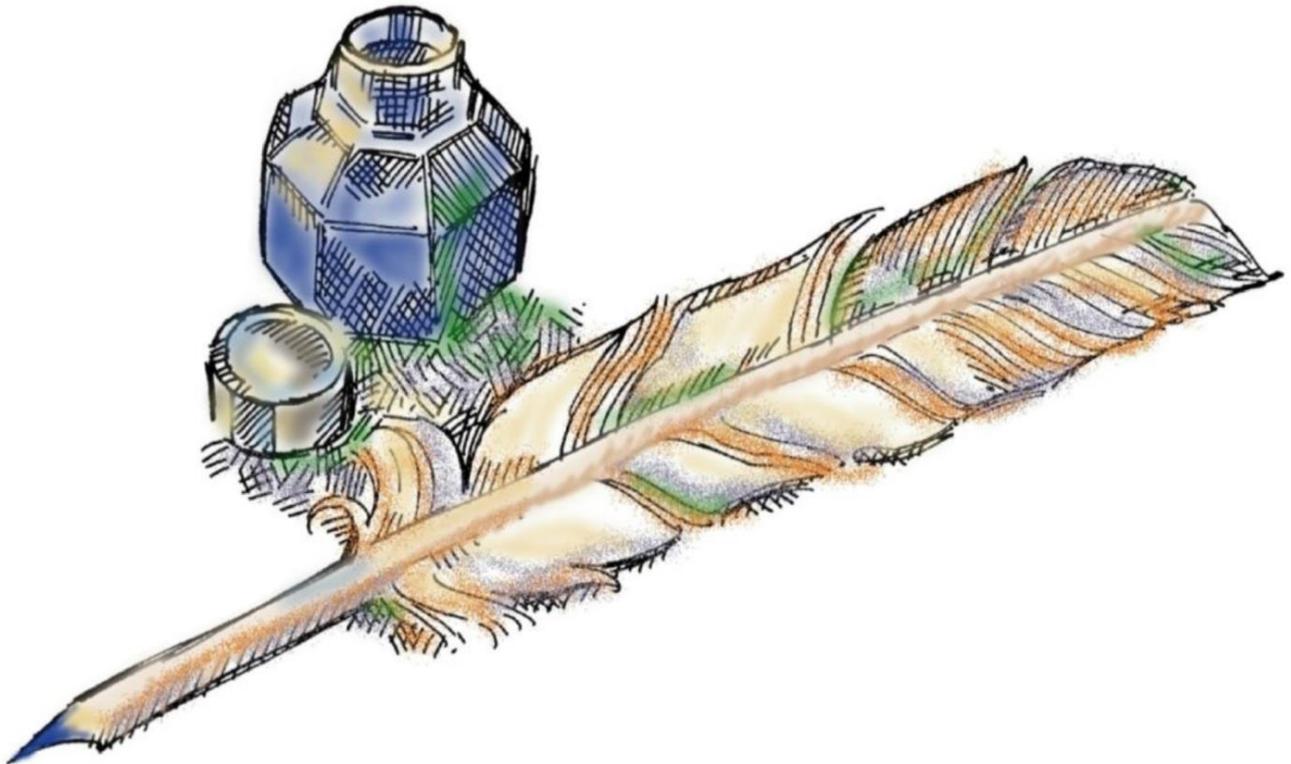




Constitution and By Laws



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE I: NAME	2
ARTICLE II: PURPOSE	2
ARTICLE III: AUTHORITY	2
ARTICLE IV: GOVERNMENT	2
ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP	3
Article V Section 1 – Admission to Membership	3
Article V Section 2 – Voting	3
Article V Section 3 – Causing Division and Loss of Membership	3
Article V Section 4 – Use of Church Name and Property	4
ARTICLE VI: CHURCH OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES	4
Article VI, Section 1 – The Committee	4
Article VI, Section 2 – The Pastor	4
Article VI, Section 3 – The Call of a Pastor	6
Article VI, Section 4 – Deacons	7
Article VI, Section 5 – Trustees	8
Article VI, Section 6 – Treasurer	8
Article VI, Section 7 – Finance Committee	9
Article VI, Section 8 – Church Clerk/Secretary	9
Article VI, Section 9 – Nomination Committee	9
ARTICLE VII: WORSHIP AND BUSINESS MEETINGS	10
Article VII, Section 1 – Meeting for Worship	10
Article VII, Section 2 – Meeting for Business	10
Article VII, Section 3 – Dispute Resolution	11
ARTICLE VIII: MISSIONS ENDEAVORS	11
ARTICLE IX: WINDING UP (DISSOLUTION)	11
ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS	12
ARTICLE XI: INTERPRETATION	12

CHURCH COVENANT

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

Because of that, we determine, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort, to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines, to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, and the spread of the gospel through missions endeavors.

We also commit to maintain family devotions; to biblically and spiritually teach our children, to seek the salvation of family, friends and acquaintances; to live for Christ in the world; to be fair in our dealings, faithful in our commitments, and exemplary in our lifestyle; to avoid all talebearing, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from promoting the sale or use of, or engaging in ungodly vices, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage 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 sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with a church of like faith and order, where we can carry out the Spirit of this Covenant and the principles of God's Word.

[UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED: AUGUST 16, 2000]

PREAMBLE

We believe it is the duty of Christians to make common testimony of their glorious faith, especially in these darkening days of apostasy. The members of this local New Testament, independent, indigenous, fundamental, Bible-believing church, do now and forever establish and unreservedly dedicate without compromise **BridgeWay Baptist Church** as a witness to the glory of God and the historic faith of the New Testament Church, including adherence to the truths set forth in this constitution.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the Church shall be BRIDGEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose and mission of the Church shall be to “strive”, by the help of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, to provide public benefit and community support by carrying out the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ as stated in Matthew 28:18-20, and elsewhere. The Church shall not distribute income or assets for private gain.

