

# Dayton Avenue Baptist Church Constitution

## Dayton Avenue Baptist Church (DABC) Constitution Purpose:

This Constitution establishes the principles and precedents by which DABC will be organized and governed. DABC is affiliated with the local association of Baptists, the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio and the Southern Baptist Convention. These affiliations do not assert ecclesiastical authority over DABC in its operation or theological position, nor do members appeal to them for a hearing of church matters. This Constitution is established by congregational covenant; therefore, members agree to abide by the principles and precedents established herein upon accepting membership into DABC. This Constitution follows the biblical model established in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 recognizing the church offices of Pastor and Deacon while confirming there is no biblical office standing between the church and Christ, Who is our Head (1 Peter 5:3-4; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18).

## DABC Constitution Format:

This Constitution is segmented into two main areas, the Articles of Faith and the Bylaws. The Articles of Faith are statements of religious convictions, drawn from the Scriptures, which represent the DABC theological positions and will act as instruments of doctrinal accountability. The Bylaws represent the principles on which the church will be governed (for example, church membership, Deacon body, establishment of teams). This Constitution is intended to be rigid in theological position, but more flexible in meeting future needs of the congregation.

## Articles of Faith:

These Articles declare before the world the doctrines we hold precious and essential to the Baptist tradition of faith and practice. DABC intends that these Articles serve as a handbook for believers in our personal study of God's Word, which is part of our individual accountability to God as a kingdom of priests (1 Peter 2:5, 9). We require affirmation of these biblical truths for membership so that we can hold each other accountable to teach them consistently in every aspect of our ministry.

### Article I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

*Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15;*

44 17:17; Acts 2:16.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25;  
45 2 Peter 1:19-21.

46 **Article II. God**

47 There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the  
48 Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other  
49 perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past,  
50 present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love,  
51 reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
52 with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

53 **A. God the Father**

54 God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of  
55 human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all  
56 wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is  
57 fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

58 *Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11.; 20:1.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles*  
59 *29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark*  
60 *1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6;*  
61 *Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.*

62 **B. God the Son**

63 Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit  
64 and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human  
65 nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin.  
66 He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He  
67 made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and  
68 appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into  
69 heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in  
70 whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to  
71 judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living  
72 and ever present Lord.

73 *Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7.; 110:1.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33;*  
74 *16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38;*  
75 *11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20;*  
76 *Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians*  
77 *5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1*  
78 *Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-*  
79 *15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-*  
80 *16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.*

81 **C. God the Holy Spirit**

82 The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures.  
83 Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of  
84 righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. At the moment of  
85 regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character,  
86 comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals

87 the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will  
88 bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and  
89 the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

90 *Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18;*  
91 *3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-*  
92 *17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6;*  
93 *Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14;*  
94 *4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter*  
95 *1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.*

96 **Article III. Man**

97 Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the  
98 crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the  
99 beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free  
100 choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan  
101 man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit  
102 a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action,  
103 they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His  
104 holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human  
105 personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man;  
106 therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

107 *Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew*  
108 *16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians*  
109 *1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.*

110 **Article IV. Salvation**

111 Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ  
112 as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest  
113 sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation  
114 apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

115 A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in  
116 Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the  
117 sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are  
118 inseparable experiences of grace.

119 Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and  
120 commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Savior.

121 B. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who  
122 repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with  
123 God.

124 C. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's  
125 purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power  
126 of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

127 D. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

128 *Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32;*  
129 *John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31;*  
130 *20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1*  
131 *Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15;*  
132 *Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2*  
133 *Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23;*  
134 *1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.*

135 **Article V. God's Purpose of Grace**

136 Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and  
137 glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in  
138 connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy,  
139 and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

140 All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit,  
141 will never fall away from the state of grace, but will persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin  
142 through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and  
143 bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they will be kept by the  
144 power of God through faith unto salvation.

145 *Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-*  
146 *19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-*  
147 *45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6, 12, 17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1*  
148 *Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-*  
149 *14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9;*  
150 *2:19; 3:2.*

151 **Article VI. The Church**

152 A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized  
153 believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances  
154 of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word,  
155 and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the  
156 Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible  
157 and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are Pastors and Deacons. While both men and  
158 women are gifted for service in the church, the office of Pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

159 The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed  
160 of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

161 *Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28;*  
162 *Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21;*  
163 *5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-*  
164 *4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.*

165

166 **Article VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

167 Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy  
168 Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the  
169 believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ

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170 Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is  
171 prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

172 The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of  
173 the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second  
174 coming.

175 *Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts*  
176 *2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.*

## 177 **Article VIII. The Lord's Day**

178 The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It  
179 commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and  
180 spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the  
181 Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

182 *Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24;*  
183 *20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.*

## 184 **Article IX. The Kingdom**

185 The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship  
186 over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into  
187 which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor  
188 that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom  
189 awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

190 *Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29;*  
191 *Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31;*  
192 *Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10;*  
193 *4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.*

## 194 **Article X. Last Things**

195 God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His  
196 promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and  
197 Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of  
198 everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward  
199 and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

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

## 205 **Article XI. Evangelism and Missions**

206 It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to  
207 endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the  
208 birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the

209 regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus  
210 Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to  
211 seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by  
212 other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

213 *Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10;*  
214 *24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8, 16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40;*  
215 *10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews*  
216 *2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.*

## 217 **Article XII. Education**

218 Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom  
219 and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all  
220 human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of  
221 Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with  
222 these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a  
223 complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

224 In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic  
225 responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The  
226 freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus  
227 Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school  
228 exists.

229 *Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs*  
230 *3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7, 11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1*  
231 *Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy*  
232 *2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.*

## 233 **Article XIII. Stewardship**

234 God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him.  
235 Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding  
236 stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents,  
237 and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God  
238 and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully,  
239 regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on  
240 earth.

241 *Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21; 19:21;*  
242 *23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21, 42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-*  
243 *2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.*

## 244 **Article XIV. Cooperation**

245 Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best  
246 secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority  
247 over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit,  
248 combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament  
249 churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and  
250 benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense  
251 is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people.

