

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PALM COAST

BYLAWS

Revised October 25, 2024

First Baptist Church of Palm Coast Bylaws

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 GENERAL

This is a sovereign Southern Baptist church under the leadership 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 QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS

Any person, regardless of background, may offer himself/herself as a candidate for membership in this church. Following a “satisfactory” interview by the Senior Pastor, the Executive Pastor, or Deacons, the candidate will be presented to the church at the next regular scheduled business meeting for membership in any of the following ways:

- a. By profession of faith in Jesus Christ and as a candidate for baptism.
- b. By letter of transfer or recommendation from another church of like faith and order, and upon acceptance of the aims and ideas of this church as expressed in the Constitution and Bylaws.
- c. By restoration, after presentation of acceptable evidence of the candidate’s repentance and reformation, and evidence that the candidate has met the requirements of baptism.
- d. By experience, when a candidate has converted and has been properly baptized by immersion in a church with similar beliefs other than Baptist, on the condition that the candidate adopts the aims of the Constitution and Bylaws.
- e. If a candidate believes in the ordinance of baptism but the candidate’s physical condition forbids immersion, then baptism may be waived.

Should there be any dissent as to any candidate, such dissent shall be referred to the Deacon Body for investigation and for the making of a recommendation to the church within thirty (30) days. When a candidate presents himself/herself for membership as stated above, a new member orientation will be held so that the new member understands the responsibilities of his/her membership in this church.

SECTION 3 NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

New members of this church are expected to attend a New Members orientation that will teach the nature of church membership, the Baptist Faith and Message doctrines and work of Southern Baptists, the Church Constitution and Bylaws, and ministries, ordinances and practices of the First Baptist Church of Palm Coast.

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SECTION 4 ACTIVE AND INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Active Membership

An active member shall be defined as any member in good standing who participates and fulfills the responsibilities of members. The expectation of active involvement in the life of the church shall not apply to career or short-term missionaries, members of the Armed Forces serving out of the area, students away from the area for educational purposes, disabled, or members living in nursing homes or other assisted living arrangements.

Inactive Membership

Members who do not fulfill the responsibilities of a member will be categorized as an inactive member for up to three (3) years. Those that have been placed on the inactive membership roll due to failure to participate and support the mission of the church shall not have voting privileges. Inactive members shall be visited by the Senior Pastor, Executive Pastor or Deacon Body, if they can be contacted, to determine if such member intends to return to fellowship. If such a member indicates no intention of fulfilling his or her covenant relationship with the church, then they will be informed that their membership shall be terminated by erasure.

SECTION 5 RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

Every Active Member, age 16 and older, may vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the church in conference, provided the member is present. Only active, non-Seasonal members that are 18 or older can serve in the following capacities: a Church Officer, a Deacon, Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, Policies & Procedures Committee, or a Trustee. All other opportunities for service are open to any capable and active member over the age of 18. Every member of the church may participate in the ordinances of the church.

SECTION 6 DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Church membership includes acceptance of the commitments of the Membership Covenant, (Article IV of the Constitution of First Baptist Church of Palm Coast). Members shall actively support the church in the following ways:

- a. Pray for the church, its pastors, its members, its missions and ministries.
- b. Support the worship services and bible teaching ministry with regular and consistent attendance, unless providentially hindered.
- c. Regularly support this church with tithes and offerings as the Lord enables them.
- d. Serve in the ministries of this church according to their individual abilities and spiritual gifts.

SECTION 7 DISCIPLINE

It shall be the practice of this church to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The Senior Pastor, Executive Pastor, or other members of the staff and Deacons are available for counsel and guidance. The attitude of members toward one another shall be guided by a concern for redemption, rather than punishment. Should some serious condition exist, that would cause a member to become a liability to the general welfare of the church, the Senior Pastor, Executive Pastor and Church Officers, collectively, will

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take every reasonable measure to resolve the problem in accordance with the guidelines in the book of Matthew, Chapter 18. If it becomes necessary for the church to take action to exclude a member, a two-thirds vote of the members present will be required at a specifically called meeting. All such proceedings shall be conducted in a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance.

The church may restore to membership any person previously excluded, upon request of the excluded person and by majority vote of the church upon evidence of the excluded person's repentance and reformation. For discipline issues pertaining to staff, refer to Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual.

