**BYLAWS AND CONSTITUTION**

**OF**

**GREATER LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH**

 **I.**  **ARTICLE 1 – NAME AND PURPOSE**

# A. SECTION 1 – NAME

This congregation of believer shall be known as the Greater Life Baptist Church, henceforth known as GLBC.

# B. SECTION 2 – PURPOSE

1. This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building, maintaining and operating of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, day-care centers, camps, and nursing homes.
2. The church shall also ordain and license men to the Gospel ministry; evangelize the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; educate believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; and maintain missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country.

 **II. ARTICLE 2 – STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT**

# A. SECTION 1 – STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. **The Holy Scriptures.** We believe the Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testament to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible, and God-breathed, and therefore are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning. The final interpretation of the scripture to be determined by the senior pastor in absence of senior pastor final interpretation will be determined by the Associate Pastor. If neither or present or available final interpretation will be given by the chairman of the deacon board. (2 Tim. 2:16-17; 2 Pet. 1 20-21) We believe that the King James Authorized version is the preserved infallible word of God for the English-speaking people. We only use the King James Bible in our pulpit.
2. **Dispensationalism.** We believe the Holy Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life which define man’s responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these dispensations – the law, the church, and the kingdom – are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture (Gen. 1:28; 1 Cor. 9:17; 2 Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. 1:10; 3:2-10; Col. 1:24-25, 27; Rev. 20:2-6).
3. **The Godhead.** We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deut. 6:4; Matt.28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 14: 10-26).
4. **The Person and Work of Christ.**
5. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8).
6. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:2425; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; 2:24; Eph. 1:7).
7. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2).
8. **The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.**
	1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling, and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14).
	2. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 1:17-18; 1 John 2:20, 27).
	3. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order that they can do the work of the ministry (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12).
	4. We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing, were temporary. We believe that speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign for the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit and that ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, through God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing (1 Cor. 1:22; 13:8; 14:21-22).
9. **The Total Depravity of Man.** We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam’s sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19).
10. **Salvation.** We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18-19).
11. **The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers.**
	1. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God’s power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet. 1:4-5).
	2. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God’s Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).
12. **The Church.**
	1. We believe that the local church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons (1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:2527).
	2. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).
	3. We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1,4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).
	4. We recognize water baptism and the Lord’s Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the church in the age (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:18; 1 Cor. 11:2326).
13. **Separation.** We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded of God (Rom. 12:1,2; 14:13; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11).
14. **The Second Advent of Christ.** We believe in that “blessed hope,” the personal, imminent return of Christ who will rapture His Church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the nation of Israel (Ps. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; 1 Thes. 1:10; 1 Thes. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev.

3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6).

1. **The Eternal State**.
	1. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Rev. 20:56, 12-13).
	2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thes. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6).
	3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment (Matt. 25:4146; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thes. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15).
2. **The Personality of Satan**. We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10).
3. **Creation.** We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin (Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11).
4. **Civil Government**. We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home; 2) the church; and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24, Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-14).
5. **Human Sexuality**.
	1. “We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God’s gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one’s gender by surgery or appearance. Any employee of the church becoming pregnant or causing pregnancy because of consensual intercourse, outside of the marriage relationship, shall be terminated from employment (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1, 6:9; 1 Thes. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).” We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. This church shall not perform any marriage ceremony except for the joining of one man with one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23).
	2. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and the men are to be the leaders (Pastors and Ministers Fellowships) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5; 12).
6. **Divorce and Remarriage**. We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage are regarded as adultery except on the Biblical grounds of fornication and Abandonment of unbeliever. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service. The office of a pastor and minister will be considered on a case-by-case situation on divorce. (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; I Corinthians 7, 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6).
7. **Abortion.** We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortion of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1,5; Jer. 1:5; 20:1518; Luke 1:44).
8. **Missions.** We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us (Matt. 28: 19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20).
9. **Lawsuits between Believers**. We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian’s insurance company if the claim is pursued without malice or slander (1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32).
10. **Giving.** We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God’s wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made [offerings may be designated to Pastor-approved ministries or missions] (Gen. 14:20; Pro. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)

* + 1. SECTION 2 – AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the following statement of faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members. All literature used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the statement of faith.

