



Constitution

Article I

Name and Affiliation

The name of this corporation shall be “Green Run Baptist Church” (hereinafter also referred as “GRBC” or the “Church”). It is a Virginia nonprofit religious Corporation with its principal offices in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Green Run Baptist Church is a member of the Southern Baptist Convention on a national level and is aligned with the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia on a state level in as much as they align with historic Southern Baptist doctrines (1689 London Confession). Our affiliation with the SBC and SBCV is to help further GRBC’s missions and encourage cooperation with other local churches but GRBC shall remain an independent church with its own governance structure.

Article II

Purpose

This church exists for the glory of God alone. We seek to glorify God through spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth; through Christ-Centered worship; through the cultivation of mature followers of Jesus Christ who share the life of the gospel together; through equipping believers for the work of ministry; through the encouragement of Christ centered compassion towards those in need.

Article III

Foundational Beliefs

Section 1. The Bible

The sixty-six books of the Bible are collectively God’s revelation of Himself to mankind, and it is the sole authority for faith and practice. The Bible is verbally inspired by God in every word¹, absolutely inerrant in the original documents, infallible and understandable. It is to be interpreted literally using a grammatical-historical method. The Holy Spirit so moved on the hearts of men as to author the Scriptures²; therefore, they are without error in whole or in part³. Whereas there may be more than one *application* of any given passage of Scripture, there is only one correct *interpretation*. It is the responsibility of all believers, with the aid of the Holy Spirit⁴, to carefully ascertain the true intent and meaning of Scripture, keeping in mind the context and intent of the original author⁵. Proper application is binding on all people, in all places, in all times⁶. The Scriptures stand in judgment of men; men never stand in judgment of the Scriptures⁷.

⁽¹⁾ 2 Timothy 3:16 ⁽²⁾ 2 Peter 1:20-21 ⁽³⁾ Matthew 5:18 ⁽⁴⁾ 1 John 2:27 ⁽⁵⁾ Acts 17:11 ⁽⁶⁾ John 10:35 ⁽⁷⁾ Hebrews 4:12

Section 2. God



Green Run Baptist Church

The Trinity There is but one living, and true God¹ who exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three are co-eternal and co-equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of creation, providence, and redemption.

John 4:24; Ps. 83:18; Heb.3:4; Rom. 1:20; Jer.10:10; Ex.15:11; Ps.147:5; Isa.6:3; I Pet.1:15-16; Rev.4:6-8; Mark12:30; Rev.4:11; Matt.10:37; Jer.2:12-13; Matt.28:19; John 15:26; I Cor.12:4-6; I John 5:7; John10:30; John 5:17; John 14:23; John 17:5&10; Acts 5:3-4; I Cor.2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6; Eph. 2:18; II Cor.13:14; Rev. 1:4-5.

God the Father The first person of the trinity is an infinite, personal spirit¹, perfect in holiness, goodness, wisdom, power and love. He orders and disposes all things according to His grace and good pleasure². He is sovereign in creation, providence and redemption³. He infallibly foreknows all that will come to pass and He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men.

(¹)John 4:24 (²)Psalm 145:8,9 (³)Psalm 103:19; Romans 11:36

Jesus Christ He is God's only begotten Son¹. He is truly God as well as truly man, possessing all attributes of deity². He was conceived of a virgin³; lived a sinless life⁴; died on the cross as the substitute for all who trusted in God prior to the cross and all who would trust in Christ thereafter⁵; was buried and arose bodily from the dead⁶; ascended into Heaven⁷ and is now seated at the right hand of the Father making intercession for His people⁸. He will soon return visibly to earth⁹ to gather His children, execute judgment on believers¹⁰ as well as unbelievers¹¹ and rule and reign forever¹².

(¹)John 1:18 (²)Philippians 2:5-11 (³)Luke 1:26-38; Isaiah 7:14 (⁴)1 Peter 2:22 (⁵)Romans 3:25-26; Galatians 2:16 (⁶)John 2:19-21; Romans 8:11 (⁷)Acts 1:11; 2 Timothy 3:16 (⁸)Hebrews 7:25 (⁹)Zechariah 14:4; Revelation 1:7 (¹⁰)1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10 (¹¹)Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:11-15 (¹²)1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 & II Thessalonians 3:10-13; Zechariah 14:9

The Holy Spirit He is a divine person¹, eternal² and possesses all the attributes of deity including intellect³, emotion⁴ and will⁵. He is omnipresent⁶, omniscient⁷ and omnipotent⁸. He was sent from the Father⁹ and the Son¹⁰ to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment¹¹ and to guide believers into all truth¹². He indwells every true believer¹³ as He has baptized them into the Body of Christ¹⁴. The Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts as He wills on every believer for the purpose of building up the church¹⁵.

(¹)Acts 5:3-4 (²)Hebrews 9:14 (³)1 Corinthians 2:10-13 (⁴)Ephesians 4:30 (⁵)1 Corinthians 12:11 (⁶)Psalm 139:7-10 (⁷)Isaiah 40:7-10 (⁸)Romans 15:13 (⁹)John 15:26 (¹⁰)John 16:7 (¹¹)John 16:7-11 (¹²)John 16:13 (¹³)Romans 8:9 (¹⁴)1 Corinthians 12:13 (¹⁵)1 Corinthians 12:11; 1 Peter 4:10

Section 3. Man

Creation Man was directly and immediately created by God in His image and likeness, free of sin with a rational, intelligent nature that included free will and moral responsibility to God¹. He was created to glorify God, enjoy fellowship with Him and accomplish His plans in the World².

(¹)Genesis 1,2 (²)Isaiah 43:7; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11

Sinfulness and Separation However, mankind, in Adam, chose to sin and so incurred the penalty of physical and spiritual death¹. He is now hopelessly depraved and sinful² and under condemnation³. He can only be saved from eternal judgment, which is separation from God, by God's grace through the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ⁴.

(¹) Genesis 3; Romans 5:12 (²) Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:10; Romans 3:10-18 (³) John 3:18 (⁴) John 3:36; Romans 3:23, 6:23



Section 4. Salvation

Saving Work Of Christ Salvation is completely of God by grace on the basis of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, the merit of His shed blood, and not by human merit or works¹.

