

By-Laws for Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Incorporated Of Houston, Texas

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Mission Statement

We are an obediently covenanted people with a consistent concern, seeking to identify and meet the spiritual, physical, social and economic needs of the whole man.

We are prompted by the love of Christ and the Holy Scriptures to promote health, healing, prosperity and Christian family values through Christian education and counseling, to fulfill individual needs.

Vision Statement

We are to continually impact the community through Benevolence, Evangelism and Education with a focus on individual and congregational Stewardship. (B E E S)

History of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church was organized on October 16, 1938 in the private home of Brother & Sister Harris. There were eight (8) people who participated in the organization. Reverend William, Reverend Smith and Reverend Jones conducted brief Pastorates. The fourth Pastor, Reverend Harry B. Sampson, Senior was called on April of 1943, and served until his death on November 30, 1971.

At the time that Reverend Harry B. Sampson, Senior was called as Pastor, Friendship was worshipping in a small frame building. Soon after his call, Reverend Sampson led the Church in the construction of a brick building surrounding the smaller building, which was completed and dedicated in 1947, and which yet stands and is labeled The Memorial Building. Pastor Sampson, having skills as a carpenter, did much of the physical construction on the physical building, while at the same time working to build the spiritual building of the congregation. Though often faced with discouraging comments, Reverend Sampson and the congregation were not discouraged, but continued to work until the job was done. Further, Reverend Sampson led the Church in the purchase of two additional lots, as well as modernizing the then complete sanctuary with modern indoor plumbing facilities. Because of Church membership growth, in 1963, Reverend Sampson led the congregation in the construction and completion of a larger facility, which still serves as the sanctuary, which was erected on the two lots adjacent to the previous sanctuary building. Other capital improvements during the Pastoral ministry of Reverend Harry B. Sampson include, but are not limited to, the purchase of: water coolers, organ, piano, air conditioning units, public address system, pews and Pulpit furniture. Reverend Sampson was a great influence in the lives of many, and was a devout teacher and communicator of The Word.

Under the leadership of Reverend Harry B. Sampson, the Church membership flourished and grew as many were received into the membership as candidates for baptism, some by letter, and some by experience of grace, and became an established beacon in the community, in the city of Houston, in the state of Texas, as well as in the nation. Under the leadership of Pastor Harry B. Sampson, Friendship was led into the organizational structure of Men and Women Auxiliaries, Sunday School, Baptist Training Union, as well as Youth Church, all of which promoted Christian education and development. Reverend Harry Burney Sampson served as Friendship's Pastor for 28 years, until his demise on Tuesday, November 30, 1971.

Upon the demise of Reverend Harry B. Sampson, who served Friendship for 28 years, on January 23, 1972, Friendship extended the call to Reverend Franklin D. Sampson, who accepted the call to be Friendship's fifth Pastor. Capital improvements under the Pastoral ministry of Reverend Franklin D. Sampson include, but are not limited to: asphalt paving of the parking lot in 1972; purchase of new mini-van in February, 1973; purchase of new mini-van in August, 1974; new air conditioning units in July, 1976, in June, 1994, and in September, 2003; purchase of a seventy-seven (77) passenger bus in February, 1977; remodeling of the 1947 sanctuary building into classrooms and offices in 1983; remodeling of the 1963 sanctuary building; purchase of state of the art sound system in 1989; purchase of one lot in September, 1984; purchase of house and land contiguous to the sanctuary building and rehabilitated the house for classroom use in June, 1994; purchase of a grocery store, located at 7901 Lockwood @ Bennington June, 1997; purchase of 1 vacant lot, remotely located from the Church for future community development December, 1998; (two additional vacant lots were donated by Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Yee in February, 1999); purchase of 2 additional lots remotely located in the community in June, 1999; purchase of 1 lot remotely located in the community in August, 2000; purchase of 2 lots contiguous with the Church property in May, 2001; purchase of 1 lot through Constable's Sale, diagonally across from the Church in May, 2002; purchase of 5 lots, contiguous with other Church property in November, 2002; construction of the 18,000 square foot Educational and Fellowship Building for the 21st Century in 2002; and the purchase of new Church pews, tables, choir, chancel, and Pulpit furniture in 2003. Ministries introduced and begun under this Pastoral ministry include, but are not limited to, Youth Enrichment Summer (YES) Program, and in collaboration with the Visions of Faith Ministries, Inc. and Trinity Gardens Integral Forces, Inc., providing the space, volunteers, curriculum, and nourishments for an after-school program for students of J.C. Sanderson Elementary School, which is located across the street from our Church, the Young-At-Heart Program for senior citizens, the Renaissance Food Pantry, which serves the membership and the community, and the HIV/AIDS Support Group. Trinity Gardens Integral Forces, Inc. was organized out of the Home Mission Ministry of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in June 1985, for the purpose of community involvement, participation, development, and restoration. Under this Pastoral ministry, 24 ministries have been organized for the purposes of Evangelism, Christian education, spiritual development, and nurturing, as Friendship continues to serve God and man and will continue to do so until Christ's return.

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church was incorporated in the State of Texas in 1985, and Friendship has denominational affiliations with Independent General Association of Texas, Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas, and National Baptist Convention of America, Incorporated.

