

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE
ISLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
OF BEACH HAVEN. NEW JERSEY**

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

In order to preserve the principles of our faith, to guarantee that this body may be governed in an orderly and efficient manner consistent with the Scriptures, and for the purpose of preserving the unity of this church, the liberties inherent in each individual member, and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith, we do declare and establish this Constitution.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this church shall be the Island Baptist Church, It shall be an autonomous Baptist church, independent of any external ecclesiastical control.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose for which this church is established shall be:

1. To honor our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
2. To bear united witness to the faith of its members in the Bible as the inspired Word of God.
3. To make known the good news of salvation in our community and around the world in obedience to our Lord's command.
4. To help one another grow to a level of spiritual maturity, fruitful service and mutual love.

ARTICLE III. STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe in the complete verbal inspiration and inerrancy of the sixty-six books of the Bible. It is our final authority on all matters it addresses. (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Pet. 1:20,21)
2. We believe in one God, the Creator and Ruler of all things, who is perfect in holiness and love, infinite in wisdom and power, who is eternally Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Deut. 6:4; 1 Chron. 29:11,12; Neh. 9:6; Matt. 28:19)
3. We believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal and only-begotten Son of God, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, who is truly God and truly man, the only mediator between God and man. We believe in his bodily resurrection, his ascension into heaven, and his present ministry there as our High Priest and Advocate. We believe in his personal, visible return for his church and to establish his kingdom on earth. (Matt. 1:20; Jn. 1:12; 14:6,9; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 Cor. 15; Acts 1:9-11; Heb. 4:14-16; 1 Jn. 2:1,2; 1 Thes. 4:13-17; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:1-15)

4. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, who regenerates, seals, indwells, guides, teaches and sanctifies every believer, baptizing him into the body of Christ, the church, and equipping him with gifts for ministry. (Jn. 3:3-7; 14:16; 16:8-11; Acts 5:3,4; Rom. 8:14-16; 1 Cor. 12:7,13; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 1:13)
5. We believe that men and women were created in God's image, that they sinned and thereby incurred physical and spiritual death; that people are sinners by nature and by choice; that they will exist forever either in God's presence or apart from him. (Gen. 1:26; 2:7; Rom. 3:23; 6:23)
6. We believe that Christ died for our sin as a substitutionary sacrifice, that he rose again according to the Scriptures, and that God's wrath is turned away from all who trust him as Savior and Lord. We believe that salvation is by grace, through faith, and that all who receive Christ are born again by the Spirit of God, thereby becoming children of God. We believe in the eternal security of the believer, that is, the perseverance of all true children of God. (Jn. 1:12; 3:3-16; 10:27-29; 1 Cor. 15:3,4; Eph. 2:8,9)
7. We believe in the resurrection and everlasting conscious blessedness of the saved, and the resurrection and everlasting conscious punishment of the lost. (Lk. 16:19-31; 1 Cor. 15:3,4; 1 Thes. 4:13-17; Rev. 20:1-15)
8. We believe that the church, the body of Christ, is expressed institutionally through local congregations of baptized believers, who are equal in rank and privileges, subject to the Word of God, served by pastors (elders) and deacons, observing the ordinances, and independent of external ecclesiastical or political control. We believe that every Christian is to be baptized by immersion in water in obedience to our Lord's command and as a picture of his death, burial and resurrection to new life in Christ. We believe that the Lord's Supper is to be observed by the church, following earnest self-evaluation, as a memorial of Christ's death until he comes again. (Lk. 22:19,20; Matt. 28:19,20; Jn. 3:23; Acts 2:38-47; 8:38,39; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 1:2; 11:23-31; Phil. 1:1)

ARTICLE IV. CHURCH MEMBER'S STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Having been led by the spirit of God, I have received Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. I have publicly confessed my faith by word and by baptism. I subscribe to the statement of faith of my church, and do now with other members of the church as one body in Christ state my purpose and desire as a member of the Island Baptist Church

1. I will walk lovingly and humbly with my brethren; I will pray for them, and I will separate myself from any practices or habits which would detract from my testimony as a follower of Jesus Christ. (Jn. 13:34,35; Rom. 12:3; James 5:16; Titus 2:12)
2. I will pray for the advancement of my church in knowledge, spiritual growth and fruitfulness; I will uphold its program of worship, training and teaching, and will observe its ordinances. (Jn. 15:16; Matt. 28:19,20)

