



**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF  
EASTSIDE CHURCH, INC  
1180 GARNETTE RD  
LANCASTER, SC 29720**

**ARTICLE 1 – NAME, PURPOSE, AND  
DENOMINATIONAL POLICY**

**SECTION 1.01—NAME**

This congregation of believers shall be known as the Eastside Church, Inc., Lancaster County, South Carolina, United States of America.

**SECTION 1.02—PURPOSE**

This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, daycare centers, and camps; 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 Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; and the maintaining of missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country.

**SECTION 1.03—DENOMINATIONAL POLICY**

The government of this church and corporation is vested in the body of member believers who comprise it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body. **We adopt the Authorized Version King James Bible as our only and final rule of faith and practice.** All affiliations with other associations or organizations shall be on the ground of fellowship only. Affectionately, **we are a KING JAMES BIBLE BELIEVING CHURCH.**

# ARTICLE 2 – STATEMENT OF FAITH

## SECTION 2.01—STATEMENT OF FAITH

The following comprise the Scriptural beliefs of this church and its members.

### **(A) The Holy Scriptures**

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament of the **King James Bible** to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible, and God-breathed. Therefore, the Scriptures are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning. The Authorized Version also known as the **King James Version** of the Bible shall be the official and only translation used by the church. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)

### **(B) Dispensationalism**

We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations, or rules of life, which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these dispensations—the law, the church, and the kingdom—are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture. (Gen. 1:28; 1 Cor. 9:17; 2 Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. 1:10; 3:2-10; Col. 1:24-25, 27; Rev. 20:2-6)

### **(C) The Godhead**

We believe in God the Father, The Lord Jesus Christ the only begotten Son of God, and the Holy Spirit. We believe that Jesus Christ is NOT the Father. According to scripture Jesus possesses His own will separate from the Father's will (Luke 22:42) and will one day be subject to the Father (1 Corinthians 15:24-28). We believe that Jesus Christ possesses all the power of Godhead bodily. (Colossians 2:9)

### **(D) The Person and Work of Christ**

1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8; John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; 1 Pet. 2:24; Eph. 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 )

3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2)

### **(E) The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit**

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14)
2. We believe that He is the divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit. (Eph. 1:17- 18; 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27)
3. We believe that God bestows spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order that they can do the work of the ministry. (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12)
4. We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing were temporary. Speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit, and that ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing. (1 Cor. 1:22; 13:8; 14:21-22)

### **(F) The Fall of Man**

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God; but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19)

### **(G) Salvation**

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. We believe that salvation is received by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ without benefit of any human works. We believe that salvation is by the grace of God, and the freewill of believers. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Galatians 1:6-9; John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; Tit. 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:9, John 3:16)

### **(H) Repentance**

We believe that repentance is defined as a change of mind not a turning from sins. We believe this is most clearly understood by the fact that God the Father repents in scripture more 34 times. We can see this most clearly in (Jonah 3:10) where turning from evil is defined as a work and

God the Father repents Himself. Proving that Repentance is not a turning from sin. While repentance is required for salvation, it is only required in the essence that your mind is change from unbelief and no trust to belief and trust. We do believe that repenting of your sins (changing your mind) about your sins is a part of sanctification that takes place after salvation.

### **(I) The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers**

1. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1; 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet. 1:4-5)
2. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Rom. 6:1-16, 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15)

### **(K) The Church**

1. We believe that the local church, which is a member of the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again (saved) persons. (1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27)
2. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)
3. We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control. (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1, 4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; 1 Pet. 5:1-4)
4. We recognize water baptism (immersion) and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the church in this age. (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:18; 1 Cor. 11:23-26 4)

### **(K) The Second Advent of Christ**

We believe in that *blessed hope*, the personal, imminent return of Christ who will rapture His church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the nation of Israel. (Ps. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; 1 Thess. 1:10; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6)

### **(L) The Eternal State**

1. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28, 29; 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13)

2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; I Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6)
3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with soul and body are reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment. (Matt. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15)

### **(M) The Personality of Satan**

We believe that Satan is the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10)