⁽¹⁾John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-10

Sovereign Plan of God In order to display the full extent of His glory, it pleased God to choose, before the foundation of the world, those whom He would graciously regenerate, justify, sanctify and glorify¹. This act of choosing, predestination or election, is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life—not because of foreseen merit in them, but of His mere mercy in Christ—in consequence of which choice they are called, justified and glorified. God's sovereign election does not negate the personal responsibility of every individual to repent and trust Christ as Savior and Lord², nor does it negate the responsibility of every believer to make known the gospel of the glory of Christ³.

⁽¹⁾Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:4-11; 2 Timothy 2:12; 1 Peter 1:1-2 ⁽²⁾John 3:18-19; Romans 9:22-23; Revelation 22:17 ⁽³⁾Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 10:11-15

Power of the Gospel Unto Salvation The Holy Spirit does this saving work in connection with the presentation of the gospel of the glory of Christ. Thus neither the work of the Father in election, nor the work of the Son in atonement, nor the work of the Spirit in regeneration is a hindrance or discouragement to the proclamation of the gospel to all the peoples and persons everywhere. On the contrary, this divine saving work of the Trinity is the warrant and the ground of our hope that our evangelism is not vain in the Lord. The Spirit binds His saving work to the gospel of Christ, because His aim is to glorify the Christ of the gospel¹. Therefore, we do not believe there is salvation through any other means than through receiving the gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit, according to God's Sovereign Will.².

⁽¹⁾John 16:14 ⁽²⁾Romans 1:19-20

Regeneration and Preservation by the Spirit Apart from the effectual work of the Holy Spirit, no one would come to faith, because all are dead in trespasses and sin, that they are hostile to God, and morally unable to submit to God or to please Him, because the pleasures of sin appear greater than the pleasures of God¹. Thus, for God's elect, the Spirit triumphs over all resistance, awakens the dead, removes blindness, and manifests Christ in such a compellingly beautiful way through the gospel that He becomes irresistibly attractive to the regenerate heart² guaranteeing the sinner will repent and believe.

All who are justified are kept by the power of God and will persevere in faith until their ultimate triumph in glorification. This perseverance is the promise of the New Covenant³, obtained by the blood of Christ, and worked in us by God Himself, yet not so as to diminish, but only to empower and encourage our vigilance⁴.

⁽¹⁾Ephesians 2:4-6; Romans 8:7-9 ⁽²⁾2 Corinthians 4:4-6 ⁽³⁾Jeremiah 32:40 ⁽⁴⁾Philippians 1:6; 2:12,13; 2 Timothy 4:7-8; 1 Peter 1:5

Section 5. The Church

The Universal Church—The universal church, which may be called invisible or spiritual church, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fulness of him that fills all in all.

Hebrews 12:23; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:10, 22, 23; Ephesians 5:23, 27, 32



Green Run Baptist Church

The Local Church - We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his word; that its only scriptural officers are elders (also referred to as bishops or pastors) and deacons whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

I Cor. 1:1-3; Matt. 18:17; Acts 5:11; Acts 8:1; Acts 11:21-23; I Cor. 4:17; I Cor. 14:23; III John 9; I Tim. 3:5; Acts 2:41-42; II Cor. 8:5; Acts 2:47; I Cor. 5:12-13; I Cor. 11:2; II Thess. 3:6; Rom. 16:17-20; I Cor. 11:23-24; Matt. 18:15-20; I Cor. 5:6; II Cor. 2:17; I Cor. 4:17; Matt. 28:20; John 14:15; John 15:12; I John 14:21; I Thess. 4:2; II John 6; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 4:7; I Cor. 14:12; Phil. 1:1; Acts 14:23; Acts 15:22; I Tim. 3; Titus 1

The Leadership of the Church

To accomplish His Purposes in His Church, Jesus has instituted officer of the elder (also called pastor, bishop). This office is established to govern and guide the life of the local assembly. The office is to function under the authority of Christ Jesus, and in submission to the Scriptures, and they must meet biblical qualifications² in order to be set apart as an elder. These leaders rule and have authority in directing the church as servants of the Lord³, and the congregation is to submit to their leadership⁴.

⁽¹⁾Acts 20:28 ⁽²⁾I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5 ⁽³⁾I Timothy 5:17-22 ⁽⁴⁾Hebrews 13:7,17

The Life of the Church The local church is the setting where discipleship is to take place¹, believers are to be accountable to each other², and sinning members of the congregation are disciplined according to the standards of Scripture³. Each local church is free to govern its own affairs under the Headship of Christ. It is the responsibility of the elders to determine matters of policy, membership, discipline, benevolence, government, and the degree to which the local church will partner with other churches or organizations to propagate the Gospel⁴. Partnership is dependent upon local churches fulfilling three Biblical duties as set forth in the Belgic Confession of Faith (1561, Article 29). These duties are defined as (1)preaching the pure doctrine of the Gospel; (2)properly administering the sacraments of Baptism and Communion; and (3)the exercise of church discipline among its members.

¹⁾ Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:2 ⁽²⁾Matthew 18:5-14⁽³⁾ Matthew 18:15-22; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; 1 Timothy 1:19-20; Titus 1:10-16 ⁽⁴⁾Acts 15:19-31; 1 Corinthians 5:4-7, 13; 1 Peter 5:1-4

The Importance of the Church Every Christian has been gifted by God to serve Him in the local church¹. Members, therefore, should use their gifts in active service to God in the church, thereby building the church in the faith² and glorifying God³. Indispensable elements of building up the church are: instruction in God's Word⁴; fellowship⁵; observation of the ordinances⁶; and advancement of the Gospel around the world⁷. All Christians are called by God to do the work of the ministry⁸.