Every member shall be urged and expected to assist others in taking the Gospel of Salvation to the lost and to go personally.

1. Converts who have been led to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and received Him as Lord and Saviour, shall be instructed to confess Christ by Believer’s Baptism (Water Immersion).
2. Converts shall then be disciplined according to the program offered, as directed by the Pastor.

ARTICLE III: AUTHORITY

The Church accepts The Holy Scriptures as final authority on all matters.

1. The Bible shall be our rule of faith and practice.
2. The Bible shall interpret the Bible (Rev. 21:18-20).
3. Based on the accuracy of translation and a commitment to unity within the Church, the King James Version of the Bible shall ever be the accepted text for teaching and preaching.

ARTICLE IV: GOVERNMENT

1. The Church shall ever be an Independent Baptist Church made up of Born-Again, Baptized Believers.
2. The government shall ever be vested in its assembled membership, through its leadership of Pastor and officers.
3. The Church shall never be subject to the control of any other ecclesiastical body, nor denomination, nor association, nor shall any representatives ever sit in judgment over its affairs.
4. The fellowship of the Church with any other church can, at any time, be voided by the Pastor.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

Salvation shall ever be a prerequisite for membership into the Church (Acts 1:41), and any person desiring to join the Church may be received into the membership at any service without prior notice.

Article V Section 1 – Admission to Membership

1. Modes

A. Baptism: Any person, having been saved but not scripturally baptized (immersion), may be accepted into membership by following the Lord in Believer's baptism (immersion) at BridgeWay Baptist Church. The time and place of the baptism is to be arranged for by the Pastor.

B. Letter: Any person, having been saved and scripturally baptized (immersion) by another church of like faith may be received into the membership of the Church, by a satisfactory statement of faith and a letter of recommendation.

C. Statement: Any person, having been saved and scripturally baptized (immersion), can be received into the membership of the Church by satisfactory statement of their faith in Christ Jesus.

D. Restoration: Any person, whose membership has been terminated for any reason, may be readmitted to the membership of the Church after putting right. However, no restored member may hold any office for a period of six months.

