

BEAUMONT
BIBLE CHURCH
CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME AND HISTORY

This part of Christ's Body (His Church) shall be known as Beaumont Bible Church and shall meet in Beaumont, Texas.

The church was formed Nov. 7, 1976 and incorporated (see Article VIII) Beaumont Community Church. At the first worship service, 39 were in attendance. On July 26, 1983, the name was informally but not legally changed to Beaumont Bible Church, using a "doing business as" declaration. On October 5, 2003 the church combined with Greater Life Church.

The Constitution was revised on November 25, 2015.

ARTICLE II - IDENTITY

Alignment -BBC is an independent, nondenominational, self governed Bible Church that cooperates in ministry with churches and organizations of similar belief and that is affiliated with a body of like minded Bible Churches through Camp Pearl Ministries.

Theology -BBC is a conservative evangelical church that is Bible focused (II Tim 2:15, Tit 1:9).The theology of BBC is dispensational, premillennial, and free grace.

Relationships – BBC is a "family" whose members are relational with Jesus Christ and with one another. (Matt 22:37-40)

Ministry Style – BBC is teaching oriented and interactive, both in worship services and in classes. (Tit 2:1-3, 7, 9, 15)

Participation – BBC encourages members to participate in and pursue ministry both in and outside the church. (Eph 4:12, Heb 10:24)

An Attitude of Acceptance – BBC accepts people where they are spiritually and respects their individual growth path. While having an attitude of acceptance BBC does not condone sin; instead we endeavor to encourage and help people to become what Jesus Christ wants them to be. (Rom 14:1-13)

ARTICLE III – PURPOSE

Worship - To love the Lord our God with all of our heart, in spirit and truth, magnifying and exalting His holy name through prayer, praise and proclamation of His Word. (Matt 22:37; John 15:4-5; Matt 4:10; Ps 34:3; Acts 2:42, 47)

Fellowship - To be a community of Christians providing love, comfort, edification, encouragement, acceptance, forgiveness, and strength to all, with the material and spiritual resources God has placed at our disposal. (John 15:12; John 17:11b, 21a; Acts 2:42, 46)

Discipleship - To encourage individual Christians to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ in doctrine and experience, to develop stronger Christian character, to understand and effectively use spiritual gifts, and to mature according to the Lord's expectations. (Matt 28:19-20; John 17:21b; Col 1:28; Acts 2:42)

Mission - To show God's love to our neighbors and the world in the name of Jesus Christ, being zealous for good deeds and witnessing to His grace through our acts of benevolence. (Matt 22:39; John 15:17; Acts 2:42, 45)

Evangelism - To proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ (that Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead) to a world desperately in need of His message of saving grace. (Matt 28:19; Acts 1:8; John 3:16; John 15:18-27; 17:21b; Acts 2:47 ; I Cor 15:3-6; Acts 2:47)

ARTICLE IV – DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

This doctrinal statement expresses the beliefs of the elders and deacons of **Beaumont Bible Church** and is the basis for theological qualification of elders and deacons, teachers, and missionaries, as well as candidates for ordination.

GOD THE FATHER – We believe in God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible, Who spoke all that exists into being through His word of power. (Acts 17:29; Ex 3:14; Matt 3:17; Gal 3:26; Eph 1:3-6; John 3:16; Matt 6:30-32; Heb 12:7)

GOD THE SON – We believe in God the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the perfect presentation of the invisible God, wholly God and wholly man. We believe He took on human flesh, was supernaturally conceived of the Virgin Mary, that He lived a sinless life, died in our place on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, rose from the dead, and ascended into Heaven where He sits at the right hand of the father as Mediator and Advocate for His church. (John 1:1, 14, 17-18; Luke 1:35; Rom 3:24-26; 4:24b-25, Heb 1:2-3; 3:1; 7:23-25; I John 2:1-2)

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT- We believe in God the Holy spirit, that He permanently indwells all believers, that He gives precious spiritual gifts to each of God's children, that He encourages believers to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,

that He convicts of sin, and that He Keeps the believer's salvation sealed and secure for all time. (I Cor 2:10-11; I Cor 12:11; Is 40:13-14; Ps 139:7; Tit 3:5; John 3:5-7; 14:16-17; 16:7-8; Eph 1:13; II Thes 2:13; I Cor 12:13; Rom 8:9)

THE TRINITY- We believe in the mystery of the Trinity, that while God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are three separate persons, they are equally and fully members of the Godhead. (Matt 28:19, II Cor 13:14)

