

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
OF  
CRESCENT BEACH BAPTIST CHURCH  
OF  
SAINT AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA**

*Approved by Church Vote on Sunday, April 6, 2003  
Amended and Approved by Church Vote on Wednesday, December 16, 2015*

**PREAMBLE**

For the more certain preservation of, and security of, the principle of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the accepted tenets of the Southern Baptist Convention and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this church 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 and Bylaws.

**CONSTITUTION**

**Section 1.** The name of this church shall be Crescent Beach Baptist Church of St. Augustine, Florida. This body and corporation, one in the same, shall be known as Crescent Beach Baptist Church. This body may be herein further referred to as the Church. The Church maintains its principle office at 885 State Road 206 East, St. Augustine, Florida, 32086.

**Section 2.** The purpose of the Church of St. Augustine, Florida, shall be to carry out the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; and to develop Christian fellowship and growth in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ among the saints. The purpose of the Church is to glorify God by fulfilling the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). The Holy Bible which is the foundation of our belief and the basis of this constitution, bylaws, and covenant is the "The Holy Bible, The Authorized King James Version 1611". We have organized ourselves to fulfill these requirements of our Lord by directing our efforts in the following areas of activity:

**EVANGELISM** – To share the good news of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in our community and throughout the world (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 4:11; 2 Timothy 4:5; 2 Peter 3:9).

**EDUCATION** – To help members develop toward full Christian maturity and to equip them for effective ministry. To promote personal spiritual growth and discipleship through Bible teaching (Matthew 10:20; Luke 2:52; 1 Corinthians 13:11, 14:20; Ephesians 4:11-13; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Peter 2:2).

**WORSHIP** – To participate in corporate worship services and to encourage personal daily devotions (Deuteronomy 12:5; Micah 4:2; Psalm 122:1; Zechariah 8:21; Luke 4:16; 24:52-53; John 4:24; Hebrews 10:25).

**MINISTRY** – To serve unselfishly, in Jesus' name to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those in our Church, community, and throughout the world (Proverbs 31:20; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Matthew 25:35-40; Romans 16:1-3, 6, 12; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Galatians 5:13).

**FELLOWSHIP** – To encourage, support, and pray for each other as members of the family of God. To share our lives together (1 John 1:7; Acts 2:44-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; Romans 15:5, 7; John 13:34-35).

**Section 3.** The Church shall be incorporated in accordance with the laws of this State of Florida governing religious bodies, and the handling of property shall be in accordance with such laws.

**Section 4.** The government of the Church is vested in the body of believers who compose its membership. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the benefits of mutual counsel and cooperation.

**Section 5.** The Church shall be governed by the HOLY BIBLE, the inspired and inerrant Word of God, which is the basis of our beliefs. The ordinances of the Church are Believer's Baptism by immersion (Mark 16:16; John 3:5; 28:19; Acts 2:38, 41; 9:18; 10:48; Matthew 3:16; Acts 8:38), and the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:26-30; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-29) as "open" communion of His Saints. For the preservation of, and the security of, the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the accepted tenets of the Southern Baptist Convention as adopted "The Baptist Faith and Message" adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention on June 14, 2000 which reads:

### **I. The Scriptures**

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.

Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

## **II. God**

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

### **A. God the Father**

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

### **B. God the Son**

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

### **C. God the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

### **III. Man**

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

### **IV. Salvation**

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

**A.** Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

**B.** Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

**C.** Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

**D.** Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

## **V. God's Purpose of Grace**

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14;

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39–12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

## **VI. The Church**

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ, which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.

## **VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

## **VIII. The Lord's Day**

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private.

Activities on the Lord's Day should commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.

## **IX. The Kingdom**

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

## **X. Last Things**

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.

## **XI. Evangelism and Missions**

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.

## **XII. Education**

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties, and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is

co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people. In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28;  
Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19;  
Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31;  
Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7;  
2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.

### **XIII. Stewardship**

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are, we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual obligation to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12;  
Matthew 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13;  
Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2;  
6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

### **XIV. Cooperation**

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15;  
Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3;  
Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17;  
3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16;  
Philippians 1:15-18.



## **XV. The Christian and the Social Order**

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn, and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16,43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.

## **XVI. Peace and War**

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9,38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36,38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2.

## **XVII. Religious Liberty**

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God

on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.  
Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7,24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20;  
Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2;  
James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

### **XVIII. The Family**

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning, and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man whose gender as determined biologically physical male at birth and one woman whose gender as determined biologically physical female at birth in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in scripture.

Matthew 19:4-6, Genesis 2:22-24

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

**Section 6.** The Church Covenant that binds the Church in fellowship shall be as follows:

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, 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 and this

assembly, angels and men, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We agree, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love **(1)**; to strive for the advancement of this Church, in knowledge **(2)**, holiness **(3)**, and comfort **(4)**; to promote its spirituality **(5)**; and prosperity **(6)**; to sustain its worship **(7)**, ordinances **(8)**, discipline **(9)**, and doctrines **(10)**; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry **(11)**, the expenses of the Church **(12)**, the relief of the poor **(13)**, and the spread of the gospel through all nations **(14)**.