E. Personal Desiring: Any person from another denomination, who desires to become a member of the Church may be recommended for membership after due examination of their salvation and baptism by the Pastor and/or Deacons.

Article V Section 2 – Voting

1. No person may be admitted into membership without due voting by the existing members of the Church.

2. Granting Membership: Membership shall only be granted by a unanimous vote of the existing members present at that meeting of the Church.

3. New Member Voting: No new member may vote for 15 days, but may attend business meetings and give input, if so desired. (To prevent decision swaying and voting).

4. Objections: Any current member(s) with a valid Scriptural objection to any person being admitted for membership, must also have evidence for the objection.

A. Privacy: Any objection must be discussed privately with the Pastor and deacons. The Objector(s), Pastor, Deacons, and Prospective Member(s) must meet privately to discuss and resolve the issue.

B. Invalid: If the objection is found to be invalid, the prospective member will be regarded as a member. The Pastor will inform the Church of the decision.

Article V Section 3 – Causing Division and Loss of Membership

1. Loss of Membership: Any member who is participating in communication of any kind for the purpose of causing division, turmoil, or to undermine the stability of the Church, shall risk automatic loss of membership. (Determined on a case-by-case basis)

A. The Pastor and Deacons will meet with such member(s), and will give the member an opportunity to respond during the meeting.

B. The Pastor and Deacons will review the situation and then decide what must be done for the good of the Church and its testimony.

- C. The Church will be informed by the Pastor with only the necessary details.
- D. If discipline is necessary, the disciplined member(s) will be notified by a signed letter.
- E. Disciplined member(s) can be restored to membership by a public apology to the Church.
- F. Membership shall also end by written resignation, death, or transfer to another church.

Article V Section 4 – Use of Church Name and Property

1. Ministries and Activities: Any ministries (programs, schools, colleges, institutes, etc.) or activities on the Church's property or in the Church's name must have a two-thirds majority vote during a special meeting of members of the Church.
2. Equipment: Any equipment owned by the Church is for Church business only unless authorized by the Pastor or other Church officers.
 - A. Extreme care must be taken when using any Church owned equipment.
 - B. Church computers and internet service are password protected with limited access.

ARTICLE VI: CHURCH OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

All officers shall be expected to be an example to the Church and the community and shall be members in good standing and full compliance with the Church covenant and Statement of Faith. They shall tithe, give to the mission program of the Church, and be faithful in their attendance to all Church services. Absence for more than six weeks in a year shall give cause for dismissal from their office (unless it be for illness, a prior agreement with the Church, missions trips or evangelistic meetings, or extensive travel for ministry).

Any officer of the Church that must be disciplined for unscriptural conduct shall cease to function in his/her capacity until restored to full fellowship and reinstated to their position.

At least half of the Church officers must ordinarily reside in New Zealand, must disclose conflicts of interest annually, and must recuse themselves from related votes.

Article VI, Section 1 – The Committee

The governing committee of the Church shall consist of the Pastor (ex officio chairperson) and the elected Deacons, being at least three officers in total. This committee shall manage the day-to-day affairs of the Church, subject to decisions of the membership in general meetings.

1. Committee Meetings: Meetings of the committee shall be called by the Pastor. A quorum shall be at least two-thirds of its members (or a minimum of three if smaller). Decisions shall be by majority vote of those present, unless otherwise required by this constitution.
2. Contact Person: The committee shall appoint one contact person (who must be a member or officer, at least eighteen years old, and ordinarily resident in New Zealand) at each Annual General Meeting, or as soon as possible if the position becomes vacant. The primary contact's name and contact details shall be maintained with Charities Services.

Article VI, Section 2 – The Pastor

The word 'Pastor' means a shepherd or spiritual overseer. With reference to the office commonly called the pastorate, as Elder or Bishop, I Tim. 3:1-5, I Pet. 5:1-4, I Tim. 5:17, I Thess. 5:13, Acts 20:28, and Heb. 13:7,17 are good examples and show clearly that the Pastor is to oversee and supervise the affairs of the Church.

