

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH  
DBA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
OF  
CYPRESS, CALIFORNIA  
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

PREAMBLE

WE DECLARE AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION FOR THE PRESERVATION AND SECURITY OF THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR FAITH, THAT THIS BODY MAY BE GOVERNED IN AN ORDERLY MANNER AND THAT LIBERTIES OF EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH AND FREEDOM OF ACTION OF THIS BODY IN ITS RELATION TO OTHER CHURCHES WILL BE PRESERVED UNDER THE LORDSHIP OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST.

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ARTICLE I

1.01 The name of this corporation is the First Southern Baptist Church of Cypress, California DBA First Baptist Church of Cypress, California. Hereinafter in these Bylaws this corporation shall be referred to as the “church.”

ARTICLE II

2.01 The principle office of the church is fixed and located at 9131 Watson Street Cypress, California. The Active Members of the church shall have full power and authority to change the principal office from one location to another.

ARTICLE III

3.01 The church affirms the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God as the ultimate authority in matters of faith, doctrine and Christian living. This church accepts "The Baptist Faith and Message" as most recently adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000 as an affirmation of our basic Christian beliefs and as a general statement of our faith.

~~3.02 — Marriage is a biblical institution established by God as clearly described in the scriptures. This Church recognizes that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment of a lifetime. Accordingly, this Church, its pastors, staff and members will not participate in same sex unions or same sex marriages, nor shall its property or resources be used for such purposes.~~

~~3.03 — The Bible teaches that legitimate sexual relationships are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, this Church opposes all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography.~~

~~3.04~~ 3.02 These by-laws and amendments made hereto shall be governing documents of this church and will always be interpreted and applied with the Bible. Each Pastor, staff member, and church member by virtue of their membership affirms their agreement with this Article III and agrees to conduct themselves in a manner with which it is consistent.

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ARTICLE IV

POLICY AND RELATIONSHIPS

4.01 Except as otherwise set forth in these Bylaws, the activities and affairs of the church shall be conducted by the Active Members of the church, ~~and all corporate powers shall be exercised by the Members for the Corporations Code Purposes.~~

4.02 This church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Southern Baptist Churches. This church will cooperate with and support the Orange County Southern Baptist Association, The California Southern Baptist ~~General~~ Convention of California, and the Southern Baptist Convention, as each of those organizations shall define a “cooperating church.”

ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP

5.01 This is a sovereign and democratic Baptist Church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the exclusive right of self-government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of the church.

5.02 Candidacy to Membership:

A. Any person may request membership in the church at any public worship service of the church. All such candidates after completion of a New Membership Class shall be presented to the church for membership in any of the following ways:

- (1) By profession of faith in Jesus Christ and seeking baptism according to the policies of this church.
- (2) By promise of letter of transfer from another church of like faith and order.
- (3) By statement of faith, when a letter of transfer from a church of like faith and order is not obtainable for some good reason. Such a statement shall satisfy the church concerning the candidate’s prior conversion, baptism, and church relationship. However, no person having being excluded by a sister church shall be accepted for church membership until an attempt at reconciliation has been made toward the offended church.

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B. Membership by profession of faith shall be conditioned upon being baptized by immersion in a way that is acceptable to this church.

C. Election to membership shall be by a majority vote of the Active Members present, provided that there is no statement of objection to the candidate by any member. Should there be objection to any candidate such objection shall be referred to the deacons or church council Key Leadership Team for investigation and the making of a recommendation within (30) days. A three-fourths vote of those Active Members present and voting shall be required to elect such a candidate to membership.

5.03 Classes of membership:

A. Active members ~~shall meet the following provisions:~~

(1) They shall ~~have~~ fulfill the requirements for candidacy to membership as stated in these Bylaws and shall have been properly elected to membership.

(2) They shall not have had their membership terminated by the church according to Section 5.05 of these Bylaws.