ARTICLE I (Scriptural Basis)

These By-Laws are enacted pursuant to the Articles of Incorporation of the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church of Houston, Texas, pursuant to the Baptist Covenant and pursuant to the Articles of Faith as follows:

The Baptist Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity in spirituality; to sustain its worship, in ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to 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 also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings; faithful in our engagements; and exemplary in our deportments; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sell and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Saviour to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other Church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Basis of Covenant

The obligations of Church membership outlined in the covenant are all scriptural, as may be seen from the following study:

I. Salvation and Baptism

John 1: 11-12 [11] He came unto his own, and his own received him not. [12] But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Matthew 28:19-20 [19] Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: [20] Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen

II. Duties to the Church

1. To walk together in Christian love

John 13:34-35 [34] A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. [35] By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

2. To strive for the advancement of the Church and promote its prosperity and spirituality

Philippians 1:27 [27] Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

II Timothy 2:15 [15] Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

II Corinthians 7:1 [1] Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

II Peter 3:11 [11] For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

3. To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrine

Hebrews 10:25 [25] Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Matthew 28:19 [19] Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost

I Corinthians 11:23-26 [23] For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: [24] And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. [25] After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. [26] For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

Jude 1:3 [3] Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

4. To give it pre-eminence in my life

Matthew 6:33 [33] But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

5. To contribute cheerfully and regularly

I Corinthians 16:2 [2] Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

II Corinthians 8:6-7 [6] Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. [7] Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

6. To carry my membership when I move and be active in Church work wherever I live

Acts 11:19-21 [19] Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. [20] And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. [21] And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

Acts 18:24-28 [24] And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. [25] This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. [26] And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. [27] And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: [28] For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

III. Duties in Personal Christian Living

1. To maintain family and secret devotion

I Thessalonians 5:17-18 [17] Pray without ceasing. [18] In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Acts 17:11 [11] These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

2. To religiously educate the children

II Timothy 3:15 [15] And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 [4] Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: [5] And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. [6] And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: [7] And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

3. To seek the salvation of the lost

Acts 1:8 [8] But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Matthew 4: 9 [9] And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me

Psalms 126:5-6 [5] They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. [6] He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Proverbs 11: 30 [30] The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

4. To walk circumspectly in the world, and to be just in all dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment

Ephesians 5: 11 [11] And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Philippians 2:14-15 [14] Do all things without murmurings and disputings: [15] That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; [16] Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. [17] Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

I Peter 2:11-12 [11] Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; [12] Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

5. Avoid gossip and excessive anger

Ephesians 4:31 [31] Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

I Peter 2: 21 [21] For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

Colossians 3:8 [8] But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

James 3:1-2 [1] My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. [2] For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

6. To abstain from sale and use of liquors

Ephesians 5:18 [18] And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Habakkuk 2:15 [15] Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!

7. To be zealous in our efforts for Christ

Titus 2:14 [14] Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

IV. Duties to Fellow Members

1. To watch over one another in love

I Peter 1:22 [22] Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

2. To pray for one another

James 5:16 [16] Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much

3. To aid in sickness and distress

Galatians 6:2 [2] Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

James 2:14-17 [14] What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? [15] If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, [16] And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? [17] Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone

4. To cultivate sympathy and courtesy

I Peter 3:8 [8] Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

5. To be slow to take offense, always ready for reconciliation

Ephesians 4:30-32 [30] And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. [31] Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: [32] And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

James 1:19-20 [19] Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: [20] For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

The Articles Of Faith

(The New Hampshire Confession of Faith as revised and enlarged by J. Newton Brown)

Article 1. Of The Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction: that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error, for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union and the Supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried.

PLACES IN THE BIBLE WHERE TAUGHT

II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21; II Samuel 23:2; Acts 1:16; John 10:35; Luke 16:29-31; Psalms 119:111; Romans 3:1-2; II Timothy 3:15; I Peter 1:10-12; Acts 11:14; Romans 1:16; Mark 16:16; John 5:38-39; Proverbs 30:5-6; John 17:17; Revelation 22:18-19; Romans 3:4; Romans 2:12; John 12:47-48; I Corinthians 4:3-4; Luke 10:10-16; 12:47-48; Philippians 3:16; Ephesians 4:3-6; Philippians 2:1-2; I Corinthians 1:10; I Peter 4:11; John 4:1; Isaiah 8:20; I Thessalonians 5:21; II Corinthians 13:5; Acts 17:11; I John 4:6; Jude 3; Ephesians 6:17; Psalms 119:59-60; Philippians 1:9-11

Article 2. Of The True God

We believe that there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

PLACES IN THE BIBLE WHERE TAUGHT

I John 4:24; Psalms 147:5; Psalms 83:18; Hebrews 3:4; Romans 1:20; Jeremiah 10:10; Revelation 1:18; Psalms 90:2; Exodus 15:1; Isaiah 6:3; I Peter 1:15-16; Mark 12:30; Proverbs 3:9; Revelation 4:11; Matthew 10:37; Jeremiah 2:12-13; Matthew 6:13; Matthew 28:19; John 15:26; I Corinthians 12:4-6; I John 5:7; John 10:30; John 5:17; 14:23; 17:5,10; Acts 5:3-4; I Corinthians 2:10-11; Philippians 2:5-6; Ephesians 2:18; II Corinthians 13:14; Revelation 1:4-5

Article 3. Of The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

PLACES IN THE BIBLE WHERE TAUGHT

Genesis 1:27; Genesis 1:31; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Acts 17:26-29; Genesis 2:16-17; Genesis 3:6-24; Romans 5:12; Psalms 51:5; Romans 5:19; John 3:6; Psalms 51:5; Romans 5:15-19; 8:7; Ezekiel 18:4; Genesis 2:17; Isaiah 53:6;

Genesis 6:12; Romans 3:9-18; Romans 3:23; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 1:18; Romans 1:32; 2:1-16; Galatians 3:10; Matthew 20:15; Romans 6:23; Ezekiel 18:19-20; Romans 3:19; Galatians 3:22; Acts 17:30

Article 4. Of The Way of Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour.