3. I will give regularly and cheerfully to my church as God prospers me for the support of the evangelistic, teaching and training ministry among us, and for the relief of the needy. (2 Cor. 9:6,7; 1 Cor. 16:2)
4. I will serve faithfully in some activity in the church body according to God's leading and according to my abilities and spiritual gifts, taking care to assume only such duties as can be effectively performed, and will improve my service by prayerful study of God's Word. (Rom. 12:4-8; James 1:22-24; 2:18; 1 Cor. 4:2; 2 Tim. 2:15)
5. I will maintain family worship, training and discipline in my home, encourage family prayer, Bible study and spiritual growth for any under my care. (Eph. 6:1-4; Prov. 22:6)
6. I will endeavor by example and witness to point people to Christ, and do my part in building them up in the faith. (1 Pet. 3:15; Matt. 28:19,20; Eph. 4:11-16; Col. 1:28)
7. I will follow the Bible as my rule of faith and practice. (2 Tim. 3:16,17)
8. I will endeavor to understand and appreciate fellow members of the church, especially those who may have personalities, ministries, and backgrounds quite different from mine. (Rom. 14:1-7; 1 Cor. 12:4-7, 18-27; Gal. 3:26-28)
9. I will endeavor to put into practice the Scriptures relating to our church as the body of Christ. (Rom. 12:4-16; 1 Cor. 12:11-27; Eph. 4:11-16)

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Qualifications:

To be received into this church, a person shall have

1. confessed Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior
2. experienced Christian believer's baptism by immersion
3. expressed agreement with the Constitution and By-Laws of the church.

Applicants for membership shall be recommended to the church by the elders after giving satisfactory testimony as to salvation, baptism, and views of Christian faith and practice. The membership of this church shall consist of those who are received by vote of the church on recommendations of the elders

- (a) by profession of faith followed by baptism, or
- (b) by restoration, if, having been excluded from the membership of this church, they have given satisfactory evidence for restoration or explanation of lapse of membership.

Section B. Recognition:

The church shall extend to all new members the right hand of fellowship in recognition of their admission to all rights and privileges of the church.

Section C. Duties:

Members are expected to be faithful in all the duties essential to the Christian life, supporting the program of the church, giving regularly, and finding an active place of service.

Section D. Termination:

1. Any member in good standing may obtain a letter of dismissal to another church.
2. Any member who unites with another church without a letter of dismissal shall be dropped from the church roll.
3. A member may be subject to dismissal by church discipline. (See Article II. Discipline.)
4. It is the desire of this church to maintain an active membership. The elders and church clerk shall advise the congregation concerning revision of the roll. They shall take into consideration the attitude of the members, their loyalty, and willingness to support the church. If a member is absent for four consecutive Sundays, it will be the duty of the pastor and elders to approach them. Members who no longer attend or express an interest in the church shall be notified that they are being considered for dismissal. (See also Article II, Section B(4).)

ARTICLE II. DISCIPLINE:

Related Scripture: Matt. 18:15-18; Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; Eph. 5:11; 1 Thes. 5:12-14; 1 Tim. 5:19-21; Titus 3:10.

Section A. Definition of Discipline.

The term "discipline" as used in this Article refers to the method of correction for problems in the church. It is that procedure including Christian teaching, admonition and rebuke (both private and public) with a view to helping the individual Christian mature in the faith and to be obedient to the Word of God.

An attitude of prayer, love, patience, calm and understanding should prevail in all matters of church discipline, regardless of the nature of the difficulty or offense.

Section B. Matters Requiring Discipline.

A member of this church shall be subject to discipline for:

1. Conflict between individual members. The order given in Matthew 18 shall be followed to resolve disharmony between members.
2. Heresy. Members who hold and/or propagate false doctrine shall be subject to church discipline.
3. Public sin. Members living in a manner unbecoming disciples of Christ, that is, in contradiction to the clear teaching of the Word of God, shall be subject to discipline after careful consideration by the elders.
4. Attitude toward the local church. For treating the acts and decisions of the church contemptuously, or producing discord, disunity or dissension or exhibiting disinterest.

Section C. Procedure for Discipline.

The elders are responsible to see that discipline is administered in accordance with the steps laid down in Matthew 18:15-17.

1. Exclusion. If the member in question refuses to hear the church and a scriptural solution cannot be worked out, that member shall be dismissed from membership in the church by a majority ballot of members present at a meeting called for that purpose.
2. Restoration. Excluded members may be restored to membership upon recommendation of the elders, after evidence of repentance.

ARTICLE III. LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH

Section A. Elders, Officers.

Jesus Christ is the Head of this church. Under his supreme authority, the church operates by congregational rule. Neither of these principles is negated by the following descriptions of leaders' authority and duties.

1. Elders.

The elders derive their authority from God who calls them and through the church which recognizes and selects them. The titles given them in Scripture suggest their duties and qualifications.

