

BYLAWS

POPLAR SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH SHELBY, NORTH CAROLINA

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of preserving, propagating and making articulate the principles of our Faith, and to that end this body of believing Christians may be governed in an orderly manner, for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of the church, and in order to set forth the relationship of this body to other Baptist bodies, we do adopt and establish these Bylaws.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be Poplar Springs Baptist Church of Shelby, North Carolina.

ARTICLE II. MISSION STATEMENT

Poplar Springs Baptist Church exists as a group of Christian believers bound by the common call to share God's love and the plan of salvation in this community and around the world. In response to this call, our church will disciple all believers and provide learning and worship experiences in the warm spirit of Christian fellowship.

ARTICLE III. DOCTRINE

The Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the basis of our faith.

ARTICLE IV. CHURCH COVENANT

A covenant shall be approved by the church and maintained within the policy manual.

ARTICLE V. GOVERNMENT AND AFFILIATION

Section 1. This church is an autonomous body, congregational in nature with authority to determine for itself in the manner set forth in these

bylaws the use of its funds, property, and the establishment of all church policies.

Section 2. Association: This church declares its intention, as far as conscience will allow, to work in mutual cooperation with other Christian groups.

Section 3. Affiliation: This church is affiliated with the local Baptist Association.

Section 4. Cooperation: This church will decide, by policy, the various conventions and associations with whose aims and purposes it will be in friendly cooperation.

Section 5. Discontinuance of Affiliation and/or Cooperation. The calling of a church conference for the purpose of voting on withdrawal from affiliation from any convention and/or association will require that written notice be sent to each resident member of the church, stating the purpose and time of said conference. Action to withdraw must be carried by vote of a not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting.

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Requirements: The membership of this church shall be composed of persons who have given evidence of regeneration by the spirit of God, who have been baptized, who have subscribed to the bylaws and policies of this church, and who have been received into membership by vote of the church.

Section 2. Baptism: A policy on baptism for new Christians shall be maintained in the policy manual.

Section 3. Means of Reception: A policy on reception into membership of this church shall be maintained in the policy manual.

Section 4. Termination of Membership: A policy on termination of membership shall be maintained in the policy manual.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS

Section 1. The church shall set by policy the time and schedule of all meetings of the church, which shall include but not be limited to,

worship, observation of the Lord's Supper, and business conferences.

Section 2. Business Meetings: Church policy shall require at least one annual meeting on a Sunday morning in September, in recognition of the anniversary of the founding of Poplar Springs Baptist Church, which occurred on September 21, 1898.

Section 3. Voting: On all matters except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, matters of business shall be decided by a majority of those members present and voting. Voting by absentee ballot or by proxy is not permitted.

Section 4. Moderator: The moderator shall preside over church business meetings. Church policy shall identify the church official who shall assume duties in the absence of the moderator.

Section 5. Procedure: Robert's Rules of Order, shall be a general guide for the conduct of all business meetings of the church, except that the moderator may, absent objection or with the consent of the majority, deviate from such rules in the interests of efficiency, Christian fellowship and justice.

ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS

Section 1. The principal officers of this church shall be a pastor, other ministerial leadership as needed, deacons, and such other officers as shall be required to do the work of the church.

Section 2. The duties and terms for all officers shall be specified by church policy.

Section 3. Call of Pastor: A procedure for the call of a pastor and all other ministers, as well as separation of employment procedures, shall be specified in the policy manual.

Section 4. Duties of Pastor: The duties of the pastor shall be specified in the policy manual.

Section 5. Deacons: The Deacons shall serve as the Board of Directors of the corporation, having only such specific powers as are granted to them. They shall have no power, except as expressly authorized by the congregation, to amend bylaws, adopt budgets, elect or dismiss officers, bind the corporation to any contract or other legal obligation, acquire, encumber or convey any interest in real

property, or take any action affecting the rights of members. (Note: This section was amended 14 July 2019)

Section 6. Corporate Officer: The deacons shall select their own chairman. The chairman shall serve, whenever required by law or practice, as the President of the corporation, having however only such powers as are expressly granted by the congregation. The President shall have no powers, absent authorization by the church, to act on behalf of the church in any manner.

Section 7. Duties of Deacons. The duties and responsibilities of the deacons, the method of selection, and the term of office shall be specified by church policy.

Section 8. Clerk: The duties and responsibilities of the church clerk, the method of selection, and the term of office shall be specified by church policy.

Section 9. Moderator: The duties and responsibilities of the moderator (in addition to that identified in Article VII, Section 4), the method of selection, and the term of office shall be specified by church policy.

ARTICLE IX. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Church Council shall assure the maintenance of a Policies and Procedures Manual.

ARTICLE X. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended, altered or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular business meeting of the church, provided, however, that notice and proposal of such amendment, alteration or repeal has been given in writing at the preceding regular business meeting of the church.

ARTICLE XI. – PRESERVATION AND MAINTENANCE

The church clerk shall keep a copy of these Bylaws at all times among the records of the church. Another current copy shall be kept in the church office. The church clerk shall have the responsibility to ensure that the copies are kept current.

Clerk's Note:

- These Bylaws were approved by Poplar Springs Baptist Church on March 11, 2018.
- Article III was amended on November 13, 2022.