

CONSTITUTION

NAME AND ORGANIZATION

The name of this church is AUBURN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, hereafter known as the Church. The Church is organized as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Georgia effective June 26, 1995. The Church formerly has been known as Auburn Baptist Church of Auburn, Georgia.

OBJECT

The Church is organized and maintained for the worship of God; for Christian fellowship; for Bible study and instruction in doctrine; and to combine the efforts of individual members in evangelism, discipleship, missions, and benevolence.

This Church shall maintain regular Christian public worship and Christian schools; to teach the whole Bible, cause to be preached: the teachings of Jesus Christ, evangelize the unsaved and promote missions both at home and abroad, to build and maintain Church buildings and properties to carry on religious, educational and benevolent activities.

CHURCH COVENANT

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

We promise, therefore by the aid of the Holy Spirit:

1. To walk together in Christian love.
2. To strive for the advancement of the church, in knowledge and holiness.
3. To promote its prosperity and spirituality.
4. To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines.
5. To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.
6. To maintain family and personal devotions.
7. To religiously educate our children.
8. To seek the salvation of our community and world.
9. To walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our conduct.
10. To avoid strife, back biting and anger.
11. To abstain from the sale of and use of alcoholic beverages.
12. To be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.
13. To watch over one another in brotherly love.

14. To remember each other in prayer.
15. To aid each other in sickness and distress.
16. To cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech.
17. To be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rule of our Savior to secure it without delay.
18. We moreover promise that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

This church affirms the Holy Scriptures, the Bible, as the revealed will and word of God and the only all-sufficient rule for faith and practice; and for purpose of maintaining general unity adopts the following statement of Fundamental truths:

THE BIBLE

We believe the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, to be completely and verbally inspired of God. The Bible, in its original autographs, though penned by men, is fully God's inerrant and infallible revelation, miraculously inspired and preserved for the enlightenment of every generation of humankind. We recognize that only by the illumination of the Holy Spirit is the Scripture interpreted and understood.

II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21; Psalm 12:6-7

GOD

We believe that there is only one God: Creator and sustainer of all things, ultimate Sovereign over all things, infinitely perfect and holy, who is eternal: having no beginning or end. God is self-sufficient, and eternally exists in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We affirm that all things were created by Him and for Him, and that the ultimate purpose of all things is to please Him and glorify Him. He is the fountainhead of all truth and righteousness, and is full of mercy and love.

Deuteronomy 6:4; Exodus 3:14; Colossians 1:15-16; Revelation 4:11

THE PERSON AND WORK OF GOD THE FATHER

The eternal triune God has revealed Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being. God as Father reigns eternally from His throne in Heaven with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God the Father is literally the father of the man Jesus Christ, who is His only-begotten. God is Father to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, as they are born of His Spirit and He expresses Divine fatherly care toward them.

**Genesis 1:26; Matthew 6:9; John 4:24; Mark 1:9-11; John 10:30; John 14:16-18,26;16:13-15;
I Corinthians 15:26-28**

THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST

The Son of God is the second Person of the Trinity, eternally existing with The Father and the Holy Spirit. The Son of God is revealed in Scripture to be co-equal with the Father, yet willingly submits, honors and gives glory to the Father. We believe that by the miracle of the virgin-birth that the Eternal Son of God became man without ceasing to be God, in order to reveal God and redeem man. We affirm that Jesus Christ lived a perfect life and willingly died for our sins (the sins of all mankind) on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice and that He rose bodily, on the third day, from the dead for our justification. He is now exalted at the right hand of the Father, and is Head of the Church and Lord of the believer continuing to fulfill His ministry as our Great High Priest and only Mediator between God and man. We affirm that Jesus is the only Savior, the only way by which anyone can receive the gift of eternal life.

Matthew 1:18-25; Philipians 2:5-11; Acts 4:12; John 14:6; Hebrews 1; John 1:1-18

THE PERSON AND MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, who gives glory to the Father and the Son. He proceeds from the Father and Son and, equal in deity, is active in the creating and ordering of the universe. He is the agency of Divine life to the believer: convicting the unregenerate of their sin, regenerating the believer and baptizing the believer into the Body of Christ. He indwells, guides, instructs, illuminates, and empowers the believer for godly living and spiritual service. He assures and seals and keeps the believer and helps the believer to connect with the fellowship of God through prayer. In this present age the Holy Spirit works, in the world, to restrain sin and Satan.