* + 1. SECTION 3 – COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior, followed in scriptural baptism, and agreeing with the GLBC statement of faith, strategy, and structure as described in the GLBC Constitution and Bylaws, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Greater Life Baptist Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members of GLBC to do the following:

* + - 1. I will protect the unity of the church by acting in love toward other members, refusing to gossip, and following the leaders of GLBC (Rom. 14:19; Eph. 4:29; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 1:22).
			2. I will share the responsibility of my church by praying for its growth, inviting the unchurched to attend, and warmly welcoming those who visit (Luke 14:23; Rom. 15:7; 1 Thes. 1:1-2).
			3. I will serve the ministry of my church by discovering my gifts and talents, being equipped to serve by my pastor, and developing a servant’s heart (Eph. 4:11-12; Phil. 2:3-4, 7; 1 Pet. 4:10).
			4. I will support the testimony of the church by faithful attendance, faithful giving, and living a Godly life (Lev. 27:30; 1 Cor. 16:2; Phil. 1:27; Heb. 10:25).

#  III. ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERSHIP

1. SECTION 1 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be extended to all who have had and whose lives evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; who renounce sin; who endeavor to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord; who fully subscribe to the statement of faith contained herein; and who enter into the church covenant contained herein; and upon completion of the Membership Class and compliance with any one of the following conditions:

* 1. By baptism (immersion) as a true believer in Christ Jesus as personal Savior.
	2. By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing church of like faith and practice, or other written statement of good standing from the prior church if the applicant has been baptized by immersion subsequent to a profession of faith;
	3. By testimony of faith, having been baptized by immersion; or
	4. By restoration, if having been removed from membership, upon majority vote of the congregation after confession is made publicly before the church membership of the sin or sins involved, and satisfactorily evidencing repentance to the Pastor (or the Members Fellowship if the Pastor is vacant).

1. SECTION 2 – DUTIES OF A MEMBER

On becoming a member of this church, in addition to the covenant contained in Article 2, Section 3, each one further covenants to love, honor, and esteem the Pastor; to pray for him; and to recognize his authority in spiritual affairs of the church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the church; to support the church in prayer, tithes, offerings, and with other financial support as the Lord enables; and in accordance with Biblical commands to support through a lifestyle walk affirmation of the beliefs and practices of the church.

1. SECTION 3 – PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP
2. This congregation functions, not as pure democracy, but as a body under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the Pastor as the under shepherd with the counsel of the Ministers Fellowship. Membership in the church does not afford those individuals with any property, contract, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Determination of the internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church’s own rule s and procedures. The Pastor shall oversee and/or conduct all aspects of this church. The Minister Fellowship shall give counsel and assistance to the Pastor as requested by him. The membership of the church has certain limited areas of exercising a vote. Members may not vote to initiate any church action, but rather the vote of a member is to confirm and ratify the direction of the church as determined by the Pastor and the Ministers Fellowship.\
3. Only members at least eighteen years of age shall be entitled to vote on all matters.

1. SECTION 4 – DISCIPLINE OF MEMBER
	1. There shall be a discipline committee consisting of the Pastor and the Ministers Fellowship. These men shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the statement of faith and violations of the church covenant. If the Pastor or a member of the Ministers Fellowship is the subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a member of the discipline committee. He shall be entitled to the same steps as other church members and be subject to the same discipline.
	2. Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.
	3. If reconciliation is not reached, a second member, either a member of the Ministers Fellowship or the Pastor is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.
	4. If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in sub-sections (2) and (3) have been taken, the discipline committee, as the church representatives Biblically responsible for putting down murmuring, shall hear the matter. If the matter is not resolved during the hearing before the discipline committee, the committee shall recommend to the members of the church that they, after self-examination, make an effort personally to go to the offending member and seek the member’s restoration.
	5. If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in sub-section (2), (3), and (4) have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the church upon a majority vote of the membership present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering disciplinary action.
	6. No matter may be heard by the discipline committee or the church unless the steps outlined in sub-sections (2) and (3) have been taken, except in the case of a public offense.
	7. If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the church membership, all contact with him from that point forward must be for the sake of restoration (except family members).

