

GLENOLA BAPTIST CHURCH
Constitution and By-Laws
Published 10/07/2023

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of preserving and making secure the principles of our faith and to the end that this body be governed in an orderly manner, consistent with the accepted tenets of a Missionary Baptist Church as taught in the New Testament; likewise aiming to establish ourselves in Christ, and Bible-centered loyalty; at the same time enjoying the maximum harmony in all local church endeavors and business procedures; do hereby adopt and set in operation this Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE I.
NAME

This body shall be known as the Glenola Baptist Church, 8330 US Hwy 311 South, Archdale, North Carolina.

ARTICLE II.
DEFINITION

For the purposes of clarification in principle and operation, our church shall adhere to the view, that “a church is a company of believers, baptized on a credible confession of faith; having New Testament officers of pastor and deacons; perpetuating the ordinances; self-governing in polity; voluntarily banded together for worship, fellowship, work and the world-wide proclamation of the Gospel.”

ARTICLE III.
MODE OF GOVERNMENT

While considering fraternal and associational relations with other churches of like faith highly desirable and mutually practical, this church shall be in respect to all its affairs self-governing. This shall apply not only to minor matters but to all property, calling the pastor, ordaining men, and support of missions, etc.

ARTICLE IV.
DOCTRINE

It shall be understood that ministry or membership in this church means embracing and supporting, along with other Christian tenets, equally or comparable vital, these doctrinal emphases. The divine inspiration, supremacy, and authority of the Scriptures; the Deity and

Humanity, virgin birth and sinless life, substitutionary death and bodily resurrections, ascension and premillennial coming of Christ; likewise the sovereignty of God; the total depravity of all men; the necessity of regeneration; scriptural believer's baptism as pre-requisite to church membership; the lord's Supper administered by the local church as an autonomous body, separated from the world; the doctrine of the Trinity as historically and Scripturally maintained; the rapture of the church as the Christian hope; the resurrection of the body of Christians concurrent with the rapture; the earth wide reign of Christ; and ultimate judgment of the impenitent; a heaven of eternal duration for the saved, and enteral punishment in a place named "hell" for the lost.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP AND DISCIPLINE

Section 1. The membership of this church shall be composed of persons who have given evidence of regeneration, who have been baptized by immersion, who have subscribed to the doctrines and the practices set forth in this Constitution of this church. They shall be received into the church by formal vote.

Section 2. A member of another Baptist church of like faith and order may be received by vote of the church upon a letter of dismissal from that church.

Section 3. Anyone who has been a member of a Baptist church, and in consequence of peculiar circumstances has no regular letter of dismissal, may be received into our fellowship upon statement of faith, that is satisfactory to the church.

Section 4. Letters of dismissal may be granted to any church of like faith and order for members in good standing. When letters are granted, membership in this church will terminate.

Section 5. When a member of this church joins a church of different faith and order the deacons shall have the power to erase his name from the roll.

Section 6: Discipline:

Section 6. Sub. Section A
Basis

This church shall regard as grounds for discipline, infractions respecting the following matters: church attendance, financial support, heresy, divisive practices, personal slander, and conduct.

- (1) Continuous absence from the general services of the church for twelve consecutive months, when able to attend.
- (2) Failure to contribute financial support to the church for twelve consecutive months when able to support the church.
- (3) Propagation of heresy. Titus 3: 10.
- (4) Causing or abetting factions. Romans 16:17
- (5) Personal slander of pastor or fellow members. James 3.
- (6) Conduct unbecoming a Christian.

Section 6. Sub. Section B.
Action to be taken in case of discipline.

The Committee on discipline shall examine each case prayerfully with due regard for extenuating circumstances and shall recommend one of three kinds of action.

- (1) Restoration.
- (2) Suspension of church privileges.
- (3) Dis-fellowship or exclusion.

The accused shall have a right to appear before the Committee on discipline with or without witnesses from Glenola Baptist Church, and likewise to appear before the church at the time when action is taken with or without witnesses from Glenola Baptist Church. A notice period of at least one-week shall be allowed prior to action to exclude.

Section 7. In considering the rights involved, members and members only, may act and vote in the transactions of the church.

**ARTICLE VI.
MEETINGS**

Section 1. This church shall hold regular meetings for worship, teaching, training, and fellowship.

Section 2. This church shall hold regular business meetings at which time the material and spiritual conditions of the church will be discussed, and plans projected for progress in Church endeavors.

