

BYLAWS
GREEN ACRES BAPTIST CHURCH
OF TYLER, TEXAS

ARTICLE I
MEMBERSHIP

- A. **THE MEMBERSHIP** The membership of Green Acres Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas, referred to herein as the "Church," will consist of all persons whose names appear on the Church Membership Roll.

All authority not herein vested in the Deacons or in any officer pursuant to these bylaws is reserved in and to the Church and the Church reserves the right at any time to amend, supplement, or revoke, in whole or in part, these bylaws.

- B. **ADMISSIONS TO MEMBERSHIP** Membership at Green Acres Baptist Church (GABC) carries both privileges and responsibilities. Each member shall be privileged and expected to participate in and contribute to the ministry and life of the Church, consistent with God's leading and with the gifts, time, and material resources each has received from God.

1. Members of GABC affirm their belief in the "Vision and Values," together with the "Statement of Basic Beliefs" as expressed in the "Constitution of Green Acres Baptist Church". To qualify for membership in this Church, a person must be a believer in Jesus Christ who gives evidence of regeneration, who has been baptized by immersion in water following their regeneration, and who publicly expresses their belief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible.

2. Henceforth, the Executive and Leadership Staff of the Church will be responsible for developing and implementing appropriate new member orientation designed to encourage, and discern, an individual's qualifications for Church membership. This orientation shall be accessible to all prospective new members. Upon a prospective new member's successful completion of orientation, affirmation of belief, and qualification for membership as set forth above, any Executive or Leadership Staff member may recommend a prospect for membership. Recommendations for membership will be voted on at any regular Church Conference or any publicly and previously announced meeting of the Church. Admission to membership will require an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the voting members present.

- C. **CHURCH DISCIPLINE** Any member willfully responsible for conduct by which the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be dishonored, and so opposing the welfare of the church and/or rendering doubtful a profession of faith, may be subject to, including but not limited to, the admonition of Executive or Leadership Staff, Deacon officers and the discipline of the church, according to the

instructions of our Lord in Matthew 18: 15–17. Church discipline may include admonition, deposition from office, or removal of association by the Church of a member. (see Matthew 18: 15–17; 1 Timothy 5: 19– 3 20; 1 Corinthians 5: 4–5). Removal from association by the Church of a member shall be contemplated only after the previous processes have failed.

D. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP Membership may be terminated only in the following manner:

1. Upon death of a member; or
2. Upon a member's joining another Church; or
3. Upon a member's request that the member's membership be terminated; or
4. Upon removal from association by the Church of a member as provided by the Bible, and more particularly in Matthew 18:15-17, I Corinthians 5, and Titus 3:10. Removal from association of a member requires the affirmative vote in favor of such action by at least three-fourths (3/4) of all voting members present at any publicly and previously announced meeting called for this purpose.

E. VOTING OF MEMBERS On any matter coming before the Church for its determination, each member, 18 years of age or over, present will be entitled to one vote which will be exercised in person and not by proxy; and all such matters will be determined at a regular or special meeting of the Church, held in accordance with these bylaws by the vote of a majority of the members present and voting except as provided in Article I, Paragraph B, relating to Admissions to Membership and Article VIII, relating to amendment of these bylaws.

F. MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

1. Worship Services Public services for worship will be held at such occasions as are deemed best for the advancement of the cause of Christ as recommended by the Pastor and the Deacons.
2. Regular Conference Meetings Regular conference meetings of the members for the transaction of the business and affairs of the Church will be held three (3) times per year on the Wednesday following scheduled Deacons Meetings in January, April and October and notice thereof to members will not be required.
3. Special Conference Meetings The Church may be called into a conference for the handling of its business and affairs by oral announcement or written

notice at any regularly scheduled Sunday service prior to the date of the conference by the Pastor, the Chairman of the Deacons, or a majority of the members at any such service.