1. SECTION 5 – TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Members not under disciplining process of Section 4 may request that letters of transfer be sent to another church.

1. SECTION 6 – TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP
	1. The membership of any individual member shall be terminated after efforts of restoration have failed for the preceding six months. Upon good cause being shown to the Pastor, this provision for termination may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the Pastor.
	2. No member of this church may hold membership in another church. If any member unites in membership with another church, that person is automatically terminated without notice from membership in this church.
	3. A member may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such resignation, except at the discretion of the Pastor.
	4. The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member states that he or she is actively involved in any conduct described in Article 2 Section 16 or files a lawsuit in violation of Article 2 Section 20.
	5. Any member who does not attend regular worship service for 6 months their name will automatically be removed from church membership without notification. (Unless serious illness or injury handicaps them from church attendance or Military Service which is beyond their control).
2. SECTION 7 – STAFF and VOLUNTEERS
	* 1. GLBC resolves to protect the Bible‐based moral values of this ministry. The following policies represent the ministry’s commitment to preserve Scriptural morals in the face of outside societal influences seeking to degrade the Biblical family, to pervert the moral values of our nation, and to intimidate God’s people from speaking God’s truth in love.
		2. THEREFORE, be it hereby resolved that the following policies be communicated to each staff member and ministry volunteer and enforced as the guiding policies of this ministry:
		3. Section 1 ‐ Church Attendance/Services
		4. Attendance in the general worship services of this church shall be open to the general public subject to the standards and expectations contained in this resolution and other applicable ministry policies.
		5. Section 2 ‐ Behavior Standards
		6. In all services and programs of this ministry, reasonable standards of decorum and order shall be maintained at all times. As such, no one shall, by appearance or behavior, be permitted to draw attention to themselves in contravention to the ministry’s purposes. Any individual who, in the sole discretion of the pastor or ministry leadership, is found to be in violation of this policy shall be removed from the ministry premises immediately.
		7. Section 3 ‐ Special Class Designations
		8. Where appropriate, the pastor, in his sole discretion, shall designate specific assignments and qualifications for various special classes or group activities. Such assignments and qualifications shall be enforced for all individuals who wish to attend the ministry function. Individuals who do not meet the qualifications for a specific class or activity, in the sole discretion of the pastor, shall not be allowed to participate in the designated activity.
		9. Section 4 ‐ Staff Training
		10. All volunteers or staff that have contact with the general public on behalf of the ministry are perceived to be speaking on behalf of the ministry. These positions include, but are not limited to, receptionists, ushers, greeters, and anyone else who has contact with the general public as a representative of the ministry. All staff with contact with the general public are required to exhibit the utmost display of Christian character. Use of abusive or pejorative language of any kind is strictly prohibitive and shall be grounds for discipline. No staff member shall ever be disrespectful to any person for any reason.
		11. Section 5 ‐ Ushers
		12. Ushers are required to conduct their activities with decorum and respect. Any conduct that an usher observes that may be distracting to the activities of the ministry should be brought to the attention of the pastor immediately. An usher should never touch any person in an effort to remove that individual from the premises except when absolutely necessary to prevent the individual from injuring himself or others. If directed by the pastor, an usher may contact the authorities to respond to the scene in an effort to remove the individual(s) causing the disturbance and restore order.
		13. Section 6 ‐ Receptionists
		14. Receptionists are responsible for greeting anyone who contacts the ministry by telephone or visits the ministry. Receptionists are not official spokespersons for the ministry. As such, any questions regarding the Scriptural position or activities of the ministry should be directed to the pastor for further handling. Prospective participants in the ministry should be mailed an information packet. Receptionists shall not answer questions regarding the position of the church in matters of faith, practice, or policy over the phone or to persons unknown to the ministry. Answering such questions shall be grounds for immediate removal from the position including termination of employment.

