



Constitution & Bylaws Shadowbrook Baptist Church

Preamble

In order to protect and promote the gospel of Jesus Christ, the aim of these Bylaws is to state clearly and biblically how the local body may be governed. We desire brevity, clarity, and focus in accordance with the Southern Baptist Convention. In order to protect and preserve the freedoms of each individual member of the Church, the relationship with the larger local body, and the relationships with other bodies of the same faith, we do declare and establish these Bylaws.

Article I – Name

- Section A.** Shadowbrook Baptist Church of Suwanee, GA, Inc. was chartered on July 25th, 1982 with 151 members. The name of the corporation is Shadowbrook Baptist Church, herein referred to as “the Church” and/or “the corporation.”
- Section B.** Whenever it is most appropriate and desired to abbreviate the name of this organization, the name Shadowbrook Church or Shadowbrook shall be considered in every way the legal name of the Church corporation.
- Section C.** Whenever the word “Church” is used in these Bylaws or their amendments or other official action of the Church corporation, it shall signify the legal organization of this Church as established in the Articles of Incorporation and herein. References to votes of the Church shall have reference to a vote of the members of this Church corporation.

Article II – Purpose

Shadowbrook Church is organized for the purpose of providing regular opportunities for public worship, the practice of the ordinances, doctrines, and ethics set forth in the New Testament for the Church. The goal of this Church is to promote the glory of Jesus Christ, to do the work the Church is commissioned to do, and to promote the good cause of Christ to the world. Every ministry within Shadowbrook shall seek to have humble submission to Christ and his Church, to form their mind with biblical truth, and to promote spiritual life and growth of the community. The Church exists to exemplify Jesus Christ and the Gospel so that the unsaved may be won to Christ and have the Gospel lived out everywhere that members are sent. Anything contrary to this purpose should be eliminated from the Church in a process of grace and truth marked by love.

Article III – The Church Covenant

- Section A.** Having been led, as we believe, by the Holy Spirit to receive the grace of faith, and to put our trust into Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, and on our profession of faith, having been baptized in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this gathering of saints, humbly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

- Section B.** As covenant members of Shadowbrook Baptist Church, we promise to pursue a gospel culture according to the following examples:
1. Developing and practicing spiritual disciplines.
 2. Modeling a lifestyle that is consistent with Scripture.
 3. Participating in corporate worship.
 4. Maintaining accountable relationships with other believers for the purpose of discipleship and mutual growth.
 5. Preserving church unity in matters of non-essential beliefs or preferences.
 6. Consistently praying for the church.
 7. Engaging in opportunities to serve the Church, especially with regards to one's spiritual gifts.
 8. Actively participating in and supporting church planting efforts.
 9. Giving generously and consistently of your time, talents, and finances to the support of the church. This is done in a manner which reflects the generosity shown to us in the Gospel.
 10. Leading in authority as well as coming under authority within the church.

Article IV – Government

Section A. **Shadowbrook Church** is to be recognized as having Jesus Christ as the Chief Shepherd of the local Church. The Church will be elder led, staff driven, and congregation accountable in accordance with biblical principles given in the New Testament. The Church shall be governed in the manner set forth in these Bylaws.

Section B. The Church is an independent, autonomous Church with full and final authority to determine solely within itself all matters related to the life of this Church including but not limited to its financial affairs, affiliations, ownership, uses of property, and leadership.

Section C. **Membership:** The membership of this Church shall be composed of persons who have given a clear gospel testimony of regeneration, who have been baptized as believers in Jesus Christ, who agree with the articles of incorporation and Bylaws of this Church, and who have expressed desire to enter into covenant membership with Shadowbrook Church.

1. Process of membership

- a. A prospective member may officially join the church by completing the requirements of church membership set forth by Shadowbrook Elders and Staff.
- b. Prospective members may work with the pastoral staff to initiate finalization of membership in any of the following ways:
 - i. Public baptism by immersion at an official church gathering. Anyone who has experienced baptism in other Churches of like doctrine and order may be received by the Church upon an elder or ministerial led interview.
 - ii. Transfer of letter from another like doctrine and ordered local Church.
 - iii. Confirmed statement of faith.
- c. Upon completion of the membership process, covenant agreement, and affirmation by pastoral staff, prospective members will be presented to the church.