THE BIBLE- We believe that each of the 66 books of the Bible is God's Word, inerrant and authoritative, that they were breathed by God the Father, superintended by the Holy Spirit, and bear witness as a unified whole to the Lord Jesus Christ. (II Tim 3:16-17; II Pet 1:21, John 17:17)

SALVATION- We believe that all humanity has sinned and stands powerless to please God and enter into fellowship with Him. We believe that they are destined to eternal separation in Hell without the intervention of God. We believe that the only solution to this separation is the salvation made possible by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. We believe that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the whole world and offers salvation to all who will receive it, that this salvation is a free gift from God and that good works play no part in earning or keeping this great gift. We believe that our salvation is secure, reserved in Heaven for us, guaranteed by the Seal of the Holy Spirit and safeguarded by the power of God the Father. (Acts 13:38-39; Rom 6:23; Eph 2:8-10; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31; Rom 8:1, 28-30, 38-39; John 10:27-30; 5:24)

THE CHURCH- We believe that the Church, which is the body and bride of Christ, is the spiritual entity established at Pentecost and made up of all born-again believers, called and drawn to the Father for His glory and left on earth to be salt and light to a lost world. We believe that the ordinances of Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper are scriptural means of testimony for the church in this age. (Eph 1:22-23; 5:25-27; I Cor 12:12-13; 10:32; Acts 2:42-47, Eph 4:11-13; Matt 28:19-20; I Cor 11:23-26; Acts 8:36-38; Rom 6:4; Col 2:12)

MARRIAGE, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY- We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person. ("So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Gen 1: 27 NIV).

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (1 Cor 6:9-10.)

We believe that the penalty of sin is eternal spiritual death but God removes the penalty of sin and offers eternal life (redemption, justification) through belief in Jesus Christ (1 Cor 6:11, Rom 6:23, John 3:16). We believe that we are all sinful by nature (Rom 7:18, 24-25, Rom 3:23) and continue to sin after justification (1 John 1:8). We believe that God offers forgiveness and restoration to all believers in Christ who confess their sin. (1 John 1:9.)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31, Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Beaumont Bible Church.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Beaumont Bible Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to Beaumont Bible Church members, attendees, and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Beaumont Bible Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.)

EVENTS OF THE END TIMES

- A. **CHRIST'S RETURN** – We believe in the Blessed Hope, the imminent return of Jesus Christ for His own, both living and dead, to take them unto Himself and to that place He has prepared for them. We believe that Christ will return after this in power to bind Satan, lift the curse, restore Israel, and bring the whole world to the knowledge of God. This event commonly called “the Rapture of the Church” is the blessed hope implied in the scriptures. This is the hope that purifies, for which we should be constantly looking. (1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thes 4:13-18; Tit 2:11-14; 1 John 3:2-3; Phil 3:20; John 14:1-3)
- B. **The Tribulation-** For the seven years following the translation of the church, the earth will undergo a time of judgment known as “the Time of Jacob’s Trouble” or “The Great Tribulation”. During this period many will turn to Christ and be slain for their faith. (Jer 30:7; Matt 24:14-22. Rev 6-19)
- C. **The Second Coming**
The culmination of the Tribulation period will be the bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth to establish the Millennial Age, during which Christ will reign, Satan will be bound, Israel will be restored and the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord. (Is 11:1-9; Ez 37:21-28; Matt 24:15-25:46; Rev 20:1-6)

D. The Eternal State

We believe that the spirits of believers in Jesus Christ in this age, do at death immediately pass into His presence, and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His coming for the church. At that time, the spirit and body shall be reunited and shall be associated with Him forever in glory. We believe the spirit of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious torment in Hades until the final judgment of the Great White Throne at the close of the Millennium. At that time spirit and body shall be reunited and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be destroyed, but to be punished with everlasting separation from the presence of the Lord. (Luke 16:19-26; 23:43; II Cor 5:8; Phil 1:23; II Thes 1:7-9; Rev 20:11-15)

Dispensationalism

We believe that the Bible interpreted in its natural, literal sense reveals divinely determined dispensations or rules of life which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to his purpose and for His glory.

In every dispensation, through His application of justice and grace, God is glorified and proven sovereign over the affairs of man. In every dispensation man makes unwise choices and ultimately fails. Through his repeated failure man demonstrates his need for a savior.

