BOOTHSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Church Covenant, Articles of Faith, Constitution, and By Laws

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord, Jesus Christ as our Savior, and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized into the family of God by His Spirit and baptized by immersion into the fellowship of this congregation, we do now solemnly agree in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, to joyfully enter into the covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

With the Holy Spirit as our guide and sustainer we agree to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in the knowledge of Him, to walk in Holiness, and regularly support the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and spread the Gospel throughout all nations.

We further agree to engage ourselves in watching over one another in brotherly love, and to pray earnestly for each other, to aid one another in times of sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to abstain from willful sin, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

And we agree that should we move from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and be of use to the Kingdom of God.

BOOTHSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe that there is one God, existing in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
2. We believe that the Holy Bible is "the inspired Word of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for the instruction in righteousness." (2nd Timothy 3:16)
3. We believe in the complete authority of the New Testament in all matters of faith, and practice, and that what it teaches is to be believed and obeyed.
4. We believe that everyone who has come to the age of accountability is a sinner in thought, word, and deed.
5. We believe that salvation is the gift of God, "not of works, lest any man should boast," and that salvation is obtained by repentance from sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior. (Ephesians 2: 8-9)
6. We believe that there is no remission of sin without the shedding of blood. Jesus Christ died on the cross, shedding His blood for our sin, and was buried. He rose again on the third day and is now seated on the right hand of God in the position of authority and intercession.
7. We believe in the priesthood of all believers, that Jesus is our High Priest and our only approach to God, and that He bids-all to come boldly to the throne of grace.
8. We believe in the eternal security of believers and that nothing can pluck them out of the hands of God. The true test of a believer is whether or not he receives chastisement when out of fellowship with God (Hebrews 12:6-9, John 10:28-29)
9. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.
10. We believe that there is to be a bodily resurrection of the just and unjust. (John 5: 28-29) Hell is for all those who reject Christ and Heaven is the home of all those who accept Christ as Lord and Savior.
11. We believe that Baptism by immersion and that the Lord's Supper are the only two Christian Ordinances. These are symbolic representation of our obedience to Christ. (Romans 6: 3-4) (1st Corinthians 11: 23,25)

12. We believe in complete separation of Church and State. The State should protect all religious groups but favor none. Neither the State nor the organized Church has the right to dictate what we believe. (Matthew 22:21)
13. We believe in the autonomy of the local church. Each local congregation is directly responsible to Christ, its only Head and Lawgiver, and therefore, is self-governing and not under the control of any person, church, body of churches or ecclesiastical authority.
14. God's design is that a man and a woman either be joined together in a perpetual monogamous relationship or live in a single state. The practice of extra-marital sex, adultery, or homosexuality is inconsistent with Biblical teaching. (Hebrew 13:4)

BOOTHSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – Name

The name of this church shall be the Boothsville Baptist Church, situated at Boothsville, at 26 Rock Union Road in Grant District, Marion County, West Virginia.

ARTICLE II – Purpose

The purpose of this Church shall be to advance the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. This shall be accomplished by public worship of God, the preaching of the Gospel, consistent Christian living by its members, personal and united evangelism, personal stewardship, missionary outreach, Christian education, and community service.

ARTICLE III – Polity

The government of this Church shall be vested in the body which comprises its membership. It shall maintain affiliation with the Fairmont Baptist Association and the West Virginia Baptist Convention. It shall require a three-fourths(¾) majority to change this, and every member on the active roll shall be furnished with a written letter by the church clerk two weeks in advance of the set date for voting.

ARTICLE IV – Doctrine

This church receives the New Testament as an all-sufficient basis of doctrine and practice, republishes the Articles of Faith, and reaffirms its complete belief and trust in and its adherence to, the principle of Christian doctrine and conduct as set forth in the Church Covenant and Articles of Faith.

ARTICLE V – Amendments

This constitution may be amended only at the annual business meeting of the Church, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present, provided there is a quorum present, and provided that a three month notice of the proposed changes shall have been given.

BOOTHSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS

ARTICLE I-MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Acquiring Membership

Persons may be received into membership in this Church by any of the following methods, subject in each case to the recommendation of the Minister, Board of Deacons and affirmative vote of the Church.

Any person who has arrived at the age of understanding and who, with such understanding, confesses Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord, declares openly his or her purpose to live a Christian life, adopts substantially the viewsof faith and the principles of Christian doctrine and conduct of this Church as expressed in the Church Covenant and Articles of Faith, and is baptized by immersion, may be received into the membership and fellowship of the Church.