SECTION 8 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- a. **Transfer of Membership** by requesting transfer of letter to another Baptist church.
- b. **Request for Release** by requesting to be released from the covenant obligations to this church, either verbally or in writing, such request will be granted with termination of membership.
- c. **Inactive Membership** by removal from the church by erasure under the provisions of the Bylaws, Article 1, Section 4, Active and Inactive Membership.
- d. **Non-Residency** members who have moved from the general vicinity of this church will be placed in non-resident status.
- e. **Unchristian conduct** by exclusion under the provision of the Bylaws, Article 1, Section 7, Discipline.
- f. **By death of member**

SECTION 9 RESTORATION

The church may restore to membership any person (previously excluded) upon request of the excluded person. Such a restoration requires a two-thirds vote of Active Resident Members present and voting (a) upon properly supporting evidence of repentance and reformation or (b) upon satisfactory explanation, if due to extended absence.

SECTION 10 DISPUTES BETWEEN MEMBERS

In accordance with the Scriptures, Christians who are members of this Church shall not bring public or civil lawsuits against other members of this body or against the church in order to resolve personal disputes. To follow the Scripture's mandate precluding actions at law against fellow believers, while simultaneously preserving the right to have one's dispute heard and decided, the members of this church agree to handle all inter-church disputes with the Bible as a guide, in an orderly and sound manner. To this end, when any dispute arises between one or more members of this church, the involved member(s) will take time to pray about the basis for the dispute as well as the other members involved. After such prayer, the member(s) will approach the other member(s) with whom they have a disagreement and attempt to work through the dispute, in a spirit of love and understanding. If the attempt to address the dispute directly does not result in a resolution, one or more of the member(s) involved will approach the Senior Pastor, the Executive Pastor, or a Church Officer and explain the dispute. The Senior Pastor, the Executive Pastor, or Church Officer will discuss the dispute and select an appropriate church leader to meet with the disputing member(s) separately to fully resolve the dispute.

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If the above efforts have been fully exhausted and they do not result in a satisfactory resolution of the issues in dispute, The Senior Pastor, or the Executive Pastor, and Church Officer shall advise the church Trustees of the need for extrajudicial mediation or binding arbitration. The Trustees shall assist the parties in obtaining a Christian mediator or, if necessary, a panel of Christian arbitrators to assist in resolving any remaining disputes. Any mediator or arbitrator participating in such a process must be a Christian of good reputation who affirms the church's Statement of Faith in its entirety. Each party shall pay his or her own cost and expenses related to presenting the party's case in mediation or arbitration. The cost of mediation or arbitration, including any fees for the arbitrators is to be shared equally by both parties; however, no costs shall be encumbered by the church for any such mediation or arbitration. The outcome of any mediation or arbitration shall be final and binding on all parties and shall be strictly confidential unless all parties agree otherwise. The Church Trustees shall have the authority to establish the appropriate procedures in a particular case for arbitration or mediation.

ARTICLE II

CHURCH OFFICERS

SECTION 1 GENERAL OFFICERS

General officers are responsible for monitoring and to carry on certain business, administrative, and legal functions of the church. The general officers of this church shall be the Senior Pastor, the Executive Pastor, Chairman of the Deacons, Chairman of the Trustees, and Church Treasurer. The general officers shall meet quarterly, at a meeting being led by the Trustee Chairman. All officers must be members of this church in good standing. The term of office, duties and election shall be defined in the Church Policies and Procedures Manual.

SENIOR PASTOR

The Senior Pastor is responsible for leading the church to function as a New Testament church. The Senior Pastor leads the Ministries and the church staff to perform their tasks. Further duties are found in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

EXECUTIVE PASTOR

The Executive Pastor is responsible to assist the Senior Pastor in leading the church to function as a New Testament church. The Executive Pastor is responsible to manage and oversee the business, staff operations and ministries of the church as directed by and with the authority of the Senior Pastor. The Executive Pastor maintains primary responsibility over ministry and committee operations and in conjunction with the Senior Pastor, sets policy for church business, committee and ministry operation.

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CHAIRMAN of DEACONS

Leads the Deacon body in ministry to the needs of the church body and offer support to the Senior Pastor. Further duties are found in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

CHAIRMAN of TRUSTEES

To serve as legal representative in all legal transactions related to the church; to hold legal papers to the church property; to sign all documents related to the purchase, sale, mortgage or rental of church property after approval by the church. Further duties are found in the Policies and Procedures Manual. The Chairman of the Trustees is considered the Custodian of Records for the church as a corporation.

