

Purpose Church Constitution

(Revised 04/30/2023)

Article I

Name and Affiliation

The corporate name of the church is Prairie Ridge Community Church (the “Church”), also known as Purpose Church. The Church is a member of the Southwestern Association of North American Baptists General Conference, Inc.

Article II

Purpose

Purpose Church exists to glorify God by worshipping Him, equipping disciples of Jesus Christ and witnessing in and to the world. We do so as we: Love God. Love People. Make Disciples.

Article III

Statement of Faith

- A. The Bible.** We believe the Bible, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is God’s infallible Word written by authors who were uniquely and fully inspired by God Himself. (2 Tim 3:16) The Bible is inerrant in the original manuscripts (Ps 12:6) and reflects the backgrounds, styles, and vocabularies of the human authors. It is the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith, conduct, and doctrine. There are no other similarly inspired writings.
- B. God.** We believe there is one true God (Dt 4:35,39; Dt 32:39; Is 43:10; 1 Chron 17:20) eternally existing in three Persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Luke 3:22; Mt 28:19) - each of whom possess equally all the attributes of Deity. God created the world, and all that is in it, out of nothing and by His powerful Word through which He continues to sustain His creation. By His providence, He operates throughout history to fulfill His redemptive purposes.
- C. Jesus Christ.** We believe Jesus Christ is God (John 1:1-3; Titus 2:13), Co-Creator with God the Father, the Son of God, who became flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and birth through the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:35). He was both fully God and fully man. He lived a life of perfect obedience to the Father and voluntarily sacrificed Himself for the sins of all people by dying on the cross, as their substitute (1 John 2:2). In doing this, He satisfied God’s justice (Romans 5:9) and provided salvation for all who believe in and receive Him solely as their Lord and Savior (John 1:12). After three days in the grave, He arose from the dead in the same body (1 Cor 15:4) and forty days later ascended to heaven (Acts 1:3) where He is now seated at the right hand of God and continually intercedes for His people (Rom 8:34). One day He will return to earth, personally and visibly, to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. (Zech 14:4)
- D. The Holy Spirit.** We believe the Holy Spirit is actively working in the world to reveal and glorify Christ (Jn 16:14) as He applies the saving work of Christ to people through: Enlightening the minds of sinners to the Truth; Awakening in them a recognition of their need for a Savior; and drawing them to Christ. At the moment of conversion, the Holy Spirit indwells the believer (Jn 14:17) and the person is baptized into the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:13). The Holy Spirit guides the believer into a life of holiness and obedience. He is a source of encouragement, strength, wisdom, and conviction. (Eph 3:16) He helps believers understand and apply the Bible (Jn 16:13). He imparts unique gifts to each believer to be used to glorify God and edify the church as they build up other believers (1 Cor 12:10-11). He transforms believers into the image of Christ (2 Cor 3:18) such that they bear fruit to the glory of God and the increase of His Kingdom.