4. Quorum of Members The members present at any regularly scheduled worship service or regular conference will constitute a quorum. The members present at a special conference meeting, after notice thereof having been given in accordance with Article I, (Paragraph F, sub-paragraph 3), will constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE II THE DEACONS

- A. **THE DEACONS** The business and secular affairs of the Church will be administered by the active Deacons (herein collectively referred to as "the Deacons") by direction of the Church, in accordance with these bylaws. The Deacons will constitute the Board of Directors of the Church as required by Chapter 22 of the Texas Business Organizations Code and, more specifically, Section 22.201 of the Texas Business Organizations Code styled, "Management by Board of Directors." The Deacons of the Church, therefore, will manage the affairs of the Church as the Board of Directors of the Church. The Deacons will be considered directors of the Church as required in the Texas Business Organizations Code.
- B. **MEMBERSHIP OF THE DEACONS** The Deacons will consist of the Deacons as shown by the records of the Church and of such additional Deacons as the Church may hereafter elect as such. There will be kept an Inactive List of Deacons made up of Deacons ordained at Green Acres Baptist Church, or members of Green Acres Baptist Church ordained as a Deacon at a church of like faith, not currently serving as Deacons of the Church.
- C. **QUALIFICATIONS OF A DEACON** A Deacon will be a man who is a member of the Church in good standing and who has the qualifications for a Deacon as set forth in Acts 6:3 and I Timothy 3:8-13 and such other qualifications as the Church may from time to time prescribe.
- D. **TERM OF OFFICE OF A DEACON**
 1. Term. The term of office of a Deacon will terminate upon:
 - (a) his death,
 - (b) his resignation,
 - (c) his termination of his membership in the Church,
 - (d) his active attendance at another church,
 - (e) his removal from such office by the Church, or

- (f) action of the Deacons hereinafter provided for.
- 2. Resignations. On behalf of the Church and without additional Church action, the Deacons may accept the resignation of any Deacon.
- 3. Reviewing Committee. The Chairman of the Deacons will, in January of each year, or as soon thereafter as practicable, appoint a reviewing committee from the membership of the Deacons to serve for one calendar year, and whose duties will be to investigate, upon instructions of the Deacons:
 - (a) any request from any Deacon for voluntary withdrawal of membership from the Deacons,
 - (b) improper conduct on the part of any Deacon,
 - (c) the failure on the part of the Deacon to observe any rules or regulations heretofore or hereafter adopted by the Deacons, and
 - (d) Deacons who may be eligible for designation as Deacon Emeritus.

The committee's findings in each of the above instances will be reported to the Deacons. If the report to the Deacons concern matters described in this Article II, Paragraph D, sub-paragraph 3 (a), the Deacons will have the power to act pursuant to the provisions of Article II, Paragraph D, sub-paragraph 2. But, if such report concerns matters described in Article II, Paragraph D, sub-paragraph 3 (b) or Article II, Paragraph D, sub-paragraph 3 (c), the Deacons will make such recommendations as they may deem proper to the Church.

E. NUMBER AND ELECTION OF DEACONS

- 1. Number. The number of Deacons as required by these bylaws will, at any specific time, be the number thereof who at that time are Deacons in accordance with these bylaws as indicated by the records of the Church but will never be less than three Deacons. Such number may be increased or decreased at any time by the Church either by the election of additional Deacons or failure to fill vacancies occasioned by the termination of the office of a Deacon as herein provided.
- 2. Elections. Deacons may be elected from time to time by the Church either to fill a vacancy within the Deacons or to increase the number of Deacons. Such Deacons will be elected by the Church at a regular conference meeting of the Church after having been nominated by the Deacon Selection Committee and recommended to the Church by the Deacons.

F. MEETINGS AND QUORUM The Deacons will meet regularly at such time and

place as the Deacons may determine. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman of the Deacons, the Pastor, or a majority of the Deacons by giving notice thereof to each Deacon. Twenty (20) Deacons or fifty percent (50%) of the then current Deacon body, whichever is less, will constitute a quorum. A majority vote of the Deacons present at any meeting held in accordance herewith (and at which a quorum is present) will be sufficient to decide on any matter regularly before the Deacons for consideration.