1. Qualifications: I Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:7-9 give the qualifications of the Pastor and his office.

The study entitled "Ecclesiastical Relationship Between Shepherd and Sheep" is attached to and incorporated into these Bylaws as prepared and approved by the Church. This will be the accepted basis the Church shall abide by in relationship to the Pastor, his office, and his qualifications.

A. The Pastor shall be an Independent, Fundamental, Bible believing, Baptist Preacher in full agreement with the philosophy of ministry and missions, and Constitution and Bylaws of the Church.

B. The life of the Pastor and his family should be an example of Godliness and Spirituality.

C. The Pastor and his family should not indulge in sinful and worldly practices which weaken the testimony of the Church (I Thess. 5:22).

D. He shall not use profanity, alcohol, or tobacco in any form.

E. He shall not belong to any secret societies.

F. He shall not bring disrepute on the Church through any sinful practice or un-godly associations. If he shall be determined to be so by a two-thirds majority vote, it shall be grounds for his dismissal, if the action is persisted in. Rom. 12:1-2; II Cor. 6:11-18; I Cor. 5:1-13

G. No person shall be considered for nor serve in the office whose beliefs and teachings are not in accordance with the Articles of Faith adopted by the Church.

H. No person shall be considered for nor serve as Pastor who maintains any connection with the National Council of World Churches or any of its agencies, conventions, or bodies.

I. No person shall be considered for nor serve as Pastor who believes in the concept of the Universal church.

J. No woman shall be considered for nor serve as Pastor of the Church.

K. No homosexual person or person associated with the LGBTQ+ community shall ever be considered or serve as Pastor of the Church.

2. Term of Office: The Pastor shall hold the office for an undesignated period. This shall be left in the hands of the Pastor as to God's call, unless it is determined by the Church that he is guilty of unrepented sinful conduct or unscriptural teaching.

3. Liberty: The Pastor shall have liberty to present any matter he deems necessary to the Church, for its consideration and instruction.

4. Preaching: It shall be the duty of the Pastor to preach regularly at the Church.

A. The Pastor shall always oversee the pulpit and shall furnish the supply of speakers.

B. The Pastor shall administer the ordinances of the Gospel (Baptism and the Lord's Supper) and to perform the various duties that are incumbent of his office.

5. Meetings and Committees:

A. The Pastor shall be the moderator of the Church and preside at all meetings unless he so designates someone to stand in his stead. Only an officer of the Church may do so.

B. The Pastor shall be the chairman of all committees and shall act as legal representative in all matters of legality.

6. Church Personnel:

A. The Pastor shall have the right to hire, with the Church's consent, any staff members as needed and as the budget will allow. This includes but is not limited to: Assistant Pastor(s), Music Director, Treasurer, Church Secretary, etc.

B. All staff personnel shall always work for and under the Pastor, and the Pastor shall have the right to dismiss any hired personnel at any time, without the Church's consent.

c. The Pastor shall have the right to appoint the Sunday School teachers and superintendents. The superintendents may appoint teachers with the Pastor's consent.

7. Complaints or Accusations: Because of his office, the Pastor shall be counted worthy of 'Double Honor' (I Tim. 5:17). No accusations shall be accepted against him without two or three witnesses of good report (I Tim. 5:19).

When approaching complaints or accusations against the Pastor (or any Christian brother) please keep in mind these two scriptures: Matthew 18:15-17 – "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, take with thee one or two more, that in the word of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it to the church; but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and publican." Deuteronomy 19:15 – "One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth; at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.")

