

The First Baptist Church

Waltham, Massachusetts

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Constitution and Bylaws

2006

Mission Statement

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The Mission of the First Baptist Church of Waltham is to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ through witness, prayer and service; and to make a spiritual home where all will feel welcome as we cooperate with denominations in furthering the Kingdom of God.

1 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
2 400 LEXINGTON STREET
3 WALTHAM, MA 02452
4

5 A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
6

7 On August 17, 1852 residents of the North side of Waltham were notified of a meeting “to be
8 held under the direction of the Baptist denomination.” On November 4, 1852, a church was
9 organized and Reverend Martin Bickford became its first pastor.
10

11 For three years the meetings on Sunday were held in Rumford Hall, the site of the present City
12 Hall.
13

14 The church building which was erected in 1855 at the corner of Charles and Moody Streets was
15 dedicated February 14, 1856.
16

17 At a special business meeting of the church in January, 1962, it was voted to move to a new site,
18 and to build a new church nearer the center of membership. On February 9, 1964, 400 Lexington
19 Street was dedicated.
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40 2006

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CONSTITUTION

Preamble – The First Baptist Church in Waltham, Massachusetts, founded on November 4, 1852 is a corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and holding a chapter #469-414 dated July 11,, 1938.

ARTICLE I – NAME

This organization shall be known by its corporate name as the “First Baptist Church in Waltham, Massachusetts.”

ARTICLE II – OBJECT

The object of this church shall be the maintenance of the Worship of God and the extension of His kingdom.

ARTICLE III – GOVERNMENT AND FELLOWSHIP

Recognizing Jesus Christ as the only head of the Church, the government of this church is vested in its members who exercise the right to control in all its affairs. It is amenable to no other ecclesiastical body, but it accepts the obligations of mutual counsel, comity and cooperation involved in the free fellowship of the American Baptist Convention, and pledges itself to share its common aims and work. This church is in direct fellowship with the Samuel Stillman Association, Massachusetts and American Baptist Conventions, and with all churches which seek to promote the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. This church is also in active fellowship with the National Council of Churches.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERS

The members of this church shall be persons who have been received into the church as provided in its Bylaws.

ARTICLE V –

Section 1 – The Pastor.

The Pastor shall be the spiritual leader of the church in all of its activities and shall preach the gospel, administer the ordinances, and direct the spiritual welfare of the church. He/She shall be available as counselor to all members of the congregation. He/She shall expect to lead the church in outreach to the community in obedience to the command of the Lord.

Section 2 – Officers.

The officers of this church shall be the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Financial Secretary and the Superintendent of Church School.

1 **Section 3 – Boards.**

2 The boards of this church shall be the Diaconate Board, the Board of Trustees, and the Board of
3 Christian Education.

- 4 a. The quorum of a board will be its majority (one more than half), if a quorum is not met,
5 the chairperson shall reschedule that meeting to another date.
- 6 b. No person may simultaneously serve on more than two (2) boards and can not serve as
7 chairperson of more than (1) board.
- 8 c. A majority on each board shall be members of this Church, as provided in the Bylaws.
- 9 d. Employees and officers of this church serving on a board to which they are directly
10 responsible will not be eligible to vote on matters pertaining to his/her position or duties
11 thereof and may not serve as chairperson of that board while so employed or during
12 his/her term of office.
- 13 e. By the second week in October each board shall submit to the Board of Trustees an
14 estimate of its financial requirements for the ensuing year.
- 15

16 ***ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS***

17 The fiscal year being from January first to December thirty-first, this church shall hold its
18 Annual Business Meeting during any Sunday in February to be called as provided in the Bylaws.
19 Other meetings for business and for religious worship may be held subject to the provisions of
20 the Bylaws.

21

22 ***ARTICLE VII – PROPERTY AND FUNDS***

23 This church shall hold its property and funds in its own corporate name. The general
24 management of the church property and funds shall be by the Board of Trustees, subject to the
25 direction of the church. The church may designate other agents for special objects and may
26 define their powers.

27

28 ***ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS***

29 This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any business
30 meeting called for that purpose, provided in each case such amendment has been read from the
31 pulpit or printed in the church calendar for two Sunday morning services immediately preceding
32 such meeting.

