

STATUTE OF THE BRAZILIAN BAPTIST CHURCH

CHAPTER I DENOMINATION, HEADQUARTERS AND OBJECTIVES

Article I - Brazilian Baptist Church, henceforth denominated Church, is a civil entity of religious character, non-profit organization, founded on April, 1997, constituted of an unlimited number of members, regardless of sex, nationality, race or social status with its headquarters situated in Elk Grove village, Illinois.

Article 2 - The church recognizes Jesus Christ as its only Head with regards to faith, discipline, conduct and govern; it follows the Holy Scriptures and adopts the Confession of Faith of the Baptist General Conference.

Article 3- The objectives of the church:

- a) To worship God, to study the Holy Scriptures and proclaim the message of the gospel;
- b) To promote, by all means available to it, the extension of the kingdom of God on earth;
- c) To maintain institutions that have spiritual and cultural objectives;
- d) To provide social assistance to its members and, if possible, to others in need,
- e) To cultivate the fraternity and cooperation with churches of the same faith and order and with other evangelical denominations.

CHAPTER II MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

Article 4- Members of the Church:

- a) Persons that testify a personal experience of regeneration by faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, making a public profession of faith and being biblically baptized;
- b) Persons that, having been members of other churches of the same faith and order, accepted by means of a transfer letter;
- c) Those that are admitted by way of reconciliation, declaration, and testimony, at the discretion of the church.

Article 5 - Any person that desires to be a member of the Church will be presented to the officially called Church business meeting.

Paragraph 1 - In the event of any objection to the admittance of any new member, the matter will be brought up before a special commission that will examine the origin of the reasons brought up for its non admission.

Paragraph 2 - This special commission will give its opinion on the following meeting of the officially called Church business meeting, that will decide the validity or non validity of the reasons presented.

Paragraph 3 - In case the membership judges the nature of reasons non-valid, the candidate will be admitted; otherwise, his or her admission will be refused.

Article 6 - Rights of the members of the Church:

- a) To participate in its activities;
- b) To receive its assistance;
- c) To appeal to the Church in defense of his /her ecclesiastical rights, being these personal or of others, as they are determined in these statutes.

Article 7 - Duties of the members of the Church:

- a) To conduct himself or herself in accord with the precepts of the Holy Scriptures in his or her private and public life;
- b) To cooperate, by all means, in order to successfully accomplish the program set up by the Church;
- c) To respect and abide by the Constitution of the Church.

Article 8 -The members of the Church are subject to admonition, discipline, dismissal, measures that will take into effect by the membership, by means of votes by the majority;

- a) When he or she does not proceed in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Scriptures;
- b) When, he or she, in any way, disturbs the worship service, promote the discredit of the church, or do not accepts the doctrinal teachings of the Church;
- c) When, he or she abandons the Church services and leaves its communion.

Paragraph 1 - The discipline and dismissal could also occur by written or verbal request of that interested party.

Article 9 - The members, when they are disciplined or dismembered, loose all their rights and privileges.

CHAPTER III BUSINESS MEETING

Article 10 - The officially called Church business meeting is constituted by all its members and its power is sovereign.

Paragraph 1 - The decision and deliberations of the membership cannot be altered or cancelled other than by its own consent.

Article 11 - The Membership will fix the numbers and dates for its monthly meetings, being able to realize extraordinary meetings as many as necessary.

Paragraph 1 - These extraordinary meetings will only be realized when they are called for *a priori*, with a minimum of eight days notice.

Paragraph 2 - The subject in these meetings will only be those for which it was called for.

Article 12 - The meetings of the Membership will only be valid if these are conducted in the Church's normal worship setting.

Article 13 - The Membership will be able to deliberate with one third of its church members, except:

- a) To the hiring or the dismissal of the Pastor or to judge any serious accusation that has been made against him;
- b) To judge any accusation to the Board of Directors or to the deacons;
- c) To decide about any rebellion;
- d) To deliberate about the sale of the Real Estate.

Paragraph 2 - Concerning letters "a," "b" "c" and "d" of this article, the *quorum* will 80% of the church members.

