

Constitution and By-Laws of Oak Park Baptist Church

Adopted December 9th 2018

Preface

There are many good reasons why a New Testament Church should have foundational documents: Articles of Faith, Covenant, and Constitution. Together they can greatly assist us in the efforts of biblically organizing and conducting the ministries which have been entrusted to us by our head, Jesus Christ. It must be readily acknowledged, however, that these documents, despite their usefulness and precision, will avail nothing apart from the authority of God's Word and the presence and power of the Spirit of God in the Church. It is with this keen awareness of our absolute dependence upon our great God, that these articles are set forth.

Preamble

We, the members of Oak Park Baptist Church, do ordain and establish the following articles, to which we voluntarily submit ourselves. These articles are to reflect the character of and bring glory to Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Holy Scripture and articulated in the standards set forth in the Statement of Faith and Covenant of this church (see Articles 3 & 4).

Article 1 – Name

The name of this church is Oak Park Baptist Church of Jeffersonville, Indiana, Inc.

Article 2 – Affiliation

Oak Park Baptist Church is voluntarily affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, and the Southeastern Indiana Baptist Association.

Article 3 – Statement of Faith

3.1 Oak Park Baptist Church subscribes to *The Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in June 2000.

3.2 This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For the purposes of Oak Park Baptist Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Elders are this Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

Article 4 – Covenant

Having, as we trust, been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves to him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully covenant with one another.

We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

We will walk together in brotherly love, as becomes the members of a Christian church, exercise an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other and faithfully admonish and entreat one another as occasion may require.

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor neglect to pray for ourselves and others.

We will endeavor to bring up those members as may at any time be under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example to seek the salvation of our family and friends.

We will rejoice at each other's happiness and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows.

We will seek, by Divine aid, to live carefully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and remembering that, as we have been voluntarily buried by baptism and raised again from the symbolic grave, so there is on us a special obligation now to lead a new and holy life.

We will work together for the continuance of a faithful ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. We will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We will, if we move from this place, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

Article 5 – Purpose

5.1 The foundation of this church is the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20), and as he guides His church in all affairs through the Holy Scriptures (Psalm 119; Eph. 1:22-

23; 2 Tim. 3:15-17). Therefore, the purpose of this church is to glorify God through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit (Isa. 43:7; Eph. 1:6, 12, 14).

5.2 Following the vision for God’s New Covenant people, revealed in the Holy Scriptures, we exist to glorify God in worship (John 4:23), in the edification of his saints (1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 4:11-16; 2 Peter 3:18), and in evangelism, missions, and loving deeds (Matt. 5:16; 28:18-20; 1 Pet. 2:9; 3:15).

5.3 In order to remain true to our Lord and his word, this church must be marked by preaching the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27; 2 Tim. 4:1-2), administering baptism (Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:1-4) and the Lord’s Supper (Luke 22:19; 1 Cor. 11:17-34), loving one another (John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:11-24; 4:7-12), and practicing formative (1 Thess. 5:14; 1 Tim. 5:1-2; Tit. 2:15) and corrective discipline (Matt.18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:1-5).

Article 6 – Membership

Section 1 – Qualifications

6.1.1 To qualify for membership in this church, an individual must meet the following requirements:

1. Be a believer in Jesus Christ who gives evidence of regeneration;
2. Be baptized by immersion in obedience to Christ, following his or her regeneration;
3. Wholeheartedly believe in the Christian faith as revealed in the Scripture;
4. Subscribe to the doctrines of our church and not hold any settled convictions contrary to them, in accord with our Statement of Faith (see Article 3),
5. Promise to keep the commitments expressed in the Church Covenant (see Article 4).

6.1.2 The normal process for membership in this church consists of:

1. Completion of the membership class;
2. an interview with one of the elders; and
3. a vote by the entire church based on the elders’ recommendation and the person’s profession of faith as presented in their written testimony.

Section 2 – Admission of Members

6.2.1 Applicants shall be recommended by the elders for church membership and accepted by vote of at least 75% of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the members. At that point, newly affirmed members shall relinquish their membership in other churches. Those applying for membership will be received as members by baptism, letter of transfer, or statement of faith.

