

Dixie Lee Baptist Church

Summary of Proposed Amendments to 2018 Constitution and Bylaws**Constitution**

- Instead of referencing the *Southern Baptist Message and Faith 2000*, each doctrinal statement of belief has been specifically identified.
- Changed the terms “man(men)” and “mankind” to “human(s)” and “humankind.”

Bylaws

- **Article 1, Name and Principal Office** – No changes.
- **Article 2, Autonomy** – No Changes.
- **Article 3, Statement of Faith**
 - Referenced statement of beliefs articulated in the Constitution.
- **Article 4, Purposes** – No changes.
- **Article 5, Powers and Restrictions** – No changes.
- **Article 6, Members**
 - Inserted expectations of membership:
 - Worship, mature, serve, give, seek unity, pray, and sacrifice by prioritizing God’s will.
 - Provided for qualifications for membership:
 - In addition to the current affirmation of their profession of faith by three means, candidates for membership shall fulfill the following requirements prior to being presented to the Church membership for approval:
 - Completion of a new member’s class.
 - Affirmation of the Church’s beliefs.
 - Clarified active members are eligible to serve as volunteers on ministry teams.
 - Provided provisions enabling the Church to remove members from the membership roll after five (5) years of inactivity with the Church.
- **Article 7, Board of Directors**
 - Changed the responsibilities of the Directors to that of a Board of Elders and a typical corporate Board of Directors with the following responsibilities:
 - The Board of Directors shall act with approval of the active members to: 1) confirm and maintain the purpose and mission of the Church; 2) develop strategic plans to ensure the continuity and growth of the Church’s purpose and mission; 3) ensure the activities of the Church are consistent with the Statement of Basic Beliefs in the Constitution and the purpose and mission of the Church; and 4) ensure accountability of the performance of the

Church staff and volunteers consistent with the purpose and mission of the Church.

- A Director must meet the scriptural qualifications for an elder and be ordained by the Church.
- Ordained ministers not serving the Church as a minister may be eligible to serve as a Director.
- The Board of Directors are responsible for developing a nomination process to present candidates to the Church for approval.
- Added a requirement that approval of contracts within a ministry team's purview must also be within their approved budget authority.
- **Article 8, Officers**
 - Deleted the sentence in Article 8.4 stating the Senior Pastor shares the accountability and responsibility with the Body of Deacons for leading the corporation to function as a New Testament church in accordance with biblical principles. (see changes to Article 7, Board of Directors)
- **Article 9, Deacons**
 - Provided provisions in Article 9.1 that require deacons to be ordained by the Church and no longer accepting deacon ordination from other churches.
 - Revised Article 9.1 to change the required minimum number of deacons from nine (9) to "a sufficient number of deacons to effectively serve the members."
 - Clarified Article 9.2, Duties of the Body of Deacons, to state the deacons shall serve with the Senior Pastor and staff in meeting the physical needs of the members of the Church such as compassion, mercy, service, and stewardship.
 - Clarified Article 9.2, Duties of the Board of Deacons that require them to determine the willingness to serve and qualifications of candidates before the candidates are presented to the church for approval.
- **Article 10, Committees**
 - The title of all committees, councils, ministries, etc. are changed to "ministry teams."
 - Removed from Article 10.2, Permanent Committees, the Board of Directors and the Church Council because both those organizations have their own defined articles within the Bylaws.
 - Added two new permanent ministry teams: Missions Ministry Team and the Education Ministry Team and added their responsibilities in Article 10.2.
 - Renamed the Emergency Response Team to "Safety and Security Ministry Team" and changed their responsibilities to encompass developing and recommending plans and policies for approval by the Church to address the safety and wellbeing of members, guests, and staff and ensure the facilities are safe and secure. This involves assessing potential incidents

such as fires, severe weather, medical events, security threats, and protection of vulnerable individuals.

- **Article 11, Church Council**

- Revised Article 11.1, Church Council, to clarify their responsibilities:
 - Clarified their responsibilities regarding the creation and disbanding of ministry teams and defining the responsibilities of each of them.
 - The Senior Pastor shall serve as the chairperson of the Council.
 - All ministry team leaders are to attend the meetings unless specifically exempted by the Senior Pastor.
 - The Council shall keep minutes of their proceedings that are maintained in the Church's records.
- Revised Article 11.2, Duties of the Church Council, to clarify the recommendations of the Church Council shall be approved by the Church members.

- **Article 12, Church Ordinances**

- Revised Article 12.1 to state the ordinance of baptism shall be performed by the Senior Pastor or any believer under the authority of the Senior Pastor.

- **Article 13, Contracts, Loans, Checks, and Deposits**

- Clarified Article 13.1 on Finance Team's responsibility.

- **Article 14, Whistleblower Policy** – No changes.

- **Article 15, Conflict of Interest Policy** – No changes.

- **Article 16, Indemnification**

- Changed pronouns in Article 16.1 to gender neutral pronouns.

- **Article 17, Books and Records** – No changes.

- **Article 18, Miscellaneous Provisions**

- Clarified timeframes in Article 18.2 for the notification of a proposed amendment and requirement for the availability of a copy of the proposed amendment.

- **Article 19, Emergencies Powers and Bylaws**

- Updated notification means to include any communication system available to all members of the Board of Directors.