A. Complaints: Sometimes complaints and/or problems arise from a misunderstanding or miscommunication. If this occurs, the following steps are to be taken.

i. Any person(s) having a complaint(s) and/or problem(s) with the Pastor are to resolve these one-on-one with the Pastor and no outside discussion.

ii. After speaking with the Pastor, if the person(s) feels that the problem and/or complaint is not resolved, then they must go to the Deacons with the complaint(s).

iii. The complaint shall be in writing and signed with any evidence to support the complaint with no outside discussion. (If there are no Deacons, they may then go to the Church officers).

iv. The Deacons must talk with the Pastor with no outside discussion. If the written complaint is not a valid scriptural complaint, then the Deacons MUST discuss this with the complainer and then call the Pastor in.

v. If the complaint is valid scripturally and the Pastor refuses to listen to the Deacons, then the Deacons MUST call a business meeting and take the matter before the Church, regardless of any objections by the Pastor.

vi. The Pastor will be requested to be present. If the Pastor is able, yet refuses to be present, then it will be regarded as automatic admission of guilt by the Pastor.

8. Special Situations: Listed below are charges, if found by the Deacons to be true, that must be brought before the Church. In these cases, a vote shall be taken by the Church to determine whether to terminate the service of a Pastor. A two-thirds (66.67%) majority vote of Church members is required. Members shall consist of those in good standing and regular attendance.

A. Heresy.

B. Immorality.

C. Conduct that brings a reproach on Christ and the Church's testimony.

D. Serious misuse of Church accounts and/or funds.

Article VI, Section 3 – The Call of a Pastor

When it is necessary, by the death or resignation of the Pastor, the Church shall, without delay, proceed to secure a new Pastor in the following manner:

1. Forming the Pulpit Committee: It shall comprise between three and seven men.

2. Committee Members: It shall consist of Deacons or officers of the Church. However, in the absence of both, the Church shall elect faithful men after a time of prayer.

3. Committee Responsibilities: It is the responsibility of the Pulpit Committee to take care of all business of the Church during this time.

4. Seeking Recommendations: For recommendations, the committee shall proceed to contact sister churches with which the Church has fellowship, or the BBFI (USA).
5. Contacting a Candidate: Once a prospective candidate is found, the Pulpit Committee shall contact the candidate to confirm whether he is indeed a pastoral candidate. Upon confirmation, the following shall be done:
 - A. They shall send the candidate two documents – The Constitution and Bylaws of the Church and a Pastoral Candidate Application Form.
 - B. Upon receipt of the completed forms and required items, they shall be reviewed by the Pulpit Committee.
6. Confirming a Candidate: Upon approval of all items received, the Pulpit Committee shall contact either in person, by phone, or by email. All communication and information must be documented. Contact shall be made as follows:
 - A. The Pastoral and employer references.
 - B. The candidate, concerning His application form and required items.
 - C. During the confirmation process, Pulpit Committee wives may contact the candidate's wife and/or the wives of the Pastors who supplied references.
7. Inviting a Candidate: If the Pulpit Committee is satisfied with the interviews conducted, the candidate and his family is invited to come. During their visit, the following shall be done.
 - A. The candidate shall preach to the Church.
 - B. The Pulpit Committee is to interview the candidate, and Pulpit Committee wives may meet with candidate's wife if she is agreeable to meet.
8. Voting on a Candidate: It shall be announced at least one regular service prior to taking a vote that the visiting minister is a candidate for the office of Pastor.
 - A. He shall preach at least two services and teach at least one class.
 - B. He shall answer questions before the Church body.
 - C. The vote shall be taken one week after the last service a candidate is present.
 - D. A three-fourths (75%) majority vote of Church members is required. Members shall consist of those in good standing and regular attendance. There shall be no absentee voting. The vote shall consist of a "YES" or a "NO".
9. Dissolving the Pulpit Committee: At the call of the new Pastor, the Pulpit Committee shall be dissolved immediately.

Article VI, Section 4 – Deacons

1. Qualifications: I Tim. 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-3 give the qualifications of Deacons and their office.

The qualifications and duties of the Deacon(s) shall be found in the copy attached to this document entitled, "Ecclesiastical Relationship Between Shepherd and Sheep." No person occupying the office of a Deacon shall be considered to have any authority, unless given him by the Pastor to carry out tasks.