⁽¹⁾1 Corinthians 12:27; 1 Peter 4:10 ⁽²⁾Ephesians 4:13-16 ⁽³⁾Ephesians 3:21 ⁽⁴⁾2 Timothy 2:2,15; 3:16-17 ⁽⁵⁾Acts 2:47; 1 John 1:3 ⁽⁶⁾Luke 22:19; Acts 2:38-42; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ⁽⁷⁾Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8 ⁽⁸⁾Ephesians 4:12

Baptism and Communion The two ordinances given to the church to observe regularly are baptism and the Lord's Supper. In baptism, a person is placed under water into the name of the triune God as a symbol of his previous conversion experience, which includes the death of the old self. As he is raised from the water, it is symbolic of his new life in Christ¹. Baptism is not essential to salvation; it is, however, a significant act that all obedient Christians should follow, considering the example and command of Christ². The Lord's Supper (or Communion) is to be practiced on a regular basis by a local assembly of believers, always preceded by self-



Green Run Baptist Church

examination³. It, like baptism, is a symbolic act, but extremely meaningful nevertheless, as it is an actual communion with Christ Himself, foreshadowing the Day when all Christians will enjoy unbroken, perfect fellowship with Him⁴.

⁽¹⁾Romans 6:3-5 ⁽²⁾Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 1:9 ⁽³⁾1 Corinthians 11:23-32 ⁽⁴⁾Revelation 19:7-10

Section 6. Last Things

The Lord Jesus will return personally and visibly to the earth to administer the final judgments and establish His eternal kingdom¹. The wicked face an eternity of endless suffering² and those, who through faith in Christ are righteous will receive an eternity of perpetual blessedness³.

⁽¹⁾Revelation 20:11-15 ⁽²⁾Matthew 16:27 ⁽³⁾1 Thessalonians 4:17; Revelation 21:1-8

Section 7. Marriage and Sexuality

Biblical Marriage We believe that Marriage unites one man and one woman in a lifetime commitment to each other.⁽¹⁾ Marriage provides for intimate companionship, pure sexual expression,⁽²⁾ procreation, and reflects the relationship of Christ and the church.⁽³⁾

⁽¹⁾Genesis 2:23-24; Matthew 19:4-6 ⁽²⁾Genesis 2:25; Ephesians 5:31-33 ⁽³⁾Genesis 1:28; Proverbs 5:15-19; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5

Sexual Sin We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one 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 and that all conduct with the intent to adopt a gender other than one's birth gender is immoral and therefore sin.⁽¹⁾ Such sinful pattern if not repented shall be a barrier to covenant membership and leadership in a body of believers.

⁽¹⁾Genesis 1:27, 2:24; Genesis 19:5, 13; Genesis 26:8-9; Deut. 22:5; Lev. 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4

Article IV **Church Covenant**

Having been led by the grace of God through the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit to repent of our sin and in faith turn to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and having given public testimony of this faith through baptism, we now joyfully and solemnly enter into this covenant with the members of Green Run Baptist Church.

We commit, through the power of the Holy Spirit to walk together in love, to remember one another in prayer, to help one another in times of need, to exercise gentleness and humility in our dealings with one another as we speak the truth in love, to be faithful in our responsibilities and commitments, to be just and honest in our dealings, and to honor ourselves and others for Christ's sake through sexual purity, personal integrity, and abstaining from things or practices which bring harm to our faith or the faith of another.



Green Run Baptist Church

We commit to faithful participation in times of worship, prayer, study, and fellowship with other believers, to the building up of the church by using our spiritual gifts in ministry, to contributing cheerfully and regularly for the ministry and expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel to the world.

We commit to practice personal and family worship, to train our children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, and to seek the salvation of our family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, acquaintances, and all peoples of the world.

We will, when we move from this place, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

We have read the Articles, Constitution, and Bylaws including but not limited to those policies dealing with church discipline, conflict resolution and members' privileges and responsibilities and holy covenant and agree to be bound by the Articles, Constitution and Bylaws and accompanying policies and procedures.

Article V **Amendments**

Amendments to this Constitution may be introduced through written motion to the Council of Elders by any member in good standing. Upon the discretion of the Elders, a special members' meeting may be called for the purpose of discussion only, and an additional members' meeting may be called for the purpose of a vote no less than four (4) weeks after the initial meeting, at which time an affirmative vote of a three-quarter (3/4) majority of those members present and voting shall be required for acceptance with at least a twenty-five percent (25%) of the active membership present at the start of the meeting. Notice of the proposed change or amendment must be given on at least four (4) Sundays prior to the vote.



BYLAWS

Table of Contents

Article I..... Membership

Article II.....Meeting

Article III.....Elders

Article IV.....Pastoral and Ministerial Staff

Article V..... Deacons

Article VI.....Church Officers

Article VII..... Non-Ministerial Staff

Article VIII..... Administrative and Ministry Teams

Article IX..... Church Finances

Article X.....Settlement of Disputes

Article XI..... Amendments

ARTICLE I
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Active Membership

Active membership is comprised of those members who:

- (a) Have complied with the membership application requirements (per Article I, Section 4); and
- (b) Are regularly participating in, and contributing to, the life of this local church.

The Council of Elders in its sole discretion will be the final decision maker on whether a person qualifies for active membership and voting privileges.

Section 2. Inactive Membership

Inactive membership is comprised of those members who have been determined by the Council of Elders as unable to meet the requirements for active membership during a period of time deemed appropriate to warrant them inactive but not under conditions that would make them a candidate for formal church discipline.



Section 3. Voting Duties and Privileges

In accord with the duties enumerated in the GRBC Church Covenant, each member shall have the privilege and is expected to participate in and contribute to the ministry and life of the church, consistent with God's leading and with the gifts, time, and material resources each has received from God. Only those shall be entitled to serve in the ministries of the church who are members of this congregation; non-members may serve on an ad-hoc basis with the approval of the elders. Notwithstanding, non-members may serve the church for purposes of administration and professional consultation.