G. **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEACONS**

The Deacons will:

1. hear reports and recommendations from permanent committees and temporary committees and will, after due consideration, recommend to the Church such action as they deem necessary;
2. recommend to the Church in a conference such policies, practices, and procedures as they deem advisable in seeking to fulfill the Great Commission of the Savior recorded in Matthew 28:18-20;
3. together with the Pastor, implement and give direction to all such policies, practices, and procedures as will be voted by the Church in a conference;
4. as herein authorized by the Church, oversee the business and secular affairs of the Church in cooperation with the appropriately designated committees; and to the extent provided for in these bylaws vested in them by the Church, the Deacons will have full authority to do and perform all things reasonably necessary in connection therewith;
5. prior to the end of each calendar year, approve for submission to the Church a budget for the ensuing calendar year. The budget will include estimates as to the anticipated liabilities, costs and expenses of conducting the affairs of the Church during each year and an estimate of the total amount of the anticipated gifts to the Church during each year. The annual budget for each calendar year will be adopted by the Church; and
6. not have the power to borrow money or to sell or encumber any real estate belonging to the Church unless such transaction is authorized by the Church in accordance with these bylaws.

H. **COMPENSATIONS** Deacons will receive no salary or compensation for their services as Deacons.

I. **DEACON OFFICERS** As provided in Article IV, Paragraph E, the Deacons will *biennially (every other year)* elect a Chairman of the Deacons, a Vice-Chairman of the Deacons, and a Secretary of the Deacons, each of which will be a Deacon, to serve for the term provided for in such Article IV, Paragraph E.

A committee of the current and previous two (2) Chairmen of the Deacon Body, in

consultation with the Pastor, shall nominate the next Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary. The Chairman nominee will be consulted by the committee in choosing the nominees for the other Deacon Offices.

As Chairman of the Deacons, such Chairman will preside at all meetings of the Deacons, make reports of the Deacons' recommendations to the church conference, and will perform such other duties as the Deacons may authorize consistent with these bylaws.

As Vice-Chairman of the Deacons, such Vice-Chairman will perform the duties of the Chairman of the Deacons upon the death, absence, or resignation of the Chairman, or upon the Chairman's inability to perform the duties of his office.

As Secretary of the Deacons, such Secretary will keep the minutes of each meeting of the Deacons, keep an accurate record of the membership and attendance of the Deacons, and will perform such other duties as may be required of the Secretary of the Deacons.

ARTICLE III THE CHURCH LEADERSHIP

A. **PASTOR** The Pastor will be the spiritual leader of the Church and will shepherd the Church to function as a New Testament Church. The Church and the Deacons will support the Pastor and the Church with their prayers and finances, and in such manner as to allow the Pastor the greatest time for evangelism and the preaching of the Gospel. It will be the duty of the Pastor to preach to the Church, to proclaim the Gospel to believers and unbelievers, to administer or cause to be administered the ordinances of the Gospel, to act as moderator at the conferences when present, to lead the Church in the achievement of its mission, to care for the Church members and other persons in the community, and to perform the various duties incumbent to the Pastor's office. The Deacons may delegate to the Chairman of the Deacons the responsibility to moderate at Church conferences.

1. **PASTOR SELECTION** A Pastor will be chosen and called by the Church whenever a vacancy occurs. A Pastor Selection Committee made up of six (6) members will be elected by the Church to seek out a suitable Pastor and its recommendations will constitute a nomination. This process is to be brought about by the Committee on Committees bringing a suggested slate of names from the membership, including four Deacons, four men at large and four women at large. From these slated names the church will vote by secret ballot during a Church conference. Additional names may be added from the floor during this conference. The two people in each category with the highest number of votes are elected to serve on the Pastor Selection Committee.

