

# ***STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE WESTWOOD HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH***

## Statement of Faith

### Section 1--Bibliology (Doctrine of the Holy Scriptures)

A. Revelation: We believe that revelation is the divine act of God communicating to man what he would not otherwise know. We believe in two types of revelation:

1. General revelation: The knowledge of God that is communicated to man through God's Creation.

- a. Creation displays God's glory. Ps. 19.1
- b. Creation repudiates man's denial of God. Romans 1.19-20
- c. Creation prepares man for special revelation. Acts 17.22-31

2. Special revelation, which is knowledge of God that is communicated to man directly from God:

- a. Through direct communication. Gen. 18.1
- b. Through visions and dreams. Gen. 37.5, Dan. 7.2
- c. Miracles. Hebrews 2.4
- d. The Lord Jesus. Hebrews 1.1-2
- e. The Bible. II Timothy 3.15-17
- f. The influence of the Holy Spirit. John 16.13

B. Inspiration: We believe the Bible to be the verbally (word for word), plenary (full, complete), inspired (God breathed) Word of God. We believe God utilized the knowledge, personality, and style of men, as He instructed them in what to write.

- II Timothy 3.15-17
- II Peter 1.20-21

C. Inerrancy: We believe that the entire Bible is without error; that since God is without flaw, and cannot lie, it is impossible for Him to have communicated to men any error, fiction, or misrepresentation.

- Psalm 19.7-11

D. Canonicity: We accept that the 39 books of the Old Testament, from Genesis to Malachi; and the 27 books of the New Testament, from Matthew to Revelation, are the complete canon of Scripture. We reject the apocrypha as having any form of inspiration or Biblical authority.

E. Illumination: We believe that the Bible can be understood only as the Holy Spirit of God reveals the truths of God's Word to us.

- I Cor. 2.13-14

F. Authority: We believe that before men will recognize the authenticity of God's Word, they must first accept its authority.

1. We believe the entire Bible to be the supreme authority for doctrine, faith, and practice for the church, and also for each individual believer. II Timothy 3.16-17

2. We believe the Bible is God's instrument in convicting men of sin. Hebrews 4.12

3. We believe the Bible is God's avenue for receiving faith. Romans 10.17

4. We believe that God's Word always accomplishes its intended purpose. Isaiah 55.11

G. Interpretation: We believe that the Scriptures must be interpreted according to their normal grammatical historical meaning. This will in no way prevent the application of God's Word to the times and circumstances under which we live, but will prevent us from twisting or denying Scripture in order to align ourselves with modern scientific or theological thought. Matthew 4.4

H. Preservation: We believe that the Bible is reliable not only because God inspired it, but also because He preserved it. Psalm 119.89, Matthew 24.35

The King James Bible shall be the version used by the Westwood Heights Baptist Church in its public services.

## Section 2--Theology proper (Doctrine of God)

### A. The existence of God.

1. We believe in only one God. Deut. 6.4-5

2. We believe there are three distinct and equal persons in the Godhead. Each possesses all the attributes of God but is distinct in personality and function. Gen. 1.26, Matt. 28.19, II Cor. 13.14

3. We confess that the Trinity is a mystery, but that we accept its existence by faith.

### B. Attributes of God.

1. Holiness is God's highest attribute. Isaiah 6.3, Revelation 4.8

2. God is a Spirit. John 4.24

3. God is eternal. Gen. 1.1

4. God is omnipresent. Ps. 139.7-10

5. God is omnipotent. Gen. 18.14, Rev. 19.6

6. God is omniscient. Isaiah 46.9-13

7. God is living. Hebrews 10.31

8. God is unchangeable. Malachi 3.16

9. God is perfect. Matt. 5.48

10. God is true. John 17.3

11. God is love. I John 4.7-10

12. God is faithful. I Co. 10.13, Rev. 19.11

## Section 3--Christology (Doctrine of God the Son)

A. The humanity of Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus is wholly man and wholly God, possessing all the attributes of God as well as unfallen man.