Any member of another Baptist Church, or otherwise, who is in substantial accord with the views of faith and the principles of Christian doctrine and conduct of this Church, as expressed in the Church Covenant and the Articles of Faith, and has been baptized by immersion, upon statement of experience, may be received by letter.

Any person of worthy character who has formerly been a member of a Christian Church who, for sufficient reason, cannot present a letter from that church, but who is in substantial accord with the views of faith and the principles of Christian doctrine and conduct of this Church, as expressed in the Church Covenant and Articles of Faith, and has been baptized by immersion, may be received upon statement of Christian experience.

Any person who has lost his membership in this Church for any reason, may be restored to membership upon recommendation of the Minister, Board of Deacons and the affirmative vote of the Church.

Active and Inactive Members: If a member does not support the Church with his time, talent and treasure physically or spiritually for a period of one year except for illness, travel or work, and after the Pastor and the Deacons have tried to restore him, he will be placed on the inactive list. He will not have the right to vote on matters of Church business. If he returns to active service, he should then be placed on the list of active members.

Section 2 - Termination of Membership

Any member of this Church may voluntarily withdraw from membership, or such membership may be otherwise terminated by any of the following methods:

Death

Any member of this Church in good standing, who desires a letter of dismissal and recommendation to any other Baptist Church, may have the same upon written request therefore, subject to the recommendation of the Board of Deacons and the affirmative vote of the Church. The name of the Church to which such transfer of membership is requested shall be stated in the request. The letter of dismissal and recommendation when issued, shall be sent by the clerk of the Church to the Pastor or clerk of the Church to which such transfer is to be effective. When such a letter is issued, such person shall cease to be a member of this Church.

Any member of this Church in good standing, who desires to withdraw from membership and to obtain a letter of Christian character for the purpose of uniting with a Church of another denomination, may have the same upon written request therefore, subject to the recommendation of the Board of Deacons and the affirmative vote of the Church. The name of the Church to which such a letter of Christian character shall be directed must be stated in the request. The letter, when issued, shall be sent by the clerk of the Church to the Pastor or clerk of the Church to which such affiliation is to be effected When such a letter is issued, such person shall cease to be a member of this Church.

Any member of this Church who becomes an offense to this Church and to its good name and reputation by reason of a now active immoral or unchristian conduct, may be dismissed from membership upon recommendation of the Board of Deacons with approval of the Minister and the affirmative vote of the Church. However, such action will not be taken in any case, or with request to any member, until such member shall have had the due notice and a hearing before the Board of Deacons, and after faithful and sincere efforts have been made to restore such a person to repentance (Matthew 18: 15-20). An official letter on this matter will be issued by the clerk to said person. When such a letter is issued, such person shall cease to be a member of this Church.

ARTICLE II-MINISTER

Section 1 - Duties

The Minister shall be considered the spiritual leader of the Church. He shall preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, administer the Ordinances, sign and give certificates ofmembership and baptism, watch over and shepherd the membership, and have in his charges the spiritual welfare of the congregation and the agreed stated services of worship.

He shall be a licensed or ordained minister recognized by the Baptist denomination . He shall be a believer in, and preacher of, the Gospel of Jesus Christ and ofthe basic doctrines of faith as held by the West Virginia Baptist Convention churches. He shall cooperate with the local and state work of the denomination as he and the Church are able, with consideration given to the fact that this Church is a part-time Church as concerning its minister. He shall be an ex-officio member of every board and committee of the Church.

Section 2 - Call

Whenever there is a vacancy in the pastorate caused by death, resignation or dismissal of the Minister, the Pulpit Committee shall take necessary steps to select and recommend to the Church a candidate for the pastorate. Only one candidate will be considered at a time. After disposition of a candidate, the committee will seek out and present a new candidate. It shall investigate offer the merits of the candidate under consideration with regard to his personal character, education, ministerial record, preaching ability, doctrinal belief and general abilities in the running of a church. When a suitable candidate is found, the committee will present him to the Church for speaking engagement(s). Then the Church must decide by vote of the congregation as to the calling of the candidate, and so inform him by letter.

The call of a Minister shall come before the Church at a special business meeting,notice to be given in the preceding worship hour. Before a call can be extended, it shall require a seventy-five (75) percent affirmative vote of the members present, provided there is a quorum.