33

34 **NOTE**

35 This Constitution was passed at a duly called Business Meeting on Sunday February 5th, 2006,
36 and takes precedence over any and all previous Constitutions. [NOTE 2: this edition includes
37 the changes voted on Sunday February 13, 2006]

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39
40

1
2 **BYLAWS**

3
4 ***ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP***
5

6 **Section 1 – Eligibility for Membership.**

7 Persons who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who give satisfactory evidence of
8 Christian living, and who are in general agreement with our purpose, covenant and articles of
9 faith are eligible for membership in this congregation after meeting with the Baptism Committee
10 of the Diaconate and the Pastor. They may be accepted into membership under one of the
11 following four categories which apply to them.

- 12 a. By Believer’s Baptism by immersion following their professions of faith in Jesus Christ
13 as Lord and Savior;
14 b. By Letter of Transfer from another Christian congregation;
15 c. By Confession of Faith. Any person who has been, or is presently, a member of any
16 Christian Church and who cannot obtain a Letter of Transfer from that church may be
17 received into active membership upon receiving the Right Hand of Fellowship;
18 d. By Reinstatement. When one has lost his/her membership for any reason, it may be
19 restored to active membership upon his/her request and a vote of approval by the
20 Diaconate Board.
21

22 **Section 2 – Right Hand of Fellowship.**

23 When a candidate has been accepted by the Diaconate Board per Article V, Section 9f,
24 membership will be effective with the receiving of the Right Hand of Fellowship by the Pastor,
25 or in the Pastor’s absence, the Chairperson of the Diaconate Board.
26

27 **Section 3 – Inactive List.**

- 28 a. Any member who has not been present at the services of the church or in communication
29 with it for two years or more shall be classified as an inactive member and placed on an
30 inactive list by the Diaconate Board. This board shall make recommendations to the
31 church at any special meeting as to dropping or excluding those whose names have been
32 on the inactive list for one year or more.
33 b. Inactive members may also be classified, upon their request, as friends of the First Baptist
34 Church in Waltham in which case they will still receive the newsletter and seasonal
35 communications.
36

37 **Section 4 – Membership Dismissal.**

- 38 a. Letter. Any active member may be granted a letter of transfer to any other Christian
39 Church upon written request and upon the vote of the Diaconate Board. All such letters

1 shall be sent by the Clerk to the receiving church. Letters shall indicate whether or not
2 the member was baptized by immersion.

3 b. Dropping or Exclusion. Upon report of the Diaconate Board, advising such action, any
4 member including those who have been on the inactive list for one year or more may be
5 dropped or excluded by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any
6 business meeting, provided that a notice of the proposed action has been sent to the last
7 known address of the member involved.

8 c. Death. Membership terminates upon the death of the member.
9

10 **ARTICLE II – MEETINGS**

11 **Section 1 – Meetings for Religious Worship.**

12 These shall be maintained on Sunday and at such other times and in such manner as may best
13 accomplish the object of the church. Such meetings shall be subject to the general direction of
14 the Pastor and the Diaconate Board.
15
16

17 **Section 2 – Business Meetings**

18 a. Annual Meetings. Annual meetings shall be called by the Clerk, or in his/her absence,
19 the Moderator, by written notice which shall be read from the pulpit or printed in the
20 church calendar for two Sunday morning services immediately preceding such meeting.
21 The business of this meeting shall be to hear the annual reports of the church; to make
22 appropriations for the ensuing year; to elect nominees presented by the Nominating
23 Committee and the floor; and to transact any other business which may legally come
24 before it.

25 b. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the Clerk or in his/her absence, the
26 Moderator, in the manner provided for calling the Annual Meeting, upon request of the
27 Board of Trustees, the Diaconate Board, or the Board of Christian Education, or upon
28 written request of ten (10) voting members of the church. The call shall specify the
29 object of the meeting.

30 c. Voting Members.

31 1. Only active members who are at least 15 years of age shall have the right to vote on
32 all matters with the exception of financial matters and the removal of this church from
33 the American Baptist Convention.

34 2. All others shall express themselves from the floor or by letter to the Moderator.

