

EVA DRIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of preserving and making secure the principles of our faith and to the end that this body of Christians be governed in and orderly manner, consistent with the accepted teaching of the Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties belonging to each individual member of the church, and do declare and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I – NAME

This body shall be know as Eva Drive Missionary Baptist Church, located at 2390 Eva Drive, Concord, in the County of Cabarrus, North Carolina.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The Eva Drive Baptist Church is organized for the purpose of preserving and advancing the worship of God through the reading and study of the Holy Bible as the revealed word of God, the teaching and preaching of the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, conducting regular services of worship for the spiritual training, development and benefit of each member and for the winning of souls to Jesus Christ. This church shall be missionary in spirit, extending the Gospel through our organized religious channels to the entire world. It shall promote and maintain the teachings and doctrines of Missionary Baptist Denomination. It shall exist to provide regular doctrines and ethics set forth in the New Testament for the church of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to channel its offerings to the support of the objects of the Kingdom of God.

ARTICLE III – CHARACTER

The government of this church is congregational in nature and is vested in the body of believers who compose its membership. It is subject tot the control of no other religious body but recognizes the obligation of mutual counsel and co-operation which are common among Southern Baptist Churches.

This church receives the Scriptures as the inspired, inerrant Word of God and final authority in matters of faith and practice. It's understanding of Christian truth as contained therein accord with The Baptist Faith and Message, adopted by the Southern Baptist Conventions in 1963 (Attachment #1).

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1.** The membership of this church shall be composed of persons who have given evidence of regeneration, who have been baptized by immersion, and received by a vote of the church.
- Section 2.** Members may be received upon a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; and by transfer of membership from another church of like faith and order.
- Section 3.** Anyone who has been a member of a Baptist Church, and has no regular letter of dismissal, may be received into our fellowship upon a statement satisfactory to the church.
- Section 4.** All unimmersed persons seeking membership in this church must be received for Baptism by immersion upon their profession of faith in Jesus Christ. After Baptism by immersion they become members in full fellowship. The only exception to this immersion; or if a person is physically unable to present himself for church membership; he can be accepted for membership by a vote of the church.
- Section 5.** This church shall dismiss from its membership and records those who are removed by death, those who unite with churches of another faith(those to which Baptist do not grant letters) and those who are found guilty of unchristian conduct (but only after due process as hereinafter provided in Section 6).
- Section 6.** Any member having cause of complaint against another must first seek to remove this complaint as directed in Mathew 18:15-17; if this is not sufficient, the complaint shall be brought in writing to the Fellowship of Deacons and Pastor, who shall in turn take such action as they deem wise and proper. All discipline shall be carried out in the Spirit of love, meekness, and Godly fear least any fall by the way.
- Section 7.** Members shall be expected to be faithful in all the duties of the Christian life, to be regular in attendance tot the services of the church, and to give regularly and systematically to support Christ's Kingdom through this church.

Section 8. Classification of Membership: The membership of this church shall consist of two groups, ACTIVE and INACTIVE. Inactive members are those who do not attend or contribute for a period of three months. Inactive members have no voting rights. Inactive members may be restored to the active membership after resuming regular attendance of four (4) consecutive Sundays and one of the following conditions: (1) upon public restoration of faith or (2) A written request sent tot the church clerk asking active status. This section is not applicable to person who are providentially hindered from carrying out their active duties.

ARTICLE V – ORDINANCES

Section 1. The ordinances shall be Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Section 2. Baptism: Repentance and faith in Jesus Christ shall precede baptism. Baptism shall be by immersion and administered by the authority of the church.

Section 3. Lord's Supper: The Lord's Supper shall be observed as prescribed in the Scriptures. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at least once each quarter.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

Section 1. The regular worship services of the church shall be held on Sunday (morning and evening) and Wednesday evening unless otherwise agreed upon by the church.

Section 2. This church shall hold monthly business meetings at which time the material and spiritual conditions of the church will be discussed, and plans projected for progress in church endeavors. A business meeting can only be call by the pastor or chairman of deacons.

Section 3. Other meetings of the church as a whole or of authorized groups within the church shall be set according to the needs of the congregation.

ARTICLE VII – SCRIPTURAL CHURCH OFFICERS

Section 1. The primary officers of this church shall be Pastor and Deacons. Their duties shall be those common to the office they hold and in accordance with the Scriptures.