TREASURER

Serves as Chief Financial Officer of the corporation and Chairman of the Finance Committee to receive, preserve and pay out (upon receipts of approved vouchers) all money or things of value paid or given to the church in accordance with the approved budget of the church. Further duties are found in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

SECTION 2 SPIRITUAL OFFICERS

The Spiritual Officers shall be the Senior Pastor, the Executive Pastor, the Worship Pastor, the Youth Pastor and the Deacons. These officers are responsible for the overall spiritual enhancement of the life and ministry of the church. They are to be co-laborers in caring for the spiritual and tangible needs (if possible) of the members of the church and community. Their term of office, duties, and election shall be defined in the Church Policies and Procedures Manual.

ARTICLE III CHURCH STAFF

1. The Church shall employ paid staff as directed by the Senior Pastor (or his designee) with the concurrence of church membership to achieve the mission of the church.
2. Paid staff may consist of ordained ministerial (Pastoral) and support personnel and shall work under the leadership and supervision of Senior Pastor, the Executive Pastor and/or the Business Operations Manager, as directed by the Senior Pastor.
3. Paid non-pastoral staff shall be organized as directed by Business Operations Manager with the approval of the Executive Pastor.

Selection—Based on recommendation from the Senior Pastor, the Executive Pastor and/or the Business Operations Manager, the hiring of staff shall be coordinated through the Personnel Committee and the Finance Committee, for review and recommendation. Where appropriate, the

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matter will then be brought to the church membership for approval. Note: Committees do not have direct approval or disapproval authority for any hiring.

ARTICLE IV CHURCH COMMITTEES

SECTION 1 STANDING

- a. Church committees shall be established to facilitate the operation of the church.
- b. All committee members shall be members of the church and elected by the church. To encourage participation and utilize the talents, skills, gifts and experience of the church membership, committee members will serve on a rotation basis with one-third being elected each year.
- c. Committee members who have served a full three-year term shall be eligible for re-election after sitting out for at least one year.
- d. As directed by the Senior Pastor, the Senior Pastor, the Executive Pastor and Business Operations Manager shall serve as staff advisors to all committees where designated. Other staff members may serve as advisors to committees, as required by the committee chairman, Senior Pastor, the Executive Pastor or Business Operations Manager.
- e. All committee Chairs will serve on the Church Council and report regularly concerning their work and progress.
- f. Further explanations of Church Committees (Standing) are located in the Church Policies and Procedures Manual including description of duties, terms of office and election.

SECTION 2 AD HOC

By a majority vote of the church membership, the Church may establish committees, such as the Senior Pastor Search Committee, Building Committee, etc., as required to accomplish a special project or task. These are known as Ad Hoc Committees and operate only for the duration of the need for that committee.

ARTICLE V CHURCH COUNCIL

Purpose—At the direction of the Senior Pastor, the Church Council is designed to plan, coordinate and recommend goals, objectives, program changes and ministry changes to the church.

Duties—The Church Council is an integral part of the operations and includes several key functions.

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- a. To establish church policy and governance as directed by the Senior Pastor and/or Executive Pastor.
- b. Review and maintain a list of church ministry groups and other supported ministries in the Church Policies and Procedures Manual, ensuring their value towards accomplishing the church Mission and Values.
- c. Recommend additions or deletions of ministries to the Church membership annually or as needed for approval.
- d. To assist the pastoral staff in carrying out the ministry of the church.
- e. To establish committees designed for encouraging church growth and ministry management.
- f. Coordinate the ministries, committees and programs of the church by planning, programming and implementing the overall ministry vision of the church.
- g. Maintain Policies & Procedures Manual.

Structure—the Senior Pastor or Executive Pastor (as directed) shall serve as Chairman, with the membership consisting of committee chairs, organization directors and staff ministers so designated.

ARTICLE VI

CHURCH MINISTRIES

Our church's mission is to glorify God. This mission can best be carried out through structures, cooperating groups of people, and utilizing each individual callings, gifts, talents and experiences.

The Church shall maintain programs of Bible teaching, member training, leadership training, new member orientation and mission education.

All ministries providing these programs shall be under the control of the Church.

The Church shall provide all resources (staff, physical and financial) required for the advancement of these programs.

Structure—All officers of these ministries shall be members of the Church and elected annually by majority of the Church members present. All organizational leaders represent their ministries to the Church Council and give a report concerning their work and progress.