252 Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is  
253 itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to  
254 Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

255 *Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15;*  
256 *20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1*  
257 *Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-*  
258 *18.*

## 259 **Article XV. The Christian and the Social Order**

260 All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in  
261 human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of  
262 righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the  
263 regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians  
264 should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality,  
265 including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the  
266 needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and  
267 contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to  
268 bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness,  
269 truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men  
270 of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their  
271 loyalty to Christ and His truth.

272 *Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16;*  
273 *Matthew 5:13-16,43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25;*  
274 *John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28;*  
275 *Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.*

## 276 **Article XVI. Peace and War**

277 It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. The true remedy for  
278 war is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the  
279 affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout  
280 the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace. DABC honors and affirms our military and  
281 those in our armed forces who protect and preserve the freedoms on which our nation was founded.

282 *Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9,38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36,38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews*  
283 *12:14; James 4:1-2*

## 284 **Article XVII. Religious Liberty**

285 God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of  
286 men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The  
287 state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for  
288 such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others.  
289 Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all  
290 things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on  
291 its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has  
292 no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for  
293 the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the  
294 right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate  
295 opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

8/03/2014

296 *Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7, 24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7;*  
297 *Galatians 5:1,13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.*

298 **Article XVIII. The Family**

299 God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons  
300 related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

301 Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's  
302 unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman  
303 in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to  
304 biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

305 The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The  
306 marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ  
307 loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A  
308 wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly  
309 submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to  
310 him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the  
311 household and nurturing the next generation.

312 Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to  
313 demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and  
314 moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make  
315 choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

316 *Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28;*  
317 *Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22;*  
318 *22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32;*  
319 *18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4;*  
320 *Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.*

321

322 **Bylaws:**

323

324

324 **Article I. Membership**

325

326 A. Qualifications.

327

328 The membership will consist of scripturally baptized believers in Christ who are in  
329 agreement with the Articles of Faith in this Constitution and are striving to live in  
330 accordance with our covenant. Membership will be considered on the basis of spiritual  
331 qualifications without regard to social standing, financial status, nationality, age, or race.

332

333 B. Requirements.

334

335 Any person may request membership by presenting himself or herself publicly at a  
336 worship service in one of the following ways:

337 1. For baptism by immersion after profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

- 338 2. By transfer of letter from another sister church of like faith.  
339 3. By statement of a prior conversion experience and scriptural baptism, when no letter  
340 is obtainable.  
341 4. By Watchcare. These individuals are members of a sister church yet wish to join our  
342 church family while they are living short-term in our community (e.g. college students)  
343 without discontinuing the membership from their home church. Members under  
344 Watchcare may not serve in an elected position of leadership or vote in church business  
345 sessions.  
346 5. By restoration to membership after having been removed from the roll of this church  
347 by exclusion (Reference Bylaw Article I Section H).  
348 6. In each of the above situations, with the exception of restoration, individuals age 18  
349 and over must participate in and complete the Member Information Class. Individuals  
350 under 18 must meet with a Pastor concerning salvation and church membership prior to  
351 baptism.

352

353 C. Covenant Relationship.

354

- 355 1. Upon completion of Member Information Class, individuals must affirm the DABC  
356 Covenant (Reference Bylaw Article II).  
357 2. A copy of the covenant signed by the Pastor (on behalf of the church) and by the new  
358 member will be presented to the new member in affirmation of the covenant we have  
359 with each other.

360

361 D. Rights.

362

- 363 1. All members are equal.  
364 2. All members in full and regular standing, age 18 and over, may act and vote on all  
365 business transactions of the church. Voting on legal matters must be in compliance with  
366 State and Federal Law.  
367 3. Any member in good standing will have reasonable access to records kept by the  
368 Clerk. Records maintained by the Clerk are listed in the Bylaws Article V Section G. 4.

369

370 E. Discipline.

371

372 In cases of differences between members or broken fellowship with the church,  
373 reconciliation, rather than punishment, will be the objective which governs the attitude of  
374 one toward another. It is our purpose to pursue every reasonable means to assist any  
375 member. The Pastor(s) and Deacons are available for counsel and guidance.

376 1. Should any strife arise between members, the aggrieved member should follow, in a  
377 tender spirit, the rules of Christ given in Matthew 18:15-20 and Galatians 6:1 in an effort  
378 to settle the difficulty.

379 2. Should a member become an offender to the church and to its good name by reason  
380 of immoral or unChristlike conduct, public scandal, or persistent breach of the church  
381 Covenant, the Deacons, with the counsel of the Pastor(s), following Matthew 18:15-20  
382 and Galatians 6:1, will attempt to confront the offender; and, if such an effort fails,  
383 they will report the case to the church.

384 3. In such cases the church may withdraw church membership and fellowship by a  
385 three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of those present and voting at a regular business  
386 meeting, but only after faithful efforts have been made to bring such member to  
387 repentance and reconciliation.

388

389 F. Inactive Members.

390

391 1. Inactive membership does not apply to members who physically cannot attend due to  
392 health issues, military deployment or other reasons and have expressed a desire to  
393 maintain membership through contact with a Pastor, Deacon or LifeGroup leader.

394 Inactive membership does apply if a member chooses not to participate in church  
395 worship services and/or LifeGroups for a period of six (6) months, showing no desire or  
396 intention of returning to the church. Prior to placing a member on the "Inactive List,"  
397 Pastors, Deacons and/or LifeGroup leaders will make a reasonable attempt to contact  
398 the member and determine if the member wants to maintain active membership. If the  
399 member cannot be contacted (for example, member does not return messages, has left  
400 the area with no forwarding address, or for other reasons), the member will be placed  
401 on the "Inactive List" maintained by the Clerk.

402 2. People whose names are on the "Inactive List" do not count as members on any  
403 official membership report and are not entitled to vote in any business meeting.