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.
CHURCH OFFICERS**

Section 1. Officers: The officers of this church shall be pastor, deacons, trustees, clerk and treasurer, and such other officers as shall be required for the work of the church in any of its departments and organizations. All of these shall be elected by the church and shall be members in good standing. All of these shall subscribe to the doctrinal emphasis in the Constitution and By-laws.

Section 2: Election and Duties

PASTOR

Whenever a vacancy occurs, a pastor shall be called by the church to serve until the relationship is dissolved at the request of either the pastor or the church. In either case, at least a (90) ninety days' notice shall be given of termination of the relationship, unless otherwise mutually agreed, with both pastor and the church seeking to follow the will of God and the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

The call of the pastor shall take place at a meeting especially set for that purpose of which at least one-weeks' notice has been given the membership at a regular Sunday morning service. The election shall be upon recommendation of a special committee appointed to seek out and to nominate a pastor a minister of the Gospel whose Christian character and qualification fit him for the office of pastor of this church. The Committee shall bring only one name at a time for consideration of the church, and no nomination shall be made except that of the committee, until the nomination by the Committee has been voted on. It shall be considered highly preferable that the recommendations of the committee shall be the only valid ones. Election shall be by ballot with the affirmative vote of two-thirds of those present and voting necessary for a call. Should the one recommended by the committee fail to receive two thirds vote, the Committee will be instructed to seek out another minister, and the meeting shall be adjourned without debate. The Committee on calling the pastor shall consist of not less than five persons selected with a view to representing the entire membership and interests of the church.

The pastor shall have in charge the welfare and oversight of the church; he shall be ex-officio member of all organizations, departments and committees; he may call a special meeting of the deacons or any committee, or a business meeting of the church at any time he deems it wise to do so, he shall conduct religious services on stated and special occasions, administer the ordinances, minister to the members of the church, and perform other duties that usually pertain to that office; he shall have special charge of the pulpit ministry of the church and shall provide for pulpit supply when he is absent. He shall arrange for workers to assist in revival meetings and other special services. He shall be the administrative head of the church and shall arrange and approve all absences and vacation of the church employees.

All ordained ministers or pastors shall adhere to the following rules.

1. The Baptist Church rejects the cultural, political, and theological pressures to change the definition of marriage as being between ONE MAN & ONE WOMAN. We affirm this.
2. Baptist ministers, whether an ordained minister, or ordained pastor, shall only perform or participate in marriage ceremony or marriage blessings between ONE MAN & ONE WOMAN, as marriage is defined in the Bible. This policy also is applicable to Baptist ministers who serve in capacities outside the scope of normal pastoring, such as military, hospitals and corporate chaplains.
3. Local Baptist churches and the local Baptist ministers who serve them shall only hold, provide facilities for, conduct, or preside over weddings, receptions, and anniversaries (and all other gatherings related to wedding receptions and anniversaries) that celebrate marriage or blessings between ONE MAN and ONE WOMAN, as marriage is defined in The Bible.

4. Ministers shall maintain a Christ-like attitude of love, mercy, and grace when counseling or otherwise dealing with individuals in same-gender relationships. A Christ-like spirit will maintain the truth of God's Word, the policies of the church and avoid inappropriate remarks or attitudes that do not reflect the Holy Spirit.
5. Ministers shall seek to find godly counselors to whom they can refer individuals in same-gender relationships for additional ministry and guidance.
6. Failure of ministers to adhere to these biblically based guidelines will result in forfeiture of ministerial credentials.

DEACONS

There shall be at least three deacons for the first 100 members of the church and three additional deacons for the second 100 members, and then as many other deacons as the church may require. These shall be elected from among those members who have proven themselves to have scriptural qualifications, as laid down in 1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6. Deacons shall be elected for the terms of two and three years with at least one third of the number being elected every two years. After the completion of a full two-year term, no deacon shall be eligible for re-election until after the lapse of one year.

A person must have been a member of the church for a minimum of 2 years before serving as Deacon and or serving in a decision-making capacity such as trustee, nominating committee, building and grounds committee, budget committee, and treasurer, and a minimum of 1 year for other offices and committees at the discretion of the nominating committee.

Whenever deacons are to be elected, the names of all eligible nominees shall be placed on a ballot; and the church will then proceed to elect the required number from this list. The deacons will elect annually their chairman.