Corinthians 6:19; John 16:7-15; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 8:5-13; I Peter 4:10-11; II Thessalonians 2:6-7; Genesis 6:3

THE NATURE OF MANKIND

We believe that mankind, both male and female, were created in the image of God. Until they sinned, they enjoyed the condition of righteousness and unhindered fellowship with God. When they sinned they incurred guilt, physical death, and spiritual death- which is separation from God. Every member of the human race is in the condition of total depravity and each generation by inheritance possesses this fallen nature. In our fallen state, all people are subject to the power of the devil, and have within themselves no means of recovery or salvation. Without the intervention of God all are doomed to eternal perdition.

Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7; 3:6-13; Romans 5:12-21; I Corinthians 15:21-22; Romans 3:23

SALVATION

We believe that it is the love and mercy of God that caused Him to provide salvation from sin and its penalty. Salvation is the free gift of God (neither merited nor secured in part nor whole by any virtue or work of man) to be received only through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. All true believers have, as a present possession, the gift of eternal life, a perfect imputed righteousness, sonship in the family of God, deliverance from all condemnation, every spiritual resource needed for life and godliness, and the Divine guarantee that they shall never perish. Salvation is initiated by God and received by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Genuine salvation produces a changed life and good works that glorify God.

Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:10-13; John 5:24; I John 5:11-13

THE CHRISTIAN'S WALK

We believe that believers are called with a holy calling to live, not after the mind and will of the flesh, but according to the will and power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. This prevents the believer from being dominated by the old nature, which in this life is not eradicated. We must live by faith in Christ and renew our subjection to His lordship; else the old nature will manifest its presence in our lives to the dishonor of our Lord. Faithful study and obedience to the Word of God, and an ongoing conversation of prayer are essential to living in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 8:5-13; II Timothy 2:15; I Thessalonians 5:17; Romans 12:1-2

THE CHURCH

We believe that the true church is composed of people of all nations who, through saving faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. The church is seen in the New Testament and expressed in this current age as local congregations of baptized believers with the Lord Jesus Christ as the Head. The local New Testament church is autonomous under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and is the primary visible agency for the Kingdom of God on earth, and takes priority over all other non-church or Para-church organizations.

Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 3:9-11; 4:4; Colossians 1:18

THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

We believe that there are two ordinances assigned by the Scripture to the New Testament church. These are Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Believer's Baptism (or Christian baptism) is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience that follows the believer's conversion which symbolizes the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior. Believer's baptism also symbolically and openly declares the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20; Acts 8:29-39; 2:41; 10:47

The Lord's Supper is an act of remembrance whereby the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming. The elements of this ordinance: unleavened bread and the unfermented juice of grapes, symbolize the uncorrupt body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Each individual believer is challenged in Scripture to examine their own attitude, devotion and conduct before participating in this ordinance, so they participate with love, honor, and devotion to Christ.

Matt 26:26-30; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21;11:23-29

THE BLESSED HOPE OF THE BELIEVER: CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe in the personal, imminent, Second-coming of our Lord Jesus: that Jesus Christ will literally return to earth to receive His church to Himself. The dead in Christ will be resurrected bodily and living believers will be changed as they are caught up into His presence in the clouds to ever be with the Lord

I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:51-54; Acts 1:11

THE ETERNAL STATE

We believe that the souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation do, at death, immediately pass into His presence and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body. At Christ's coming for His church, the soul and glorified body of the believer will be reunited and be associated with Him forever in Glory. All who reject God's call to salvation will be judged and punished with everlasting torment and separation from the presence of the Lord.

Revelation 21:6-8; 20:14-15; II Corinthians 5:1-11

THE CHRISTIAN HOME

God created the first two people: Adam and Eve and made them as counterparts to one another. Both male and female were made in the image and likeness of God. They are equal, but different, each with different roles to fill in family life. Eve was created for Adam, thus establishing his leadership and care for her. From the beginning God gave, and has affirmed the covenant of marriage to be a life-long covenant only between one man and one woman. From the beginning God has established home and family as a place of love, ministry, and acceptance.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Matthew 19:3-14; Ephesians 5:21-33

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND GOVERNMENT

We believe in the separation of church and state, but not in separation of God and government. Christians are called to be "salt and light" in society to influence the nation for good, that the nation can be blessed and not cursed. God's people are instructed to honor and obey all authorities up to the point of disobedience to God.