35 d. Quorum. Twenty (20) voting members shall constitute a quorum for transaction of
36 business at all meetings called by the Clerk or Moderator. If for any reason a quorum is
37 not met, the meeting will be rescheduled to the next Sunday and/or until the meeting can
38 be carried out.
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ARTICLE III – CALLING THE PASTOR

Calling the Pastor:

- a. Method of Calling. When a vacancy occurs in the pastorate of this church, the Pastoral Search Committee shall act in accordance with the procedure recommended by the American Baptist Convention. The Pastor shall be elected by at least a three-fourths vote, which shall be taken by individual written ballot, of the members present and voting at a special meeting called for that purpose.
- b. Pastoral Change. If at any time, after consultation with the Pastoral Relations Committee, the Church Council and TABCOM, the Pastor or the church shall be convinced that the Pastoral relationship should be terminated, a special meeting shall be called in accordance with our Bylaws.
 - 1. In the event of a three-fourths vote taken by individual written ballot in favor of termination, a four month’s notice by letter shall be given to the Pastor by the Church Clerk.
 - 2. In the event the Pastor shall decide to resign, he/she shall submit a four month’s notice by letter to the Church Clerk.
 - 3. A shorter period in either case may be arranged by mutual agreement.

ARTICLE IV – ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICERS, DELEGATES AND BOARDS

Section 1 – Election of Officers.

All officers shall be elected by ballot at the Annual Meeting for a term of one year.

Section 2 – Election of Boards.

At least two Deacons, Trustees and members of the Board of Christian Education shall be elected by a majority vote, which shall be by ballot, of the members voting at the Annual Meeting. All Board members so elected shall hold offices for a term of three years and may consecutively continue another term by re-election.

Section 3 – Election of Delegates.

Delegates to the Mass. Baptist Convention, Samuel Stillman Association, Waltham Council of Churches and First Baptist Church Council At-Large shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of one year or until a successor is elected (except for the First Baptist Church Council At-Large, delegates shall be the Pastor, who is not voted, one delegate, and one alternate).

Section 4 – Resignations and Vacancies.

- 1 a. Resignation of officers, delegates, board members and the filling of vacancies for any
- 2 office may be acted upon at the Annual Meeting. In interim, vacancies may be filled by
- 3 the Nominating Committee and confirmed at the next business meeting.
- 4 b. Resignation of officers or delegates will be submitted to the Moderator.
- 5 c. Resignations from board members and employees will be submitted to the Board's
- 6 chairperson who will notify the Moderator in writing.
- 7 d. The Moderator will inform the Pastor of any resignations and will notify the
- 8 Chairperson of the Nominating Committee that there is a vacancy in the office, board, or
- 9 employ.

10
11 **ARTICLE V – DUTIES OF THE PASTOR, OFFICERS & BOARDS**

12 The Pastor and officers of this church are defined in the Constitution:

- 13 a. Each officer shall be a member of this church, as provided in the bylaws.
- 14 b. No person may simultaneously serve as more than one officer.
- 15 c. An officer may serve as a member of no more than one (1) other board.
- 16 d. Officers may be members of the board to which they report. Officers who are not
- 17 members of the board are expected to be ex-officio members.

18
19 **Section 1 – The Pastor.**

20 The Pastor shall faithfully endeavor to vitalize Christian principles in all persons within his/her

21 influence, and especially in the members of this church. He/She shall be a member ex-officio,

22 without right to vote, of all boards and committees and shall perform such other duties as usually

23 pertain to his/her office, and as may be delegated to him/her by vote of the church, in

24 conjunction with the Pastoral Relations Committee.

25
26 **Section 2 – Moderator.**

27 The Moderator:

- 28 a. Shall preside at all the Annual Meetings and special meetings called by the Clerk or
- 29 himself/herself.
- 30 b. During the vacancy in the pastorate shall exercise any administrative functions which
- 31 belong to the pastoral office.
- 32 c. Shall appoint special committees as directed by the church.
- 33 d. Shall hold no other elective office in the church during his/her term as moderator.
- 34 e. May be removed at any time by majority vote of the church.
- 35 f. Shall call the business meetings of the church in the absence of the Clerk.
- 36 g. Shall appoint a Recording Secretary who will take detailed minutes of each business
- 37 meeting and make six copies, one for each board, one for the Pastor, one for the
- 38 Moderator, and one for the Clerk.

39
40 **Section 3 – Vice-Moderator.**

- 1 a. The Vice-Moderator shall preside in the absence of the Moderator.
- 2 b. If there is a vacancy in the office of Moderator, the Vice-Moderator shall take a leave of
- 3 absence from any other boards until a new Moderator is voted by the church.