PLACES IN THE BIBLE WHERE TAUGHT

Ephesians 2:8; Matthew 18:11; I John 4:10; I Corinthians 3:5,7; Acts 15:11; John 3:16; John 1:1-14; Hebrews 4:14; 12:24; I Timothy 2:5; Philippians 2:6-7; Hebrews 2:9,14; II Corinthians 5:21; John 1:1-14; Matthew 26:42; Isaiah 42:21; Philippians 2:8; Galatians 4:4-5; Romans 3:21; Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 20:28; Romans 4:25; 3:21-26; I John 4:10; 2:2; I Corinthians 15:1-3; Hebrews 9:13-15; Hebrews 4:15; II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 1:3; 8:1; I Corinthians 3:1-4; Mark 16:19; Hebrews 7:25; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 2:18; Hebrews 7:26; Psalms 89:19; Psalms 34; Hebrews 1:8

Article 5. Of Justification

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

PLACES IN THE BIBLE WHERE TAUGHT

Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Romans 3:28; Galatians 3:11; James 2:14-26; John 1:16; Ephesians 3:8; Acts 13:39; Isaiah 53:11-12; Romans 5:9; Zechariah 13:1; Matthew 9:6; Acts 10:43; Romans 5:17; Titus 3:5-7; I Peter 3:7; I John 2:25; Romans 5:1; Romans 4:5; Romans 5:21; 6:23; Philippians 3:7-9; Romans 5:19; Romans 3:24-26; 4:23-25; I John 2:12; Romans 5:1-2; Romans 5:3; Romans 5:11; I Corinthians 1:30-31; Matthew 6:33; I Timothy 4:8

Article 6. Of The Freeness Of Salvation

We believe that the blessing of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial of penitent, and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

PLACES IN THE BIBLE WHERE TAUGHT

Isaiah 55:1; Revelation 22:17; Luke 14:17; Romans 16:25-26; Mark 1:15; Romans 1:15-17; Luke 13:3,5; John 3:16; John 5:40; Matthew 23:37; Romans 9:32; Proverbs 1:24; Acts 13:46; Mark 16:16; John 3:19; Matthew 11:20; Luke 19:27; II Thessalonians 1:8.

Article 7. Of Grace in Regeneration

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected, in a manner above our comprehension, by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

PLACES IN THE BIBLE WHERE TAUGHT

John 3:3; John 3:6,7; I Corinthians 2:14; Revelation 14:3; 21:27; II Corinthians 5:17; Ezekiel 36:26; Deuteronomy 30:6; Romans 2:28,29; 5:5; I John 4:7; John 3:8; John 1:13; James 1:16-18; I Corinthians 1:30; Philippians 2:13; I Peter 1:22-25; I John 5:1; Ephesians 4:20-24; Colossians 3:9-11; Ephesians 5:9; Romans 8:9; Galatians 5:16-23; Ephesians 2:14-21; Matthew 3:8-10; 7:20; I John 5:4,18; Matthew 3:8.

Article 8. Of Repentance and Faith

We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regeneration Spirit of God; whereby, being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Saviour.

PLACES IN THE BIBLE WHERE TAUGHT

Mark 1:15; Acts 11:18; Ephesians 2:8; I John 5:1; John 16:8; Acts 2:37-38; Acts 16:30-31; Luke 18:13; Luke 15:18-21; James 4:7-10; II Corinthians 7:11; Romans 10:12-13; Psalms 51; Romans 10:9-11; Acts 3:22-23; Hebrews 4:14; Psalms 2:6; Hebrews 1:8; 7:25; II Timothy 1:12.

Article 9. Of God's Purpose of Grace

We believe that Election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

PLACES IN THE BIBLE WHERE TAUGHT

II Timothy 1:8-9; Ephesians 1:3-14; I Peter 1:1-2; Romans 11:5-6; John 15:16; I John 4:19; II Thessalonians 2:13-14; Acts 13:48; John 10:16; Matthew 20:16; Acts 15:14; John 3:16; Exodus 33:18-19; Ephesians 2:9; Psalms 34:8; Proverbs 2:6,3:19; Luke 1:49; Revelation 4:8; Leviticus 11:44; 21:8; Numbers 23:19; I Samuel 15:29; Psalms 33:11; 119:89; Hebrews 13:8; Ephesians 1:11; Romans 9:23-24; Jeremiah 31:3; Romans 11:28-29; James 1:17-18; II Timothy 1:9; Romans 11:32-36; I Corinthians 4:7; I Corinthians 1:26-31; Romans 3:27; 4:16; Colossians 3:12; I Corinthians 15:10; I Peter 5:10; I Thessalonians 2:12-13; I Peter 2:9; Luke 18:7; II Timothy 2:10; I Corinthians 9:22; John 6:37-40; II Peter 1:10; I Thessalonians 1:4-10; Romans 8:28-31; Isaiah 42:16; Romans 11:19; I Peter 1:10-11; Philippians 3:12; Hebrews 6:11

Article 10. Of Sanctification

We believe that the sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His Holiness, that it is a progressive work, that it is begun in regeneration, and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, and Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means, especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