Romans 13:1-10; Matthew 5:13-16; Proverbs 14:34; Acts 5:29

FAITH, PRACTICE, AND CHURCH POLITY

All members shall:

1. Subscribe to the Church Covenant
2. Believe in the fundamental principles of the Christian faith as contained in the Holy Scriptures, and accept the Holy Bible as the sole doctrine of Baptists; and
3. Subscribe to the policy of this church in the promotion of the Baptist principles by supporting the work of the Southern Baptist Convention and other affiliated state and local Baptist institutions.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the church shall consist of all baptized believers in Christ, who voluntarily and wholeheartedly subscribe to the views of Faith, Practice, and Church Policy as set forth, and who seek such membership. The Church shall maintain a roll of its members.

Voting privileges shall be restricted to active members who are in good standing and who are 12 years old or older.

Membership in the Church may be attained as follows:

1. By ordinance of baptism after profession of faith;
2. By letter from any Church of like faith and order;
3. By restoration to the rolls after having been dropped or after exclusion; or
4. By statement of Christian experience indicating previous compliance with either (1) or (2).

Prospective members will be required to complete the New Member's Orientation before being presented for membership.

The Prospective member shall be considered under the Watchcare of the Church until such time as he or she has completed the New Member's Orientation.

Membership in the Church may be terminated as follows:

1. By letter of dismissal;
2. By dropping from rolls;
3. By written request of a member on their own behalf;
4. By exclusion; or
5. By death

WATCHCARE

Watchcare membership may be offered to the following:

1. Prospective Members who have requested membership but have not yet completed the New Member's Class.
2. Temporary Residents (such as college students or military personnel) who wish to maintain their membership at their home Church but who wish to affiliate with our Church in a more formal way than as a "visitor".
3. Those baptized believers who were members of another denomination but wish to be affiliated with Auburn First Baptist.
4. Those baptized believers who are members of a Church of like Faith and Order but who have justifiable reasons for wishing to maintain their membership at their "home" Church.

Watchcare Members shall have certain rights and privileges ordinarily afforded full members of the Church, such as the benefits of Pastoral care, participation in the observance of the Lord's Supper, etc. They may serve in teaching and leadership roles upon recommendation from the Leadership Team and approval by the Church. However, they shall not hold any of the positions designated as an Officer in this Constitution, nor may they serve as Deacons or Pastors. They may not vote in any Church business meeting or conference.

OFFICERS

The following shall be considered officers of the Church:

Senior Pastor (Chief Executive Officer)
Associate and/or Assistant Pastor(s)
Active Deacons
Clerk (Chief Financial Officer) and Assistant Clerk
Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer
Church Administrative Facilitator

The Senior Pastor shall be considered the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Treasurer shall be considered the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Auburn First Baptist Church, Inc. The Senior Pastor, Associate and/or Assistant Pastor(s), Clerk, and Active Deacons shall make up the Board of Directors. The Chairman of the Deacon Ministry Team shall act as Chairman of Board of Directors.

CHURCH ORGANIZATION

The functions of the Church shall be performed through the following:

The Church Staff, consisting of the Pastor(s), Church Secretary, and Church Administrative Facilitator; and any other ministry assistant the Church may see fit to appoint or hire.

Standing Teams and Committees: Deacon Ministry Team, Church Council, Finance Committee, and Nominating Committee and the Leadership Team; and

Standing Departments: Christian Education Department, Music Ministries Department, Women's Ministry Organization, Men's Ministry Organization, Youth Ministries Organization and Missionary Organizations.

The membership, term of office and duties of the Church's teams, departments, and committees, unless provided for in the Constitution, shall be as prescribed in Bylaws adopted by the Church or the Leadership Team.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The Church shall cause to be recorded in an organized manner, the Policies and Procedures that it considers to be proper and effective in administrating the work done through at Auburn First Baptist Church. When written and approved by the Church in conference these Policies and Procedures shall be the guidelines for the day to day business operations of Auburn First Baptist and shall remain in effect until nullified or changed by a vote of the Church in conference.

These policies and procedures shall be in accordance with the beliefs and mission of Auburn First Baptist Church.

