

CONSTITUTION of Henderson Baptist Church
Approved _____

PREAMBLE

This Constitution and Bylaws are made to:

1. Preserve and secure the principles of our faith.
2. Preserve the liberties of each individual member of the church.
3. Ensure freedom of action of independence from any religious body or organization.
4. Provide for orderly conduct of internal affairs, in dealing with others, and of governing church members.

ARTICLE I

NAME

This body shall be known as Henderson Baptist Church of Rogersville, MO.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

To follow the Great Commandment Matthew 22:36-40 and The Great Commission Matthew 28:19-20.

Four purposes why we exist:

- Celebrate The greatness of our Savior (Worship)
- Cultivate Christian Growth and Maturity (Teaching)
- Care For one another's needs (Love)
- Communicate The Gospel to the lost (Evangelism)

ARTICLE III

STATEMENT OF BASIC BELIEFS

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God and the basis for our beliefs. This church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of The Baptist Faith and Message adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000.

ARTICLE IV

RELATIONSHIPS

Persons duly received by the church body shall constitute the membership.

All internal groups created and empowered by the church shall be accountable to the church.

This church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation, which are common among Southern Baptist churches.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. GENERAL

This is a sovereign and democratic Baptist Church under the lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.

Section 2. RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

Any person may offer himself/herself as a candidate for membership in this church. All such candidates shall be presented to the church at any regular church service for membership in any of the following ways:

- A. By profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and for baptism according to the policies of this church.
- B. By promise of a letter of recommendation from another Baptist Church.
- C. By statement of prior conversion experience and immersion baptism when no letter is obtainable.

Section 3. RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

- A. Every member of the church in good standing is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the church in conference, providing the member is present or provision has been made for absentee balloting.
- B. Every member of the church who is in good standing may participate in the ordinances of the church as administered by the church.

Section 4. DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Members are expected to be faithful in all duties essential to the Christian life: to attend the services of this church, to give regularly for its support and causes, to share in its organized work, and to participate in church fellowship.

Section 5. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways:

- A. Death of the member,
- B. Dismission to another Baptist Church,
- C. Exclusion by action of this church.

Section 6. DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

- A. Should any unhappy difference arise between members, the aggrieved members shall follow, in a tender spirit, the rules given by our Lord in the 18th chapter of Matthew.
- B. Should any gross breach of the constitution, or public scandal occur, the Deacons shall endeavor to remove the offense; and if such effort fails, shall report the case to the church.
- C. All discipline proceedings shall be conducted in a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance, and should an adverse decision be reached, the church may proceed to admonish or declare the offender to be no longer in the membership of the church.

ARTICLE II

CHURCH OFFICERS

Section 1. GENERAL

The officers of this corporation shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers will be elected by the church body. The duties of each officer shall be those as are normally performed by the holders of such offices, respectively, as provided, and as herein otherwise provided. Only members in good standing shall be elected to any such office.

Section 2. Pastor

- A. **Calling a Pastor.** A Pastor shall be chosen and called by the church whenever a vacancy occurs. His election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least seven days notice shall have been given. A Pastor Search Committee shall be elected by the church to seek out a suitable Pastor, and their recommendation shall constitute a nomination. The Committee shall bring to the consideration of the church only one man at a time. Election shall be by ballot, an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the voting members in good standing present being necessary to

extend a call.

- B. **Qualifications.** The Pastor shall meet the Scriptural qualifications as outlined in I Timothy 3:1-7, shall be a tither, and shall give evidence of having been born-again. He shall be in agreement with the views of faith and practice held by this church, as set forth in its Constitution.
- C. **Termination.** The pastoral relationship may be terminated at any time by mutual consent of Pastor and church, or by majority vote of the church by ballot in regular session. The resignation of the Pastor may be oral or written. Fifteen (15) days notice of such termination shall be given by the church or Pastor. In the event the church should consider the dismissal of a Pastor, the congregation shall be notified of such a meeting and its purpose two weeks in advance. A majority vote of members in good standing at such meeting shall prevail.
- D. **Duties.** The Pastor shall have charge of the welfare and oversight of the church. He shall be ex-officio member of all regular and special committees of the church.

Section 3. MINISTERIAL STAFF

- A. **Calling.** The Ministerial Staff shall be called and employed as the church determines the need for such offices.
- B. **Termination.** The conditions for termination of a staff member shall be the same as those for the Pastor.