Under Christ, covenant members have the privilege and responsibility to attend all members' meetings and vote on the election of officers; decisions regarding membership status; and, on such other matters as may be submitted to a vote; including but not limited to-

- (a) The Annual Budget;
- (b) Acceptance and dismissal of candidates for Membership or Members for removal from Membership;
- (c) Call or removal of Pastoral and Ministry Staff – three-quarter (3/4) majority;
- (d) Ratification of candidates for Elders and Deacons – two-thirds (2/3) majority;
- (e) Acquisition, sale, or transfer of real property and any related indebtedness – two-thirds (2/3) majority;
- (f) Merger or dissolution of the church – two-thirds (2/3) majority;
- (g) Sale of all or substantially all of the church's assets – two-thirds (2/3) majority;
- (h) Any other major event or decision as designated by the Council of Elders – simple majority unless otherwise provided.

Voting privileges are restricted to active members who are not under any disciplinary action and who have passed their eighteenth (18) birthday. Unless otherwise stated, a simple majority of those members present shall be sufficient for affirmation.

Section 4. Application for Membership

The membership of Green Run Baptist Church shall consist of those persons who have met all the following:

- (a) Have confessed Jesus Christ to be their personal Lord and Savior;
- (b) Completed the New Membership class(es);
- (c) Attended the pre-membership meeting with the Elders;
- (d) Have signed the church covenant;
- (e) Have been baptized by immersion after their profession of faith, either at Green Run or a church of like faith; and
- (f) Have been presented for church membership in a special or regularly scheduled members' meeting upon recommendation of the Council of Elders received by members present by majority vote.

Section 5. Denial of Membership

If, upon review during the application process, the Council of Elders determines that the applicant does not meet the requirements for membership, that membership may be denied or postponed until the requirements are satisfactorily met.



Section 6. Termination of Membership

Termination of membership at GRBC shall be for any of the following actions:

- (a) Death of the member;
- (b) Transfer of membership to a church of like faith;
- (c) Upon request of a member in good standing to terminate his/her membership;
- (d) Dropped from church roll for inactive status (per Article I, Section 8); or
- (e) Church discipline (per Article I, Section 7).

Section 7. Church Discipline and Restoration

The threefold purpose of church discipline is (1) to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Corinthians 5:6), (2) to edify believers by deterring sin (1 Timothy 5:20), and (3) to promote the spiritual welfare of the believer by calling them to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Galatians 6:1).

- (a) The discipline of members shall be a responsibility of the congregation in conjunction with the Council of Elders in the event that a member is engaged in false doctrine, conduct that violates Scripture, or the omission of Biblical and covenantal duties as outlined by the Church Covenant. The member may be subject to formal church discipline, including, the exclusion from fellowship and/or membership in the church according to Matthew 18:15-18; Galatians 6:1-5; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 and the Guidelines for Church Discipline passed by the Council of Elders. Before such action is taken:
 - a. Reasonable written notice which includes a short explanation of the charges against the member shall be given, after which the member will be brought before the Council of Elders for a thorough investigation in accord with the procedures prescribed by Scripture, including Matthew 18:15-18 and 1 Timothy 5:19. If there is found to be sufficient evidence of the member's heresy or misconduct, that they have been appropriately confronted in love, and if they have refused to repent, then
 - b. The Elders shall inform the church at a specially scheduled members' meeting in order that the church may call the individual to repentance.
 - c. The member shall be publicly excluded from the fellowship and/or membership of the church at a specially scheduled members' meeting by majority vote of those members present. If the individual, after such exclusion, heeds the warning, demonstrates repentance, and requests reinstatement before the Council of Elders, then they shall be publicly restored to all the rights, duties, privileges, and responsibilities of the fellowship and/or membership.
- (b) Members dismissed by the church shall be restored to full membership privileges by the Council of Elders according to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:7,8 when their conduct is judged by the Council of Elders to be in accordance with the Foundational Beliefs and Biblical repentance. An Elder shall communicate such restoration to the church in a timely manner.
- (c) The members of this church agree that there shall be no appeal to any court or arbiter because of the dismissal or the necessary public statements to the congregation at any stage of church discipline. Members for which the formal discipline process has begun by receiving notice of the allegations and hearing above mentioned or who are under formal discipline by the church, as defined in the previous paragraphs, forfeit and waive the right to resign from this church. Resignations from membership are possible only by members who are in good standing and who are not under any disciplinary investigation or action.



Section 8. Miscellaneous Membership Matters

Separate and apart from the process of church discipline, but subject to the discretion and approval of the Elders:

- (a) A member, non-member regular attender, or other individual may be notified that he or she is not to be present upon church premises for such a period of time as is deemed necessary for the safety and well-being of others on church premises. Such required absence may, but need not, be concurrent with church discipline of that person.
- (b) Those members who have been determined to be inactive (Article I, Section 1) shall be subject to the following process:
 - a. The Elders will attempt to contact the inactive member to encourage him or her to covenant with a true Biblical church.
 - b. If the Elders have no cause for concern regarding the inactive member's spiritual well-being, his or her name will be brought before the church upon the discretion of the Council of Elders at a regularly scheduled members' meeting, and pending a majority vote, shall be dropped from the covenant membership of the church.
 - c. An attempt will be made to duly notify the former member of his or her termination as a covenant member.
 - d. Any terminated member wishing to be reinstated to membership status shall make their request before the Council of Elders and, upon the recommendation of the Elders, be reinstated to active membership (Article I, Section 1).

ARTICLE II

Meetings

Section 1. Worship Meetings

Regular public worship meetings shall be held on the Lord's Day each week. The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated regularly at such times as the Council of Elders may determine. Additional worship meetings may be held as deemed necessary by the Council of Elders and the needs of the church.

Section 2. Members' Meetings

- (a) GRBC may hold a regular members' meeting quarterly, but no less than annually. The church, duly assembled at a members' meeting, may be required to: elect officers; receive applicants into church membership; recognize termination of membership due to death or voluntary resignation; exercise church discipline; approve a church budget; hear reports from the elders and, from time to time, the various deacons; and to take any other action they deem necessary or desirable.
- (b) Special Meetings: The Council of Elders, or any ten (10) members in good standing, after having made written request to the counsel of elders, may call for a special meeting of the church. Notice of the meeting shall be given no less than two weeks prior to the meeting with the specific purpose of the meeting being clearly stated in the notice.