The Minister shall be called for an indefinite period of time. His salary shall be fixed by the Pulpit Committee and shall be ratified by the congregation at the time of the call, which shall be extended in writing by the church clerk. The salary can be changed at any monthly or annual business meeting.

Section 3 - Termination

The pastorate will be terminated by the death, resignation or dismissal of the Minister. It may be terminated upon a written sixty (60) day notice on the part of the Minister, or the Church, of such period as mutually agreed upon between the Minister and the Church. Such termination on the part of the Church shall be effected at a special meeting of the Church, after it has been announced from the pulpit at two Sunday morning worship services. The affirmation vote of the majority of the members present, provided their is a quorum shall vacate or terminate the pastorate.

Section 4 - Dismissal

The dismissal of the Minister for immoral, unchristian conduct or other valid cause shall be effected only upon the written recommendation of the Board of Deacons to the Church at a special business meeting, after a two-weeks notice have been given to the Church, and upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present, provided there is a quorum of ten members present.

No member of this Church shall prefer charges or complaints involving the personal, professional, or public life or conduct of the Minister at any meeting of the Church, either business or devotional. All such charges and complaints by a member shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Deacons, which board shall cause an investigation to be promptly made thereof.

In the event the board, in its sole discretion, finds the Minister guilty of an offense, which is a reproach or injury to this Church, it shall make a report in writing to the Church for its action at a special business meeting. If the charge or complaint by a member is false, then the Deacons shall recommend dismissal of the complaining member from the membership of the Church, as provided in Article I, Section 2-D of this Constitution and By-laws.

Section 5 – Preaching the Gospel

We recognize that members of the Church may feel led to preach the Gospel. Members willing to commit to this call shall, in the judgement of the Church, give evidence by their Christian living, zeal, knowledge of and ability to teach the Word of God. They must also evidence the call of God to this full-time work of the Gospel ministry. A candidate must be a member of the Church in good standing for no less than one year. A second year probationary period, during which the time the Church clerk maintains possession of the issued license, may be waived only if he is called to pastor an affiliate Church of if a license is required for seminary entrance.

The above stipulations may be waived if a newly received member currently holds a valid license from a sister Church. Having preached in the presence of the Church and, after consultation with and approval of the Pastor and Board of Deacons, he may be licensed for a period of one year to preach the Gospel. Upon receipt of license, he shall be permitted to administer the Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper with the approval of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons. With the recommendation of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons, the license may be renewed for a one-year period. All actions pertaining to licensure shall be approved by two thirds (2/3) majority of those present and voting at any annual or monthly business meeting. The Church will, in consultation with the Associational Committee on Ordination, assist persons who give clear evidence of a call to Pastorate or Evangelistic Ministry to seekOrdination. (I Timothy 3: 1-7; Titus 1: 5-9)

ARTICLE III - CHURCH OFFICERS

All Church officers must be church members in good standing. See Article I, Section 2-D.

Section 1 - Pastor

See Article II, Section 1.

Section 2 - Moderator

The office of Moderator, and the Vice-Moderator of the Church shall be filled by elected office. The Moderator, and Vice-Moderator shall be elected annually. In case of the absence or disqualification of the above-named officers, a Moderator Pro-tem shall be elected by the Church with a majority vote.

Section 3 - Church Clerk

The Clerk shall keep an accurate and complete record of all business transacted at the business and membership meetings of the Church. The Clerk shall keep a permanent record of the name and addresses of all members, and the dates and manner of their admission, and dismissal, and a like record of all baptisms. The Clerk shall issue letters of dismissal, recommendation, and letters of Christian character, as authorized by the Church. The Clerk shall attest all documents of the Church, as may be required by law. The Clerk shall assist and cooperate with the Minister and the Board of Deacons. In the absence of the Church Clerk, the assistant clerk shall perform the duties.

Section 4 - Church Treasurer

The Church Treasurer shall have custody of all funds of the Church. All bank deposits and all checks drawn by the Treasurer shall be in the name of the Church as ordered by the Church.

The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall keep systematic and separate accounts of all funds raised or contributed for a particular purpose. The Treasurers shall make a full and complete report of all receipts and disbursements at the regular business and at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE IV – BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

All Boards and Committees shall establish regular business meeting dates, and shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings. These shall be available to the Minister or the Board of Deacons.