Each program shall be organized, as required, to fulfill its mission. Further explanation of Church Ministries is located in the Church Policies and Procedures Manual including description of duties, terms of office, funding and election.

All Ministry Leaders shall be available as requested by the Church Council and give a report of their ministry work and progress.

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ARTICLE VII 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.

1. Baptism shall be by immersion in water.
2. The Senior Pastor, or whomever the Church shall authorize, shall administer baptism.
3. Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship during any Worship Service of the Church, or in a special Baptismal Service.
4. A person who professes Christ shall be counseled by the Senior Pastor, the Executive Pastor, and/or staff, or Deacons. If negative interest is ascertained on the part of the candidate, he/she shall be deleted from the list of those awaiting baptism.

SECTION 2 THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Church shall observe the Lord's Supper at least quarterly or at the discretion of the Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor and Deacons shall administer the Lord's Supper, with the Deacons being responsible for the physical preparations.

ARTICLE VIII CHURCH MEETINGS

SECTION 1 WORSHIP

The Church shall meet each Lord's Day (Sunday) for public worship, one other night during the week for a mid-week Service, which is open to the public, and any other time as deemed necessary for worship. Occasional services may be appointed by the Senior Pastor at his discretion or by vote of the Church Council.

SECTION 2 SPECIAL SERVICES

Revival services, evangelistic crusades, youth rallies and other church meetings that are essential to the advancement of the church objectives and goals shall be placed on the church calendar by approval of the Senior Pastor, Church Council, or Ministerial Staff as the need arises.

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SECTION 3 BUSINESS

A. Regular Business Meetings

Regular Business Meetings shall be held at stated intervals, but not less than quarterly.

B. Special Business Meetings

The church may conduct called Special Business Meetings to consider matters of special nature and significance. When requested by the Senior Pastor, the Executive Pastor, Business Operations Manager, Deacons, Trustees, or Church Council, the Senior Pastor shall announce from the pulpit, and also written in the bulletin regarding the Special Business Meetings. The particular subject of the meeting shall be clearly stated. A one-week notice must be given for all called meetings, unless extreme urgency renders such notice impractical. The notice shall include the subject, date, time and place.

SECTION 4 QUORUM

- A. At Business Meetings where only routine actions are to be taken (such as Sunday School reports, quarterly expenditure reports, etc.) a quorum is defined as the number of members present at the start of the meeting.
- B. At Business Meetings where major decisions are made that are binding on the Church, a quorum of 2/3 of Active Members present is required to conduct Church Business. Examples of major decisions include, but not limited to:
 - 1. Buying, selling, leasing, renovating, or other major building or land transactions.
 - 2. Incurring indebtedness or changing the terms of a current church debt.
 - 3. When voting to hire or terminate a ministerial staff position (refer to Policies & Procedures Manual, Personnel Policies, Section 4 Personnel Practices).

SECTION 5 PARLIAMENTARY RULES

The current edition of Roberts Rules of Order is the authority for parliamentary rules of procedure for all Business Meetings of the church. In the event of a conflict, these Bylaws take precedent.

SECTION 6 CHURCH YEAR

For all business, financial and operating purposes, the church year shall be the same as the calendar year beginning on January 1 and continuing through December 31.

SECTION 7 MODERATOR

By a majority vote of the church membership, a Moderator may be elected on a yearly basis to work with the Senior Pastor and Church Staff to develop an agenda for regular and special business meetings.

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ARTICLE IX CHURCH FINANCES

SECTION 1 GENERAL

It is understood that membership in this Church involves financial obligation to support the Church and its causes with regular, proportionate gifts. There shall be opportunity, from time to time, to secure worthy commitments of financial support from the church members.

SECTION 2 ADMINISTRATION

The Finance Committee, chaired by the Treasurer, shall administer church and ministry finances.

SECTION 3 ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES

All funds received for any and all purposes shall pass through the Church Treasury and be properly recorded on the books of the church. Implementing a system of accounting that will adequately track all funds shall be the responsibility of the Finance Committee.

SECTION 4 FISCAL YEAR

The church fiscal year shall run concurrently with the calendar year.