As "elders," they are recognized by the congregation to be respected, spiritually mature, and thus fit to lead. Their qualifications are found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

As "pastors," they are shepherds and are to care for the spiritual needs of the church.

As "overseers," they are responsible for the church's organization and administration. All officers, committees, and employees are responsible to the Board of Elders.

Specifically, the elders' duties shall include:

- (a) meeting as often as necessary to carry out their responsibilities; not less than monthly (a majority of the board shall constitute a quorum);
- (b) conducting and/or overseeing the preaching, teaching and evangelistic ministries of the congregation;
- (c) overseeing the counting, depositing, disbursement and record-keeping of the benevolence fund;
- (d) examining applicants for membership;
- (e) administering church discipline;
- (f) hiring, firing, and supervising non-pastoral staff;
- (g) recommending to the church such committees or organizations as may be needed to assist the body in its ministries;
- (h) delegating to the church committees or organizations such tasks as they may choose;
- (i) dividing their work among individual elders as they deem best (a responsibility of the whole board is not necessarily the responsibility of each member of the board);

2. Deacons.

The deacons derive their authority from God and through the church which recognizes and selects them. The title given them in Scripture suggests their duties and qualifications. These qualifications are set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-6.

There shall be a minimum of two deacons. They shall choose a chairman at their first meeting each year.

Specifically, the deacons' duties shall include:

- (a) meeting as often as necessary to carry out their responsibilities; not less than monthly (a majority of the board shall constitute a quorum);
- (b) overseeing the counting, depositing, disbursement and record-keeping of all monies, with the exception of the benevolence fund, according to the budget and financial policies of the church. Except for what the deacons consider emergencies, expenditures for over \$500.00 not included in the budget shall be approved by the congregation. When emergency expenditures are made, a report shall be given to the church by the next business meeting at the latest;
- (c) overseeing care of church property;
- (d) preparing a budget for congregational approval;
- (e) reviewing the financial needs of employees annually and making appropriate recommendations to the church;
- (f) dividing their work among individual deacons as they deem best (a responsibility of the whole board is not necessarily the responsibility of each member of the board);
- (g) signing any and all documents pertaining to any business transaction (however, no business transaction over \$500.00 may take place without prior congregational approval pursuant to section (c) above). Also, no less than two deacons may sign for any business transaction involving more than \$500.00.

3. Moderator.

The moderator of the church business meetings shall be elected at the annual meeting. In his absence, the chairman of the Board of Elders shall serve; in the absence of both, the clerk shall call the meeting to order and a moderator pro-tem shall be elected. One of the moderator's responsibilities shall be to call for prayer if unity is not evident in a meeting.

4. Clerk.

The clerk shall keep a suitable record of the actions of the church. The clerk shall keep a register of the names of church members with dates of admissions to membership, baptisms, weddings, dismissals or deaths. The clerk shall issue official letters of the church, keep on file written reports, and give legal notice of meetings where such notice is indicated in these by-laws.

5. Treasurer.

The treasurer shall receive from the financial secretary and disburse all funds as authorized by the deacons according to the church budget, and shall report quarterly to the congregation concerning all expenditures.

6. Financial Secretary.

The financial secretary shall receive all funds, and give to the treasurer a record of all receipts and their proper designation.

7. Auditing Committee.

The auditing committee shall see that all church organizations maintain adequate systems for accounting for receipts and expenditures. It shall issue a report at the annual meeting that all church accounts have been examined and are in order. The auditing committee shall consist of no fewer than two members.

8. Nominating Committee.

The nominating committee shall meet before the annual business meeting to select and propose to the congregation candidates for church offices and committees. It shall be composed of two elders, two members elected by the congregation, and one person appointed by the pastor.

9. Pastoral Calling Committee.

The pastoral calling committee is a temporary committee responsible for examining candidates for pastoral staff positions. It shall be elected by the congregation at a meeting called for that purpose and shall expire upon acceptance of a call by a candidate.

The pastoral calling committee shall consist of the Board of Elders, the Chairman of the Board of Deacons, and at least three additional members nominated by the elders. Nomination and election procedure shall otherwise be the same as for other church officers.

The committee shall contact, evaluate, and select candidates for pastor or pastoral positions. One candidate (not to be confused with pulpit supply) shall be invited at a time, and a decision to call or not call shall be made before inviting another candidate. The committee shall make its recommendation to the church at a business meeting which has been publicized at least two weeks in advance, proposing the terms of the call.

The committee shall handle all contacts with candidates until such time as a call is accepted. Communications shall then be handled by the elders.

10. Tenure.

All officers (except deacons and nominating and pastoral calling committees) shall be elected at the annual business meeting for a one-year term beginning January 1. (The nominating committee may be elected either at the annual meeting or at a business meeting closer to the date when their work is to be done .)