1. He was born of a virgin woman. Matt. 1.23, Luke. 2.7
2. He developed in the same fashion as a man. Luke 2.40-52
3. He had a physical body. Luke 24.36-43
4. He grew hungry. Matt. 4.2
5. He had emotions. John 11.33-35
6. He was tempted. Matt. 4.1-11
7. He learned obedience. Heb. 5.8

B. The Deity of Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, the second member of the Godhead.

1. He was born of a virgin. Matt. 1.18, 23
2. He was present at Creation. John 1.1-18, Col. 1.16-17
3. He is called God. John 20.28
4. He is equal with the Father. Phil. 2.6
5. He possesses all the attributes of God. - See section 2 (B)
6. He voluntarily surrendered the independent use of those attributes when He came to earth.

- Matt. 4.1-11, Phil. 2.7-8

7. His temptation (Matt. 4.1-11) was not designed to see if Jesus would sin, but to prove to man that Christ could not sin. II Co. 5.21, Heb. 4.15

C. The work of Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Messiah prophesied about in the Old Testament.

1. He was from the right tribe. Gen. 49.10, Heb. 7.14-16
2. He was born in the right place, and in the right manner. Micah 5.2, Isaiah 7.14
3. He came at the right time. Gal. 4.4
4. He died in the right way, to make atonement for sin.
  - a. Crucified. Deut. 21.23, Ps. 22.1, Gal. 3.13
  - b. As a willing sacrifice. Is. 53, Ps. 40.7-8
5. His death was accepted by the Father as payment for the sin debt of mankind. II Cor. 5.18-21, I Pet. 2.24
6. He ascended into Heaven and is the Mediator for man with God. I Ti. 2.5, Heb. 8.6

#### Section 4--Pneumatology (Doctrine of God the Spirit)

A. Person of the Holy Spirit.

1. He has intellect. I Cor. 2.11
2. He has emotion. Eph. 4.30
3. He has a will. I Cor. 12.11

B. Deity of the Holy Spirit.

1. He is called God. Acts 5.3-4
2. He is eternal. Hebrews 9.14
3. He possesses the attributes of God. (See Section 2 (B))

C. The work of the Holy Spirit.

1. He took part in Creation. Gen. 1.2

2. He inspired the Scriptures. II Peter 1.21
3. He convicts the world of sin. John 16.8-11
4. He restrains evil in the world. II Thess. 2.7
5. He is the agent of regeneration. Titus 3.5
6. He baptizes the believer into the body of Christ. I Cor. 12.12-13
7. He seals the believer at salvation. Eph. 1.13, 4.30
8. He indwells the believer. Rom.8.9, I Co. 6.19-20
9. He teaches and guides believers. I Co. 2.14, John 16.13
10. He bestows spiritual gifts to believers. I Co. 12.1-11
11. He empowers the believer. Eph. 5.18-21, Gal. 5.16

#### Section 5--Angelology (The doctrine of Angels)

- A. God created angels. Ps. 148.2-5
- B. They are a distinct class of created beings.
  1. They have personality.
    - a. Intellect. I Pet. 1.10-12
    - b. Emotion. Luke 15.10
    - c. Will. Isaiah 14.13-14
  2. They are confined to being good or evil.
    - a. There are elect (good) angels. I Ti.5.21
      - They serve believers as God leads them, and not as we wish. Heb. 1.14
    - b. There are fallen (evil) angels. Jude 1.6 II Pet. 2.4
      - They influence humans.
      - They promote false doctrine. I Ti. 4.1
      - They possess humans. Mark 1.32
      - They war against believers. Eph. 6.12