2. Duties: A Deacon is a servant. His office is to visit the sick, sorrowing, and needy which frees the Pastor so that he may prepare for the services of the Church. The Deacon is not the people's or the Pastor's servant, but God's, under the Pastor's direction.
 - A. He must execute the duties of his office in a dedicated, business-like manner.
 - B. He must manifest a concern for the growth, unity, and well-being of the Church. He depicts a zeal for lost souls and the un-churched.
3. Quantity of Deacons: The Pastor shall determine the number of Deacons according

to the needs of the Church.

4. Nominations: They shall be nominated by the Pastor and Deacons and shall be voted on at the AGM.

5. Term of Office: A Deacon shall hold the office for two years, and then may be re-elected. Deacons may also hold another office during their term.

Article VI, Section 5 – Trustees

1. Duties: Trustees are, like the deacons, servants. They assist the Pastor by their availability and willingness to lend knowledge and expertise.

A. They are elected to sign legal papers for the Church.

B. They give counsel on matters of business pertaining to finances, etc.

C. They assist the Pastor in maintenance and repairs of the Church building.

2. Quantity of Trustees: There shall be at least two trustees and shall be male members of the Church in good standing.

3. Limitations:

A. They shall not have authority to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or otherwise encumber the Church property without a two-thirds majority vote of Church members authorizing such action.

B. They shall not have authority to sign any negotiable instrument without a two-thirds majority vote of Church members in a business meeting.

C. They may only oppose by their individual vote as a member, in a business meeting.

4. Term of Office: Trustees shall hold the office for two years, and then may be re-elected.

Article VI, Section 6 – Treasurer

1. Duties: The treasurer shall be responsible for all monetary transactions. Including, but not limited to:

A. The counting of all monies and offerings. Two people shall be present during counting whether it be the treasurer and assistant treasurer or Pastor and trustee.

B. The depositing of all monies into the bank.

C. The posting of all inflows and outflows of monies each month.

D. The keeping of a fair and true ledger book or electronic record of accounts.

E. The issuing of a quarterly statement of all expenditures and deposits.

F. The signing of all negotiable instruments along with the Pastor's signature or any other so appointed in this capacity.

G. The preparation of annual financial statements for the previous fiscal year, reviewed by an independent Certified Accountant if annual expenses exceed \$140,000. Statements shall be available to members on request at the Annual General Meeting.

2. Confidentiality: The treasurer shall keep individual tithing/giving records confidential. The Pastor shall be the only other person allowed access to this information.

3. Term of Office: The treasurer shall be hired by the Pastor and shall hold the office for an undesignated period. This shall be left in the hands of the Pastor as to God's direction, unless it is determined by the Pastor that the Treasurer needs to be relieved of the office.

4. Limitations:

A. The treasurer shall not open any charge accounts or make charges to any account without the joint consent of the Pastor, treasurer, and at least one of the Deacons.

- B. The treasurer shall not disclose any individual tithing/giving information to a non-member or other person outside the Church.

Article VI, Section 7 – Finance Committee

1. Duties: The Finance Committee shall have the following duties:
 - A. It shall make provision for the opening and operation of such bank account or accounts as may be deemed necessary for the purposes of the Church.
 - B. It shall have access to all financial records. Exception: The Deacons and trustees shall not have access to individual tithing/giving records.
 - C. It shall ensure the financial records of the Church are kept secure and in the permanent files of the Church.
 - D. It shall assist in the preparation of an annual budget, which will be recommended to the Church for approval.
2. Committee Members: The Committee shall be comprised of the Pastor, Deacons, treasurer, and trustees. Exception: In the absence of Deacons, The Committee shall be the Pastor, treasurer, and trustees.
3. Church Member Access: The Committee shall allow, by appointment with the Pastor, the viewing of Church financial records by any member in good standing. Exception: Tithing and giving records of other members cannot be viewed.
4. Allowance: The Pastor shall have a spending limit of five hundred fifty dollars per week to operate Church business. Any amount over two hundred fifty dollars shall be approved by the Finance Committee.
5. Return of Gifts and Donations: All assets, gifts, and/or donations to the Church shall be the property of the Church and shall not be subject to the return of such to the benefactor at any time.