Section 3 - Duties and Privileges of Membership

6.3.1 Members shall be expected to participate actively in the life of the church in accord with the duties enumerated in the Church Covenant by

1. regularly attending its Lord's Day gatherings;
2. faithfully observing its ordinances, namely Baptism and the Lord's Supper;
3. submitting to its discipline and instruction;
4. attending its members' meetings and voting on the election of officers, on decisions regarding membership, and on all other matters submitted to the congregation's vote; and
5. giving their time, resources and gifts to the ministry of the church.

6.3.2 Only members shall lead any ministry or hold any office of the church.

Section 4 - Watchcare Membership

6.4.1 Students and others temporarily residing in the Jeffersonville area who are members of an evangelical church may apply for watchcare membership. Qualifications are identical to those for full membership as set out above, except that the home church membership must be retained. A letter of commendation will be sought from the applicant's home church.

6.4.2 Duties and privileges of watchcare members are the same as for other members except that:

1. when absent from the Jeffersonville area for extended periods of time they are released from the responsibility to attend our church services;
2. while they will be encouraged to participate in members' meetings, they will not be eligible to stand for any office or to vote.

6.4.3 Termination of watchcare membership as a disciplinary measure will be as it is for other members, except that the elders shall notify the pastor or elders of the home church of that termination. Watchcare membership will normally terminate immediately upon the ending of the period of temporary residence in the Jeffersonville area.

Section 5 – Termination of Membership

6.5.1 The church shall recognize the termination of an individual's membership following his or her death and may do so following his or her voluntary resignation or joining with another church, or as a matter of church discipline.

6.5.2 The church shall have authority to refuse a member's voluntary resignation or transfer of membership to another church, either for the purpose of proceeding with a process of church discipline, or for any other reason the church deems necessary or prudent.

6.5.3 A member shall be removed from the church membership upon the recommendation of the elders and the subsequent agreement of at least 75% of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the members.

Section 6 – Church Discipline

6.6.1 Formative discipline, the regular instruction for Christian living, is inherent in the preaching, teaching, and exercise of other ministries in the church. When formative discipline fails due to sin, corrective discipline is then necessary. Corrective discipline, calling one to repentance from sin, is for the good of the church and the member who has sinned. The goal of corrective discipline is always remedial, that is, the goal is always the salvation and holiness and good of the one being disciplined.

6.6.2 Any member consistently neglectful of his or her duties or guilty of conduct by which the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be dishonored, and so opposing the welfare of the church, shall be subject to the admonition of the elders and the discipline of the church, according to the instructions of our Lord in Matthew 18:15-17 and the example of Scripture. Church discipline, then, should only be contemplated after individual private admonition has failed.

6.6.3 The purpose of such discipline should be:

1. for the repentance, reconciliation, and spiritual growth of the individual disciplined (Heb. 12:1-11; Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:5; Gal. 6:1);
2. for the instruction in righteousness and good of other Christians, as an example to them (1 Cor. 5:11; 1 Tim. 5:20; Heb. 10:24-25);
3. for the purity of the church (1 Cor. 5:6-7; Eph. 5:27; Rev. 21:2);
4. for the good of our corporate witness to non-Christians (Matt. 5:13-16; John 13:35; Acts 5:10-14); and
5. supremely for the glory of God by reflecting His holy character (Deut. 5:11; John 15:8; Eph. 1:4; 1 Pet. 2:12).

6.6.4 It is desirable in the case of public sin that a confession be made before the church in a special called meeting, so that the church can freely extend forgiveness. Such public confession is especially necessary in the case of elders and deacons (1 Tim. 5:19-20; Gal. 2:11-14).

Article 7 – Meetings

Section 1 – Worship Meetings

7.1.1 The church shall meet regularly each Sunday morning for the worship of God. These meetings will be open for the entire membership of the church and for all people and shall be conducted under the direction of the elders. No other regular activities shall be held at these times.

Section 2 – Members’ Meetings

7.2.1 In every meeting together, members shall act in that spirit of mutual trust, openness, and loving consideration which is appropriate within the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7.2.2 There shall be a regular members' meeting at least every quarter, at some time apart from the Sunday morning service, and at a time acceptable to the membership. The elders shall see that the stated meetings of the church are regularly held and that required reports are submitted to the church by the responsible members.