MEETINGS

The meetings of the Church shall be as follows:

1. **Worship:** Worship services shall be held every Lord's Day, both morning and evening. The Leadership Team shall have the authority to change the times of the worship services or to cancel the worship services if deemed necessary.
2. **Prayer Service:** There shall be at least one regular midweek prayer service.
3. **Business Meetings:** A regular business meeting (or conference) shall be held once each quarter of the Church Year during the first month of said quarter, namely September, December, March and June, at a time designated by the body of the Church. Special meetings of members shall be held at the call of the majority of the Leadership Team or, in the absence of Pastoral Staff, the Active Deacons. All matters requiring a time interval before a vote is taken, shall be referred by the Moderator, without debate, to the proper committee for one month, or a longer time, if specified in the Constitution or Bylaws. The recommendation of this committee shall be presented when the matter comes up for final action. No notice to members is required for a regular meeting under this paragraph. A two week notice to members of an upcoming special meeting of members is adequate if announced during a worship service, or in a written announcement available to members, or at a regularly scheduled meeting of members.

- A quorum shall be considered present if at least 10% of the qualified active voting members are present at a meeting.
 - There shall be no voting by means of proxy. All votes concerning an issue must be cast in person by the respective member.
 - A two thirds majority, or greater, of votes cast shall constitute an act of the Membership.
 - Moderator: At the beginning of each Church Year, the Leadership Team shall designate a Moderator and an Assistant Moderator for that Church Year. In all instances, in the absence or incapacity of the Moderator and Assistant Moderator the Leadership Team shall appoint a Temporary Moderator for said meeting. It shall be the duty of the Moderator or appointed Moderator to see that the stated meetings of the Church are held as prescribed in this document; and that required reports are submitted to the Church by the various officers, committees, teams and departments of the Church.
4. Annual Meeting: An August business meeting shall be the Annual Business Meeting. All officers elected at this time shall assume office September 1st.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed. at least once per quarter, preferably on the first Lord's Day of said quarter, being namely the months of September, December, March, and June. The Church may elect to celebrate this ordinance at other special times throughout the Church Year.

BAPTISM

The ordinance of Baptism shall be observed as often as required resulting from the profession of faith in Christ by a new believer or a commitment of one's life to Christ by a Christian; and shall be conducted as part of a regular worship service when so observed. The scheduling of a Baptismal Service will be dependent on a coordination of the Church's schedule and the schedule of those desiring Baptism.

BYLAWS

OFFICERS

SENIOR PASTOR: The Senior Pastor shall be in harmony with our Baptist program and doctrine and practice and shall be called for an indefinite period. In keeping with our understanding of 1 Timothy 2:11-14, 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9 the pastorate of the Church is restricted to qualified men. The pastorate may be terminated by resignation or by dismissal. Such call for dismissal, when recommended by a two-thirds majority of the active Deacons, shall require at least two-thirds of the votes cast in a regular or special Church business meeting, notice of time and object of which shall be given by the Chairman of the Deacon Ministry Team or Secretary of the Deacon Ministry Team at the worship services or in the Church Bulletins at least one week in advance of the planned meeting date.

The Senior Pastor shall serve as the primary vision-caster and under-shepherd to the Church and faithfully perform the duties of that office; preach on the Lord's Day; do the work of an evangelist administer the New Testament ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; conduct a midweek prayer service; visit and lead others to visit the members and visitors of the church, especially the sick; and perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office, or as set forth in the constitution and bylaws. He shall be an ex-officio member of all church organizations and committees. The Senior Pastor, duly called and ordained, shall officiate at weddings and funerals as needed

ASSOCIATE AND/OR ASSISTANT PASTOR(S): From time to time, as the need arises, the Church may elect to call an Associate and/or Assistant Pastor(s). If so elected or called, said Associate and/or Assistant Pastor(s) shall be in harmony with our Baptist program and Doctrine and practice and shall be called for an indefinite period of time. He will assist the Senior Pastor in performing the duties of the pastorate, including: preaching as needed on the Lord's Day or at other times, doing the work of an evangelist, visiting and leading others to visit the members and visitors of the church, especially the sick, administering the New Testament ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper as well as other duties that usually pertain to that office or as set forth in the constitution and bylaws.