Article VI, Section 8 – Church Clerk/Secretary

The Church clerk/secretary position shall be held by a person with administrative skills.

1. Duties: The Clerk/Secretary shall be responsible for the following. Including, but not limited to:
 - A. The keeping a fair and accurate record of all Church business.
 - B. The signing all letters of recommendation and maintain a register of members.
 - C. The keeping the corporate seal, affixing it when necessary.
2. Term of Office: The Clerk/Secretary shall be hired by the Pastor and hold the office for an undesignated period. This shall be left in the hands of the Pastor as to God's direction, unless it is determined by the Pastor that the Clerk/Secretary needs to be relieved of the office.
3. Meetings: The Clerk/Secretary shall be present during all meetings of business, for the recording of minutes and written details of the meeting.

Article VI, Section 9 – Nomination Committee

1. Committee Members: The nomination committee shall be made up of the Pastor and Deacons.
2. Expressed Interest: Those that are interested in serving in an office must submit in writing their name and desired office to the Pastor.
3. Submission of a Nomination: The Pastor shall bring the name(s) to the committee, and they shall make nominations known to the Church to be voted upon.

ARTICLE VII: WORSHIP AND BUSINESS MEETINGS

Article VII, Section 1 – Meeting for Worship

1. Weekly Meetings: The Church shall hold weekly meetings for public worship, preaching, instruction, prayer, and evangelism. These meetings shall meet the following criteria:
 - A. They shall be for the membership and any visitors.
 - B. They shall be held each Sunday morning and evening and one mid-week evening, or at regular times as the Church & leadership deem necessary.
 - C. They shall be under the direction of the Pastor or, in his absence, an appointed person.
2. Additional Meetings: To instruct, enlist and inspire the membership to active labors of the Church, and to cause them to grow closer to one another, the Church shall foster fellowship of the members through but not limited to the following:
 - A. A Sunday School program
 - B. Women's fellowships
 - C. Men's fellowships
 - D. Youth meetings and/or youth clubs
3. Special Meetings: Whenever possible, the Pastor shall conduct revivals, youth revivals and rallies, mission conferences, and family seminars. The Pastor or a visiting Pastor shall preach.
4. Changes to Meetings: No meeting shall be dispensed with or changed to another time without the approval of the Pastor.

Article VII, Section 2 – Meeting for Business

1. Conducting a Business Meeting:
 - A. No business meeting shall be called without the Pastor's consent. **Exception:** If the Church is without a Pastor or if the current Pastor must be brought before the Church for misconduct. (See Article VI, Section 1, particularly subsection 7). Under these two conditions, the Deacons shall call for a business meeting.
 - B. The meeting shall be opened and closed with prayer, after which the Pastor shall introduce the matters of business to be discussed and voted upon.
 - C. The moderator may address any subject under discussion.
 - D. Members who wish to speak shall rise and respectfully address the moderator. **Exception:** Any member not in regular attendance or in good standing shall automatically forfeit the right to vote in any meeting or on any issue.
 - E. No second motion shall be entertained until the one under consideration has been disposed of, except motions to amend, to adjourn, or to put the question.
 - F. Any speaker who introduces any matter foreign to the subject under discussion shall be ruled out of order and shall forfeit the speaker's right to the floor.
 - G. Discourteous language or remarks adapted to injure the reputation or the feelings of any member shall be ruled out of order and shall forfeit the speaker's right to the floor.
 - H. No member shall speak more than twice upon the same subject.
 - I. A quorum shall be the greater of ten percent (10%) of members in good standing or five (5) members, present in person or by proxy (if pre-approved by the Pastor).
 - J. A three-fourths (75%) majority vote of all eligible members present shall determine any matter voted upon, including, but not limited to the call or dismissal of the Pastor.