4

5 **Section 4 – Clerk.**

6 The Clerk:

- 7 a. Shall keep a permanent archive of the minutes of all meetings.
- 8 b. Shall keep a list of admission, inactivity and of termination of membership.
- 9 c. Shall be custodian of all papers except vouchers, receipts, notes and evidence of property.
- 10 d. Shall write all letters otherwise not provided for.
- 11 e. Shall have key authorization to the church safe deposit box.
- 12 f. Shall prepare an Annual Report of the Church and letter to the Samuel Stillman
- 13 Association.
- 14 g. Shall issue the call for the Annual Meeting and any special business meetings in the
- 15 manner herein before specified.
- 16 h. Shall perform such other duties as pertain to this office.

17

18 **Section 5 – The Treasurer.**

19 The Treasurer:

- 20 a. Shall be custodian of all monies received into the church, with the exception of
- 21 Permanent Funds, and shall make disbursements on behalf of the church to cover its
- 22 expenses.
- 23 b. Shall be bonded for an amount determined by the Board of Trustees.

24

25 **Section 6 – Financial Secretary.**

- 26 a. Shall receive all church offerings, collections, and process all monetary receipts
- 27 associated with the church;
- 28 b. Each week shall credit all receipts to the appropriate accounts and keep accurate records
- 29 as requested by the Board of Trustees, and deposit all monies ~~each week~~ in an account of
- 30 the First Baptist Church in Waltham, in a bank designated by the Board of Trustees.
- 31 c. Shall be bonded for an amount determined by the Board of Trustees.

32

33 **Section 7 – Superintendent of Church School.**

34 The Superintendent of Church School:

- 35 a. Shall report to the Board of Christian Education at such times as designated by this board.
- 36 b. Shall follow such instructions as the Board of Christian Education may give.

37

38 **Section 8 – Assistant Officer Positions.**

39 Assistant positions for the Treasurer, Superintendent of Church School, and Financial Secretary

40 may be elected, as needed, in the same manner as the officers, as provided in the Bylaws;

1 however, these assistant positions are not officers of the church. Each assistant position shall
2 support the officer to which they are assisting, at the discretion of the officer and the board to
3 which that officer is responsible, and be endowed with the necessary rights to perform these
4 duties and responsibilities.

5
6 **Section 9 – Diaconate Board.**

- 7 a. Shall consist of not less than seven (7) and not more than ten (10) members of Deacons
8 and Deaconesses whenever possible. With the Pastor, they shall have general direction
9 of meetings for religious worship.
- 10 b. Shall supervise the raising and disbursement of the Fellowship Fund and the Missionary
11 Benevolent Funds.
- 12 c. Shall have general care of the spiritual welfare of the church and its members and shall
13 perform such duties as usually pertain to their office.
- 14 d. The first meeting after the Annual Meeting shall meet and organize by electing a
15 chairperson, a clerk, a member to the Nominating Committee and appoint committees on
16 Membership, Baptism, Communion, Music, Ushers, Missions, Pulpit, Flowers,
17 Fellowship and such other committees as may be needed from time to time.
- 18 e. Shall meet monthly except July and August and whenever necessary.
- 19 f. Shall have the power to act on the acceptance or dismissal of all members, either by
20 letter, baptism, or other action. They will inform the church at the Annual Meeting of all
21 such action taken, giving names and reasons thereof.

22
23 **Section 10 – Board of Trustees.**

24 The Board of Trustees:

- 25 a. Shall consist of not less than five (5) and not more than seven (7) members of the Board
26 of Trustees.
- 27 b. Shall have custody and control of all property belonging to the church and all revenues,
28 and shall administer the same in accordance with the instruction of the church.
- 29 c. Shall meet monthly, except for July and August and whenever necessary.
- 30 d. Shall constitute the Ecclesiastical Society of the First Baptist Church in Waltham,
31 Massachusetts.
- 32 e. Shall be responsible for the duties of the care of the property and administration of
33 purchases made in the name of the church.
- 34 f. Shall report at the Annual Meeting of the church on the financial condition of the church.
- 35 g. Shall prepare and recommend a budget for the ensuing year as well as conduct a canvas
36 for funds to cover the budget.
- 37 h. Shall nominate the church Treasurer and Financial Secretary.
- 38 i. Shall employ a custodian/s who shall be responsible to the Board of Trustees.

