

**CONSTITUTION  
OF  
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH  
ARCATA, CALIFORNIA**

Adopted 14 October 1987

Adopted 2002

## **PREAMBLE**

We, Trinity Baptist Church, as a called-out assembly of baptized believers, repose our faith wholly in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation and accept the Word of God as the only rule of faith and practice. Having bound ourselves together in fellowship and believing it necessary to govern ourselves in an orderly and efficient manner, we do hereby adopt this Constitution with its Covenant and statement of Faith.

## **COVENANT**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and on the profession of our faith in Christ, having been baptized in the name of God the Father and of His Son Jesus and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We seek, therefore, through the power of God the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of this church body in our spirituality and our prosperity, to sustain our worship of God, to observe His ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, to encourage mutual discipline and support our Statement of Faith. We will contribute cheerfully and regularly of our time and income in support of the ministry and all the expenses of Trinity Baptist Church and the spread of the Gospel throughout all nations.

We will also strive to maintain family and private devotions, to educate our children in the knowledge of God, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances, to walk circumspectly in the world, to be just in our dealings and exemplary in our deportment, to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further pledge to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress, to cultivate Christian compassion, and to be slow to take offense, always ready for reconciliation, and being mindful of the teaching of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We also agree that if we leave this church body we will, as soon as possible, unite with another church body where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

## **ARTICLE I**

### **NAME**

The Name of this church shall be Trinity Baptist Church of Arcata, California.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this church shall be:

1. To provide regular opportunity for worshipping God;
2. To equip the saints for the work of the ministry;
3. To build up the body of Christ;
4. To work for the uniting of the saints in godly life and worship;
5. To heartily cooperate by prayer, gift and service in the effort to establish the Kingdom of Christ throughout the world;
6. To earnestly proclaim, by whatever means available, the Gospel message of the Bible and to urge the personal acceptance of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in every life.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **FORM AND CHARACTER**

Trinity Baptist Church is autonomous and does not believe that any one denomination or church has all the truth. It is self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating. Its Statement of Faith rests on the foundation of God's Word and supports "The Baptist Faith and Message" as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, 9 May 1963. This church body is incorporated under the laws of the State of California as a corporation not-for-profit; its Articles of Incorporation having been filed with the Secretary of State and recorded in the official records of his office at Sacramento on 23 February 1954.

Historically, Trinity Baptist Church has cooperated with the North Coast Baptist Association, the Southern Baptist General Convention of California and the Southern Baptist Convention in promoting the spread of the Gospel worldwide.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

##### **SECTION A - Concerning the Holy Scriptures**

We believe the Holy Scriptures, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, the final authority of faith and life; inerrant in the original writings; infallible and God-breathed. (Matthew 5:18; II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21)

##### **SECTION B - Concerning the True God**

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God. He is an infinite, intelligent, perfect spirit and personal being, the creator, preserver and supreme ruler of the universe. In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory. (Exodus 20:2-3; Deuteronomy 6:4; John 10:30; I Corinthians 8:6; II Corinthians 13:14; I John 5:7)

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 loving and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of

His through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men. (Genesis 1:2, 2:7; Exodus 3:14; Deuteronomy 6:4, 32:6; Matthew 6:9, 23:9; John 3:16, 5:26, 17:1-8)

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 the demands and necessities of human nature and identifying Himself completely with mankind, yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His 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, partaking of the nature of God and of man, and 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. (Genesis 18; Psalms 110; Isaiah 7:14, chapter 53; Matthew 1:18-23, 3:17, 11:27, 14:33, chapter 27; John 1:1-18, 5:26, 14:6-13; Galatians 4:4-5)

3. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT—The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior and effects regeneration. 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 assurance of God to 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. (Genesis 1:2; Psalms 51:11, 139:7; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18, 3:16; John 4:14, 14:14-17,26; Acts 1:8, 2:17-21; Ephesians 1:13)

#### SECTION C—The Creation

We believe the biblical record of the creation of the universe, spirit beings and man. This account is neither allegory nor myth, but a historical account of the direct and immediate creative acts of God, apart from any evolutionary process. (Genesis 1:2; Exodus 20:11; Psalms 33:6; Isaiah 40:28; John 1:3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:15-17)