(4) Responsibilities for Active Members:

a. Protect the Unity of the Church by acting in love toward other members, refusing to gossip, and following the leaders the church appoints

b. Share the Responsibilities of the Church by praying for its growth, inviting the un-churched to attend, and warmly welcoming those who visit

c. Serve the Ministry of the Church by discovering individual spiritual gifts and signing up to serve in an area, being active in spirit-led decisions for church functions , and developing a servant's heart by moving through the Discipleship process

c. Support the Testimony of the Church by attending faithfully, living a godly life consistently, and giving regularly



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B. Inactive members

- (1) Members who have not shown a definite interest in our church life either through attendance or contribution or other means, who, upon inquire in person, by digital communication, or by letter, do not respond or are indifferent for a period of one year shall be placed on an inactive member list.
- (2) Inactive members shall enjoy all privileges and rights of Active members, except that they shall not have the right to vote or hold office.
- (3) Inactive members shall be subject to the following: they shall be automatically restored to active membership upon satisfaction of the lacking requirement or requirement for active membership.

~~C. Members for Corporations Code Purposes shall be subject to the following:~~

~~(1) They shall be those active members, and they shall have sole right to vote on matters brought before the church during an exceptional business meeting, according to section 6.04C of these Bylaws.~~

5.04 Discipline:

- A. The practice of this church shall be to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The Pastor, other members of the ministerial staff, and the deacons are available for counsel and guidance. The attitude of members toward one another shall be guided by a concern for redemption rather than punishment.
- B. Should some serious condition exist which would cause a member to become a liability to the cause of Christ or to the welfare of the church, the Pastor, deacons, and other members of ministerial staff will take every reasonable measure to resolve the problem in accordance with Matthew 18:15-20. If the member should fail to correct the problem despite the counsel of the Pastor, and deacons, and other members of ministerial staff, the church may by the majority vote in regular or special business meeting declare the member to be “out of fellowship with the church” or “under the discipline of the church”.

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C. Should a member remain “out of fellowship with the church” or “under the discipline of the church” for at least (60) days without correcting the problem, the church may exclude the member, declaring such individual ~~him~~ no longer in membership of the church. Such action shall require a two-thirds vote to those active members present and voting in a regular or special business meeting. The member in question shall receive at least (7) days notice of the business meeting where such action will be considered.

D. The church may restore to membership any person previously excluded upon request of the excluded person, and by a majority vote upon evidence of the excluded person’s repentance and reformation.

5.05 Termination of membership: Membership shall be terminated in the following ways:

A. Death

B. Transfer of membership to another church of like faith and order.

C. Exclusion by action of this church, according to the provisions of section 5.04 of these Bylaws.

D. Erasure upon becoming affiliated with a church of another faith or denomination.

E. Written request by a member that such membership be terminated.

5.06 Membership qualification for selected positions:

A. Only active members of one year or more may qualify for election to the following church positions: deacon, clerk, treasurer, treasurer assistant, trustee, counter, or ministry team leader ~~director~~ of a church program organization.

B. The Pastor and other ministerial staff members shall qualify as active members of the church promptly following their election to their respective positions.

C. Should the individual filling any of the aforementioned positions become an Inactive Member or have ~~his~~ their membership terminated, ~~he~~ such individual shall automatically forfeit that position.

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ARTICLE VI  
CHURCH MEETINGS

6.01 Church meetings shall be held at any place designated by the Active Members of the church. In the absence of any such designation, church meetings shall be held at the principal office of the church.

6.02 There shall be two general categories of church meetings: worship services and business meetings.

6.03 The following meetings shall be classified as worship services of the church:

A. Regular worship services shall be held publicly on Sunday. ~~And on a weekday evening of each week at the time designated by the church. Occasional exceptions may be made with church approval.~~ Additional Church meetings may also be held at times other than Sunday which are conducive to the ministries goals of the church.

B. The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated at least ~~quarterly~~ monthly on the dates and hour as may be determined by the church.

C. Revivals and other special worship services may be set from time to time as approved by the church.

6.04 The following meetings shall be classified as business meetings of the church.

A. Regular business meeting shall be held at the principle office of the church on ~~Wednesday following the second Sunday of every month~~ the third Sunday of January, May and September, unless the church should designate a different time and place. The quorum shall consist of the active members who attend the business meeting.

B. Special business meetings may be held at any time to consider special matters of significant or urgent nature subject to the following provisions:

(1) A special business meeting may be called by any one of the following: the Pastor or, in his absence or disability, the chairman of the deacons; ~~the president of the trustees;~~ or any other ministerial staff; the members of the Key Leadership Team; (15%) percent or more of the Active Members of the church; or the chairman of the Pastor search committee, if the selection of a Pastor is the matter to be considered.