7.2.3 Special members' meetings may be called as requested by the elders, or at the written request, submitted to the elders, of 10% of the voting membership. In the event of a written request from the members, the elders shall call a special meeting to be held within one month of their receipt of the request.

7.2.4 There shall be an annual members' meeting, at which officers are elected, positions filled, and a budget approved by the membership no more than three nor less than two weeks prior to the start of the fiscal year.

7.2.5 The chairman of the elders shall preside as moderator at all members' meetings of the church. In the absence or incapacity of the chairman of the elders, another elder appointed by the elders shall perform these duties. The date, time, and purpose of any regular or special meeting shall be announced at all public services of the church at least one week preceding the meeting. Provided all constitutional provisions for notification have been met, a quorum shall be understood to be met by those members present.

7.2.6 Members’ meetings shall proceed according to a reasonable order. Motions shall be adopted upon the agreement of a majority of the members present and voting on the question, except on matters otherwise provided for in this constitution.

7.2.7 Resolutions adopted by the elders shall be reported to the church at members' meetings and may be reversed by the church by a majority vote of the members present.

Article 8 – Officers

Section 1 – Summary

8.1.1 Jesus Christ is the Lord and head of this church, and he rules primarily through the Scriptures.

8.1.2 The biblical offices in the church are elders and deacons, but the church is ultimately governed by the congregation. In addition, our church recognizes the administrative positions under this constitution of clerk, financial secretary, and treasurer. All officers must be members of this church prior to assuming their responsibilities.

Section 2 – Elders

8.2.1 The elders shall provide oversight to the ministry, financial management, and resources of the church. In keeping with the principles set forth in Acts 6:1-6; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; 5:17; Tit. 1:5-9; Jas. 5:14; and 1 Pet. 5:1-4, the elders shall seek the mind of Christ through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God as they undertake the work of shepherding God's flock. The elders shall teach and exhort; refute those who contradict the truth; pray for the sick; care for the church's members; devote themselves to prayer, to the government of the church and to ministry. The elders shall provide oversight of the congregation and lead the church to fulfill its ministries. The elders of this church are also identified as pastors.

8.2.2 The elders shall be comprised of men who satisfy the qualifications for the office of elder set forth in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Tit. 1:6-9 and fully affirm the Church's Statement of Faith (see Article 3). Only men may serve as elders in accord with 1 Tim. 2:12; 3:2. No elder shall hold the office of deacon during his tenure. Those elders not receiving compensation from the church will be called "lay elders" for the purpose of this constitution, although biblically and functionally there is no difference among the elders.

8.2.3 The church shall recognize men gifted and willing to serve in this calling, in accordance with the constitutional provisions on elections (see Article 9). These men shall be received as gifts of Christ to His church and set apart as elders. Lay elders shall be reaffirmed by the church triennially.

8.2.4 An elder's term of office may be terminated by resignation or by dismissal. Any two members with reason to believe that an elder should be dismissed should express such concern to the elders and, if necessary, to the congregation. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions of our Lord in Matt. 18:15-17 and 1 Tim. 5:17-

21. Any elder may be dismissed by a two-third vote of the members present at any formally called members' meeting of the church (see Article 7.2).

8.2.5 The elders shall take particular responsibility to oversee worship services, including the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; equip the membership for the work of the ministry; encourage and teach sound doctrine; admonish and correct error; oversee the process of church discipline; coordinate and promote the ministries of the church; mobilize the church for world missions; examine and instruct prospective members; examine and recommend all prospective candidates for offices and positions; and oversee the work of the deacons and appointed church agents and committees. The elders are further to ensure that all who minister the Word to the congregation, including outside speakers, share our fundamental convictions.

8.2.6 The elders shall establish and oversee ministry positions and teams (e.g. Stewardship and Personnel) to assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities. The elders shall also have primary responsibility for the employment, supervision, and evaluation of staff members. The outworking of this responsibility may, on a case-by-case basis, be delegated.