In keeping with our understanding of 1 Timothy 2:11-14, 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9 the call as an Associate and/or Assistant Pastor(s) is restricted to qualified men. The pastorate may be terminated by resignation or by call for dismissal. Such a call for dismissal, when recommended by a two-thirds majority of the Leadership Team, shall require at least two-thirds of the votes cast in a regular or special Church business meeting, notice of time and object of which shall be given by the Chairman of the Deacon Ministry Team or Secretary of the Deacon Ministry Team at the worship services or in the Church Bulletins at least one week to the planned meeting date. An Associate and/or Assistant Pastor, duly called and ordained, may officiate at weddings and funerals as requested.

DEACONS: The Deacons, in harmony and partnership with the Pastoral leaders shall act as servant leaders of the Church by setting the example and providing leadership in meeting the spiritual and practical needs of the Church and church members. They will affirm the leadership of the Pastor(s) and encourage others of the congregation to do so. They shall work together with the Pastor(s) to maintain the Baptist character of the Church. They, working and serving together with the Pastor(s) shall endeavor to provide mutual accountability to Biblical truths and to the service of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. They shall also assist the Pastor(s) in administering the ordinances, doing the work of an evangelist, visiting the sick, and in the spiritual development and edification of the members of the Church.

Deacons shall be called to serve for an indefinite period, or as limited by rotation of service as set by Policies and Procedures Manual. The service of a Deacon may be terminated by resignation or by dismissal. Such call for dismissal shall be based on clear Biblical principals, when recommended by a two thirds majority of the Leadership Team and shall only be exercised after an effort of restoration has failed.

CLERK AND ASSISTANT CLERK: It shall be the duty of the Clerk to record the minutes of all regular and special business meetings of the Church; to preserve an accurate roll of the membership; prepare the Annual Church Profile of the Church and deliver it to the Mulberry Baptist Association or Georgia Baptist Convention designated entity; to notify in writing, or otherwise, all persons of their election or appointment to any office or committee of the Church; and to perform such other duties as usually devolve upon his office, and render reports as requested by the Pastor(s), Deacon Ministry Team, Leadership Team or the Church. An Assistant Clerk shall also be elected to assist the Clerk in all matters pertaining to the office. The Clerk or Assistant Clerk shall verify a quorum at any business meeting of the Church. Various duties of this office may also be assigned to the Church Secretary upon approval of the Leadership Team.

TREASURER AND ASSISTANT TREASURER: The Church Treasurer shall have oversight in receiving and disbursing, in the name of the Church, at a local bank, all monies received through all channels unless otherwise designated by the Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall supervise the payment of all accounts consistent with the budget of the Church. Any budgetary exceptions must be approved by the Finance Committee subject to the approval of the Leadership Team or the Church in conference.

- The Treasurer, or designee(s) approved by the Leadership Team, shall sign all checks for disbursements.
- The Treasurer shall make quarterly reports to the Church in conference.
- The Treasurer, each month, shall provide a printed report of the previous month's financial activities for the Leadership Team's review. This report shall be made available for review by any member so requesting.
- An Assistant Treasurer shall also be elected to assist the Treasurer in all matters pertaining to the office. In absence or incapacity of the Treasurer all duties of the office shall devolve to the Assistant Treasurer.
- The Treasurer and/or Assistant Treasurer shall maintain a record of contributions from individuals or entities.

CHURCH STAFF

CHURCH SECRETARY: The Church Secretary shall be elected by the Church for an indefinite time, and shall care for all official Church correspondence, and other such duties as assigned by the Pastor(s) or Leadership Team. This position may be made a hired staff position.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITATOR: The Church may elect, appoint or hire a Church Administrative Facilitator as the need may arise. If so elected, appointed or hired, the Church Administrator shall be considered an Officer of the Church. He or she will report directly to the Senior Pastor and Leadership Team. The purpose of the Church Administrator will be to coordinate and facilitate the business functions of the Church, including supervision of non-ministerial staff and volunteers, and safeguarding and upkeep of Church properties and assets. He or she shall conduct the affairs of this position as a ministry to the members of the Church and the community with the intent and goal of promoting and facilitating the ministries of the Church as well as the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, TEAMS AND DEPARTMENTS

THE LEADERSHIP TEAM shall consist of the Senior Pastor, Assistant Pastor(s) and members of the Deacon Ministry Team. They shall meet together regularly to pray for Auburn First Baptist Church and to seek to understand God's leadership and guidance for said Church. They shall offer spiritual guidance and ministry support to the members of Auburn First Baptist Church.