404

405 G. Termination.

406

407 Membership may be terminated in the following ways:

408 1. By letter of transfer to another Baptist church of like faith. When requested by the  
409 member, DABC will send the transfer letter to the requested Baptist church. Members  
410 may not "hand carry" transfer letters.

411 2. By deletion from the roll when joining a church of another denomination.

412 3. By the member's request to be released from his covenant obligation, provided the  
413 request is made to the church, and only after the church has patiently sought to secure  
414 the member's continued fellowship.

415 4. By inactive membership (Reference Bylaw Article III Section A. 5).

416 5. By death.

417 6. By exclusion (Reference Bylaw Article I Section E. 3).

418

419 H. Restoration.

420

421 1. An inactive member may be restored to active membership by a Pastor or Deacon  
422 whenever he or she indicates a renewed personal interest to the church. It will be the  
423 responsibility of the Deacon/Pastor to contact the Clerk and add the individual back to  
424 the DABC membership rolls.

425 2. Any person whose membership has been terminated by inactivity (Bylaw Article III  
426 Section A. 5) may be restored to fellowship by three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of those  
427 present and voting at a regular business meeting.

428 3. Any person whose membership has been terminated by exclusion, upon evidence of  
429 repentance and reformation of life, may be restored to fellowship by three-fourths

430 (3/4) majority vote of those present and voting at a regular business meeting.

431

432

433

## Article II. Membership Covenant

434

435 A. Preamble.

436 All churches have a unique personality – a combination of the expectations, ethics, and  
437 biblical standards upon which its relationships and ministries are built. At Dayton  
438 Avenue Baptist Church we seek to love the Lord with our whole heart, mind and soul, to  
439 love one another as the family of God should, and to live obediently and faithfully to  
440 God's Word. In order to do this effectively, we, like Christ, need to humbly consider the  
441 interests of others and defer to them (Phil. 2:3-4). Therefore, we voluntarily covenant  
442 together (as have believers throughout the centuries) before God and one another, to  
443 live out the Gospel in community and accountability.

444 B. Covenant.

445 Having been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ,  
446 having given ourselves up to Him, and having been baptized upon our profession of  
447 faith, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully covenant with each  
448 other to:

- 449 • Stand united for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ
- 450 • Work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace in our church
- 451 • Walk in Christian love by praying faithfully for one another, affectionately caring for  
452 one another, using our tongues for encouragement and edification, faithfully  
453 admonishing sin in love, and demonstrating grace in issues of preference
- 454 • Not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, but will faithfully attend corporate  
455 worship, participate in a LifeGroup discipleship community, and use our spiritual gifts  
456 for the upbuilding of our church and the work of God's kingdom around the world
- 457 • Contribute cheerfully and regularly to the expenses of the church, the relief of the  
458 poor, and the spread of the Gospel to all nations
- 459 • Willingly pledge to follow the loving leadership of the Pastors of this church in a  
460 mutual spirit of humility and teachability
- 461 • Practice personal and family worship, train our children in the discipline and  
462 instruction of the Lord, and seek the salvation of the people God brings into our lives
- 463 • Strive to fulfill our calling to lead a holy life as salt and light in this world, deny  
464 ungodliness and worldly lusts, and abstain from all practices which bring  
465 unwarranted harm to our bodies, or which jeopardize our own faith or the faith of  
466 others
- 467 • Unite, as soon as possible, with a sister church of like faith if we move from this  
468 place

- 469 • And finally, if we fall into a pattern of unrepentant sin, we invite the loving correction  
470 of our church family to call us back to Jesus Christ, for the good of our eternal  
471 inheritance  
472 — May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship  
473 of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen (2 Cor. 13:13-14) —

474

475

### Article III. Deacons

476

#### A. Purpose and Duties.

478

479 As special servants of the church, the Deacon's purpose is to serve the Lord by  
480 conducting the caring ministry of the church. The Deacons will visit the sick and be alert  
481 to the spiritual and physical needs of the congregation while zealously promoting the  
482 spirit of unity within the church, thus freeing the Pastor to focus on prayer and the  
483 proclamation of the Word.

484

485 1. In the spirit of Acts 6, our Deacons will give special attention to the care of certain  
486 groups within our church membership, including:

487

a. Widows and permanently shut-in persons.

488

b. People in transitional care situations due to sickness or death in the family, or  
489 other temporary conditions that warrant special Deacon care.

490

c. Church members who call into the church requesting special help as needed.

491 This Deacon caring will be administered in two primary ways. First, the members in the  
492 group requiring more long-term Deacon care will be assigned so that each Deacon has  
493 a list of regular members to care for. Second, Deacons will be rotated through a  
494 schedule of "Deacon of the Week/Month" so that there are always Deacons on call for  
495 those members in the transitional and/as-needed groups. Though Deacons will not  
496 have to meet monthly to accomplish this care, accountability in the process will need to  
497 be provided either through email correspondence or as-needed Deacon meetings  
498 (especially in regard to keeping the active church membership roll current, see section 5  
499 below).

500

501 2. The biblical qualifications for the office of Deacon place a high emphasis on the  
502 Deacon's godly character. Since the Deacons are integrally involved in the lives of  
503 people within our church family, they are uniquely positioned to serve as an effective  
504 sounding board to the pastoral staff in matters of ministry initiatives and vision. Periodic  
505 Deacon retreats with the pastoral staff will be scheduled (quarterly, semi-annually, or  
506 as-needed) for this purpose. In addition, the Deacon Chairman or Vice-Chairman will  
507 be invited to attend pastoral staff meetings for this same purpose.

508

509 3. Deacons will be responsible to assist the pastoral staff in serving our church family at  
510 the Lord's Table. In addition, Deacons are to be models of using their spiritual gifts in  
511 service to the church body throughout all of the church's ministries.

512

513 4. If situations arise that require church discipline, the Deacons will follow the guidance  
514 established in Bylaw Article I Section E for church members and the DABC Personnel  
515 Handbook Article IV Section C for church employees.