- E. Mankind.** We believe God created man and woman in His own image to be in relationship with Him, and to be stewards over His creation (Gen 2:15). They sinned by disobeying God, were judged and punished by physical and spiritual death, and alienated from their Creator (Rom 5:12). As a result, all mankind is under Divine condemnation and the nature of all people is corrupted (Rom 3:10-12). Every person is in need of regeneration and renewal. No one is worthy to approach God or be reconciled to Him on their own merit. Only through the blood of Jesus Christ can men and women be reconciled to God.
- F. Salvation.** We believe God's desire is that all people repent and enter a loving relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus Christ. The salvation of people is wholly a work of God's free grace and is not the result in any way of human work, (Eph 2:8-9) goodness, or religious ceremony (such as baptism). When an individual personally comes to repentance and faith in Christ alone for his salvation, God imputes Christ's righteousness to him, (2 Cor 5:21) he is justified in His sight, (Rom 5:1) and the Christian then bears fruit in accordance with salvation. Such a person is a Christian and cannot lose his salvation once it has been received.
- G. The Church.** We believe there is one true Church comprised of all those who acknowledge and serve Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. The Church is under the leadership of Christ (Col 1:18). A "local church" (such as Purpose Church) is a community of Christians who gather together regularly for prayer, worship, edification through the Word of God, fellowship with encouragement and support for each other, and participation in the ordinances (Acts 2:42). Each local church is a part of The Church, the extension of God's kingdom on the earth, and as such, is responsible to faithfully fulfill His kingdom purposes in the world. Under the protective care of Elders and other leaders, a church is to work together in love and unity (Acts 20:28), intent on the ultimate purpose of honoring and glorifying God (1 Cor 10:31).
- H. Ordinances of the Church.** We believe the ordinances of the church are baptism by immersion and communion. Baptism is a public affirmation of the believer's new life in Christ, symbolizing the death and resurrection of Christ as well as the believer's death to the old life of slavery to sin and rising to a new life of slavery to righteousness and freedom in Christ (Rom 6:3-5). We practice baptism by immersion – the dipping of a person completely under the water in accordance with the Scriptures (Mt 3:16). Communion is a celebration through which Christians, those who have accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior, remember the sacrifice of Christ on the cross for their salvation. All Christians should enthusiastically embrace and participate in these ordinances, according to the Lord's command (Luke 22:19; 1 Cor 11).
- I. Human Destiny and Future Events.** We believe death seals the eternal destiny of each person (Heb 9:27). At physical death, the Christian enters immediately into eternal, conscious fellowship with the Lord (2 Cor 5:8) and awaits the physical resurrection of his body to everlasting glory in heaven (Rom 8:23), blessing, and rewards for good things done in this life. At physical death, the unrepentant sinner enters immediately into eternal, conscious separation from the Lord (2 Thes 1:8-9) and awaits the resurrection of his body to everlasting judgement and condemnation in Hell (Rev 21:8; Jn 5:28-29).
- J. Angels.** We believe angels are spiritual beings created by God who inhabit the unseen spirit-world. They are ministering spirits sent by God to serve Christians (Heb 1:14), carry out God's plans as He directs them and bring glory to God. We believe in the reality of Satan, an angel who rebelled and chose to be an enemy of God and mankind. Other angels have similarly sinned and directly rebelled against God. These fallen angels are known as Satan's demons. Although powerful in this age, Satan and his demons have been conquered through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Christ and are doomed to eternal punishment in Hell (Mt 25:41).

- L. Sanctity of Human Life.** We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Ps. 139). The only exception in this regard is to the Biblical teaching on Capital Punishment (Gen 9:6; Ex 21:12-14).
- M. Marriage.** We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen 1:26-27)). Reject of one's biological sex is rebellion against the image of God within that person.
- N. We believe:** That God's intention for marriage is established throughout the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments; That God ordained marriage as a voluntary union for life of one man and one woman; That sexual intimacy is legitimate only within the bounds of marriage; That marriage is more than a contract between two persons: It is a covenant before God; That in Christian marriages, the church acts as an agent of God's blessing, as a primary witness and as a supportive community; That a healthy marriage is the best foundation for families and the raising of children. See the definition of marriage expanded in Article IV.
- O. Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct.** The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Purpose Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Board of Elders is Purpose Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.
- P. Christ-like Posture.** We believe that the Bible teaches that the two greatest commandments are to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We believe that we demonstrate Christ's character when we lovingly follow His example by living and proclaiming Biblical Truth regarding all matters of life, including sinful behavior (John 5:5-14; John 17:17).

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forgave their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1Cor. 6:9-11).

Article IV Marriage and Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is rebellion against the image of God within that person.

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; Mt. 19:4-6; Rom.7:2-3.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor. 6:15-20; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. (1 Thess. 4:1-8)

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, polygamy, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the 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.)