8.2.7 A paid or volunteer staff position does not in and of itself constitute an elder's position.

8.2.8 In proposing paid staff positions, the elders shall present a job description for each position to the membership for approval. The membership may approve all candidates to fill such positions or may delegate this responsibility, on a position-by-position basis, to the elders, deacons, or other staff members. The elders shall present a request to dismiss paid pastoral staff (i.e., those paid to do pastoral ministry) to the congregation. The elders may hire and terminate non-pastoral staff, or delegate that responsibility on a case-by-case basis.

8.2.9 The elders may choose to operate among themselves by consensus, but they must have at least 75% approval of the elders in order to proceed with an action.

8.2.10 The elders shall elect a chairman who shall chair the elders' meetings and moderate members' meetings. The chairman, if possible, should be a lay elder. In his absence, the elders shall appoint another elder to fulfill these duties.

8.2.11 For purposes of compliance with the nonprofit corporation laws of the state of Indiana, the chairman of the elders shall serve as the president of the corporation.

Section 3 - The Lead Pastor

8.3.1 The Lead Pastor shall perform the duties of an elder described in Section 2, above. He shall be recognized by the church as particularly gifted and called to the ministry of preaching and teaching the word of God.

8.3.2 The Lead Pastor oversees the paid staff members.

8.3.3 In the absence or incapacity of the Lead Pastor, the other elders shall assume responsibility for his duties, any of which can be delegated.

Section 4 – Deacons & Team Leaders

8.4.1 The office of deacon is described in 1 Tim. 3:8-13 (cf. Acts 6:1-7). The church shall recognize, in accordance with the constitutional provisions on elections (see Article 9), men who are giving of themselves in service to the church, who possess gifts of ministry, and who are called to further service and care for the church's members. The number of deacons shall be determined by the needs of the ministry and the call and qualifications of men in the church. These members shall be received as gifts of Christ to His church and set apart as deacons. This recognition shall be reaffirmed by the church triennially.

8.4.2 Deacons and team Leaders shall advise and assist the elders in any service that shall support and promote the ministry of the Word, new and existing ministries of the church, and the care of the members of the congregation. Therefore, the ministry of deacons and team leaders may involve several ministry teams. They are expected to participate in scheduled leaders' meeting. Each deacon or team leader position shall serve a particular need of the church and shall be created or dissolved upon the decision of the elders.

8.4.3 The responsibilities of deacons and team leaders do not include preaching, teaching, or spiritual oversight, which are the responsibilities of the elders. Deacons and team leaders exercise a ministry of service, not a ministry of spiritual leadership; however they may teach and preach in contexts in which they are not infringing upon the oversight duties of elders (Acts 6-7:53; Titus 2:3).

8.4.4 Deacons shall be assigned or removed by the subsequent agreement of a majority of the members present and voting on the question at any members' meeting.

Section 5 - Clerk

8.5.1 It shall be the duty of the clerk to record the minutes of all regular and special members' meetings of the church, to preserve an accurate roll of the membership, and to render reports as requested by the elders, deacons, team leaders or the church.

8.5.2 In the absence or incapacity of the clerk, the elders shall appoint a member to perform the duties of the church clerk.

8.5.3 For purposes of compliance with the nonprofit corporation laws of the state of Indiana, the clerk shall serve as the secretary of the corporation.

8.5.4 The church clerk shall ensure that dated copies of the most recent revision of this constitution shall be available for all church members.

Section 6 – Stewardship Team

8.6.1 The elders shall develop and recommend an overall stewardship plan and present it to the Stewardship Team for review and further recommendation.

8.6.2 The Stewardship Team shall consist of the treasurer, financial secretary, an elder, a deacon or team leader, and two at-large members. The at-large members are to be recommended by the stewardship team and elders to the church at any family business meeting and approved by the church by a 75% vote.

8.6.3 Each year the deacon or team leader of the Stewardship Team, with the approval of the elders, shall present to the church an itemized budget at the regular members' meeting preceding the start of the fiscal year (See Section 7.2.4). This budget shall be presented for discussion at that time and called up for a vote at the annual members' meeting.

8.6.4 No money shall be solicited by or on behalf of the church or any of its ministries without the approval of the elders or the deacons responsible for the church's finances.