### **(N) Creation**

We believe that God created the universe as described in the Genesis account. (Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11)

### **(O) Civil Government**

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home, 2) the church, and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-14)

### **(P) Human Sexuality**

1. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

2. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one natural born adult male and one natural born adult female. (Gen. 2:24; Rom 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-33)
3. We believe that marriage is a permanent, sacred, covenant relationship between one man and one woman. We believe that God offers his blessing in and through marriage. As such, we believe that a wedding ceremony is an act of worship of our creator God. Since our wedding ceremonies are acts of worship, we will permit the use of our facilities only to members in good standing, (those who agree with our statement of faith.) All wedding ceremonies in our facilities, or, on our property, must be presided over by one of the church's pastors. (Mal. 2:2:14; Matt. 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-8; Prov. 18:22, 19:14).

### **(Q) Family Relationships**

1. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, and God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)
2. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13- 14; Mk. 10:6-12; I Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4, Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; I Pet. 3:1-7)

### **(R) Abortion**

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, population control, or mental well-being of the mother are acceptable. (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)

### **(S) Love**

We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward both those who are not believers and those who oppose us. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or the use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions. (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10; 17-21; 13:8-10; Phil. 2:2-4; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; 1 John 3:17-18)

### **(T) Giving**

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made. (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34- 37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)

## **SECTION 2.02—AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH**

This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members.

## **ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERSHIP**

### **SECTION 3.01—QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

All requests for membership must be approved by a unanimous vote of the members present. Voting will follow any regular service of the church. One negative vote is sufficient to postpone or refuse membership to a candidate. Those who object must meet with the pastor and deacons to explain their objections. The pastor and deacons can uphold or reject the negative vote and thereby bring their decision before the church at the next service after meeting with the objector. Membership shall be extended to all who have had and whose lives evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; and upon compliance with any one of the following conditions:

- (A)** By baptism (immersion) as a true believer in Christ Jesus as personal Lord and Savior. Baptism is not required for salvation but is expedient for the believer to have a good conscience towards God. (1 Peter 3:21-22)
- (B)** By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing church of like faith and practice, or other written statement of good standing from the prior church if the applicant has been baptized by immersion subsequent to a profession of faith;
- (C)** By testimony of faith in Christ Jesus as personal Savior, having been baptized by immersion; or
- (D)** By restoration, if having been removed from membership: - for non-attendance, upon majority vote of the congregation. - for those removed from membership through church discipline; after confession is made publicly before the church membership, of the sin, or sins, involved, and satisfactorily evidencing repentance for the sin. - those who are

returned to the rolls by restoration may not vote in any matters of church business until they have regularly attended worship services for a period of two months.

- (E) As an associate member: students, or part time residents who are members of a church of like faith and practice in their place of residence. An associate member will not have the privilege of voting regarding any church business.

### **SECTION 3.02—DUTIES OF A MEMBER**

On becoming a member of this church, each one further covenants to love, honor, and esteem the pastor; to pray for him; to recognize his authority in spiritual affairs of the church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the church; to support the church through regular attendance, in prayer, tithes, offerings and with other financial support as the Lord enables; and in accordance with Biblical commands, to support through a lifestyle walk affirming the beliefs and practices of the church.

### **SECTION 3.03—PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP**

- (A) Only members at least sixteen years of age who are physically present at a duly called meeting of the church shall be entitled to vote. There shall be no proxy or absentee voting. The eligible membership of the church has certain limited areas to exercise a vote. Members may not vote to initiate any church action, rather the vote of a member is to confirm and ratify the direction of the church as determined by the pastor, the board of deacons, and church council.
- (B) This congregation functions not as a pure democracy, but as a body under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the pastor as the under shepherd with the counsel of the board of deacons and church council. Determinations of the internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church's own rules and procedures. The pastor shall oversee and/or conduct all aspects of this church. The board of deacons shall give counsel and assistance to the pastor as requested by him. Likewise, the church council will assist the pastor and board of deacons by serving as a representative of the church body.
- (C) Membership in this church does not afford the members with any property, contractual, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Although the general public is invited to all of the church's worship services, the church property remains private property. The pastor (or in his absence, an individual designated by the board of deacons) has the authority to suspend or revoke the right of any person, including a member, to enter or remain on church property. If after being notified of such a suspension or revocation, the person enters or remains on church property, the person may, in the discretion of the pastor (or in his absence, an individual designated by the board of deacons), be treated as a trespasser.