#### Section 6--Anthropology (Doctrine of man)

- A. Man's origin.
  1. He was literally and directly created by God. Gen. 1.26-27
  2. He was created in the image of God: He possesses intellect, emotions, and a will.
  3. He was created separately and distinctly from animals.
    - a. Man was created on a separate day.  
Gen.1.26-31
    - b. Of man only was it said that he was created in the image of God. Gen. 1.26
- B. Man's original condition.
  1. He was created without sin. Gen. 2
  2. He chose to sin. Gen. 3.1-8
- C. Man's present condition.
  1. All mankind inherits Adams's sinful nature. Rom. 5.12
  2. All humans, as descendents of Adam, choose to sin as a result of this inherited sin nature. Rom. 5.12
  3. This sin has brought men under the condemnation of God. Gen. 2.17

4. Jesus Christ became flesh without the male parent (The Virgin birth) and paid the condemnation penalty at Calvary. Rom. 5.8

5. Any man who will believe in this finished work of Christ for his personal deliverance from the condemnation of God will be saved from this condemnation. John 3.16

D. Man's future condition.

1. The saved will inhabit the new Heaven and the new earth. Revelation 21, 22
2. The lost will spend eternity in Hell. Rev. 20.10-15

## Section 7--Hamartiology (The doctrine of sin)

A. The definition of sin.

1. It is the desire to have control over one's own life. Is. 14.12-14
2. It is the transgression of the Law of God. I John 3.4
3. It is the absence of faith. Romans 14.23
4. It is failure to do right. James 4.17
5. It is being separated from God's will. Isaiah 53.6

B. The existence of sin.

1. All men are sinners. Romans 3.10-23
2. The whole world is under the curse and consequence of sin. I John 5.19

C. The consequences of sin.

1. It causes man to be in the condition of being "lost," in that he is lost to the judgment of eternal punishment. Matt. 18.11, John 3.16
2. It causes man to have the nature of Satan. John 8.44
3. It affects the body, the spirit, and the soul. James 1.13-15

D. The solution for sin.

1. For the lost, salvation is the remedy. John 3.16
2. For the saved, confession of, and forsaking sin is the remedy. I John 1.9, Proverbs 28.13

## Section 8--Soteriology (The doctrine of salvation)

A. The provision of salvation.

1. The death of Jesus Christ upon the cross has been God's plan of salvation since He created the world. Revelation 13.8

2. Salvation from Hell comes only through Jesus Christ and His finished work at Calvary. Acts 4.12

3. Salvation is wrought through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 9.11-22

B. The extent of salvation.

1. Jesus Christ died for the sins of every man, and offers salvation to all men. John 3.16

2. Those who believe on Jesus Christ as their Savior become a part of the "elect," or saved.

3. While the sovereignty of God and the free will of man are not completely understood, we do know several things about the extent of salvation.

- a. It is offered to all. Romans 10.13, I John 2.2
  - b. God knows who will accept Him. I Pet. 1.2
  - c. All men have knowledge about God. John 1.9
  - d. These forces work in a way understood completely only by God. Is. 55.8-9
- C. Some of the results of salvation.
  - 1. Man is redeemed, or bought from death, by Jesus Christ. Eph. 1.7
  - 2. Man is justified, or declared to be righteous, in the sight of God, through Jesus Christ. Romans 3.24-25, II Cor. 5.21
  - 3. Man is regenerated, or born again, with a new nature, that desires and pleases God. Titus 3.5, II Cor. 5.17
  - 4. Man is sanctified, or set apart, for service to God. I Cor. 1.2
  - 5. Man is eternally secure, or assured, that his salvation will not be taken from him. Eph. 1.13, 4.30; I John 5.13

