



Bylaws

White Street Baptist Church

Article I: Name and Principle Office

The name of this Corporation is **White Street Baptist Church**. This Corporation will be further referred to in the Bylaws as the "Church". The Church office is presently located at **535 Carlisle Drive, Auburn, AL**. The Church shall have full power and authority to change the principle office from one location to another.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this Church is to glorify God by obeying the Great Commandment (Matthew 22: 36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 18-20). The process is designed to produce disciples of Jesus Christ which involves at least the following four categories.

1. **Worship - (Celebrating)** "To love God with all your heart..." (Matt. 22: 36-40)
2. **Ministry- (Caring)** "Love your neighbor as yourself..."(Matt. 22: 36-40)
3. **Evangelism- (Cultivating)** "Go... and make disciples..." (Matt. 28:18-20)
4. **Discipleship- (Communicating)** "Teach them to observe..."(Matt. 28:18-20)

Article III: Statement of Faith

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God and as the only basis for our beliefs. Although it is not binding, this Church accepts "The New Hampshire Confession of Faith of 1853," an affirmation of basic Christian beliefs referred to as "Articles of Faith", as a general statement of our faith. The Church also accepts the "Church Covenant" as an expression of order and Christian love in our relationships with one another.

Article IV: Affiliation

This Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denomination control. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation with other churches in world mission, this Church voluntarily affiliates with the National Baptist Convention, USA in its national, state and local expressions.

Comment [PJ1]: ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"
³⁷ Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ¹ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ¹ ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." ¹

Comment [PJ2]: ⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." ¹

Article V: Membership

Section I: General

Membership in this Church shall consist of all persons who have met the membership requirements, been acknowledged by the congregation, and listed on the membership roll.

Section II: Qualifications for Membership

1. A personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
2. Baptism as a testimony of salvation.
3. Basic agreement with the Church's statement of faith.

Section III: Designation of Membership

In an effort to properly reflect the membership of the Church, the following membership roll will be maintained.

Active/Resident Members: All members who reside within the Church's ministry area or are currently active in the church.

Section IV: Rights of Membership

Every active/resident member shall have the right to participate in the following matters: the annual budget of the Church, the disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Church, the merger or dissolution of the Church, acquisition of property, and amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of the Church.

Section V: Termination of Membership

Members shall be removed from the Church roll for the following reasons:

1. Death.
2. Transfer of membership to another church.
3. By personal request of the member.
4. Dismissal by the congregation/or officers according to the following conditions:
 - a. The member's life and conduct is not in accordance with the Statement of Faith in such a way that the member hinders the ministry influence of the Church in the community.
 - b. Procedures for dismissal of a member shall be according to Matthew 18:15-17 or Titus 3:10-11.

Comment [PJ3]: ¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹

Comment [PJ4]: ¹⁰ Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. ¹¹ You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned. ¹

Section VI: Restoration of Members

Members dismissed by the Church shall be restored by the vote of the Church or the unanimous agreement of the officers according to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:7-8.

Comment [PJ5]: ⁷ Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸ I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him.¹

Section VII: Voting Limitations

Each member is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

Article VI: Meetings of Members

Section I: Business Meetings

Business meetings of the members shall be held in the times, in the manner, and the purposes set forth below:

1. An annual meeting of the Church shall be held at the beginning of the calendar year. The primary purpose of the meeting is to receive and adopt the annual report and Church budget.
2. The Church may change the dates of the annual or other scheduled meetings by notifying the members at least 14 days in advance.
3. A special business meeting of the church may be called at any time by the Pastor, or in absence of a Pastor, by Chairman of Deacons or Trustees.
4. A quorum shall consist of those members present and voting.
5. Members shall be notified no less than 14 days prior to a meeting which consider any matters set forth in Article V Section 4 and Article VII Section 5.2 of the Bylaws.

Comment [PJ6]: Every active/resident member shall have the right to participate in the following matters: the annual budget of the Church, the disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Church, the merger or dissolution of the Church, acquisition of property, and amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of the Church.

Section II: Notification of Members

Notification of members for business meetings and its purpose may be given by any one of the following methods:

1. Distribution of written material to the congregation at a Sunday service.
2. Announcement of the meeting on the Church website.
3. Oral announcement to the congregation at a Sunday service.
4. By first-class letter to members.

Comment [PJ7]: The pastor can be dismissed by the congregation for the same reasons listed above, if necessary the procedure for dismissal is as follows:

Article VII: Church Officers
(Directors of the Corporation)

Section I: Selecting Officers

The officers of the Church will consist of a minimum of three persons. The lay officers will be appointed by the Pastor and ratified by the Church annually and will serve for a period of one year. Each officer will be an active/resident member of the Church.