Deacons shall at all times consider themselves as servants of the church. It shall be the duties of the deacons to engage actively in all spiritual work of the church; to seek out such members as need assistance where there is need for relief, and to visit the sick. 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 work and progress. They, together with the pastor constitute the Committee on discipline. They are to establish and maintain fraternal relations with all members of the church, assisting the pastor in the observance of the ordinances; having general oversight over the upkeep, repair, and use of the church property; and supervising the financial program of the church. They shall arrange for regular meetings and such committees as are necessary to the discharge of their duties. The pastor shall call the deacons into special session whenever need for such arises. Whenever the church is without a pastor the chairman of the deacons may call special sessions.

TRUSTEES

The church shall elect at least three members to serve as Trustees. Their term of office shall be for three years with one-third of the number elected each year. Vacancies may be filled at any

time with the one elected filling out the unexpired term of the one whose vacancy is being filled. Having served as a trustee during a previous term will not disqualify a member for re-election.

The trustees shall represent the church in strict accordance with directives from the church in the execution of all matters. They shall have no power to buy, to sell, improve or transfer property or mortgage church property without the majority 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. They shall execute all legal papers relating to the church and to the community as the church may direct and shall represent the church in all matters of legal responsibility regarding the purchase, improvement, and disposal of church property as directed by the church.

CLERK

The clerk shall be elected annually. It shall be their duty 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 notify all officers, members of committees and messengers of their election or appointment. They shall issue letters of dismissal as authorized by the church, preserve all papers and valuable letters and records that belong to the church, and preserve a true history of the church. It shall also be the duty of the clerk to see that an accurate roll of the church membership is kept with the dates and methods of admission and dismissal, change in name, correct mailing address and other pertinent information. The clerk upon termination of their service shall release all records and church property in their possession to this church.

TREASURER

The treasurer shall be elected annually. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive, keep in the bank, and disburse by check upon proper authority all money or things of value that are given to the church, and keep at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements; rendering regular account to the church to be preserved by the church clerk. The treasurer's books shall be audited as arranged by the church and all books, records and accounts kept by them shall be considered the property of the church. The treasurer shall upon invitation meet with the deacons and shall be ex-officio member of the Budget Committee.

ARTICLE VIII. PROPERTY

Section 1. Definition and Scope. The property shall be understood to include all land, buildings, furniture and equipment, bonds, bequests, money on deposit in the bank, or church money in possession of church representatives though it is not deposited in the bank, or invested, etc. It shall likewise include all physical assets acquired by the church at a later date.

Section 2. The Power. The powers to acquire, to control, to retain, sell, to lease or mortgage property shall rest solely in the hands of the majority of the members of the Glenola Baptist Church. Extensive improvements, transfer, lease, or sale of church property shall be in violation of this Constitution except when authorized by a majority vote of the members present

and voting at a business meeting of the church called for such action. The said action being after due publicity for at least one Sunday prior to said meeting.

ARTICLE IX. MISSIONS

Section 1. This church shall be in the New Testament sense, missionary. In fulfilling this crowing goal, utmost regard shall be shown for the “Doctrinal Emphasis.” Neither the church nor any auxiliary groups shall lend financial aid to fields or missionaries’ not in accord with our doctrinal platform.

Section 2. The Committee on Missions shall be composed of the following personnel:

- A. Ex-officio: The Pastor, Chairman of the Deacons, Chairman of the Budget Committee.
- B. Elected: Three Women from the W.O.M. nominated by the W.O.M., one man and one woman at large, also elected by the church.

ARTICLE X. GENERAL

Section 1. License: When a member announces to the church that he feels the call of God to the ministry, the church, by majority vote, may license him as an acknowledgement 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 or license as his credentials. 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 as been requested to ordain a member who has been called as a pastor of a Baptist Church or as a Baptist Evangelist the following procedure shall be followed. The church will express its approval by the vote of a majority of the members present at any regular business meeting of the church. Then the church shall invite a Council of ordained Baptist preachers to examine the candidate concerning his fitness for the ministry. The pastor of this church will sit in on the examination of the candidate. If the report of the Council is favorable the church shall proceed with the ordination.

ARTICLE XI. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution shall be considered adopted and in immediate affect if and when two-thirds of the members present at the business meeting at church vote is taken shall vote in favor of same. This vote shall be taken not less than (7) seven days after formal presentation of the Constitution and By-laws to the Church.

