

## **Church Vision & Mission Statement**

**Adopted 2009-2010**

“We, the members of Lillington First Missionary Baptist Church, dedicate ourselves to a holistic ministry, caring for the mind, body and soul; we endeavor to be more than just members, but fishers of men!”

3 John 2 & Mark 1:17



# **LILLINGTON FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH CONSTITUTION**

**Adopted 12-9-09**

## **Preamble**

For the preservation and security of the Doctrinal Statement and church Covenant, and to the end that this assembly of baptized believers may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the New Testament Order; we therefore band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ and adopt for our government, plan of worship, and service the following Constitution and prescribed Bylaws.

## **Article 1 – Name**

This local church shall be called Lillington First Missionary Baptist Church, Lillington, North Carolina, as duly chartered and incorporated by the laws of the State of North Carolina.

## **Article 2 – Articles of Faith**

Lillington First Missionary Baptist Church believes that the bible is the inspired Word of God; it is the basis of our doctrine and practice. This Church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of the Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Baptist Convention. We believe and adhere to a Church Covenant which states:

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our 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 in Christ.

We endeavor, 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, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also endeavor to maintain family and secret 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 be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further endeavor 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 endeavor 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.

### **Article 3 – Purpose**

The purpose of this local church is the salvation of the lost souls, the edification of Christians through the teaching of God's Word, the encouragement of members to do the work of the ministry, the worldwide proclamation of God's saving grace through the shed blood and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary, the promotion of godly worship, the defense of the faith once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3), and cooperation with Christian activities functioning in harmony with God's Holy Word, until Jesus comes for His church.

It is the intent of this church to function as a missionary, evangelistic, Baptist church, dedicating itself to the work and service of the district Union and General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the services they may prescribe. Further, we will operate in true Biblical and autonomous fashion. We have taken a stand against all worldly philosophies that seek to destroy true Biblical Christianity.

### **Article 4 – Polity**

#### **Section 1: Government**

The government of this church, under the Head of Christ and the leadership of the Holy Spirit, is vested in the qualified voting members of the church.

By action of the church in electing its officers, the immediate direction of spiritual and temporal affairs of the church shall be committed to said officers—deacons, trustees and the Pastor during the term of office as further provided elsewhere in this Constitution.

LFMBC acknowledges the Lord Jesus Christ as its only Head, and receives the Holy Bible as the only infallible guide in matters of faith, church order and discipline.

#### **Section 2: Relationships**

LFMBC will cooperate with and support the New Hope Association, General Baptist State Convention and National Baptist Convention.

## **Article 5 – Amendment**

This Constitution may be amended in any regular or called business meeting of the church by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided a quorum is present and provided it does not infringe upon the doctrinal principles; the covenant; the Constitution; and provided notice of such amendment, stating the proposed change, shall have been given from the pulpit on two successive Sundays.

# **Lillington First Missionary Baptist Church**

## **BYLAWS Updated 2010**

### **Article 1 – Membership**

#### **Section 1: General**

LFMBC is not as interested in having members as it is in having disciples. We are a Missionary Baptist Church in which all members are missionaries and are encouraged to promote in the salvation, education and spiritual growth of others.

#### **Section 2: Candidacy**

In order to qualify for membership at LFMBC, a person must:

1. Have placed faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, followed by baptism by immersion, and
2. Subscribe to the church's Doctrinal Statement, Covenant, and Constitution and Bylaws.

Having met these qualifications and upon recommendation from pastoral staff or Deacons, a person may be presented to the congregation for church membership. A person must receive a majority vote from eligible voters present and voting in order to be received as a member.

This church will also accept members of “Watch Care” or Associate Membership. An associate membership roll shall be maintained by this church for those who desire the fellowship of this church but yet desire to maintain active membership in a like body of believers outside this city.

#### **Section 3: Duties and Rights of Members**

Tithes and offerings shall be recognized as our plan of finance. All members shall be encouraged to give at least a tenth of their income to the church. We believe this is taught in the Word of God. Members are also desired to participate in giving regular offerings to the church in addition to the tithe.

Members are expected to serve faithfully to any office, committee or ministry that they may obligate themselves to.

Members have a right to voice their concerns and also to offer their suggestions for the benefit of the church and its ministries during the church conference. Members in good standing have voting rights when those rights are necessary for the proper government of the church.