Deacons shall be elected at the annual business meeting for a two-year term. At the end of a two-year term, a deacon may not be re-elected for at least one year.

Section B. Corporate Officers

So far as the church's relationship to the State is concerned, the officers of the corporation shall be:

President: Pastor
Vice President: Chairman of the Board of Elders
Treasurer: Church Treasurer

Should the church be without a pastor, the Chairman of the Board of Elders shall serve as President and the Chairman of the Board of Deacons shall serve as Vice President. If there are no elders other than the pastor, then the Chairman of the Board of Deacons shall serve as Vice President.

Section C. Pastoral Relationship

1. General.

The church may hire pastoral staff to assist it in carrying out its ministry. Pastors are members of the Board of Elders, and so must meet the same qualifications and share the same responsibilities as elders. The pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees, except the Auditing Committee.

2. Establishment of Relationship.

Upon recommendation of the pastoral calling committee, the congregation shall extend a call by ballot vote in which at least 75% of members present vote to call. Such a vote must take place at a meeting called for that purpose and announced from the pulpit at least two Sundays in advance.

3. Dissolution of Relationship.

The church may dismiss a pastor by a 75% vote at a meeting called for that purpose and announced at least two weeks in advance. When a pastor resigns, a majority of members present at a business meeting must vote to accept. Pastor or church must give at least 30 days notice before dissolution of relationship.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS:

Section A. Worship.

The church shall meet for worship on the Lord's Day.

Section B. Business.

The annual meeting shall be held on the third Sunday in January, at which time annual reports shall be presented, officers elected, church budget adopted, and other business transacted.

Quarterly meetings shall be held on the third Sunday in April, July, and October.

Special meetings may be called as needed by the elders or by written request to the church clerk from ten or more voting members in good standing.

Notice of all business meetings shall be given from the pulpit on at least two Sunday mornings prior to the meeting.

1. Quorum.

One-third of voting members shall constitute a quorum, except for the calling or dismissing of a pastor, terminating the membership of a subject of church discipline, or purchasing or disposing of property, at which times two-thirds of voting members shall constitute a quorum.

The following shall not be included in establishing a quorum:

- (a) Members too young to vote.
- (b) Students, servicemen or others who are away for an extended period.
- (c) Members who have moved, but not yet joined another church.
- (d) Members who are in the process of being dropped from membership for lack of interest.

2. Majority.

Elections and decisions shall be made by a simple majority unless otherwise stated in these by-laws.

3. Order of Business.

Call to order
Prayer
Previous meeting's minutes
Reports
Old business
New Business
Adjournment
Prayer

4. Elections.

(a) Annual Election.

- (1) Officers elected at the annual meeting shall serve for one year renewable terms.
- (2) Candidates for elder shall not "run against" one another. The congregation may vote for as many on the list of nominees as it believes qualified.
- (3) All officers and committee members except elders shall be elected by a majority of votes cast. Elders must receive 75% of votes cast.
- (4) Pastoral staff, though elders, do not run for annual reelection. They are called and dismissed according to the provisions in Article III, Section C.
- (5) The nominating committee shall present its nominees to the church not less than three weeks prior to the election. Other candidates who meet the necessary qualifications may then be nominated by any five members or 5% of the membership, whichever is larger. Names of candidates so nominated must be submitted to the elders not less than one week prior to the election, and posted along with the names chosen by the nominating committee. Nominations will not be accepted on the floor of the meeting.

(b) Interim Elections.

Interim elections may be held to fill vacancies. The elders shall serve as the nominating committee in such cases. The same schedule and process as in the preceding paragraph shall be observed.

(c) Voting.

Only members eighteen years and older may vote.

Election of officers, votes to call or dismiss a pastor, or on acquiring or disposing of property shall be by ballot.

Absentee ballots are not acceptable.

ARTICLE V. GENERAL

Section A. Fiscal Year.

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

Section B. Ordination.

The church may ordain a male member who gives evidence of ability and preparedness for ministry.

Section C. Amendments.

The constitution and by-laws may be amended at any business meeting, so long as the purpose of the meeting has been announced at least four Sundays prior to the meeting.

Amendments to the Statement of Faith require 75% of active voting members of the church.

Amendments to the Constitution (other than Statement of Faith) require 75% of active voting members present.

Amendments to the By-Laws require a majority of active voting members present.

Section D. Dissolution.

Upon dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed to churches or Christian organizations of like faith and practice.

Established by congregational vote on October 15, 1995.

Pastor: Bruce Heuman

Clerk: Brenda Burd