- 1 j. In the absence or incapacity of the Treasurer, shall appoint a Treasurer Pro Tem, with all
2 rights, duties, and responsibilities of the office of Treasurer. This appointment may or
3 may not be the Assistant Treasurer, if that position has been elected.
- 4 k. Shall appoint at its first meeting after the Annual Meeting a Chairperson, Clerk, member
5 to the Nominating Committee, Chairperson for Finance, a Chairperson for the House
6 Committee, a Chairperson and not less than two (2) nor more than four (4) members of
7 the Permanent Funds Committee.
- 8 l. The Board of Trustees shall be subject to a spending limitation of \$10,000.00 for any one
9 (1) project without the necessity of obtaining the approval of the congregation. Should it
10 be necessary to exceed that amount, the approval of the congregation must be obtained.
11 However, in the event a situation arises wherein work, repairs, etc., must be done
12 immediately at a cost to exceed the \$10,000.00 cap, and a special meeting cannot be
13 called because a quorum (20) of its membership is not available, (*e.g.*, the summer
14 months) to approve the expenditure, then the work shall be done in accordance with the
15 majority vote of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees then are to approve the completed
16 work and the bill for payment of same, which the Treasurer is to pay upon receipt thereof.
17 At the next scheduled congregational meeting, the Board of Trustees must bring this
18 matter to the congregation for confirmation.
- 19 m. The Permanent Funds Committee shall have the power to invest and reinvest at their
20 discretion, any Investment Funds in the name of the First Baptist Church in Waltham,
21 Massachusetts and is authorized to execute all appropriate instruments necessary to these
22 transactions under the direction of the Board of Trustees. Any transfers in excess of
23 \$25,000.00 from the Permanent Funds to any other Church Fund, shall be approved by
24 the Church membership at a Church Business Meeting. The Chairperson of the
25 Permanent Funds Committee shall be bonded.
- 26 n. Any quarterly transfer in excess of \$25,000.00 has to be voted on at a special meeting
27 called for by the church.

28
29 **Section 11 – Board of Christian Education.**

30 The Board of Christian Education:

- 31 a. Shall consist of not less than five (5) and not more than seven (7) members.
- 32 b. Shall administer the church school and direct all religious and missionary education of
33 the church.
- 34 c. Shall report to the church at the Annual Meeting on the activities of the previous year and
35 shall nominate the Superintendent of the Church School and one member to the
36 Nominating Committee. The Superintendent may appoint teachers and other agents of
37 the Church School with the consent of this board.
- 38 d. Shall meet monthly except July and August and whenever necessary.
- 39

40 **Section 12 – Church Council**

1 The Church Council is to consist of the Officers of the church, with the Moderator as
2 Chairperson, and the Chairpersons of all boards and standing committees as members plus four
3 members-at-large (two of these at-large are to be under the age of 18 upon election), elected by a
4 majority vote by the membership at the Annual Meeting. All members serve a one-year term
5 which may be renewed indefinitely either by office held or by re-election.
6

7 The purpose and function of this council is to plan and organize all church functions (*i.e.*, Church
8 Anniversary, Rally Day, Annual Picnic etc.) so as to unite this church body as a whole by
9 facilitating communications among the officers, boards, committees, and church membership
10 and to serve as mediators relating to issues which may be beyond the scope and ability of any
11 single board or committee prior to presenting the issue to the church for action.
12

13 The council shall meet regularly as needed throughout the year, at the call of the Chair. Any
14 board or committee chairperson may approach the Moderator to ask for a meeting of the council
15 at any time there is a need.
16

17 ***ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEE AND OTHER AGENTS***

18 Quorums of all committees shall be their majority (one more than half). If a quorum is not met,
19 the chairperson may decide to proceed but can not take a vote or, may reschedule that meeting to
20 another date.
21

22 **Section 1 – Constitution and Bylaws Committee.**

23 The Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall consist of not less than five (5) and not more than
24 seven (7) members of the congregation, including the Chairperson (or a representative) of each
25 current board – the Diaconate, the Christian education Board, and the Board of Trustees – the
26 Moderator (or a representative) and not more than three (3) at-large positions (as provided in
27 Article VI, Section 4). The Chairperson of this committee shall be elected by a quorum which
28 shall be its majority.
29

30 This committee will be charged to study and recommend revisions, if any, to the current
31 Constitution and Bylaws of the First Baptist Church in Waltham and to prepare a written report
32 for the congregation to be presented at the Annual Meeting or a Special Meeting as called for in
33 the Bylaws.
34

35 **Section 2 – Nominating Committee.**

36 The Nominating Committee:

- 37 a. Shall consist of (5) members, one appointed by the Pastor, one appointed by each of the
38 three boards and one appointed by the outgoing Nominating Committee. The member
39 appointed by the outgoing Nominating Committee shall be the Chairperson.