## Section 9--Ecclesiology (Doctrine of the Church)

- A. The Universal Church.
  - 1. This is the body of Christ.
    - Eph. 1.22-23, Col. 1.18, Heb. 12.23
  - 2. All believers become members of the body at salvation. - I Cor. 12.13
  - 3. There are no false professors of salvation in this church. Eph. 5.25-27
- B. The Local Church.
  - 1. This is the local assembly of believers.
    - Rom. 16.5, I Co. 16.19, Col. 4.15
  - 2. It consists of true believers, as well as false professors. Matt. 13.24-30, Acts 2.42
  - 3. It has only two offices: pastor (also called bishop and elder), and deacon.
    - Phil. 1.1, I Ti. 3.1-13
  - 4. It has been given the responsibility of the Great Commission. Matt. 28.18-20, I Ti. 3.15, Acts 11.22, 26; 15.3-4
  - 5. It exists under the leadership of Jesus Christ, independent of any human hierarchy or organization.
    - Eph. 5.23, Rev. 2.1,8,12,18; 3.1,7,14
  - 6. It has been authorized to perform the two ordinances, which are:
    - a. Baptism by immersion. Acts 2.42
    - b. Lord's Supper. I Cor. 11.17-34

## Section 10--Eschatology (Doctrine of the Last Things)

- A. The Rapture.
  - 1. It is the next prophetic event. Acts 1.11
  - 2. At the Rapture, the bodies of all believers, both living and dead, will be taken up to be with the Lord at this time.
    - I Thess. 4.13-17
  - 3. The Rapture occurs before the Tribulation.
    - I Thess. 5.9

B. The Tribulation.

1. This is the period of time lasting seven years, in which God's wrath will be poured out upon the earth. Matt. 24.21, Rev. 6.17

C. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

1. This takes place at the end of the Tribulation.

- Zech. 14.1-11, Rev. 19.11-21

2. Christ returns to earth to establish His earthly kingdom. Rev. 19.19

D. The Millennium.

1. It lasts 1000 years. Rev. 20.1-7

2. Christ and His followers rule the earth. Rev. 20.4

3. Satan is bound for 1000 years. Rev. 20.2-3

E. Future Judgments.

1. The Judgment Seat of Christ.

a. This is the judgment upon the works of Christians. Rom. 14.10, I Cor. 3.10-15, II Cor. 5.10

2. The Great White Throne Judgment.

a. This is the judgment upon the unbelievers.

- Rev. 20.11-15

F. Eternity.

1. Endless, abundant life on the new Heaven and the new Earth for the saved. Rev. 21,22

2. Endless torment and punishment in Hell for unbelievers. Rev. 20.10-15

Section 11--Miscellaneous doctrines

A. Separation.

1. Ecclesiastical separation. We believe that the church as an institution should remain separated from other groups and organizations that teach false doctrine.

- II Chr. 19.2

- Rev. 18.4-5

2. Personal separation. We believe that the saved should live in a manner that will not bring reproach upon Jesus Christ but will glorify Him. Love for the world's philosophy, its pleasures and its practices are condemned by God.

- Rom. 12.1-2

- I John 2.15-17

- II Cor. 6.14-7.1

B. Human sexuality. We believe that God's gift of sex is to be kept within the bounds of marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of the sexual relationship that should exist only between a husband and wife. Biblically, a husband is the male sex, and the wife is the female sex. No same sex union is Biblically acceptable or right.

- Gen. 2.24

- Leviticus 18

- Heb. 13.4

C. Abortion. We believe that human life begins at conception, and that unborn children are living humans. Abortion is the unjustified, unexcused killing of unborn human life. We reject the teaching that abortions of pregnancies resulting from rape, incest, birth defect, gender selection, birth control, population control, or mental well being of either parent are acceptable.

- Ps. 139.14-16
- Jer. 1.5
- Luke 1.44

D. Lawsuits between believers. We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. Christians may seek compensation from the insurance company of another Christian, if the claim is pursued without malice.

- I Cor. 6.1-8
- Eph. 4.30

E. Political involvement. We believe that as residents of earth, we have a responsibility to be aware of the influence of politics. We recognize that the Bible records for us Christians who operated within, and worked for, civil government. We also realize, however, that political activism is not our calling, nor is it an effective tool for permanent change. This being so, our church will not sponsor, promote, nor engage in political activism as a church ministry.