Section 2. Election and duties:

A. PASTOR

Whenever a vacancy occurs, this church shall elect a pulpit committee. A pulpit committee shall be elected no later than two (2) weeks after the vacancy occurs. The church shall be given a one (1) week notice prior to hearing a minister that has been recommended by the pulpit committee for the position of church pastor. On the Sunday the prospective pastor is heard, a vote for his calling shall be called for following the Sunday evening service. Election shall be by open vote by active members present, with an affirmative vote of at least ninety percent (90%) of those active members present voting. Should the minister recommended by the committee fail to receive ninety percent (90%) affirmative vote, the committee will be instructed to seek out another minister, and the meeting, at which the vote was taken, shall be adjourned without debate. The call of a pastor shall be for an indefinite period.

The pastor shall be in charge of the welfare and oversight of the church; he shall be ex-officio member of all organizations, departments and committees; he may call special meeting of the deacons or any committee according to procedures set forth in the By-Laws; he shall conduct religious services on stated and on special occasions, administer the ordinances, minister to the spiritual needs of the members of the church and community; he shall perform other duties that usually pertain to that office; he shall have special charge of the pulpit ministry of the church; he shall provide for pulpit supply when he is absent; he shall arrange for workers to assist in revival meetings and in other special services required by the church. It shall be his special responsibility to lead the church in winning the lost to Christ, and through prayer and study to render effective preaching and pastoral ministries. The pastor shall preside at all meetings of the church except as provided in the constitution.

When the relationship is dissolved at the request of either the pastor or the church, at least thirty (30) days written notice shall be given unless otherwise mutually agreed upon, with both pastor and church seeking to follow the will of God through the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Forced Termination: Forced termination is the immediate dismissal of a pastor. A pastor may be terminated by a 51% vote of the active church membership present at a business meeting called for that purpose by the fellowship of deacons. One(1) week's notice must be given before a pastoral termination vote can be taken. No pastor shall be dismissed except formal written charges are filed against him with the fellowship of deacons. The fellowship of deacons shall take such action as the deem wise and necessary. He has the right to face his accusers in an open church meeting.

Severance Pay: If a pastor is terminated by the church, he shall be given severance pay of two(2) months total financial package.

Temporary Disability or Sick Leave: In the event of temporary disability or sickness of the pastor, the church will assume financial responsibility for a period of time approved by vote of the church in a business meeting called for the purpose.

B. DEACONS

There shall be six(6) qualified deacons until the total active membership reaches two hundred (200). For each additional 100 active members another deacon will be elected at the regular time of the year for election of deacons or upon recommendation of the deacons as need arises. If a deacon resigns from his position, the vacancy shall be filled at the next regular deacon election. Names shall be submitted from the fellowship of deacons and voted upon the first Sunday in August of each year by open vote. With candidates and immediate family being dismissed before discussion and vote. This list shall consist of names of men who are qualified, interviewed and have agreed to serve after approval of the church.

Deacons must meet the qualifications of I Tim. 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-8 and subscribe to the deacon statement approved by the church (Attachment #1). Deacons retiring from active participation shall be ineligible for re-election until at least one(1) year has elapsed. The term of deacon shall be for three (3) years, with the exception of a deacon being elected chairman of deacons, he may serve an additional one (1) year term.

The deacon shall support the entire church program with their influence and regular attendance and set and example in tithing and the biblical requirements of stewardship. They shall arrange for regular meetings and such committees as are necessary to the discharge of their duties. The pastor or the chairman of the deacons may call the deacons into special session whenever need for such arises. Deacons shall at all times regard themselves as servants of the church. With the pastor and as the Holy Spirit may direct, they are to consider and make recommendations to the church in all matters pertaining to its works and progress. This includes oversight of the spiritual relations with all members of the church. They shall assist the pastor in the observance of the ordinances, being responsible to see that all physical arrangements are made: have general oversight of the upkeep, repair, and use of property (with proper respect for the responsibilities of other church officers and committees); and have oversight of the financial program of the church in cooperation with the budget and finance committee.

ARTICLE VIII – GENERAL

Section 1. License. When a member announces to the church that he feels the call to the ministry, after approval by the pastor and deacons, the church by majority vote, may license him as an acknowledgment of his call to the ministry and encouragement to make preparation for it. The clerk of the church may furnish the member with a copy of the minutes or a certificate of license as his credential. It is understood that the performance of civil duties by the member shall be governed by state law.