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(2) Notice of all special business meetings shall be given in such a way that the general nature of the business to be transacted is clearly described, along with a statement of the time, date, and of the meeting may be given by any of the following methods:

- a. Distribution of written matter (as stated above) to the congregation in attendance at two regular worship services; or
- b. Mailing of digital or written matter (as stated above) to those Active Members for who the church has its records a current mailing address, (3) weeks before the meeting; or
- c. Oral announcement of the matter to the congregation at a regular worship service.

(3) (10%) percent of the Active Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a special business meeting.

(4) The election or termination of a Pastor by the church shall be subject to the provisions of a special business meeting.

(5) Additional specials business meetings may consist of:

- a. The election or removal of trustees.
- b. The disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the church.
- c. The merger or dissolution of the church.
- d. The amendment of the articles of incorporation or the bylaws of the church.

~~C. Exceptional business meetings may be held as necessary to deal with matters related to the California Nonprofit Corporation Code. Such exceptional business meetings shall be subject to the following provisions:-~~

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- (1) ~~Such meetings shall be limited to: \_\_\_\_\_~~
- a. ~~The election or removal of trustees.~~
  - b. ~~The disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the church.~~
  - c. ~~The merger or dissolution of the church.~~
  - d. ~~The amendment of the articles of incorporation or the bylaws of the church.~~
- (2) ~~An exceptional business meeting may be called by any one of the following: the Pastor or, in his absence or disability, the chairman of the deacons; the president of the trustees; or fifteen (15%) percent or more of the members for corporation's code purposes.~~
- (3) ~~Notice of an exceptional business meeting shall be given in writing to those members, for corporation code purposes, for whom the church has its records a current mailing address. The written notice shall be digitally communicated or mailed by letter not less than twelve (12) and not more than (30) days before the date, time, and place of the meeting, and the general nature of the business to be transacted.~~
- (4) ~~Fifteen (15) members, for corporations code purposes, or (50%) of the Members, for Corporations Code Purposes, whichever is less, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at an exceptional business meeting.~~
- (5) ~~The members, for corporation's code purposes, shall have the sole right to vote on matters considered during an exceptional business meeting.~~

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~~D. C.~~ Routine, noncontroversial business may be transacted at any regular worship service as necessary. Such business shall include the receiving of new members, and is further defined as excluding business to which there is an objection raised to its consideration by any Active members present; or which involves a transaction of real property; or which involves the employment or termination of staff members; or which involves doctrine or denominational affiliation. A quorum shall consist of the active members who are present in the worship service.

6.05 The following general provision shall apply to all business meeting of the church:

- A. Parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the current edition of ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER NEWLY REVISED, except as these Bylaws may otherwise provide.
- B. Each member who is qualified to vote is entitled to one vote on matter submitted to a vote of the church.
- C. Cumulative voting shall not be authorized for the election of the trustees or for any other purpose.
- D. Members entitled to vote shall not vote or act by proxy.
- E. Absentee ballots shall be permitted only by the prior approval of the church acting in a regular or special business meeting.
- F. The moderator shall preside at the business meeting. The pastor shall normally be the moderator. If the church is without a pastor, or if the pastor should decline to serve as of moderator, the church will elect a moderator. In the absence of both the moderator and the chairman of the deacons or any other elected ministerial staff, the clerk shall call the church to order and an acting moderator shall be elected.

## ARTICLE VII

### TRUSTEES

7.01 The ~~Board~~ of Trustees shall consist of not less than three (3) members. Each trustee shall be a Member for Corporation Code purposes.

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7.02 The term of office shall be no more than three years ~~or until a successor is elected.~~ A trustee may be reelected after one of year following their term.

7.03 The Active Members ~~for the Corporations Code purposes~~ may elect a trustee or trustees at any time to fill any vacancy ~~on the Board of Trustees.~~ Nominations for the new trustee should come from the Key Leadership Team. Should the church fail to act within (90) days of the creation of the vacancy, such vacancy may be filled by a majority of the trustees then in office, whether or not less than a quorum, or by the sole remaining trustee.

7.04 Trustees shall serve at the pleasure of the church, and may be removed prior to the conclusion of the term of office at the discretion of the church action in a properly called special ~~exceptional~~ business meeting.

7.05 The trustees are hereby designated as the directors of the corporation as the term is defined and used in the California Nonprofit Corporation Code, provided however, that the activities and affairs of this church shall be conducted and its powers shall be exercised as allocated in these Bylaws, and the designation herein of the trustees as directors shall not grant to them any power which is expressly or implicitly granted by these bylaws, or by custom and usage, to the members of the church or to any other board, committee, group, position, (1) person, or combination of persons.