513 5. The Deacons will be responsible, by June of each year, to thoroughly review the  
514 entire church membership roll and the "Inactive Membership List" (maintained by the  
515 Clerk). The review has two purposes. The first purpose is to identify any member on  
516 the church membership roll who has become "inactive". The procedures established in  
517 Bylaw Article I Section F will be followed. The additional purpose is to recommend to  
518 the church those members on the "Inactive Membership List" who should be removed  
519 from the membership rolls. The procedures and the selection for removal will be  
520 determined by the Deacons and any removal recommendation coordinated with the  
521 Senior Pastor.

522 6. In the event of a long-term absence by the Senior Pastor, it will be the responsibility  
523 of the Deacons to see that the pulpit is filled for each service. This may include initiating  
524 the process of selecting an interim Pastor while a Pastoral Search Committee  
525 (Reference Bylaw Article V Section E) is active to fill permanent Senior Pastor  
526 vacancies.

527

#### 528 B. Qualifications.

529

530 Scriptural qualifications for Deacon nominees are the principles set forth in Acts 6:1-4  
531 and I Timothy 3:8-16. Deacons serve Christ's church and promote the spirit of unity  
532 within the church. To manifest a spirit of cooperation conducive to Christian fellowship  
533 and unity within DABC, Deacons must--without reservation--be able to support the  
534 Covenant and Articles of Faith as presented in this Constitution.

535

#### 536 C. Officers.

537

538 The Deacons will elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The procedures, selection, and  
539 duration of these positions will be determined by the Deacons.

540

541 The responsibilities of the Chairman include:

- 542 1. Organize and conduct meetings of the Deacon body.
- 543 2. Serve as a member on the Leadership Team led by the Senior Pastor.
- 544 3. Assist the Pastor in serving the Lord's Supper.
- 545 4. Assign Deacons for "Deacon of the Week/Month" and other Deacon assignments to  
546 facilitate Deacon caring and visitation program.
- 547 5. Organize and lead the Deacon Confirmation Committee.

548

549 The responsibilities of the Vice Chairman include:

- 550 1. Fill in for Chairman in his absence.
- 551 2. Assist Chairman as needed.
- 552 3. Organize Deacons for the preparation, serving, and cleanup of the Lord's Supper.
- 553 4. Assist in making assignments for the Deacon caring and visitation program.
- 554 5. Serve as a member of the Deacon Confirmation Committee.

555

#### 556 D. Deacon Nomination and Selection

557

- 558 1. The number of new Deacons needed will be determined by the Deacons.

- 559 2. Deacon candidates must be male members of DABC for a least one year.  
560 3. Any DABC member can recommend individuals to the Deacon Confirmation  
561 Committee, which conducts the Deacon nomination process. A member who wants to  
562 recommend someone to the Deacon nomination process should contact the individual  
563 prior to submitting his name and ask if he is willing to serve as Deacon. In addition,  
564 recommended individuals need to be able to meet the qualifications set forth in section  
565 B of this Bylaw.  
566 4. The Deacon Confirmation Committee will consist of the Deacon Chairman and Vice  
567 Chairman and three appointees. The appointees will be Deacons (active or inactive)  
568 that have been ratified by a quorum majority vote during a regular Deacon meeting.  
569 5. The call for Deacon recommendations will be advertised for two Sundays in the  
570 church bulletin. The last date to submit recommendations to the Deacon Confirmation  
571 Committee will be published in the advertisement.  
572 6. A Pastor(s) or Deacon Confirmation Committee member(s) will meet with each  
573 recommended individual, confirm each is willing to serve, and outline the biblical  
574 qualifications and process for becoming an active Deacon. The Deacon questionnaire  
575 will be given to the recommended individuals at this time.  
576 7. Recommended individuals may not continue the Deacon confirmation process if the  
577 questionnaire is not filled out.  
578 8. The Deacon Confirmation Committee will validate all the information collected and  
579 place on the Deacon nomination ballot each individual who meets Deacon qualification  
580 requirements and is willing to fulfill Deacon duties and responsibilities. The  
581 recommended individuals are now Deacon candidates.  
582 9. The Deacon nomination ballot will be published in the Sunday bulletin prior to the  
583 business meeting in which the vote is scheduled to be conducted. The results of the  
584 vote will be published in the following Sunday bulletin after the vote.  
585 10. Deacon candidate(s) with the highest number of votes will fill an open Deacon  
586 position until all open position(s) are filled.  
587 11. Deacon(s) who have not been previously ordained as Deacons will be presented to  
588 the church for ordination.

589  
590 E. Deacon Service

- 591  
592 1. Deacons remain in active status through regular attendance in Deacon meetings,  
593 participation in Deacon ministries, and an expressed willingness to continue to serve.  
594 The Deacons will determine what is considered excessive absenteeism/non-  
595 participation by Deacon members and when a replacement will be needed.  
596 2. There are circumstances when a Deacon feels it is necessary for him to become  
597 inactive for a period of time. As long as his inactive service does not exceed two (2)  
598 consecutive years, he will be given opportunity to reactivate himself at the appropriate  
599 time. The procedures for reactivation will be determined by the Deacons.  
600 3. If a Deacon decides to remain inactive longer than two years, he will need to be re-  
601 nominated by the church and selected as outlined in section D above.  
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**Article IV. Pastoral & Support Staff**

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The Pastoral Staff consists of a Senior Pastor and one or more pastoral staff members, as required by the church. All will be members of the church. Their call, ministry and duties, and their privileges are defined in this section. Support staff consists of any other paid or volunteer church position listed below. All support staff must be church members.

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617

Though all Christians are called to serve the cause of Christ, God calls certain persons to serve the Church as Pastors and other ministers. Only God can call a true minister, and only He can grant the minister the gifts necessary for service. A great promise of Scripture is that God does call ministers, and presents these servants as gifts to the Church. (Eph. 4)

618  
619

#### A. The Senior Pastor Position.

620  
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623

1. A Senior Pastor will be chosen and called to the church. Whenever a vacancy or impending vacancy occurs, a Pastoral Search Team will be elected as outlined in Bylaw Article V Section E.