The Boards and Committees of the Church shall be as follows:

1. Board of Deacons
2. Board of Trustees
3. Budget Committee
4. Board of Christian Education
5. Music Committee
6. Nominating Committee
7. Pulpit Committee
8. Fellowship and Outreach Committee
9. Ushers

Section 1 - Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons shall be composed of at least seven active members. Vacancies created will be filled by recommendation by the Deacon Board to the body of the Church after the candidate has been counseled, and satisfies Biblical qualifications. The Church, after one year of service, shall call for ordination of a candidate.

The Board of Deacons shall assist the Minister in his work, have general oversight over the spiritual life of the Church, and provide Christian instruction and ministry to the Church membership. It shall cooperate with the Minister in the visiting of the membership, the care of the sick, needy, and distressed members of the Church and the evangelistic and missionary programs of the Church

In the event of the vacancy of the pulpit through resignation or termination of the Pastor, the Board of Deacons shall initiate the forming of the Pulpit Committee.

The Board of Deacons shall once a year appoint from its board, one member to serve as chairman for a period of one year, and a recording secretary for the same period.

Termination of a Deacon - Deacons may be dismissed from office in the same manner as provided for dismissal of the Pastor.

Section 2 - Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees shall be composed of five members of the Church.They shall be nominated annually by the Nominating Committee and elected at the annual business meeting of the Church. When a change is made on the Board of Trustees, a certified copy of the order of elections shall be recorded in the office of the Clerk of the County Court of Marion County, West Virginia, as is required by the laws of the State of West Virginia.

The Trustees shall hold in trust the title of all real, tangible and personalproperties belonging to the Church. They shall take necessary steps to protect, manage, maintain, and repair or redecorate the Church or its furnishings. Their survey, along with their recommendations, shall be presented to the Church for approval, after consultation with the Pastor.

The Trustees shall have the power to incur expenses for the cleaning of the Church with regard to materials or supplies as outlined in the annual budget, as well as minor purchases or repairs. The Board of Trustees will have supervision of the custodian's work and outline any particulars thereof. In the event of a vacancy, the Board of Trustees may nominate a substitute Custodian to be voted upon at a business meeting.

The Board shall have no power to lease, sell, transfer, mortgage or otherwise dispose of, or encumber, the property of the Church, real or personal, except as authorized and directed by the church at its regular, annual or special business meeting, after notice, as is provided by the laws of the State of West Virginia, and by the affirmative vote of seventy-five (75) percent of the members present and qualified to vote, provided there is a quorum.

The Board shall elect from the Board one member to be the chairman and another to serve as recording secretary for a period of one year. This shall be done on or about the first of the year.

Section 3 - Budget Committee

The Budget Committee shall prepare and present a proposed budget for the coming year, at the annual business meeting.

Section 4 – Board of Christian Education

The Board of Christian Education shall be composed of five members of the Church and shall be nominated by the nomination committee and elected at the annual business meeting of the Church.

Duties of the Christian Education Committee shall be as follows:

Supervise & Promote all educational interests of the Church such as:

- Sunday School - Select Sunday School teachers/officers by vote. Committee will report changes to the Church Clerk to be submitted to the Business Meeting. Assist with selecting/obtaining curriculum & supplies needed within the limits of the annual budget. Support teachers with any problems/needs that arise. (Sunday School teachers can meet as often as they feel the need is there and to report back to the CEC via the Sunday School Teacher Liaison)
- Vacation Bible School - Select Director(s) by vote.
- Youth Ministry - Assist the leader(s) of the Youth Ministry with any problems/needs that arise.
- Advent/Lenten Services - Search & Select ideas for Advent and Lenten Services to vote on within the committee. Organize/Prepare presentation.
- Special Services - Organize/Prepare with Pastor the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday Service or any additional Services that the Pastor may need.
- Any Additional Educational Duties - Assist/Direct any additional Christian Education duties such as Graduation Sunday, Baptist Heritage Day (Lead by Church Historian), etc.
- Reporting - The Chair will Prepare & Submit a report of the committee's activities to the regular business meetings of the Church
- Committee Secretary - Committee will appoint a committee secretary at the January meeting. The Secretary will be responsible for taking the minutes of each meeting and forward them to the Church Clerk

Section 5 - Music Committee

The Music Committee shall be composed of three members of the Church and shall be elected at the annual business meeting of the Church.

Duties of the Music Committee shall be as follows:

- To be responsible for the entire music program of the Church in collaboration with the Minister.
- To recommend to the Church's Budget Committee any needed supplies and the repair or tuning of musical instruments, to recommend the purchase of new equipment or instruments, prepare and submit a report of it's activities to the annual business meeting of the Church.