- (c) Quorum: Unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws, any number of members present at the start of a duly noticed meeting shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special members' meeting for the transaction of business.
- (d) Moderator: The Chairman of the Council of Elders shall preside over all regular and special members' meetings (per Article V, Section 1) consistent with the Rules of Order as established by the Council of Elders for all such meetings.
- (e) Minutes: Minutes of any regular or special members' meeting shall be taken and kept in the records of the church under the custody of the Secretary, or a designated Church Clerk.

ARTICLE III

Elders (Board of Directors)

Section 1. Powers

The leadership of the Church shall be entrusted to the Council of Elders (hereinafter also referred to as the "Council") who shall also serve as the Board of Directors and are responsible for governing the church, shepherding the flock, and having oversight of the spiritual affairs of the body (1 Timothy 5:17). The Elders shall be equal in authority but may be specialized in function.

Section 2. Organization

The Council of Elders shall consist of both paid Pastoral Staff and Lay Elders. The authorized number of Elders shall be such number as may from time to time be determined by the Council to meet the needs of the ministry and by the call and qualification of male members in the church. However, the authorized number shall not be less than three (3) persons and no less than fifty percent (50%) of the Council shall be Lay Elders not related to each other or to paid staff. The Council shall annually select its Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary from among all the active Elders.

Section 3. Nomination, Selection, and Tenure of Office

Recommendations to fill the office of Lay Elder may be requested from the church members. Member recommendations shall be given to the Council, or its designee, for review and to determine each nominee's qualifications (per Article III, Section 6). A proposed slate of qualified nominees shall then be approved by the Council of Elders for presentation to the members.

The Secretary shall publicly post the qualified nominees at least two weeks prior to the August members' meeting. At this meeting, the slate of nominees shall be presented to the members to affirm the decision of the Elders with written ballot by at least two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those members present. If the slate of nominees is affirmed, the newly elected Elders shall assume office immediately. Lay Elders shall serve for a term of three (3) years. There shall be three annual classes of Lay Elders so that approximately one-third (1/3) are up for election each year to maintain continuity and make for smooth transitions within the Council of Elders. A Lay Elder may serve for an indefinite number of terms or until his resignation, removal by the Council of Elders, or his successor is elected and qualified.



Section 4. Meetings

- (a) Place of Meetings: Any meeting by the Council of Elders may be held at any location and at any time deemed appropriate by the majority of the Council.
- (b) Regular Meetings: Regular meetings of the Council of Elders shall be held without call or notice on the second Sunday of each month, unless otherwise modified by the Council.
- (c) Special Meetings: Special meetings of the Council of Elders may be called at any time by order of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman or the Secretary of the Council of Elders or by a majority of the members of the Council of Elders.
- (d) The Council of Elders may also meet by means of a conference telephone call or similar communications equipment, provided all persons entitled to participate in the meeting receive proper notice of the telephone meeting, and provided all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time. A member participating in a conference telephone meeting is deemed present in person at the meeting. The Chairman of the meeting may establish reasonable rules as to conducting business at any meeting by telephone.
- (e) Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Council may be taken without a meeting, if all of the Elders, individually, or collectively, consent in writing to the action. Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as the unanimous vote of the Council. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Council.
- (f) Minutes of the regular and special meetings of the Council of Elders shall be taken by the Secretary who shall have custody thereof and be responsible for circulating copies to the Elders in a timely manner.

Section 5. Quorum

A quorum for meetings of the Elders is defined as at least one-half (1/2) of the Lay Elders plus at least one-half (1/2) of the Pastoral Staff, except for matters on which only Lay Elders are entitled to vote in which case a majority of the Lay Elders shall constitute a quorum. Whenever the matter to be considered concerns calling or removing an Elder, a quorum shall consist of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Council.

Section 6. Qualifications

Each member of the Council of Elders must be an active member of GRBC and shall possess and maintain the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. He shall be:

- (a) Above reproach (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
- (b) Husband of one wife (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6)
- (c) Temperate (1 Timothy 3:2)
- (d) Self-Controlled (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- (e) Respectable (1 Timothy 3:2)
- (f) Hospitable (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- (g) Able to teach (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9)
- (h) Not given to drunkenness (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- (i) Not violent (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- (j) Gentle (1 Timothy 3:3)



Green Run Baptist Church

- (k) Not quarrelsome (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- (l) Not a lover of money (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- (m) Manage his own family well (1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:7)
- (n) Not be a recent convert (1 Timothy 3:6)
- (o) Have a good reputation among unbelievers (1 Timothy 3:7)

Section 7. Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Elders shall include but not be limited to: shepherding the flock, serving on the Board of Directors, instructing prospective members through the Membership classes, conducting pre-membership meetings, presenting new members to the church, overseeing the process of church discipline, examining prospective candidates for offices in the church, scheduling and moderating members' meetings, providing for reporting and recording of official church business, overseeing the work of the Deacons and appointed church agents and teams, providing business, financial, and administrative oversight and direction for the church, conducting worship services, administering the ordinances of the Gospel, equipping the membership of the church for the work of the ministry, teaching the whole counsel of God both formally and informally, correcting error, overseeing, coordinating and promoting the ministries of the church, and mobilizing the church for world missions.

Section 8. Resignation and Removal of Elders

Any Lay Elder may at any time deliver a written notice of intent to resign to the Chairman, which shall be effective upon acceptance by the Council. Any Lay Elder may be removed at any time with or without cause when, in the sole judgment and discretion of the Council, by unanimous vote that such individual should no longer serve as an Elder. In the event any Elder is so removed, the council will inform the congregation and a new Elder may be elected in accordance with these Bylaws for the remainder of the term.

Section 9. Vacancies

A vacancy on the Council because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification or any other cause shall be filled by nomination and election in accordance with these Bylaws for the remainder of the term.

Section 10. Special Teams

Special teams may be appointed at the discretion of the Council of Elders and shall be composed of two or more Elders for purposes specifically delegated by the Council. Except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, or by a Resolution of the Council, each special team may not exercise the authority of the Council.