Section 2. This Constitution 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 such amendments, alteration, or repeal must be given to the clerk in writing; and this proposed change

shall be presented to the church at least thirty days prior to the time the vote is taken. It is understood there shall be no alterations or amendments to those provisions of the constitution having to do with doctrine or the ownership, control or disposition of the physical properties and assets of Glenola Baptist Church.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. MEETINGS

Section 1. The regular worship services of the church shall be held on Sundays and Wednesday evenings, unless otherwise agreed upon by the church. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at least once a quarter at a time approved by the church. The annual meeting for election of officers shall be held during the month of September, with exception of Sunday School Director and Discipleship Training Director. These shall be presented to the church by the Nominating Committee the first Sunday after their first meeting.

Section 2. The church shall hold regular business meetings monthly. Special business meetings may be called by the pastor at such time as they are needed. The pastor shall serve as Moderator of the business meeting of the church. Upon his request the Chairman of the Deacons may serve as Moderator.

ARTICLE II OTHER CHURCH OFFICERS

Section 1. Sunday School Director: The Director of the Sunday School shall have general oversight of the entire school and shall administer its affairs according to the plans and methods approved by the church. He shall be elected annually.

Section 2. Discipleship Training Director: The Discipleship Training Director shall have charge of the activities of the Church Training. They shall administer its affairs and programs according to the plans and methods approved by the church. They shall be elected annually.

Section 3. The Director of the Women on Mission: The Director of the W.O.M. shall seek to enlist all the women of the church in a program of missions, training, giving and activity according to the missionary program promoted by this church. She shall be elected annually.

Section 4. Music Director: The Music Director shall be responsible for providing worshipful music at all services. He is to direct the choir, or choirs, in practice and public singing and is to cooperate with the pastor in the selection of suitable music, and the devising of appropriate musical programs for all occasions where services are needed.

Section 5. Pianist-Organist: The Pianist-Organist shall play for all public services and shall assist the music director in a suitable program of music for the church.

Section 6. Assistants: The duties of the assistants to the above-named officers shall be to aid them in their work, and to act in their offices when they are absent or as they are directed to do so by the church.

Section 7. It is understood that the above-named officers shall be members of this church in good standing.

ARTICLE III. STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Number of Committees: The church shall elect such standing committees as may be deemed necessary to carry on the various phases of the church efficiently and effectively.

Section 2. Personnel of these Committees: The Personnel serving on these Committees shall be members of this church in good standing.

Section 3. Election of the Committees: The Nominating Committee shall nominate to the church in its annual business meeting persons to serve for the succeeding year on the standing committees, except the Nominating Committee. The church will then elect the personnel of the standing committees. The personnel will be elected annually. The members of the Nominating Committee will be appointed by the Moderator, or nominated by the deacons, at least two months prior to the annual business meeting in September. Upon their election by the church the Sunday School Director and Discipleship Training Director shall automatically become members of the Nominating Committee.

Section 4. Duties of the Committees.

- A. Nominating Committee: This Committee shall consist of at least five persons plus the Sunday School Director and Discipleship Training Director. Throughout the year, this committee shall have the responsibility of nominating to the church persons to serve in the various capacities and positions of the church and its organizations, and on standing and special committees, vacated from time to time, by removal, death, expiration of term or office, or failure to function. The report of the committee shall be suggestive to the church, and any member of the church that is eligible will have the privilege of nominating from the floor.
- B. Budget Committee: This committee shall be composed of at least seven members and shall be composed of persons selected from the membership by the deacons and pastor. In any event at least two (2) of the active deacons will serve on this committee. This committee shall prepare annually a proposed budget including expenses, education, missions, and benevolences, and shall submit the same to the church in the regular business meeting at least one month prior to the beginning of the church year.
- C. Finance Committee: This committee shall be composed of not less than three (3) members. It shall be the duty of this committee to give attention to finances needed to

carry out the annual budget of the church. The committee shall conduct all special fund-raising drives approved by the church.

- D. Building Committee: This committee shall be composed of not less than three (3) members. It shall be the duty of this committee to give attention and study to the condition and state of repair and appearance of the buildings and grounds including all property owned by the church. They shall make such repairs and improvements authorized by the church and included in the church budget. All matters of major repair or improvement and major items of equipment shall be referred to the deacons for recommendation to the church.

The chairman of this committee will also be responsible for the work of contractors on any new buildings or repair work on old buildings. The church will instruct him in these matters, and then empower him to work with the contractors as he deems wise and necessary for the general welfare of the church.

The building committee may recommend to the nominating committee the housekeeper and groundskeeper who will be contracted by the church at the annual business meeting. It shall be the housekeeper's duty to so care for the physical plant as to contribute helpfully to the comfort and well being of the members at all services. He shall see to the cleanliness, ventilation, and upkeep of the building. The groundskeeper shall see that the grounds including the cemetery are kept in such a way as to be in keeping with what would be expected of God's house.