We encourage family devotions **(15)** and devotions which are private **(16)**; to religiously educate our children in the moral and spiritual doctrines of the Bible **(17)**; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances **(18)**; to walk circumspectly in the world **(19)**; to be just in our dealings **(20)**, faithful in our engagements **(21)**, and exemplary in our deportment **(22)**; to avoid all tattling **(23)**, backbiting **(24)**, and excessive anger **(25)**; to abstain from all drunkenness **(26)**, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior **(27)**.

We commit to watch over one another in brotherly love **(28)**; to remember one another in prayer **(29)**; to aid one another in sickness and distress **(30)**; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling **(31)** and Christian courtesy in speech **(32)**; to be slow to take offense **(33)**, but always ready for reconciliation **(34)**, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay **(35)**.

We moreover understand that when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word **(36)**.

#### **Church Covenant Spiritual references:**

- (1)** Christian Love – John 13:35; 14:15-16; 15:12; Romans 12:9; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 1 Peter 1:22.
- (2)** Knowledge – Proverbs 2:3-5; John 7:16-17; 8:31-32, 17:3.
- (3)** Holiness – Luke 1:74-75; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:16; 2 Peter 3:11.
- (4)** Comfort – Isaiah 40:1; 1 Corinthians 14:31; 2 Corinthians 2:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:11, 14.
- (5)** Spirituality – John 4:23-24; Philippians 1:1; 3:3; 1 Timothy 6-11; Titus 2:12, 2 Peter 3:11.
- (6)** Prosperity – Deuteronomy 29:9; 1 Chronicles 22:13; Psalm 1:3; 1 Timothy 6:6, Titus 3:8.
- (7)** Worship – Matthew 4:10; John 4:24; Hebrews 10:25.
- (8)** Ordinances – John 28:19; Matthew 26:26-30.
- (9)** Discipline – Luke 17:3; 1 Corinthians 5:5; 2 Corinthians 13:2; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 1:20; 4:2; Titus 3:9-11.
- (10)** Doctrines – 1 Timothy 4:6; Titus 1:9; 2:1.
- (11)** Contribute – Matthew 10:8; Romans 12:8; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:7.
- (12)** Expenses – Malachi 3:10.
- (13)** Poor – Matthew 5:42; Luke 12:33; Acts 20:35.
- (14)** All Nations – Matthew 28:19-20.

- (15) Family Devotions – Acts 10:2; 1 Thessalonians 3:10; 2 Timothy 2:15.
- (16) Secret Devotions – Matthew 6:6; Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12.
- (17) Educate Children – Deuteronomy 6:7; Proverbs 22:6; Isaiah 28:9; John 21:15.
- (18) Acquaintances – John 1:42; Acts 22:15.
- (19) Circumspectly – Ephesians 6:13; Galatians 5:22; Titus 2:12; Hebrews 13:18; 1 Peter 4:2,6.
- (20) Just dealings – 2 Corinthians 13:7; Romans 13:13; Hebrews 13:18; Philippians 4:8.
- (21) Faithful engagements – 1 Corinthians 10:31; Philippians 4:8; James 1:22.
- (22) Exemplary Deportment – Philippians 4:8; Galatians 5:22; 6:10.
- (23) Tattling – 1 Timothy 5:13.
- (24) Backbiting – Romans 1:30.
- (25) Anger – Ephesians 4:31.
- (26) Drunkenness – 1 Corinthians 6:10; Ephesians 5:8.
- (27) Zealous Efforts – 2 Corinthians 9:2; Titus 2:14.
- (28) Brother Love – 2 Corinthians 7:12; 12:20; 1 Thessalonians 3:10.
- (29) Prayer – John 17:20; Romans 1:9; Ephesians 1:16; Philippians 1:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; James 5:14.
- (30) Sickness and Distress – Job 29:15, 16; Luke 10:34; 1 Corinthians 16:15, 16; Philippians 4:3; James 5:14.
- (31) Sympathy – Romans 15:1; Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 13:3.
- (32) Speech – Proverbs 25:11; Ecclesiastes 10:12; 1 Peter 2:22.
- (33) Offense – Ecclesiastes 7:9; Romans 12:10.
- (34) Reconciliation – Hebrews 13:1.
- (35) Delay – Matthew 18:15-20.
- (36) God's Word – Hebrews 10:25.

**Section 7.** The cooperation of the Church shall be with the Saint Johns River Baptist Association, the Florida Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, or such similar Baptist bodies that the Church may become affiliated with, so long as such cooperation does not violate the autonomy of the Church.

# BYLAWS

## Article 1 Church Membership

**Section 1. Qualifications:** The membership of the Church shall consist of such persons as confess Jesus Christ to be their Savior and Lord, having been accepted by vote of the Church and having been scripturally baptized by immersion.