DEACON MINISTRY TEAM: The number of active Deacons shall be as determined by the Church. New deacons may be elected as needed by the members of the Church. The Deacon Ministry Team shall elect from among its members the following officers in September: Team Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, as well as such committees as they deem necessary. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall not be eligible to serve in their respective offices for more than two consecutive years in any term for which they may be elected by the Deacon Ministry Team.

Deacons coming into the fellowship of the Church, having been previously ordained in other churches of like Faith and Order, shall not be considered active deacons unless and until so elected by the Church. The procedure for the selection of Deacons by the Church body shall be recorded in the church Policy and Procedures Manual.

Two-thirds of the active deacons constitute a quorum of the Deacon Ministry Team. If only the two-thirds quorum is present a motion must be unanimous to pass. If attendance is in excess of the two-thirds quorum a two-thirds majority of those present shall be required for the passage of a motion.

Action of the Deacon Ministry Team may be taken without a meeting if that number of Deacons necessary to take action at a meeting instead sign one or more written consents describing the action taken and deliver the consent(s) to the Church.

The absence of a Deacon from three regular consecutive monthly Leadership Team meetings, or absence from a total of two quarterly business meetings during a calendar year shall cause a forfeiture by such Deacon of his active status; provided, however, for the purpose of this rule, no absence shall be counted if the reported cause for such absence is approved by the Leadership Team at their next regular meeting. When there has become a vacancy under this rule, the chairman and secretary of the Deacon Ministry Team shall certify such fact to the next Church conference and such vacancy may be filled after proper notice.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL shall consist of the Pastor(s), the Director of Christian Education, the Chairman of the Deacon Ministry Team, Director of Women's Ministries, Director of Men's Ministries, Director of Youth Ministries, Director of Children's Ministries, VBS Director, and Music Director. This Council shall meet at least once a year, preferably during the month of October, to advise the Pastor, the Church, and Church Teams, Committees and Departments with regard to coordinating and scheduling the work and activities of the Church. The Senior Pastor, as moderator, shall act as chairman of the council.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE shall be composed of the Senior Pastor as Chairman; two members of the Deacon Ministry Team; two members of the Church Council; and two members from the Church at large who are nominated by the Leadership Team and approved by the Church in conference. This Committee shall serve one year and shall meet with the Pastor previous to the July business meeting to select nominees for all church offices and committees, whose selection is not otherwise provided for in the Constitution or Bylaws. They may also meet at other times as necessary to nominate candidates to fill vacancies,

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE shall consist of the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and five members elected by the Leadership Team, with the Treasurer of the Church acting as Chairperson. Duties of the Finance Committee are as follows:

- To be responsible for the proper spending of Church funds as the Church has authorized.
- To promote stewardship.
- To maintain and promote a Stewardship Emphasis and Education Program.
- To supervise all the financial life of the Church.
- To provide a proposed Budget to the Leadership Team for the next year for review and presentation to the Church for approval.

THE DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION shall be under the direction of the Director of Christian Education and be administered as follows:

There shall be a Director and an Assistant Director, as deemed necessary. Departmental Directors, officers, teachers, and other workers shall be provided for each department as needed.

All officers and teachers of the Sunday School shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee after consultation with the Director of Christian Education and shall be elected by the Church at the August business meeting for a time of one year. Nominees for vacancies to be filled during the year shall be recommended by the Director of Christian Education and elected by the Church.

There shall be regular meetings of Department Leaders. The Director shall make regular reports to the Church.

The Leadership Team shall have general supervision over the affairs of the Department of Christian Education.

THE MISSIONARY ORGANIZATIONS of the Church shall consist of the Women Ministries Team as represented through the Women's Missionary Union and the Men's Ministries Team. The Directors of Women's and Men's Ministries shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee. These organizations shall elect their other officers.

A **Mission Advisory Team** may also be established as needed to promote and give leadership to additional local, state, national, and inter-national mission work; including volunteer short-term mission trips, local or other projects. Our missions priority will be to cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention, Georgia Baptist Convention and Mulberry Baptist Association.