### **SECTION 3.04—DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER**

- (A) There shall be a discipline committee consisting of the pastor and the board of deacons. These men shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statement of Faith. If the pastor or a deacon is the subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a member of the discipline committee. The pastor and deacons shall be entitled to the same steps as other church members and be subject to the same discipline.
- (B) 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 is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.
- (C) If reconciliation is not reached, a second member, either a deacon or the pastor, 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 restoration.
- (D) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, the discipline committee, as the church representatives Biblically responsible for putting down murmuring, shall hear the matter. If the matter is not resolved during the hearing before the discipline committee, the committee shall recommend to the members of the church that they, after self-examination, make an effort personally to go to the offending member and seek that member's restoration.
- (E) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B), (C), and (D) have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the church upon a majority vote of the membership present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering disciplinary action.
- (F) No matter may be heard by the discipline committee or the church unless the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, except in the case of a public offense.
- (G) The procedures provided in this section are based on Matt. 18:15-20; Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:1-11; Gal. 6:1; 1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6, 10-15; 1 Tim. 5:19-20; and Titus 3:10-11.

### **SECTION 3.05—TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP**

Members not under the disciplinary process of Section 3.04 may request that letters of transfer be sent to another church. Those desiring to unite with a church not of our faith and practice may not be given a letter of transfer but may be granted a letter of dismissal.

### **SECTION 3.06—TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

- (A) The membership of any individual member shall be automatically terminated without notice if the member in question has not attended a regular worship service of the church in the preceding 4 months. Upon good cause being shown to the pastor or discipline committee, this provision for termination may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the pastor or discipline committee. Excluded from this termination provision are college students, military personnel, shut-ins, missionaries, evangelists and others who are legitimately unable to attend services.
- (B) No member of this church may hold membership in another church, except as outlined in section 3.07. If any member unites in membership with another church, that person is automatically terminated, without notice, from membership in this church.
- (C) A member may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer, or written statement of good standing, will be issued upon such resignation. A letter of dismissal may be granted.
- (D) **No member of this church may not at any time sow discord or bring shame to the church, the pastor, church staff, or any other member. This includes social media post. Any party guilty of this is automatically terminated, without notice from membership in this church.**
- (E) No member of this church may bring a lawsuit against the church. If any member threatens to bring, or brings a lawsuit against the church, its staff, its officers, teachers, or any member of the church. That person is automatically terminated, without notice, from membership in this church.

### **SECTION 3.07—ASSOCIATE / NON-RESIDENT MEMBERSHIP**

Those who maintain residence in another locale, and who live in the Lancaster, SC area for a portion of the year may unite with Eastside Baptist Church as Associate members, while maintaining membership in their home church. Associate members have all the rights, responsibilities and restriction of resident members, with these exceptions: Associate members may not serve as a church officer; Associate members do not enjoy voting privileges during business / administration meetings.

### **SECTION 3.08—INACTIVE MEMBERS**

The membership of any individual member shall be reduced to an inactive status without notice if the member in question has not attended a regular worship service of the church in the preceding 3 months. Upon good cause being shown to the pastor or discipline committee, this provision may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the pastor or discipline committee. Excluded from this termination provision are college students, military

personnel, shut-ins, missionaries, evangelists and others who are legitimately unable to attend services. **Inactive members forfeit all voting privileges concerning church business.** Upon an individual member being categorized as an inactive member, the inactive member in question will be required to attend seven regular worship services in a two-month period, in order to be restored to full membership status and voting privileges. At any period during an inactive membership where the inactive member does not attend a regular worship service of the church over a period of 3 months, the membership of the individual shall be automatically terminated without notice.