ARTICLE X

USE OF CHURCH FACILITIES, ASSETS AND RESOURCES

The Church Staff, and other appropriate leadership, shall oversee implementation of a church policy regarding the use of church facilities, assets and other resources. Such policy will ensure that all facilities, assets and resources of the church are used in a manner which is consistent with the Holy Scriptures and the Baptist Faith and Message, 2000. The policy shall be drafted to ensure that any use of all or part of the church grounds or facilities (whether by members or by outside interests or entities) will be made in a manner consistent with our beliefs as a church. Moreover, any and all use of church property shall be sufficiently documented and memorialized so as to protect the church from unnecessary exposure to liability.

ARTICLE XI

INSPECTION OF RECORDS, REPORTS AND DOCUMENTATION

In accordance with Florida law, every member of the Church shall have the right to inspect certain records, reports, documents and the physical properties of the Church. Such inspections shall be

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accomplished in accordance with applicable Florida Statutes. In accordance with existing law, the Church may restrict and limit the number of inspections or establish an orderly manner for such to be conducted.

ARTICLE XII

INDEMNIFICATION

Should any member(s) of the Senior Church Staff or Church Ministry Staff be faced with actual or threatened civil litigation as a result of the performance of their proper and normal duties, the Church will provide a sufficient and appropriate legal defense and/or indemnify such staff member(s) for cost and expenses relating to such actual or threatened litigation. This obligation to indemnify and/or provide a defense shall cease if at any time it is discovered that the staff member(s) in question acted contrary to Holy Scripture, in violation of law or otherwise acted in any way that was dishonest or lacking complete candor.

ARTICLE XIII

AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws may be amended at any regular business meeting or called business meeting of the church by a majority vote of those present and voting. A recommendation for amending the Bylaws must be made by the Trustees.

A notice of such amendment, stating the purpose, shall be given from the pulpit or printed in the Church Bulletin for two successive Sundays immediately prior to the business meeting.

ARTICLE XIV

INTERPRETATION

The Senior Pastor, the Executive Pastor and Trustee's shall have primary and joint responsibility for interpreting the Bylaws.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PALM COAST

CONSTITUTION

Revised October 25, 2024

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PALM COAST CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

For the preservation and security of the principles of our faith and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner, as well as for the purpose of preserving the liberties of each individual member of this church and the freedom of action of it in relation to other churches of like faith and order, we do declare and establish this Constitution. The Church shall not engage in enterprise or activities except as consistent with this Constitution, its related Bylaws, and the Policies and Procedures established under their guidance.

ARTICLE I NAME

This body shall be known as the First Baptist Church of Palm Coast, Inc. (FBCPC). It is located at 6050 Palm Coast Parkway NW in the city of Palm Coast, Flagler County, Florida Zip Code 32137.

ARTICLE II MISSION

The Mission of the First Baptist Church of Palm Coast, Inc. under the guidance of the Holy Spirit is:

1. To make disciples of all nations, cultures, and age groups who love God and love one other. John 3:16
2. To profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior by teaching and training disciples to share the Gospel within our community and throughout the world. Matt 28:18-20
3. To be united as one body in Jesus Christ for Prayer, Worship, and Fellowship in order to meet the needs of the people. Hebrews 10:25
4. To support Southern Baptist missionaries with our prayers, gifts, and volunteer efforts. Eph 4:1-3
5. To seek to identify with Jesus Christ in every area of our lives through actively applying Biblical principles. Rom. 12:1-2

ARTICLE III DOCTRINE

A. STATEMENT OF BASIC BELIEFS (doctrine)

The First Baptist Church of Palm Coast, Inc. subscribes to the current doctrinal statement of *The Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention. However, the following is our doctrinal beliefs, but not an exclusive list.

Our Core Beliefs

About God – There is one living and true God. God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

About the Father - He is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving, all-wise. He reigns with providential care over the universe and the flow of human history goes according to His purposes and plan.

About Jesus - Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus has eternally existed and became man at His incarnation. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He bodily arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return someday to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

About the Holy Spirit - He is the third person of the Trinity. He guides men into all truth; exalts Jesus Christ; convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; cultivates Christian character; comforts believers; bestows spiritual gifts by which they serve God; and seals the believer until the final day of redemption. His presence in the lives of believers is the assurance of God to bring us into the fullness of the stature of Jesus Christ. He comes to live in believers at the moment of regeneration.

About Scriptures - The Bible is God's Word to us and for us. Human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit, wrote it. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because God inspired it, it is the truth without any mixture of error.

About Human Beings - People are made in the image of God and are the supreme object of God's creation. All of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in our lives.