Notice: Members shall be concerned with and endeavor to attend all business meetings. If a member is unable to be present, they shall lovingly abide by and cooperate with all matters of business voted upon and approved. In summary, if a member desires to have input, be at the meeting!

2. Annual General Meeting: An Annual General Meeting of the members shall be held on the premises of the Church in the month of June each year, to receive and vote upon the business of the Church. At the meeting:

- A. Only members aged 18 or older (except as provided by law, minimum 16) and in good standing shall vote.
- B. The Pastor shall be moderator unless he appoints someone else.
- C. The business shall be concerning the previous fiscal year, which shall be April 1 to March 31.
- D. All officers, excluding the Pastor, shall be voted on. If there is a tie, the vote shall be taken again.

Notice: Should the date of the meeting need to be changed, two weeks' notice shall be given to the members.

3. Special Meetings: Special meetings shall be called by the Pastor if he deems it necessary.

Article VII, Section 3 – Dispute Resolution

(For complaints against officers see Article VI, Section 1)

Disputes shall always be resolved internally first, per Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Corinthians 6:1-8, to prioritize reconciliation within the Church and avoid secular courts. The Pastor and Deacons shall facilitate this. If unresolved within 21 days, parties may seek Christian mediation. Only then, if needed, binding arbitration, with decisions final and enforceable in court only for compliance. All parties commit to pursuing peace in good faith.

ARTICLE VIII: MISSIONS ENDEAVORS

As commanded in Matthew 28:19-20, the Church shall always strive to preach the Gospel to the whole world by sending Born-Again, independent Baptist missionaries as God shall make it possible. The mission's program of the Church is supported by "Faith Promise" giving, which is giving over and above the tithe.

- 1. The program shall consist of both home and foreign missions.
- 2. Individual missionaries and mission projects shall be recommended by the Pastor to the Church for approval.
- 3. All Missions monies must be used for support of missions and missionaries.

ARTICLE IX: WINDING UP (DISSOLUTION)

If in the event of such winding up, there remains, after the payment of all its debts and liabilities, any monies or property whatsoever the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Church but shall be given or transferred to another Independent Baptist Church or Churches which remain true to the spirit of the Church determined by the officers and Church members.

Notice: All assets, gifts, and/or donations to the Church shall be the property of the Church and shall not be subject to the return of such to the benefactor at any time.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended only by special resolution (a three-fourths (75%) majority vote of members in good standing present at a business meeting). All amendments must be in writing, introduced by the Pastor and presented to the Deacons for review of the pertinence of the business introduced, with at least 14 days' notice to members.

Notice: No amendments shall alter the Articles of Faith.

ARTICLE XI: INTERPRETATION

The following words and expressions used in this constitution have the meanings set out below unless such meanings are excluded by or are repugnant to the context or subject matter, that is to say:

“The Church” shall mean BRIDGEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH.

“The Pastor” shall mean the Pastor for the time being of the Church and shall include an interim Pastor, as elected in accordance with this constitution.

“The Deacons” shall mean the Deacons for the time being of the Church as elected in accordance with this constitution.

“The Trustees” shall mean the Trustees for the time being of the Church as elected in accordance with this constitution.

“The Treasurer” shall mean the Treasurer for the time being of the Church and shall include an acting Treasurer, as elected in accordance with this constitution.

“The Finance Committee” shall mean the Finance Committee for the time being of the Church.

“The Church Clerk/Secretary” shall mean the Clerk/Secretary for the time being of the Church and shall include an acting Clerk/Secretary, as elected in accordance with this constitution.

“The Nomination Committee” shall mean the Nomination Committee for the time being of the Church.

“A Member in Good Standing” shall mean one who complies with the Articles of Faith and Church Covenant, is faithful in Church attendance, and faithful in giving.

“Month” shall mean a calendar month.

Words importing only the singular number shall include the plural number and vice versa.

“In writing”, “printed” and “written” shall include handwriting, printing, email, direct message, text message, photocopier, facsimile and other modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form.

References to persons shall include corporations.