## **ARTICLE 4 – OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 4.01—CHURCH OFFICERS**

The church officers are pastor (Article 5, Section 5.01), deacon (Article 5, Section 5.02), minister of records (clerk) (Article 5, Section 5.03), minister of finance (treasurer) (Article 5, Section 5.04), church council (Article 5, Section 5.05), associate pastor(s) (Article 5, Section 5.06). One person may hold two or more offices, except that of pastor. The pastor, from time to time as he deems appropriate, may appoint other church officers, subject to a confirmation vote of the church council.

### **SECTION 4.02—DESIGNATION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS**

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church, the pastor shall serve as president of the corporation; the chairman of the board of deacons shall serve as vice president of the corporation; the minister of records shall serve as secretary of the corporation; and the minister of finances shall serve as treasurer of the corporation.

### **SECTION 4.03—ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE**

- (A) The church shall not install or retain an officer who fails to adhere to, or expresses disagreement with, the Statement of Faith. All church officers, upon request of the pastor, shall affirm their agreement with the Statement of Faith (as set forth in Article 2).
- (B) Only church members are eligible for election or appointment to any church office or position.

### **SECTION 4.04—TERMS OF OFFICE**

- (A) The relationship between the pastor and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party by the giving of a month's notice, or less by mutual consent. The calling of a pastor or severance of the relationship between the pastor and the church may be considered at any regular church administration meeting, provided notice to that effect shall have been given from the pulpit to the church two Sundays prior to said regular church administration meeting. A three-fourths majority of the eligible members present, and voting shall be required to call a pastor or to sever the relationship between

the pastor and the church. Disciplinary removal of the pastor from office automatically terminates his membership. A restoration to membership after disciplinary removal will be subject to the requirements of Section 3.01(D).

- (B) The term of service for deacons shall be three years, the first year being served as a probationary period. At the expiration of the term of service deacons may be re-elected or re-appointed. A three-fourths majority of the eligible members present, and voting shall be required to elect, re-elect or re-appoint a deacon.
- (C) The term of service for all other offices and positions in the church, shall be one year, at the expiration of which they may be re-elected or re-appointed.
- (D) A vacancy occurring in any office or board, except in the case of the pastor may be filled at any regular church business/administration meeting. (see section 4.01)
- (E) All elected and appointed officers shall serve in their respective offices until their successors are duly elected or appointed.
- (F) Members of the board of deacons may be removed from office for unbiblical conduct, as determined by the other board members, upon a majority vote of the remaining members of the board of deacons.
- (G) Members of the church council may be removed from office for unbiblical conduct, as determined by the pastor and board of deacons. Vacancies will be filled by a special election held by the remaining members of the church council and approved by the pastor. In the event of a vacancy being filled by special election, the term of service will be for the remainder of the term of service of the previous officer. At the end of this term of service, the newly elected officer, must be re-elected to remain in office.

#### **SECTION 4.05—ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The election of officers by the church membership, if needed, shall occur during the first quarter of the year, at a church administration/business meeting.

#### **SECTION 4.06 ---ELECTION OF PASTOR**

The election of the pastor by the church membership shall occur at a special meeting of the church called for that purpose by public notice given two Sundays preceding the date set for the meeting. Balloting shall be written, and election requires three fourths (75%) majority. Before being presented to the church for election the pulpit committee (deacon board, and church council) shall have thoroughly investigated the history of the candidate relative to his schooling, business practices and affairs, doctrinal, spiritual, emotional, and moral stability, and evidence of the Lord's blessing on his previous pastorates and Christian experiences. A three fourths (75%) majority vote by the pulpit committee must be achieved in order to present a candidate for pastor to the church body. Only one candidate at a time may be brought before the church. The pastor shall continue in the office until he resigns, or his resignation is requested by three fourths (75%)

majority of the voting members present at a specially called business meeting that has been announced publicly for at least two Sundays preceding the meeting. In the dissolution of the pastor and church relationship, a thirty (30) day period of time shall be given by the party initiating the move, unless a shorter time period can be agreed upon by both parties.