PLACES IN THE BIBLE WHERE TAUGHT

I Thessalonians 4:3; I Thessalonians 5:23; II Corinthians 7:1; 13:9; Ephesians 1:1; Proverbs 4:18; Hebrews 6:1; II Peter 1:5-8; Philippians 3:12-16; I John 2:29; Romans 8:5; John 3:6; Philippians 1:9-11; Philippians 2:12-13; Acts 20:30-32; Ephesians 4:11-12,30; 6:18; I Peter 2:2; II Peter 3:18; II Corinthians 13:5; Luke 9:23; 11:35; Matthew 26:41

Article 11. Of The Perseverance of Saints

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end, that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors, that a special providence watches over their welfare, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

PLACES IN THE BIBLE WHERE TAUGHT

John 8:13; I John 2:27-28; 3:9; 5:18; Mark 13:13; I John 2:19; John 13:18; Matthew 13:20-21; John 6:66-69; Romans 8:28; Matthew 6:30-33; Jeremiah 32:40; Psalms 12:2; 91:11-12; Philippians 1:6; 2:12-13; Jude 1:24-25; Hebrews 1:14; 13:5; I John 4:4

Article 12. Of The Harmony of The Law and The Gospel

We believe that the Law of God is eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government, that is holy, just, and good, and that the inability which the scriptures ascribe to fallen man to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin, to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the Holy Law, is one great end of The Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible Church.

PLACES IN THE BIBLE WHERE TAUGHT

Romans 3:31; Matthew 5:17; Luke 16:17; Romans 3:20; 4:15; 7:12; 7:7-14, 22; Galatians 3:21; Psalms 119; Romans 8:7-8; Joshua 24:19; Jeremiah 13:23; John 6:44; Romans 8:2-4; 10:4; Hebrews 8:10; 12:14; Jude 1:21

Article 13. Of A Gospel Church

We believe that a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith of fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by its laws, in exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, that it's only scriptural officers are bishops, or Pastors, and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus.

PLACES IN THE BIBLE WHERE TAUGHT

I Corinthians 1:1-13; Matthew 18:17; Acts 5:11; 8:1; 11:21-23; I Corinthians 4:23; 14:23; III John 9; Matthew 16:16-18; Acts 2:41-42; II Corinthians 8:5; Acts 2:41; I Corinthians 5:12-13; 11:2; II Thessalonians 3:6; Romans

16:17-20; I Corinthians 11:23-34; Matthew 18:15-21; II Corinthians 2:17; I Corinthians 1:17; Matthew 28:20; John 14:15; 15:12; I John 4:21; John 14:21; I Thessalonians 4:2; II John 6; Galatians 6:2; Ephesians 4:7; I Corinthians 14:12; Philippians 1:27; 1:1; Acts 14:23; 15:12; I Timothy 3; Titus 1

Article 14. Of Baptism and The Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to all new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a Church relation; and to the Lord's Supper; in which the members of the Church, by the sacred use of bread and wine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

PLACES IN THE BIBLE WHERE TAUGHT

Acts 8:36-39; Matthew 3:5-6; John 3:22-23; 4:1-2; Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:12; 16:32,34; 18:8; Matthew 3:16; Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47-48; Galatians 3:27-28; Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; I Peter 3:20-21; Acts 22:16; Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 29:19-20; Acts and Epistles; I Corinthians 11:26; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; I Corinthians 11:28; I Corinthians 5:1,8; 10:3-32; 11:17-32; John 6:26-71

Article 15. OF THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations; by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

PLACES IN THE BIBLE WHERE TAUGHT

Acts 20:7; Genesis 2:3; Colossians 2:16-17; Mark 2:27; John 20:19; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Exodus 20:8; Revelation 1:10; Psalms 118:24; Isaiah 58:13-14; Psalms 118:15; Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 11:26; Hebrews 4:3-11

Article 16. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

PLACES IN THE BIBLE WHERE TAUGHT

Romans 13:1-7; Deuteronomy 16:28; II Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21-23; Jeremiah 30:21; Matthew 22:21; Titus 3:1; I Peter 2:13; I Timothy 2:1-3; Acts 5:29; Daniel 3:15-18; 6:7-10; Acts 4:18-20; Matthew 23:10; Romans 14:4; Revelation 19:16; Psalms 72:11; Psalms 2; Romans 14:9-13

Article 17. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of God, are truly

righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

PLACES IN THE BIBLE WHERE TAUGHT

Psalms 7:11; 10:4; 145:20; 9:17; Malachi 3:18; Proverbs 12:26; Isaiah 5:20; Genesis 18:23; Acts 10:34-35; Romans 6:16; 1:17; 7:6; I John 2:29; 3:7; Romans 6:18,22; I Corinthians 11:32; Proverbs 11:31; I Peter 4:17-18; I John 5:19; Galatians 3:10; John 3:36; Isaiah 57:21; Psalms 10:4; Isaiah 55:6-7; Proverbs 14:32; Luke 16:25; John 8:21-24; Proverbs 10:24; Luke 12:4-5; 9:23-26; John 12:25-26; Ecclesiastes 3:17; Matthew 7:13-14

Article 18. OF THE WORLD TO COME

We believe that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

PLACES IN THE BIBLE WHERE TAUGHT

I Peter 4:7; I Corinthians 7:29-31; Hebrews 1:10-12; Matthew 25:31; 28:20; 13:39-43; I John 2:17; II Peter 3:3-13; Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7; Hebrews 9:28; Acts 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-11; Acts 24:15; I Corinthians 15:12-58; Luke 14:14; Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; 6:40; 11:25-26; Acts 10:42; Matthew 13:49; Matthew 13:37-42; 24:30; 25:31-33; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 22:11; I Corinthians 6:9-10; Mark 9:43-48; II Peter 2:9; Jude 7; Philippians 3:19; Romans 6:23; II Corinthians 6:9-11; John 4:36; II Corinthians 4:18; Romans 3:5-6; II Thessalonians 1:6-12; Hebrews 6:1-2; I Corinthians 4:5; Acts 17:31; Romans 2:2-16; Revelation 20:11-12; I John 2:28; 4:17; II Peter 3:11-12

ARTICLE II (Source of Governmental Authority)

This Church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body. The Pastor and members of this congregation constitute the source of the government which operate it. As a corporation, the Pastor, staffs, and members of the Church constitute the corporation.