All members 18 years of age and older and having been active in the fellowship with the members of LFMBC for the past 90 days before election time may vote. No one will be allowed to vote by proxy.

## **Section 4: Active and Inactive Roll**

The Pastor and Deacons may place on the inactive membership list any member who absents himself from the services of this church for an entire quarter (three consecutive months).

## **Section 5: Termination of Membership**

A member's name may be dropped from the roll of the church for the following reasons:

- (a) Transfer of membership to another church of like faith and practice.
- (b) Death of a member.
- (c) As a result of becoming inactive as described within these bylaws.
- (d) As a result of church discipline as described within these bylaws.
- (e) At the individual's request for personal reasons.

## **Section 6: Discipline and Restoration**

Should it become necessary to exclude a member from the membership of the church, the procedure as given in Matt. 18:15-17 will be carried out by the Pastor and Deacons, and the actual exclusion will be a matter of church business at a special meeting called for that purpose.

The attitude of the church toward any person excluded from its membership shall be one of love and prayerful compassion (II Thes. 3:15). Forgiveness and restoration shall be speedily granted to a disciplined member who shows true repentance and evidence of a godly life (II Cor. 2:7).

## **Article 2 – Pastoral Staff**

### **Section 1: Election**

The election of a pastor will rest upon committees formed by the Church Board. Those committees include but are not limited to a Pulpit Committee and or a Pastoral Search Committee. These committees will include representation from Church officers and also lay members.

### **Section 2: Responsibility**

The responsibilities of the Pastor will include but are not limited to the spiritual edification of the church through spiritual preaching and teaching on Sunday mornings and on special services and also the teaching or delegation of bible study. Other responsibilities are as described in Article 4 Section 1. (See other handout)

### **Section 3: Compensation**

The Pastor will receive a salary as outlined within the church budget and a schedule to be proposed in the same manner. The Church Board will be responsible for making decisions on all increases, other subsidies or gifts to given to the Pastor for services rendered or other special events.

### **Section 4: Termination**

A pastor can be relieved of his or her duties for the consistent failure to provide or complete his or her duties to the church or to its members, for the misappropriation of misinterpretation of the Word of God or for other reasons as may be classified by the Church Board who must then bring the issues before the Church body who will make the final decision by the vote of the majority.

### **Section 5: Non-pastoral Staff (Associate Ministers)**

Guest ministers will receive a stipend as prescribed in the budget for speaking on special services.

Associate ministers who are members of the church shall receive a stipend as prescribed within the church budget for that year for preaching during Sunday morning services in lieu of the pastor.

## **Article 3 – Deacons**

### **Section 1: Work of Deacons**

Deacons will be assigned a group of individuals or families within the church that they are to be responsible for keeping in contact with and encouraging in spiritual service. The deacons will be responsible for alerting the church when one of the members of their group is sick or in need of church assistance, the deacon will be the first point of contact for those individuals and will serve as mentors and spiritual leaders for them. The Deacons shall constitute the Pastor's advisory council and, under his/her leadership, have the general oversight of the affairs of the church. With the Pastor they shall seek the highest spiritual good of the church. They shall assist in the observance of the Lord's Supper, and in other duties as apply to the New Testament office (Acts 6:1-7, and 1Timothy 3:8-13 especially).

The Deacons shall visit the members, care for the sick, widows, needy and distressed members of the church, and shall be actively involved in the church's soul winning visitation program.

### **Section 2: Deacon Selection**

Deacons shall be elected and ordained upon the basis of qualifications as set forth in the New Testament. The number of Deacons to be elected shall be determined by the need as determined by the Pastor and Deacons upon growth of the church. Their term of service shall be until death, resignation or dismissal.

Qualified voting members of the church may submit recommendations for Deacons. From these recommendations the Pastor and Deacons will determine the final slate of Deacon Candidates.

## **Article 4 - The Officers**

### **Section 1: Pastor**

The Pastor shall be chief executive officer in the church, moderator of all church meetings, ex-officio head of all departments of church work and all activities. He/She shall serve on a permanent basis. The Pastor shall be the only leader of the flock (under shepherd). There can never be two leaders. It shall be the duty of the Pastor to preach the Word and administer ordinances, to take and have charge of all services, and to watch over the spiritual interests of the church. The Pastor is to protect the "flock" from "wolves" that would slip in "sheep's" clothing to devour the "flock."