- E. Cemetery Committee: This committee is to be composed of not less than five (5) members. It shall be the duty of this committee to look after the appearance and upkeep of the cemetery. This committee shall be allowed to have its own treasurer, who will receive and disburse all funds received by him (or her) from individuals or groups for the upkeep of the cemetery. (The cost of mowing the cemetery is included in the groundkeeper's contract and is paid by the church through the church treasury.) The money received by the Cemetery treasurer shall be used to improve the appearance of the cemetery, such as grading, sowing of grass, making off lots, etc.

Section 5. Other Standing Committees: Other standing committees shall be elected as desired by the church and shall serve for the purpose designated. Duties of all committees desired by the church shall be defined and adopted as part of the By-laws.

ARTICLE IV. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Special Committees shall be elected for specific obligations as desired by the church. These committees shall be elected by the church upon the recommendation of the nominating committee, or from a nomination made from the floor, or appointed by the Moderator as the church may desire.

**ARTICLE V.
AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS**

Section 1. All auxiliary organizations using the church name, property of influence shall not be formed without the knowledge and consent of the church. These said groups shall fully subscribe to and share the doctrinal view in this document.

Section 2. All projects to raise funds by any group in the church must be approved by the church, provided that the church name is used.

**ARTICLE VI.
VOTING PRIVILEGES**

Section 1. No person under disciplinary suspension shall be permitted to vote.

Section 2. No member in good standing will be denied the right to vote on any question that may arise.

**ARTICLE VII.
AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. These By-laws shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when a majority of the members present at the business meeting at which vote is taken shall vote in favor of same.

Section 2. Amendments to the By-laws shall be made as for the Constitution except that the notice period shall be seven (7) days, and the proposed amendment shall be read in at least one regular business meeting.

**ARTICLE VIII.
ADOPTION**

Section 1. The adoption of this Constitution and By-laws shall affect a repeal of previously adopted rules in conflict herewith.

Section 2. A copy of this Constitution and By-laws shall at all times be kept by the clerk among his records and another copy shall be kept in the office of the church, and all amendments to or revisions thereof shall after passage by the church, be prepared by the clerk and posted or fastened in the copies of the Constitution and By-laws and available to the church members generally upon request.

**ADDENDUM NUMBER ONE
RULES OF ORDER**

For the conduct of Church Business Meetings, we hereby adopt and will abide by Kerfoot's Parliamentary Law as to rules of order.

ADDENDUM NUMBER TWO
NEW CONSTITUTION AND RULES FOR GOVERNING CEMETERY

- I. Cemetery on the west side of Highway 311 can be used for community people who desire to be buried there, if not a member of Glenola Baptist Church, there will be a fee of \$500.00 for each grave. (Except in extreme hardship cases, fee can be relieved by a vote of the church.) There is no fee to church members. All monies collected will be deposited in the cemetery fund.
 - A. Additional graves may be reserved, where one husband or wife is already buried (\$500.00 each grave).
- II. Cemetery on east side of Highway 311, next to church is for members of Glenola Baptist Church; no person can be buried there except the companion of one who is already buried there. This is (husband or wife) and a fee of \$250.00 to be paid if not a member of the church.
 - A. Lots cannot be reserved in this cemetery, they are given to members at death, and lots are reserved for a family member's husband/wife that may desire to be buried there. (No fee for members of church.)
 - B. The family of the deceased is to meet with the committee to select a burial site. The committee requests that a headstone is placed on the grave within one year of death.
- III. Cemetery fund to be established to help keep cemetery looking good. The Chairman of the Cemetery Committee is to have authority to appoint treasurer and to keep funds and disburse funds for the upkeep of cemetery according to committee recommendations.
- IV. The Chairman of the Committee is to keep a record of deceased.
- V. The church voted to ask that all graves be leveled, and footstones be even with the ground, and all future graves be leveled, and the footstones be even with ground. Also, that all fences and stobs be removed from graveyard.
- VI. Church voted that the last paragraph of Section 4-E be removed from constitution and all rules governing cemetery begin this date, 1966 which reads as (all previous rules governing the cemetery since November 1952 shall continue in effect and shall be considered a part of those by-laws).
- VII. Church voted to amend the rules pertaining to the cemetery that are former member of this church and their mates who have gone into fulltime Christian service and so remains in fulltime service til death will have the same right and privilege as a member of this church.