Article 14 - It is within the scope of the Membership:

- a) To elect or dismiss the Pastor, the deacons, the Board of Directors of the church and the departmental directors;
- b) To approve the annual budget;

- c) To decide matters concerning the Pastor, the Board of Directors, and any other member of the church;
- d) To admit, admonish and dismiss members;
- e) To ratify the election of the leaders of any organization of the church;
- f) To elect delegates to Convention of churches and other institutions;
- g) To authorize the sale, purchase or management of property and Real Estate;
- h) To approve items in the Policy and Procedure Manual that will make arrangements about the activities not disciplined by the Constitution.

Article 15- The officially called Church business meetings will be regulated by *Robert's Rules of Order Revised*.

Article 16 - To assist the officially called Church business meetings there will be an auditor and a parliamentarian.

CHAPTER IV ADMINISTRATION

Article 17 - The administration of business and assets of the church will be exercised by a Board of Directory composed of: President, two Vice - presidents, two secretaries and two Treasurers.

Paragraph 1 -The Treasurers will have to be chosen from the Board of Deacons.

Article 18 - The term of the Board of Directors is annual, with the exception of the President, that will be for an unlimited time, being exercised by the Pastor of the church, provided he serves well; such evaluation is to be done by the membership.

Paragraph 1- In the absence of any elected officer, a substitute may be elected by the membership to fulfill his term.

Article 19 - The Board of Directors:

- a) Will fulfill and execute this constitution;
- b) Manage the church in conformity with its goals and objectives and its legislation in effect, being able to admit and dismiss employees and practice acts determined by the church, in conformity with line "d" of Article 13;
- c) Will plan and coordinate, through the action of the leadership counsel, that which direct, the general activities of the church, by means of an action plan and a calendar

of activities annually fixed, as well as periodical meetings, keeping in mind the accomplishment of the projects and the carrying out of its objectives.

Paragraph 1 - The Board of Directors will always meet as the need and the interest of the church arises, being summoned by the President and, on his absence or impossibility, in case of urgent matters, by one of the two Vice-presidents in charge.

Paragraph 2 - The deacons and Departmental directors will take part of the meetings, as advisors of the church's board of directors.

Article 20 - The duties and attributes of the President are:

- a) perform the functions that the New Testament establishes for pastors;
- b) represent the church inside and outside of it;
- c) Summons and preside over Church business meetings;
- d) Summons meetings for the Board of Directors and other auxiliary departments;
- e) Exercise a quality vote;
- f) Sign the registry of the church's Assembly, after these are approved, and, also, other documents;
- g) Sign, along with the first treasurer, checks for expenditures;
- h) Sign, along with the first treasurer, the monthly balance sheet and also the annual budget of the church;
- i) Sign, along with the first treasurer and the first secretary, documents of purchase and of sale and any other document that might change the assets of the church, always along the terms of this constitution;
- j) Superintend the whole administration of the church;
- k) Give account to the Membership concerning his activity, periodically, as requested by it;
- l) Make sure that this statute is carried out, oversee the Policy and Procedure and the Church's decisions on various other different matters.

Article 21 - It is the responsibility of the Vice -presidents, to substitute for the president in all of his occasional or temporary responsibilities except for functions referred to by line "a" on article 20. For the exercise of these functions, the officially called Church business meeting will be responsible for the designation of a substitute.

Paragraph 1 - Concerning an emergency, the actual president will make this designation.

Article 22 - The duties and assignments of the First Secretary:

- a) Draw up the registry of the assembly in a separate book, sign it and present it to be approved on the following Assembly, or in accordance with the church's decision;
- b) Sign with the president and the first treasurer, documents for the acquisition and sale of property;
- c) To maintain the enrolment of members up to date, expediting and receiving transfer letters, making record of the entrance and withdrawal of members;
- d) To maintain up to date the archives of documents and appendages to the assemblies;
- e) Maintain up to date and safeguard the registry books, titles, and ownership documents, marriage registry, presence, and others, that are safeguarded on the church properties.

Paragraph 1 - The assignments of "c" and "d" on Article 22 could possibly be fulfilled by the secretary assistants, designated and remunerated by the church.

Article 23 - It is the responsibility of the second secretary to substitute for the first secretary in his or her absence or impediments and to help him or her in the exercise of his or her functions.

Article 24 - It is the responsibility and assignment of the first treasurer:

- a) To receive, account for, make record of the receipts and expenses of the church, presenting on monthly and annual financial reports;
- b) To open, make movement, signing along with the president close banking accounts in the name of the church;
- c) Sign with the president checks for the expenditure of funds;
- d) To deposit the financial resources of the church in the financial institution authorized by the board of directors;
- e) Make payments authorized by the church;
- f) Sign with the president and the first secretary the documents for the acquisition, sale, or rental of property.