About Salvation - Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it by faith. We can never make up for sins by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus Christ in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his or her life by faith.

About Grace - Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" the gift of salvation. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this

security.

About Last Things - People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with God is eternal life in Heaven. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

About Baptism by Immersion - We believe that scriptural baptism must be: (1) by being completely immersed under the water, and (2) must be after salvation. Jesus Christ was immersed and all baptisms in the New Testament were by immersion. These two facts set the standard for Baptism today. Baptism has no saving power but is the first act of obedience symbolizing (1) the believer's faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, (2) the believer's death to sin and resurrection to walk anew in Jesus Christ, and (3) the Christian's belief that when he dies and is buried that Jesus Christ will resurrect him from the dead.

About The Lord's Supper - The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby believers remember the death of the Lord Jesus Christ and anticipate His second coming. The bread is symbolic of His body and the juice is symbolic of His blood.

About Stewardship - God is the source of all blessings. Believers are to serve Him with their time, talents, finances and material possessions. According to the Scriptures, we are to give cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionally, and liberally as an act of worship toward God and in generosity toward His cause on earth. Although it is not a requirement of membership, at First Baptist we believe tithing - giving 10% of earnings - is a good beginning point for growing in the grace of giving according to the Biblical standard.

About Evangelism - It is the responsibility of every born again believer and follower of Jesus Christ and of every church to endeavor to make disciples of all men everywhere. It is the command of every believer to seek constantly to share the gospel of Jesus Christ by personal effort and by all appropriate biblical methods.

About the Church - A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by their common faith and fellowship with Jesus Christ. A church is to observe two ordinances, (1) Baptism, and (2) the Lord's Supper; exercise their God-given gifts; and extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. The church is an self-governing body serving under the Lordship of Christ. All members are equally responsible as they serve with the scriptural officers of the church, the pastors and deacons. It is the responsibility of each believer to preserve the unity of the church and to make every effort to live in harmony with all other members of the congregation.

About the Christian Unity - To live in harmony with other believers is clearly the

teaching of the New Testament. It is the responsibility of each believer to endeavor to live in fellowship with each member of the congregation.

About the Family- The family was established by God and is made up of people related to one another by marriage, blood or adoption. A picture of the relationship between Christ and the church, marriage is one man and one woman in a covenant commitment for a lifetime. Children, from conception are a blessing from the Lord. Parents are the primary influencers of their children and are responsible for their children's spiritual and moral development.

B. STATEMENTS OF MARRIAGE, GENDER, SEXUALITY AND HUMAN LIFE

We believe the Bible to be the inerrant word of God. Therefore, the Bible is our guiding principle pertaining to the above issues including God's creation of men and women, their biblical role and the purpose of sexuality within the confines of biblical marriage and for the propagation of the family and creation of human life. Consistent with the bible, life for human beings begin at conception and we do not support the abortion or early termination of human life for convenience or as a form of contraception.

C. CHURCH POLICIES AND PRACTICES

1. It is the policy of this church that all members, clergy, ministers, deacons, trustees, auxiliary heads, employees, or any other volunteer leaders shall affirm and practice the Statement of Faith on Marriage and Sexuality, adopted by this church as well as the articles of Church Constitution as defined herein.
2. It is the policy of this church that all property belonging to or leased by this church shall only be used to promote its religious purposes, and used consistently with the doctrinal beliefs of the church. Therefore, the property or the facilities of the church may not be used for any activity, program, service, or ceremony, which in any way violates the above-referenced Statement of Faith on Marriage and Sexuality.
3. It is the policy of this church that all activities, programs, services, ceremonies, or outreach activities conducted on church property or conducted in the name of the church shall be conducted consistent with the doctrinal beliefs, including the Statement of Faith on Marriage and Sexuality.

4. It is the policy of this church that no member of this church shall enter such a marriage or engage in any activity or behavior that would violate the Statement of Faith on Marriage and Sexuality or this policy without being subject to church discipline.
5. It is the policy of this church that no pastor, clergy, or church staff shall engage in any activity or behavior that would violate the Statement of Faith on Marriage and Sexuality. Clergy or ministers employed or affiliated with this church shall be subject to dismissal and/or loss of ordination for violating this policy or by officiating at a marriage ceremony that violates the letter or spirit of this policy. Any clergy or minister not employed by this church shall review and affirm the church's Statement of Faith on Marriage & Sexuality and this policy, agree to abide thereby, before being allowed to perform a ceremony, service or activity using the church's facilities.
6. It is the policy of this church to recognize civil government's sanctioned marriages only to the extent that the marriage is consistent with the definition of marriage as defined in the Statement of Faith on Marriage and Sexuality.
7. It is the policy of this church not to ordain, license, or affirm for ministry any person who would violate this Statement of Faith on Marriage and Sexuality.