2. **Voting privileges.** A membership in attendance vote will be required for any of the following decisions: (see requirements below)
 - a. Pragmatic Situations:
 - i. Selling or buying real-estate (two-thirds approval)
 - ii. Borrowing money (two-thirds approval)
 - iii. Approving the annual operating budget (two-thirds approval)
 - b. Personnel and Governing Situations:
 - i. Approval of elder candidate into office (three-fourths approval)
 - ii. Approval of deacon candidate(s) into office (three-fourths approval)
 - iii. Approving the call of a new Senior Pastor (three-fourths approval)
 - iv. Making changes to these bylaws (three-fourths approval)

3. **Termination of Membership** - membership may be terminated by any of the following ways:
 - a. Death of the member.
 - b. Personal request of the member.
 - c. Transfer of letter to another Church.
 - d. When it is verified that the person has united with another Church.
 - e. Removal for cause on biblical grounds as a result of Church discipline.

4. **Church Discipline**
 - a. Any person having cause or issue against another must first seek to remove it as directed in Matthew 18:15-20. If this is not sufficient, the complaint shall be brought to the appropriate pastor where reconciliation and restoration can be pursued. If this is not sufficient, the cause or issue may be brought to the Elder Team, which may report its findings and recommend appropriate action(s) to the Church.
 - b. All discipline shall be formed and carried out in the Spirit of Christ, marked by love, and with the goal of bringing reconciliation to the body of Christ and restoration to the individual.

Section D. Elder Leadership

1. **Shadowbrook Church** is to be recognized as having Jesus Christ as the Chief Shepherd of the local Church. The Church will be elder led, staff driven, and congregation accountable in accordance with biblical principles given in the New Testament.

2. **Elder Team** – The Elder Team will be comprised of the senior pastor and four lay leaders, all with equal authority. The Elder Team, in cooperation with the Senior Pastor, will be responsible for leading the Church in all matters of mission, vision, values, doctrine, and discipline. Specific responsibilities are as follows:
 - a. Prays consistently, specifically, and earnestly for the Church and the staff.
 - b. Defines the specific mission, vision, and values for Shadowbrook Church.
 - c. Defines the strategies to accomplish the mission.
 - d. Recommends and communicates major changes to the Church for consideration.
 - e. Provides oversight for the Church in the areas of
 - i. Doctrine
 - ii. Budget
 - iii. Personnel
 1. Performs annual review of the Senior Pastor.

- 2. All staff oversight, in conjunction with the Senior Pastor and appropriate persons as determined by the Elder Team.
- iv. Monitor and oversee the various ministries and operations of the Church. The Elder Team will empower leadership responsibilities to the appropriate staff roles.
- f. Shepherds the congregation
 - i. Works with the Senior Pastor and staff to have a comprehensive shepherding system to care for the Church.
 - ii. Provides encouragement, edification, counseling, and conflict resolution.
 - iii. As needed, disciplines Church members in the “nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
 - iv. Prays regularly for the Church body, the sick, those in distress, the nations, and the unsaved.
 - v. Visit members of the Church as needed.
- g. Exercises the “ability to teach” in appropriate environments.
- h. Qualifications of Elders: Biblical qualifications as listed and defined in the New Testament (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9).

3. Nomination: Approving and Voting - Annual Elders Nomination Process

- a. The Elder Team will ask for nominations for elder candidates from the Church.
- b. Church members will submit nominations and members have three weeks to submit the recommended elder nomination for the elder affirmation.
- c. The Elder Team will confirm with the nominated candidate their desire and intent to enter the vetting process.
- d. The Elder Team will begin vetting the candidates.
- e. The Elder Team will present the qualified and approved candidate(s) to the Church to fill the appropriate vacated slot(s).
- f. The approved candidate(s) will be presented to the Church for vote.
- g. Voting will require a minimum of three-fourths approval of ballots cast for each candidate(s).

4. Term of Service

- a. Elder service will be for four years.
- b. After rotating off, an elder cannot serve again for two (2) years.
- c. If an elder position is vacated early (other than the pastor) then:
 - i. The Elder Team may call for a special election to fill the vacated elder seat; or
 - ii. The Elder Team can wait until the regular elder nomination process at year-end to fill the vacated elder seat.

