



Constitution & Bylaws

Hopewell Baptist Church
Gainesville, GA, Inc.

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Revision 2

Adopted November 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONSTITUTION

Preamble		pg. 1
Article I	Name	pg. 1
Article II	Doctrine	pg. 1
Article III	Purpose	pg. 1
Article IV	Statements of Faith	pg. 2-7

BYLAWS

Article I	Membership	
	General	pg. 8
	Candidacy	pg. 8
	Responsibilities	pg. 8
	Rights	pg. 8-9
	Termination	pg. 9
	Restoration	pg. 9
	Reformation	pg. 9-10
	Record of Membership	pg. 10
	Reformation Process Flow	pg. 11
Article II	Church Organization	
	General	pg. 12
	Meetings	pg. 12-13
	Officers	pg. 13-14
	Deacons	pg. 14
Article III	Standing Teams	
	Selection Team	pg. 15-16
	Leadership Team	pg. 16-17
	Finance Team	pg. 17
	Building/Land Team	pg. 17-18
Article IV	Trustees	pg. 18
Article V	Lead Pastor	pg. 19-20

Article VI	Church Ministries	pg. 20
Article VII	General	
	Licensing & Ordination	pg. 21
	Adoption of Constitution & Bylaws	pg. 22
	Amendments	pg. 22
	Fiscal Year	pg. 22
	Designated Contributions	pg. 22
	Firearms on property	pg. 22
Article VIII	Indemnification	
	Actions subject to	pg. 23
	Expenses subject to Indemnification	pg. 23
	Limitations of Indemnification	pg. 23
	Timing of Indemnification	pg. 23
Article IX	Arbitration	pg. 24
Article X	Tax Exempt Provisions	pg. 24
Appendix	List of Revisions	pg. 25-28

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
HOPEWELL BAPTIST CHURCH
Of Gainesville, GA, Inc.**

**CONSTITUTION
Preamble**

For the more certain preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the accepted tenets of the Southern Baptist Churches, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of the Church and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to the church of the same faith and order, we do declare and establish this constitution.

Article I. Name

This body shall be known as and operate under the corporate name of “Hopewell Baptist Church of Gainesville, GA, Inc.” The term “church” as used in these Bylaws shall mean Hopewell Baptist Church of Gainesville, GA, Inc. This church will be, and is always to be a sovereign, autonomous Baptist Church, self-governing by the body of members who compose it.

Article II. Doctrine

Hopewell Baptist Church of Gainesville, GA, Inc. accepts the “Baptist Faith and Message” as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention on June 14, 2000. This cooperation will continue so long as such cooperation does not violate the autonomy of this church and its doctrine. This church receives the scriptures (Holy Bible) as its authority of faith and practice. The church is a committed body of born again and scriptural baptized believers in Jesus Christ and is committed to personally sharing the good news of salvation to lost mankind. Any time the term “man” or “woman” is used in this document means their biological gender male or female at birth (*see Statements of Faith: Article IV. Section 11*).

Article III. Purpose

Hopewell Baptist Church of Gainesville, GA, Inc. is organized exclusively for charitable, religious and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future US Revenue Law) including, but not limited to, for such purposes as the establishing and maintain of public worship, the building of churches, schools, chapels, camps, recreational facilities, childcare facilities, community health facilities, counseling centers, church growth leadership, educational facilities and food and clothing centers; the evangelizing of the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the educating of believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Holy Scriptures, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; and the maintaining of missionary activities in the US and any foreign country and other such ministries as may be determined by the church.

Article IV. Statements of Faith

1. One God - We believe there is one God: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who subsist in unity and also as three distinct Persons.

A. 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 knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in his attitude toward all men.

Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11; 20:11; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalms 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 19:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7

B. God the Son – We believe Jesus Christ is God’s only Son. He was born of a virgin as both God and man, lived a sinless life, died to atone for the sins of humanity, was buried, arose from the grave, ascended into heaven and will literally return to earth.

Genesis 18:1; Psalms 2:7; 110:1; Isaiah 7:14;53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27: 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-37; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5,21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3,7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16

C. God the Holy Spirit – We believe the Holy Spirit is the divine helper, assistant, counselor and instructor. His work is to reveal Christ, to convict sin, to lead to repentance, to guide believers, to comfort, to strengthen and to sanctify the soul.

Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

2. The Bible - We believe the Bible is God's Holy Word, without error and is the sole authority for life.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

3. Creation - We believe that God created the universe in six days. We reject evolution, the Gap theory, the Day-age Theory and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin. Genesis 1 & 2; Exodus 20:11

4. Fall of Man - Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

5. Grace - Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

Luke 5:27; John 1:12-13; 3:3; 6-7; Acts 2:41; Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17,19; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 2:1; 5:9; Colossians 2:13; 1 John 5:1

6. Salvation - We believe salvation is a gift through repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ. Every person who is truly saved is eternally secure in the Lord Jesus Christ and will spend eternity in heaven, while those who die in their sins will spend eternity in hell.

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

7. Believers Access to God - We believe in the priesthood of the believer and that each believer has direct access to God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:2; 1 Peter 2:5-9; Revelation 1:6

8. God's Kingdom - The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 1:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6, 9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

9. Church - A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges granted to them by His Word and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.

Baptism - We believe baptism is by total immersion after salvation and is done in obedience to Jesus Christ command.

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, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

10. Family and Marriage - We believe God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society.

Marriage is the union of one biological male at birth (i.e., Man) and one biological female at birth (i.e., Woman) in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband (*man*) and wife (*woman*) are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

11. Sexuality - We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a biological male at birth (*man*) and a biological female at birth (*woman*) who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual intimacy be engaged in outside the marriage between a man and woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexual conduct, pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement of Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

Leviticus 18:6-23

****** We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ

******We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity. Hateful and embarrassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrine of the church.