We believe the Bible reveals seven distinct dispensations: Innocence (Gen 1:3-3:6), Conscience (Gen 3:7-8:14), Civil/Human Government (Gen 8:15-11:9), Promise (Patriarchal Rule) (Gen 11:10 - Ex 18:27), Mosaic Law (Ex 19:1 - Acts 1:26), Grace (Acts 2:1 – Rev 19:21), and the Millennial Kingdom (Rev 20:1-15). Three dispensations - law, grace, and the millennial kingdom - are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture. (John 1:17; I Cor 9:17; II Cor 3:9-18; Gal 3:13-25; Eph 1:10, 3:2-10; Col 1:24-25; Heb 7:19; Rev 20:2-6)

The Elements and Progression of a Dispensation are as follows:

1. A dispensation begins when God reveals new truth to man.
2. Man is responsible to live in obedience to God's new revealed truth.
3. Man is tested in relation to God's revealed truth (specific to that dispensation).
4. Man fails the test.
5. God judges man because of his failure and the dispensation is brought to a close.
6. God bestows grace on man and inaugurates a new dispensation.

Four primary characteristics of dispensational theology include:

1. Recognition that obvious differences are found in the Bible.

2. Literal interpretation of the Bible (understanding the Bible in its normal sense).
3. Distinguishing between Israel and the Church.
4. Understanding that the glory of God is the unifying theme of the Bible.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 – Corporate Members- The Corporation shall have no members. Any action which would otherwise require approval by a majority of all members shall only require approval of the Elders. All rights which would otherwise vest in the members shall vest in the Elders.

SECTION 2- Members of the Fellowship

Nothing contained in Section 1 of this Article shall be construed to limit the right of the Corporation to refer to persons associated with the Corporation as “Members” even though such persons are not corporate members, and no such reference in or outside of these Bylaws shall constitute anyone being a member, within the meaning of Article 1396-2.02 of the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act. The Corporation may confer by amendment of its Articles or of these Bylaws some or all of the rights of a member as set forth in the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Law, upon any person or persons who do not have the right to vote for the election of officers or on a disposition of substantially all of the assets of the Corporation or on a merger or on a dissolution or on changes to the Corporation’s Articles or Bylaws, but no such person shall be a member within the meaning of said Article.

SECTION 3 – QUALIFICATIONS

- A. Any professing Christian who desires to unite with the **Beaumont Bible Church** for worship and study of the Word will be brought into the fellowship of members after:
 1. Interview by at least two elders or the Staff Pastor and one elder, to determine the candidate’s Christian experience and basis of salvation
 2. No disagreement with the Doctrinal Statement
 3. Willingness to recognize the elder’s leadership in the church (Heb 13:17; I Pet 5:5; Acts 20:28)
- B. Children, who have reached the age of accountability and understand their faith in Christ as their personal Savior, may be received into the fellowship. This must be preceded by an interview as outlined above.
- C. Each candidate who has not been baptized after receiving Christ as his personal Savior will be encouraged to do so. However, water baptism is not a prerequisite for acceptance into the Fellowship.

SECTION 3 – RECEIVING MEMBERS

Anyone desiring to unite with the fellowship of **Beaumont Bible Church** should indicate this desire to one of the elders. After the necessary interview as outlined above and a vote of approval by the Elders, the candidate will be welcomed publicly at the first convenient service. Maintenance of the official roll will be the responsibility of the deacons, and said roll will be kept in the church office.

SECTION 4 – DISMISSING MEMBERS

Membership will be officially terminated after departure and notification has been received that union with another church is to occur, or 12 months of obvious lack of interest in **Beaumont Bible Church**, or for disciplinary reasons in accordance with Matt 18:15-20.

SECTION 5 – COVENANT OF FELLOWSHIP

All who are a part of Christ's Body known as **Beaumont Bible Church** do covenant before God and one another that, as the Lord gives direction and power, we shall:

- A. Walk together in Christian love; exercise Christian care, concern, and watchfulness over one another; be thoughtful, considerate, slow to take offense and quick to forgive and to seek forgiveness.
- B. Engage regularly in personal Bible reading and prayer, and to establish family devotions when possible.
- C. Bring up such children, as may be entrusted to our care, in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
- D. Assist, as the Lord enables, in the work of the church and to aid the establishment of the church as a witness to the saving grace of God through Jesus Christ.
- E. Contribute, as the Lord provides, to the financial support of the church and its undertakings.
- F. Be honest and faithful in all endeavors, exemplary in conduct, and denying ungodliness and worldly lusts.
- G. Persevere by example, word and prayer in leading others to the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

ARTICLE VI – CHURCH GOVERNMENT

SECTION 1 – GENERAL

A. The administrative government of the church shall be vested in its appointed officials. The congregational authority is thus represented by and through the appointed officials. Appointed officials are elders and deacons, and from a positional standpoint, deacons are under the leadership of the elders. We believe that holding office in the church is by:

1. The calling of God through the Holy Spirit
2. The conviction of the will of God on the part of the candidate
3. The approval of the elders

In the event that the number of elders becomes less than three, they shall be consolidated with the deacons and both groups function as the elders until such time that the minimum number of elders (three) is in place. In the event that the consolidated elders and deacons becomes less than four in number, the government of the church shall be given to the adult male members of the church 21 years and older.