#### SECTION D—The Believer's Position (Salvation)

We believe salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, sanctification and glorification. (Psalms 51; Isaiah 53; Matthew 1:21, 4:17, 16:21-26, 27:22-28:6; Luke 2:28-32; John.1:29, 3:3-21,36, 5:24, 10:9,28-29, 17:17; Acts 2:21, 4:12, 15:11. 16:30-31; Romans 1:16-18, 2:4, 3:23-25, 4:3ff, 5:8-10, 6:1-23, 8:1-18, 29-39, 10:9-10,13, 13:11-14; I Corinthians 1:26-30, 6:19-20; II Corinthians 5:17-21; Galatians 2:20, 3:13; Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-22, 4:11-16)

1. Regeneration, or 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 experience 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 Savior. 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 into a relationship of peace and favor with God.

2. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart for God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual perfection through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

3. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

#### SECTION E—Concerning Satan

We believe that Satan is a spirit-being. He is the author of sin, the open and declared enemy of God and the adversary and tempter of the believer. His end will be eternal punishment in the lake of fire. (Job 1:67; Isaiah 14:12-20; Matthew 4:2-11, 25:41; Ephesians 6:10-20; Revelations 20:10)

#### SECTION F—Concerning the Church

We believe that the Church which is Christ's body is composed of all true believers. We believe that the local church is a gathering of baptized believers, organized for the purpose of united worship, fellowship, administration of the ordinances (Baptism and the Lord's Supper), edification, discipline and effective promotion of the work of Christ throughout the world. (Acts 1:4-5, 2:1-4, 11:15-16; I Corinthians 12:12-31; Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:19-22)

#### SECTION G—The Great Commission

We believe that it is the obligation of believers to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture, seeking to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind, making disciples, baptizing and teaching them to obey Christ's commands. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 5:19-20)

#### SECTION H—The 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 righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in heaven with the Lord. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. (Isaiah 2:4, 11:9; Matthew 16:27, 18:8-9, 25:31-46, 26:64; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-28, 17:22-37; John 14:1-3; I Corinthians 4:5, 15:24-28, 15:35-58; I Thessalonians 4:14-18; Revelations 1:18, 3:11, chapters 20-22:13)

#### SECTION I—Concerning the Ordinances

**BAPTISM**—We believe that 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 Savior, 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. This being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper. (Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19-20; Acts 8:36-39, 10:47-48; Romans 6:3-5)

THE LORD'S SUPPER—We believe 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, memorialized the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming. We invite all born-again, baptized believers in Christ to partake, after solemn self-examination. (Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:23-24)

#### SECTION J—Concerning Marriage

We believe marriage is the union between one man and one woman ordained and instituted by God as first recorded in the book of Genesis. Throughout the Old Testament, prophets compared marriage to the relationship between God and His people. Jesus explained the original intention and core elements of marriage, and several New Testament epistles give explicit instructions on this union. The New Testament describes marriage as symbolic of the relationship of Christ and the Church. As such Trinity Baptist Church believes marriage to be a profound spiritual institution established by God.

Therefore, a civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized by Trinity Baptist Church as a legitimate marriage only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of "marriage" found in Trinity Baptist Church's Statement of Faith. Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:18, Genesis 5:1,2, Proverbs 18:22, Proverbs 19:14, Matthew 19:4, Mark 10:6, Ephesians 5:31, I Timothy 3:2, 12, I Timothy 5:14, Hebrews 13:4

Amendment 6, November 23, 2008

### ARTICLE V

#### MEMBERSHIP

Membership, because of its high principles and great responsibility, shall not be entered into hastily nor lightly. It is a vow of allegiance to God's Word and appreciation of its obligations in matters of conduct. Anyone desiring membership is urged to consider it very carefully and prayerfully.

#### SECTION A—Eligibility

Any person:

1. Who has personally believed in and received Jesus Christ as Savior (John 1:12, 3:16; Romans 10:9);
2. Whose life and conduct give evidence of being born-again into the family of God (John 3:3; I John 5:1);
3. Who subscribes to our Covenant and Statement of Faith;
4. Who has been baptized by immersion, shall be eligible for membership in this church. The church may receive members by baptism, letter or statement of conversion and baptism.