- a. Those coming from other Baptist churches of like faith and order may be accepted upon letter of transfer, letter of dismissal or satisfactory substitute thereof, such as statement of facts or faith as to their conversion experiences and previous immersion.
- b. Any person coming from any church not of like faith and order or non-Baptist church must come by baptism upon profession of faith in Christ as Savior.
- c. Persons seeking membership and all current members of Crescent Beach Baptist Church must fully accept and be in full compliance with the churches constitution, bylaws, all amendments to these documents, and the churches belief in marriage and sexuality. The acceptance and compliance with this belief is a basic condition for membership to Crescent Beach Baptist Church. The following is Crescent Beach Baptist belief statement on marriage and sexuality for persons seeking and maintain membership at Crescent Beach Baptist church:

We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning, and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man whose gender as determined biologically physical male at birth and one woman whose gender as determined biologically physical female at birth in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in scripture. Matthew 19:4-6,  
Genesis 2:22-24

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. Matthew 19:4-6,  
Hebrews 13:4, Genesis 4:1

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, including but not limited to adultery, fornication, pedophilia, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, or any attempt to change one’s biologically physical sex as born, or disagreement with one’s gender as born biologically physical sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, all persons employed, contracted, or representing the church in any form or situation in any capacity, all who serve as volunteers,

or who use any church facility will abide by and agree to this statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, and respect and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of this church. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Simply stated we are to love the sinner but not the sin. All persons seeking membership and which are currently members of Crescent Beach Baptist Church must agree and abide by this statement and all other articles, amendments, and statements set forth in the Crescent Beach Baptist Church Constitution and Bylaws.

**Section 2. Responsibilities:** Members are encouraged to be faithful in all responsibilities essential to the Christian life, to attend the services of this Church, to give regularly for its support and cause, and to share in its organized work.

**Section 3. Rights:** Only active members who do not hold letters of dismissal may act and vote in the transactions of the Church.

**Section 4. Quorum:** Ten percent of the active membership shall constitute a quorum being necessary for the transaction of general church business and for election of officers, with a majority vote constituting an approval. For the calling of a pastor, discipline of a member, purchase or sale of property, or for amendments and additions to the Constitution and Bylaws a quorum of twenty-five percent of the active membership.

**Section 5. Termination:** The continuance of membership shall be subject to the following:

- a. Any member who desires a letter of dismissal and recommendation to any Baptist church of like faith and order is entitled to receive it upon his/her request being made through church channels.
- b. The Church may, after due notice and kindly effort place on an inactive roll the membership of persons for the space of one year non-resident members or for the same space of time resident members not habitually worshipping with the Church.
- c. Should a member become an offense to the Church and to the Church's good name by reasons of immoral or un-Christian conduct, or by persistent breach of the Church constitution, bylaws, or covenant, the Church may terminate any persons membership, but only after due notice and hearing, and after faithful efforts have been made to bring such a member to repentance and amendment, Matthew 18:15-17 being used as basic scripture. The Pastor and Deacon Board shall be responsible for leading this process.

- d. The membership of no person shall be terminated (except by letter) at the meeting when the initial recommendation for such action is made.
- e. All requests for termination of membership shall be granted.

**Section 6.** Any person whose membership has been terminated for any offense may be restored by vote of the Church, upon evidence of his repentance and reformation; or, upon satisfactory explanation.

## **ARTICLE II OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES**

**Section 1.** The primary officers of the Church shall be Pastor, Associate Pastor(s), Deacons, Trustees, Clerk, and Treasurer. The duties of these officers shall be those common to the office and according to the instruction of the Scriptures.

**Section 2.** The Church shall have such officers as wisdom and the Holy Spirit may direct as necessary for the carrying on of the work of the Church. The duties of such officers shall be those connected with the offices they fill and the needs of the Church.

**Section 3.** The Church shall have such authority and special committees as will be deemed necessary in distributing the responsibilities and getting the work done. All officers and committees shall be elected by the Church.

**PASTOR:** The Pastor shall have charge of the welfare and oversight of the Church. He shall preside at the meetings except as hereinafter provided. The Pastor shall be considered an ex-officio member of all the Church organizations. A Pastor meeting the requirements of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 shall be chosen and called by the Church whenever a vacancy occurs. His election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least two Sunday service notices and one Wednesday service notice shall be given from the pulpit for a total of three service announcements. A Pulpit Committee shall be appointed by the Church to seek out a suitable Pastor, and their recommendation will constitute a nomination. The Committee shall bring to the consideration of the Church only one man at a time. Election shall be by secret ballot, an affirmative vote requires three-fourths of those voting. The Pastor shall serve until the relationship is terminated by 30 days notice by either the Pastor or the Church or by mutual consent.

**MINISTERIAL STAFF (Salaried):** Salaried ministerial staff shall be employed to provide for a specific ministerial need. This person will be identified by a committee, approved by the Pastor, Deacon Ministry, and voted on by the Church.