#  IV. ARTICLE 4 – OFFICERS

1. SECTION 1 – CHURCH OFFICERS

The church officers are Pastor (see Article V, Section 1), Minister Fellowship (see Article V, Section 2), Minister of Records (see Article V, Section 3), Minister of Finance (see Article V, Section 4). Other than the office of Pastor, one member may hold more than one office.

1. SECTION 2 – DESIGNATION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church, the Pastor shall serves as President of the corporation; the Minister of Records shall serve as Secretary of the corporation; the Minister of Finance shall serve as Treasurer of the corporation; and the Assistant Pastor (or a member of the Ministers Fellowship appointed by the Pastor in the absence of an Assistant Pastor) shall serve as the Vice President of the corporation.

1. SECTION 3 – ELIGIBILITY FOR CONTINUANCE IN OFFICE
	1. All church officers shall affirm their agreement with the statement of faith (as set forth in Article 2) annually in the presence of each other.
	2. All church officers must be approved initially and thereafter annually by the Pastor in order for them to commence or continue in their offices.
	3. Only church members are eligible for appointment to any church office or position.

1. SECTION 4 – TERMS OF OFFICE

The length of terms of office shall be as follows

* 1. The relationship between the Pastor and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party by the giving of a month’s notice, or less by mutual consent. The severance of the relationship between the Pastor and the church may be considered at any regular church administration meeting, provided notice to that effect shall have been given from the pulpit to the church one Sunday prior to said regular church administration meeting. An eighty-percent majority of the members present, and voting shall be required to decide the matter. Disciplinary removal of the Pastor from office automatically terminates his membership. A restoration to membership after disciplinary removal will be subject to the requirements of Article 3, Section 1 (4).
	2. The term of service for all offices and positions in the church, except the Pastor, shall be one year, at the expiration of which they may be reappointed.
	3. A vacancy occurring in any office or board, except in the case of the Pastor, may be filled at any regular church administration meeting.
	4. All appointed officers shall serve in their respective offices until their successors are duly appointed.
	5. Members of the Ministers Fellowship may be removed from office from unbiblical conduct, as determined by the Pastor and other members of the Ministers Fellowship, upon a majority vote of the Pastor and remaining members of the Ministers Fellowship.

1. SECTION 5 – PASTORAL OVERSIGHT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF
	1. Subject to the approval of the church membership and on the condition that they shall become member of the church upon assuming their duties, the Pastor may hire associates as assistants to assist the Pastor in carrying out his God-given responsibilities.
	2. All church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the Pastor who has the sole authority to hire, appoint, or dismiss the same.

#  V. ARTICLE 5 – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. SECTION 1 – THE PASTOR

(1) The Pastor shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him. He shall administer the ordinances of the church, act as moderator at all church meetings for the transaction of church matters, supervise the teaching ministries of the church, and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership.

* 1. For filling of Staff Ministry positions refer to Article IV, Section 5 and Article V, Section 2, par. 2.

SECTION 2 - DEACON

* 1. The Deacon Ministry shall consist of non-paid [volunteer] ministers that shall carry out designated functions as directed by the Pastor.

(1) The Deacon Ministry position shall be filled with qualified men (See Article V, Section 2, par. 2) by Pastoral placement before the church membership for selection and approval by majority vote of members present.

1. SECTION 3 – TRUSTEES

The Trustees shall be appointed by the Pastor and a majority vote at any administrative meeting and shall serve as the Trustee of the corporation. The Trustee shall exercise only the following specific powers:

1. To purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the church.
2. To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of the church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness, and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges.
3. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation if such action is mandated by direction of the Pastor and a vote of the church membership.