#### SECTION B—Methods

ADMISSION BY BAPTISM—Any person repenting of his sins and publicly professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and having publicly expressed a desire to join in membership with this church, shall be received as a candidate for baptism. Having been baptized, and after completing a new member's candidate class, and having agreed with the aims and ideals of this church as expressed in its Covenant and Statement of Faith, and being willing to be governed by the doctrines and policies of this church, he shall be presented and welcomed into membership of Trinity Baptist Church at any regular church service.

**ADMISSION BY LETTER**—Any person who is a member of another church of like faith and order, having publicly expressed a desire to join in membership with this church, shall be received as a candidate for membership. Upon receipt of a favorable letter of dismission and recommendation from the former church, and after completing a new member's candidate class, and having agreed with the aims and ideals of this church as expressed in its Covenant and Statement of Faith, and being willing to be governed by the doctrines and policies of this church, he shall be presented and welcomed into membership of Trinity Baptist Church at regular church service.

**ADMISSION BY STATEMENT OF CONVERSION AND BAPTISM**—Any person having publicly expressed a desire to join in membership with this church, upon providing a statement of Christian conversion and baptism by immersion, shall be received as a candidate for membership. After completing a new member's candidate class, and having agreed with the aims and ideals of this church as expressed in its Covenant and Statement of Faith, and being willing to be governed by the doctrines and policies of this church, he shall be presented and welcomed into membership of Trinity Baptist Church at any regular church service.

#### **SECTION C—Membership Status**

**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP**—A member shall be considered active when he shall faithfully attend services. The Lord's Supper, contribute regularly and cheerfully in the support of the church ministry and demonstrate in daily living the Christian way of life.

**YOUTH MEMBERSHIP**—in cases where membership is sought before the age of 16, all shall be received and granted all the covenanted blessings of Christ, including ordinances. At the age of 16 and after completing a new member's candidate class, he shall enter into active membership, at which time he shall be eligible to hold church office and to vote in the ecclesiastical organization.

**WATCHCARE MEMBERSHIP**—Watchcare membership shall be extended to persons who meet the qualifications of membership, but who are not permanent residents of this area —such as students and missionaries who hold active membership elsewhere. Watchcare members shall be permitted to teach a Bible Study class or to participate in the ministry of the church by using any talent they may have. They shall have the right to attend business meetings of the church but shall not have the right to vote. Watch-care membership shall be extended on a case-by-case basis and only upon the recommendation of the Pastor. Watchcare members may attain active membership upon completion of a new member's candidate class.

**INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP**—Should a member become inactive so as to be in nonattendance for at least one year, the member's name will be placed on an inactive file and otherwise removed from the roll of active membership, but only after faithful and kindly effort to make such action unnecessary. Inactive members are not eligible to hold office or to vote in business meetings.

#### **SECTION D—Membership Responsibility**

**TOWARD THE PASTOR**—It is the duty of all members to honor, esteem and love their Pastor; to pray for him fervently and regularly; to support him in Scriptural exercise of his official authority; to attend regularly upon his ministrations; to manifest a tender regard for his reputation and to contribute toward his support in proportion to their ability.

REGARDING VOTING PRIVILEGE –It is the duty of every member to actively participate in the business affairs of the church by attendance at regular and special business meeting. All members shall cheerfully abide by and support the decision of the majority.

#### SECTION E—Termination of Membership

TRANSFER—Any member in good standing who desires a letter of dismissal and recommendation to any other church is entitled to receive it upon request. If the member is not in good standing and requests a letter of dismissal, the Pastor shall write to the Pastor of the requesting church with an explanation.

BY REQUEST –If a member requests to be released from his covenant obligations to the church, such request may be granted and his membership terminated.

REMOVAL—A member's name shall be removed from the membership roll after the member has been listed as inactive for a period of two years and has failed to communicate with the church after being requested to do so by registered letter. Where no forwarding address is made known to the church, the requirement for a registered letter notification will be waived.

### ARTICLE VI

#### CHURCH DISCIPLINE

##### SECTION A—Procedures

All procedures of the church in matters of discipline shall be in accordance with New Testament teaching and usage, particularly noted in Matthew 18:15-18, the Corinthian epistles, I Timothy and Titus.

##### SECTION B—Corrective Discipline and Restoration

It is the responsibility of the church and in harmony with the Scriptures to discipline and, if necessary, to exclude from its fellowship any person who holds false and heretical doctrine in any vital matter, or who has violated the law Scriptural morality. The purpose of all church discipline shall be to restore the individual to fellowship and active membership in the church. Such efforts shall be made in the light of the following Scriptures: Galatians 6:1-2; II Thessalonians 3:14-15; James 5:19-20.

