

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF
SOLID ROCK BIBLE BELIEVING BAPTIST CHURCH**

Preamble

We as a living part of the body of our Lord do declare and establish this constitution for the preservation and security of the Principles of our faith. And that we as ambassadors of Christ might govern, promote, and maintain a working New Testament Church.

This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual member as we are committed to the teaching and preaching of the Word of God and remaining true to its precepts and doctrine shall be our purpose.

We believe the Word of God to contain all the answers to man's questions concerning eternal abundant life. Our blessed hope is that we may be alive and watching at the return of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and come into His presence rejoicing having been found faithful in all the Lord has chosen us to do for His honor and glory.

I. Name

The name of this church shall be: Solid Rock Bible Believing Baptist Church of the Level Cross Community.

II. Affiliation

In compliance with the rules of government this church shall be a non-profit religious organization.

This church shall be totally independent from any other church or denominational group in responsibility or action.

III. Character

We shall strive by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love, to work for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinance, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the poor and the spread of the gospel to whosoever will.

We must be ever mindful of our responsibility to set the standard in all aspects of Christian life, with our goal being to lead someone else to the saving knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. God forbid we should ever be a reproach to our Lord, our church, or our witness.

IV. Articles of Faith

The sole authority for our faith and practices shall be the King James Version of the Holy Bible. We believe it to be the only Bible to the English speaking people, no other version will be accepted for doctrine or any other practice in this church.

We believe the King James Version to be wholly inspired of God, totally without error in its

IV. Articles of Faith (continued)

contents and absolutely sufficient to meet our every need.

V. Membership

This is a sovereign and independent church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains the right of exclusive self-government according to the Word of God in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this church. The membership under the direction of the Pastor and Membership Committee reserves the right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.

Section 1: Candidacy

Any person may offer themselves as a candidate for membership in this church. All such candidates shall be received into fellowship and placed under the watch care of the Membership Committee for a period of one year. Upon satisfactory evaluation by said committee, candidates for membership shall then be presented to the church at any regular worship service and shall be approved or disapproved by a majority vote of those present.

Section 2: Qualifications for Membership

- A. By profession of faith and water baptism by immersion in the name of the Father, The Son, and the Holy Ghost
- B. By letter from any other fundamental church of like faith, having been baptized in the manner described in qualification (A) above.
- C. By exhibiting while under the one year watch care period a willingness to practice those characteristics described in Article V., Section 3.

Section 3: Responsibility of Membership

- A. Faithfully promote and support all services and activities of the church.
- B. To contribute regularly and generously of your time and money for the ministries of the church.
- C. To practice living in the highest Christian character.
- D. Remain faithful in your efforts to win others to Christ and to your church.
- E. Always praying for and loving one another in the trust sense your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Section 4: Termination of Membership

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways: (1) death (2) by request of letter expressing your intent to join another church of like faith (3) affiliation with any cult or church of a different faith (4) as an act of discipline necessary for the welfare of the church.

Should a member become an offence to the church and to its good name by reason of immoral or unChristian conduct, and positive proof is offered; after faithful efforts to restore such a one to the faith the pastor, at his discretion and with the support of the majority of the Membership Committee, may remove said person from the roll.

Section 5: Absenteeism

Any member absent from church for a period of two weeks without acceptable excuse will be considered inactive and ineligible to vote until they express by repentance and desire to be placed back on the active roll.

Any inactive member who remains inactive for a period of one year shall be automatically dismissed from membership. Having been placed on inactive status it shall be in effect for no less than two weeks.

VI. Officers

Section 1: Pastor

- A. The pastor shall be chosen by the church and elected by a majority vote.
- B. The qualification shall be those set apart by our Lord in I Timothy 3:2-7.
- C. The pastor shall be under the direction of our Lord Jesus Christ and shall lead the church in all missions and works entered into by the church.
- D. The pastor shall be the head of all committees and boards of the church.
- E. No work of the church shall be entered into without the pastor's approval.
- F. A no vote by the pastor shall automatically carry in any decision of the church.
- G. No visiting singers or preacher will be invited to sing or preach without the pastor's approval.
- H. The pastor may delegate authority to the associate pastor, any officer, or committee chairman to act in his absence.
- I. The pastor's tenure in office shall be terminated in any of the following ways:
 1. By death
 2. By resignation
 3. By a vote of not less than 100 % of the deacon board and a 2/3 majority of the congregation present on any confidence vote, with at least two weeks notice given.
- J. The pastor shall be given to the Word and committed to feeding the flock of God. This shall be his chief responsibility.

Section 2: Church's Responsibility to the Pastor

- A. He shall be treated as a gift from God, honored as the man of God, obeyed as the one who keeps watch over your souls.
- B. His support shall be a reflection of the general membership (such as) his salary should be determined by those he serves. His home, his transportation, and the welfare of his family shall be the responsibility of the church based on their ability.
- C. The goal of the church should be to support the full time ministry of the pastor.
- D. He must always have your prayers and support, for no leader or his family can perform the task God has called them to without it.

Section 3: Deacon

- A. The office of deacon shall be an honored and revered one.
- B. The qualification of a deacon shall be those set apart in the Word of God in I Timothy 3:8-13.

Section 3: Deacon (continued)

- C. The number of deacons shall be determined by the number of those in membership. One deacon per twenty-five members, and never to be less than three.
- D. Their function shall be in accordance to the practice and work as described in the New Testament. Deacons shall assist the pastor in ministering to the physical need of the flock and the church properties. Visiting the sick, helping the poor, feeding the hungry and promoting the church and its activities, these and others are some of the task the deacon will be asked to perform.
- E. Should the office of pastor be vacant, the deacon board shall constitute the pulpit committee and their recommendation shall be presented to the church for approval by at least 2/3 majority vote of the membership.
- E. The deacon's tenure in office shall be the same as that of the pastor in; Officers, (Section 1) paragraph I.
- F. The Deacon Board shall have a chairman appointed by themselves and shall on a regular basis meet with the pastor to held decide the need of the church and to report of their ministry.
- H. The Deacon Board shall serve as the Membership Committee and that office and position shall be an intrinsic part of the Office of Deacon.
- I. Deacons who do not set the example in faithfulness to serve and moral character shall be determined inactive by the pastor and the majority of their peers after due efforts have been made to bring him to repentance.