1. SECTION 4. – THE MINISTER OF RECORDS

The Minister of Records shall:

* 1. Certify and keep at the office of the church, the original bylaws, or a copy, including all amendments or alterations to the bylaws.
	2. Keep at the place where the bylaws or a copy are kept a record of the proceedings of meetings of the Ministers Fellowship with the time and place of holding, the notice of meeting given, and names of those present at the meetings.
	3. Sign, certify, or attest documents as may be required by law.
	4. See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws. In case of the absence or disability of the Secretary, or his or her refusal or neglect to act, notice may be given and served by the Pastor, or by a Pastoral-appointed member of the Ministers Fellowship.
	5. Be custodian of the records of the church, including the membership roll, baptisms, and certificates of ordination, licenses and commission.
	6. See that the reports, statements, certificates, and all other documents and records required by law are properly kept and filed.
	7. Exhibit at all reasonable times to proper persons on terms provided by law the bylaws and minutes of proceedings of the Ministers Fellowship or the minutes of the meetings of the church members.
	8. Keep an account of any special events in the life of the church which are of historical interest and give a report at the annual church administration meeting of the status of the church membership roll in the past year.
	9. Keep all records at the office of the Church and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office.
	10. Serve as Secretary of the corporation.

1. SECTION 5 – THE MINISTER OF FINANCE SHALL:
	* 1. Have charge and custody of, and responsible for, all funds of the corporation and deposit all funds in the name of the church in banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected by the Pastor, or the Ministers Fellowship in the vacancy of the office of Pastor.
		2. Receive, and give receipt for all contributions, gifts, and donations to the church.
		3. Disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the church as may be directed by the Pastor, the Ministers Fellowship in the vacancy of the office of Pastor, or the budget adopted by the members of the church at the annual church administration meeting, taking proper vouchers for the disbursements.
		4. Keep and maintain adequate and correct account of the church’s properties and business transactions including account of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, and capital.
		5. Make all expenditures of the church (except miscellaneous petty cash disbursements) by check or debit card.
		6. When and as requested, render the Pastor, or the Ministers Fellowship in the vacancy of the office of the Pastor, accounts of all his transactions as Minister of Finance and of the financial condition of the church.
		7. Present a written report of general expenditures on a monthly basis and make a general report for the year at the annual church administration meeting.
		8. Keep all church financial records at the office of the church and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office.
		9. Serve as Treasurer of the Corporation.

1. SECTION 6 – INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

A public installation service in which all newly appointed officers of the church are to be dedicated to their respective offices shall be held at the annual church administrative meeting.

#  VI. ARTICLE 6 – MEETINGS

1. SECTION 1 – MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Unless otherwise determined by the Pastor, the church shall meet each Sunday for public worship both morning and evening and at least once during the week for Bible Study and prayer. Except when circumstances forbid it, the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper shall be observed once per quarter.

1. SECTION 2 – MEETINGS FOR CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Church administrative meetings shall be held at least annually and as deemed necessary by the Pastor, or the Ministers Fellowship if the office of Pastor is vacant, for the business of the church, and will be called by announcement from the pulpit at least one week before the meeting.

1. SECTION 3 – SPECIAL MEETINGS
	1. The Pastor, or the Ministers Fellowship if the office of Pastor is vacant or the Pastor is the subject of disciplinary action, may call a special meeting by giving notice of such a meeting and the purpose for which it is called to the church from the pulpit at least one Sunday and not less than one week prior to said meeting. A meeting of election of a Pastor may be called by the pulpit committee at any regular church meeting at least one week in advance.
	2. Bible conferences, missionary conferences, and revivals may be held as the Pastor deems beneficial.

1. SECTION 4 – FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the church shall begin on January 1st end December 31st.