Section 2. Ordination. In the event this church has been requested to ordain a member who has been called as pastor of a Southern Baptist Church, the following procedure shall be followed: The church will express its approval by a vote of at least three-fourths of the active members present at any regular arranged business meeting of the church. Then the church shall invite the Associational Council on Ordination to examine the candidate concerning his fitness for the ministry or examine the candidate themselves. In the event the association has no such council, this church may invite representative of neighboring Southern Baptist Churches to examine the candidate and report to the church. In the event the report to the church is favorable, the church shall proceed with the ordination.

Section 3. Affiliation with Associations and Conventions. We recognized that there is mutual helpfulness in the association of churches who are in agreement in faith and practice to encourage the spirit of fellowship and goodwill. We also recognize that there have been devised, through the voluntary cooperation of churches of like faith and order, organizations who purposes are to implement the missionary, educational and benevolent interests and obligations of the individual Christian and his church family.

Believing that the Cabarrus Baptist Association, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and the Southern Baptist Convention are organizations which have as their purpose the promotion and support of missions, education, and benevolence of the character and in keeping with spirit of the Constitution and the Articles of Faith of the church, we therefore, agree to participate in these Organizations through our duly elected messengers and our support of the causes which these organizations represent.

ARTICLE IX – ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

This constitution shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect when two-thirds of the active members present and voting shall vote in favor of the constitution at a business meeting called for constitutional adoption. This vote shall be taken not less than thirty (3) days after formal presentation of the Constitution to the Church.

This constitution may be amended, altered, or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the active members present at a business meeting called for the purpose of constitutional changes. Such amendments, alterations, or repeal must be given to the Clerk and full deacon leadership. Proposed change shall be presented to the church at least thirty (30) days prior to the time the vote is taken.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1 – OTHER CHURCH OFFICES

In addition to those named in the Constitution, other officers of the church shall be Trustees, Clerk, Treasurer, Tally Committee, Financial Secretary, Director of the Sunday School, Director of the Brotherhood, Director of the Women's Missionary Union, Music Director, Youth Director, Pianist, Organist, and such other officers. All officers of the church and its organizations, unless otherwise specified, shall be elected for a term of one year, upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee.

OFFICE QUALIFICATIONS

(including Sunday School, Missions, and Discipleship Teachers)

- 1. You must be born again.**
- 2. You must be an active, regularly attending member of this church.**
- 3. You must be in regular attendance and a faithful member of the class you teach. (Teachers and assistants)**
- 4. You must attend regular service or your appropriate class when the class you teach is not in session.**
- 5. You must always use the literature the church has provided. Other materials may be used as a companion, but must be approved by the appropriate church leadership (Pastor, Sunday School Director, W.M.U. Director, Brotherhood Director, and Youth Director).**

Failure to comply with any of these guidelines may result in the removal from office by the Pastor, Chairman of Deacon Fellowship, and the Director of said Department.

TRUSTEES

The church shall have three members duly elected to serve as trustees. The Trustees shall serve for an indefinite term and until their successors are duly elected by the church in conference. Upon the death, resignation or inability to serve of any of these trustees, a successor shall be elected by the church in a conference.

The trustees shall, as provided by the law and the action of the church, hold in trust the title to all property of the church and shall represent the church in all matters of legal responsibility regarding the purchase, improvement, and disposal of church property. They shall execute all legal papers relating to the church. They shall have NO POWER to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer any property of the church without a specific vote of the church authorizing such action; neither shall they have any control over the use of the church property EXCEPT by vote of the church.

CLERK

The clerk shall be elected annually. It shall be his (or her) responsibility to attend or be represented at all church business meetings; to keep an accurate record of all business transactions; to prepare the annual associational letter and to see that it is properly transmitted to the associational clerk; to request and issue letters of dismissal as authorized by the church; to keep one copy of the minutes in his/her possession and the original in church office. It shall be the duty of the clerk to see that an accurate roll of church membership is kept; the dates and methods of admission and dismissal; change in name, address and other pertinent information about each member. All correspondence shall be accomplished as soon as possible.

TREASURER

The treasurer shall be elected annually. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive, keep in a bank, and disburse upon proper authority all money that is given to the church; keep at all time and itemized account of all receipts and disbursements; render regular reports to the church; and to preserve such reports. All books, records and accounts kept by the treasurer shall be considered the property of the church. The treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the finance committee.

