

CONSTITUTION OF
**JIBSON IMMANUEL
BAPTIST CHURCH**



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PREAMBLE

The Bible teaches us to let all things be done decently and in order to the glory of God. To this end we the members of the Jibson Immanuel Baptist Church solemnly and sincerely set forth the following constitution by which we willingly agree to be governed..

Bible references: I Corinthians 14:40, Matthew 5:16

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this church shall be Jibson Immanuel Baptist Church, Inc.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this church shall be to promote the evangelizing of the unsaved at home and abroad and to seek the spiritual improvement and maturity of its members through the gospel of Jesus Christ as set forth in the scriptures.

ARTICLE III: AUTONOMY

The Jibson Immanuel Baptist Church shall be and remain independent and autonomous. However, it may participate in membership and activity with organizations of like doctrine for the promotion of like doctrine for the promotion of the gospel of Jesus Christ as long as it does not infringe upon the independence or autonomy of this church.

ARTICLE IV: DOCTRINE

The doctrine of the Jibson Immanuel Baptist Church shall be that we believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as originally written to be the verbally inspired Word of God, inerrant and the final authority for faith, life, infallible and God breathed. (2 Tim 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20, 21; Matt. 5:18; John 16:12,13). (SEE attachment #1 attached to the back of this constitution) for a complete and detailed explanation of Jibson Immanuel Baptist Church Doctrinal Statement.

ARTICLE V: COVENANT

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

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love: to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, Holiness, and comfort: to promote its prosperity and its spirituality: to sustain its worship, ordinance, discipline, & doctrines: to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin: and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor: and the spread of the gospel throughout all nations.

ARTICLE V: COVENANT (Continued)

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions to religiously educate our children: to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances: to walk circumspectly in the world: to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, back-biting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech, to be slow to take offense; but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of the Saviour, to secure it with out delay.

ARTICLE VI: MEMBERS QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1 Christian Experience (Testimony)

Any person who confesses faith in the Lord Jesus Christ gives satisfactory evidence of a change of and adoption of the views of the faith and practices held by this church, its doctrines, its covenant, and is baptized by immersion may be received into its membership.

Section 2 Letter

Letters of transfer from other Baptist churches shall serve as indication of previous baptism. All other requirements of Article VI shall be fulfilled.

Section 3 Recommendation

Following baptism and membership instructions, candidates shall present themselves before the Deacon Board. Said board will thoroughly examine them as to their own Christian experience and understanding of the principles and policies of this church. The board shall then either reject or approve the candidate. The candidate shall then, if approved, appear before the congregation where-upon the board will recommend him/her to the church for membership. Applicants for membership must receive 75% affirmative vote of membership present. For a candidate to be rejected he/she must receive the negative vote of 26% of total voting membership present.

Section 4 Right Hand of Fellowship

Membership privileges shall begin at the time that the right hand of fellowship is given by the pastor and Board of Deacons.

ARTICLE VII MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Regular Members

Regular members shall be those who have been received into this church according to the conditions set forth under Article VI.

Section 2 Associate Members

Associate members shall be received in the same manner as regular members (see Article VI), but without voting privileges or the right to hold elective offices. Associates membership roll shall be composed of people with temporary residence, ordained or licensed ministers, and all others whose occupation, activity, or personal circumstances prevent attendance at regular church services for a period of six months or more in a calendar year. The regular pastor(s) of this church shall not be an associate member. Any regular member whose status changes sufficiently to come under this section shall be automatically placed on the associates membership roll. Associates membership shall never allow for multiple church memberships.

ARTICLE VIII: CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Letters of Transfer

Letter of transfer to other Baptist churches shall be granted by the church upon recommendation of the Deacon Board and shall be sent by the church clerk direct to the church name in the letter.

Section 2 Letters of Termination

Letters of termination may be granted to members uniting with churches of other denominations.

ARTICLE IX: DISCIPLINE OF CHURCH MEMBERS

Section 1 Discipline Committee

Since the Deacon Board, together with the pastor(s), are to supervise the spiritual work of the church, they shall also serve as the Discipline committee.