- 5. Elder Removal:** Any Elder may be removed from the Elder Team for valid cause. The discipline of Elders must be consistent with the standards set forth in Article IV of these Bylaws. The Elder Team will determine the specific procedure for removal of an Elder. The Elder Team will have in definitive writing the process of investigation, communication, and restoration that is pursued with the Elder in question. Upon completion of this process, the Elder Team will communicate with the church on the past history, current status, and future care for the removed Elder. This procedure may be altered, amended, repealed or restated by a resolution of the Elder Team.

Section E. Church Offices & Ministry Staff

The offices and ministry staff of this Church include: The Elder Team, the Senior Pastor, Pastoral Staff, Support Staff, Trustees, Church Clerk, Business Administrator, and the Deacons.

1. Senior Pastor

- a. The Senior Pastor shall be seen as an Elder. The Senior Pastor will oversee all teaching, worship, ministry, and other public services of the Church. He shall work with the Elder Team to oversee and direct the work of the staff. He will be recognized by the Church as particularly gifted and called to the full-time ministry of preaching and teaching.
- b. Regarding resignation, the Senior Pastor shall give 30 days' notice to the Elder Team. The Elder Team will communicate with the Church body.
- c. Regarding termination, the Church may dissolve the senior pastoral relationship, by a secret ballot, by a three-fourths vote of the membership present at a Church business meeting provided notice of such proposed action shall have been presented at least two weeks in advance at all weekend worship services. If the Senior Pastor is determined to have become biblically disqualified for his role, the Elder Team will initiate the termination process and terms.
- d. Upon the resignation or termination of the Senior Pastor, the Elder Team will formulate the process and hiring of the next Senior Pastor. The Elder Team will communicate with the Church and involve, as necessary, skilled members of the body to help choose the called man. The Elder Team will communicate to and shepherd the congregation during this process. Upon completion of the process, the Elder Team will bring to consideration only one man at a time. Election of the candidate will be affirmed by vote of the Church. The election shall be by written ballot and an affirmative vote of three-fourths approval of the members present being necessary to constitute a call to the Church.

2. Pastoral Staff

- a. The Pastoral staff will be made of elder-qualified men who have a specific calling into vocational ministry. The pastoral staff will work in conjunction with the Elder Team to carry out the shepherding and ministry operations of the church.
- b. The Elder Team in conjunction with the Senior Pastor shall assess the needs of the Church and employ pastoral staff as the Church needs. The Team will work with current staff, communicate with the Church, and involve, as necessary, skilled members of the body to help choose the called man.
- c. Regarding resignation, the pastor shall give 30 days' notice to the Elder Team. The Senior Pastor will communicate with the Church body.
- d. Regarding termination, the Elder Team may dissolve the pastoral relationship with a unanimous vote.
- e. Upon the resignation or termination of the pastoral staff member, the Elder Team will formulate the process and hiring of the next pastoral staff, as needed. The Elder Team will work with the staff, communicate with the Church, and involve, as necessary, skilled members of the body to help choose the called man. The Elder Team will communicate to and shepherd the congregation during this process.

3. Support Staff

The Senior Pastor shall assess the needs (in conjunction with the pastoral staff) of the Church and employ support staff as the Church needs. The Senior Pastor will communicate with the Church and involve, as necessary, skilled members of the body to help choose the called person.

4. Trustees

The Trustees shall be selected by the Elder Team. They have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property without a specific vote of the Church, authorizing each action. It shall be the function of the trustees to affix their signatures to the legal documents involving the sale, mortgaging, or purchase, or rental of property, or other legal documents where the signature of the trustees is required. There shall be at all times at least two and no more than three trustees. Upon the resignation or dismissal of a trustee, the Elder Team will select a replacement and communicate to the Church.

5. Clerk

The Church Clerk shall keep a complete and accurate record of all Church business meetings and votes of the Church. The Church Clerk is appointed by the Elder Team.

6. Business Administrator

The Business Administrator shall have the duty to receive, preserve, and pay out, all monies, or things of value paid or given to the Church; keeping at all times, an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. The Business Administrator will help guide the process of budgeting and Church approval in conjunction with, and under the authority of the Elder Team each fiscal year. The Administrator will determine the need for any audit of the financial records, in conjunction with, the Elder Team.