ARTICLE III (Membership)-Amended 11/6/11

The membership of this Church shall consist of baptized believers in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who have confessed their faith in His name and who have indicated their desire to join this congregation to take part in the program of this Church and to be subject to the rightful discipline of the officers and governing authorities of this Church.

Section 1. A person may become a member of this Church in any one of the following ways:

- (a) Upon his/her confession of faith in Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior and Lord, after baptism by immersion.

- (b) By the presentation of a letter from some other Baptist Church of like faith and order.
- (c) Upon a statement of Christian experience, if previously a member in good and regular standing of a Baptist Church of like faith and order.
- (d) Upon a Statement of a desire for restoration.

Section 2. Such persons shall be received into the membership by consensus of The Church Membership.

Section 3. To be a member in good and regular standing, it shall be the duty of every member of this Church to abide by the provisions of the Baptist Covenant and accept the Articles of Faith as expressed in Article I of these By-Laws, to be loyal in supporting the activities and program of the Church; to obey the rules and regulations of the Church, and to:

- (a) Financially support this Church with their Tithes and Offerings-Malachi 3:8-10; Saint Matthew 23:23; 5:20
 1. According to Malachi 3:8-10-[8]Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. [9] Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. [10]Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.
 2. According to Saint Matthew 23:23-[23] Woe unto you. Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier mailers of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.
 3. According to Saint Matthew 5:20-[20] For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.
- (b) Be regular in attendance to Church services and gatherings-Hebrews 10:25-[25] Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
- (c) Be a member of one or more of the auxiliaries

Section 4. (Discipline of Members)

Procedure for discipline and order in the Church will be followed as set forth in Saint Matthew 18:15-20 and I Corinthians 14:40. All disputes and/or disagreements pertaining to the operations and regulations of the Church shall be settled by the Church, and no disputes shall be carried or settled in any Judicial Court according to I Corinthians 6:1-8. The final decision regarding any or all disciplinary matters shall be settled by the Church after hearing the recommendation from the Pastor and the Official Staff of Management. The decision reached by the majority of members present, who are in good and regular standing at regular meetings or worship, shall be binding.

Section 5. (Dismissal of Members and Reasons for Disciplinary Action)

- (a) A member may be excluded from membership or considered for disciplinary actions upon recommendation of the Pastor and The Official Staff of Management for:
1. Immorality or conduct unbecoming a Christian in trespassing against a brother/sister
 2. For conduct which promotes confusion, discontent, ill will and bring about ill feelings unjustifiably so among the Church membership. It is intended that persons that promote division among the Church membership shall forfeit their membership and be excluded from the Church.
 3. For conduct promoting the abstinence or striving to retard the program of the Church or promoting programs or drives without receiving proper authority (I Corinthians 14:40) or failure to respect and obey the Pastor (Hebrews 13:7, 17).
 4. Failure to be in attendance and/or financially support this Church for a period of over three months. Sickness and work that prohibit a member from attendance are excusable; however such members should remain financial supporters.
- (b) The names of all members who fail to either attend Church services or make any kind of contact with the Pastor within the period of three months shall be stricken from the roll of members in good and regular standing.
- (c) Letter of dismissal for the purpose of uniting with some other Baptist Church of like faith and order shall be granted to members in good standing, as meet the agreement of the Church.
- (d) Any member in good standing desiring to unite with the Church of some other denomination, may, upon agreement of the Church, be granted a letter of Christian standing, and thereafter shall cease to be a member of the Church.

Amendment: Section 6. (Forgiveness, Repentance, and Pardon)

- (a) According to Saint Matthew 18:15-22
1. Saint Matthew 18:15-20-[15] Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall I hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. [16] But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. [17] And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the Church: but if he neglect to hear the Church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. [18] Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. [19] Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. [20] For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.
 2. How often should we forgive them?

Saint Matthew 18:21-22-[21] Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? [22] Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

- (b) According to Galatians 6:1-[1] Brethren, if a Man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.
- (c) According to 1 John 1:9-10-[9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. [10] If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.
- (d) According to Saint Matthew 3:8-[8] Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.
- (e) Based upon the above scriptures, if any member is knowingly, and publicly accused, indicted, or convicted or public intoxication, drug abuse, spousal abuse, child abuse, homosexuality or any immoral public act, if and when they come before the congregation and make public confession and repentance, they shall be forgiven and pardoned. If the same accused fails to confess and repent, they shall be disciplined according to Saint Mathew 18, as mentioned above. No member, independent contractor, or employee of the Church who is guilty of such sins or crimes shall be qualified as an employee, hold any office, be programmed, or lead in any worship until they have met the requirement of the discipline of confession and repentance, and afterwards have been granted pardon by the Church.
- (f) According to the aforementioned scriptures, any member who promotes offenses in the Church and does not seek to resolve the offense, will be held liable for the offense and will not be permitted to hold an office, lead in any worship, or serve on any program of the Church until such offense has been reconciled.
- (g) Any member who disrespects the authority of the Pastor as the Under Shepherd and Overseer, or any other officer of the Church who is in a leadership office, shall not be granted the privilege to give leadership in the Church, and the same shall not be allowed to serve on any program.