12. Stewardship - God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

13. Missions - We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to advance His Kingdom one heart at a time locally and globally and not wait for them to come to us.

Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:13-15; 2 Corinthians 5:20

14. Civil Government – We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth.

Exodus 18:21-22, 2 Samuel 23:3; Psalm 72:11; Daniel 3:17-18; Matthew 10:28; 22:21; 23:10; Acts 4:19-20; 23:5; Romans 13:7; Philippians 2:10-11; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-14, 17.

15. Civil Suits - We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander.

1 Corinthians 6:1-8; Ephesians 4:31-32

16. Satan - We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of Angels. We hold him to be man's great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power back of the present apostasy; the lord of antichrist, and the author of all powers of darkness - destined however to final defeat at the hands of God's own Son, and to the judgement of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.

Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:14-17; Matthew 4:1-3; 13:25; 27:39; Mark 13:21-22; Luke 22:3-4; John 14:30; Ephesians 2:2; II Corinthians 11:13-15; I Thessalonians 3:5; II Thessalonians 2:8-11; I Peter 5:8; II Peter 2:4; I John 2:22; 3:8; 4:3; II John 7; Jude 6; Revelation 12:7-10; 13:13-14; 19:20; 20:1-3, 10.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
HOPEWELL BAPTIST CHURCH
of Gainesville, Georgia, Inc.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

1. General - This church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, independent of any denominational control. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation with other churches in world and local missions, this church voluntarily affiliates with the Southern Baptist Convention, the Georgia Baptist Convention and the Chattahoochee Baptist Association. The membership reserves the right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.

2. Candidacy - Any persons may offer himself as a candidate for membership at any regular worship service in any of the following ways:

1. By Profession of Faith and for Baptism according to the policies of this church.
2. By Promise of a Letter from another Baptist Church.
3. By Statement of Faith in Christ, having been baptized by immersion in a Bible-believing church of like faith and practice. A church of like Faith shall always be determined at the sole discretion of the Lead Pastor.

A person shall be received into membership only after completing the churches current membership class and signs agreeing with the church's statements of faith and governing practices prior to being presented to the church.

3. Responsibilities - Members are expected to be faithful and obedient in all areas of the Christian life, to faithfully attend worship services of this church, to give tithes and offerings to its support and to participate in its ministries.

A. All members shall recognize the authority of the church and their accountability as members of it. The church shall have the right to administer, reprove, rebuke or to withdraw fellowship.

B. In all personal offenses the members shall be governed in their conduct by the provisions of **Matthew 18:15-17**. In all public offenses, the church shall deal with the member according to **1 Corinthians 5**, **Galatians 6:1** and **1 Timothy 6:5**.

4. Rights - Members who are eighteen (18) years of age or older in "good standing" as defined in Section 2 and 3 above may vote in church administrative meetings. Voting by proxy is prohibited (*must be present to vote*). Notwithstanding any other powers granted in these bylaws, members who are eighteen (18) years of age or older in "good standing" shall always have the right to vote on the following matters:

1. Disposition of all or substantially all of the assets.
2. Merger or dissolution of the church.
3. Election or removal of Lead Pastor.

5. Termination - No member of this church may hold membership in another church. The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate *without notice* if the member unites in membership with another church.

The membership of any individual member shall be automatically terminated without notice if the member states that he/she is actively involved in any conduct described in Constitution Article IV, number 11 (*pg. 5-6*) or file a lawsuit in violation of Constitution Article IV, number 15 (*pg. 7*).

The membership of any individual member shall be automatically terminated upon member's transfer to another Baptist Church.

A member may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such resignation, except at the discretion of the Lead Pastor.

The membership of any individual may be terminated without notice of the Church. This includes, yet is not limited to, immoral conduct, unchristian conduct, persistent breach of the Church Covenant, or non-support of the Church.

6. Restoration - Any person whose membership has been terminated may be restored upon evidence of his/her repentance and reformation by recommendation of the Lead Pastor and majority vote of the Leadership Team.

7. Reformation - The Lead Pastor, deacons, and Leadership Team shall have the sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statements of Faith and violations of the Church Covenant. If the Pastor or member of the deacons or Leadership Team is the subject of the disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a member of the reformation process.

Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he/she is to go alone to the offending party and seek to reform his/her brother/sister. Before going, one must first examine themselves. When going, there should be a spirit of humility and have the goal of reformation.

If reformation is not reached, a second member, either a deacon, pastor or leadership team member, is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of reformation.

If the matter is still unresolved, the pastor, deacons and leadership team as the church representatives Biblically responsible for putting down murmuring, shall hear the matter.