D. STATEMENT OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE

The threefold purpose of our church discipline is to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1Cor. 5:6), to edify believers by deterring sin and promoting purity (1Tim. 5:20), and to promote the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Gal. 6:1).

We believe that Christians are biblically prohibited from bringing lawsuits against other Christians, the church and its ministries, to resolve disputes (1Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32). Church discipline should be carried out as stated in the church Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and having been baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and agreeing with the mission and values of First Baptist Church of Palm Coast, as God provides the strength, we do joyfully covenant to do the following:

1. **Pursue growth** in personal relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular Bible reading, fellowship and prayer (Rom. 12:1-2; 1Thess. 5:17).

2. **Protect the unity** of the church by acting in love toward other members, refusing gossip and unwholesome speech, following the leaders and resolving conflict in a Biblical manner (Eph. 4:1-3; 29; Col. 3:8-14; Heb. 13:17).
3. **Participate faithfully** in the life of First Baptist Church by attending weekly services, sharing in fellowship, and getting involved in a small group (Acts. 2:42-47; Heb. 10:24-25; Phil. 2:24).
4. **Share responsibility** for the church by praying for its growth, sharing our faith, inviting the unchurched and giving financially (Eph. 6:18; Matt. 28:19-20; 1Peter 3:15; Mal. 3:10; Acts 2:44-45; Luke 6:38).
5. **Serve the ministry** of the church by discovering and using our talents and spiritual gifts (1Peter 4:19; Rom. 12:6-8).
6. **Walk in purity** as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, avoiding sexual behavior or conduct before marriage, being faithful in heterosexual marriage and abstaining from practices such as cohabitation, pornography, and fornication (Rom. 13:12-14; 1Cor. 6:9-19; Heb. 13:4).
7. **Support the Testimony** of the church by refraining from illegal drug use, drunkenness, and other sinful behavior as the Bible dictates. Should I fall short, I agree to seek the help and support of my church (1Cor. 8:12-13; 9:19; 10:23; Gal. 5:19-21).
8. **Seek reconciliation** as disputes arise with other Christians or in our families, we should pursue biblical solutions for conflict resolution (1Peter 4:8; Matt. 18:15-17; 1Cor. 6:1; 2Cor. 2:5-8; Gal. 6:1-5; Tim. 2:24-25; Heb. 12:5-11).

ARTICLE V RELATIONSHIPS

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who comprise it. All councils, committees, and ministries created under the Bylaws and empowered under our Policies and Procedures shall report and be accountable to the church body. Membership requirements are specified in the Bylaws.

This church is not subject to the control of any other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligation of mutual counsel and cooperation, which is common among Baptist churches.

As led by the Holy Spirit, and consistent with biblical guidance, this church will cooperate with and support a local Southern Baptist Association, the Florida Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS

All officers, spiritual and general, shall be those listed in the Bylaws and described more fully in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

ARTICLE VII COUNCILS, COMMITTEES and MINISTRIES

The church shall establish councils, committees and ministries as it deems necessary as listed in the Bylaws. All such groups and their terms of office, duties, and election shall be described in the Policies and Procedures Manual and shall operate consistent with guidance by church leadership.

ARTICLE VIII ORDINATION

Any church member who gives evidence that he is called by God to the work of the ministry, who has met the membership requirements of this church, and after examination and recommendation by the church's ordination council, may be given a certificate of ordination when pursuing ministry service.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended at any regular business or called business meeting of the church by a 2/3 majority vote of those present and voting. A recommendation for amending the Constitution or Bylaws is the responsibility of, and must be made by, the Trustees before being presented for a church vote. A notice of such amendment, stating the proposal, shall be given from the pulpit or printed in the weekly bulletin for two successive Sundays immediately prior to the business meeting.

ARTICLE X INTERPRETATION

The Senior Pastor, the Executive Pastor and the Trustees shall have primary and joint responsibility for interpreting the Constitution and Bylaws.