**DEACONS:** The primary role of the deacon is to be a servant to the membership of the Church. In counsel with the Pastor, and by such methods as the Holy Spirit may direct in accordance with the New Testament teaching, they are to have the responsibility of the discipline of the Church, in administering which they are to be guided always by the principles set forth in Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; and 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14. All deacons must meet the requirements listed in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-6. There may be either four deacons for the first one hundred active members or fraction thereof whose names are on the Church roll or two additional deacons for each one hundred members or major fraction thereof, or, any number necessary as determined by the needs of the Church. After serving a term of three years, no deacon shall be eligible for re-election until the lapse of at least one year. The exception to the term limit conditions will be the office of chairman of the deacon ministry. As elected by the deacon ministry the chairman will serve a continuing term of three years regardless of the date of the election to this office by the deacon ministry. Each deacon elected after the initial period shall serve for a term of three years. There is no obligation to recognize as an active deacon a brother who comes to the Church from another where he has served as a deacon. Nomination for deacon shall be made by the Church membership. Current deacons will interview nominees to insure qualification of nominees. Qualified Candidates will be presented to the Church by the deacon ministry for consideration in the election process. All deacons, active and non-active shall be responsible for maintaining the security and wellbeing of all church services and church functions. The Deacon Ministry shall have over site of all legal affairs dealing with church discipline.

**MODERATOR:** The Pastor shall be the Moderator. In the absence of the Pastor, the Chairman of the deacons shall preside. In the absence of the Chairman of the Deacons, the vice chairman or another active deacon shall preside; or in the absence of all, the clerk shall call the Church to order and a moderator pro tem shall be elected.

**CLERK:** The clerk shall keep a suitable record of all the actions of the Church, except as otherwise provided. The Clerk shall keep a register of the names of the members, with dates of admission, dismissal, or death, together with a record of baptisms. The clerk shall issue letters of dismissal voted by the Church and shall preserve on file all essential communications and written official reports. The Church shall annually elect a Church Clerk. Subject to the discretion of the Church, the Clerk is eligible to secede themself.

**STEWARDSHIP TEAM:** It shall be their duty to receive, preserve, and pay out all money or things of value paid or given to the Church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. Payments shall be made by an approved traceable method. A monthly, itemized report shall be available to the Church membership on a monthly basis. An annual report shall be made to the Church. All records and accounts kept by the Stewardship Team shall be considered the property of the Church. The Church shall elect annually a Stewardship Team.



**TRUSTEES:** The Church shall elect three Trustees who shall have oversight of the legal and business affairs of the Church as it pertains to the physical properties of the Church. Trustees shall be responsible for the upkeep of the Church property. Initially, they shall be elected for three years, two years, and one-year period respectively based on the number of votes received. Each Trustee elected after the initial period shall serve for a term of three years. Trustees may secede themselves.

### **ARTICLE III STEWARDSHIP AND MISSIONS**

**Section 1.** The Church shall practice and support missions from its local community to the ends of the earth. Evangelism shall be considered the primary work of the Church.

**Section 2.** The Church shall make an annual budget that will include the local needs and support of missions and benevolences as sponsored by the Church, the Saint Johns River Baptist Association, the Florida Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention. The Church shall endeavor to enlist the membership in meeting the annual budget.

### **ARTICLE IV MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH**

**Section 1.** The Church will conduct regular worship services on the Lord's Day and shall conduct regular meetings on Wednesday evening, or any other weekday the Church may specify. The Church leadership has the prerogative to alter this, as they deem best for the Church body.

**Section 2.** The Church shall provide services for the educational, missionary, evangelistic, and promotional activities of the Church and shall see that provisions are made for these services.

**Section 3.** The Church shall conduct a quarterly business meeting or such other time, as it should designate. Business matters shall be attended to at this meeting. Special business sessions may be called. Such called sessions must be announced publicly to the Church during at least one Sunday morning service and one evening service prior to the called meeting, or by a written notice sent to the active membership of the Church. No matters may be attended to at the called meeting except those for which the meeting was called and previously announced. If a situation arises that necessitates the church to call an emergency business meeting the following guidelines must be followed:

- A.** The Senior Pastor and the Chairman of the Deacon Ministry or the vice chairman of the deacon ministry will notify by phone call or word of mouth all active members of the deacon ministry twenty-four hours before calling the church into an emergency business meeting. The Senior Pastor and the Chairman of the Deacon Ministry will be present at the emergency business meeting along with four additional active deacons. The Pastor will moderate the emergency meeting. In the absence of the Pastor, the Chairman of the

Deacon Ministry will moderate the meeting. In the absence of the Pastor and the Chairman of the Deacon Ministry, the vice chairman of the deacon ministry will moderate the emergency meeting. Any business conducted during the emergency business meeting requiring a church vote will only be valid for no more than six months beginning the day of the vote. The emergency business meeting may only be held during a typical church service as specified in Article IV Section 1 of the bylaws. In the event the Senior Pastor and the Chairman of the Deacon Ministry cannot be available for the emergency meeting and both the Senior Pastor and Chairman of the Deacon Ministry have given the vice chairman verbal approval of the emergency business meeting the vice chairman of the deacon ministry accompanied by four active deacons and two senior inactive deacons may hold the emergency business meeting. The emergency meeting must still meet the quorum limits as stated in Article 1, Section 4 of the bylaws.