Article V Members

A. Members

- 1. Eligibility.** The membership of Purpose Church shall be composed of individuals 16 years or older who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, profess Him as their Lord and Savior, and affirm the tenets of the Church Constitution and Bylaws, and who offer evidence, by their confession and their conduct, that they are living in accord with their agreement of the Statement of Faith and abiding by this Constitution and Bylaws, and are actively pursuing and continuing in a vital fellowship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, and have openly demonstrated that commitment through baptism. Those who demonstrate their commitment by these means are eligible for consideration for membership. The Board of Elders of Purpose Church shall have final authority in all matters of church governance, as set forth herein and described in the Bylaws.
- 2. Member Matters.** Members are responsible for the following matters:
- 3. Elders and Deacons.** Affirming the nomination of candidates for Eldership and Diaconate.
- 4. Calling of Pastors.** Approving the call of any Pastor.
- 5. Removal of the Senior Pastor.** If requested by the Senior Pastor, the Members will review and may repeal the Elder's decision to remove the Senior Pastor.
- 6. Annual Budget.** Approval of the annual budget.
- 7. Real Property.** Approval of any transaction involving the purchase or sale of any real property, or any loan that results in a mortgage, lien, or encumbrance against any real property owned by the Church.
- 8. Amendments.** Approval of amendments to this Constitution, or to the Articles of Incorporation.
- 9. Other Matters.** Approval of any other matter delegated to the Members by the Elders.
- 10. Inactive Members.** Any Active Member who does not attend the worship services of the Church for a continuous period of six months - as determined by the records of the church - becomes an Inactive Member. Inactive Members are not eligible to vote on membership matters or hold any elective office. Inactive Members shall become Active Members again by providing written notice of their intent to do so. However, such Member shall not be eligible to vote on membership matters until 45 days of continuous attendance has passed after providing written notification.
- 11. Removal of Church Membership.** Membership may be revoked by the Elders as follows:
 - a. Transfer.** Member requests removal due to transfer of membership to another church
 - b. Inactivity.** Being an Inactive Member for a period of 6 months or more.
 - c. Failure to Meet Eligibility Requirements.**

- d. **Church Discipline.** Engaging in unrepentant sinful conduct. In doing so, the Elders shall employ the principles of church discipline outlined in Matthew 18:15-18 and Gal. 6:1-2, keeping in mind that the process is to be administered in love with the goal of restoration.

B. Meetings.

1. **Business Meeting.** Business meetings or special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Elders for any church business. A business meeting must be held in the quarter prior to the close of the fiscal year at a time and place set by the Elders. At this required meeting, members may approve the annual budget, affirm the nomination of Elder candidates, and consider other matters brought to the meeting.
2. **Notice.** The time, date and place of any Business or Special Meeting shall be announced during all celebration services for at least two consecutive Sunday's with the first announcement being made at least ten days before the scheduled meeting. Alternatively, notice may be made by mail to each Member at the address shown in the records of the church at least thirty (30) days before the meeting.
3. **Ad Hoc Meetings.** The Elders will not meet to make official decisions regarding church business (except issues concerning benevolence and shepherding) outside of scheduled board meetings.
4. **Quorum.** A quorum exists if there are Active Members in attendance at the start of the meeting equal to at least 10% of active Membership on the Membership Roll.
5. **Voting.** Unless stated otherwise in this Constitution, all Member matters are approved upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the Active Members who vote at any properly called membership meeting. Voting by proxy and cumulative voting are not permitted, while voting by secret ballot is an acceptable practice.

Article VI Elders

- A. **Duties.** The Elders are responsible for general oversight of the Church. With the Senior Pastor the Elders establish policies to carry out their duties. They are the formal leadership body for the church and are authorized to approve all corporate powers and undertakings not reserved to the Members. They are specifically responsible for the following:
 1. **Membership.** Approving membership, supervision of maintenance of the Membership Roll, and revocation of membership.
 2. **Elders.** Appointment of Elders from the pool of Elder Candidates affirmed by the Members. The Elders are responsible for identifying and reporting to the Members individuals qualified to serve as Elders. Circumstances permitting, all Elders agree to a minimum commitment of 3 years. There is no limit to the length of time that an Elder may serve.
 3. **Financial Matters.** Overseeing the financial operations of the church, periodically reporting to the Members the financial status of the church and recommending an annual budget to the Members for approval. Single Expenditures to exceed \$3,000 must be approved by the Elder Board prior to purchasing. Single Expenditures to exceed \$30,000 must be approved by the Membership prior to purchasing unless the Membership has previously approved a set level of expenses for a project, and the said expenditure fits within that budget structure and the purpose for which the approval by the Membership was made.