Section 11. Decisions of the Council of Elders

Decisions shall be reached after prayerful consideration by majority vote in a spirit of humility, with each Elder seeking that which most glorifies God and regarding one another before himself.



Section 12. Transactions with Interested Parties

A contract or other transaction between the church and one or more of its Elders, Staff Pastors, Officers, Deacons, or family members thereof (hereinafter “Interested Party”), or between the Church and any other entity, of which one or more of the church or its Elders, Staff Pastors, Officers, or Deacons are also Interested Parties, or in which entity is an Interested Party has a financial interest – shall be voidable at the sole election of the church unless all of the following provisions are satisfied:

- (a) The church entered into the transaction for its own benefit;
- (b) The transaction was fair and reasonable as to the church, or was in furtherance of its expressed purposes at the time the church entered into the transaction;
- (c) Prior to consummating the transaction, or any part, the Council authorized or approved the transaction, in good faith, by a vote of a majority of the Elders then in office, without counting the vote of the interested Elder(s), and with knowledge of the material facts concerning the transaction and the Interested Parties’ interest in the transaction; and
- (d) Prior to authorizing or approving the transaction, the Council, in good faith, determined after reasonable investigation and consideration, that either the church could not have obtained a more advantageous arrangement, with reasonable effort under the circumstances, or the transaction was in furtherance of the church’s tax-exempt purposes.

Common or interested Elders may not be counted in determining the presence of a quorum at a meeting of the Council (or a committee/team thereof) which authorizes, approves, or ratifies such contract or transaction. The Council may adopt additional Conflicts of Interest policies, in addition to the above, to provide for full disclosure of material conflicting interests by Elders, Officers, Deacons, or employees to permit the Council to determine whether the contemplated transaction may be authorized as just, fair, and reasonable to the church. Notwithstanding the above, no loan shall be made by the church to any of its Elders, Officers, Staff Pastors, Deacons, or Members.

Section 13. No Compensation

No salary or compensation shall be paid to any Elder in his capacity as Council member, but nothing herein shall be construed to preclude any Elder from serving the Church in any other capacity and receiving reasonable compensation. Moreover, the Council member may receive reasonable reimbursement for travel and other approved expenses upon request and written documentation.

ARTICLE IV

Pastoral and Ministerial Staff

Section 1. Pastoral and Ministerial Staff

The church shall have a Lead Pastor and may have one or more Teaching or Associate Pastors as determined necessary by the church. Pastoral staff members are the ordained Pastoral Elders of the church. The ministerial staff is comprised of non-ordained members of the church. Both pastoral and ministerial staff work under the



general supervision of the Lead Pastor and are supported financially by the church in return for their vocational labors.

Section 2. Duties and Responsibilities

The Lead Pastor shall be the spiritual leader of the church and shall simultaneously occupy the position of the President of the church corporation. He shall be an ex officio member of all administrative and ministry teams, and he shall be responsible to the Council of Elders. The Lead Pastor shall arrange for and conduct all public and regular services of the church. In the absence of the Lead Pastor, the Council of Elders (or a duly appointed team of the Council) shall be responsible to arrange for the public and regular services of the church.

Section 3. Election

If a vacancy in the position of Lead Pastor occurs for whatever reason, the Council shall serve as, or appoint members to serve on a Pastor Search Team. The team shall appoint a chairperson and secretary from among their number and proceed with as little delay as possible. The team shall seek out a suitable candidate and its recommendation to the Council shall constitute a nomination. The team shall bring to the Council only one man at a time for their consideration. Afterwards, a special called business meeting shall be held to confirm a particular candidate. Election shall be by secret ballot, an affirmative vote of three-quarters (3/4) of those members present and voting with a quorum of at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the active membership present shall constitute a call. The Council shall inform the candidate of the voting results as soon as possible. A Lead Pastor, upon confirmation, shall serve for an indefinite term until the sooner of his death, resignation, or removal.

Section 4. Pastoral and Ministerial Staff Election

- (a) All other pastoral and ministerial staff shall be called upon recommendation by the Council of Elders and confirmation by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those members present and voting with at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the active membership of the church present at any regular or special members' meeting.
- (b) The pastoral and ministerial staff shall be under the direct supervision of the Lead Pastor and assist in leading the church to function as a New Testament church. A job description for the specific position shall be created by the Council of Elders and approved by the church.
- (c) The church's call of a pastoral staff member is a call to the eldership of the church. Therefore, pastoral staff members shall be members of the Council of Elders and have all the biblical qualifications of an Elder.

Section 5. Compensation

The Council of Elders shall specify a Pastoral or Ministerial staff member's initial compensation at the time of his calling. The Lead Pastor shall recuse himself from any discussions and vote regarding his compensation. The church shall provide an adequate salary and such additional benefits as requested and allowed in accordance with the Annual Budget. Such benefits may include, but are not limited to, housing allowance, health insurance, continued education, conference funds, vacation time, and other special funds as may be needed for his ministry. The church may also defray the costs of sending the Lead Pastor to out-of-town conferences, conventions, or mission trips attended for the church, as approved by the Council and in accordance with the Annual Budget.



Section 6. Termination of Call of Pastoral Staff

The termination of the call of any paid Pastoral staff member may be brought about by:

- (a) Resignation: Any Pastoral staff member, including the Lead Pastor, may at any time provide his written intent to resign to the Council which shall be effective thirty (30) days after acceptance by the Council, unless a different time is mutually agreed to by the parties.
- (b) Discipline: When a grievance exists against a Pastor, either due to conduct in violation of Scripture or the teaching of false doctrine, such grievance may be brought before the Council of Elders by any two (2) or more active members in good standing (with preference to unrelated members). If the Council, after thorough investigation and consideration, believes the grievance to be true and substantial, then the individual may be terminated at any members' meeting upon the recommendation of the Council of Elders when supported with written ballot by three-fourths (3/4) majority of those members present and voting with at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the active membership of the church present at such meeting. Public notification of such meeting and its purpose shall be given no less than two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE V