## **ARTICLE V GENERAL INFORMATION**

- 1.** All questions shall be settled by the customary rules governing deliberative bodies as stated in Roberts Rules of Order.
- 2.** All Officers and Chairmen of committees of the Church shall be members of the Church in good standing, and elected by the Church.
- 3.** The office of a Deacon shall be rotated, and no Deacon shall be elected to serve more than three years at one time, elected by secret ballot. Qualifications of a Deacon shall be according to 1 Timothy 3:8-13, Acts 6:1-6. Exceptions and rules for the office of deacon are listed in Article II, Section 3, DEACONS:.
- 4.** The call of the Pastor shall be for an indefinite period.
- 5.** The Church shall elect three Trustees who shall have oversight, and shall be made responsible for the upkeep of the Church property.
- 6.** The “The Church Operations Manual” shall detail the day-to-day operation and administration of the Church.
- 7.** Should a division of membership occur because of differences, the title to and possession of all property and assets owned by this congregation shall remain with the group holding the doctrinal position common to churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. Parties of the outgoing group in custody of physical properties shall immediately relinquish same to proper Church Officers. All Officers and positions held by outgoing group shall automatically be declared vacated at time of division.
- 8.** The Church shall observe the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper at least once each quarter.
- 9.** Ten percent of active membership shall constitute a quorum for transacting regular business.

**10.** The Church shall finance its program by the scriptural method of tithes and offerings.

**11.** As a God called, ordained, and God appointed Pastor, Minister, and members of the Clergy of Crescent beach Baptist Church; it is the position of each member of this clergy that marriage is defined, and ceremonies of marriage be conducted as contained in this statement, and is based solely upon the ultimate and final authority of God Almighty Himself given in His Holy inspired, and infallible Word of God The Bible. Knowing that God's Word The Bible speaks with the final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, and is the source of all that we believe, the policies of Crescent Beach Baptist Church and our Pastors, Ministers, and Clergy are as follows:

Pastors, Ministers, and members of the Clergy of Crescent Beach Baptist Church will not perform same sex marriages (wedding ceremonies) in the belief of the truth that God created and ordained the institution of marriage to be the union of male and female, one man to one woman as given in Genesis 2:18-25; Mark 10:6-9; Matthew 19:4-6.

Pastors, Ministers, members of the Clergy, and members of the Crescent Beach Baptist Church will conduct wedding ceremonies for the union of one man as born biologically physical and one woman as born biologically physical as God has determined, and designed their gender at birth, and will opt out of performing civil ceremonies that are not biologically physical based covenant ceremonies that bless the union between one biologically physical born man and one biologically physical born woman. Genesis 1:26-27.

Further, in the event the courts should choose to override the bylaws of this local body of Christ known as Crescent Beach Baptist Church, that the Pastors, Ministers, and all Clergy, will in defense of and in obedience to our God, our Savior, and The Holy Spirit, in accordance to the Word of God, defend and stand on these truths even if engaging in civil disobedience by refusing to comply with the law, irrespective of the penalties, consequences and cultural stigma they will receive.

**12. Beliefs on Marriage, Gender and Sexuality:**

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man whose gender as determined biologically physical male at birth and one woman whose gender as determined biologically physical female at birth in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in scripture. Matthew 19:4-6, Genesis 2:22-24.

We believe that marriage is defined by God and therefore cannot legitimately be redefined by man. Marriage is sanctioned by God and joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in the Bible.

We believe that a person's gender is determined at birth and any attempt to change gender by surgery, hormones and or cosmetics is not valid.

We believe the sexual relations should only occur within a marriage relationship between a biologically physical man and biologically physical woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, including but not limited to adultery, fornication, pedophilia, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, or any attempt to change one's gender biologically physical sex as born, or disagreement with one's gender as born biologically physical sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that as members of the church of Jesus Christ we should serve as a role model for our fellow members and those outside of our membership.

Therefore, it is necessary for all persons employed by the church, serve as volunteers, or who use any church facility or property to agree and abide by the statement of marriage, gender and sexuality.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

**13. Policy on Weddings and Marriages:** Before God established the institution of Government, He ordained and defined marriage. Marriage is a covenant relationship between one man, one woman and God. Therefore:

- A.** Crescent Beach Baptist Church will only recognize marriages between a biologically physical man as determined at birth and a biologically physical woman as determined at birth.
- B.** The pastors and staff of Crescent Beach Baptist Church will only participate in marriages between a biologically physical man as determined at birth and a biologically physical woman as determined at birth.
- C.** The facilities of Crescent Beach Baptist Church shall only host marriages between a biologically physical man as determined at birth and a biologically physical woman as determined at birth.

**14. Policy on use of Facilities:** Use of church facilities and all properties by all individuals and organizations accept and abide by the statements in all of the constitution, bylaws, and policies of this church.

- 1.** An application to use the facilities will be available in the church office. Funerals are exempt from the application requirement.
- 2.** The person (and organization, if applicable) requesting use of the church facilities must read the **Criteria and Rules** for the use of the facilities. The **Criteria and Rules** will be attached to the application form.
- 3.** If the person making application considers that they may meet the criteria, he, or she, (and the organization involved, if applicable) may complete and sign the application acknowledging that they have read and agree to abide with all the rules as stated. The application will then be submitted to a member of the church staff.
- 4.** The application will be considered by the church staff at the next weekly staff meeting. If the application does not meet the criteria, the request will be denied.