Section 4: Clerk

- A. The church-elected clerk shall keep a suitable book to record all business actions of the church.
- B. The clerk is responsible for keeping a register of the names of members, with the dates of admission, dismissal, or death together with a record of baptism.
- C. The church may delegate some of the clerical duties to a church secretary, should the need arise.
- C. All church records are church property and should be filed in the church office when one is established.

Section 5: Treasurer

- A. The church-elected treasurer shall receive, preserve, and pay out, upon approval of the pastor, all financial responsibilities of the church.
- B. The treasurer shall keep at all times a record of all receipts and disbursements.
- C. It shall be the treasurer's duty to render a monthly report to the church.
- D. Upon rendering the annual account to the church at the end of each fiscal year and upon its acceptance and approval by the church, the records shall be delivered to the church clerk, who shall keep and preserve the account as a part of the permanent records of the church

Section 6: Trustees

- A. The church shall appoint and elect trustees to keep in trust the church property(ies).
- B. They shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property without a

Section 6: Trustees (continued)

specific vote of the church authorizing each action.

- C. It shall be the function of the trustees to affix their signatures to legal documents involving the sale, mortgaging, or purchase of property, or other legal documents where the signatures of the trustees are required.
- D. The number of trustees and the time of service shall be based upon the needs and responsibility of the church.
- E. The pastor shall automatically be one of the trustees in every case.

Section 7: Teachers

- A. The church shall maintain graded Sunday School classes according to the need and teachers shall be elected for each.
- B. Teachers in this church shall be expected to teach their classes the Holy Word of God, both in word and deed.
- C. Teachers shall set the example to their classes in Christian character, in Christian conduct, and in faithful support of their church.

Section 8: Ushers

- A. Regular ushers shall be elected by the church.
- B. The ushers are to greet the people as they enter the church. They are to seat the congregation, when needed.
- C. The ushers shall receive the offerings of the church, pass out any bulletins, or other material as needed by the congregation.
- C. The ushers shall be attentive to the needs of the congregation and the pastor during each service.

Section 9: Committees

- A. As the needs arise committees shall be appointed by a joint effort of the pastor working with the deacons.
- B. Each committee shall be presented to the church to approve or disapprove by majority vote.

Section 10: Election

All officers of the church shall be nominated and elected annually, with the exception of the pastor and deacons. There may be a confidence vote on these at any time following the guidelines given under Article VI, Section 1, paragraph I, subsection c.

VII. Program Organization

Section 1: Sunday School

There shall be a Sunday School divided into departments and classes for all ages. The intent and goal of our Sunday School will be to learn more about the Word of God.

- A. Sunday School shall be held each Sunday morning at 9:45 unless otherwise announced.

Section 2: Worship Service

The church shall maintain regular worship services for the purpose of preaching, teaching, testifying, singing, and praying as the Lord would see fit according to the Scripture in Hebrews 10:25.

- A. Each Sunday morning at 10:55 unless otherwise announced.
- B. Each Sunday night at 6:00 unless otherwise announced.
- C. Each Wednesday night at 7:30 unless otherwise announced.
- D. And any other time as the Lord should lead.

Section 3: Regular Business Meetings

- A. Regular business meetings shall be held at a designated time announced at least one week prior to the meeting.
- B. Special meetings may be called for by the leadership of the church, with the prior approval of the pastor, to take care of an emergency issue. In such cases, no new business can be discussed, only the matter for which the meeting was called.
- C. Every effort should be made to give at least one week notice before each special meeting unless extreme urgency of the matter should render such notice impossible.

Section 4: Quorum

The Quorum shall consist of those who attend the business meeting, provided it is a stated meeting, or one that has been properly called, and findings of the pastor indicate the church to be in fellowship.

Section 5: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the church shall run from January 1st through December 31st.

Section 6: Church Finances

- A. It is understood that membership in this church involves financial obligation to support the church, its works, and its staff with regular, proportionate gifts. We must endeavor, as obedient children, to cheerfully give as the Lord has given to us for the furtherance of the church and its members, so that there should be no need.
- B. At no time will this church turn to the world or the world's way to support itself or its works.

VIII. Church Discipline

- A. Should any unhappy differences arise among members, the upset member shall follow, in a tender spirit, the rules given by our Lord in the 18th chapter of Matthew, and this difference should be removed before the sun goes down.
- B. All such preceding shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian love and forbearance. But should every Bible example be followed and there still should be an adverse decision reached; under leadership of the pastor and Membership Committee the church may proceed to admonish or declare the offender to be no longer in the membership of the church.

VIII. Church Discipline (continued)

- C. Any person whose membership has been terminated, for any offence, may be restored by vote of the church upon evidence of his or her repentance and reformation.

IX. Amendments

Changes in this constitution may be requested at any regular business meeting. Copies of the proposed amendment must be furnished to each member present and a vote on that amendment shall take place no less than one week from the date the membership receives a copy. It shall require a 2/3 majority of voting members to amend this church constitution.

These seven pages constitute a true and accurate copy of the
By Laws of Solid Rock Bible Believing Baptist Church
as originally adopted and then being amended
the Eighteenth day of March,
In the year of our Lord Nineteen Hundred Ninety Eight.