Deacons

Section 1. Organization, Selection, and Tenure of Office

- (a) The Deacons shall consist of members who meet the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and shall be nominated by members of the church. The Council of Elders, in conjunction with the active Deacons, will compile and confirm the nominees who have met the Biblical qualifications of Deacon and have completed the required training. The Council shall submit the names to the members for affirmation with written ballot. At least two-thirds majority voting in favor shall be required of those members present at a duly called members' meeting.
- (b) The number of Deacons shall be determined by the needs of the ministry and by the call and qualification of members in the church.
- (c) Under the direction of the Elders, the Deacons shall organize themselves however they determine best to achieve the mission of the church. The Elders or the Deacons may designate any specific Deacon or group of Deacons to specialize in some particular Deaconal function. Meetings of the Deacons shall be held as needed to best fulfill the responsibilities of the Deacons.
- (d) Each Deacon shall come before the members each year at the August members' meeting for reaffirmation with written ballot by at least two-thirds (2/3) majority of those members present. A Deacon shall serve indefinitely until resignation, removal, or by lack of reaffirmation by the members.

Section 2. Responsibilities

The Deacons shall advise and be ready to assist the Elders in any service that shall support and promote the ministry of the Word, new and existing ministries of the church, and the care for the members of the congregation.



Section 3. Resignation and Removal of a Deacon

Any Deacon may at any time deliver a written notice of intent to resign to the Elder Chair, which shall be effective upon acceptance by the Council. Any Deacon may be removed at any time with or without cause when, in the sole judgment and discretion of the Council, by unanimous vote that such individual should no longer serve as a Deacon. In the event any Deacon is so removed, a new Deacon may be elected in accordance with these Bylaws for the remainder of the term.

ARTICLE VI

Church Officers

Section 1. In General

The officers of the church shall be a President, a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Council may from time to time create additional offices as deemed necessary. Except for the President, each officer shall be appointed annually by the Council of Elders and shall hold his office until he resigns, is removed, or becomes otherwise disqualified to serve, or until his successor shall be elected and qualified. Any Officer may hold a second office except for that of President and Secretary.

Section 2. President

The Lead Pastor shall simultaneously occupy the office of President of the corporation and as the chief executive officer shall have general supervision, direction, and control of the business and affairs of the church. He shall be an ex officio member of all administrative and ministry teams. The President shall have such other powers and duties as the Council may prescribe from time to time. The President shall absent himself from discussion and voting at Council meetings wherein his duties, powers, and salary are being voted on. The President and/or the Council shall execute any necessary documents and instruments on behalf of the church, except where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Council to some other officer or agent of the church. Unless he delegates the decision to the Council, the President shall also serve as the Chairman of the Council.

Section 3. Chairman

If not the President, the Chairman shall be appointed from among the active Elders and shall, subject to the control of the Council of Elders, preside at all special and regular members' meetings and all meetings of the Council of Elders.

Section 4. Vice-Chairman

In the absence or the disability of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall perform all the duties of the Chairman, and when so acting shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all restrictions upon, the



Chairman. The Vice-Chairman shall be appointed from among the active Elders and shall have such other duties as from time to time may be prescribed for him by the Council of Elders.

Section 5. Secretary

He shall be appointed from among the active Elders. He shall keep, or cause to be kept, a book of minutes of all meetings of the Council of Elders and its special teams, with the time and place of holding, whether regular or special, the names of those present at the meetings, and the proceedings thereof. The Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the Council of Elders and any special teams thereof as required. The Secretary shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as prescribed by the Council. Unless delegated to a designated Church Clerk, the Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, a record of all actions of the church. He shall record, or cause to be recorded, the minutes from all members' meetings and shall also keep the rolls of active and inactive members approved by the Council, appropriate accounting records, and the church's articles, constitution and bylaws currently in effect. An active member may be entitled to inspect, at a reasonable time and location specified by the Council, any of these church records described above, provided the Council finds that the active member has a proper purpose and is acting in good faith. The Council may limit or restrict access to any records that contain confidential information about a particular person or persons.

Section 6. Treasurer

He shall be appointed from among the active Elders and shall ensure the stewardship of the physical and financial resources of the Church. The Treasurer shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the church. He shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, the annual operating budget of the church and shall authorize all budgeted expenditures for the church. He shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, all monies and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the church. The actions of the Treasurer shall be open to inspection by the Council of Elders and reports shall be made to the members at all regularly scheduled members' meetings.

ARTICLE VII

Non-Ministerial Staff

Section 1. Non-Ministerial Staff

Non-ministerial staff include all staff other than pastoral and ministerial staff. It is the Lead Pastor's responsibility to lead all staff in the direction that helps the Church accomplish its goals.

Section 2. Duties and Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of all staff positions shall be formulated and approved by the Council of Elders, or its designee.

Section 3. Selection

Selection and approval of non-ministerial staff shall be the responsibility of the Council, or its designee, with recommendations by pastoral staff.



Section 4. Resignation and Termination

Any non-ministerial staff member may at any time resign by submitting written notice to the Lead Pastor or Chairman of the Council of Elders. Any non-ministerial staff member may be terminated upon recommendation of a supervising staff member and approval of the Council. Such termination of non-ministerial staff may be reported to the members, but does not need membership approval.

ARTICLE VIII

Administrative and Ministry Teams

Section 1. Administrative and Ministry Teams

The Council of Elders may establish such Administrative and Ministry Teams (Standing and Special) as needed to assist them in the performance of the business affairs or ministry needs of the church. These teams shall function under the oversight of the Council but will continue to pursue their designated responsibilities as defined by the church. A Special Team may not exist beyond the duration of one year without reauthorization by the Council.

Section 2. Organization and Responsibilities

The organization and responsibilities of each Administrative and Ministry Team shall be described more fully in the Church Policy and Operations Manual.

Section 3. Team Members and Chairpersons

Unless otherwise stated, the Council shall appoint members to each Administrative and Ministry Team. Unless otherwise stated, the Team members shall appoint a Chairperson from among their number to oversee and run each Team.