Section 7 – Treasurer

8.7.1 The elders shall nominate an at-large church member to hold this position. Upon the nomination of an individual by the elders, the church shall elect annually a treasurer. The treasurer shall ensure that all funds and securities of the church are properly secured in such banks, financial institutions, or depositories as designated by the church.

8.7.2 The treasurer shall also ensure that full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements are kept in books belonging to the church, and that adequate controls are implemented to guarantee that all funds belonging to the church are appropriately handled by any officer, employee, or agent of the church.

8.7.3 The treasurer (or designee from the Stewardship Team) shall render to the elders at least once a quarter, or whenever they may require it, an account of all financial transactions and of the financial condition of the church. The treasurer (or designee from

the Stewardship Team) shall also be responsible for presenting regular reports of the account balances, revenues, and expenses of the church at regular members' meetings.

8.7.4 The treasurer shall be bonded.

Section 8 – Financial Secretary

8.8.1 The elders shall nominate an at-large church member to hold this position. Upon the nomination of an individual by the elders, the church shall elect annually a financial secretary.

8.8.2 It shall be the duty of the financial secretary to record all monetary contributions, prepare bank deposits and provide a statement of contributions to members annually or as requested by the church.

8.8.3 The financial secretary shall be bonded.

8.8.4 Upon rendering the annual account at the end of each fiscal year, the records shall be delivered by the financial secretary to the church clerk, who shall keep and preserve the account as part of the permanent records of the church.

Section 9 – Personnel Team

8.9.1 The Personnel Team assists the church in matters relating to staff administration and management. The Personnel Team will work with the elders in determining and recommending compensation and benefits packages. They will also help track vacation, sick, and personal days.

8.9.2 The Personnel Team will consist of a minimum of five members and one elder. There shall be one deacon or team leader and four at-large members.

Section 10 – Trustees

8.10.1 The Trustees shall be three or more non-paid elders (or designees) who will hold in trust the church property. They shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property without a specific vote of the church authorizing each action.

8.10.2 It shall be the function of the trustees to affix their signatures to legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchase, or rental of property or other legal documents where the signatures of trustees are required.

8.10.3 The term of office shall be determined by the elders.

Article 9 – Elections

Section 1 - Principles

9.1.1 The process for church elections shall be interpreted and carried out to fulfill the following principles:

1. Substantial prayer, both individually and corporately, shall be an integral part of the election process.
2. Nominations shall proceed with the support of the elders.
3. All candidates for church office shall be treated with the grace, kindness, and honesty appropriate in evaluating fellow members.
4. The election process shall express that spirit of mutual trust, openness, and loving consideration which is appropriate within the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 2 - Election of Officers

9.2.1 The election of officers shall be held as needed in a members' meeting of the church. Two months prior to the election, the elders may seek recommendations and involvement from the general membership in the nomination process.

9.2.2 A slate of names of nominees to serve as elders, deacons, clerk, financial secretary, treasurer, and members of personnel and stewardship shall be presented by the elders and made known to the church at least one month prior to voting. Any member with reason to believe that a nominated candidate is unqualified for an office should express such concern to the elders. Members intending to speak in opposition to a candidate should express their objection to the elders as far in advance as possible before the relevant church members' meeting at which the church votes on the candidates.

9.2.3 Election of officers requires 75% approval from the membership present.

9.2.4 The persons elected shall assume their respective offices at the beginning of the fiscal year (unless another date has been specifically designated). Elections to fill any need that may occur during the course of the year may be held at any members' meeting upon recommendation of the elders.

Section 3 - Calling of Lead Pastor

9.3.1 The Lead Pastor shall be selected as follows: The elders shall at any regular members' meeting present to the church the name of one nominee to the position of Lead Pastor. For a period of at least one month, the church shall consider the nominee's gifts in preaching, teaching, and leadership and his commitment to minister personally to the members of this church. When a period of at least one month has elapsed, the elders shall at the next members' meeting present the nominee for Lead Pastor to the church

for a vote. The moderator or his delegates shall count the votes, and if the nominee receives the approval of at least 75% of the members present and voting on the question, he shall be a member of the church, an elder, and Lead Pastor, whom the church shall in due haste publicly recognize as such. If any member believes the nominee to be unqualified, that member shall express such concern to the elders.