TALLY COMMITTEE

The Tally Committee shall be elected annually. It shall consist of the Treasurer, Financial Secretary and two other elected persons. The Tally Committee shall be responsible for counting all monies and making bank deposits.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The financial secretary shall receive the empty offering envelopes after the money has been removed and counted by the Tally Committee; and from these he (or she) shall give each contributing individual credit as provided in the record system approved by the church. He shall keep the envelopes for a reference as the church directs. He shall keep records of the receipts from envelopes and miscellaneous or special offerings for three years. The Financial Secretary shall also be responsible for preparing and distributing statements to all contribution individuals annually. In addition the Financial Secretary shall issue a statement of an individual's own record of giving upon request and assume responsibilities of Treasurer as needed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR

The Sunday School Director shall have general oversight of the entire school and shall administer its affairs, subject to the approval of the local church. He shall acquaint himself with the best methods of religious education and endeavor to adopt them in the school. It shall be his duty to counsel with his teachers and officers in the work of the school, giving advice and receiving suggestions from his co-workers. He shall see that a full and accurate report is made of the Sunday School work in regular business meetings of the church.

BROTHERHOOD DIRECTOR

The Director of the Brotherhood shall promote the work of the Brotherhood seeking to enlist the men and the boys of the church in an active program of missions for Christ. He shall see that a full and accurate report is given at the regular business meetings of the church.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION DIRECTOR

The Women's Missionary Union Director shall seek to enlist all women and young people of the church in a program of missions, training, giving and activity. She shall see that a full and accurate report is given at the regular business meetings of the church.

MUSIC DIRECTOR

The Music Director shall be responsible for providing worshipful music at all services. He (or she) shall direct the choir in practice and public singing; cooperate with the pastor and other leaders in selection of suitable music; and to devise an appropriate music program for all occasions as needed. No special music shall be allowed in the church services except it be cleared through the music director and/or pastor.

PIANIST AND ORGANIST

The pianist and organist shall play for all public services and shall assist the music director in a suitable program of music for the church.

YOUTH DIRECTOR

It shall be the duty of the youth director to direct the young people of the church in wholesome Christian activities. The Youth Director shall appoint a youth council who shall assist in leading our young people in Christian ministries.

ARTICLE II – STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Number of Committees. The church shall elect such standing committees as may be necessary to carry on the various phases of the church program efficiently and effectively. In any event, the church shall at all times have the following standing committees: Nominating, Budget and Finance, and Building and Grounds.

Section 2. Election of Committees. The Nominating Committee shall nominate to the church, in the September Business meeting, persons to server for the succeeding year on the standing committees.

Section 3. Duties of Committees:

A - NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This committee shall consist of at least seven persons. This committee shall consist of the chairman of deacons, the Sunday School Director and the pastor and four other persons as recommended by the nominating committee. Throughout the year this committee shall have the responsibility of nominating to the church persons to serve in the various capacities; its organizations; and on standing and special committees. This committee shall serve for a period of one year.

Section 1. This committee shall nominate qualified and dedicated persons. If such candidates are not available, the position or positions shall not just be “filled”, but the committee shall take the necessary steps to rectify the situation.

B – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

This committee shall be composed of the treasurer, financial secretary, chairman of deacons and two (2) other persons as recommended by the nominating committee. This committee shall meet as needed to consider the financial condition of the church. This committee shall prepare annually a proposed budget including local expenses, education, missions, and benevolence. They shall submit the annual budget to the church in regular business session at least on month prior to the beginning of the fiscal year.

C – BUILDING AND GROUNDS

This committee shall be responsible for the maintenance of the buildings and grounds. This shall include all church property. All matters of major repair, improvement, or items of equipment shall be referred to the Fellowship of Deacons for a joint recommendation to the church. It is understood that the committee has the authority to make emergency repairs without consulting the church. This Committee shall be responsible for the work of the janitor and to insure that the grounds are properly cared for. The hiring and/or dismissal of a janitor shall be the responsibility of the Building and Grounds committee and the Fellowship of Deacons.

D - FLOWER COMMITTEE

This committee shall be responsible for sending flowers in case of death of members of the church, or their immediate families (father, mother, brother, or sister) and former pastors. It shall be the responsibility of the committee to see that appropriate flowers are provided for regular and special church services.