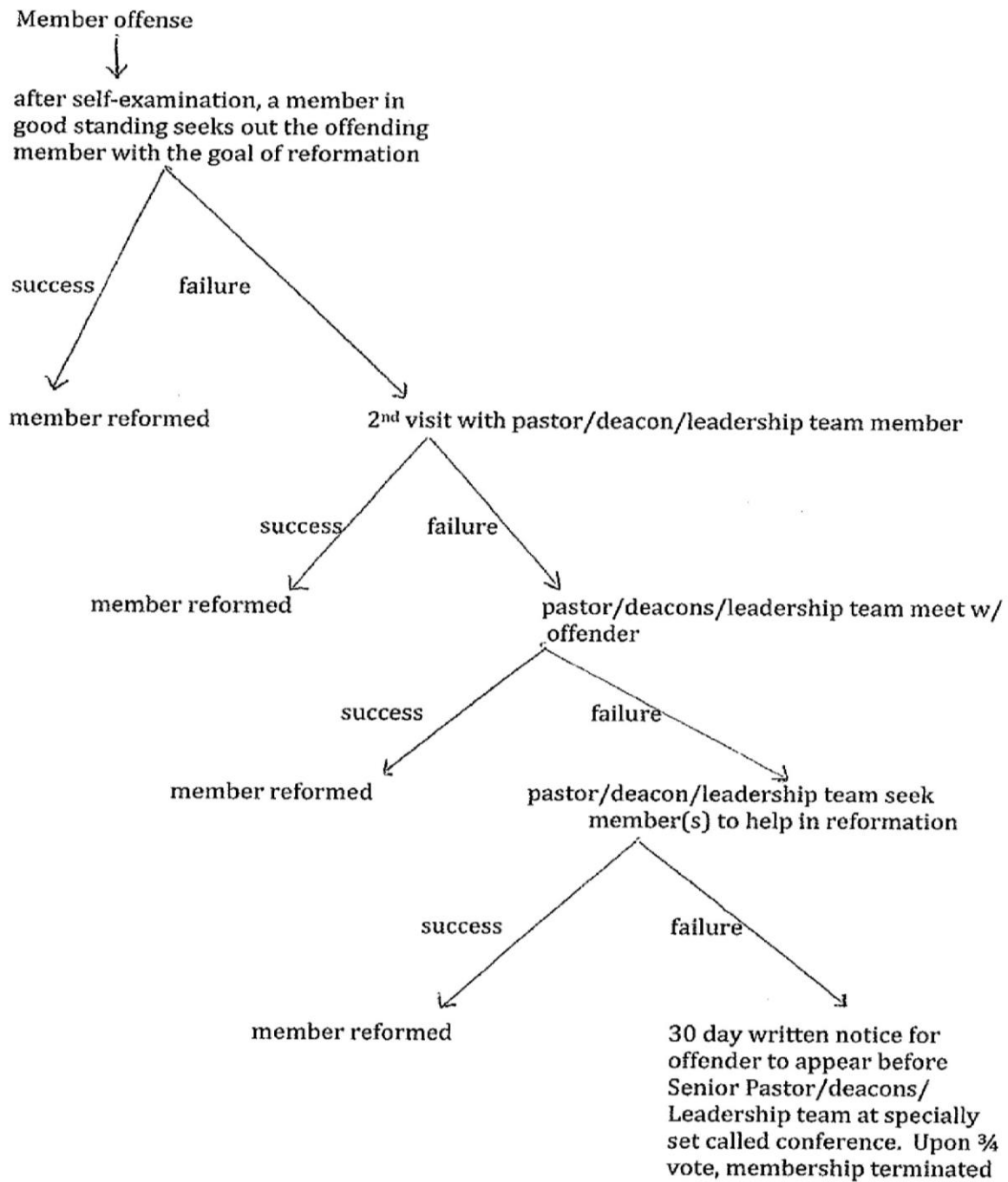
If the matter is not resolved during the hearing, the pastor, deacon or a leadership team member shall recommend to a prayerfully sought out member/members of the church that they, after self-examination, make an effort personally to go the offending member and seek that member's reformation.

If the matter is still unresolved, such members who refuse to repent and be reformed shall be sent a written 30-day notice requesting them to be present at a specially set conference before the Lead Pastor, deacons and Leadership team. If no good cause is shown for the deferment of termination of membership, upon $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of those present, the individual's membership shall be terminated. A formal letter of termination will then be sent to the individual. (**See Diagram Next Page)

Matthew 18:15-17 “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. ¹⁷And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.”

8. Record of Membership - The Executive Pastor's office shall keep an accurate database of all members and insofar as possible, an up-to-date record of their contact information. These records shall be confidential and will be used only for church purposes. They shall not be sold, given or loaned to any person or entity for any purpose not directly relating to the ministry of the church.

Reformation Process Flow



ARTICLE II. CHURCH ORGANIZATION

1. General - The Church is both a spiritual body and a non-profit corporation under the umbrella of the Georgia Baptist Convention in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia. The church is subject to the authority of Scripture in all matters and subject to the rules of duly constituted public authority (**Romans 13:1-7**). The church organization is to provide the mechanism for the orderly activity of the church body.

2. Meetings - The church shall meet regularly each Sunday for preaching, instruction, evangelism and for the worship of Almighty God and on Wednesday for prayer, Bible study, discipleship and related meetings. These meetings shall be conducted under the direction of the Lead Pastor and appropriate staff and lay leadership.

At any regular worship service Sunday or at a special evangelistic and revival meeting as deemed appropriate by the Church, members may be received as provided under Article I.

Additionally, the Church may meet at such other dates and times as may be deemed appropriate by the Lead Pastor for the purpose of worship, edification and proclamation.

During the last quarter of each calendar year, the church shall meet for the annual administration meeting. The exact day, time and place of the annual administration meeting shall be set by the Lead Pastor, or in his absence, the Vice Chairman of the Leadership Team. Unless otherwise stated by these bylaws; other church administration meetings may be called as necessary from time to time by the Lead Pastor or by the Leadership Team. Notice must be given by announcement in a Sunday morning worship service or by a notice placed in the weekly church bulletin.

The Moderator at the church administration meetings shall be the Lead Pastor or his designee. If the church has no Lead Pastor, the highest-ranking church officer shall act as moderator. In his absence, the Vice Chairman of the Leadership Team shall act as moderator.

The moderator is to utilize *Robert's Rules of Order* (latest revised edition) for conducting meetings and may appoint a parliamentarian, if he determines such appointment to be appropriate. The moderator may bring such matters before the administration meeting as he determines at his sole discretion to be appropriate. At least annually, the following matters shall be brought before the church at the annual administrative meeting:

- A. A slate of proposed deacons to serve the church body as may be deemed necessary to fill vacancies or to increase the size of that body.
- B. Proposed new members, as may be necessary to fill vacancies on the church's standing teams.
- C. An annual church budget.