5. If the application is for a period not exceeding three (3) days, it may be approved by the staff. In either case, approval or disapproval, the applicant will be notified by telephone or by letter on the same day of the staff determination. If the staff favorably considers the application, but the request exceeds (3) days, the staff will favorably endorse the request, with any pertinent comments and forward the request to the Trustees for consideration. **Note: The Fellowship Hall will not be obligated to any person or group for a period in excess of three (3) days, except for church sponsored activities, unless a waiver is granted by the Trustees.**
6. The trustees may approve, disapprove or refer the application to the congregation for a final decision. The trustees will approve or disapprove or decide to forward the application to the congregation for further action the request and forward the application with endorsements to the staff. Whether the Trustees approve or disapprove the request, the applicant will be notified by the staff of the Trustees decision. In the event that the Trustees elect to present the request to the congregation, the staff will notify the congregation of the nature of the request and the date of the business meeting during which the application will be presented for consideration. In the event that the Trustees' or congregation's consideration will not be possible prior to the requested date of the use of the facilities, the application will be denied and the applicant notified of the reason.
7. **Waiver of Insurance Requirement** - If the staff considers that the use of the facility does not constitute an abnormal risk to persons and/or property, the requirement for insurance may be waived. This will be indicated on the endorsement. If the request is endorsed by the Trustees, the staff may elect to defer this decision to the Trustees.
8. **Waiver of Usage Fee** -If the staff considers that the use of the facilities by the applicant will not constitute an appreciable increase in utilities and materials, the need for a usage fee may be waived. If the request is endorsed by the Trustees, the staff may elect to defer this decision to the Trustees. If a reimbursement of costs is deemed to be appropriate, the Trustees will make the cost determination.
9. **Controversial Use** - Although an applicant may meet the criteria, the staff may feel that the applicant's use of the facilities would be controversial. In this case, the application would be so noted by the staff and forwarded to the Trustees for consideration at their next meeting. In the event that the next meeting of the Trustees would be subsequent to the requested use date, the application will be denied and the applicant advised of the reason. If the application is forwarded to the Trustees, the procedures as outlined in paragraph 6, Trustees Action, above will apply.
10. **Enforcement Procedures** - To insure that users comply with the provisions of their contract, enforcement procedures are prescribed as follows: An After Event Report form will be provided to the user prior to the use of the facilities. This report will be completed by the user immediately following

the use of the facilities. This will be turned in to the office or, if the office is closed, dropped in the mail chute. This completed form will be put on the Maintenance Engineer's clipboard and he will check the used facilities on the following day to insure that the after use requirements were met. If the cleanup is not satisfactory, the user will be notified by a designated individual to correct the discrepancies. All After Event Report forms will be kept on file with the appropriate comments made on them. As a backup system, the primary user of the facility, such as a Sunday School teacher, will be notified that their room is being used, the date of such use and by whom the room is being used. The primary user of the facility, in turn, would notify the office of any problems and the same notification action procedures as stated above will be followed.

**11. General Terms and Conditions** - The applicant(s) agree to reimburse the Church for all costs incurred as a result of the use if that cost is significant as determined by the Trustees. There would be no charge for church sponsored events. Church sponsored events are defined as church functions which are approved by and financially supported by the church. For Church sanctioned events, there would be a charge only if the use results in a significant increase in the use of utilities and/or cleaning materials. Church sanctioned events are defined as Individual or group events which are not financially supported by the church but are allowed to use a portion of the church for an event that is approved by the church utilizing the approval process and who agrees to abide by all of the terms and conditions stated in the church constitution, bylaws, and policies. If the user elects to employ the Church approved custodian for cleanup, payment for the services of the approved custodian will be made by the user and not by the Church. The following are additional general rules for use of church facilities and properties:

- A. No decorations or any other items may be left in the facility following the use.
- B. Smoking or the use of any tobacco products in any form (including any E-cigarette products) or any use of recreational drugs are prohibited on Church property.
- C. Alcoholic beverages of any type or form are strictly prohibited from use or storage on any church property.
- D. Any event may be cancelled without notice if the space is required by the Church and no alternate space is available.
- E. No Church furnishings may be removed from the buildings.
- F. No tape, nails or other disfiguring items or materials may be put in the walls, woodwork, etc., and no spray painting will be allowed indoors. The carpet and floors must be protected by drop cloths if painting or other activities are done which may stain the carpet or floors.

- G.** The Church may have the use of surveillance cameras installed on all inside and outside doors of the Church property. These cameras may be recorded and stored at the discretion of the church.
  
- H.** Marriage, sexuality, and behavior standards required for individuals, clubs, and organizations who use of all church facilities and properties are required to comply with the church constitution, bylaws, procedures and the following statement on marriage, sexuality, and behavior: We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man whose gender as determined biologically physical male at birth and one woman whose gender as determined biologically physical female at birth in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in scripture. Matthew 19:4-6, Genesis 2:22-24

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, pedophilia, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, or any attempt to change one’s sex, or disagreement with one’s biologically physical sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the Church as the local body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Church in any capacity, who serve as volunteers, or who use any Church facility, including the Church facilities should abide by and agree to this statement and all statements in the church constitution and bylaws on Marriage, Sexuality, and Behavior Standards and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the Church.