In the event that the number of deacons becomes less than three, the overflow work, as determined by the deacons, shall be assumed by the elders.

B. Those who receive financial support (Pastor(s), secretary, missionary, etc.) are not necessarily officers in the church but could be. This also applies to all appointed positions (Youth Director, Sunday School Superintendent, Trustee, teachers, etc.). Appointed individuals including leaders and teachers shall be church members and are subject to the direction of the Elders, as is every member. In special circumstances, an appointed leader or teacher shall be allowed to serve without being a member if they are a Christian saved by grace, agree with the doctrines of the church, and are willing to be under the authority of the elders (the same requirements for membership). Officials and people in appointed positions are subject to a background check for the protection of the congregation.

C. The qualifications for church office are God's standard as set forth in I Tim 3 and Tit 1. Many gifted and spiritually mature men may find the sovereign circumstance of their lives prohibit availability for church office but not for church service in many other capacities.

SECTION 2 – ELDERS

A. Qualifications

The elders are appointed to govern, discipline, and oversee the spiritual needs of the church. The specific qualifications for the office of elder are found in I Tim 3 and Tit 1, and may be summarized as follows:

1. Must have the desire to hold the office of elder

2. Must not be a new convert, but a more spiritually mature Christian who is able and apt to handle the Word of God –able to communicate truth, exhort for edification and refute unsound doctrine. Ability in the Word does not imply a gift for public teaching, although this would be desirable, but implies an ability to communicate Scriptural principles in a Christ like way.
3. Must be a man of sound moral character and reputation—above reproach, temperate, balanced, respectable, not dishonest in business, free from the love of money, having a good reputation among unbelievers, loving what is good, just, devout and self-controlled
4. Must have his home life in order—hospitable, a one-wife man, having children who believe and are not accused of continual waywardness but who are in subjection with respect
5. Must not be self assertive among the brethren—not contentious, argumentative, quarrelsome, self-willed, or quick tempered, but gentle
6. Must be a member of **Beaumont Bible Church** and in general agreement with BBC’s Constitution and doctrinal Statement

B. Responsibilities

The responsibility of the elders is, generally, to oversee all the church functions; specifically, they include:

1. Shepherding the congregation
2. Overseeing all organizations within the Fellowship. The elders are accountable for all programs (Sunday School, Bible study groups, etc.) within the church.
3. Providing pulpit supply when necessary
4. Interviewing those wishing to unite with **Beaumont Bible Church** as outlined in Article IV
5. Presenting new members before the congregation and keeping the church roll
6. Exercising church discipline
7. Choosing and ordaining new elders and deacons.
8. Selecting all paid employees of the church. This includes the salary requirements of each. If the majority of the elders are paid staff members, the deacons shall establish salary requirements.
9. Conducting any congregational meetings
10. Assisting the pastors with the worship service
11. Providing interpretations of the constitution and making amendments to the constitution as outlined in Article VIII.
12. The elders shall be trustees of the church. Any two elders can sign legal documents after the approval of all elders.

C. Selection

The office of elder is a permanent position that can be terminated only by resignation, death, or disciplinary dismissal.

There is no fixed number of elders; the elders will be responsible for determining the number of elders. The following procedures shall be followed to select elders:

1. The existing elders shall select the candidate(s) on the basis of his apparent qualifications.
2. The candidate(s) shall be interviewed personally to confirm his qualifications.
3. The elders' recommendation of candidate(s) shall be submitted to the congregation for consideration four weeks prior to the final approval by the elders. During this period any member may voice his objection to any candidate. Such objection should be expressed privately to an elder.
4. The elders shall select or disapprove the candidate(s) at their next regular meeting after the four week waiting period.
5. The selected candidate(s) shall be recognized before the congregation at an ordination service.

D. Rotation

An elder shall serve as an active elder for a three year period followed when needed by a one year period of inactive status, for the purpose of rest, during which he shall have no official board status.