#  VII. ARTICLE 7 – MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION

1. SECTION 1 – PURPOSE

The church believes that it is to provide the members’ children with an education which is based upon and consistent with Biblical teachings. The church believes that the home and church are responsible before God for providing a Christian education. To this end, the church shall engage in ministries in education in keeping with this Constitution and bylaws.

1. SECTION 2 – CHURCH PARTICIPATION

All education programs or courses of instruction formulated and offered by the church shall be primarily for the benefit of the members of the church; however, the Pastor may permit nonchurch members to participate in church education programs or courses of instruction if he deems it in the best interest of the church

1. SECTION 3 – STAFF MEMBERSHIP

All instructors, teachers, and administrators shall be members of this church. This provision shall not apply to visiting missionaries, evangelists, or preachers engaged for the purpose of delivering sermons, conducting revivals, or special meetings on a temporary basis.

1. SECTION 4 – STATEMENT OF FAITH ACCORD

All education programs or courses of instruction shall be taught and presented in full accord with the statement of faith of the church.

1. SECTION 5 – UNITY

All educational courses of instruction shall be conducted as an integral and inseparable ministry of the church.

1. SECTION 6 – TEACHING

All educational courses or programs of instruction shall be conducted consistent with the teachings of the inerrant Word of God. Any assertion or belief which conflicts with or questions a Bible truth is a pagan deception and distortion of the truth which will be disclaimed as false. It is the responsibility of every instructor or teacher to present the inerrant Word of God as the sole infallible source of knowledge and wisdom.

1. SECTION 7 – CHRISTIAN WALK

All administrators, instructors, and teachers shall continue or adopt a lifestyle consistent with the precepts which they teach, whether in or out of the classroom.

#  VIII. ARTICLE 8 – CONFLICT OF INTEREST

8.1 Purpose. The purpose of the conflict-of-interest policy is to protect this tax-exempt organization’s (Greater Life Baptist Church) interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of Greater Life Baptist Church or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

#  8.2 Definitions

1. Interested Person

Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with governing board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

1. Financial Interest

A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:

* 1. An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which Greater Life Baptist Church has a transaction or arrangement.
	2. A compensation arrangement with Greater Life Baptist Church or with any entity or individual with which Greater Life Baptist Church has a transaction or arrangement.
	3. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which Greater Life Baptist Church is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial. A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate governing board or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

 8.3 Procedures

1. Duty to Disclose

In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with governing board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

1. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists

After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

1. Procedures for Addressing the Conflict-of-Interest Policy
	* 1. An interested person may make a presentation at the governing board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.
		2. The chairperson of the governing board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
		3. After exercising due diligence, the governing board or committee shall determine whether Greater Life Baptist Church, Inc. can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
		4. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the governing board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in best interest of Greater Life Baptist Church, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination, it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

1. Violations of the Conflict-of-Interest Policy
	* 1. If the governing board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
		2. If, after hearing the member’s response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the governing board or committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

8.4 Records of Proceedings. The minutes of the governing board of all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:

1. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the governing board or committee’s decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.

1. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

 8.5 Compensation

1. A voting member of the governing board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from Greater Life Baptist Church for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member’s compensation.
2. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from Greater Life Baptist Church for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member’s compensation.

1. No voting member of the governing board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from Greater Life Baptist Church either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

8.6 Annual Statements. Each director, principal officer, and member of a committee with governing board delegated powers shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person:

1. Has received a copy of the conflict-of-interest policy.
2. Has read and understands the conflict-of-interest policy.
3. Has agreed to comply with the conflict-of-interest policy.
4. Understands Greater Life Baptist Church is charitable and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

8.7 Periodic Reviews. To ensure that Greater Life Baptist Church operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

1. Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information and the result of arm’s length bargaining
2. Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management organizations conform to Greater Life Baptist Church written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

8.8 Use of Outside Experts. When conducting the periodic reviews as provided in Article 8.6, Greater Life Baptist Church may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the governing board of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.