Section 2 Resolving of Disputes

In the case of personal differences of members of the church, the Discipline Committee shall recommend that the parties endeavor to settle their differences. If after taking this step either member considers it necessary to bring the case, before the church, they shall do so, through then Discipline Committee, and both parties in the case shall have a hearing before the Discipline Committee who shall report such conclusions and recommendations to the church as they deem best. (References: Matthew 18: 15-17)

Section 3 Resolving of Charges

When the Discipline Committee learns that a member is living a seemingly inconsistent christian life, or is charged with an offense which requires discipline, it shall be their duty to inquire into the matter, and if it shall appear that the case requires it they shall proceed with a through investigation. They shall send to the offending member(s) a written statement of the specific charges made against them, and a notice of the time and place when they wish them to appear before the Deacon Board to examine those charges and make their defense. In the event that the accused fails to appear before the Committee at the specified time and place, the case shall be presented to the church for action at a specially called meeting within thirty days from such failure to appear. If the Discipline Committee, after completing their investigation of any case, decide that the facts thus disclosed require the church to discipline the offending member, they shall so report to the church and shall notify the offender of the time when his case will be considered by the church. If, after careful examination, any member fails to give a satisfactory answer to the church in relation to the charges preferred against them, or if they refuse to appear before the church when cited, they shall be dropped from membership.

Section 4Non-Service Attendance

The names of all members who fail to express interest either through attendance or letter of testimony, for a period of one year, with written notification, will be automatically dropped from the church rolls. Not applicable to members physically prevented from active membership.

ARTICLE IX: DISCIPLINE OF CHURCH MEMBERS (continued)

Section 5 Restrictions of all Members, Deacons and Pastors

A. Slanderous Gossip Forbidden

The slandering of the character of any member of the church, or hurtful destructive criticism of the methods and practices of the church, the Pastor(s), or other officers of the church, shall be considered as grounds for discipline.

B. Circulating of Petitions

The circulation of any petitions among members with the exception of a petition for recall of the Pastor(s), without having secured the permission of the Deacon Board, shall not be allowed, and the person(s) so doing shall be subject to discipline.

C. Unauthorized Meetings

The calling of any meetings with a purpose to hinder or interrupt the work of an officer, board, or committee is prohibited. Any person(s) calling such a meeting shall be subject to discipline.

D. Conduct

Any member who is unchristian in conduct or who injures the effectiveness of the church under this constitution shall be subject to discipline.

ARTICLE X: FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The church accepts the Bible method of finance as final authority, as in all matters of faith and practice. Therefore the Biblical principle of tithing shall be encourage. This church shall be supported in all its endeavors by the tithes and freewill offerings of members and the people attending.

ARTICLE XI: OFFICERS QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITES

Section 1 Officers

The officers of this church shall consist of a Pastor(s), and Deacons. Treasurers and clerks are not officers, and are appointed positions, and will be appointed by the Deacon Board.

A. Pastor(s)

The pastor shall meet all of the biblical requirements for this high and holy office.
(Ref: Acts 20:28, I Tim 3: 1-7, II Tim 2:24, Col 1:25)

It shall be the duty of the pastor to preach regularly the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the church, and to administer the ordinances of the Gospel, and to perform the various duties incumbent upon his office. Prior to his absence, the pastor shall confer with the Board of Deacons as to the pulpit substitute. The pastor shall serve as a moderator at all church business meetings except those called for the purpose of dismissing the pastor.

ARTICLE XI: OFFICERS QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (continued)

Deacon Duties

- (1) Assist the pastor with the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and baptism
- (2) Conduct the membership classes;
- (3) Serve with the pastor on the Discipline Committee
- (4) Appoint and direct the work of the ushers, pianist, music director, serve on the pulpit committee.

Since Deacons are the temporal administrators of the church, they must be capable spiritual leaders and have the age of 21 years. (References: I Timothy 3:8-1, Acts 6:3)

The Deacons shall serve the church by administering the financial business of the church and its maintenance as follows: Deacons shall present an annual budget for adoption which shall include four main Headings:

- (1) Current Income & Expenses of the church
- (2) Pastor Support and Expenses incumbent upon that office.
- (3) Building Fund
- (4) Missionary Fund

The deacons shall disburse all church funds according to the approved church budget (except they shall be permitted to spend up to \$100), serve as the property committee who shall appoint and direct the work of the church caretaker, represent the church legally whenever necessary, and be responsible for the insurance, cleanliness, safety and comfort of all the church properties. The Board of Deacons shall present a contract approved by the church to the new pastor, including moving expenses, vacation and other agreed upon expenses incumbent upon the office of the pastor.

** An annual report with audit, plus regular quarterly reports, shall be made. All disbursements shall be authorized by the Deacon Board.

Deacon Terms

Any man wishing to become a Deacon, upon nomination by the congregation, pastor or Deacon Board, a man may be considered to become a deacon. He must meet all the qualifications listed in Article XI, Section 1, C and I Tim. 8-12. After a positive review the pastor and deacon board will then recommend him to the congregation. He may be elected by the church members at the annual congregation meeting. His term will be for One Year with full voting privileges. If he proves to be a good Deacon he can then be voted on again by the congregation for another three year term.