4. **Staff.** For implementing the process used to select the Senior Pastor. Approving and recommending to the Members for affirmation Associate Pastors, and approving the hiring of other staff.
 5. **Deacons.** For examining and recommending potential Deacons and Deaconesses to the Membership for their approval.
 6. **Ministries.** Establishing the process through which ministries of the Church are approved.
 7. In discharging their duties, the Elders may delegate any matter to the Members.
 8. **Bylaws.** Approving and revising Bylaws.
- B. Number of Elders.** At all times there will be at least five Elders and not more than eleven. In accordance with this requirement for five Elders, in the event the number of Elders shall become less than five due to death, resignation, or removal occurring during the year, a special meeting will be called by the remaining Elders and/or Membership to fill the vacant positions as soon as possible, but no longer than 2 months, from the current Elder pool. The Senior Pastor must serve as an Elder of the Church.
- C. Eligibility**
1. **Membership.** An Elder must be an active, male Member of the Church, 25 years of age or older, at the time their nomination is affirmed by the Members.
 2. **Spiritual Leadership.** Each Elder shall meet the requirements for leadership as described by the Scriptures in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.
- D. Calling.** People are called by God to serve as Elders of the Church. The following process is used to affirm that calling.
1. **Report of Candidates.** The Elders will report to the Members those qualified individuals approved by the Elders who have agreed to become Elder candidates. The Elders shall also identify for the Members the number of Elder positions open.
 2. **Affirmation of Elder Candidates.** The Members shall consider the individuals recommended for affirmation as a candidate at a business meeting. All candidates receiving membership approval shall form the pool from which the Elders will be appointed.
 3. **Appointment of Elders.** At their discretion, the Elders may appoint, from the pool of candidates approved by the Members, the individuals who will fill the Elder positions available. Upon appointment, new Elders will meet with existing Elders to facilitate training and transition.
- E. Meetings.** The Elders determine their schedule for regular meetings. Once a schedule for regular meetings has been adopted, no notice needs to be given for such meetings. The Chair of the Elders or the Senior Pastor may call a special meeting by giving at least five days advance notice. Elders may consent to meeting without 5-days notice if all Elders consent. A quorum for Elders' meetings is a majority of the Elders holding office as of the date of the meeting. Unless otherwise stated, decisions by the Elders require approval by 2/3 of the Elders attending the meeting. Electronic correspondence follows the protocol above.
- F. Removal.** If the Elder ceases to be an Active Member, the Elder ceases to be an Elder. The Elders may remove any individual Elder for failing to fulfill their duties as an Elder, for unrepentant sinful conduct, or for any other reason that makes removal in the best interest of the Church.

G. Vacancy. Refer to Article VI Section B

**Article VII
Officers**

A. Officers. The Officers are the Chair of the Elders, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. All Officers Must be approved by the Elders, and additional Officers may be appointed by the Elders. Officers must be Active Members of the church and are encouraged to serve a term of one year and may serve consecutive terms. Any individual can hold more than one officer position except the Chair of the Elders. In the absence of the Chair of the Elders, the Senior Pastor will conduct meetings.

- 1. Chair of the Elders.** The Elders elect from among themselves the Chair of the Elders/President who is responsible for running the Elder and Member meetings and for reporting actions of the Elders to the Members.
- 2. Secretary.** The Secretary, who may or may not be an Elder, is selected by the Elders, is responsible for the minutes of all Elder and Member meetings and may work in conjunction with the Office Manager to maintain the official records of the church.
- 3. Treasurer.** The Treasurer, who may or may not be an Elder, is selected by the Elders and is responsible for maintaining “Agreed Upon Procedures”, overseeing all disbursements, for keeping an accurate account of all money received and expended, chairing a finance committee, presenting a draft budget to the Elders, and providing financial reports at Member meetings and to the Elders as they request.