Article 25 - It is the responsibility of the second treasurer to help the first treasurer on his or her work assignment and to substitute him or her when necessary.

Article 26 - The composition, the duties and assignments of the different departments within the church and its directors will be outlined in the *Policy and Procedure*.

Article 27- No member of the Board of Directors, in this capacity, will receive any form of remuneration.

Paragraph 1- The member of the church that is remunerated, be it any title, will not be eligible to a position of charge in the Board of Directors.

Article 28 - The President also will not receive any remuneration for his office. As a pastor, the church's leader, and in the exercise of his ministry, will receive the financial support from the church, including reimbursement for expenses necessary for the development of his duties.

CHAPTER V AUXILIARY BODIES OF THE ADMINISTRATION

Article 29 - These are the auxiliary bodies of the administration of the church:

- I Counsel of deacons
- II Leadership Counsel
- III Technical Assistance
- IV Financial Counsel

Paragraph 1 - The organization, the duties and attributes of the auxiliary bodies of the administration that are made necessary, will be outlined in the *Policy and Procedure*.

Paragraph 2 - The Membership will be able to create other auxiliary bodies of the administration that are made necessary.

CHAPTER VI ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR, ASSETS AND BUDGET

Article 30 - The ecclesiastical year starts January 1 and ends December 31 the same civil year.

Paragraph 1 - The election and term of the Board of Directors and the leadership of the church, will coincide with the ecclesiastical year, will remain in charge until December 31.

Article 31 - The assets of the church consists of movable goods, Real Estate, etc. . . . and these all come about from:

- a) Voluntary tithe, offerings and other contributions from the members;
- b) Donations and bequests, titles and other rentals, as long as the origin of such items are compatible with the nature of the church.

Article 32 - The financial resources of the church will be used for the promotion of the Kingdom of God.

Article 33 - The church will have a budget approved by the officially called Church business meeting, having been approved by the administration.

Paragraph 1 - The financial report will coincide with the ecclesiastical year.

Paragraph 2 - Any expense that is outside the budget beyond \$500 will have to be submitted to the Membership, through analysis by the financial Counsel, except in the case of verifiable urgency, when the approval will be made *a posteriori*

Paragraph 3 - Semi-annually the officially called Church business meeting will review the validity of the proposed budget.

CHAPTER VII CHURCH'S DISSOLUTION

Article 34 -The church will only be able to dissolve by a vote of 80% of its members at a properly convened assembly. The summonses are to be made through the denominational press, with 30 days precedence, expressly to this end.

Paragraph 1 - In case of dissolution, the goods owned by the church, respecting the rights of Third parties will pass to the Midwest Baptist Conference.

Article 35 - In the case of doctrinal divergence, with discord among the members of the church, The assets and the name Brazilian Baptist Church will stay with the group faithful to the Confession of Faith adopted by the church. The referred destination of the assets and of the name will be maintained, although the faithful will be the minority.

Paragraph 1 - Occurring the hypothesis of this article, the matter in question will be decided by the Executive Board of the Midwest Baptist Conference. This decision is final and binding.

CHAPTER VIII GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Article 36 - Any sort of contributions from the members of the church, will be voluntary by act of religious faith, and will not be returned. Such contributions or any other gift will make part of the church's assets and will be distributed in accordance with the needs of the church and in accordance with the budget approved by the officially called Church business meeting.

Article 37 - No member of the church or of the board of directors will be responsible for the obligation of its members, of other churches, conventions, or any other institution.

Article 38 - The relationship of the church with the Midwest Baptist Conference, Brazilian

Baptist Convention and other Evangelical denominations are merely one of cooperation, that is why the deliberation of these entities does not constitute any obligation to the church.

Article 39 - The church will not guarantee nor will it assume any obligation incompatible with its objective.

Article 40 - The question that cannot be decided upon by means of what is exposed on this Constitution or in the *Policy and Procedure*, will be resolved by the officially called Church business meeting, with exception of Article 35.

Article 41 - This Constitution will only be able to be revised by the decision of 80% of the members present at the Church business meeting specifically summoned for this purpose. Such summons will have to occur with antecedence, a minimum of thirty days.

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom ".
Psalm 90:12