7. Deacons: The Deacons lead and conduct practical service ministries for the church in addition to serving the physical needs of the church body. How these manifests itself, practically-speaking, will be contingent upon the personal "bent" and gifting of each Deacon.

a. Qualifications as seen in 1 Timothy 3:

- i. Must have been a participating member of Shadowbrook Church for a minimum of one year (so as to observe the character of the individual).
- ii. Must be a mature believer, "not a recent convert".
- iii. Must be a godly man that is trusted by and has credibility in Shadowbrook Church.
- iv. Committed to the Word of God and shares the theological convictions of Shadowbrook Church.
- v. Seeks and driven by the will of God.

b. General Responsibilities: These responsibilities will be carried out by all deacons who are servants to the church and the church's outreach to the community (see 1 Peter 4:11b). The items listed below are the consistent and regular roles deacons will participate in for the church.

- i. Lord's Supper – as occurs in our gathering(s).
- ii. Assist in administering the offering on a rotational basis.
- iii. Widow and widower ministry. Regular contact with assigned widows/widowers.
- iv. Praying for the church members and needs that arise.

- v. Set up and tear down of church building events (as needed).
 - vi. Lead within the church by developing people and promoting the vision of Shadowbrook Church.
 - vii. Attend regular deacon meetings with a goal of at least four times a year. If available, deacons can join the pastors and program team for prayer Sunday mornings.
- c. Nomination: Approving and Voting
- i. The Deacon Leadership Team will request nominations for candidates from the Church.
 - ii. Church members will submit nominations and members have two weeks to submit the recommended deacon nomination for the deacon affirmation.
 - iii. The Deacon Leadership Team will confirm with the nominated candidate(s) their desire and intent to enter the vetting process.
 - iv. The Deacon Leadership Team will work with the Elder Team to begin vetting the candidate(s).
 - v. The Deacon Leadership Team or Pastoral Staff will present the qualified and approved candidate(s) to the Church to fill the appropriate vacated slot(s).
 - vi. The approved candidate(s) will be presented to the Church for a vote.
 - vii. Voting will require a minimum of three-fourths approval of ballots cast for each candidate(s).
- d. Term of Service
- i. A Deacon's service will be for two years.
 - ii. If a Deacon position is vacated early then the Deacon Leadership may call for nominations to fill the seat, or wait until the next cycle of nominations.
- e. Deacon Removal
- i. Any Deacon may be removed from the Deacon body for valid cause. The discipline of the Deacon must be consistent with the standards set forth in Article IV of these Bylaws. The Elder Team, in conjunction with Deacon Leadership, will determine the specific procedure for removal of a Deacon. The Elder Team will have in definitive writing the process of investigation, communication, and restoration that is pursued with the Deacon in question. Upon completion of this process, the Elder Team will communicate with the church on the past history, current status, and future care for the removed Deacon. This procedure may be altered, amended, repealed or restated by a resolution of the Elder Team.

Article V – Meetings

Section A: Frequency

Regular Church meetings shall be held at a minimum of twice a year. Should there be any unusual business or matter of unusual interest to be brought before a regular meeting, notice shall be given to the Church two weeks prior to the meeting date.

Section B: Voting Protection

In the best interest of the church, the Elder Team may decide at the start of any official church meeting to postpone the vote on any of the above-mentioned situations if a sufficient representation of membership in attendance is not deemed present. The elder team will consider past average attendance of meetings and significance of vote at hand. The heart of this protection is to prevent the passing of pressing needs without significant congregational accountability.

Article VI – Finances

The Fiscal Year of the Church shall run between the dates of August 1st to July 31st of the following calendar year. All funds shall be disbursed by check

Article VII – Statement of Faith

Section A. The Bible is the inspired Word of God, inerrant, and final authority in the Church. Shadowbrook Church adheres to its commands and it is the basis for any statement of faith.

Section B. The Church affirms the doctrinal statement of the “[Baptist Faith and Message](#)” as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000.¹

Section C. Core Beliefs. The core beliefs of Shadowbrook stand in line with historic Christianity. Unity in these beliefs help the employees of Shadowbrook embrace the same purposes and priorities along with protecting the purity of the church. We hold that these beliefs reflect the essential elements of the Christian faith as described in the Bible and while not a complete list of every belief we hold, they summarize those beliefs we hold in common as foundational and central.

