

CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS OF CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH OF ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS, NEW JERSEY

Revised Version
February 2026

Article I *Name*

The name of this church shall be Central Baptist Church of Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey.

Article II *Purpose*

The purpose of this church shall be the advancement of the kingdom of Jesus Christ. It shall seek to attain this through the public worship of God, the preaching of the Gospel, consistent Christian living by its members, personal evangelism, missionary endeavor, Christian education, and Christian social involvement.

Article III *Church Covenant*

Having been, as we trust, brought by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves wholly to Him; we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant with each other to walk together in Him with brotherly love, to His glory as our Lord. We do, therefore in His strength engage:

That we will exercise a mutual care, as members of one another, to promote the growth of the whole body in Christian knowledge, holiness and comfort; to the end that we may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God;

That to promote and secure this objective, we will endeavor to uphold the public worship of God and the ordinances of His church; and to hold constant communion with each other therein, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together; that we will cheerfully contribute of our property for the support of the poor, for the support of home and foreign missions, and for the maintenance of a faithful ministry of the gospel among us;

That we will not neglect private and family devotions at home or the great duty of training our children and those under our care in the nurture and discipline of the Lord, with a view to the service of Christ and the enjoyment of everlasting life with Him;

That we will walk circumspectly in the world, to the end that we may win others to the Lord Jesus Christ. We will endeavor to be Christian in example, in speech, in conduct, in

love, in faith, and in purity of life. We will remember that God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, of love, and of a sound mind; that we are the light of the world and the salt of the earth, and that city set on a hill which cannot be hid;

That we will frequently exhort, and if occasion shall require, admonish one another according to Matthew 18, in the spirit of meekness, considering ourselves lest we also be tempted. As in baptism we have been buried with Christ and raised again, so there is on us a special obligation thenceforth to walk in newness of life;

That we will, upon moving to another locality, seek to associate ourselves with a church of like faith and practice; joining membership therewith by transfer of letter within a period of one year after leaving this church;

And may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do His will, working in use that which is well-pleasing to His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory, forever and forever. Amen.

Article IV *Affirmation of Faith*

We do hereby adopt as a condensed statement of our faith the following affirmation. We accept the same not as an authoritative rule or code of faith, whereby we are to be fettered, but as an assistance to us in controversy, a confirmation in faith, and means of edification in righteousness.

1. The Word of God - We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct (John 17:17; Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).
2. The Trinity - We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious office in the work of creation, providence, and redemption (Matthew 28:19; John 1:1-4; 1 John 5:7).
3. God the Father - We believe in God, the Father, and infinite personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of people, that He hears and answers prayer, that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ (John 3:16-17; John 4:24; John 17:5).
4. Jesus Christ - We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth (Isaiah 7:14; John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 1:2-3; 1 John 1:7).

5. The Holy Spirit - We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, comforter, and guide (John 14:26; John 16:7-15; Romans 8:14-17; Ephesians 1:13-14).
6. Regeneration - We believe that all people are sinners by nature and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit (John 1:12-13; John 3:3,16-17; Acts 20:21; Ephesians 2:1-9; Titus 3:5).
7. The Church - We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on the credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world (Matthew 16:16-18; Acts 2:38-41; Ephesians 2:19-22; 5:25-27).
8. Christian Conduct - We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of his fellow people; that his or her conduct should be blameless before the world; he/she should be a faithful steward of his or her possessions; and that he/she should seek to realize for him or herself and others, the full stature of maturity in Christ (2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 3:17-23; 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18).
9. The Ordinances - We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church, baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-42; Romans 6:3-5).
10. The Last Things - We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal blessedness of the righteous, and endless suffering of the wicked (John 5:28-29; Revelation 20:1-15; Matthew 25:31-46; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

Article V *Membership*

Section 1 - Qualifications

Any person may become a member of this church upon completion of instruction as determined by the pastor, recommendation of the Board of Deacons, and by vote of the church:

- A. Upon confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and after baptism by immersion.
- B. By letter from some other church of like faith and practice, if previously baptized by immersion.
- C. Upon statement of Christian experience, if previously baptized by immersion.
- D. By restoration, if absent from Christian fellowship.