If the church lacks a sufficient number of qualified men to fill the necessary offices, the office shall be declared vacant. Should a vacancy occur during a deacon's term, the nominating committee shall select a list of persons from which the church shall elect one to fill that vacancy at a specially called church meeting.

C. Treasurers: (Not an officer of the church)

The treasurer shall be a current member in good standing and shall be appointed by the Deacon Board, and may be a man or women

Treasurer shall have custody of all church monies (except certain designated funds). An accurate account shall be kept of all funds received and disbursed at all times subject to audit annually or as directed by the Board of Deacons. The church monies shall be counted by the treasurer with the assistance of a deacon, or someone appointed by the Deacon Board to temporarily fill this position.

D. Clerk: (Not an officer of the church)

The clerk shall be a current member in good standing and shall be appointed by the Deacon Board and may be a man or women. The clerk shall keep a correct and permanent record of all the congregational business meetings of the church, sign all letters of dismissal, maintain a register of members, in which shall be noted such changes as may occur. The clerk shall enter upon the records of the church current events in the life of the church that are likely to be of historical value, making the church records a true and complete history of the church. All letters and communication, (telegrams, poster, announcements, etc), to the church shall first be presented to the church clerk, or person designated by the Deacon Board, who shall then present them to the board concerned.

The clerk shall maintain a record of all church members of voting age.

ARTICLE XII: COMMITTEES

Section 1 Nominating Committee

The purpose of the nominating committee is to consider, investigate, and nominate members to be elected to the offices of this church, except for the office of pastor. The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least two church members, nominated from and elected by the congregation at large (not Deacons), and two deacons, at the annual election. The committee shall attempt to provide two or more nominees for each committee and office, provided qualified candidates are available. The Nominating Committee shall thoroughly investigate the character and qualifications of each nominee before presenting them to the church.

Initial posting of a proposed slate of officers shall be twenty-five(25) days prior to the annual election meeting. In place of floor nominations the Nominating Committee will entertain names for any elective office up until fifteen (15) days prior to the annual election meeting. No nominee shall have his or her name posted until they have been consulted and accepts the nomination to the ballot. The list of nominees shall be published for two consecutive Sundays prior to the annual election meeting. This committee shall be a standing committee during the entire year and shall so act to fill any vacancies that occur until the next annual election.

ARTICLE XII: COMMITTEES (Continued)

Section 2 Pulpit Committee

The Pulpit Committee shall investigate and provide pastoral candidates and pulpit substitutes during the time the church may be without a pastor. The pulpit committee shall consist of the members of the Deacon Board . The Pulpit Committee shall thoroughly investigate and prayerfully consider all candidates and make a report to the congregation at least once a month. As the Holy Spirit leads, the Pulpit Committee shall call and interview as many candidates as they feel lead to guest speak in the Pulpit and then they shall present the name of one candidate at a time for acceptance as a pastor of the church at a special meeting called for that purpose. Before the candidate is presented to be voted on, the Pulpit Committee must secure his permission and present to the church at the time of voting, a signed statement by the proposed candidate signifying his unreserved acceptance of the church's covenant and doctrinal statement. A 3/4 majority of the eligible voting members present a quorum) shall be required to call a pastor.

Section 3 The Pulpit Committee (Continued)

The call shall be extended by the church through the church Deacon Board and should the candidate fail to receive the 3/4 majority, or refuse the call, the Pulpit Committee shall seek out another acceptable candidate.

Section 4 Missionary Committee

The Missionary Committee shall investigate , select, and supervise the missionary endeavors of the church. The Missionary Committee shall consist of the Deacon Board and 2 or more members in good standing of the church.

Section 5 Terms of Office and Qualifications

The terms of service for all committees except the Pulpit Committee shall be for one year. All committee members shall be regular members in full fellowship of the church. Members of the Nominating Committee shall have attained the age of Twenty One (21) years of age. A member of any committee of the church being absent from three consecutive meetings without excuse acceptable to the committee concerned, may be removed from office by that committee. This vacancy shall be filled in accordance with Article XII, Section 4, to serve until the next annual election.

ARTICLE XIII: THE MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

Section 1 Regular Meetings

Regular Sunday Services: A regular Sunday Morning Worship Service, and Junior Church, ages 5 - 12 shall be maintained. There shall be a mid-week prayer and worship service on Wednesday mornings and a evening Bible Study, along with Kids Club, ages 5-12 years, and Teens Group ages 13-18. The ordinance of communion shall be observed at least once a month at a time designated by the Deacon Board.

Section 2 Special Meetings

Special Meetings may be called jointly by the pastor(s), or Deacon Boards provided that notice of such meetings shall be posted for two Sundays prior to the meeting and announced at all regular services during this period.