We realize that people will come with different levels of spiritual maturity and understanding of these beliefs and do not require that one be an “expert” in their understanding of each of these beliefs. However, denial or rejection of any of these beliefs will prohibit one from becoming a member or employee at Shadowbrook.

¹ On June 14th, 2000, the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a revised summary of our faith.

Found on the web here <http://www.sbc.net/bfm2000/bfm2000.asp>

THE BIBLE

We believe that the Holy Bible is God's written revelation of Himself, being fully written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit through human authors. We believe that it is entirely true and sufficient and has complete authority in all matters of life and faith.

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

GOD

We believe that there is one living and true God, who is the Creator of all things and Ruler of all things. We believe that God eternally exists in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that these are without division of nature or being and co-equal in every divine perfection.

GOD, THE FATHER

We believe that God the Father, orders and directs all things according to His own purpose, pleasure and grace. We believe that He graciously involves Himself in the affairs of mankind, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

[Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.](#)

JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ is God's only begotten Son and became flesh and was fully God and fully man. We believe in His virgin conception by the Holy Spirit and that He led a sinless life in complete obedience to God, the Father. We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins as a substitutionary sacrifice and that all who believe in Him are declared righteous on the basis of His shed blood. We believe in His bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, continual intercession for his people, and His personal and visible return to earth.

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

HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is present in the world to convict the world of sin and their need for Christ. We believe that He regenerates, seals and sets apart the believer to a holy life, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.

[Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-](#)

[4:38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.](#)

THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that God created man and woman in His own image and free from sin, but they willfully sinned against Him and thereby incurred physical, spiritual, and eternal death, which is separation from God. We also believe that as a result, all human beings have been born with a nature of sin that is opposed to God and His law, and in need of salvation through Christ.

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

SALVATION

We believe that salvation from our sin can only come from faith in the finished and complete work of Jesus Christ. Salvation is not based upon any work or accomplishment of man, and that we cannot add to the work of Christ or complete it by our own acts. We believe that all who trust Christ for their salvation are redeemed and secure forever.

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

THE FAMILY

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

[Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-](#)

[22](#); [12:4](#); [13:24](#); [14:1](#); [17:6](#); [18:22](#); [22:6,15](#); [23:13-14](#); [24:3](#); [29:15,17](#); [31:10-31](#); [Ecclesiastes 4:9-12](#); [9:9](#); [Malachi 2:14-16](#); [Matthew 5:31-32](#); [18:2-5](#); [19:3-9](#); [Mark 10:6-12](#); [Romans 1:18-32](#); [1 Corinthians 7:1-16](#); [Ephesians 5:21-33](#); [6:1-4](#); [Colossians 3:18-21](#); [1 Timothy 5:8,14](#); [2 Timothy 1:3-5](#); [Titus 2:3-5](#); [Hebrews 13:4](#); [1 Peter 3:1-7](#).

THE CHURCH

We believe that all those who place faith in Christ are part of the universal church, a living spiritual body of which the Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe that God has called individual believers to live in community together for the purpose of encouragement, accountability and maturity of one another. We believe that God has established offices of leadership and organization in the local church, consisting of pastor/elder and deacons to lead and serve the body.

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

LAST THINGS

We believe that God will bring the world to its appropriate end in His own way and in His own time. We believe that Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory and victory. We believe that those who have trusted Christ will receive glorified bodies and live with Christ for eternity. We believe that those who have not placed faith in the work of Christ for their salvation will spend eternity separated from God in eternal suffering and punishment.

[Isaiah 2:4](#); [11:9](#); [Matthew 16:27](#); [18:8-9](#); [19:28](#); [24:27,30,36,44](#); [25:31-46](#); [26:64](#); [Mark 8:38](#); [9:43-48](#); [Luke 12:40,48](#); [16:19-26](#); [17:22-37](#); [21:27-28](#); [John 14:1-3](#); [Acts 1:11](#); [17:31](#); [Romans 14:10](#); [1 Corinthians 4:5](#); [15:24-28,35-58](#); [2 Corinthians 5:10](#); [Philippians 3:20-21](#); [Colossians 1:5](#); [3:4](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:14-18](#); [5:1ff.](#); [2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.](#); [2](#); [1 Timothy 6:14](#); [2 Timothy 4:1,8](#); [Titus 2:13](#); [Hebrews 9:27-28](#); [James 5:8](#); [2 Peter 3:7ff.](#); [1 John 2:28](#); [3:2](#); [Jude 14](#); [Revelation 1:18](#); [3:11](#); [20:1-22:13](#).