Section 2 - Duties of Members

In order that persons applying for church membership may be informed as to the duties of members, they shall have the Church Covenant and Affirmation of Faith presented to them by the Board of Deacons, and shall subscribe to it wholeheartedly. The Church Covenant and the Affirmation of Faith will be read at the Lord's Table at least once a year. Members in good standing will strive to keep their Covenant obligations.

Section 3 - Dismissal of Members

- A. Letters of transfer of membership for the purpose of uniting with some other church of faith and practice shall be granted to members in good standing upon recommendation of the board of deacons and by vote of the church.
- B. Any member in good standing desiring to unite with a church not of like faith and practice may, upon the recommendation of the board of deacons and by vote of the church, be granted a certificate of Christian standing and church fellowship.
- C. Any member having been granted either a letter or a certificate of Christian standing shall thereafter cease to be a member of this church.
- D. At the person's request, a letter of dismissal will be issued.

Section 4 - Members Who Disregard Their Covenant Obligations

It shall be the duty of the Board of Deacons to ascertain the facts and exercise positive action in the case of members who disregard their Covenant obligations, or who no longer agree with the Affirmation of Faith. Such action always has as its aims the glory of God, the welfare and purity of the church, and the restoration and spiritual growth of the church member.

The duty of the Board of Deacons should be exercised under the guidance and in the spirit of such passages of Scripture as Matthew 5:23-25; Matthew 18:15-17; and 2 Corinthians 2:5-11. When in any case the deacons are convinced that the member cannot be reclaimed, they shall present to the

church a recommendation that the name of the delinquent member be erased from the membership roll. Upon vote by the church, said member shall thereafter cease to be a member of this church.

Section 5 – Non-attending and Nonresident Members

A. Members upon moving shall, within a year, furnish the Board of Deacons with their new address and the name and address of the nearest church of like faith and practice.

B. The names of members nonresident or non-attending (those capable of attending but not having done so) for a period of one year, who disregard their Covenant obligations with respect to the transfer of their membership upon moving, and have not communicated with the church for a period of one year, may upon recommendation of the Board of Deacons, and by vote of the church, be removed from the membership roll. This shall only be done after a letter with delivery confirmation has been sent to the last known address of the said individual in an attempt to inform them of the action which is pending.

C. In select cases, nonresident members will be granted Honorary Membership. This Honorary Membership will be granted if they are active in a local church in their new place of residence.

Section 6 - Request for Removal from Membership Roll

When a member requests that his or her name be removed from the church roll and no charges have been preferred against such member, the Board of Deacons shall investigate. If they are satisfied that said member cannot be reclaimed, they shall present to the church a recommendation that the name be erased from the membership roll. The church may vote upon such a recommendation at a regularly called business meeting of the church.

Article VI *Election*

1. All the Board members (Deacons, Hospitality, Trustees, Missions and Evangelism, Christian Education), all the Committee members (Pastoral Relations, Technology, Worship, and any other committees) and positions such as the church moderator, clerk, treasurer, and assistant treasurer shall be elected for a term of three years.

2. At the end of the first term of three years, a person can be elected for another term of three years.

3. At the end of the second term, a member cannot serve in that capacity for at least one year.

4. There should be no automatic returns to the boards/committees after one year off.

Article VII
Paid Staff

1. No paid staff person can serve on a board where decisions will be made about their employment.
2. Every paid staff person should have a job description, which should be signed at the beginning of the employment by the church and the hired person.
3. Every paid staff person should have a yearly evaluation of their performance by the board that is responsible for their supervision.

Article VIII
Church Officers and Boards

Section 1 - The Officers of the Church shall be as follows:

- A. Pastors
- B. Board of Deacons
- C. Board of Hospitality
- D. Board of Trustees
- E. Board of Missions and Evangelism
- F. Board of Christian Education
- G. Church Clerk
- H. Church Treasurer
- I. Assistant Treasurer
- J. Sunday School Superintendent
- K. Church Historian
- L. Church Librarian

Section 2 - Any person accepting an office must be a member in good standing and support the Articles of Faith and the Church Covenant.

Section 3 - All appointed and elected officers shall hold office until their successor is appointed or elected at the annual business meeting. In the event of a mid-year absence, see Article IX, section 4.