1. The pastoral staff is exempt from this provision.
2. This provision will be waived if circumstances reduce the board below the minimum of three men.
3. At the end of the year, the inactive elder(s) will return to active status upon approval of the elders.
4. Implementation will be determined by the elders.

E. Meetings

The elders, at their first meeting of each year, shall select a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary who shall hold office for one year. The elders shall meet in regular sessions to conduct normal business, but may call special sessions when necessary. At its meetings the elders shall act on recommendations from other organizations, especially the deacons or the pastor(s), as well as conduct other business which may be required. Accurate records of all transactions shall be recorded by the secretary. He shall provide copies of each meeting's minutes to the deacons and to the pastor(s) for their information. Additionally, the secretary shall provide a report to the congregation on the state of the church and any major actions taken. A legal meeting shall require the presence of at least 60% of the elders. All decisions by the elders must be unanimous by all elders. An elder may not vote on

matters relating to him and the absence of his vote does not prevent a unanimous decision. Whenever a non-unanimous vote is taken, both sides should have the time to express their views. A season of prayer for guidance on the issue should be taken. At this time either a re-vote may be requested or the topic may be tabled until the next meeting to allow for further prayer and examination of the issue. It is believed that Christ intended unity for His body. Unity in the church must begin in the attitudes and actions of its leaders.

F. Performance

Insufficient performance by an elder will be addressed as soon as practical (when possible, the other elders will seek improvement by positive encouragement).

SECTION 3 – DEACONS

A. Qualifications

Deacons are appointed to oversee the temporal (physical) needs of the church. Deacons are under the leadership of the elders and are responsible to them for the fulfillment of their ministries. Their specific qualifications are found in I Timothy 3 and may be summarized:

1. Must have personal integrity—respectable, not a heavy drinker, not dishonest in business (I Tim 3:8)
2. Must have attributes suitable for a visitation ministry--not two-faced (double-tongued), a clear conscience (no unresolved wrongs toward God or man) (I Tim 3:8, 9)
3. Must have demonstrated his sincerity, dedication, and faithfulness to carry on the Lord's work (I Tim 3:10)
4. Must have his own home life in order—a one-wife man whose wife is respectable, not a slanderer, temperate, and faithful in all things; ruling both his children and household (I Tim 3:11-12)
5. Must be a member of **Beaumont Bible Church** and in general agreement with BBC's Constitution and doctrinal Statement

B. Responsibilities

Deacons have the responsibility for the business affairs of the church. Duties include:

1. Monetary affairs: the collection, disbursements, and accounting for gifts and offerings received by the church.
2. Ushering
3. Maintenance, repair, and operations of the existing church buildings, grounds, equipment and other assets
4. Church office operations, expenditures, equipment, etc
5. Assist elder's visitation ministry to the sick and to prospective members.
6. Recommend the amount and recipients of our missionary support.
7. Appoint a church treasurer.

C. Selection

The office of deacon is a permanent position that can be terminated only by selection to the office of elder, resignation, death or disciplinary dismissal. There is no fixed number of deacons, but the number will be set by the elders upon the advice from the deacons. The selection of deacons shall follow the same procedure as for elders with two exceptions:

1. The existing deacons may submit to the elders a list of possible deacon candidates to fill any existing deacon vacancies.
2. The elders may choose the candidate's from the deacons' recommendations, or they may choose any other man they feel is qualified.

D. Rotation

Deacon(s) shall serve as an active deacon for a period of three years followed when needed by a one year period of inactive status, for the purpose of rest, during which he (they) shall have no official board status.

1. The pastoral staff is exempt from this provision.
2. This provision will be waived if circumstances reduce the number of deacons below the minimum of three.
3. At the end of the year, the inactive deacon(s) will return to active status upon approval of the elders.
4. Implementation will be approved by the elders.

E. Meetings

The deacons, at the first meeting each year, shall elect a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary, for a one-year term. The presence of at least 60% of the deacons shall constitute a quorum for any meeting, regular or special. Regular meetings shall be held to conduct normal business. Special meetings may be called as necessary. Adequate minutes of each meeting shall be recorded by the secretary. Copies of the minutes shall go to the elders and to the staff pastor(s) for their information. Issues requiring action by the elders shall be furnished to the elders in detail by the secretary of the deacons. The secretary should summarize the issue, record the recommendations of the deacons, and provide any facts pertinent to the issues. A summary of the activities of the deacons shall be included in the elder's report to the congregation.