- Matt. 28.18-20
- II Cor. 10.3-4
- Eph. 6.12

F. Capital punishment. We believe that God grants to human government the right to execute criminals, and that He commands that certain crimes be punished by death. We believe that the primary reason for capital punishment is to punish the offender.

- Gen. 9.6
- Rom. 13.1-4

G. Suicide and Mercy killing. We believe that God creates and ends human life, and as such, unless commanded or allowed by God, human beings commit murder when they take a life. To deliberately end human life for any other reason than that allowed by God is wrong.

- Gen. 1,2
- Ps. 139.14-16

## Section 12-- Authority of the Statement of Faith.

This statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source and authority of all we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible.

## ARTICLE III

### Membership



## Section 1--Qualifications for membership

Upon a majority vote of the members present at any Church service, membership shall be extended to any person who professes personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their only Savior, expresses a desire to serve the Lord, and complies with one of the following conditions:

- A. Baptism by immersion as an act of obedience to God, and as evidence of his faith in Jesus Christ;
- B. By letter of transfer from another Church of like faith;
- C. By personal testimony of faith and baptism by immersion, if a letter of membership is not available;
- D. By restoration, if the person has been removed from the Church's membership for disciplinary reasons. The reason for the original dismissal will be publicized to the Church members present.

## Section 2--Duties of Members

It is the responsibility of members to love and pray for each other and the Church, to recognize the authority of the Pastor in the spiritual affairs of the church, to support the church with their finances, and to strive to live a life that is in accord with the Church's statement of faith.

## Section 3--Privileges of Members

This congregation functions as a body under the headship of Jesus Christ, and not as a pure democracy. Membership does not give to individuals any property, contract, or civil rights based on the principles of democratic government. The internal affairs of this Church are governed by Biblical principles. The Pastor shall oversee all the affairs of this Church. The Board of Deacons shall give assistance and counsel to the Pastor as requested by him. All members of at least 18 years of age have the right to vote on all matters presented to the membership. Members do not vote to initiate Church action, but vote to ratify or deny such actions as proposed by the Pastor. The only exception to this would be in the instance of gross moral failure of the Pastor, which would necessitate his removal from office.

## Section 4--Termination of Membership

Membership will be terminated for the following reasons:

- A. The member requests that his membership be transferred to another Church of like faith. This will be done provided that membership is not being terminated in this Church for disciplinary reasons.
- B. The member has not attended at least one Church service in a six-month period, unless providentially hindered.

- C. The member unites with another Church.
- D. The member requests that his membership be terminated.
- E. The membership is terminated for disciplinary reasons.

## Section 5--Disciplinary Action Against A Member

A. This church reserves the right to terminate the membership of those whose behavior and attitude have the effect of harming the testimony of the church body, or who refuse to be reconciled to another member.

- Matt. 18.15-19

- I Cor. 5.11-13

B. Should a situation arise in which a person's membership is called into question, the Pastor, Deacons, and any other men of the Pastor's choosing shall sit as a temporary discipline committee. If the Pastor or one of the Deacons is the subject of the disciplinary measure, they shall not sit on the committee.

C. While individual members are not responsible to monitor the lives of other members, each member is responsible to report the inappropriate behavior of another to the Pastor, if they are aware of such inappropriate behavior that damages the reputation of the church. If a conflict arises between members, it is the responsibility of the offended party to personally and privately seek reconciliation. No discipline committee shall be convened until this step has been taken and considered a failure by the parties involved.

D. The goal of the temporary discipline committee and the church body is to aide in reconciling the offending member with God and with the local church.

E. The discipline committee will adhere to the following procedures in the event they are needed:

1. The Pastor shall serve as the chairman, unless he is the subject of the committee. If so, the committee will elect a chairman.