In all services and functions of Crescent Beach Baptist Church, whether on Church grounds or off-site, reasonable standards of decorum and order shall be maintained at all times. No one shall, by appearance or behavior, be permitted to draw negative attention to themselves in contravention to the Church’s spiritual purposes. Any individual group who, in the sole discretion of the Pastor or ministry leadership, is found to be in violation of this policy shall be removed from the premises immediately.

- I. Exceptions to the policy are for piano recitals.
  - 1. **Piano Recitals:** Active Church members who teach piano or other musical instruments for pay and whose student body, in part, is at least composed of Crescent Beach Baptist Church members or their children shall be allowed to use the Church facilities for such recitals. These individuals, clubs, and organizations must also abide by the constitution, bylaws, and policies of the church. Also, the staff is given permission to waive fees for such use at the discretion of the Church staff.
  
- J. In order to be eligible to use the facilities of Crescent Beach Baptist Church, the sponsor(s), hereafter referred to as the applicant(s), must meet all of the following criteria and agree to abide by all of the rules contained herein and the church constitution, bylaws, and policies.
  - 1. The applicant(s) must be actively participating member(s) of Crescent Beach Baptist Church.
  - 2. The applicant(s), or any other person(s) may not gain financially from use of the church facilities and the purpose of the use must be non-profit (this will include musicians, speakers, and revivalist).
  - 3. The use of the facility must in some way constitute an outreach, a witness, or a ministry of the church. These ministries are defined as follows:
    - a. **Ministry:**  
To do anything useful, caring or loving in the name of our Lord.
    - b. **Witness:**  
To tell others the “Good News” of Jesus Christ and to show that message in our everyday lives.
    - c. **Outreach:**  
To share with the un-churched community our interest and concern for their spiritual and physical well-being.



4. The number of persons to be in attendance may not exceed the number of persons recommended for each room, as follows:

Worship Center	400
Room 113	19
Room 116	17
Rooms 124/126	51
Room 128	14
Room 129	14
Education Building	575

5. Children's activities must have adult supervision as follows:

<b>Age of Children</b>	<b>No. of Children</b>	<b>No. of Adults</b>
Under 2 years of age	3	1
2 years through 1 <sup>st</sup> grade	4	1
2 <sup>nd</sup> grade through 5 <sup>th</sup> grade	5	1
5 <sup>th</sup> grade through 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	6	1

6. No application for any event will be favorably considered if the purpose of the event is in conflict with Baptist beliefs as defined in the Crescent Beach Baptist Church Covenant. The applicant must be in full compliance with the church constitution, bylaws, and policies in the areas of marriage, sexuality, and behavior.

7. The applicant must agree that he or she or their co-applicant will be physically present in the facilities at all times that the facilities are being used.

8. The applicant(s) must agree to be responsible for any damage or loss resulting from the use of the facility. The applicant must agree to enforce security of the facilities during its use and to insure that, at the close of the event, the facilities used are locked and all utilities are turned off.

9. The applicant(s) must agree to restore the furnishings to the same configuration as they were upon taking occupancy and to remove any and all items, which were brought in for the event.

10. The applicant(s) must leave the facility at least as clean as it was upon taking occupancy or employ a person approved by the church to clean the facility immediately following the use. Exceptions to cleaning on the day of the event must be granted on an each use basis and only when it will not conflict with the next day use of the facility.

- 11.** The applicant(s) agree to reimburse the Church for all costs incurred as a result of the use if that cost is significant as determined by the Trustees. There would be no charge for Church sponsored events. For Church sanctioned events, there would be a charge only if the use results in a significant increase in the use of utilities and/or cleaning materials. If the user elects to employ the Church approved custodian for cleanup, payment for the services of the approved custodian will be made by the user and not by the Church.
- 12.** No decorations or any other items may be left in the facility following the use.
- 13.** Smoking or the use of any tobacco products in any form (including any E-cigarette products), or any use of recreational drugs are prohibited on Church property.
- 14.** Alcoholic beverages of any type or form are strictly prohibited from use or storage on any church property.
- 15.** If the space is required by the Church, any event may be cancelled without notice if no alternate space is available.
- 16.** No Church furnishings may be removed from the buildings.
- 17.** No tape, nails or other disfiguring items or materials may be put in the walls, woodwork, etc., and no spray painting will be allowed indoors. The carpet and floors must be protected by drop cloths if painting or other activities are done which might stain the carpet or floors.
- 18.** The Church may have the use of surveillance cameras installed on all inside and outside doors of the Church property.