**Article VIII
Deacons**

A. Duties.

The Deacons and Deaconesses are responsible for service within the body of Christ. With the Head Deacon, the Diaconate oversees service ministries within the Church and community. They are specifically responsible for the following:

1. Benevolence.
2. Service of Communion.
3. Offering. Collecting, counting, and reporting of the offerings.
4. Organizing Serving Ministries.
5. Working in collaboration with ministry leaders.

B. Eligibility.

- 1. Membership.** A Deacon must be an Active Member of the Church, 25 years of age or older, at the time their nomination is affirmed by the Members.
- 2. Spiritual Qualities.** Each Deacon shall meet the requirements for the position as described by the Scriptures in Acts 6, and 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

C. Calling. People are called by God to serve as Deacons or Deaconesses of the Church. The following process is used to affirm that calling.

1. **Report of Candidates.** The Elders will report to the Members those qualified individuals as candidates for the Diaconate.
2. **Affirmation of Deacon Candidates.** The Members shall consider the individuals recommended for affirmation as a candidate at a business meeting. All candidates receiving membership approval shall form the pool from which the Elders will appoint Deacons and Deaconesses.
3. **Appointment of Deacons.** At their discretion, the Elders may appoint, from the pool of candidates approved by the Members, the individuals who will fill positions on the Diaconate.

D. Meetings. The Head Deacon and Diaconate will determine the schedule for meetings.

E. Removal. If a member of the Diaconate ceases to be an active member of the Church, he or she ceases to be a Deacon. The Elders may remove any individual Deacon or Deaconess for failing to fulfill their duties, for unrepentant sinful conduct, or for any other reason that makes removal in the best interest of the Church.

Article IX Staff

A. Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor is responsible for the overall spiritual leadership of the church, its services, programs and the day-to-day operation of its ministries. The Senior Pastor, at his discretion, may act as a member of all other ministries / committees of the Church.

1. **Calling.** The Elders establish the process for selecting a Senior Pastor candidate and for recommending that candidate to the Members. That process shall include an opportunity for the Members to meet and interact with the candidates. If approved by the Members, the candidate shall be offered the position of Senior Pastor. Employment details are determined by the Elders.
2. **Removal.** Upon a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote the Elders may remove the Senior Pastor for failing to fulfill the Senior Pastor duties and/or for unrepentant sinful conduct. The Senior Pastor may also be removed if all the Elders, excluding the Senior Pastor, determine that removal is in the best interests of the Church.
 - a. The Elders shall call a special meeting of the Members to review the Elder's decision, if the Senior Pastor makes a written request, for said review, to the Chairman of the Elders within five days of notification of termination.
 - b. If called, the special meeting of the Members will be held within fifteen (15) days after the date the Senior Pastor requests such review.
 - c. If a quorum is not present at the special meeting of the Members, the Elders' decision to remove the Senior Pastor is final.
 - d. If a quorum is present at the special meeting of the Members, the Senior Pastor shall be given the opportunity to address the Members and the Elders shall fully explain the basis for their decision.
 - e. During the review process, the Pastor is relieved of his pastoral duties, with pay.