### ARTICLE VII

#### CHURCH GOVERNMENT

The government of Trinity Baptist Church is vested in its active membership and executed through duly elected and/or appointed officers, boards and committees in accordance with all the provisions of this Constitution and as amended.

### ARTICLE VIII

#### OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Any active member of this church subscribing by a signed statement to this Constitution with its Covenant and Statement of Faith shall be eligible for any office of this church as prescribed.

All officers, including the Pastor, shall, prior to assuming office, subscribe to the Trinity Baptist Church Constitution which includes its Covenant and Statement of Faith. The Church Clerk shall be responsible for obtaining and filing these statements in the church records.

## ARTICLE IX

### OFFICES OF THE CHURCH

#### SECTION A—Pastor

**QUALIFICATIONS**—He shall be an ordained minister and shall meet qualifications found in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

**DUTIES**—The Pastor shall be charged with the spiritual leadership of the church. It shall be his duty to exercise pastoral supervision of the church in the preaching of the Word, the conducting of regular worship services and the administering of the ordinances. He shall be the senior elder and an ex-officio member of all boards and committees within this church. He or his appointee shall preside as moderator.

**ELECTION**—Preliminary investigation shall begin as soon as possible after the resignation, removal or death of a Pastor. A licensed minister of the Gospel, who is of good report and living in accordance with the Covenant and Statement of Faith of this church, shall be invited to meet with the Pulpit Committee, supply the pulpit for a Sunday or longer, and to state whether or not he is willing to be considered as a candidate for the pastorate. The order of the above procedure may vary at the discretion of the Pulpit Committee.

Pastoral candidates must be recommended by a unanimous vote of the Pulpit Committee before being presented to the church. The membership shall vote within three weeks after such recommendation.

A special church business meeting shall be called by the Pulpit Committee to consider a call for a prospective pastor. A notice of each meeting and its purpose must be read from the pulpit on two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting. A quorum of seventy-five percent (75%) of the active church membership shall be required for this special business meeting and an eighty percent (80%) affirmative vote of those present shall be required to call a pastor. The vote shall be by secret ballot. One prospective pastor shall be considered at any one time.

The results of the special church business meeting shall be made known to the candidate under consideration as soon as possible after the meeting. If the vote is favorable, and he accepts the call, the pastor-elect shall certify in writing that he is in full agreement with this Constitution including its Covenant and Statement of Faith. Upon affirmation of this, the pastor-elect shall become Pastor and also a member of this church.

**TENURE**—The Pastor shall be called for an indefinite period of time, and shall continue as Pastor as long as that relationship is mutually agreeable between himself and the church.

Should the Pastor at any time state that he can no longer agree with the Covenant and Statement of Faith, he shall immediately and voluntarily resign his position without any further action necessary by the church.

Should the Pastor be called into question on his doctrinal position or personal conduct by a petition signed by no less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the active church membership, he must immediately and voluntarily give resolute affirmation and publicly state his full agreement with this Covenant and Statement of Faith. Should the Pastor not be willing to do this, the Elders will be given full authority to act on behalf of the membership to relieve the Pastor of his duties until the charges are affirmed or refuted. Such action shall be completed within two weeks and the active church membership shall be informed of the outcome. Should these actions become necessary this church shall continue to provide the man and his family with full salary and benefits until he finds gainful employment or for a period not to exceed three months. The purpose of any action taken shall be to restore the man to full fellowship and confidence and to maintain unity within the church.

#### SECTION B—Elders

**QUALIFICATIONS** –These men shall meet the qualification found in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

**DUTIES**—The duties of the Elders shall be to counsel with and aid the Pastor with his responsibilities within the church in promoting the welfare and increase of the church, as well as the spiritual and physical interests of its membership, to the end that all the believers will walk together in singleness of mind and purpose. They shall meet at least monthly with the Pastor. They shall also serve on the Pulpit Committee as necessary. None of these duties shall in any way give to the Elders a position of rule or dominion over the membership of the church.

**APPOINTMENT**--The Elders shall be appointed by the Pastor. They shall serve for a term of two years and may be reappointed at the discretion of the Pastor.