Section 4 - No person shall hold more than two offices at the same time, nor shall any person serve as chairperson of more than one board at the same time.

Section 5 - Terms of office and duties of officers shall be as follows:

A. Lead Pastor. The pastor shall faithfully preach the Word of God, administer the ordinances, exercise Christian care and watchfulness over the membership, have in his or her charge the

spiritual welfare of the congregation and the stated services of public worship. He/she shall visit the sick, shut-ins, prospective new members and other members when situations or circumstances deem a visit advisable. S/he will be a member of the Board of Deacons and will be an ex-officio member of other boards and committees. A detailed job description shall be signed upon taking office by the pastor and the church pulpit committee.

See Section 7 for the calling and termination of the lead pastor.

B. Board of Deacons. There shall be a board of no more than 6 deacons (however, the number may be less due to lack of qualified candidates). The candidates shall be nominated from the membership of the church by the deacon board and elected by the church. When selecting qualifications of deacons, we will observe the following criteria:

1. The candidate must have proven his/her responsibility in prior positions within the church and shown an active participation in the spiritual life of the church.
2. The guidelines for the candidate can be found in 1 Timothy 3 and Galatians 3:28.

The restriction prohibiting reelection shall not apply to any deacon who has not served a full three year term.

The board shall choose a chairman, secretary and treasurer at the first meeting of the year, and shall meet regularly. Special meetings may be called by the chairman, who shall notify the other members. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

The board shall in every way assist the pastor in his or her work; with him or her consider all applicants for church membership and all requests for letters of dismissal; cooperate with him or her providing the pulpit supply and the leaders of the prayer meeting in his or her absence; visit the members; care for the sick, needy and distressed members of the church, using such fellowship funds as may be needed.

The board shall promote Christian instruction and ministry to the church membership, provide for the Lord's Supper and aid in its distribution; deliver to the treasurer of the deacons the fellowship offering received each month; and make a written report at each annual meeting of the church on the matters in its charge, as well as a verbal report at business meetings.

The board is also in charge of all other pastoral/ministerial staff, including hiring, policies, procedures, and supervision of said staff. The board of deacons will carry out this duty in partnership with any relevant boards. Any creation of new pastoral/ministerial staff positions and/or hiring of new pastoral/ministerial staff must be approved by the church.

The board shall secure the services of the music team within the salary guidelines of the adopted church budget. If they feel it is necessary to exceed the salary authorized in the budget, it must be approved by the church. They shall be responsible for supervising the performance of the music team. The board shall write a job description for each member of the music team, evaluate each member yearly, and report at the annual meeting.

The Board is also in charge of the Nursery, including policies, procedures, and the hiring and supervision of the attendant.

C. Board of Hospitality. There shall be a board of hospitality elected from the membership of the church at each annual meeting to serve for a term of three years. Ideally the board shall consist of at least 8 members, however the number may be less due to lack of willing candidates.

They shall oversee all areas of hospitality and welcome for the church: recruit and coordinate Sunday door greeters; oversee the seasonal decoration of the building; coordinate food and beverage service for Sundays; inquire after those who absent themselves from church services; watch for and welcome new comers; assist candidates for baptism; care for the baptism robes; care for the communion service and linens and provide elements for the Lord's Supper; recognize celebrations such as births and marriages; purchase supplies and equipment as necessary to administer the hospitality function and the Lord's Supper; assist in organizing and serving for fellowship gatherings; seek out cases of sickness and suffering and, with the pastor(s) and deacons, attempt to help them; and submit a budget each year for their responsibilities.

The board shall choose a chairperson at the first meeting of the year. There shall be regular meetings. The board shall make a written report at each annual meeting of the church on the matters in its charge, as well as a verbal report at business meetings.

D. Board of Trustees. There shall be a board of no more than nine trustees (however, the number may be less due to lack of qualified candidates).

The board shall choose a chairperson at the first meeting of the year, and shall meet regularly. Special meetings may be called by the chairman, who shall notify the other members. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

The board shall hold in trust all property belonging to the church and shall take all necessary measures for the protection, management, and upkeep of said property. It also retains the right to accept or reject property donated to the church. They shall be authorized to seek contracts for necessary repairs and replacements to the church property. The trustees shall be allotted annually a maintenance fund by the budget committee to be spent as they see fit. Any single expenditure exceeding \$5,000 must have two bids and the vote of the church. In an emergency, the board is authorized to take whatever action is necessary to mitigate the situation and report as soon as possible to the church what action has been taken.