9.3.2 The Lead Pastor shall meet all the qualifications and hold all the rights and responsibilities of a member of the church. He shall satisfy all the qualifications and hold all the duties and responsibilities of an elder. In terms of church authority, there shall be no distinction between an elder and the Lead Pastor.

Section 4 - Calling of Staff Elders

9.4.1 A staff elder shall be selected as follows: The elders shall at any regular members' meeting present to the church the name of one nominee to the position of staff elder. For a period of at least one month, the church shall consider the nominee's gifts in the particular area of service to which he is being called, and his commitment to minister personally to the members of this church. When a period of at least one month has elapsed, the elders shall at the next members' meeting present the nominee for staff elder to the church for a vote. The moderator or his delegates shall count the votes, and if the nominee receives the approval of at least 75% of the members present and voting on the question, he shall be a member of the church, an elder, and a staff elder, whom the church shall in due haste publicly recognize as such. If any member believes the nominee to be unqualified, that member shall express such concern to the elders.

9.4.2 A staff elder shall meet all the qualifications and hold all the rights and responsibilities of a member of the church. He shall satisfy all the qualifications and hold all the duties and responsibilities of an elder. In terms of church authority, there shall be no distinction between an elder and a staff elder.

Article 10 - Marriages and Weddings

Section 1 - Doctrinal Position

10.1.1 Oak Park Baptist Church (OPBC) supports and affirms the doctrinal position on "The Family" as published in Article XVIII of the Baptist Faith and Message of the Southern Baptist Convention (2000). In particular, OPBC supports and affirms the definition of marriage as stated in that document:

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

Section 2 - Application of the Doctrine

10.2.1 To help preserve the biblical position on marriage, as identified above, only those weddings (and affiliated events) that involve a biological man and a biological woman will be permitted on the campus/grounds of Oak Park Baptist Church.

10.2.2 OPBC also will not recognize, sanction nor approve of any marriage involving its members that are outside the “one biological man and one biological woman” biblical boundary, as stated above.

10.2.3 Further, the elders (or any other members) of Oak Park Baptist Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one biological man and one biological woman.

10.2.4 *Consistent with the local church’s authority over policies and practices that take place under the sanctioning of Oak Park Baptist Church, and to preserve the biblical position on marriage, as identified above, weddings (and affiliated events) on the campus/grounds of OPBC will be limited to those couples, at least one of whom is a member in good standing, of Oak Park Baptist Church.*

Article 11 - Indemnification

Section 1 - Mandatory Indemnification

11.1.1 If a legal claim or criminal allegation is made against a person because he or she is or was an officer, employee, or agent of the church, the church shall provide indemnification against liability and costs incurred in defending against the claim if the elders determine that the person acted (a) in good faith, (b) with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a similar position would exercise under similar circumstances, (c) in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the church, and (d) the person had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. The church shall purchase appropriate insurance to meet these potential liabilities.

Section 2 - Permissive Indemnification

11.2.1 At the discretion of the elders, the church also may indemnify any person who acted in good faith and reasonably believed that his or her conduct was in the church's best interest and not unlawful.

Section 3 - Procedure

11.3.1 If a quorum – consisting of 75% – of the elders is not available for an indemnification determination because of the number of elders seeking indemnification, the requisite determination may be made by the membership or by special legal counsel appointed by the membership.

Article 12 - Dispute Resolution

12.1 Believing that the Bible commands Christians to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian church (see, e.g., Matt. 18:15- 20; 1 Cor. 6:1-8), the church shall urge its members to resolve conflict among themselves according to biblically based principles, without reliance on the secular courts. Consistent with its call to peacemaking, the church shall encourage the use of biblically based principles and the avoidance of suits of law to resolve disputes between itself and those outside the church, whether Christian or pagan and whether individuals or corporate entities. The elders shall adopt policies and procedures to affect these aspirations.

Article 13 - Amendments

13.1 This constitution (including statement of faith and church covenant) may be amended by a 75% vote of the members present and voting at a members' meeting, provided the amendment shall have been offered in writing at the previous members' meeting, and shall have been announced from the pulpit at church services two successive Sundays prior to such vote.