- b. At least two months before the Annual Meeting they shall prepare a list of nominations for all officers, boards, delegates and committees unless otherwise provided for.
- c. Shall make nominations for which it makes nominations at the Annual Meeting.

Section 3 – The Pastoral Relations Committee.

- 1. The Pastoral Relations Committee will consist of five (5) active church members, one (1) appointed by each of the three (3) boards and two (2) nominated by the Nominating Committee in consultation with the Pastor, and be elected to the Annual Meeting of the church for staggered terms of three (3) years.
- 2. No member shall serve more than one (1) consecutive three (3) year term.
- 3. The purpose of the committee is provide a liaison between the Pastor and the congregation in the following ways:
 - a. To be a channel through which the Pastor and congregation exchange ideas, reactions and comments.
 - b. To review the compensation of the Pastor annually and make a recommendation to the Diaconate Board.
 - c. To function as a counselor, advisor, and confidante to the Pastor in matters of the Pastor’s vision for the church and what courses of action are necessary to make the church an effective instrument in God’s hand.
 - d. To discuss a Continuing Education Program with the Pastor; to support the educational growth of the Pastor.
- 4. The function of this committee implies that members elected to serve should be discreet and sensitive. They should be people with whom the Pastor and congregation can work comfortably.
- 5. The authority of the Pastoral Relations Committee will be limited to recommending courses of actions to the appropriate boards, committees or other decision-making entities of the church.
- 6. The Pastoral Relations Committee will meet with the Pastor at least quarterly, with definite dates scheduled well in advance.
- 7. The chairperson of the Pastoral Relations Committee shall be elected by a majority vote of the Pastoral Relations Committee each year, not to serve more than one year as chairperson.
- 8. The Quorum of this committee shall be three (3) voting members. If a quorum is not met, the chairperson shall reschedule that meeting to another date.
- 9. If an insurmountable problem arises this committee will inform the Church Council before calling upon the area minister of TABCOM. This call will be made by the Chairperson after a majority vote of a quorum of this committee.

1 **Section 4 – At Large Positions.**

2 All At-Large committee positions shall be posted with a full description by the committee
3 chairperson not less than one month and not more than two months in the weekly bulletins and
4 the church’s newsletter. In the event no parties are interested, the newly elected chairperson of
5 each committee may have the option to appoint vacant positions.
6

7 **Section 5 – Auditor**

8 The Auditor:

- 9 a. Shall audit the books and accounts of the Treasurer of the church and certify to the
10 accuracy of the Treasurer’s report at the Annual Meeting.
- 11 b. Shall examine all invested funds, gifts, and bequests to the church under the jurisdiction
12 of the Board of Trustees and report to the Annual Meeting.
13
14

15 **Section 6 – Other Agents.**

16 By majority vote at an Annual Meeting or Special Meeting called for that purpose, a special
17 committee or agent may be elected by the church. In every such case, the church must define the
18 duties of these agents or committees.
19

20 ***ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENT***

21 These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting at an
22 Annual or Special meeting provided in any case, such an amendment has been read from the
23 pulpit or printed in the church calendar for two Sunday morning services immediately preceding
24 the meeting.
25

26 **NOTE**

27
28 These Bylaws were passed at a duly called business meeting on Sunday February 5th, 2006 and
29 take precedence over any and all previous Bylaws. [NOTE 2: this edition includes the changes
30 voted on Sunday February 13, 2006]
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1 ***TO THE END***

2 Grant, O God,

3 That we may never lose the way through our self-will

4 and so end up in the far countries of the soul;

5 That we may never abandon the struggle,

6 but that we may endure to the end,

7 and so be saved;

8 That we may never drop out of the race,

9 but that we may ever press forward

10 to the goal of our high calling;

11 That we may never choose the cheap and passing

12 things, and let go the precious things

13 that last forever;

14 That we may never leave the right way;

15 That we may never forget

16 that sweat is the price of all things,

17 and that without the Cross, there cannot

18 be the crown.

19

20 So keep up and strengthen us by Your grace that no disobedience and no weakness and no failure

21 may stop us from entering into the blessedness which awaits those who are faithful in all the

22 changes and the chances of life down even to the gates of death, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

23 Amen.

24

- *William Barclay*