The board shall determine the use of the church building or any other church property for all extra or secular purposes. It shall have no power to buy, mortgage, or transfer any property without specific vote of the church authorizing such action.

The board shall secure the services of a sexton within the salary guidelines of the adopted church budget. If they feel it is necessary to exceed the salary authorized in the budget, it must be approved by the church. They shall determine the duties and responsibilities put forth in a job

description. They shall evaluate the work of the sexton and be responsible for supervising the performance of the sexton at least yearly.

E. Board of Christian Education

The Board of Christian Education is entrusted with all the children's Sunday School classes and the youth work. It shall be made of 3-5 people interested and active in these areas. In the event that a staff member is not responsible for the duties, the Board shall select a Sunday School Superintendent and work with this person in the purchase of teaching materials and the staffing of the teachers for all the classes that we have. In our current formation, the Board shall also do the staffing for the Junior Church that meets during the Worship Service. The Sunday School Superintendent serves as a member of this Board.

The Board also is in charge of youth activities. In the event that a staff member is not responsible for the duties, it is responsible for the hiring of the Youth Director. The vote for the Youth Director shall be done by the whole church. The Youth Director is ex-officio of this Board. The board shall secure the services of the Youth Director within the salary guidelines of the adopted church budget. If they feel it is necessary to exceed the salary authorized in the budget, it must be approved by the church. They shall be responsible for supervising the performance of the Youth Director. The board shall write a job description for this position, evaluate performance yearly, and report at the annual meeting.

Both the Sunday School Superintendent and the Youth Director report directly to this Board orally, but also in written form for the Annual Meeting.

F. Board of Missions and Evangelism

The Board of Missions and Evangelism shall be in contact with all of our missionaries and mission agencies and sponsor mission-oriented events to keep the vision for missions alive among us. It shall distribute the funds allocated for missions at the Annual Meeting. It shall make recommendations for any new perspective missionaries to support.

The Board shall create and implement all the evangelistic activities for the church. It shall provide oral reports as needed and a written annual report to the congregation. It shall choose its chairman and secretary at the beginning of each year.

G. Church Clerk.

The church clerk shall keep a complete record of the transaction of all business at the meetings of the church. This shall be read for approval at the next following business meeting. He/she shall keep a record of the names and addresses of members, with dates and manner of admission and transfer; also a record of baptisms, weddings, deaths and a list of active and inactive members. He/she shall notify all officers, committee members and delegates of their election and appointment. He/she shall issue letters of dismissal and recommendation voted by the church, preserve on file all communications and written reports, and give legal notice of all meetings where such is required by this constitution. He/she shall assist in preparing denominational reports. He/she shall deliver immediately to this or her successor all books and records for which he/she has been responsible as clerk.

H. Church Treasurer. If a qualified member is elected as treasurer at the annual meeting, they will serve for one year. A treasurer shall be elected at each annual meeting to serve for one year. He/she shall administer the funds of the church and all deposits made in the name of the church. He/she shall keep separate accounts of all funds raised or contributed for particular purposes, and no funds shall be disbursed by him or her except for the purposes for which they were raised or contributed. He/she shall insure the custody of securities, investments, title papers, and other valuable documents of the church. S/he can act on behalf of the church with financial institutions.

He/she shall present to the church an itemized report of receipts and disbursements, showing the actual financial condition of the church at each business meeting. This report shall be reviewed by the Budget Committee prior to the meeting. He/she shall make such other financial reports as may be desired by the church.

He/she shall deliver immediately to his or her successor all books and records pertaining to his/her office.

The Board of Trustees may hire an outside individual to execute the duties of the church treasurer, except the dispersal of the church funds shall be done by a member of the Board of Trustees and a member of the Board of Deacons chosen by their respective boards.