E – USHERS

The ushers shall receive the worship service offerings. It shall also be the duty of the ushers to see to the comfort and seating of persons coming to worship. The ushers shall distribute guest cards and handle any disturbances (with assistance of deacons if needed) both in the church and outside on church property.

F – PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

This committee shall be composed of three members and shall give appropriate advertisement of special church functions and events. Pertinent information to such events as revivals, VBS, homecomings, annual socials and Christmas programs shall be publicized by this committee.

G – VAN COMMITTEE

This committee shall be responsible for scheduling and maintaining the church vans, and also appointing qualified drivers.

H – SOCIAL COMMITTEE

This committee shall be responsible for the planning of the church socials such as Homecoming, Christmas fellowship etc.....

I – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

This committee shall be composed of the church clerk, church financial secretary, a deacon, and two members recommended by the nominating committee and approved by the church. The church clerk will be chairman. This committee shall be responsible for updating and maintaining active and inactive church rolls. This committee shall meet once every six months.

K – BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

This committee shall consist of the Deacon fellowship, Finance committee chairman and/or Treasurer. This committee shall investigate circumstances to determine the necessity of assistance.

- 1. Maximum \$ 100.00 (one hundred dollars) assistance per necessity. Further assistance will require church vote.**
- 2. This assistance is for vital necessities only such as: food, medication, and essential utilities.**
- 3. This assistance is limited to help once per six month period.**
- 4. If further assistance is needed beyond the committees means, it shall be brought before the church in a called church conference.**
- 5. This committee is budgeted \$800.00 (eight hundred dollars) per year, or according to current church budget allocations.**

L – FELLOWSHIP BUILDING COMMITTEE

This committee shall be the person or persons responsible for cleanup, organization, stocking and scheduling its use.

M – BAPTISMAL COMMITTEE

Shall be responsible for the Baptistry. To include its preparation and cleanup, assistance in Baptismal service and care of robes.

N – OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES

Other standing committees shall be elected as desired by the church, and serve for the purpose designated.

ARTICLE III – SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Special committees shall be elected for specific obligations as desired by the church.

ARTICLE IV – GENERAL

- Section 1. Fiscal Year** The fiscal year shall be from October 1, to September 30 of the following year.
- Section 2. Business meetings of the church** shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order.
- Section 3. Expenditure Guidelines** Any matter of business shall be referred to the committee responsible for that matter of business. The fellowship of deacons may make such recommendations to the church as they deem necessary.
- Section 4. Moderator** The pastor shall serve as moderator of the business sessions of the church. In his absence or upon his request, the chairman of the deacons may serve as moderator.
- Section 5. Use of Church Sanctuary** The church sanctuary shall be open for church sponsored activities, weddings of active members, and funerals. \$25.00 shall be required for use by non-members (funerals excluded).
- Section 6.** The church pastor must approve the use of the pulpit by other ministers, speakers, or groups for any functions.
- Section 7. Fellowship Hall** May be used by church organizations and active church members. Church sponsored functions will supersede any individual use. The fellowship building shall not be used during hour of worship. \$25.00 shall be required for use by non-members.
- Section 8.** Raffles, consumption of alcoholic beverages, gambling, dancing, use of tobacco, selling, etc., will not be allowed by any group wishing to use the facilities. The building shall be cleaned and put back in order by the group using it the same day it is used.
- Section 9. Vans** The vans shall be used for church related activities. The vans can be used for civic emergencies or in the case where another church has an emergency arise for transportation. Drivers must be 25 years of age because of insurance requirements. Their driving record must not contain DWI convictions. When vans are returned they must have at least ¼ tank of gas before being parked. Smoking will not be permitted in vans.

ARTICLE V

- Section 1.** The adoption of these By-Laws shall effect a repeal of all previously adopted rules in conflict herewith.
- Section 2.** These By-Laws may be amended, altered, or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the active members present at a business meeting called for the purpose of by-law changes. Such amendments, alterations, or repeal must be given to the clerk in writing. A proposed change shall be presented to the church at least seven (7) days prior to the time the vote is taken.
- Section 3.** A copy of this constitution and By-Laws shall at all times be kept by the clerk among his/or her records and another copy shall be kept in the church office. All amendments to or revisions thereof shall, after passage by the church, be prepared by the clerk and placed in the official copies.