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626  
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631

2. As declared by the Scriptures (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; Hebrews 13:7,17; I Peter 5:1-4), Christ is the Head of His Church and Chief Shepherd of the flock. The Senior Pastor is answerable to the Lord Jesus Christ for his leadership of and ministry to the church. The Senior Pastor does not answer to the Deacons or any other church leaders but to the DABC members as a whole. His duties and privileges are to be exercised under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and he, along with other Pastor staff, is to request the wise counsel of the Deacons in any matter affecting the spirit of unity within the church.

632

3. The Senior Pastor will be called to his office for an indefinite period of time.

633  
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4. The Senior Pastor will be a male minister committed to Southern Baptist theological positions and will be an active representative for DABC in the denominational and associational fellowships in which DABC participates.

636  
637  
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639

5. The Senior Pastor will hold the Holy Bible as the complete, infallible, inerrant Word of God and will preach and teach the entire Bible. He will support all church ministries, be a strong adherent to biblical doctrine, subscribe to the church's Articles of Faith and Covenant, and manifest a spirit of cooperation conducive to Christian fellowship.

640  
641

#### B. Senior Pastor Ministry and Duties.

642  
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644

1. The Senior Pastor will be responsible for the general welfare of DABC and will have supervision and oversight over all the spiritual matters of the church.

- 645 2. His pastoral responsibilities will be to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to believers  
646 and unbelievers; to lead the church in worship, witness, fellowship, unity, and education;  
647 and to minister to the church and the community.
- 648 3. He will lead the church to function as a New Testament church and direct the  
649 administration of the ordinances as described in the Articles of Faith.
- 650 4. He will preside over the reception of new members into fellowship. In his absence, a  
651 pastoral staff member or the Chairman of the Deacons will receive and present such  
652 persons to the church.
- 653 5. He will be responsible for or direct the responsibility of seeing that:  
654 a. all candidates for baptism are examined as to their conversion;  
655 b. instruction is given to all new members as to their duties and privileges of  
656 membership;  
657 c. the organization and work of this church and its purposes are communicated.
- 658 6. He is encouraged (but not required) to attend the annual Southern Baptist, State, and  
659 local associational conventions/meetings. As the Senior Pastor, he is automatically the  
660 messenger for and representative of DABC if he attends the conventions.
- 661 7. He will have general supervision of all pastoral staff members and support staff (as  
662 annotated here and in the DABC employee handbook).
- 663 8. He or his designate may attend any committee or team meeting as an advisory  
664 member when he feels there is a need for input or clarity.
- 665 9. He will perform all other duties, in accordance with Southern Baptist custom and  
666 tradition, unless otherwise specifically provided for in this Constitution and DABC  
667 Employee Handbook.
- 668 10. He will give the congregation (from the pulpit) at least a thirty-day notice before  
669 leaving. DABC will give the Senior Pastor a thirty-day notice if his resignation is  
670 required.

671

#### 672 C. Senior Pastor Privileges.

673

674 All Senior Pastor Privileges (e.g. the amount of annual & sick leave, expense  
675 reimbursement) are annotated and described in the DABC employee handbook.

676

#### 677 D. Senior Pastor Misconduct.

678

679 1. The Senior Pastor is subject to disciplinary action when he engages in misconduct  
680 that damages the church's reputation. Such disciplinary action could include immediate  
681 termination based on the severity and nature of the misconduct. Misconduct would  
682 include, but not be limited to, infidelity, immoral acts, criminal acts, or violations of  
683 DABC's "zero tolerance" position on sexual harassment. A temporary Investigative  
684 Committee will convene to determine the validity of any accusation brought against the

685 Senior Pastor. If the Committee determines the accusation is valid, they will determine  
686 if immediate action is warranted. If immediate action is not warranted, they will present a  
687 recommendation to the church ranging from ceasing DABC employment to other  
688 suitable lesser disciplinary measures. Church confirmation of the Committee's  
689 recommendation is required prior to disciplinary implementation. The temporary  
690 Investigative Committee membership composition is annotated and described in the  
691 Article V Section A.4.

692 2. The Senior Pastor position (as are all DABC Pastor and employee positions) is  
693 considered an at-will employment relationship.

694

695 E. Pastoral Staff Members(s).

696

697 1. The number of positions and whether the positions are full or part-time depends upon  
698 the needs of the church and available budget.

699 2. All pastoral staff members are an extension of the Senior Pastor's leadership and are  
700 under his guidance. These positions are either Associate Pastor or Director of a  
701 ministry, depending on the requirement and the position description used to hire the  
702 member.

703 3. When DABC needs to fill an open or newly created pastoral staff position, the  
704 announcement will be published in the church bulletin or announced from the pulpit  
705 (other external announcement methods may be used in conjunction with this  
706 requirement).

707 4. All pastoral candidates are presented to and confirmed by the church membership  
708 prior to hiring. At the discretion of the Senior Pastor, church membership should be  
709 given the opportunity to formally present questions to and/or have the individual  
710 presented to the church prior to the membership confirming the individual. This is  
711 strongly encouraged for all Associate Pastor positions. The Senior Pastor will  
712 determine if the church confirmation should occur at a business meeting or service;  
713 however, the date of the meeting will be advertised in the Sunday church bulletin for two  
714 weeks prior to the confirmation.

715 5. Each full-time Pastor or Director staff position is for an indefinite period.

716 6. All pastoral staff position privileges (e.g. the amount of annual & sick leave, expense  
717 reimbursement), conditions for termination and pastoral staff discipline are annotated  
718 and described in the DABC employee handbook.