Additionally, the following matters are to be brought to church administration meetings:

- A. Any proposed change to the church bylaws;
- B. Any proposed action on a Pastor Search Team.

Unless otherwise stated by these bylaws, any matter presented to the church administration meeting for action shall require a majority vote of those in attendance. Members in attendance at a duly called church administration meeting shall be deemed to constitute a legal quorum.

3. Officers - The officers of the church are as follows:

- A. The officers of Hopewell Baptist Church are the Lead Pastor, Executive Pastor, Ministerial Staff, Treasurer, Secretary, Church Trustees, and such other officers as this Church may elect.
- B. Except as otherwise provided herein, church officers shall have, exercise, and perform those duties as stated in the Church Constitution and By-laws and normally ascribed to their respective offices by custom and law.

Lead Pastor - The Ordained Lead Pastor shall have general and active management of the day-to-day operation of the church. He shall be responsible for the administration of the church, including general supervision of the policies of the church.

Executive Pastor- The Ordained Executive Pastor (or any successor position that assumes the same or similar duties) shall have the general oversight of the ministries and ministerial staff and shall establish and maintain documented policy and procedures for all compensated staff positions of the church under the direction of the Lead Pastor. Additionally, the Executive pastor shall be charged with the oversight of the financial affairs of the church and has custody of the official church financial records. The Executive Pastor shall perform such duties and have such powers that are delegated by the Lead Pastor from time to time. The Executive pastor is an ex-officio member of the Finance Team representing the Lead Pastor.

Treasurer - The Finance Team Chairperson shall serve as the church Treasurer. The Treasurer is responsible to ensure the effective accomplishment of the Finance Team responsibilities as defined in Article III, Section 3 of this document. The Treasurer shall work with the Executive Pastor to establish and maintain documented financial policy and procedures.

Secretary - The Ordained Executive Pastor shall perform the duties of Secretary under the direction of the Lead Pastor. The Secretary shall keep the corporate seal and records and make proper entries of all church proceedings, minutes of the annual church administrative meetings, and any special called administrative meetings. The duties of the Secretary may be delegated by the Ordained Lead Pastor or Ordained Executive Pastor as necessary.

4. Deacons - In accordance with the meaning of the word “Deacon” as practiced in the New Testament) Deacons are to be servants of the church rather than an administrative or governing body, staying on the leading edge of ministry by taking care of the needs of the church and the community as the Lead Pastor leads. The function of the Deacon is to represent the Lead Pastor in visiting the sick, ministering to widows and orphans and carrying out other ministry assignments as requested by the Lead Pastor.

The number of deacons shall be based on the needs of the church and the total membership of the church, the needs of the church concerning the number of deacons shall be determined by the deacon body and the Lead Pastor.

The qualifications for deacon shall be those found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. In addition, a deacon must be a man 21 years of age or older, a member in good standing of Hopewell Baptist Church, Inc. for at least a year, active in the ministries of the church, be a committed tither, adhere to the Statements of Faith as listed in the Constitution, Article IV of this document, and faithfully and enthusiastically support the ministry goals of the church.

The deacons will choose and determine prospective candidates. They will interview, observe and present the candidates to the church for affirmation and ordination.

Active deacons shall serve on a rotational basis for a term of three (3) years unless chosen to fill the balance of a vacant term. Each year one-third (1/3) of the active deacons will rotate off after serving their term. One year must pass before a deacon is eligible to return as an active deacon.

At the annual church administration meeting or at another called church administration meeting, if necessary, the deacons shall present to the church those individuals chosen to return as an active deacon.

Deacons, as placed on standing teams, non-standing teams or committees, shall serve on one team respectively at a time.

ARTICLE III. STANDING TEAMS

There shall be five (5) standing teams: **Selection, Leadership, Finance, Building/Land and Trustees**. However, other temporary teams may be appointed from time to time as necessary, by the Lead Pastor.

Qualifications: Members of all standing teams shall be members in good standing of Hopewell Baptist Church who are at least eighteen (18) years of age or older, who are active in the ministries of Hopewell Baptist Church, who are committed tithers, who adhere to the Statements of Faith in the Constitution, Article IV of this document and who faithfully and enthusiastically support the ministry goals of the church.

Each Standing Team shall be accountable to the church and shall report its activities to the church as appropriate and necessary.

The Selection Team shall present to the church in the annual administration meeting nominations to fill the vacancies which occur on each Standing Team due to normal rotation for the year.

Unscheduled vacancies occurring on any Standing Team for any reason shall be reported to the Selection Team immediately. The Selection Team shall recommend to the church a suitable person to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the un-expired term and notify the church body by an appropriate method. A standing team member can be recommended for an extended term due to unusual or extreme circumstances.

- Individuals cannot serve on multiple teams at one time.
- After serving their term, at least one (1) year must pass before a member is eligible for re-selection to serve on any Standing Team.

1. Selection Team - The function of the Selection Team is to examine potential candidates and propose nominations to the church to fill vacancies for the following teams and positions subject to the approval of the Lead Pastor.

- A. Leadership Team**
- B. Finance Team**
- C. Building / Land Team**
- D. Trustees**

The Selection Team shall present nominations to fill vacancies on the above teams and positions at the annual church administration meeting or at another called church administration meeting as necessary. The nominations shall be shared with the church in print prior to voting.

The Selection team shall be composed of five (5) members. The Lead Pastor shall select lay members to fill vacancies on the Selection team which occur as the result of normal term rotation or for any other reason.

The Selection team shall elect a Chairman and a Secretary for the team. Initially three for a four (4) year term, two for a three (3) year term and two for a two (2) year term. One (1) of the seven (7) shall be an active deacon. After the initial terms have expired each replacement thereafter will serve a three (3) year term.