Upon the death, resignation, or dismissal of the Pastor, the church shall seek a candidate who wholeheartedly subscribes to the Constitution and Bylaws of this church. The Pastor shall be responsible under the leadership of the Lord for inviting all guest speakers that shall "fill" the pulpit (evangelists, missionaries, Bible teachers) in order to maintain a well-rounded spiritual program for the whole church.

### **Section 2 - Deacons**

As described previously in Article 3.

### **Section 3 - Trustees**

The Trustees shall be empowered to execute deeds, deed of trust, mortgages, liens, promissory notes of other pecuniary obligations, and to transfer, assign, and convey all church property of any part thereof upon officially recorded instructions of the church in conference.

The Trustees shall have charge of the temporalities of the church, and make funds available for repair, upkeep, maintenance and conservation of the church property within the limits of church income and budget.

All powers and duties of the trustees shall be compatible with the laws of the State of North Carolina under whose laws the church is duly incorporated.

### **Section 4 - Church Clerk**

The duties of the clerk shall be maintained by the church secretary. It shall be his or her duty to keep a correct record of all proceedings of regular and special business meetings of the church, in a book provided for that purpose. He or she shall sign letters of dismissal of members, and keep a correct roll of membership; also cooperate in keeping records and papers belonging to the church safe in the church's bank.

## **Section 5 - Treasurer**

The church treasurer shall keep the fiscal and financial records of the church. He or she shall be responsible for working with the church budget committee to construct a church budget and ensure adherence to that budget. He or she will be responsible for delegating to the church Financial Secretary, if one is selected, to the writing and executing of checks or monies payable.

The Treasurer shall keep a permanent record of all gifts and tithes for all that use the envelope system that desire a record for income tax purposes. All contribution records shall be confidential.

The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of receipts and disbursements and report the financial statement to the church quarterly and annually or as deemed wise by the Board. The Treasurer's books must be available for audit or inspection at any time the Board may deem necessary.

There shall be only one treasury in the church. All monies received and disbursed in the name of LFMBC will go through the church treasury.

No member is to make purchases in the name of the church except upon proper authorization, within the limits of the church budget, by the Deacons and Trustees or as it may be further decided upon by the church.

## **Article 5 – Committees, Ministries and Task Forces**

The church shall create permanent (standing) committees and temporary (ad hoc) committees, ministry teams and task forces as needed to facilitate its work. The purpose, duties, membership, term and organization of each group shall be spelled out in a separate administrative manual or as prescribed within the church conference.

**A Pastoral Search Committee** shall serve as the pulpit committee for the selection of a candidate to present to the congregation for a vote. No candidate shall be presented to the congregation without at least a two-thirds vote from the Committee. The committee must give notice for two consecutive Sundays before a congregational vote may be taken. The vote must be two-thirds majority of votes cast by those who are qualified to vote under the provisions of the Constitution, and provided there be present a quorum. The Pastor shall be called to an unlimited tenure to be terminated only by his/her resignation, death, moral or doctrinal departure from the Word of God and this Constitution and Bylaws, or his/her inability or unwillingness to fulfill responsibilities as the under shepherd of this flock, at which time the church acts according to above order. (The Pastor ship of Lillington First Baptist Church is a calling, not just an election of another officer to fill an office.)

## **Article 6 – Church Program Organizations**

The church will periodically create programs or ministries both within and outside of its Missionary department to assist in carrying out its purposes in relation to members and community. The program leadership shall be elected, appointed or approved as described within the church conference or within a separate administrative manual.

## **Article 7 – Ordinances**

We believe, according to Scripture, that Jesus Christ commanded the observance of two ordinances before He ascended unto His Father in Heaven; namely Baptism (Matt. 28:19) and the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:23-30).

### **Section 1 - Baptism**

We believe that all truly born-again believers are to follow the Bible example of the baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3:13-17). As we believe that He was immersed, so we conclude that we are to be immersed after this example. Although salvation is not contingent upon baptism (Eph. 2:8-9), we believe that every born-again believer will gladly follow the Lord in Scriptural baptism as soon after conversion as possible as a public confession of the salvation experience: a complete break with all known sin and the world, and a sincere intent to reckon oneself dead unto sin and alive unto God (Rom. 6:3-5). This ordinance openly signifies that the believer is truly crucified with Christ and buried with Him, being dead to sin and resurrected with Him by the power of God to newness of life through Him (Acts 2:38-41).