#### SECTION C—Diakonos Ministry

The Diakonos Ministry shall consist of a group of individuals who have been called by God to assist the Pastor in the spiritual and physical ministry of and to the church. This group is made up of Deacons and Ministering Diakonos.

1. **DEACONS**—There shall be one deacon for every fifteen participants in the Diakonos Ministry, but no fewer than two deacons at any time. They shall serve for a term to be agreed upon between the Pastor and themselves.

**QUALIFICATIONS** –These men shall possess the qualifications listed in I Timothy 3:8-13 and shall show evidence of a call upon their lives to this ministry.

**DUTIES**—The duties of the Deacons shall consist of the following: To provide leadership and training for those individuals involved in the Diakonos Ministry;

- a. To provide for the administration of the ordinances of the church;
- b. To maintain good lines of communication between those persons involved in the Diakonos Ministry and the Pastor;
- c. To make recommendations to the church concerning individuals who shall be serving in the Diakonos Ministry;
- d. To provide a budget proposal to the Stewardship Committee for yearly expenses of the Diakonos Ministry;
- e. To oversee that portion of the church budget that has been allotted to this ministry.

ELECTION—Candidates for the office of Deacon shall be nominated by secret ballot at least thirty days prior to election by the active church membership. The nominees for this office shall have their names published in the church newsletter and bulletin for three consecutive weeks prior to this election. Upon election, a Deacon shall be ordained in an appropriate service.

2. MINISTERING DIAKONOS—The church shall have an active ministry of service to the membership and the community. This ministry shall be known as the Diakonos Ministry and shall consist of two or more persons. This number should increase with the church membership and ideally be no less than one for every fifteen families in active membership.

QUALIFICATIONS—The Ministering Diakonos shall possess the qualifications set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13

DUTIES—The duties of the Ministering Diakonos shall consist of the following:

- a. To create and maintain close ties with the church's members in order to minister to their personal and family needs;
- b. To encourage and involve members in discovering their gifts of service and becoming an active part of the church's worship, fellowship and outreach ministry;
- c. To proclaim the Gospel.

ELECTION—Candidates for Ministering Diakonos shall be nominated by secret ballot at least thirty days prior to election by the active membership. The nominees for this ministry shall have their names published in the church newsletter and bulletins for three consecutive weeks prior to this election.

#### SECTION D—Trustees

The active church membership shall elect three trustees to serve as legal officers for the church. They shall hold in trust the church property. Upon specific vote of the church authorizing each action, they shall have power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer any church property. When the signatures of trustees are required, they shall sign legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchase or rental of property or any other legal documents related to church-approved matters. The signatures of any two trustees shall be required.

Trustees shall serve on a rotational basis, with one new trustee being elected every three years.

#### SECTION E—Church Clerk

The Church Clerk shall be elected for a one-year term by the active church membership. Responsibilities shall be to maintain a record of church business meetings, a current registry of membership, baptism, ordinations and other pertinent information. The church clerk shall preserve all records and documents and turn the same over to each newly elected church clerk.

The church may delegate some of these clerical responsibilities to a church secretary who shall assist the elected clerk. All church records are church property and shall be kept in the church office when an office is maintained.

#### SECTION F—Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be elected for a one-year term by the active church membership. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive and disburse in accordance with the budget or as

designated, all money or articles of value paid or given to the church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to render to the church at each regular business meeting an itemized report of the receipts and disbursements of the preceding period. Upon rendering the annual account at the end of each fiscal year and its acceptance and approval by the church, the records shall be delivered by the treasurer to the church clerk, who shall keep and preserve the account as a part of the permanent records of the church.

#### SECTION G—Church Committees

The standing committees of Trinity Baptist Church shall be the Nominating Committee, Stewardship Committee, Missions Committee and such other regular and special committees as the church shall authorize. All committee members shall be recommended by the Nominating Committee and elected by the active church membership. Committee members shall serve for a term of one year, 1 January through 31 December.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**—The Nominating Committee coordinates the staffing of all elected church positions filled by volunteer workers. All such persons shall be recommended by the Nominating Committee to the active church membership for election.

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**—The Stewardship Committee develops and recommends a church budget. It shall make recommendations to the church regarding financial matters. The committee shall develop and recommend methods for using appropriate channels of the church to introduce biblical stewardship concepts. It shall seek to enhance mission efforts by developing an understanding of a growing commitment to support missions worldwide and carry out other duties as assigned by the church.