#### **SECTION 4.07—PASTORAL OVERSIGHT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF**

- (A) On the condition that they shall become a member of the church upon assuming their duties, the pastor may hire associates and assistants to assist the pastor in carrying out his God-given responsibilities.
- (B) All church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the pastor who has the sole authority to dismiss the same. No employee or volunteer shall be hired, appointed, or retained who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith.

#### **SECTION 4.08—POSITION OF INTERIM PASTOR**

- (A) In the event of a vacancy in the role of pastor, the board of deacons and the church council will be responsible for locating and presenting a candidate for the position of interim pastor. The election of the interim pastor by the church membership shall occur at a special meeting of the church called for that purpose by public notice given two Sundays preceding the date set for the meeting. Election of the interim pastor will be by the raising of hand requiring three fourths (75%) majority. Prior to election the potential interim pastor must decide if he would like to be considered as a candidate for the position of pastor. If the interim pastor has declared his candidacy for the position of pastor, he shall exclude himself from church council meetings concerning a search for a pastor. If the interim pastor chooses to forgo the option to candidate for the position of pastor, he shall serve as a non-voting member of the church council in an advisory role.
- (B) The interim pastor regardless of candidate status shall serve with the full authority of pastor / under shepherd (Article 5, Section 5.01).

## **ARTICLE 5 – DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS**

#### **SECTION 5.01—THE PASTOR**

- (A) The pastor shall be a properly ordained Baptist minister and reject the false teachings of Calvinism, Hyper-Calvinism, and Hyper-dispensationalism.
- (B) The pastor shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him. He shall administer the ordinances of the church, act as moderator at all church meetings for the transaction of church matters, supervise the teaching ministries of the church, and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership.

- (C) The pastor shall appoint the members of the various committees at a church business/administration meeting (Section 4:05). He shall serve as the president of the corporation. He shall publicly inform all newly elected officers of the particular function and the responsibilities of their respective offices. He shall extend the right hand of fellowship to all new members on behalf of the church and perform such other duties as generally appertain to such a position. The pastor shall be free to choose the means and methods by which he exercises the ministry that God has given him.
- (D) All appointments for public worship and Bible study and the arrangements thereof, including time and place and the use of the property belonging to the church for purposes other than the stated appointments, shall be under the control of the pastor.
- (E) The pastor is to be the moderator and head of all church boards and committees as are required for the effective operation of the church.
- (F) The pastor is to be Biblically qualified for his office according to the standards set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7

#### **SECTION 5.02—THE BOARD OF DEACONS**

- (A) The board of deacons shall assist the pastor, in such manner as he shall request, in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church, in conducting the religious services, and in performing all other work of the church. They shall make provision for the observance of the ordinances of the church. They shall, if requested by the pastor, consider applications for church membership. They shall, in cooperation with the pastor, disburse any benevolence funds. They shall assist the pastor in visitation and all other evangelistic efforts of the church. The board of deacons shall assist the pastor in caring for the administrative needs of the church's various ministries as requested by the pastor. They shall provide the pulpit supply and choose a moderator for church meetings if the office of pastor is vacant. Upon the death, resignation, or dismissal of the pastor, the board of deacons along with the church council will act as pulpit committee.
- (B) Immediately following the annual church business/administration meeting (Section 4:05), the board of deacons shall assemble and elect, from their own number, a chairman who shall be vice president of the corporation, a vice chairman, and a secretary.
- (C) In the absence of the pastor, the chairman of the deacons automatically shall be responsible to moderate the church business meetings.
- (D) The board of deacons shall constitute the board of trustees of the corporation. The board of trustees shall exercise only the following specific powers, upon authorization by a majority vote of the members present at a duly called church business/administration meeting:

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. To 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; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges; and
- (E) If for any reason, any member of the Board of Deacons shall be out of harmony with the program of the church, after an attempt of reconciliation by the pastor, and in case of his refusal, his office may be declared vacant by a majority vote of the deacon board.
- (F) Each deacon is to be Biblical qualified for his office according to the standards set forth in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

#### **SECTION 5.03—THE MINISTER OF RECORDS (CHURCH CLERK)**

The minister of records shall:

- (A) Certify and keep at the office of the church, the original bylaws or a copy, including all amendments or alterations to the bylaws;
- (B) Keep at the place where the bylaws or a copy are kept a record of the proceedings of meetings of the board of deacons and the church council, with the time and place of holding, the notice of meeting given, the names of those present at the meetings;
- (C) Sign, certify or attest documents as may be required by law;
- (D) See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws. (In case of the absence or disability of the secretary, or his or her refusal or neglect to act, notice may be given and served by the pastor and by the chairman of the board of deacons.);
- (E) Be custodian of the records of the church, including the membership roll, baptisms, and certificates of ordination, licenses and commissions;
- (F) See that the reports, statements, certificates, and all other documents and records required by law are properly kept and filed;
- (G) Exhibit at all reasonable times to proper persons on terms provided by law the bylaws and minutes of proceedings of the board of deacons, the church council or the minutes of the meetings of the church members;

- (H) Keep an account of any special events in the life of the church which are of historical interest;
- (I) Keep all records at the office of the church and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office;
- (J) Serve as the secretary of the corporation.

#### **SECTION 5.04—THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (TREASURER)**

The minister of finance shall:

- (A) Have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds of the corporation, and deposit all funds in the name of the church in banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected by the pastor and the board of deacons;
- (B) Receive, and give receipt for all contributions, gifts, and donations to the church;
- (C) Disburse or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the church as may be directed by the pastor, the board of deacons, taking proper vouchers for the disbursements;
- (D) Keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the church's properties and business transactions including account of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, and capital;
- (E) Make all expenditures of the church (except miscellaneous petty cash disbursements) by check;
- (F) When and as requested, render to the pastor and the board of deacon's accounts of all his/her transactions as minister of finance and of the financial condition of the church;
- (G) Present a written report of itemized disbursements each month to the pastor and the board of deacons at and make a general report for the year at the annual church administration meeting;
- (H) Keep all church financial records at the office of the church and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office;
- (I) Serve as treasurer of the corporation.

#### **SECTION 5.05—THE CHURCH COUNCIL**

- (A) The church council will consist of the chairperson of all church committees and the board of deacons.



- (B) The church council along with the board of deacons will make up the pulpit committee in the event of a vacancy in the position of pastor.
- (C) The church council will maintain and update a church calendar of events.
- (D) The church council will serve as a representative of the church body to the pastor and board of deacons.
- (E) The pastor shall serve as the president of the church council.

#### **SECTION 5.06—ASSOCIATE PASTORS**

Under the direction and guidance of the pastor, the associate pastor(s) of the church shall assist the pastor in carrying out the ministries of the church.

#### **SECTION 5.07—INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

A public installation service in which all newly elected officers of the church are to be dedicated to their respective offices and the installation of newly elected deacons shall be held at a public church service following their election at the church business/administration meeting (Section 4.05).

## **ARTICLE 6 – MEETINGS**

#### **SECTION 6.01—MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP**

Unless otherwise determined by the pastor, the church shall meet each Sunday for public worship both morning and evening and at least once during the week for Bible study and prayer.

#### **SECTION 6.02—MEETINGS FOR CHURCH ADMINISTRATION**

- (A) The annual church business/administration meeting shall be held in the first quarter of each year. A quorum shall consist of the members present.
- (B) All church business/administration meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer for divine guidance and blessing.
- (C) The moderator shall determine the rules of procedure according to his sense of fairness and common sense, giving all members a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a matter. The moderator is the final authority on questions of procedure, and his decision is final and controlling.
- (D) For any meeting under this article, the moderator, in his sole discretion, shall have full and unilateral authority to require nonmembers to leave the meeting room and to order the immediate removal of any member or other person present who is deemed by the moderator to be disruptive to the proceedings by act or presence. The moderator shall have full authority to order the removal of all children (ages to be determined by the

moderator) if the moderator determines, in his sole discretion, that circumstances so warrant. If the moderator determines that compliance with his order of removal is unsatisfactory, the moderator may, in his sole discretion, revoke the disruptive person's right to remain on the premises in accordance with Section 3.03(C) and treat the person as a trespasser.