Unless otherwise stated in these bylaws, if a majority of Selection Team members are present at a meeting duly called and noticed, it shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business. Unless otherwise stated in these bylaws a majority vote of those team members present and voting at such meeting shall be required for the approval of any resolution. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

The Selection Team may, if it so chooses, conduct its business, including any votes via telephone, email or other electronic means.

2. Leadership Team - The Leadership Team shall consist of the Lead Pastor, the Executive Pastor, and five (5) laypersons elected at large from the church membership. One of the five laypersons shall be an active deacon. As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church, the Leadership Team shall serve as the corporation's Board of Directors with the powers outlined in Section 14-3-801 of the Georgia Corporation Code unless otherwise specifically limited by the articles of incorporation or these bylaws.

The five laypeople shall be elected by the church. Initially two shall be elected for a four (4) year term, two shall be for a three (3) year term and one for a two (2) year term.

A regular term of office for a Leadership Team shall be for three (3) years. After serving a three (3) year term, at least one year must pass before a member is eligible for re-election for this team or for any other team.

Any member at large who, subsequent to being elected to the Leadership Team, fails to meet the qualifications of membership may be removed from the team by a majority vote of the members of the Leadership Team.

The Lead Pastor shall be the Chairman of the Leadership Team.

The Leadership Team shall elect a Vice Chairman and a Secretary.

The duties of the Leadership Team are as follows:

1. To assist the Lead Pastor in developing and promoting the vision of the church.
2. To make determinations concerning church membership under Article I, Section 5, Paragraph 5 of these Bylaws.
3. To recommend to the church for approval nominations for members of the Pastor Selection Team, in the event the office of the Lead Pastor becomes vacant.
4. To report at least annually to the church membership.
5. To make other recommendations to the church from time to time, as they deem appropriate or as required by these bylaws.

6. To provide counsel and accountability to the Lead Pastor.
7. The Leadership Team shall assist, advise, and counsel the Lead Pastor in matters related to Personnel; concerning interviews of prospective staff members, employee salary and benefit considerations and any other personnel related matters.

Unless otherwise stated in these bylaws, if a majority of Leadership Team members are present at a meeting duly called and noticed, it shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business. Unless otherwise stated in these bylaws a majority vote of those team members present and voting at such meeting shall be required for the approval of any resolution. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

The Leadership Team may, if it so chooses, conduct its business, including any votes via telephone, email or other electronic means.

3. Finance Team - This team shall be composed of five (5) members. The Finance Team shall elect a Chairman and a Secretary for the team. The Finance Team Chairperson shall serve as the Church Treasurer (Article II, Section 3). Initially two shall be elected for four (4) year term, two shall be elected for a three (3) year term and one for a term of two (2) years. One of the five shall be an active deacon. After the initial terms have expired each replacement thereafter will serve a three (3) year term.

The Finance Team shall be responsible for the following:

1. To recommend to the church after receiving staff input, a proposed budget each year in the annual administration meeting.
2. To review the church's financial standing periodically throughout the year.
3. To receive, review and recommend to the church for approval requests for items outside the normal budget line items, if needed.
4. To recommend to the church major non-budget expenditures (i.e., building, land acquisitions, etc.)
5. To recommend to the Leadership Team any action needed in financial areas.
6. Provide a quarterly finance report to the Leadership team.

The Executive Pastor is an ex-officio member without vote, of the budget Finance Team. Unless otherwise stated in these bylaws, if a majority of Finance Team members are present at a meeting duly called and noticed, it shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business. Unless otherwise stated in these bylaws a majority vote of those team members present and voting at such meeting shall be required for the approval of any resolution. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

The Finance Team may, if it so chooses, conduct its business, including any votes via telephone, email or other electronic means.

4. Building / Land Team - The Building/Land use team shall assist in ensuring any use of the building(s) or land is for Christian based organizations, activities or meetings.

This team shall be composed of five (5) members. The Building/Land Team shall elect a Chairman and a Secretary for the team. Initially two shall be elected for four (4) year term, two shall be elected for a three (3) year term and one for a term of two (2) years. One of the five shall be an active deacon. After the initial terms have expired each replacement thereafter will serve a three (3) year term.

The Building/Land Team shall be responsible for the following:

1. To recommend to the church major building projects
2. To devise, or cause to be devised, plans, estimates, renderings, etc. of building needs.
3. To provide adequate oversight throughout the building project.
4. To select and or approve designs, color schemes, furnishing, etc. of buildings under construction.
5. To monitor funding and expenditures applied to building projects.
6. To propose land acquisitions to the church for their approval
7. To devise, or cause to be devised, master plans, renderings, etc. of the church's real property.
8. To approve and provide oversight of real estate transfers.
9. To propose the church and provide oversight of land transfers.

Unless otherwise stated in these bylaws, if a majority of Building Team members are present at a meeting duly called and noticed, it shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business. Unless otherwise stated in these bylaws a majority vote of those team members present and voting at such meeting shall be required for the approval of any resolution. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

The Building/Land Team may, if it so chooses, conduct its business, including any votes via telephone, email or other electronic means.

ARTICLE IV. TRUSTEES

Trustees shall be members in good standing of Hopewell Baptist Church, of legal age, active in the ministries of the church, a committed tither, adhere to the Statements of Faith in Article IV of this document and faithfully and enthusiastically support the ministry goals of the church. The Trustees serve as the church's legal representatives for the purposes of signing legal documents. The Trustees' signatures shall be in their capacity as Trustees, and not as individuals.

The Trustees shall be composed of three (3) members nominated by the Selection Team and presented to the church at the annual administration meeting. Initially one shall be elected for a four (4) year term, one for a three (3) year term and one for a one (1) year term. After the initial terms have expired each replacement thereafter will serve a three (3) year term.