Section 3 Business Meetings

There shall be four (4) quarterly Business meeting each year, these being be in the months of January, April, July and October. The annual meeting of the church for installation of officers, presentation of budgets and reports shall occur in conjunction with the January meeting. The meeting for the election of officers shall be held in December at a specially called meeting. A quorum at any church business meeting shall require 25% of the eligible active-voting members. An active eligible voting member shall be one who is in full fellowship with the church and have attained the age of 18 years. One who has not attended at least 4 out of 12 services of the church (Sundays, mid-week and special meetings) for the last thirty (30) days shall be considered inactive and ineligible to vote at a church meeting. (Except for illness, or excused absents by the Deacon Board). A majority vote of the voting members present shall decide all matters, except the calling of a pastor, or his dismissal, or amending this constitution, the purchase or sale of all church property; in which case requires a 3/4 majority vote of all active members. The "Roberts Rules of Order" shall be used to conduct all business meetings with the exception as specifically stated in this constitution.

ARTICLE XIV: RECALL AND TERMINATION OF PASTOR(S)

Realizing that at times it might be advisable for a pastor to be recalled from his church position, and when it is the simple majority vote of the Deacon Board, to recall the pastor. The board shall recommend the recall to the church and call a special meeting for the purpose of a church vote on the pastor's recall. a petition for recall of the pastor and special business meeting for that purpose shall also be considered from the congregation at large, but only when originated by an eligible voting member(s). This petition shall contain a simple majority of signatures of eligible voting members to be considered valid. A 3/4 majority vote of the eligible voting members present at the specially called meeting is required to recall the pastor. In all specially called meetings for the purpose of recalling the pastor, the Deacon Board shall present this recommendation at any regular church meeting.

If the pastor is voted out of office he shall be dismissed immediately from his pulpit, pastoral and all administrative duties..

In case either the pastor or the church shall desire to sever the pastoral relationship, not less than 3 months notice shall be given by either party so desiring it. However, this period of time may be shortened by mutual agreement.

If the pastor is found guilty of heresy or immorality he shall be dismissed immediately and shall not preach or pastor the church in any way.

ARTICLE XV: COMPENSATED ASSISTANTS

Section 1 Spiritual Assistants

The same procedure used in calling or recalling a pastor shall be employed in calling or recalling all assistants to the pastor who are involved with the spiritual work of the church. These individuals shall be responsible to and under the Deacon Board

Section 2 Material Assistants

Those compensated assistants who are involved with the material work of the church shall be under the direction of the Deacon Board who shall have the authority to call or recall them as is necessary.

ARTICLE XVI: AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

This constitution may be amended at any quarterly business meeting of the church by a 3/4 majority vote of the total eligible voting members of the church, provided that such an amendment, in writing, shall have been approved by the Deacon Board and read at the regular services on the two consecutive Sundays next proceeding said meeting and posted for two (2) weeks immediately preceding the meeting in a conspicuous place within the church building, and read at the regular Sunday services of the church during said period.

The Deacon Board and pastor(s) shall review this constitution previous to the annual meeting for updating or for any needed charges or additions.

JIBSON IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
STATEMENT of FAITH

EXPLANATION OF ARTICLE IV (on Page 1 of constitution)

The Bible:

We believe that the Bible in its original text is the verbally inspired, inerrant, preserved Word of God; that it is truth without any mixture of error. By inspiration we mean the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Spirit. We believe the original King James Version to be the Bible for English - speaking people of today. (See Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1: 19-21)

God:

We believe there is one and only one true and living God, infinite, intelligent, all powerful, all knowing and is everywhere at the same time. He is creator and supreme ruler of the universe, existing in three persons, the Father, The Son and The Holy Ghost. (See Deuteronomy 6: 4, 2 Corinthians 13: 14, 1 John 5:7)

Holy Spirit:

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God and the Father and Son. He guides believers into all truth, and convicts sinners of their sins, righteousness, and judgement. (Genesis 1: 1-3, John 16: 7-13, Romans 8:9,14, 16, 26, 27).

Christ:

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ to be the eternal Son of God who is our mediator at the Father's right hand. He was virgin born, lived a sinless life, died on the cross and bore our sins, accomplishing our redemption, was buried and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. He ascended bodily after His resurrection. We believe in His personal, premillennial return. (See John 1: 1-2, Romans 3: 24-25, Ephesians 1: 7, Acts :9-11, 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18).

Fall of Man:

We believe man was created in the image and likeness of God, but by choice he fell into sin and death. Therefore every person inherits a sinful nature and needs salvation. (See genesis 1: 26-27, Romans 3: 22-23, Romans 5:12, Romans 6: 23)