##  IX. ARTICLE 9 – CONFLICT OF INTEREST

9.1 Seal. The Corporation may have a corporate seal, which may be altered from time to time by the Board of Directors; but the presence or absence of a seal on any instrument, or its addition thereto, shall not affect its character or validity or legal effect in any respect.

9.2 Stock in Other Companies. Unless otherwise provided by the Board of Directors, the chairperson of the board or, if there is no chairperson of the board, the President of the Corporation may vote, endorse for transfer or take any other action necessary with respect to shares of stock and securities issued by any other corporation and owned by this Corporation; and such person may make, execute and deliver any proxy, waiver or consent with respect thereto.

9.3 Offices. The Corporation shall maintain a registered office in the State of North Carolina. The Corporation may maintain its principal office, and any other offices, at such other place, within or without the State of North Carolina, as shall be designated from time to time by the Board of Directors.

9.4 Fiscal Year. Unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors, the fiscal year of the Corporation shall end on December 31 each year.

9.5 Indemnification. Every director and officer of the Corporation, and every other person entitled under the law, and the personal representative of any such director, officer, and other person, shall be entitled to the maximum indemnification available under the provisions of the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act, and under any other applicable

provision of law.

9.6 Limitation of Liability. Every director and officer of the Corporation, and every other person entitled under the law, and the personal representative of any such director, officer and other person, shall be entitled to the maximum immunity available under the provisions of the Alabama Nonprofit Corporation Act, and under any other applicable provision of law.

##  X. ARTICLE 10– CONFLICT OF INTEREST

These bylaws may be amended or repealed, and new bylaws may be adopted, by the vote of a majority of the entire Board of Directors. The bylaws may contain any provision for the regulation and management of the business of the Corporation not inconsistent with law and with the charter of the Corporation. Any amendment of the charter inconsistent with the bylaws shall operate to amend the bylaws accordingly, and those Articles of the bylaws which merely summarize or restate the provisions of the charter or the provisions of the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act or other law applicable to the Corporation shall be deemed to be descriptive of existing law and of the charter as amended.

 **XI. ARTICLE 11-** Cemetery

1. Nonmembers shall not be permitted to be buried in the church cemetery.
2. Exception: If a husband or wife is already buried then the survivor may also be buried.
3. A nonmember child of a member aged 18 and under may be buried.
4. Verbal or written agreements contrary to these rules are non-binding (not allowed)
5. The cemetery board shall consist of the Pastor and two deacons.

 **XII. ARTICLE 12 – Dissolution Clause**

1. In the event the church ever needs to be dissolved for lack of member support

And/or funds to operate then it shall be the responsibility of the remaining Board of Trustees, who are active at the time in question, to dissolve it in the

following manner.

1. Seek out a congregation or church of like faith and turn over the church’s assets and obligations to it. This shall be the priority of the dissolution of said carrying out His great commission is continually followed.
2. In the event that a church of like faith cannot be found, which will accept the responsibilities of said church then the Board of Trustees shall at their discretion select a buyer who will purchase the Church property. And/or all indebtedness of said Church shall first be satisfied from the sale, making sure no debts are left unpaid. Then the remaining funds of such sale, shall by the Board of Trustees discretion, be given to a charitable non-profit church of like faith or organization which adheres to the well-being of humanity and the spirit of Christianity.
3. Under no circumstances shall any individual or group of individuals, from this church body or any other church body or organization profit, gain or receive funds and/or property from the sale and dissolution of said Church.

 **XIII. ARTICLE 13 -–Other Guidelines**

The Board of Directors of the Corporation may establish policies, mission statements, vision statements and any other guidelines and descriptions regarding the Corporation as the Board of Directors determines to be advisable.

These bylaws are adopted on the 8th day of October, 2017

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Principal Officer Signature of Principal Officer

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Principal Officer Signature of Principal Officer

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Principle Officer Signature of Principal Officer