The Trustees shall be responsible for the following:

1. To purchase, hold, lease or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church and to take real and personal property by will, gift or bequest on behalf of the church.
2. Upon specific vote of the church, the Leadership Team or the Building/Land Team authorizing such action, shall sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of and to mortgage, pledge or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of the church, promissory bonds, debentures or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages or pledges.
3. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation, if such action is mandated by a vote of the church membership.

ARTICLE V. LEAD PASTOR

By virtue of his calling and office, the Lead Pastor is the spiritual leader of Hopewell Baptist Church and the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation. He shall be elected for an indefinite period of time and may terminate his position with the church by a notice of thirty (30) days or more OR by mutual consent OR the church may dissolve the relationship by the same notice.

The church may dissolve the relationship with the Lead Pastor if circumstances dictate. Such action shall take place at a meeting called for purpose with at least a two (2) week notice given to the members in the same manner as required for a church administration meeting. The meeting may be called only upon the recommendation of a four-fifths (4/5) affirmative vote of the Leadership Team at a duly called meeting (the CEO, COO and CFO are excluded from the vote of the Leadership Team) AND a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the active Deacons at a duly called meeting. The vote to dissolve the relationship with the Lead Pastor shall be by written ballot with three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of those members present.

The Lead Pastor is responsible for leading the church to function as a New Testament Church. As spiritual leader of the church, he shall lead the congregation and church organizations to perform their tasks. The Lead Pastor is the leader of pastoral ministries in the church. As such, he works with the Leadership Team, Deacons and church staff to:

1. Lead the church to engage in a fellowship of worship, prayer, witness, education, ministry and application.
2. Proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers.
3. Care for the church's members and other persons in the community.

The Lead Pastor shall be the chief administrator of the church ministerial staff, administrative and support staff. In addition, the Lead Pastor shall serve as an ex-officio member of all church Teams and boards. He may appoint another member of the church staff to share his administrative and Team responsibilities. The Lead Pastor is encouraged to seek guidance from the Leadership Team.

The Lead Pastor is solely responsible for the church staff. Each staff member serves at the will of the Lead Pastor. The Lead Pastor may, within the confines of the adopted budget, add, remove, replace or realign existing staff positions as he deems necessary and appropriate in accordance with current church policy and H.R. law.

Vacancy of the Lead Pastor - In the event of a vacancy in the position of Lead Pastor the following process applies.

When informed of the Lead Pastor vacancy the Deacons will immediately form a Pulpit Supply Team responsible for ensuring qualified Godly men are scheduled to preach each Sunday morning until a Transitional Pastor is appointed. Additionally, The Deacons are responsible for selecting a Transitional Pastor to serve until a Lead Pastor is called.

During the absence of a Lead Pastor, the Leadership Team will appoint and oversee an Interim Ministry Team. The Interim Ministry Team shall fulfill the responsibilities of the Lead Pastor until the arrival of a new Lead Pastor. The Interim Ministry Team will consist of a member of the current church ministerial staff appointed by the Leadership team, Transitional Pastor, Deacon chairman, Leadership Team Vice Chairman, and Finance Team Chairman.

This team shall assure Church ministries continue in a manner that glorifies God and in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws and Personnel Policy and Procedures Handbook. Significant changes to Church ministries shall be presented to and approved by the Leadership Team during this interim time. The Transitional Pastor will be the Chairman of this team and the team will elect a secretary to keep records of their meetings and decisions. Upon arrival of a new Lead pastor this team is dissolved.

A Lead Pastor Selection Team consisting of seven (7) and two (2) alternates shall be elected by the church in a called church administration meeting from nominations made by the Leadership Team. The Lead Pastor Selection Team shall consider the scriptural qualifications of potential Lead Pastors. After due consideration, the Lead Pastor Selection Team shall recommend a man to the church for approval or disapproval by written ballot. Only one name will be considered at a time. Approval by at least three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) majority of those members present and voting represents the acknowledgement of God's calling of the Lead Pastor.

ARTICLE VI. CHURCH MINISTRIES

The church ministries of the church are to be consistent with the Church Covenant and Statements of Faith. They are to be under the supervision of the Lead Pastor, or his designated church staff member. In order for a ministry to be considered as a ministry of the church it must be under Scriptural authority of the church so as to insure appropriate accountability, integrity and management of such ministries.

A Directory of Church Ministries is to be maintained in the church office. The directory shall describe the ministry name, the defined ministry objective and the staff position having responsibility for that ministry. The staff person having that ministry responsibility may create such organizational structure as is needed with the approval of the Pastor.

A church Organizational Chart that describes the church ministries and the responsible supervisory staff is to be maintained under the supervision of the Lead Pastor.

ARTICLE VII. GENERAL

1. Licensing and Ordination - Anyone who, in the judgment of the pastoral leadership, gives evidence by his faithfulness, zeal and understanding of sound Christian doctrine that he is called of God to the work of the ministry, after being examined and approved by the Lead Pastor, may be licensed to preach the Gospel of Christ. Upon licensing, the newly licensed minister shall have the authority under the supervision of the Lead Pastor to preach the gospel, minister to members, baptize believers, serve communion, perform biblically sanctioned weddings (as stipulated in the Constitution, Article IV, Section 10), lead worship, and perform other ministerial duties approved by the Lead Pastor.

If the Lead Pastor decides that someone possesses the Biblical, spiritual and educational qualifications for ordination as stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6- 9, he shall call together the ordained men of the church to examine the candidate. After the examination and upon the recommendation of the Lead Pastor, a public service shall be held at which time the candidate shall be ordained by the laying on of hands.

Upon ordination, the newly ordained pastor shall have the full blessing of the church to preach, lead as a pastor, baptize, serve communion, perform weddings/lead worship and perform other ministerial duties as led by the Lord and the local church.

Deacon ordinations shall be in a likewise manner.