2. The chairman will privately and individually talk to the member in question and make him aware of the allegations.

3. If the person repents, the chairman will notify the rest of the committee, and it will disband.

4. If the person denies the allegation and desires to continue his membership, the committee will seek witnesses to substantiate the accusation. Two or three witnesses will be required to establish the accusation.

- Matt. 18.16

- I Ti. 5.19

- Heb. 10.28

5. If the allegation is substantiated, the chairman and at least one other member of the committee will meet with the member and inform him of the result of the investigation.

6. If, at this point in time, the member repents, the chairman will notify the rest of the committee, and it will disband.

7. If at any time during the process the member expresses a desire to have his membership terminated, the membership of the church will meet and will be informed of the action taken to date. The member will then be removed from membership, upon a majority vote of the church.

8. If the accused member maintains his innocence, but the discipline committee finds that there are grounds for termination of membership, the church will meet, hear both sides of the story, and then vote. A majority vote shall rule.

F. Any member removed from the church's membership for disciplinary reasons shall lose any rights of membership.

G. Members of the church shall not avoid contact with a disciplined member, but shall not fellowship socially with him. All contact should have restoration as the goal.

H. Disciplined members shall be restored to membership under the following conditions:

1. They express to the pastor a desire to be restored to the church membership.
2. They have repented of that which caused termination.
3. The church votes to receive them into membership once again.

## ARTICLE IV

### Officers

#### Section 1--Church Offices

There are two offices within the local church as defined by the Bible: Pastor and Deacon.

- Phil. 1.1

- I Tim 3.1-13

#### Section 2--Designation of Corporate Officers

As an accommodation to the legal relationship created by incorporation, the Pastor shall serve as the president of the corporation, and the Deacons shall serve as trustees of the corporation.

#### Section 3--Terms of Office

A. The Pastor. The relationship between the pastor and the church shall be permanent but may be dissolved at the option of either party by giving a two-week notice, or more by mutual consent. The severance of the relationship between the pastor and the church may be considered at any regular church business meeting, provided notice to that effect shall have been given from the pulpit at least one week in advance of

the meeting. Disciplinary removal of the pastor from office automatically terminates his membership. If the church seeks to remove the pastor from office for non-disciplinary reasons, three fourths of a quorum must vote in favor of his dismissal. A quorum shall exist when two thirds of the eligible voting members are present.

B. Assistant Pastors. The same conditions apply to any assistant pastor as are set forth in Article IV Section 3(A). In addition, the pastor may terminate the relationship between the church and any assistant pastor by giving a two-week notice, or more if by mutual consent. The pastor is responsible to inform the church as to the reason for dismissal of any assistant pastor.

C. Deacons. In accordance with the pattern set forth in Acts 6, deacons shall serve indefinite terms. The relationship between the deacons and church, and the deacons and pastor may be severed under the same conditions as those set forth in Article IV Section 3(A), (B).

## ARTICLE V

### Duties of Officers

#### Section 1--The Pastor

A. The Pastor shall preach the Bible regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole Bible as the Spirit of God leads him.

B. He shall administer, or designate those who shall administer, the ordinances of the church (Lord's Supper and Baptism).

C. He shall act as the moderator of all business meetings, unless he appoints another moderator, or is the subject of a disciplinary action.

D. He shall supervise the teaching ministries of the church.

E. He shall select evangelists and those who fill the pulpit in his absence.

F. He shall supervise all paid staff, faculty, and volunteer laborers.

G. He shall be the president of the corporation.

#### Section 2--Assistant Pastors

A. Assistant pastors shall be assigned regular and specific duties by the pastor.

B. They shall fill the pulpit as requested by the pastor.

C. They shall, under the leadership of the pastor, supervise any paid staff, faculty, or volunteer laborers who operate under their area of responsibility.

#### Section 3--Deacons

A. The board of deacons shall act as trustees of the corporation. The trustees of the corporation, along with the president of the corporation, shall be limited to the following powers:

1. To purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift or bequest on behalf of the church.

2. To sell, convey, transfer, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage and pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church.

