service, they shall rotate to inactive status for a one year period. At the conclusion of the one year period, each Deacon shall return to status as an active Deacon unless the Deacon decides to remain inactive and change to reserve status.

### **5. REMOVAL OR RESIGNATION**

A Deacon may resign or change his status to reserve by written notification delivered to the Chairman of the Deacons. The Deacons shall establish an internal policy for the removal of Deacons.

### **6. MEETINGS**

The active Deacons shall hold meetings at such time and place as the Chairman of the Deacons may determine provided that all active Deacons are notified of such meeting at least seven days in advance. A total number of active Deacons present at a meeting shall

constitute a quorum, and a majority vote of such quorum shall constitute the action of the Deacons.

## **ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES**

Committees will be established to assist the staff, Deacons, and members of the Church in developing and implementing policies and procedures; to recommend actions for their consideration and approval; and to give oversight to the numerous administrative works of ministry so the operations of the Church will be performed in a decent and orderly manner. Three types of committees may be established: (i) standing committees, (ii) ministry teams, and (iii) special committees. Standing committees are permanent committees, established from time to time by the members of the Church, which relate to the ongoing governance and operations of the Church. Standing committees are directly accountable to the Deacons and the members of the Church. Ministry teams have limited charges and are created for specific purposes to assist in the ministry of the Church. Ministry teams may be established by the staff member responsible for a particular ministry area, with the approval of the Executive Pastor. Special committees are committees established by the Policy and Procedures standing committee for specified, limited purposes. All committees are governed by and subject to the separate "General Guidelines for Committees" established by the Church.

## **ARTICLE VII - INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE**

### **1. INDEMNIFICATION**

The Church shall have the full power to indemnify and advance expenses pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Business Organizations Code to any person entitled to indemnification under the provisions of the Texas Business Organizations Code.

### **2. INSURANCE**

The Church may purchase and maintain adequate insurance or another arrangement on behalf of any person who is or was a governing person, delegate, officer, employee, or agent of the Church or who is or was serving at the request of the Church as a governing person, delegate, officer, employee, agent, or similar functionary of another foreign or domestic corporation, employee benefit plan, other enterprise, or other entity, against any liability asserted against him or her and incurred by him or her in such a capacity or arising out of his or her status as such a person, whether or not the Church would have the power to indemnify him or her against that liability.

### **3. LIMITATIONS**

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Article VIII, the Church may not indemnify or maintain insurance or a similar arrangement on behalf of any person if such indemnification or maintenance of insurance or similar arrangement would subject the

Church to income tax under the Code or subject such person to excise tax under the Code.

## **ARTICLE VIII - MISCELLANEOUS**

### **1. BOOKS AND RECORDS**

The Church shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall keep minutes of the proceedings of the members, Deacons, trustees, and committees. The Church shall keep a membership roll, giving the names and addresses of all members, at its registered office. The church business administrator shall be responsible for maintaining a membership roll of all members of the Church eligible to vote at meetings of the Members.

### **2. FINANCIAL RECORDS AND ANNUAL REPORTS**

The church business administrator shall have responsibility for the receipt and disbursement of Church funds and shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Church.

The Church shall maintain current true and accurate financial records with full and correct entries made with respect to all financial transactions of the Church, including all income and expenditures, in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. If required by law, all records, books, quarterly reports and annual reports (if required by law) of the financial activity of the Church shall be kept at the registered office or principal office of the Church for at least three years after the closing of each fiscal year and shall be available to the public for inspection and copying there during normal business hours.

### **3. FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Church shall be as determined by the members of the Church.

## **ARTICLE IX – CONSTRUCTION**

### **1. PRONOUNS AND HEADINGS**

All personal pronouns used in these Bylaws shall include the other gender whether used in masculine or feminine or neuter gender, and the singular shall include the plural whenever and as often as may be appropriate. All headings herein are for the parties' convenience only and neither limits nor amplifies the provisions of this Agreement.

## **2. INVALID PROVISIONS**

If any one or more of the provisions of these Bylaws, or the applicability of any such provision to a specific situation, shall be held invalid or unenforceable, such provision shall be modified to the minimum extent necessary to make it or its application valid and enforceable, and the validity and enforceability of all other provisions of these Bylaws and all other applications of any such provision shall not be affected thereby.

## **ARTICLE X - AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

### **1. BYLAWS**

These Bylaws may be amended by a two thirds majority of the members present and voting at any two consecutive regular or special meeting of the Church or repeal these Bylaws, or adopt new Bylaws, unless the Certificate of Formation or the Texas Business Organizations Code limit such powers. A written thirty (30) day notice will be given to the membership in the regular publications in addition to appropriate announcements from the pulpit. Each announcement will include the specific change(s) plus the time and location of the meeting.

### **2. SUBMISSION**

Any such amendment may be submitted to the church by the active deacons, any committee, or by petition of no less than one hundred (100) members.

## **ARTICLE XI - DISCONTINUANCE**

All assets of The First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls are hereby pledged for use in performing the Church's religious functions and upon discontinuance of The First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, by dissolution or otherwise, the assets are to be transferred to a Christian religious organization that is qualified as a charitable organization under Section 501 (c) (3), Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended.

Adopted by the members of the Church effective as of November 19, 2014,

Jerry Broadway, Church Clerk

Amended by the members of the Church effective as of December 6, 2020,

\_\_\_\_\_, Church Clerk