2. Adoption of Constitution and Bylaws - This Constitution and the Bylaws, shall be considered adopted and will become effective on such date that an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at a church conference. The adoption shall affect a repeal of all previously adopted rules in conflict herewith.

A copy of this Constitution and Bylaws shall, at all times, be kept by the church Executive Pastor and on file with the church office along with any amendments to or revisions thereof. Up to date copies shall be made available to any church member upon request.

The Leadership Team shall initiate a review of this Constitution and Bylaws every five (5) years or as otherwise deemed necessary. The Leadership Team may at their discretion appoint a Review Bylaw Team for the five (5) year review or as otherwise deemed necessary. The Review Bylaw Team shall consist of seven (7) laypersons with one being an active deacon.

3. Amendments - Upon review of this Constitution and Bylaws by the Leadership Team or Review Bylaw Team a proposed amendment may be made to the church membership. Church members shall be given a minimum of one week to review said amendment before formal vote. The amendment may be voted on at any regular or called church conference and accepted by a two-third (2/3) majority vote of those members present. A copy of the Constitution and Bylaws and any amendments or revisions shall, at all times, be kept by the corporate secretary. Up to date copies shall also be maintained in the church offices and be made available to any church member upon request.

4. Fiscal Year - The Church hereby adopts the calendar year as its fiscal year thus beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

5. Designated Contributions - From time to time the church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. The church leadership (led by Lead pastor) will approve a list of designated funds to be presented to the church each year. The annual approved designated funds will be based upon special needs, ministry goals, and overall vision of the church. This list will be published for members to be aware of what ministry areas or special needs the church will receive funds for each year. Supporting Documentation in Financial office.

6. Regarding Firearms on Church Property - In accordance with and pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Safe Carry Protection Act and OCGA § 16-11-127(b)(4), as the governing body or authority of Hopewell Baptist Church of Gainesville Georgia, Inc, we hereby approve and permit the carrying of *CONCEALED* weapons by license holders on the property of Hopewell Baptist Church. We *REQUEST* that you do NOT “open carry” on church property as it is a distraction in worship.

ARTICLE VIII. INDEMNIFICATION

1. Actions subject to indemnification - The church may indemnify any person who was a party to or is a party to or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or complete action, suit or proceeding, whether civil or criminal, administrative or investigative, including all appeals (other than an action by or in the right of the church) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a Pastor, officer, employee or agent of the church, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding; and if that person acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction or on a plea of nolo-contendre or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner that he reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

2. Expenses subject to indemnification - To the extent that a Pastor, officer, employee or agent has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in this Article, or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter in that action, suit or proceeding, he or she may be indemnified against expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the action, suit or proceeding.

3. Limitations of indemnification - Any indemnification made under this Article may be made by the church only as authorized in the specific case on a determination that indemnification of the Pastor, officer, employee or agent is proper in the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Section 1 of this Article. The determination shall be made (a) by a majority vote of the Leadership Team members who were not and are not parties to or threatened with action, suit, or proceeding; (b) if a majority vote of disinterested team members so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion; or (c) by a majority vote of the members of the church.

4. Timing of Indemnification- Expenses of each person seeking indemnification under this Article, may be paid by the church as they are incurred, in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit or proceeding as authorized by the Leadership Team in the specific case, on receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the Pastor, officer, employee or agent to repay the amount.

ARTICLE IX. ARBITRATION

The church believes that the Bible commands Christians to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian Church (see Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8). Therefore, the church strongly encourages that any claim or dispute by or against a standing team member, deacons, trustees, ministers, Staff, employees, agents of the church, volunteers, church members or their families, or vendors, be resolved by biblically-based conciliation and, **if necessary**, arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute for the Christian Conciliation (a complete text of the Rules is available at www.peacemaker.net), or any similar Christian-based dispute resolution program adopted by the Leadership Team. The mediation, conciliation and arbitration process is not a substitute for any disciplinary process set forth in the Bylaws of the church and shall in no way affect the authority of the church to investigate reports of misconduct, conduct hearings, or administer discipline of members.

ARTICLE X. TAX EXEMPT PROVISIONS

- 1. Private Inurement** - No part of the net earnings of the church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributed to its members, directors, officers, trustees or other private persons, except that the church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payment and distributions in furtherance of the proposes set forth in these bylaws.
- 2. Political involvement** - No substantial part of the activities of the church shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence-legislation, the church shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Appendix
Hopewell Baptist Church Constitution and Bylaws
2022 Leadership Team Review
List of revisions November 2022

Hopewell Baptist Church Leadership Team is required to review and update the Constitution and Bylaws every five years. This list of Revisions is based on the 2021/2022 review of the November 2013 version of the Hopewell Baptist Church Constitution and Bylaws. Page numbers in this list of revisions represent the revised and updated document.

Table of Contents - Revised page numbers due to editing/revision repagination.

Page – 1, Article II, added – “Any time the term “man” or “woman” is used in this document means their biological gender male or female at birth.”

Page – 5, Item 10, Family and Marriage paragraph 1 –

- Revised to - “Marriage is the union of one biological male at birth (i.e., Man) and one biological female at birth (i.e., Woman) in covenant commitment for a lifetime.

Page – 5, Item 11, Sexuality paragraph 1 –

- Revised to – “We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a biological male at birth (*man*) and a biological female at birth (*woman*) who are married to each other.”

Page – 5, Item 11, Sexuality paragraph 2 –

- *Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF)* attorney recommended the following revision – “We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexual conduct, pornography or any attempt to change one’s sex, or disagreement with one’s biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.” *Leadership Team concurred*

Page – 6, Item 13, Missions paragraph 1 3rd line –

- *Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF)* attorney recommended the following revision - revise “**on** the Lord Jesus Christ” to “**in** the Lord Jesus Christ”. *Leadership Team concurred*

Page – 8 (Original), Article V. Church Covenant –

- Separated the Church Covenant from the existing Constitution and Bylaws as originally written. The covenant purpose is now addressed via the membership class that all new members or perspective members are encouraged to attend and will be maintained as a stand-alone historical document. Repaginated document.