### **Section 2 - Lord's Supper**

The Lord's Supper is a commemorative ordinance to be observed by the church in memory of the Savior (I Cor. 11:24). "This do in remembrance of me" (Lk. 22:19).

Only baptized believers have a right to partake of the Supper (Acts 2:41-42).

The fellowship of this table will be observed quarterly or at other times as deemed wise by the Pastor and Deacons.

A careful examination of the heart should have been made by each believer, for the unworthy partaking of the Lord's Supper brings damnation (judgment) upon himself (I Cor. 11:28-30).

## **Article 8 – Church Meetings**

### **Section 1 - Business Meetings and Elections**

Special business meetings may be called at any time by the Pastor or Board; no meetings are to be called without the knowledge of the Pastor.

The purpose of business meetings shall be announced at least two weeks in advance of the meeting. Unannounced meetings may be called provided an effort is made to notify the voting membership of such a meeting. If such an emergency meeting should be called, a quorum of the qualified voting membership must be present in order to conduct business. All regular, quarterly meetings will be published on the church bulletin for the entire month preceding the meeting.

The annual election of officers shall be during the annual business meeting, no later than the first Sunday in December or as deemed appropriate by the church.

At the annual business meeting, the Pastor and Board shall present for approval of the congregation a budget for the next financial year.

The Pastor and Board shall serve as a nominating committee for all general elections.

All matters pertaining to the purchase, sale, or mortgaging of property shall be voted on by the congregation.

## **Section 2 – Worship Services**

LFMBC will host its regular worship service on the first, second, third and fourth Sunday beginning at 11:00a.m. This worship schedule can be amended to meet the needs of the congregation and at any time that the service time should change the members must be made aware two weeks before the alteration. Included in the regular worship program is the institution of the Church Sunday School which will be held the same Sundays beginning at 9:45a.m.

## **Section 3 – Special Services**

Special services may be held as outlined on the Church calendar which is presented during the annual conference of the church or as deemed appropriate by the Pastor. Special services include but are not limited to observances, anniversaries and other necessary programs.

## **Article 9 – Church Government**

### **Section 1 – Government**

This church shall operate as an autonomous body which is governed by basic Baptist Polity. The Pastor and Church Board has the right to lead in spiritual and temporal matters but the final decisions in the spiritual, fiscal and physical leadership of the church rests upon the vote of the majority of the members.

### **Section 2 - Rules of Order**

1. The Pastor, or in his/her absence, the chairman of the Deacons, shall act as moderator of all business meetings of the church, or he shall appoint another member of the Deacons to act as moderator.

2. It shall be the duty of the moderator to keep order.
3. The meeting shall be opened and closed with prayer.
4. The order of the business shall be:
  - (1) Reading of the minutes of previous meeting if called for by the moderator.
  - (2) Reports of committees.
  - (3) Unfinished business.
  - (4) New business.
5. A motion before the church must be disposed of before another motion can be entertained, unless the motion is to amend, postpone, adjourn, or call for the previous motion.
6. Every member who speaks shall rise and first address the moderator.
7. The church in conference shall entertain no proposition for discussion which has not been presented for the consideration of the Church Board.
8. On any point of order a member may appeal from the moderator to the church, whose decision shall be final.
9. All motions shall be carried by the vote of the majority of voting members present, unless stated otherwise in the by-laws.

### **Section 3 - Quorum**

A quorum is necessary only:

- 1) to call a Pastor. For this purpose a quorum is two-thirds of the qualified voters of the church membership.
- 2) for an unannounced business meeting. For this purpose a quorum is a majority of the qualified voters of the church membership.
- 3) for amendments to this Constitution. For this purpose a quorum is two-thirds of the qualified voters of the church membership.

### **Article 10 - Amendments**

These Bylaws may be amended in any regular or called business meeting of the church by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided a quorum is present and provided it does not infringe upon the doctrinal principles; the covenant; the Constitution; and provided notice of such amendment, stating the proposed change, shall have been given from the pulpit on two successive Sundays.