- f. If the Members vote by 2/3 (excluding the Elders), to reverse the Elders' decision for removal, the original decision of the Elders shall be rescinded and the Senior Pastor shall resume pastoral duties immediately. If the Members do not vote to reverse the Elders' decision, such decision is then final.
3. **Resignation.** The Senior Pastor may resign at any time by giving at least three months prior written notice. The Elders may reduce the notice period.
 4. **Vacancy.** Upon a vacancy, the Elders shall appoint an Interim Senior Pastor. If the Interim Senior Pastor is not an Elder, he shall serve as a non-voting member of the Elders while serving as the Interim Senior Pastor. The Interim Senior Pastor shall continue to serve until replaced by the Elders with another person to serve as Interim Senior Pastor or until a new Senior Pastor is called.
- B. Associate Pastors.** The Senior Pastor and Elders are responsible for the staffing needs of the Church. The Church shall have as many Associate Pastors as the Senior Pastor and Elders determine are necessary. Associate Pastors fulfill the duties assigned to them by the Senior Pastor and Elders. The process used for hiring, supervising, and removal shall be determined by the Senior Pastor and Elders subject to the following:
1. The Senior Pastor and Elders are responsible for hiring an Associate Pastor. Associate Pastors are hired by a ¾ vote of the Elders.
 2. The Senior Pastor and Elders are responsible for dismissal of any Associate Pastor by ¾ Elder vote.
- C. Other Staff.** The Church shall have other staff as determined necessary by the Senior Pastor and Elders. Such staff shall fulfill the duties assigned to them by the Senior Pastor and Elders. The process used for hiring, supervising, and removal shall be determined by the Senior Pastor and Elders.
- D. Marriage Policy.** Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between one man, one woman, and Himself, the Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, Elders, the Senior Pastor and Associate Pastors shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of the Church shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.

Article X Ministries

- A. Approval Required.** All ministries of the Church shall be approved by the Elders. No person may use the resources of the Church for non-ministry purposes unless approved by the Elders.
- B. Leadership.** Leaders of ministries must complete and sign the Ministry Leadership Application and Covenant, affirming that they have read the Statement of Faith, Constitution and Bylaws, and Code of Conduct of Purpose Church and agree to support the spirit and unity of the documents as they relate to life in the church as a Follower of Christ. All prospective Leaders will be interviewed by the Elders prior to appointment to Ministry Leadership. All leaders, member or not, will fill out the Ministry Leadership Application and Covenant. Members will also have filled out the Membership Application. The Elders may establish other eligibility requirements for various ministry leaders; and Elders may remove any ministry leader from their leadership position at any time.
- C. Oversight.** Each ministry and its leadership will serve under the oversight of a specific, designated Elder.

Article XI Property

- A. Property.** The Church has the power to buy, own, and sell property in its corporate name.
- B. Conveyance of Property.** Conveyance or encumbrance of any real property of the Church may be made if approved by the Members. Instruments of conveyance or encumbrance shall be executed by the Chair of the Elders and the Secretary.
- C. Rights to Property.** All real or personal property owned by the Church shall be the property of the corporation and no individual or group of individuals shall have a right to such property. In the event the Church ceases to function, or should the corporation be dissolved and liquidated without a successor, the right, title, and interest of the property of the Church shall accrue to the benefit of, and be vested in, the Southwestern Association of North American Baptists General Conference, Inc. or its successor organization; provided, however, that the Southwestern Association of North American Baptists Conference, Inc. or its successor organization shall, at the time of designation, be exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended or under such successor provision of the Code as may then be in effect. In the event such organization is not so exempt, all of the property of the Church shall accrue to the benefit of such organization that is so exempt whose purpose is similar to that of the Southwestern Association of North American Baptists Conference, Inc., or its successor organization, as determined by a majority of the Elders holding office at the time of such dissolution or, if there be none, then by any court of competent jurisdiction.

Article XII Amendments

This Constitution may be amended from time to time so long as such amendments are approved at a Member meeting upon recommendation by the Elders with notice of the nature of such amendment being given to the Members at least thirty (30) days before such meeting. In providing such notice it is not necessary that the specific text of the amendment be made available so long as the general nature of the amendment is explained referencing the Articles of this Constitution that would be affected by such amendment. In order for a constitutional change to be ratified, a quorum of 25% of membership must be present and participate in the vote. Ratification is accomplished by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the members voting. Approved amendments will be filed in the Church Office along with current copies of the Articles of Incorporation, the Constitution, and By-Laws.