## USE OF FACILITIES FEE SCHEDULE

<b>Room/Facility</b>	<b>Fee Per Use</b>
Church Custodian	\$35.00 (minimum)
Youth Area	\$20.00
Adult Bible Study Rooms 113, 116, 128, 129)	\$15.00
Fellowship Hall Without kitchen use	\$30.00
With kitchen use	\$45.00
Worship Center	
Weddings (church members) Wedding only	\$150.00
Wedding, rehearsal dinner and/or reception	\$225.00
Funerals	\$0

## **FUNERAL POLICY**

### **1. Scheduling**

Funerals should be scheduled through the officiating minister and/or the church office.

### **2. Fees**

No fees shall be charged for the use of the church facilities for a funeral service.

### **3. Personnel**

The use of instrumentalists, musicians and other personnel may be scheduled through the officiating minister. It shall be the responsibility of the family of the deceased to pay the selected personnel any stipulated fees and/or honorariums.

### **4. Flowers**

Arrangement of flowers shall be provided by the church in the following instances:

- a. Death of a church member
- b. Death of a parent of a church member
- c. Death of the child of a church member
- d. Other instances where the church staff shall deem appropriate.

### **5. Meals**

Due to the size of the congregation, meals provided to the family of the deceased are the responsibility of the Sunday School class, Sunday School Department, Choir or other group with which the deceased member or deceased's family may have been actively involved.

- K. MARRIAGE, SEXUALITY, AND BEHAVIOR STANDARDS for Use of Church Facilities and Properties** – The use of all church facilities and properties must be in compliance with the following statement on marriage, sexuality, behaviors, and all church beliefs relating to marriage, sexuality, behavior as stated in the church constitution and bylaws. We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man whose gender as determined biologically physical male at birth and one woman whose gender as determined biologically physical female at birth in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in scripture. Matthew 19:4-6, Genesis 2:22-24.

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, pedophilia, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biologically physical sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the Church as the local body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Church in any capacity, who serve as volunteers, or who use any Church facility, including the Church facilities should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage, Sexuality, and Behavior Standards and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the Church.

In all services and functions of Crescent Beach Baptist Church, whether on Church grounds or off-site, reasonable standards of decorum and order shall be maintained at all times. No one shall, by appearance or behavior, be permitted to draw negative attention to themselves in contravention to the Church's spiritual purposes. Any individual group who, in the sole discretion of the Pastor or ministry leadership, is found to be in violation of this policy shall be removed from the premises immediately.

# FACILITY USE APPLICATION

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Name(s) (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Phone Number: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Night \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Sponsors: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Event or Activity \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Activity Date(s) and Times:

Begin Date: \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Begin Time: \_\_\_\_\_ End Time: \_\_\_\_\_

How many people are expected to attend?

Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Children: \_\_\_\_\_

What room(s) would you like to reserve? \_\_\_\_\_

	YES	NO
Is applicant an active member of CBBC?	_____	_____
Will applicant or any other person financially gain from this event?	_____	_____
Will applicant be physically present at all times during this event?	_____	_____
Will applicant be financially responsible for any damage resulting from use of the facilities?	_____	_____
Will applicant ensure the facility is as clean upon leaving as it was found upon occupancy?	_____	_____
Is applicant willing to supply a certificate of insurance from our insurance company for personal liability and property damage in the amount of \$300,000?	_____	_____
Will the applicant ensure that those participating in the event refrain from using tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs on church property?	_____	_____
Will the applicant agree to enforce security and to lock the facilities and turn off utilities at the close of the event?	_____	_____
Does the applicant understand and agree that no furnishings shall be removed from buildings, that no disfiguring materials (tape, nails, etc.) may be used on the walls or woodwork, that decorations must be removed before vacating the premises?	_____	_____

## FACILITY USE APPLICATION

By my signature, I acknowledge that the information on this application is correct to my knowledge and that I agree to comply with all the above rules for use of the facilities. I understand that failure to comply may terminate the agreement to use the facilities, without prior notice. I understand that in the unlikely event that a church sponsored event must meet and, if no other facilities are available, that this agreement may be terminated without prior notice. I agree to absolve Crescent Beach Baptist Church, its officers and members, of any responsibility for accidents or injuries that may occur incident to the use of the church facilities.

I understand that the fee for the use of the facilities as requested will be  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ + Custodial Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

### FOR CHURCH USE ONLY

**Approved    Disapproved**

Intended use constitutes church approved ministry, witness or outreach	_____	_____
Intended use does not conflict with Baptist beliefs.	_____	_____
Intended use meets maximum occupancy use requirements.	_____	_____
Supervision of minors requirements are met.	_____	_____
Intended use date has no conflicts with church calendar	_____	_____

Signature of Crescent Beach Baptist Church  
Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS ADOPTED BY THE CRESCENT BEACH BAPTIST CHURCH  
APRIL 6, 2003 and Amended on \_\_\_\_\_**

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Dr. David Beauchamp, Senior Pastor of CBBC \_\_\_\_\_  
Don Capo, Constitution & By Laws Committee \_\_\_\_\_  
David Hoffman, Constitution & By Laws Committee \_\_\_\_\_  
Edgar Mobley, Constitution & By Laws Committee \_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Clements, Constitution & By Laws Committee \_\_\_\_\_  
Dean Petty, Chairman of the Deacon Ministry \_\_\_\_\_