ARTICLE IV (Staffs)

The following shall be the staffs of this Church:

1. The Administrative Staff
2. The Deacon Staff
3. The Trustee Staff
4. The Official Staff of Management

ARTICLE V (Duties of Officers and Staffs)-Amended 11/6/11

Section 1. (Duties of the Pastor) The Pastor as the main expositor of The Bible for Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Incorporated, shall be accepted, recognized, and respected as the authority in scripture interpretation. The Pastor, as Overseer and Under Shepherd, shall have freedom in leading the Church to bring to reality the

visions he may receive from God. (Proverbs 29:18). The Pastor shall preach and teach the gospel and be responsible for making appointments of those who will do so in his absence and be responsible for inviting other gospel preachers for special occasions. He shall administer the ordinances of the Church, take the oversight of the membership (Acts 20:28), promote the spiritual interest of the Church, organize the Church to develop to the greatest extent, for the best possible service. He shall serve as Moderator of all membership meetings, and Chairman of the Official Staff of Management. He shall be an ex-officio member with power of veto of all staffs, auxiliaries, committees and councils of the Church. (I Peter 5:2). The Pastor shall have power to appoint all committees and organize all auxiliaries and all councils with meeting times being set as agreed upon. The Pastor is responsible for outlining and leading in the program and budget of the Church. The Pastor is responsible for appointing all officers and staff members, who will continue the use of the office and/or position as long as they are cooperative and supportive of the program of the Church. The Pastor shall have the exclusive power to relieve any officer or staff member for failure of compliance with the rules and regulations of this Church as set forth in these By-Laws in Article III Section 5. The Pastor shall serve as Chief Executive Officer of the corporation and in the interim between meetings of the Official Staff of Management, shall conduct the affairs and business of the Church. He shall carry out the duties of Pastor as given in Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2; II Timothy 4:1-2; Titus 2:15; I Timothy 5:6,20.

Section 2. (Duties of Deacons) The Deacons shall in every way, assist the Pastor in his work, and make recommendations to The Official Staff of Management, of ways and means the Pastor can be better assisted. The Deacons shall cooperate with the Pastor in providing leadership for prayer services and devotions, in visiting the widows and fatherless, the sick, the needy, and the distressed. The Deacons shall assist the Pastor in the observation and administration of the ordinances of the Church. With the Pastor, this staff shall promote, and administer by the Pastor's direction, the evangelistic endeavors of the Church. It shall assist the Official Staff of Management in preparing an annual budget to be presented to the Church, and assist in securing funds necessary to finance the budget.

Section 3. (Duties of Trustees) The staff of Trustees shall hold in trust all property belonging to the Church, and shall keep all necessary measures for its protection, management, maintenance and upkeep; but this staff shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property without the approval of The Official Staff of Management and the Church. The staff shall designate the bank where the funds of the Church shall be deposited and shall direct the Treasurer to deposit the same within twenty-four (24) hours. This staff shall be responsible for directing the Executive Secretary to make payment of such bills, notes and other financial obligations as are authorized by the Official Staff of Management. The Pastor, as Chief Executive Officer, shall sign all checks, or any two who are designated members on the respective account. This staff shall assist the Official Staff of Management in preparing an annual budget for the Church, and in securing funds as may be necessary for the successful operation of such a budget. This staff shall act for the Church as the purchasing agent of the Church. This staff shall meet as often as necessary when called and approved by the Pastor.

Section 4. (Duties of The Official Staff of Management)

The Official Staff of Management shall be composed of the Pastor, Deacons, and Trustees of the Church. The Official Staff of Management shall be the general supervisory and operating organ of the Church in cooperation with the Pastor. This staff shall meet on the Saturday night before the fifth Sunday in each quarter at 7:00 P.M. This staff shall recommend an annual budget to the Church, as well as ways and means of securing finance for such a budget. This staff shall select an auditing service and direct the auditing of the financial records of the Church at the close of the fiscal year.

Section 5. Duties of Staffs, Auxiliaries, Committees and Officers not expressed in this Constitution and By-Laws, shall be determined and set forth by the Pastor.

Section 6. (Duties of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer)

The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all monies contributed to the Church, and shall bank the same. He shall be bonded at the amount determined by the Trustee Staff; the bond for the same to be paid for by the Church. He shall present to the Church all current bank statements, showing the actual financial condition of the Church at its membership meetings.

Section 7. (Duties of The Church Secretary)

The Church secretary shall keep accurate minutes of the business proceedings of the Church, including the reception and dismissal of members; keep a complete roll of the members of the Church and their current addresses and phone numbers; issue letters of dismissal and letters of Christian standings; prepare resolutions; prepare weekly bulletins and programs, keep current the bulletin board, assist in preparing and mailing of letters and other communications; preserve and properly file all letters, reports, and other documents, pertaining to this office; assist in preparing denominational reports and other such reports, as may be required; and prepare baptismal and other certificates for members.

Section 8. (Duties of The Executive Secretary)

He/She shall keep or supervise the keeping of all the financial records of the Church. He/She shall provide each member with quarterly statements of the contributions to the Church. He/She shall be responsible for keeping records of assets and liabilities, income and disbursements. He/She shall be in correspondence with the Church's Accountant and make available all financial records to the auditing service for annual audit.