Page – 8 (Revised), Article I - Membership, Item 4 Rights,

- *Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF)* attorney recommended the following revision - Revise voting age to eighteen (18) due to legal complications that could arise when voting on matters of legal importance. *Leadership Team concurred.*

Page – 9, Article I - Membership, Item 2, Candidacy last paragraph -

- Revised to align with the new member process that is currently in place. New members are no longer voted on.

Page – 10, Article I - Membership, Item 4 Rights, first paragraph, second sentence -

- Corrected wrong word usage changed “in” to “is”.

Page – 10, Item 8, Record of Membership -

- Revised to – “Secretary” to “Executive Pastor’s office”

Page – 12, Article II – Church Organization, Item 2 Meetings, paragraph 1 –

- Deleted morning and evening following Sunday
- Deleted evening following Wednesday.

These changes provide church leadership namely the Lead pastor more flexibility on church meeting times.

Page 12, Article II - Church Organization, Item 2 Meetings, paragraph 2

- *Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF)* attorney recommended the following revision - Delete “or dismissed” since process is adequately covered previous section. *All Leadership team members concurred.*

Page – 12, Article II – Church Organization, Item 2 Meetings, paragraph 5, second sentence
Revised “highest ranking corporate officer” to “highest ranking church officer” to align with changes in Article II related to redefining of church officers moving to a more traditional church nomenclature.

Page 13-14 - Article II - Church Organization, Item 3, “Officers”

Revised entire section to redefine the church officer hierarchy and titles to a more traditional church nomenclature by deleting the corporate officer titles and defining each church officer position from a more traditional perspective. Revision highlights below.

- Executive Pastor - Edited description to separate the Secretary duties from Executive Pastor duties and responsibilities
- Secretary - Added Secretary position with related duties and responsibilities to align with articles of incorporation.
- Deleted the Ordained Administrative Pastor position and combined the financial responsibilities of this position into the Executive Pastor position since this is who has been fulfilling this role at Hopewell for years. (See Executive Pastor on page 13)
- Created traditional church Treasure position (layman position) which will be the Chairman of the Finance Team and defined their role. This position was previously covered under the Administrative Pastor position.

This revision does not change the responsibilities or authority of our current staff structure.

Page – 15, Article III - Standing Teams, Introduction -

- Added Teams accountability statement, new paragraph 3
- Moved information in current paragraph 3 concerning Chairman election to each standing team section.
- Added requirement for unscheduled vacancies to be reported immediately to the Selection Team
- Added the ability to extend a Standing Team member if needed.
- Changed Selection Team term from seven (7) years to five (5) years.

Page – 16, Article III - Standing Teams, Section 1, Selection Team –

- Added chairman and secretary requirements.
- Added requirement for one of the team members to be an active Deacon.
- Added last two paragraphs related to meeting responsibilities and authorities.

Page – 16, Article III - Standing Teams, Section 2, Leadership Team, paragraph 1

- Changed “should” a non-prescriptive requirement to “shall” prescriptive.
- Deleted redundant information about team vacancies since this is already covered in the Standing Team introduction section.

Page – 17, Article III - Standing Teams, Section 2, Leadership Team –

- Added bullet #7 about Leadership Team personnel responsibilities.

Page – 17, Article III - Standing Teams, Section 3, Finance Team –

- Added requirement for Finance Team to elect a Chairman and Secretary
- Added the information about the Chairman will be the Church Treasure
- Added bullet #6 requiring the Finance Team to provide a quarterly finance report to the Leadership Team.

Page – 17-18, Article III - Standing Teams, Section 3, Finance Team –

- Added last two paragraphs related to meeting responsibilities and authorities.
- Removed “approved” from items 1 and 3 and revised statement.

Page – 18, Article III - Standing Teams, Section 3, Building/Land Team –

- Reformatted entire section to be consistent with other standing teams’ sections; team information presented first followed by responsibilities.
- Revised term limits from 5 years to 3 years to align with other teams.
- Deleted redundant information about team vacancies since this is already covered in the Standing Team introduction section.
- Added last two paragraphs related to meeting responsibilities and authorities.

Page – 19, Article IV - Trustees - Revised and updated entire section

Page – 20, Article V - Lead Pastor -

- Third paragraph, last sentence, added in accordance with current church policy and H.R. Law.
- Added updated information related to how the vacancy of the Lead Pastor is handled.

Page – 21, “Article VII. General”

- Licensing and Ordination revised “fun” to “full” in last paragraph.

Page – 22, “2. Adoption of Constitution and Bylaws”

- Revised “011” to “on”

Page – 22, “5. Designated Contributions”

- Revised - Finical” to Financial” in last sentence.

Page – 22, “6. Regarding Firearms on Property”

- Added statement concerning Firearm carry law on church property - *Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF)* attorney recommended defining terms.

Page – 23, “Article VII - Indemnification” paragraph 3.

- Revised “(e)” to “(c)” in last line.

Page – 23, Article VII - General, Item 5 Designated Contributions -

- Revised entire section to ensure that the church legally accounts for and manages designated contributions.

Page – 24, Article IX - Arbitration, line 6

- *Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF)* attorney concern – Based on attorney concern bolded “**if necessary**”. *All Leadership team members concurred.*

General Revisions

The title “Senior” Pastor has been changed to “Lead” Pastor. We have many pastors on the Hopewell staff but only one Lead.

Revised the spelling of “Treasure” to “Treasurer” throughout document.

Miscellaneous reformatting and repagination of document for information flow that did not change policy is not reflected in this list.