While we hold these core beliefs as primary, foundational, and essential for the unity of the body we also are in agreement with the Baptist Faith & Message (2000). While there may be variance of belief among membership and staff on some of the secondary beliefs listed in the Baptist Faith & Message (2000), members are not to be divisive over these issues.

Article VIII – Staff and Membership Engagement

Section A. Regarding the Officiating of Marriage Ceremonies.

God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between one man and one woman, and Himself. Shadowbrook Church will only recognize marriage between one biological man and one biological woman. Further, the Elders, Pastoral Staff, and Support staff of Shadowbrook Church shall only officiate a wedding or any associated event and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of Shadowbrook Baptist Church shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.

Section B. Regarding the Statement of Faith.

In order to preserve the function and integrity of Shadowbrook Baptist Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical example to Shadowbrook Baptist Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Shadowbrook Baptist Church in any

capacity or united with Shadowbrook Baptist Church in membership should abide by and agree to this Statement of Faith and conduct themselves accordingly.

The Church's Statement of Faith does not provide grounds for bigotry, bullying or hate, as we fully believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity, regardless of his or her lifestyle. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated as sinful and are not in accordance with the Scriptures nor the doctrines of the Church.

Section C. Regarding use of Facilities

The Elder Team has the right and authority to prohibit acts or omissions, including but not limited to, permitting any Shadowbrook Baptist Church asset or property, whether real, personal, or intangible, that is subject to the direction or control of Shadowbrook Baptist Church, to be used in any manner that could be perceived by any person to be - inconsistent with this Statement of Faith. Further, The Elder Team prohibits any Shadowbrook Baptist Church facilities to be used by any person, organization, corporation, or group that would or might use such facilities to convey, intentionally or by implication, what might be perceived as a favorable impression about any definition of marriage other than that contained in this Statement of Faith.

The Statement of Faith specifically gives the Elder Team the right and authority to prohibit acts or omissions, including but not limited to (a) permitting any Church assets or property, whether real property, personal property, intangible property, or any property or asset of any kind that is subject to the direction or control of the Church, to be used in any manner that would be—or, in the sole determination of the Elder Team, could be perceived by any person to be—inconsistent with this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality; and (b) permitting any Church facilities to be used by any person, organization, corporation, or group that would or might use such facilities to convey, intentionally or by implication, what might be perceived as a favorable impression about any definition of marriage other than that contained in Article VII.

Article IX – Church Property

Section A. It is agreed by the present membership and all persons hereafter becoming a member of Shadowbrook Baptist Church that the securing and maintaining of real, personal, and mixed property by this Church shall be for the express purpose of providing facilities for public worship and the engagement upon the missionary education and benevolent interest of this Church and of the character and in the spirit of these Constitution and Bylaws.

Section B. If at any time this Church shall determine to alter the quality of its beliefs, usages, and practices so as in any important respect be at variance with the character described in these Constitution and Bylaws and Statement of Faith, if the decision is by less than a two-thirds majority vote of those present at any Church business meeting, it is understood and agreed that the title and all rights to the property of the Church shall inhere in and remain vested in that part of the congregation which shall agree to continue the use of the property for the purposes for which it was purchased and has been to that time maintained in accordance with these Constitution and Bylaws.

Section C. This article shall not be amended, altered, or repealed except by three-fourths vote of the membership present at a Church business meeting and then only if such proposed amendment, alteration, or repeal has been given in the writing to the Elder Team and has lain on the table for a period of 12 months; no consideration of such proposal shall be voted upon until the period aforementioned has elapsed and then at an announced Church business meeting.

Article X – Amendments

Section A. Changes to these Bylaws may be made at any regular business meeting of the Church, provided such amendments shall have been made available to the Church within two weeks of the scheduled meeting. Amendments to the constitution and Bylaws shall be by three-fourths vote of all members present at the meeting.

This Constitution and Bylaws become effective with the vote of the Church as of October 29, 2017 and supersedes all previous directions, rules and/or amendments for Church operations of Shadowbrook Church.