Section 9. Duties of Presidents, Superintendents, Counselors, General Leader, Chairmen and Secretaries of Auxiliaries and committees shall be appointed by the Pastor. All programs and suggestions are to be submitted for Pastor's approval prior to implementation.

Amendment: Section 10. Any officer of the Church who does not support the Church with their presents (Tithes and Offerings) and their presence (attendance), or who does not give justifiable cause for failing to do so, shall be dismissed from the office that they are using and replaced as soon as a responsible member is selected or appointed to do so.

ARTICLE VI (Membership Meetings)

Section 1. The date of the regular Annual Membership Meeting of the Church for the purpose of appointing officers and staff members shall take place on or before the first (1st) Sunday in November. Those appointed at that meeting shall take office beginning the second (2nd) Sunday of November shall serve until the thirty-first (31st) day of October, unless otherwise designated by the Pastor. The Annual Membership Meeting for the purpose of making annual reports shall take place on or before the first (1st) Sunday in November.

Section 2. (Qualification)

Only those members who are in good and regular standing according to Article III Section 2, prior to the opening of the membership meeting, shall qualify to exercise the right and privilege of membership in participating in decision making regarding the purchase, sale or mortgaging of property. A majority of such members who are in good and regular standing, according to Article III Section 2, being present at any regular or called membership meeting, shall be sufficient to decide matters pertaining to the Church property. Where there is a called meeting, it shall be announced in at least three (3) consecutive Sunday Church worship meetings.

ARTICLE VII (Office of the Pastor)-Amended 11/6/11

Section 1. A Pastor-Elected by the Church is called and selected to serve for an indefinite period of time. The adoption of these By-Laws shall not in any way invalidate the call of the present Pastor of the Church. However, all other provisions of this section shall apply to the Pastor not in office. The Pastor's salary, or Love Offering and such other courtesies that customarily accompany the call to serve as Pastor, such as transportation of family and personal effects, housing facilities and payment of utilities and other gratitude, shall be determined at the time of the call. The salary or Love Offering of the Pastor shall be negotiated between the Official Staff of Management and the Pastor-Elect. The salary or Love Offering of the Pastor shall be paid at regular intervals per year, as set forth by the Staff of Management, after consultation with the Pastor. The Pastor shall be entitled to an annual vacation of at least two weeks after a full year of service, in which vacation shall be with full pay, and at least one month vacation, with full pay, each year thereafter. The time for the Pastor's vacation is to be selected by the Pastor.

Section 2. The Pastor shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the corporation and shall have all the duties, powers and privileges pertaining to that office, and as provided for under non-profit incorporation laws of the State of Texas.

Section 3. Then, because of death or resignation of the Pastor, the Pulpit shall be empty; the Church shall select a representative Pulpit Committee and Pulpit Committee Chairman which shall be composed of seven members. The committee shall consist of two (2) Deacons and two (2) Trustees selected by those respective staffs and three (3) other persons selected from the Church at large by the membership. This committee shall be constituted at a meeting called for that purpose by the Chairman of the Deacon Staff within thirty (30) days after the Pulpit becomes vacant. It shall be the duty of this committee to take necessary steps to secure a prospective Pastor within a period not to exceed three months, to be presented to the Church for consideration. The Committee shall investigate the merits of every man under consideration with respect to his personal salvation, his personal character, his call to the Gospel Ministry, his ministerial record and preaching ability in determining his fitness to serve as Pastor of The Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Incorporated of Houston, Texas. When, according to the findings of the committee, a suitable candidate has been discovered, the committee shall recommend him to the Official Staff of Management and if the said Official Staff of Management finds said person suitable, it shall then recommend him to the Church for its consideration.

Section 4. The calling of the Pastor shall be presented before the Church at a membership meeting called by the Official Staff of Management, of which notice shall have been read from the Pulpit to the Church on at least three successive Sundays next preceding its holding. The notice given shall give date, time, place and purpose of the meeting. At said meeting the first order of business shall be the reading of the report of the Official Staff of Management. It shall be the responsibility of the Official Staff of Management to secure a Pastor who knows the Church and is known by the Church to preside in the membership meeting at the time of election of a Pastor. The Pastor, who is to serve as Moderator, shall be notified by phone and mail. At this meeting, only one candidate shall be considered, which shall be the person selected by the Official Staff of Management. The vote of the majority of the members of the Church present and voting at the report of the Official Staff of Management, duly adopted, shall elect and call the Pastor. In the event that the majority of the members present and voting shall reject the recommendation of the Official Staff of Management, the Official Staff of Management shall retire and refer the matter to the Pulpit Committee to make further investigation until such time as it can present another candidate for Pastor. After three occasions upon which the Official Staff of Management shall have presented the name of a candidate who does not receive the majority vote of the members present and voting at the Church meeting, the Pulpit Committee shall be automatically dissolved and a committee composed of two (2) Deacons and two (2) Trustees and three (3) persons selected from the church-

at-large, designated as the Pulpit Committee, shall be selected, and they shall follow the procedure of recommending a person to be called as Pastor to the Church.

Amendment: Section 5. It is agreed that the Pastor-in-Office shall have the privilege to recommend his successor to the Congregation in the event that the Pastor decides to retire.

ARTICLE VIII (Meeting and Special Days)

Section 1. The Church shall have at least (1) regular called membership meeting each year.

Section 2. All auxiliaries shall meet weekly. Staff and committees shall meet as needed or necessary, as called by the Pastor or Chairman with Pastor's approval.

Section 3. The Pastor shall appoint any special days for observation to the Church, which he deems necessary for the good and welfare of the total membership. The Pastor shall designate those who are to serve as directors or leaders for such special occasions.