All votes require a unanimous decision before action can be taken. The reasons for this are discussed under Article V, Section 2-E.

F. Performance

Insufficient performance by a deacon will be addressed as soon as practical (when possible, the other deacons will seek improvement by positive encouragement).

SECTION 4 – STAFF PASTOR (S)

A. Qualifications

At least one staff pastor is desired by **Beaumont Bible Church** on a full time basis to assist the elders in shepherding the congregation. His support should come from the congregation, according to his individual needs. He is not automatically an officer in the church (i.e., elder or deacon). However, upon qualification, the staff pastor may be appointed as either an elder or deacon. The staff pastor(s) is co-responsible with the elders for the spiritual life of the church, and shall submit himself to the leadership of the elders. Should a pastor become an elder, he will have a vote equal to that of the other elders in all matters except those of his employment. Pastors shall be required to become members of BBC upon their arrival.

The staff pastor should be qualified for the work of the ministry by evidencing spiritual and psychological maturity as described in I Tim 3:2-7 and Tit 1:6-9. While college and seminary education may be desirable, the Scriptures overwhelmingly emphasize godly character as the pre-requisite for serving the body in any leadership capacity.

B. Responsibilities

The staff pastor(s) shall function both as a shepherd and a teacher, and shall have the following responsibilities:

1. To equip the saints for the work of the ministry
2. To be an example of Christ likeness to the congregation as seen in their personal devotion to God, their home life, their concern for believers, and their outreach to the lost.
3. To teach the Word of God so as to provide spiritual food for the edification of the believer
4. To protect the congregation from destructive elements such as divisions, gross moral sin, and unsound doctrine
5. To pray for and with members of the fellowship and to counsel those with needs to show them God's way.

C. Selection

The church may have as many staff pastors as deemed necessary. These men, if more than one exists, should work together coordinating their abilities and efforts. Their selection shall be as follows:

1. The elders shall select candidates for consideration.
2. The candidates will be interviewed by the elders to determine each man's maturity, doctrinal viewpoints, and philosophy of ministry, abilities, and financial needs.
3. The elders shall submit the name of a candidate for staff pastor to the congregation for consideration four weeks prior to the final approval of the elders. At this time the congregation may raise any objections to the candidate. Such objections should be voiced to an elder privately.

4. The dismissal of a staff pastor can be effected by his resignation, by the consent of the elders, or by his death.

SECTION 5 – SPECIAL ORGANIZATIONS

From time to time, special committees, either temporary or permanent, may be established to meet a particular need, or to act in a special area of service. The formation of such a committee and the members thereof may be proposed by either the elders or deacons, but must be approved by the elders. Such a committee might be a Mission Committee, Music Committee, etc.

SECTION 6 – CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

A. Annual and Special Meetings

An annual congregational meeting shall be held in January to provide information concerning the proposed church budget for the following fiscal year and to consider any other matters proposed by the elders. Special congregational meetings may be called by the elders whenever it is deemed necessary for the best interest of the church. The call for a congregational meeting shall come from the elders by giving public notice at least two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting. The notice will carry the stated purpose(s) of the meeting; no other topics will be discussed.

B. Meeting Procedure

The chairman of the elders shall preside at all congregational meetings. If he is unable to preside, the vice-chairman shall preside. If neither is available, the elders present shall appoint a chairman. The secretary of the elders shall act as meeting secretary.

ARTICLE VII - FISCAL MATTERS

The fiscal year of the church shall be from January 1 to December 31. The necessary finances of **Beaumont Bible Church** shall be obtained through voluntary contributions, gifts, and regular offerings. Gifts which are designated for special purposes shall be for the specific purpose indicated. No system of coercive pledging shall be practiced nor shall any entertainment or other fund raising project be held by the church to augment its budget. This would not prohibit raising money for specific causes (missionary support, youth trips, building projects, etc.).

If the financial condition of **Beaumont Bible Church** should become such that the general fund has insufficient funds to pay bills, other accounts will be borrowed from to retain good standing with our community and creditors, with the intention to replace such borrowed funds as soon as money becomes available.

ARTICLE VIII – PROPERTY RIGHTS

The title to all real property of the corporation shall be in the name of the corporation. No member or group of members shall have any individual property rights in the assets of the corporation. In the event the corporation is dissolved, any assets of the corporation shall be distributed to Camp Pearl Ministries, Reeves, LA 70658 under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) as the Trustees shall determine.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

The constitution may be amended by the elders. Following a vote by the elders, copies of the amendment(s) shall be made available to all members of the congregation.