7.06 The church's ~~nominating committee~~ Key Leadership Team shall recommend to the church a nominee for election ~~to the Board of Trustees.~~ The nominees receiving the highest number of votes of the Members for Corporations Code Purposes shall be elected as trustees Simple majority of the members present and voting will determine the matter.

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7.07 The trustee officers shall also be the officers of the Corporation. The officers shall be a president, a secretary, a chief financial officer, and such other officers as the trustees or the church deem necessary for their work. Any number of offices may be held by the same person except that neither the secretary nor the chief financial officer may serve concurrently as the president. The president and the secretary shall be chosen from among their membership number ~~by the Board~~ of Trustees, unless the church should designate the officers at the time of their election. The treasurer of the church shall be the chief financial officer. The sole function of the president and the secretary of trustees shall be to sign contractual ~~such~~ instruments and documents such as leases, contracts, etc...., as are necessary or advisable in the name of, on the behalf of, and at the direction of the church. Trustees shall assist in the carrying out of any church operations projects as directed by the church and oversee the use and care of the church parsonage.

7.08 The trustees shall take such actions and execute such documents as are necessary or advisable to accomplish the purpose of any matter which is authorized or approved by the Active Members of the church ~~(or the Members, for Corporations Code purposes, as the case may be)~~ and which concerns any real, personal, or intangible property.

ARTICLE VIII

PASTOR

8.01 The pastor is responsible for the leading and equipping the church to function as a New Testament Church. He shall be especially concerned to provide leadership in the areas of preaching, teaching, and pastoral care.

8.02 The pastor shall be the overseer of the work and ministry of the church. As such, he shall be the chief administrative officer of the church in all instances except those matters which are legally the concern of the ~~Board of~~ Trustees. The pastor shall be guided by the instructions of the church in his capacity as chief administrative officer.

8.03 A pastor shall be chosen and elected by the church whenever a vacancy occurs. The election shall take place at a special business meeting, according to the provisions of section 6.04B of these Bylaws.



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8.04 When the office of pastor is vacant, the Key Leadership Team should seek a ministerial interim to fulfill the pastoral responsibilities. A pastor search committee shall be elected by the church to seek out a suitable pastor, and its recommendation will constitute a nomination. The committee shall bring to the consideration of the church only one name at a time. Election shall be by ballot, a majority affirmative vote by those Active Members present being necessary for a call to office.

8.05 The pastor's term of office shall be for a indefinite period. He shall serve until the relationship is terminated by his request or by the church's request.

8.06 The pastor may relinquish the office as pastor by giving at least two weeks notice at the time of his resignation. The pastor may be dismissed by a majority of those Active Members present and voting in a special business meeting. Such a vote shall be by ballot. Except in instance of growing misconduct by the dismissed pastor, the separation compensation shall be governed by the agreement (it being oral or written) between the pastor and the church.

## ARTICLE IX

### CHURCH STAFF

9.01 The church shall call or employ such staff members as the church shall determine it needs.

9.02 Employment of ministerial staff shall be governed by the following provisions:

A. Ministerial staff members other than the pastor shall be recommended to the church by the personnel committee and employed by the church action in a business meeting.

B. At the time of resignation at least two week's notice shall be given to the church.

C. The church may vote to dismiss such a staff member upon recommendation of the personnel committee. Said termination being immediate and the compensation conditions in accordance with staff members agreement (verbal or written).

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9.03 Employment of secretaries, custodians, ~~preschool workers~~, and other non-ministerial staff shall be governed by the following provisions:

- A. The church ~~personnel committee~~ Key Leadership Team shall have the authority to employ and to terminate services of non-ministerial staff members.
- B. Employment and termination of services of non-ministerial staff members shall be with the recommendation of the supervising staff member and, as appropriate, with the consultation of related committees of the church.
- C. The Ministerial Staff are the Pastor and other paid or volunteered ministerial staff as needed.

ARTICLE X

DEACONS

10.01 The church shall elect deacons by ballot at a regular or special business meeting of the church.

10.02 The number, method of nomination, and term of office shall be determined by the church.

10.03 In accordance with the meaning of the word and practice of the New Testament, deacons are to be servants of the church. The task of the deacon is to assist the pastor in performing ~~pastoral responsibilities~~ practical needs of the congregation as taught in Acts 6:1-6 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

10.04 Deacons shall serve as counsel to both the pastor and to the church. However, deacons shall exercise no authority that is not vested in them by the church or these Bylaws.