Section II: Pastor and Lay Officers

1. The Pastor will serve as the President of the Corporation and will be the moderator of the Church. He will be an ex officio member of all boards and ministries. He will lead the staff and have the responsibility to hire and dismiss staff as needed. In the Pastors absence a director of the corporation can act as moderator or the church can approve a moderator to serve by majority vote.
2. The Treasurer will serve as Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation and will oversee and cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct books and records of accounts of the corporation. He shall also oversee the reception and disbursement of funds.
3. The Church Clerk will serve as the Secretary of the Corporation.
4. Other officers (Trustees, Deacons, Ministry Leaders, etc.) shall be appointed by the pastor and ratified by the church as needed. (Acts 6:2-3; 14:23, Titus 1:5)

Section III: Directors of the Corporation

The Trustees of the Church are hereby designated as the Directors of the Corporation as the term is defined and used in the **Alabama Nonprofit Corporation Code**. ALA Code § 10-A-3-1.02(2)

Section IV: Duties of Directors

It shall be the duty of the Directors (Trustees) to perform two specific tasks:

1. Act as legal representatives of the church and to take such actions and execute any documents necessary to accomplish the purpose of any matter which concern any property of the Church.
2. To prepare and administer the annual budget of the Church.

Section V: Removal of Officers

*****NOTE: Reconciliation or restoration is always the first option according to Matthew 18:15-16 and Galatians 6:1-5. We must also remember “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” – Roman 12:18.**

Comment [PJ8]: ² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them¹

Comment [PJ9]: ²³ Paul and Barnabas appointed elders ⁹ for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.¹

Comment [PJ10]: ⁵ The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.¹

Comment [PJ11]: (2) Board of Directors. The group of persons vested with the management of the affairs of the corporation irrespective of the name by which the group is designated. The board of directors of a nonprofit corporation is its governing authority as that term is defined in § 10A-1-1.03(39) unless the certificate of formation provides otherwise as provided in § 10A-3-2.08.

Officers can be dismissed by the pastor for the following reasons:

- a) The officer's life and conduct is not in accordance with the Statement of Faith in such a way that the officer hinders the ministry influence of the Church in the community.
 - b) The officer is unwilling or fails to perform assigned duties.
 - c) Dismissal procedures shall be according to **Matt. 18:15-17, Titus 3:10-11**.
1. The pastor can be dismissed by the congregation for the same reasons listed above, if necessary the procedure for dismissal is as follows:
- a) The pastor should be made aware of impending concern by the chairman of Deacons and Trustees in order to reach a resolution. (Matthew 18: 15)
 - b) If a resolution can't be achieved, the Board of Deacons and Trustees should meet with the pastor to try to resolve the impending concern. If no resolution is achieved the Deacons and Trustees must each agree, by a two-thirds majority in separate meetings, to submit the issue to the congregation for resolution. (Matthew 18:16)
 - c) A special meeting of the church should be called in the manner detailed in Article VI of the Bylaws. A two-thirds voting majority of the present voters is required for the dismissal of the pastor. (Matthew 18:17)
 - d) Upon dismissal, the pastor must be given a 90-day notice with pay.
 - e) Upon resignation, the pastor must give a 30-day notice to the church.

Comment [PJ12]: ¹⁵“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹

Comment [PJ13]: ¹⁰Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. ¹¹You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned. ¹

Section VI: Pulpit Vacancy

In the event that the pulpit becomes vacant either by the pastor's resignation, dismissal, or physical inability to perform the duties of pastor, the congregation will elect a pulpit committee that will recommend candidates to the congregation for election as pastor.

Article VIII: Records and Reports

The Church will maintain the following records and reports:

1. Adequate and correct books and records of accounts (financial records).
2. Minutes of the proceedings of its members and Board of Directors.
3. A record of its members, giving their names and addresses.
4. Contribution statements for contributors.
5. Reports of annual review of all church financial books, records, and proceedings.

Article IX: Corporate Responsibility

The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to religious purposes, and no part of the net income or assets of this organization shall ever inure to the benefit of a Director, officer or member of the corporation, or to the benefit of any private individual.

Upon the winding up and dissolution of this corporation, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the corporation, the remaining assets shall become the Trust of the **Auburn District Missionary Baptist Association** and/or the **Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention**.

Article X: Amendments to the Bylaws

New Bylaws may be adopted or these Bylaws may be amended or repealed by the affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the votes represented at a duly held meeting of the members.

Certificate of Secretary

I, the undersigned, certify that I am the acting secretary of **White Street Baptist Church**, a Nonprofit Religious Corporation and the above Bylaws, consisting of six (6) pages, are the Bylaws of this Corporation as adopted **November 20th**, 2013. Executed at **White Street Baptist Church; Wednesday** this **20th** day of **Nov.**, 2013.

Church Clerk and Secretary