719

720

721

## **Article V. Committees, Teams & Church Officers**

722

723

724 Committees and teams are formed in order to conduct church business and ministries  
725 effectively and efficiently. Both committees and teams may perform supervisory,  
726 administrative, budgetary oversight or other ministry activity for a specific segment of  
727 the church's operations or ministry programs. A *committee* is a group whose members  
728 are nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church for a prescribed  
729 period of time. A *team* is a group whose members are recruited by the sponsoring  
730 pastoral and support staff member for an indefinite period of time. For example, the  
731 Music Ministry Team is recruited and led by the Music Pastors to support DABC's music  
732 ministry. *Church officers* are individuals or groups who serve as elected legal officers of  
733 the church.

734

#### 735 A. Committee Organization.

736

737 1. Standing committees are permanent committees and may not be removed or added  
738 without constitutional revision. The Nominating Committee will give preference to "full  
739 staffing" of standing committees before other committees. Each standing committee will  
740 have at least one Deacon as a member of the committee. The DABC standing  
741 committees are: Missions, Finance, Personnel, Building & Grounds and the Nominating  
742 Committee.

743 2. Elected church leadership in conjunction with the Senior Pastor may establish (or  
744 abolish) as many temporary committees as needed to perform designated functions.  
745 The Senior Pastor will decide the total number of committee membership positions  
746 required or follow recommendations from the Nominating Committee on this subject.

747 3. Church leadership may request committee members to leave committee positions if  
748 promoting division within the church.

749 4. The Investigative Committee (to investigate allegations of Senior Pastor misconduct)  
750 is a temporary committee that is not staffed by the Nominating committee. This  
751 committee will consist of the five standing committees' Deacons, the Deacon Chairman,  
752 and the four Personnel Committee members. The Deacon Chairman will serve as the  
753 Investigative Committee Chairman, which is why the Deacon Chairman may not also  
754 serve as a Chairman on a standing committee.

755

#### 756 B. Committee Purposes.

757

758 The general purposes of all committees are:

759 1. To represent the membership of the Church within the specified area of interest.

760 2. To establish procedures for the effective operation of the Church program within the  
761 specified area of interest.

762 3. To recommend procedures to the Church, Senior Pastor, Deacons or pastoral staff  
763 as appropriate. Committees may bring motions to be considered at church business  
764 meetings.

765 4. To monitor performance within the specified area to assure program goals are being  
766 met.

767 5. To coordinate with other organizations of the Church, teams, and other committees  
768 where there is or may be overlap.

769 6. To recommend goals to the Church for inclusion in the overall Church program.

770

771 C. Committee Structure.

772

773 1. Committee Member Eligibility.

774 a. Committee members will be active members of DABC for at least one year  
775 before being selected for service on a committee.

776 b. Full-term committee members will typically serve for a term of three years. To  
777 the extent possible, committees will be structured so one-third of the members  
778 complete their terms of service each year. A member who is selected as a  
779 replacement for a previously serving committee member will serve the duration of  
780 the remaining term of that member.

781 c. Committee members will not return to committee service for a period of one  
782 year after the completion of their term of service. Exceptions may be made at the  
783 discretion of the Nominating Committee.

784 d. Committee members may serve on only one standing committee at a time.  
785 Committee members may, however, serve on teams and/or other temporary  
786 committees while serving on a standing committee.

787 e. Husbands and wives may not serve as members of the same standing  
788 committee.

789 f. Persons serving as advisors on committees will not be subject to the rotation  
790 rule.

791

792 2. Committee Member Selection.

793 a. The Nominating Committee will select new committee members annually to  
794 replace those whose terms expire in the following year. The Nominating  
795 Committee will also nominate, as needed, replacement members for those  
796 unable to complete their full term of service. Committees are encouraged to  
797 inform the Nominating Committee of member resignations that may occur during  
798 the year. The congregation and members of the DABC pastoral staff can be used  
799 as resources for the recommendation of potential committee members.

800 b. Each potential committee member will be contacted prior to nomination to  
801 determine his or her willingness and ability to serve.

802 c. The roster of committee nominees will be presented to the church for approval.  
803 Confirmation of the roster of committee nominees will be conducted during a  
804 church business meeting or service depending on the discretion of the Senior  
805 Pastor. The roster confirmation process will be advertised in the Sunday church  
806 bulletin for two weeks prior to the vote on the roster. The vote will be an "up or  
807 down" whole roster simple majority vote.

808 d. The Senior Pastor is considered an advisor on all committees, with voice but  
809 without vote, and is expected to attend committee meetings only as needed.

810 e. Unless otherwise noted in the committee description, it is the desire of DABC  
811 to maintain equal male/female representation on all committees. If available  
812 volunteers will not allow equal representation, committee positions will be filled  
813 with the available volunteers regardless of gender.

814

- 815 3. Fulfillment of Responsibilities.  
816 a. If a committee member determines that he or she is unable or unwilling to fulfill  
817 their responsibilities as an active committee member, the member may request  
818 to be relieved of committee responsibilities and be replaced by the Nominating  
819 Committee.  
820 b. A committee member who misses three consecutive meetings without good  
821 reason (as determined by the committee chair) will be considered to have  
822 resigned from the committee and may be replaced.

- 823  
824 4. Committee Meetings.  
825 a. Each committee is to meet as often as necessary (but at least quarterly) to  
826 fulfill its responsibilities.  
827 b. A majority of the voting members will constitute a quorum.  
828 c. Committee decisions are validated by majority vote with at least a quorum of  
829 members voting. Action may also be taken by email, and will be effective upon a  
830 quorum affirmative vote.

- 831  
832 5. Committee Advisors.  
833 Committee chairpersons can request other persons to attend committee  
834 meetings in an advisory role. Persons requested in this capacity do not have a  
835 vote on the committee but can provide insight or advice on subjects for the  
836 committee to consider prior to a vote.

837  
838 D. Standing Committees, Purpose, and Structure.