10.05 The deacons shall elect their own officers and shall be organized to assist the pastor, and for the consideration of problems related to their work. They shall give particular attention to the area of member care, ~~baptism, the Lord's Supper~~, benevolence, and guarding the fellowship of the church.

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ARTICLE XI

CLERK

11.01 The church shall elect a clerk to keep suitable record of the actions of the church and to assist the pastor in performing practical needs of the congregation.

11.02 The clerk shall be responsible for keeping a register of names of members, with dates of admission, termination of membership, and a record of baptisms, and shall certify the class of members (as per Section 5.03 of these Bylaws).

11.03 The clerk shall issue letters of transfer voted by the church, preserve on file all official communications and written reports, and give required notice of all meetings where is necessary, as indicated in these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII

TREASURER

12.01 The church shall elect a treasurer to be its chief financial officer. Nominations for treasurer should come from the Key Leadership Team. Simple majority of the Active Members present and voting will determine the matter at a regular or special business meeting of the church. (as per Section 5.03 of these Bylaws).

12.02 The treasurer shall receive, preserve, and pay out all money or things of value paid or given to the church in person, by mail, or digitally, keeping at all times an itemized account of all purchases, receipts and disbursements. Expenditures shall be authorized in the budget as adopted by the church, or by specific actions of the church, and shall conform to such system of authorization as the church may employ, whether by voucher or otherwise.

12.03 The treasurer shall render to the church at each regular business meeting an itemized report of the receipts and disbursements for the preceding months while holding to the collaborative and privacy agreement, at which came into effect immediately for such position, until a successor is elected.

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12.04 The church may delegate some of the financial responsibilities to a financial assistant secretary. Nominations for financial assistance should come from the Key Leadership Team. Simple majority of the members present and voting will determine the matter at a regular or special business meeting of the church. (as per Section 5.03 of these Bylaws).

ARTICLE XIII

COMMITTEES AND TEAM MINISTRIES

13.01 The pastor may appoint special committees or ministry teams to undertake tasks of a temporary nature. In the absence or disability of the pastor, such appointment may be made by the chairman of the deacons or ministerial staff. Such special committees or ministry teams will dissolve following the completion of their task, or at the direction of the pastor or the church.

13.02 The Pastor shall lead the Key Leadership Team Church Council which is established to meet at regular scheduled meetings to discuss the ongoing business and ministry of the Church. The Key Leadership Team Church Council will recommend to the congregation, at the next regular Church business meetings, those actions deemed advisable by a majority vote of the Team. The Team Council may, with a unanimous vote, authorize certain emergency expenditures not to exceed \$1000.00 for situations that involve an act of humanity, safety, security, or a potential liability arising from the facilities. In the absence of a standing committee the Key Leadership Team Church Council shall perform the duties of the Nominating Committee or Personnel Committee.

13.03 The Key Leadership Team Church Council membership consists of the Ministerial Staff, Chairman of the Deacons, President of the Trustees, Treasurer, ~~Superintendent and Department Heads of the Sunday School~~, Committee Chairpersons, Church Clerk, Ministry Team Leaders and the congregation may vote to add additional member(s) to the Key Leadership Team Council. ~~The Church Council will elect a Chairperson, from its membership, to serve during each year and that selection will be voted upon by the congregation at their annual election of officers.~~

13.04 The normal meeting of the Key Leadership Team Church Council will meet quarterly on the third Sunday of the month ~~be the first Sunday of each month~~ unless otherwise scheduled by the ~~Chairperson~~ Pastor, chairman of the deacons or other ministerial staff. Key Leadership Team Church Council meetings are open to visitation by any active member of the church who wishes to attend though they would not have a vote in the business conducted by the Team Council.

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13.05 The pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all church committees or ministry teams, whether standing or special.

ARTICLE XIV

CHURCH PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONS

14.01 The church shall maintain programs of Bible teaching, Church member training, ~~music~~ evangelism and outreach, congregational worship, prayer, fellowship, and mission education and involvement.

14.02 All organizations shall be elected by the church. The program organizations shall report to the church as requested.