Section 6 - Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall be appointed at a business meeting of the Church in time to prepare and recommend a slate of Church officers to be elected at the annual business meeting of the Church.

It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to nominate all officers, boards, and the committees of the Church, with the exception of the Board of Deacons.

Section 7 - Pulpit Committee

This Board shall have no power to act until a vacancy occurs in the pulpit.

In the event of a vacancy the pulpit committee shall seek to fill the pulpit weekly and seek a suitable candidate for the position of pastor to present to the church. The pulpit committee shall consist of a representative from the Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees, Board of Christian Education,Youth Ministries, Fellowship and Outreach Committee and the Women's Ministries when applicable. (refer to Article II, Section 2)

Section 8 – Fellowship and Outreach Committee

The committee shall consist of at least 7 members.

Duties of the Fellowship & Outreach Committee shall be as follows:

Supervise and Promote all Fellowship & Outreach interests of the Church such as:

- Easter Program
- Mother's/Father's Day Dinner
- Annual Church Picnic
- Trunk or Treat
- Joint Thanksgiving Program (with Methodist Church}-Lead by the Music Committee
- Christmas Program
- Candlelight Service (Music Committee Assisting)
- 5th Sunday Special Music-Lead by the Music Committee
- Mother's Day Presentation-Lead by the Youth Ministry
- Father's Day Presentation-Lead by the Youth Ministry

Reporting - The Chair will Prepare & Submit a report of the committee's activities to the regular business meetings of the Church.

Committee Secretary - Committee will appoint a committee secretary at the January meeting. The Secretary will be responsible for taking the minutes of each meeting and forward them to the Church Clerk.

Section 9 – Ushers

Ushers play a crucial role in making visitors feel comfortable and ensuring a smooth worship experience.

Duties of Ushers shall be as follows:

- Greet attendees
- Assist with seating as needed
- Collect Tithes & Offerings
- Any additional duties as needed

ARTICLE V - AUXILIARY ORGANIZATION

Section 1 – Auxiliary Organization Guidance

The American Baptist Women (ABW), American Baptist Men (ABM) of the West Virginia Baptist Convention and all organized groups of adults and young people shall constitute the auxiliary organizations of the Church and shall be under the guidance of the Minister. They shall cooperate with the general policies of the Church.

Section 2 – Auxiliary Organization Adherence

The Constitution, By-Laws, rules, and regulations of these auxiliary organizations shall not be in conflict with this Constitution and By-Laws of the Church. Each auxiliary organization shall elect its own officers and hold meetings at such times as will not conflict with the devotional or business meetings of the Church.

ARTICLE VI – BUSINESS MEETINGS

Section 1 – Business Meetings

Business meetings of the Church shall be held quarterly on the first Wednesday of the months of March, June, September, and December. The annual business meeting shall be the December meeting.

The calendar year of the church shall run from January 1 to December 31.

Special Business meetings shall be called by the Pastor, Board of Deacons, or Board of Trustees at a regular mid-week service or Worship service provided a quorum is present.

Section 2 – Elections

The election of officers and members of the boards and committees shall be held only at the annual business meeting of the Church. Voting shall be by the members on the active roll of the Church (Article I, Section E)

Section 3 – Membership Meetings

Membership meetings may be held at any meeting of the church, for the purpose of reception of new members. A majority vote shall rule.

Section 4 – Quorum

A quorum for the transaction of business shall be a minimum of ten members.

Section 5 – Rules of Order

The Order of business for the annual business meeting of the Church shall be as follows:

1. Devotions and Prayer
2. Reading of the minutes
3. Report of Treasurer
4. Report of Deacons
5. Report of Trustees
6. Reports of Committees
7. Unfinished Business
8. New Business
9. Adjournment following prayer

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

Section 1 – By-Law Amendment

The By-Laws may be amended at any business meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) voteof those present and voting, provided there is a quorum and provided that the proposed changes were announced and read at least a month prior to the vote.

Section 2 – Constitution and By-Law Order

This Constitution and By-Laws shall supersede all previous constitutions, By- Laws, rules, regulations, and other rules of procedure of the Church heretofore adopted, and the same shall

be null and void and of no force and effect thereafter, and this previouslegislation shall be null and void.

Constitution and By-Laws Adopted December 3, 2025