- 839  
840 1. Missions Committee.  
841 a. Promote missions (local, associational, state, North American and  
842 international) in the church through prayer support, activities, publicity,  
843 information, and the seasonal special offerings.  
844 b. Develop guidelines to determine which mission trips (for example short  
845 term/long term, individuals, or teams) to support and the level of support to be  
846 provided. Present these guidelines to the church for approval.  
847 c. If budget limitations preclude full support to missions (if giving does not match  
848 planned budget levels), make recommendations to the church on how to reduce  
849 support for deployed and future mission team support.  
850 d. Submit annual budget requests for supported missions.  
851 e. Research trends in missions and educate the church about the possibilities.  
852 f. Serve as a resource team and liaison between the church and deployed  
853 missionary teams.  
854 g. Recommend special speakers or other mission emphasis programs and  
855 messages to the church. These activities will be in consultation with the Pastor  
856 and staff.  
857 h. The Missions Committee will consist of five members with one member being  
858 a Deacon.

- 859  
860 2. Finance Committee.

- 861 a. Coordinate the submission of annual budget proposals by individual programs
- 862 and ministries. Use these submissions to compile an itemized budget for
- 863 approval by the church.
- 864 b. Review and approve the Treasurer's cumulative monthly financial reports.
- 865 c. Coordinate fiscal activities with church staff, committees, and programs.
- 866 d. Recommend appropriate fiscal procedures for the church. Create and
- 867 maintain a DABC Financial Procedures Handbook to record all approved fiscal
- 868 procedures.
- 869 e. Oversee the process for financial audits.
- 870 f. Provide input on non-budgeted items and make recommendations concerning
- 871 these issues to the church.
- 872 g. Be composed of six members, to include the Treasurer, Finance Secretary,
- 873 one Trustee, and one Deacon.

874

875 3. Personnel Committee.

- 876 a. Assist church leaders when the need for additional church staff positions are
- 877 required and when there are staff vacancies.
- 878 b. Recruit, interview, and recommend to the church candidates to fill open
- 879 positions.
- 880 c. Develop new and/or recommend changes to employment procedures. Present
- 881 these recommendations to the church. Update the DABC Employee Handbook
- 882 with approved procedure changes.
- 883 d. Develop and recommend salaries and benefits for employees in all
- 884 classifications (part-time, full-time, salaried or hourly).
- 885 e. Prepare and update ministry position descriptions for all employed personnel
- 886 or newly created positions as necessary.
- 887 f. Consult annually with the Finance Committee in budgeting for current and
- 888 future employee salary schedule and benefit provisions.
- 889 g. Assist employees and staff members with feedback processes to promote
- 890 ministry (job) performance improvements as requested.
- 891 h. Be composed of five members to include one Deacon.

892

893 4. Building & Grounds Committee

- 894 a. Oversee the safekeeping, protection, maintenance, and repair of church
- 895 facilities, furnishing, and attached equipment such as heating, cooling, lightings
- 896 and storage. Oversee transportation equipment as needed.
- 897 b. In consultation with the Finance Committee, make recommendations at
- 898 business meetings to provide for the regular maintenance of all facilities,
- 899 furnishings, grounds, and any anticipated capital improvements. All
- 900 recommendations should include contracting approach and any additional
- 901 information needed to ensure a complete proposal/recommendation.
- 902 c. Take actions in emergency situations regarding church facilities, furnishings,
- 903 and grounds.
- 904 d. Serve as a resource when the church considers securing additional or selling
- 905 current property and furnishings.

- 906 e. Conduct inventory, inspection, and evaluation of all church property and
- 907 equipment as needed.
- 908 f. Assist and support the church custodial personnel in matters related to the
- 909 building and grounds.
- 910 g. Be composed of not more than seven members to include one Deacon.

911

#### 912 5. Nominating Committee

- 913 a. Identify, select, and nominate chairpersons of standing committees and
- 914 Church Officers (all with Senior Pastor coordination) before they are presented
- 915 for church approval. For open chairperson positions, first consideration should be
- 916 offered to current committee members to fill the open positions.
- 917 b. Identify, screen, and nominate members for all other committees. Nominees
- 918 are then elected by the church.
- 919 c. Devise methods of discovering potential leaders and the gifts/abilities of
- 920 church members.
- 921 d. Coordinate the filling of committee vacancies and chairperson positions as
- 922 they occur during the church year.
- 923 e. Be composed of five members to include one Deacon.

924

#### 925 E. Pastoral Search Committee.

926

- 927 1. Pastoral Search Committee is formed when the Senior Pastor position becomes
- 928 vacant for any reason and the vacancy is not temporary.
- 929 2. The committee will consist of nine members who will be nominated and elected by
- 930 the congregation. The final committee should represent a broad spectrum of the DABC
- 931 membership by both gender and age who are actively serving and capable of making
- 932 discerning choices due to the importance of this task. At least one of the nine
- 933 committee positions will be filled by an actively serving Deacon.
- 934 3. The Deacons will oversee the compilation of the paper ballot to elect the committee
- 935 members and determine the details of how the vote will be conducted.
- 936 4. The committee will self-appoint the chairperson position.
- 937 5. The committee will research and receive counsel in order to create a process by
- 938 which it will seek out and qualify candidates, present a candidate (one at a time) to the
- 939 church body, and oversee the mechanics of congregational affirmation of the candidate.
- 940 It is recommended that the process itself be affirmed by the congregation *prior* to
- 941 working with any candidates.
- 942 6. The committee will be in effect until a candidate who has been affirmed by majority
- 943 congregational vote has accepted the call. The committee is responsible for conducting
- 944 the written ballot vote for the Senior Pastor candidate and determining the details of
- 945 how the vote will be conducted.

946

#### 947 F. Teams.

948

- 949 1. Teams are different from committees as members are recruited by the sponsoring
- 950 pastoral and support staff members. Team members may serve for an indefinite period
- 951 of time.

952 2. The size, composition, purpose, functionality, and amount of budget requested to  
953 support the team are determined by the sponsoring staff member.

954 3. All teams will be coordinated with and approved by the Senior Pastor prior to  
955 implementation.

956 4. Life Group leadership positions are considered team positions and these positions  
957 will be filled by the Life Group Pastor with individuals recruited from the church  
958 membership.

959

## 960 G. Church Officers.

961

962 Church Officers are bound to confidentiality and will not discuss any observations or  
963 information regarding their elected activities.