### **SECTION 6.03—SPECIAL MEETINGS**

- (A) The pastor (or deacons if the office of pastor is vacant or the pastor is the subject of possible disciplinary action) may call a special meeting by giving notice of such a meeting and the purpose for which it is called to the church from the pulpit at least one Sunday and not less than one week prior to said meeting. A meeting for the calling of a pastor or the severance of the relationship between the church and pastor shall be called in accordance with the provision of Section 4.04(A).
- (B) Bible conferences, missionary conferences, and revivals may be held as the pastor deems beneficial.

### **SECTION 6.04—FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the church shall begin January 1st and end December 31st.

## **ARTICLE 7 – ORDINATION**

### **SECTION 7.01—ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS**

Any male member of this church or its ministries, who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry and possesses the qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, may be ordained, or licensed, as a minister of the Gospel.

### **SECTION 7.02—ORDINATION PROCEDURE**

- (A) Upon a conference with the pastor and after the pastor has approved the candidate for ordination, the pastor shall call a council to examine and pass on the qualification of the candidate. The ordination council shall consist of ordained ministers of like faith invited to participate in the examination of the candidate.
- (B) If the candidate is found worthy of ordination by the council, the ordination council may ordain the candidate on behalf of the church.
- (C) The pastor and the chairman of the deacons shall arrange for the ordination service.

## **ARTICLE 8 – COMMITTEES**

### **SECTION 8.01—STANDING COMMITTEES**

The church council shall appoint standing committees and designate a chairperson for each standing committee and, except when otherwise specifically provided in these bylaws, shall determine the membership of each standing committee. In addition to the discipline committee, the pastor may appoint other standing committees as he deems appropriate.

### **SECTION 8.02—CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATION OF DEACONS**

In the event that the church does not have at least two deacons, the church council will nominate the first two.

### **SECTION 8.03—CHURCH COUNCIL POSITIONS**

The church council shall consist of but is not limited to the chairperson of the following ministries and positions of the church. 1. Pastor 2. Finance Director, 3. Youth Leader, 4. Sunday School Director, 5. Children’s Ministry Director, 6. Public Relations, 7. Music Leader, 8. Media Director.

### **SECTION 8.04—DEACON OVERSIGHT**

The church council can call a business meeting to remove a deacon from office with a three-quarters (75%) vote.

### **SECTION 8.05—SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The board of deacons, in its discretion, may create special committees to provide the board with advice and information regarding matters submitted to the committee by the board for consideration. The committee shall have no authority to act on behalf of the corporation. The members of the committee shall be chosen by a majority vote of the board of deacons and shall serve solely at the pleasure of the board of deacons. The special committee shall be subject to the control and direction of the board of deacons at all times.

## **ARTICLE 9 – 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. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions, but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the pastor and the board of deacons. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Section 1.02.

## **ARTICLE 10 – TAX-EXEMPT PROVISIONS**

### **SECTION 10.01—PRIVATE INUREMENT**

No part of the net earnings of the church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section 1.02 hereof.

### **SECTION 10.02—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.

### **SECTION 10.03—DISSOLUTION**

Upon the dissolution of the church, the trustees shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the church, dispose of all of the assets of the church to such organization or organizations formed and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the trustees shall determine. Assets may be distributed only to tax-exempt organizations which agree with the church's Statement of Faith.

### **SECTION 10.04—RACIAL NONDISCRIMINATION**

The church shall have a racially nondiscriminatory policy and, therefore, shall not discriminate against members, applicants, students, and others on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin.

## **ARTICLE 13 – AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws may be revised or amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular church administration meeting, provided that said revision or amendment has been submitted in writing and announced from the pulpit fourteen (14) days before the vote is taken.

### **ADOPTION**

These bylaws were adopted by a unanimous vote of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the church in which a quorum was present. These bylaws supersede any other bylaws of Eastside Church or Eastside Baptist Church, Inc, Lancaster, SC, USA