I. Assistant Treasurer. An assistant treasurer shall be elected at each annual meeting to serve for one year. It shall be his or her duty to issue offering envelopes to those members who express a willingness to use them. He/she will collect all moneys contributed and keep a correct account thereof between the church and its members. He/she will deposit such collections weekly and render a statement thereof to the treasurer. He/she will prepare a statement of offerings received and present it at each business meeting.

J. Church Historian. A church historian shall be appointed by the deacons to serve for one year. He/she shall keep a written record of all activities and happenings of historical value and interest during the church year. He/she shall publish highlights of those events in the annual report of the church. If no one is appointed to this position, the Pastor shall serve in this office.

K. Church Librarian. A church librarian shall be appointed by the deacons to serve for one year. He/she shall be in charge of the library program. He/she should work closely with the pastor, deacons, and Sunday school superintendent. If no one is appointed to this position, the Pastor and the church secretary shall serve in this office.

L. Church Moderator. The church moderator will be responsible for conducting business meetings in an orderly fashion based on Robert's Rules of Order. The church moderator will be nominated by the nominating committee, will remain in office for three years and will be open to re-election. In the event the church moderator cannot attend a business meeting, the chairman of the board of deacons will serve as substitute.

Section 6 - The Committees of the Church requiring membership:

A. Auditing Committee. The auditing committee shall consist of two or more members elected at the annual meeting to serve for one year. They shall audit the financial records of the church periodically and report to the church at the annual meeting.

B. Budget Committee. The budget committee shall consist of the chairs of each of the boards and the treasurer, assistant treasurer, and church clerk. The committee shall prepare current expense budgets, including salary recommendations for the pastor and all other church employees, to be presented at the annual meeting for approval. The church membership present at the annual meeting may make revisions to the submitted budget by majority vote.

C. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of three to five members elected at the annual business meeting to serve for one year. No member of the committee shall serve more than two terms. They shall prepare a list of those qualified to fill the various offices:

Church Clerk
Church Treasurer
Church Assistant Treasurer
Church Auditor
ABCNJ Committee
Board of Hospitality
Board of Trustees
Board of Missions and Evangelism
Board of Christian Education
Nominating Committee
Pastoral Relations Committee
Church Moderator

They shall interview each nominee proposed to ascertain his or her willingness to serve if elected. The committee shall nominate one person for each office to be filled and report the names to the church at least one week before the election is held.

D. Pulpit Committee. This committee shall be activated in the event the lead pastorate of the church becomes vacant. It shall consist of two members each from the existing boards and one member of the church at large to be chosen by the remainder of the committee. In cooperation with ABCNJ leadership, it shall be their responsibility to investigate the merits of each candidate under consideration in regard to his or her personal character, education, ministerial record and preaching ability in determining his or her fitness for this pastorate. When a suitable person is found by the unanimous vote of the Pulpit Committee, s/he shall be presented to the congregation. All members qualified under Article VII, section 2 shall be eligible to vote and the voting shall be by secret ballot. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members present, provided at least 50% of members eligible to vote are present, shall be necessary to extend a call. Members accepted during the year shall be eligible to vote in pastoral selections. Once a candidate has accepted the position, all records of all candidates shall be destroyed by the chairman of the committee.

E. ABCNJ Committee. This committee shall consist of two members to be elected at the annual meeting. They are to serve as liaison between the church and the denomination and are empowered to vote on behalf of Central Baptist Church at the annual meeting.

F. Pastoral Relations Committee. This committee shall consist of three to six members elected at the annual business meeting. This committee shall act as a liaison between the pastors and the congregation.

The term liaison shall be defined by the following three functions:

1. Strengthen the pastor-people relationship according to the ABCNJ Guidelines. The committee is to help the pastors and the congregation understand the leadership role of a pastor. In doing so, the committee is to ensure that the pastors and the congregation have similar goals.
2. Channel congregational expectation. The committee is to be the vehicle for carrying the congregation's reaction to the pastor while preserving the anonymity of individuals. Members of the committee should be open, resourceful, and intelligent listeners. The committee should direct problems not concerning the pastor to the proper church organization. The committee should use discretion in filtering concerns to the pastor. In addition, the pastor should be frank during discussions in order to get the judgment of the entire committee.
3. Consider pastoral compensation. Once a year the committee should meet with the pastor to discuss his/her salary. They should specifically consider the following:
 - a. Cost of living.
 - b. Pastor's performance.
 - c. Changes in the pastor's family needs.
 - d. Changes in the scope of the pastor's ministry that call for financial adjustment
 - e. Expenses
 - f. Time off for continued education and the incurred expenses

It shall meet twice a year with the pastor, or more often if necessary, to discuss any problems. A formal announcement from the pulpit shall be made the Sunday before the meeting to solicit pertinent information and concerns.