ARTICLE IX

Church Finances

Section 1. Financial Planning

The financial planning of the church shall be carried out through the medium of annual budgets for performing the various functions and ministries of the church. The Treasurer, along with input from staff and church ministries, shall prepare and submit these annual budgets to the Council for its review and approval. Annual budgets shall be adopted upon recommendation of the Council of Elders and a majority vote of the members present and voting at the August members' meeting. Matters involving staff compensation shall be the responsibility of the lay members of the Council of Elders.

Section 2. Accounts



Green Run Baptist Church

Financial receipts from all sources shall be accounted for by the Treasurer, or his designee, according to the purposes for which contributions are designated. The Treasurer shall disperse, or cause to be disbursed, these funds promptly according to the financial program of the church as detailed in the annual budget or other approved designations. All monies for missions shall be remitted in accordance with the Mission budget of the church or otherwise designated.

Section 3. Deposits

The Council shall select banks, trust companies, or other depositories in which all funds of the church not otherwise employed shall, from time to time be deposited to the credit to the church.

Section 4. Checks

All checks or demands for money and notes of the church shall be signed by such officer or officers or such other persons as the Council may from time to time designate. Any check over the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5000.00) shall require two authorized signatures from two disinterested Council members or officers or through any other authorization procedures as determined by the Council.

Section 5. Fundraising

All ministries of this church should be supported by the financial contributions of the congregation. Therefore, no method of special fund raising shall be permitted that is in conflict with this ideal.

Section 6. Purchases or Sale of Property and Indebtedness

Neither officers nor agents of the church may purchase or sell real or personal property on behalf of the church unless authorized by the Council and in cases of real property, the members according to these Bylaws. Any borrowing of money must be approved by the Council and the members according to these Bylaws. Further, no amount of indebtedness shall be incurred by the church that is in conflict with the financial principles found in Scripture.

Section 7. Contracts

The President can sign contracts to bind the church once approved by the Council or according to its procedures. However, the Council may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the church, in addition to those officers so authorized by these Bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of or on behalf of the church, including real estate transactions once proper approval has been sought and obtained. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. All contracts for major services or expenditures may be reviewed by a competent attorney.

Section 8. Fiscal Year

The Council, in consultation with the necessary teams, shall have the power to fix, and from time to time to change, the fiscal year of the church. Unless otherwise later changed by the Council, the fiscal year shall run from September 1 through August 31. Accurate records shall be kept by all organizations of the church and report made on the fiscal year basis. All funds handled by any and all organizations will be reported to the Council.



Section 9. Designated Contributions

The church may accept any designated contributions, grant, bequest, or gift consistent with its general tax exempted purposes, as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation. As so limited, donor designated contributions will be accepted for special funds, purposes, or uses as approved by the Council, and such designations generally shall be honored. However, the church reserves all rights, title, and interest in and to and control of such contributions, as well as full discretion as to the ultimate expenditure or distribution thereof in connection with any funds (including designated contributions) to assure that such funds will be used to carry out the church's tax-exempt purposes.

Section 10. Benevolence Fund

The Council shall establish procedures to receive and disburse by check all funds allocated to them in a Benevolence Fund. It will be the duty of the Council, or a designated Benevolence Team, to determine needs of the congregants or others in the community as they arise. The Benevolence Team shall examine the need of the recipients of these designated funds.

Section 11. Partnerships, Joint Ventures, LLC's, and Auxiliary Corporations

The Council may authorize in writing any officer(s) or agent(s) of the church to enter into any partnerships or joint ventures or create auxiliary corporations or limited liability companies that the Council determines shall advance the religious purposes and goals of the church as described herein and not violate the church's tax-exempt status.

ARTICLE X

Biblical Settlement of Disputes within or against the Church

In any dispute arising between or among church members, the dispute may be resolved by the Council of Elders (or a duly appointed committee from the Council) under the *Rules and Procedures for Christian Conciliation* published at www.iccpeace.com. All employees of the church shall sign policies or contracts with the Christian Dispute Resolution clause in it. All contractors and vendors of the church may be asked to sign policies or contracts with the Christian Dispute Resolution clause in it.

Any dispute between a member and the church, or its agents in their representative capacity, shall be resolved through Christian Conciliation. Christian mediation should be attempted but if it does not resolve the dispute then legally binding Christian Arbitration shall be employed by the Board or individuals selected by the Board in accordance with the *Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation* found at www.iccpeace.com. A decision shall be reached after prayerful consideration, in a spirit of humility, with each Arbitrator seeking that which most glorifies God and regarding one another before himself.

Judgment upon an arbitration decision may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction. Jurisdiction and venue shall be the county and state where the church is located and Virginia law will apply to the dispute.



Green Run
Baptist Church

Members, pastors, staff or third-party vendors/contractors shall understand that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising against the Church and expressly waive their right to file a lawsuit in any civil court against one another or the Church for such disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision. In that case, judgment upon an arbitration award may be entered by any court having competent jurisdiction, in conformity with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Notwithstanding this above provision, to protect the church and its members and under its risk policy procedures, the church is required to maintain liability insurance. Therefore, this conflict provision is conditioned upon agreement by the church's insurers that, in light of the particular facts and circumstances surrounding the disputed matter, this provision, and the process it establishes will not diminish any insurance coverage maintained by the church.

ARTICLE XI

Amendments

Amendments to these Bylaws may be introduced through written motion to the Council of Elders by any member in good standing. Upon the discretion of the Elders, a special members' meeting may be called for the purpose of discussion only, and an additional members' meeting may be called for the purpose of a vote no less than two (2) weeks after the initial meeting, at which time an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of those members present and voting shall be required for acceptance with twenty-five percent (25%) of the active membership present. Notice of the proposed change or amendment must be given on at least two Sundays prior to the vote.

Certificate

I, the undersigned, being the Secretary of the Elders for Green Run Baptist Church, do hereby certify that the above Constitution and Bylaws were adopted on the 17th day of August 2003, amended on the 21st day of August 2005, and amended further on the 12th day of August, 2018, by the members in a regularly called members' meeting. The above Constitution and Bylaws are, as of the date of the most recent certification, the duly adopted and existing Constitution and Bylaws of this church.

Secretary

Date