ARTICLE IX (Causes and Ministries)

Section 1. Definition

The Pastor shall be responsible for leading the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Incorporated in being aligned and holding membership in Local Association, State Convention, and National Convention. The causes supported by Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Incorporated shall be Home Mission, Foreign Mission, Benevolence, Transportation, Christian Education, Evangelism, and Scholarship Aid. These causes will be supported by Local, State, and National contributions to individuals, Churches, Associations, Boards, Conventions, and Non-Profit Organizations.

- (a) Home Mission shall be defined as aid to Churches and other Non-Profit Organizations.
- (b) Foreign Mission shall be defined as support of the Preaching of The Gospel and Missionaries on Foreign soils. Feeding, clothing, providing shelter, and medical aid are also a part of The Foreign Mission Ministry.
- (c) Benevolence shall be defined as help given to individuals (members and non-members), as the needs are made known and after investigation to determine our most appropriate aid.
- (d) Transportation shall be defined as our provision of auto vehicles for bringing and carrying members and prospects to and from worship and training sessions. (This is intended for members especially with no other means of transportation).
- (e) Christian Education shall be defined as teaching Christian principles and doctrines, as well as the purchase of Bibles, books and religious publications.

- (f) Evangelism shall be defined as the preaching of the Word of God, as well as the ministry of witnessing in the world and providing materials necessary for canvassing the community, such as religious census cards, tracts, mail, etc.
- (g) Scholarship Aid shall be given to young persons graduating from high school, upon the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee and Approval of The Pastor, (or to other persons meeting the same requirements). The Scholarship Aid shall be issued from The H.B. Sampson, Sr. Scholarship Fund of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Incorporated.

ARTICLE X (Finances)

Section 1. The annual budget of the Church shall be financed by regularly Tithes and pledged Offerings, as well as other special financial efforts determined by the Pastor and the Official Staff of Management.

Section 2. All Staffs and Auxiliaries of the Church

There will be only one General Treasurer. Staff, Committees and Auxiliaries will not have individual or separate treasuries.

ARTICLE XI (Rules of Order)

The Holy Bible shall govern the business proceedings of this Church in all cases, as interpreted and taught by the Pastor.

ARTICLE XII (Funerals and Weddings)-Amended 11/6/11

Section 1. Funerals

There will be no funerals on Sunday, for it is the day we celebrate Christ coming out of the grave, not going into the grave (Matthew 28:1-6). All funerals at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Incorporated will be officiated over by the Pastor or his appointee, and arrangements will be made for time with the Pastor. The designated committee will meet with the family for program.

Section 2. Weddings

Any member or non-member may make use of The Sanctuary and Memorial Building for Wedding and Reception, with proper contributions for workers involved. Arrangements will be made with Pastor, and Pastor or his appointee will officiate at all Weddings at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Incorporated. Non-members are expected to make contributions for the use of the buildings.

Amendment: Section 3. According to Genesis 2:18-24-[18] And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. [19] And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them; and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. [20] And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. [21] And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept; and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; [22] And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a women, and brought her unto the man. [23] And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my

flesh: she shall be called Women, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Amendment: Section 4. According to Romans 1:26-32-[26] For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: [27] And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. [28] And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; [29] Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, [30] Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, [31] Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: [32] Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Amendment: Section 5. According to the aforementioned scriptures, we shall not embrace, endorse, accept, nor promote "Same Sex Marriages," for we understand the Scriptures to teach that this is against the will of God and an abomination unto God and also unto us.

Amendment: ARTICLE XIII (Women Preachers)-Amended 11/6/11

Section 1. According to 1 Timothy 2:12-[12] But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. [13] For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

Women are not to teach men. By man, we will refer to any male person who has reached the age of puberty (the accepted age of 12 or beyond).

Section 2: According to Titus 2:3-4-[3] The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; [4] That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children. [5] To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

We shall not embrace, endorse, promote, or condone Women Preachers, or Women who refer to themselves as Preachers.

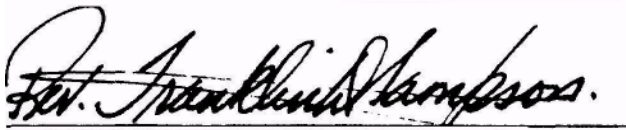
Section 3: We define preaching as "spoken communication with a view to persuasion." Preaching is authoritative or the exercise of authority. Whereas all preaching is teaching, all teaching is not preaching. According to the Bible, women are to teach other women, but not men. Because a Congregation is a mixed population of men and women, wherever there are men present, women are not to teach or "preach."

Amendment: ARTICLE XIV (Amendments)-Amended 11/6/11

These By-Laws may be amended at any regularly scheduled or called meeting of the Church by a majority of those present and voting members in good and regular standing according to Article III Section 2, provided that notice of such amendment stating the proposed change shall have been read from the Pulpit on three successive Sundays before the scheduled meeting.

Amendment: ARTICLE XV (Order of Business)-Amended 11/6/11

The order of business for regular meetings of the Church shall be designated by the Pastor or the moderator of the meeting. I certify and declare under penalty of perjury, that the above By-Laws were adopted on this 10th day of January, 1986 and amended on the 6th day of November, 2011.

Handwritten signature of Rev. Franklin D. Sampson in cursive script, written over a horizontal line.

Reverend Franklin D. Sampson, Pastor

Handwritten signature of Sister M. LaQueta Armstrong in cursive script, written over a horizontal line.

Sister M. LaQueta Armstrong, , Secretary of Correspondence and Publications