14.03 All program activities shall be subject to church coordination and approval.

ARTICLE XV

LICENSE AND ORDINATION

15.01 Should a person an individual desire to be licensed to the Gospel ministry by the church the following procedure shall be applied:

- A. An individual ~~A person~~ shall be an Active Member of the church.
- B. An individual ~~He~~ shall have made the request known to the church publicly by coming forward during any worship service ~~the invitation period of a regular worship service~~.
- C. It must be spiritually discerned ~~felt~~ by the Pastor, any other ministerial staff, and the church that the individual meets the requirements addressed ~~set down~~ in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1:5-9.
- D. After preaching or teaching an exegetical a message to the congregation during a regular worship service, the church by two thirds vote at the same worship service or at a regular or special business meeting will decide whether ~~weather~~ or not to license the candidate.

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15.02 Should the church decide to ordain ~~or~~ an individual seeking ordination, the following procedure shall be applied:

- A. The person shall be an Active Member of the church or been called as pastor, (as per Section 5.06B of these Bylaws).
- B. The church shall communicate digitally or send letters of notification and invitation to those ordained pastors in the Orange County Southern Baptist Association, ~~and~~ the missionary of said association, and any other Southern Baptist ordained pastors personally invited. These men will make up the examining committee ~~board~~.
- C. The church will then designate the time and place and make up the program schedule.
- D. Upon examination by the examining committee ~~board~~, a recommendation will be made to the church as to whether they should proceed with the ordination. Should the recommendation be negative, the church may however, proceed by obtaining a two thirds vote of the Active Members present. At the time of the recommendation, the moderator shall open the floor for questions from the church.
- E. Upon voting to proceed with ordination, the program shall be completed with the laying on of hands by the examining committee ~~board~~ being last.

15.03 Upon completion of a vote to license or ordain the proper forms shall be filled out and signed by the people responsible and the church clerk shall record the information in the church records.

ARTICLE XVI

DISSOLUTION

16.01 If at any time, this church shall be dissolved or should cease to function as a cooperating Southern Baptist Church, the property and assets of the church, both real and personal, shall be distributed to the Orange County Southern Baptist Association or its Successor.

16.02 The church shall be determined to have ceased functioning as a cooperating Southern Baptist Church when either of the following conditions prevails:

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A. Should a statement to that effect be adopted by the Orange County Southern Baptist Association, The California Southern Baptist ~~General~~ Convention ~~of California~~, and the Southern Baptist Convention, or their successors. Such a statement, to be valid, must include specific mention for the basis for its adoption.

B. Should the church be denied (on the basis of not being a cooperating Southern Baptist Church) in an attempt to seat messengers at the annual meeting of the Orange County Southern Baptist Association, The California Southern Baptist ~~General~~ Convention ~~of California~~, and the Southern Baptist Convention, or their successors.

16.03 Should the church be determined to have ceased functioning as a cooperating Southern Baptist Church according to the provisions of Section 16.02, the church may appeal the decision to an ecclesiastical council.

A. The council would probably, although not necessarily, be formed at the association level.

B. The composition and guidelines of the council shall be agreed upon mutually by the church and by the organization precipitating the original determination that the church is not a cooperating Southern Baptist Church.

C. The decision of the council shall be binding.

D. Should either the church or the precipitating organization fail to cooperate in the council's establishment or proceedings, that party shall automatically concede its position and privileges in the matter.

ARTICLE XVII

AMENDMENTS

17.01 Changes in these Bylaws may be made at a special ~~an exceptional~~ business meeting, according to the provisions of Section 6.04C of these Bylaws. The proposed amendment shall be stated in full in the written notice of the special ~~exceptional~~ business meeting.

17.02 Amendments to the Bylaws shall receive at least a two-thirds vote of the Active Members who are present and voting in the special ~~exceptional~~ business meeting, except that Article XVI 16.01 be irrevocable shall require a three fourths vote of the same.

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17.03 Amendments to the Bylaws shall take effect immediately upon approval unless provided otherwise at the time of the church vote on the amendment.

17.04 Section 17.02 of these Bylaws may not be amended or deleted in any way which will alter of diminish its effect.

The ~~strikethrough texts~~ ~~bold lettered words~~ of this document were amended by a two-thirds vote of the active members of the Church congregation in attendance at an exception business meeting on \_\_\_\_\_ 202\_\_.

Certified by:

Church Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_

President and/or Secretary of Trustees

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 202\_\_.