3. To borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and use of the church, and to execute promissory notes and mortgages on behalf of the church.

4. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation, if such action is mandated by a vote of the church membership.

5. Any mortgage, promissory note or any other indebtedness can only be incurred upon a majority vote of the church, and upon the signature of the president plus any two trustees.

B. They shall assist the pastor in such manner as he requests.

C. They shall assist in visitation.

D. They shall, as requested by the pastor, minister to the physical needs of people, as set forth in Acts 6.

## ARTICLE VI

### Election of Officers

#### Section 1--The Pastor

A. The members of the church will pray earnestly that God will guide them and send His choice to them as Pastor.

B. The most senior assistant pastor, along with the deacons, shall form a Pulpit Committee, and begin to search for qualified candidates.

C. Any man must agree with the Statement of Faith to be considered as a candidate for the office of pastor.

D. Any candidate must meet the requirements of I Ti. 3.

E. In the event of a vacancy in the office of pastor, the senior assistant pastor will act as the interim pastor, until the office of pastor is filled.

F. A three-fourths vote by a quorum of the church will be needed to extend a call to the candidate.

G. Inasmuch as pastors are called of God, and not hired by the church:

1. Only one qualified candidate will be considered at any time.

2. He shall be invited to preach in the services.

3. He shall be interviewed, and have liberty to interview members of the church.

4. Upon a successful vote (Article 6 (1) (E)), the chairman of the pulpit committee shall extend a call to the candidate on behalf of the church.

5. No other candidate will be considered until the previous one has determined whether or not it is God's will for him to accept the call of the church.

## Section 2-- Assistant Pastors.

- A. The members of the church will earnestly pray that God will guide them.
- B. The Pastor shall seek qualified candidates for the office.
- C. The church will vote to extend a call to the man recommended by the pastor.
- D. Three-fourths of a quorum will be required to extend a call to a prospective assistant pastor.
- E. Any candidate must agree with the statement of faith, and meet the requirements of I Timothy 3.

## Section 3--Deacons

- A. The people will earnestly pray that God will guide them in their decision-making.
- B. The pastor and deacons shall meet and propose candidates.
- C. No man who does not agree with the Statement of Faith will be considered as a deacon.
- D. Any candidate must meet the requirements of I Timothy 3.
- E. Prospective deacons will need the unanimous support of the deacon board and pastor in order to be presented as a candidate.
- F. The church will vote on the candidate, and three-fourths of a quorum shall elect a man to the office of deacon.

# ARTICLE VII

## Policy

### Section 1--Meetings

- A. The church shall regularly meet every Lord's Day for public worship, instruction and evangelism.
- B. The church shall maintain a Sunday School.
- C. There shall be morning and evening services on Sunday, and a midweek service.
- D. Special meetings may be scheduled by the pastor.

### Section 2--Meetings for church administration

- A. The church shall operate on a calendar year.

B. The pastor shall present to the church a proposed budget for the new year no later than the second Sunday in December

C. Meetings for other church business shall be called by the pastor as needed.

D. If the office of pastor is vacant, the most senior assistant pastor shall call to order and moderate all business meetings.

E. If all offices of pastor are vacant, the chairman of the deacons shall call to order and moderate all business meetings.

### Section 3--Designated contributions

Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the church body. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of the purposes of the church.

### Section 4--Racial nondiscrimination

The church shall have a racially nondiscriminatory policy and therefore shall not discriminate against members, applicants, students or others on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin.

### Section 5--Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any regular business meeting by a two-thirds vote of the quorum. Any proposed amendment must be announced publicly four weeks in advance of the vote. All proposals must be submitted to the pastor and published for four weeks prior to voting.

### Section 6--Adoption

This constitution was adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at each duly called meeting of the church.

This constitution supersedes any other constitutions of the Westwood Heights Baptist Church.

Date: July 6, 1994