Section 7 - Calling and Terminating a Pastor

A. Calling the Lead Pastor. The pulpit committee shall only present one candidate to the church membership at a time. The call shall come at a regularly called business meeting, notice of such meeting and its purpose having been read from the pulpit on two successive Sundays. All members qualified under Article V, section 2 shall be eligible to vote and the voting shall be by secret ballot. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members present, provided at least 50% of members eligible to vote are present, shall be necessary to extend a call.

B. Terminating the Lead Pastor. The term of office may be ended upon ninety days notice on the part of the pastor or the church. Termination of the office shall be voted at a regularly called

business meeting, notice of such meeting and its explicit purpose having been read from the pulpit on two successive Sundays. All members qualified under Article V, section 2 shall be eligible to vote and the voting shall be by secret ballot. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members present, provided at least 50% of members eligible to vote are present, shall be necessary to terminate the office.

Article IX

Elections/Voting

Section 1 - Time

The annual election of officers shall be held during the annual meeting of the church, which shall be held in January and announced three weeks in advance.

Section 2 - Qualifications of Voters

All matters pertaining to the purchase, sale or mortgaging of property shall be voted on only by members in good standing and who are 18 years of age. On all other matters, all members in good standing are entitled to vote.

Section 3 - Procedure

At least one week before the election, the nominating committee shall present to the church the names of the nominees for each office to be filled. At the time of the annual meeting it shall be the privilege of any member present and qualified to vote, to place in nomination the name of any eligible person for any office not so nominated, except for the Board of Deacons. A majority of the ballots cast are necessary for the election of any officer.

Section 4 - Vacancies

Vacancies occurring during the year may be filled for the unexpired term at any business meeting. The nominating committee shall present to the church, nominees for the vacancy to be filled.

Section 5 - Qualifications of Officers and Committees Requiring Membership.

Nominees for Church officers and committees requiring Church membership must be members in good standing.

Article X

Meetings

Section 1 - Worship Services

Public services shall be held on each Lord's Day. The church shall hold weekly meetings at a time fixed by their governing board and approved by the pastor and board of deacons.

There will be youth fellowship programs, under the direction of the pastor. He/she shall appoint leaders and the leaders will administer the program.

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the first Sunday morning of each month, and at such other times as the church may determine.

Occasional religious meetings may be appointed by the pastor at his discretion, by the board of deacons, or by vote of the church.

Section 2 – Weddings

Central Baptist Church defines marriage as the covenant between one man and one woman, according to the Scriptures. Central Baptist Church will only perform or host weddings that meet the above definition. (Genesis 2:24 and Matthew 19:4-6)

Section 3 - Business Meetings

The annual business meeting shall be held in January for the purpose of receiving the annual reports of individual officers, boards and committees of the church, the election of officers, and the transaction of such other business as is proper to come before this meeting. A mid-year business meeting shall be held sometime between June and September, with the date at the discretion of the deacons. Quarterly financial reports will be sent.

Special business meetings may be called at any time by the pastor or by the clerk. Notice of such meeting, and the object for which it is called, shall be given from the pulpit at least one week in advance of the date of the meeting. At any of the regular meetings of worship, however, the church may, without notice, act upon the reception of members, upon dismissal of members to other churches, and upon the appointment of delegates to councils, but not upon extraordinary business.

Article XI

Church Year

The fiscal year of the church shall be the calendar year.

Article XII

Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any regular or called business meeting of the church, provided that notice of such amendment stating the proposed change, shall have been given from the pulpit on two successive Sundays. All members qualified under Article V, section 2 shall be eligible to vote and the voting shall be by secret ballot. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members present, provided at least 50% of members eligible to vote are present, shall be necessary to amend this constitution.

Article XIII

Approval

Approval of this constitution may be done only at a regular business meeting.