964

### 965 1. Trustees.

966 a. Act as legal agents or representatives signing all legal documents involving the  
967 purchase, sale, mortgaging, and rental of church property acting only upon  
968 direction by the church.

969 b. Maintain inventory of all legal documents, in conjunction with the Clerk.

970 c. Hold legal title to all church property (as required by state law) and act only as  
971 directed by the church in regular or special business meetings.

972 d. In coordination with church leadership, make recommendations to the church  
973 concerning legal documents, property, and other legal issues.

974 e. There will be three members who hold the position of Trustee.

975

### 976 2. Treasurer.

977 a. Maintain adequate records of all church funds received and disbursed,  
978 reconciling bank statements and correcting ledgers as needed.

979 b. Assemble financial reports to communicate cumulative fiscal position to Staff  
980 and church members attending monthly business meetings (in coordination with  
981 the Finance Committee). Primary emphasis will be to convey financial position  
982 with recommendations to increase/decrease expenditures based on giving.

983 c. In coordination with the Finance Committee and in accordance with federal  
984 law, recommend procedures to church leadership and committees for receiving,  
985 accounting, disbursing, and reporting church monies.

986 d. Supervise or assist in the oversight of an accounting system that provides  
987 adequate internal controls to protect all funds and financial workers.

988 e. Additional Treasurer duties and responsibilities are detailed in the DABC  
989 Financial Procedures Handbook.

990

### 991 3. Financial Secretary.

992 a. Keep an accurate and confidential account of all contributions where the donor  
993 has provided identifiable means. Record the amount of each gift to the donor's  
994 individual or family record. Retention of hard copy and electronic giving records  
995 will be in accordance with federal law and destroyed by proper means after the  
996 required retention period has expired.

- 997 b. Prepare and distribute annually the reports of individual or family contributions.
- 998 Individual and/or family contributions are confidential and the giving records are
- 999 only available to the Financial Secretary.
- 1000 c. Ensure that donations for uses other than general giving are recorded in the
- 1001 proper fund (general, restricted or church approved project) and are in
- 1002 accordance with IRS regulations for donations to charitable organizations.
- 1003 d. Additional Financial Secretary duties and responsibilities are detailed in the
- 1004 DABC Financial Procedures Handbook.

1005

1006 4. Clerk and Assistant.

- 1007 a. Maintain the Membership Roll and the Inactive Membership List and update
- 1008 both following the procedures established in Bylaw Article III Section A. 5.
- 1009 b. Maintain an inventory of all legal documents to include all forms requiring
- 1010 signature from a Trustee.
- 1011 c. Generate and maintain minutes from all business meetings, baptismal
- 1012 certificates and intake information from new church members.
- 1013 d. Coordinate with the Secretary on any information requests from other
- 1014 churches. This activity should primarily be related to DABC membership status
- 1015 requests (for example, transfer of letter needs). All other information requests
- 1016 should be coordinated with the Senior Pastor prior to release.
- 1017 e. There will be one Clerk position and up to two assistants. The number of
- 1018 assistant positions filled (up to two) will depend on the needs of the Church.

1019

1020

1021

**Article VI. Amendments**

1022

1023

1024

1025 This Constitution, Articles of Faith and Bylaws may be amended in a business meeting

1026 of the church. The process to bring an amendment is as follows:

1027

1028 A. Procedure.

1029

- 1030 1. Any current (not inactive) member wishing to propose an amendment to the
- 1031 Constitution, Articles of Faith, or Bylaws must present the proposed amendment in
- 1032 writing to any serving Deacon. Verbal requests are not accepted.
- 1033 2. Requested amendments will be reviewed at the next Deacon meeting. The purpose
- 1034 of the review is to bring awareness to any issue that could be resolved by a change in
- 1035 church procedure, establishment of new procedures, or to bring to attention an issue
- 1036 that has not be adequately addressed.
- 1037 3. If affirmed, the Deacon Chairman will request the Nominating Committee create a
- 1038 temporary Constitution Committee to review approved amendments. Any disapproved
- 1039 amendment will be returned to the member with a written explanation of why the
- 1040 amendment request was not approved.

1041 4. The Constitution Committee's purpose will be to review the amendment to determine  
1042 where the amendment should be added, if the amendment should be reworded or  
1043 formatted differently to match consistency within the Constitution (and to ensure no  
1044 conflict between the amendment and other wording in the Constitution). All changes will  
1045 be coordinated with submitting church member.

1046 5. Any proposed amendment will be made available in written form to the church  
1047 membership.

1048 6. The Constitution Committee will present the amendment at a business meeting for  
1049 discussion.

1050

1051 B. Notice and Voting.

1052

1053 1. A Bylaw amendment will be announced three times in different venues: at a business  
1054 meeting prior to the vote, in writing to the church membership, and spoken notice to  
1055 those in attendance for two Sundays immediately preceding the vote.

1056 2. An Article of Faith amendment has an additional requirement to be considered for  
1057 three months prior to the vote. The proposed Article of Faith amendment will be  
1058 available in writing for congregational review during the three months. In addition, the  
1059 vote for these amendments will occur only during a Sunday evening business meeting  
1060 called for this purpose.

1061 3. Passage of any amendment requires an affirmative vote by 2/3 of the church  
1062 members present and voting.

1063

1064 C. Effect.

1065

1066 The amendment, when adopted by the church and codified within the Constitution, will  
1067 replace any related areas to the purpose of the amendment.

1068

1069 D. One-time Exception to Article VI. Amendments.

1070

1071 One year from the date the new Constitution is adopted, the Constitution Committee will  
1072 be reconvened to address any concerns that surfaced during the year regarding the  
1073 changes made to the Constitution. The procedures for any new or corrected  
1074 amendments will be that all changes will be submitted to the Deacon team prior to  
1075 presentation to the church for voting. All corrections will be worked together as a  
1076 package and presented to the church as a package and not as individual corrections,  
1077 additions, or deletions.

1078

1079