ELECTIONS

The election of officers and leadership shall be held at the Annual Business Meeting in August. Names of nominees for the various offices and positions of leadership and service shall be presented by the Nominating Committee at that time. The persons elected shall assume their respective offices as of September the First. Elections to fill any vacancies that may occur may be held at a quarterly or called business meeting.

DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS

Members of the Church in good standing may be granted Letters of Recommendation, to unite with other churches of like Faith and Order. Such letters may be granted at any business meeting of the Church. The Letter of Recommendation shall be sent directly to the requesting church and membership in Auburn First Baptist Church shall cease at the time the Letter is granted. A brief statement regarding the former member may be included with each Letter of Recommendation.

DROPPING OF MEMBERS

The names of members who have not participated in the regular activities of the Church for a period of one year and who have not responded to the attempts of the Leadership Team to contact them will be posted in a conspicuous place in the Church for a period of thirty days. Should attempts to contact fail, these names shall be dropped from the Active Church Membership Roll and placed on the Inactive Church Membership Roll. The names on the Inactive Church Membership Roll shall not be included in the active membership of the Church when making reports, determining quorum, etc.

Those members designated as Inactive shall not be allowed to vote in Church business meetings or conferences, unless and until they have been restored to active membership status.

Persons whose names have been dropped from the Active Church Membership Roll and placed on the Inactive Church Membership Roll may be restored to fellowship as a Active member upon their request and by a vote of the Church during a Business Meeting.

DISCIPLINE

1. In all cases of personal difficulty between members of the Church, the parties involved shall endeavor to bring about a reconciliation in the manner laid down by our Savior and recorded in Matthew 5:23-24 and Matthew 18:15-16. This means that the offense should be contained and resolved within the circle of offense. Only when this has been exhausted may any of the following steps be considered.

A primary goal of resolution of any interpersonal conflict is forgiveness, reconciliation between the parties involved and restoration of fellowship.

2. When a member is accused of any offense that requires the discipline of the Church, the Leadership Team shall at once give notice to the person implicated, and shall proceed immediately to investigate it. Should this initial investigation result in favor of the accused or should the person remove the cause of grief, the Leadership Team shall make no report to the Church.

3. In every case in which the member is charged with an offense that would subject him or her to expulsion, the Leadership Team shall invite said member to meet with them and hear the charges and offer such explanation and evidence as may be needed. After hearing all, the Leadership Team shall prayerfully discern and offer a judgment upon the merits of the case. The Leadership Team will attempt to find a remedy for the charge and seek to restore the offended person wherever possible.

If remedy and restoration fails the Leadership Team will communicate their judgment with recommendations to the Church. The accused shall be duly notified of their proposed action, and the Church shall adopt or reject their

recommendations without discussion, unless the accused demands a re-hearing, in which case the examination before the Church shall be conducted in the same manner as before the Leadership Team.

4. If any member shall hold and disseminate views of doctrine considered by the Church to be unscriptural and hurtful, or shall be the cause of strife and division, and, after the proper labor to reclaim him, he still persists in the harmful practice, it shall be considered a disciplinary offense and subject to disciplinary action as described in numbers 2 and 3 above.

5. Except as provided in these Bylaws or the Constitution of the Church, no member has a right to continued membership or a right to any specific procedure, including any required notice or notification, with respect to the member's expulsion or suspension or the termination or suspension of any person's membership. The members of the Church shall make the ultimate determination of the continuance of a person's membership. No member shall have any of the rights described in Section 14-3-624 of the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code, or any successor provision thereto.

REPRESENTATION AT DENOMINATIONAL MEETINGS

Each year messengers will be sent to represent the Church in the Mulberry Association to cooperate with the messengers of other churches in promoting the interests of the Kingdom of Christ.

Messengers will be appointed each year to attend the sessions of the Georgia Baptist Convention and of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Pastor shall be considered by virtue of his office an appointed messenger to these denominational meetings; his expenses being paid by the Church.

AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a quarterly business meeting, providing the amendments shall have been offered in writing at least one month previous to said business meeting and notice given from the pulpit or in the Church Bulletin on two Sundays prior to such vote. They shall be considered by the proper committee and their report given before the vote is taken.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

All items of business not otherwise specified in the Constitution or Bylaws shall be decided in conformity with most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order. This Constitution and Bylaws shall supersede all previous rules of order formerly adopted by the Church.