**MISSIONS COMMITTEE**—The Missions Committee shall seek to discover possibilities for local missions projects as well as recommending to the church such direct missions for support as the current church financial situation can accommodate. This committee shall also establish and maintain communication with associational missions and other appropriate groups outside the church. This committee also shall seek to educate and encourage the membership in the area missions.

#### SECTION H—Church Council

The Church Council shall serve the church by leading in planning, coordinating and evaluating the ministries and program of the church and its organizations.

The primary functions of the Church Council shall be to recommend to the church suggested objectives and church goals; to review and coordinate ministry and program plans recommended by church officers, organizations and committees; to recommend to the church the use of leadership, calendar time and other resources according to program priorities; and to evaluate achievements in terms of church objectives and goals.

Regular members of the Church Council shall be the Pastor, other church staff members, church officers, committee chairmen, Bible Study department heads and any other persons that the church shall designate.

All matters agreed upon by the Church Council which call for action not previously approved shall be referred to the church for approval or disapproval.

## ARTICLE X

### AMENDMENT PROCESS

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed at any regular business meeting of the church. Each amendment shall be presented in writing. All active members shall be notified by mail at least one month prior to voting on the proposed amendment which shall be at the next regular business meeting. Amendments to the Constitution shall be approved by two-thirds vote of the active membership present. Amendments to the by-laws shall have concurrence of a majority of the active membership present.

This Constitution is hereby adopted in lieu of, and to supercede and take place of, any previously existing constitution, rules and by-laws or any conflicting minutes of the church.

Adopted 14 October 1987

### AMENDMENTS

#### AMENDMENT 1

Added to Article IX, Section A, Duties and Article IX, Section B, Duties.

The Pastor and Elders of Trinity Baptist Church have the primary responsibility to equip and oversee the equipping of the saints at Trinity Baptist Church especially in the areas of doctrinal and ethical matters.

January 13, 1988

#### AMENDMENT 2

Added to Article IX, Section D, Trustees, 2nd Paragraph.

Trustees shall be elected on a rotational basis, with one trustee being elected annually. Each term shall be for three (3) years. As the process begins, three (3) people shall be elected: one to serve one (1) year, another for two (2) years, and a third for three (3) years.

October 12, 1988

#### AMENDMENT 3

Article VIII changed to read:

The pastors, elders, deacons, ministering diakonos teachers, moderator, clerk, treasurer, trustees, and committee members, shall, prior to assuming office, agree by a signed statement that they have read the constitution with its Covenant and Statement of Faith and agree to conduct the affairs of their position accordingly.

July 12, 1989

#### AMENDMENT 4

Article VIII changed to read:

All pastoral staff and all those elected to a church position should, prior to assuming office, have read the Constitution and the Bylaws so that they may know how they are to conduct the affairs

of their position.  
August 26, 1990

#### AMENDMENT 5

Article X changed to read:

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed at any business meeting of the church. Each amendment shall be presented in writing. All active members shall be notified by mail at least one month prior to voting on the proposed amendment which shall be at the next business meeting. A minimum of one month must pass from the time the amendment is introduced to the time it is voted on. Amendments to the constitution shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the active membership present. Amendments to the by-laws shall have a concurrence of a majority of the active membership present.

July 18, 1993

#### AMENDMENT 6

Added to the Statement of Faith, Section J

We believe marriage is the union between one man and one woman ordained and instituted by God as first recorded in the book of Genesis. Throughout the Old Testament, prophets compared marriage to the relationship between God and His people. Jesus explained the original intention and core elements of marriage, and several New Testament epistles give explicit instructions on this union. The New Testament describes marriage as symbolic of the relationship of Christ and the Church. As such Trinity Baptist Church believes marriage to be a profound spiritual institution established by God.

Therefore, a civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized by Trinity Baptist Church as a legitimate marriage only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of "marriage" found in Trinity Baptist Church's Statement of Faith. Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:18, Genesis 5:1,2, Proverbs 18:22, Proverbs 19:14, Matthew 19:4, Mark 10:6, Ephesians 5:31, I Timothy 3:2, 12, I Timothy 5:14, Hebrews 13:4

November 23, 2008