Section 4. DEACONS

- A. **Number.** There shall be as many Deacons as the church deems needful.
- B. **Qualifications.** When elected to serve, Deacons shall meet the Scriptural qualifications outlined in Acts 6:1-7 and I Timothy 3:8-13, and shall attend and actively support all phases of the church program.
- C. **Election.** Candidates for deacon shall be recommended by the pastor and the deacon body. Candidates will be voted on by church body. Unordained deacons will serve one year before being ordained by the church.
- D. **Removal from Active Duty.** A Deacon shall move from the active to the inactive list in any of the following ways:
 - 1. Deacons may request to be moved to an inactive status.
 - 2. Dismissal. A deacon may be dismissed by disciplinary action of the church.
- E. **Duties.**
 - 1. The Deacons are problem solvers, people servers, and Pastor helpers.
 - 2. The Deacons shall be zealous to guard the unity of spirit within the church in the bond of peace and harmony.
 - 3. They shall serve as a council of advice and confer with the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the welfare and work of the church.
 - 4. The Deacons shall serve as a pulpit supply committee. In case of absence or incapacity of the Pastor, subject to advice from and conference with him, the Chairman of Deacons and the Deacon Body shall provide for pulpit supply.

Section 5. MODERATOR

The Moderator shall be chosen by the church body and will supervise business meetings.

Section 6. CLERK

The church shall elect annually a clerk whose duties shall be:

- A. To keep a suitable record of all actions of the church, except as otherwise herein provided.
- B. To keep a register of the names of members with dates of admission and dismissal or death as well as a record of baptisms.
- C. To issue letters of dismissal, as voted by the church.
- D. To request letters from churches from which prospective members have indicated an active membership.
- E. To make records available for observation to any member or officers of the church on request.

In the event the regularly elected clerk should not be present or is incapacitated; the acting moderator shall appoint a substitute until the return of the regular clerk or until another clerk is duly elected.

Section 7. TREASURER

The church shall elect annually a Church Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to pay out all money approved by the church keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to submit to the church each month an itemized report of receipts and disbursements of the preceding month. All books, records, and accounts kept by the Treasurer shall be considered the property of the church.

Section 8. TRUSTEES

A trustee shall be a member of the church, faithful in attendance (if not providentially hindered) to the majority of services, devoted to carrying out the desires of the church.

The church shall elect Trustees to serve as legal officers for the church. They shall hold in trust the church property. When the signatures of Trustees are required, they shall sign legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchase, or rental of property, or other legal document related to church-approved matters.

ARTICLE III

CHURCH COMMITTEES

Section 1. GENERAL

All church committee members shall be recommended and elected by the church unless otherwise indicated. Upon completion of a committee's responsibility the committee will be disbanded.

CHURCH PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. GENERAL

All organizations of the church listed below shall be under church control, all officers being elected by the church unless otherwise indicated in the description below.

Section 2. SUNDAY SCHOOL

There shall be a Sunday School, divided into departments and classes for all ages for the study of God's Word. The tasks of the Sunday School shall be to teach the Biblical revelation; lead in reaching all church member to worship, witness, learn, and minister daily; provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and the denomination.

ARTICLE VI

CHURCH ORDINANCES

Section 1. BAPTISM

A person who receives 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, shall be received for baptism.

- A. Baptism shall be by immersion in water.
- B. Baptism shall be supervised by the pastor or ordained minister authorized by the church.
- C. Baptism shall be performed as an act of worship during any worship service.

Section 2. THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby born again believers commemorate the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate His return.

- A. The Lord's Supper shall be observed as often as the church chooses.
- B. The Pastor and Deacons shall be responsible for the administration of the Lord's Supper.
- C. This church practices an open communion.

ARTICLE VII

CHURCH MEETING

Section 1. WORSHIP SERVICE

The church shall meet regularly for preaching, instruction, evangelism, and for the worship of Almighty God. These meetings will be open for the entire membership of the church and for all people and shall be conducted under the direction of the Pastor or as stipulated by the church.

Section 2. REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Regular business meetings shall be held as prescribed by the church body.

Section 3. SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

No special business meetings shall be called without one week's notice. The Pastor may, and shall, when he deems necessary or when requested by the deacons, trustees, or a church committee, call special business meetings from the pulpit, the particular object of which is clearly stated in the announcement.

Section 4. QUORUM

A quorum shall be those who come to the business meeting.

Section 5. RULES OF ORDER

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern all business sessions of the church.

ARTICLE VIII

CHURCH FINANCES

Section 1. BUDGET

A budget shall be presented yearly and voted on by the church body.

Section 2. ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES

The Treasurer will account for the expenditure of all funds. Monthly reports of receipts and expenditures shall be presented to the church for approval.

Section 3. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the church shall begin September 1 and end August 31.

ARTICLE IX

Church Use for Weddings

All couples being married in the church must have pre-marriage counseling.

Any person performing a marriage in the church or on church property must be approved by the pastor and/or the deacon board.

We believe the term 'marriage' has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as described in the scriptures. No same sex marriages will be allowed in the church or on church property.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members in good standing present at any annual meeting of the church or at a meeting especially called for that purpose. No change shall be made in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. Each amendment shall have been presented in writing at a previous business meeting, and read aloud at that same meeting, and copies of the proposed amendment(s) be furnished to each member. The proposed amendment(s) shall also be read from the pulpit on the Sunday succeeding such proposal.