The alternates will be the two names with the next highest votes overall. The committee will bring to the consideration of the Church only one name of a prospective Pastor at a time. Election of a Pastor will be by secret ballot. An affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of those present being necessary for the choice. The Pastor thus elected will serve until the relationship is terminated by his death, resignation, or by a declaration of vacancy.

2. **PASTOR'S RESIGNATION AND VACANCY** The Pastor may resign the office of Pastor by giving at least two weeks' notice to the Church. The Church may terminate the Pastor by an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the **voting** members present at a special conference meeting called for that purpose.
3. **PASTOR'S RETIREMENT.** The Pastor may retire by announcing to the Church the date of his retirement. The Pastor Selection process as described in Article III, Paragraph A, sub-paragraph 1 will then proceed in due process, taking in consideration the announced retirement date.

B. **MINISTERIAL STAFF** The ministerial staff will be called and employed as the Church determines the need for such offices. A job description will be written when the need for a staff member is determined. Those staff members of whom the Church requires evidence of a personal call of God to minister, are categorized as **Executive Staff and Leadership Staff**.

1. **Executive Staff** shall include:

The Pastor - the preacher of the GABC main campus and principal spiritual shepherd of the Church,

Executive Pastor – the person principally responsible for directing GABC staff,

Worship Pastor – the person principally responsible for directing GABC praise and worship (music),

Missions Pastor – the person principally responsible for directing GABC missions,

Discipleship Pastor -the person principally responsible for directing GABC discipleship and education,

Business Administrator- the person principally responsible for directing GABC business affairs, financial accountability, and operations.

These Executive Staff positions describe the primary focus of each. The published title of the Executive Staff positions may change from time-to-time.

Executive Staff (other than the Pastor as is described in Article III, Paragraph A, sub-paragraphs 1, 2 ,and 3 above), will be recommended to the Church by a

Special Selection Committee appointed by the Committee on Committees and approved by the Church. The committee will bring to the consideration of the Church only one prospective candidate for a particular Executive Staff position at a time. An affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the voting members present at any regular or special called meeting being necessary for the choice. A member of the Executive Staff thus elected will serve until the relationship is terminated by death, resignation, or by a declaration of vacancy. An Executive Staff member shall give at least two weeks' notice prior to resignation. The Church may vote to vacate such positions upon recommendation of the Personnel Committee, and an affirmative vote to approve such recommendation by three-fourths (3/4) of the voting members present at a special conference meeting called for that purpose.

2. Leadership Staff (Non-Executive Ministerial Staff) will be employed as the Church determines the need for their services. The Personnel Committee, in consultation with the Executive Staff, will bring to the consideration of the Church only one prospective candidate for a particular Leadership Staff position at a time. An affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of those voting members present at any regular or special called meeting being necessary for the choice. A member of the Leadership Staff thus elected will serve until the relationship is terminated by death, resignation, or by a declaration of vacancy. A Leadership Staff member shall give at least two (2) weeks' notice prior to resignation. The Church may vote to vacate such positions upon recommendation of the Personnel Committee, and an affirmative vote to approve the recommendation by three-fourths (3/4) the voting members present at a special conference meeting called for that purpose.

- C. **NON-MINISTERIAL STAFF** The Personnel Committee will have the authority to employ non ministerial staff members. The Personnel Committee will approve a supervising staff member for each non-ministerial staff member. The Personnel Committee will have the authority to terminate the services of non-ministerial staff members with the recommendations of the Executive Staff, supervising staff member and, as appropriate, with consultation of related committees of the Church.
- D. **DEACONS** The Deacons are as prescribed in Article II of these bylaws.
- E. **CHURCH CLERK** The clerk will keep an accurate record of the proceedings of each business meeting of the church and will prepare the Annual Church Letter to the Smith Baptist Association, or any successor agency or other denominational agency with whom such letter should be filed, and will keep and maintain the membership roll of the Church with such other duties as the Church, the Pastor, or the Deacons may prescribe. The clerk will be elected annually by the Church upon recommendation of the Pastor.
- F. **CHURCH TREASURER** The church treasurer will be elected by the Church annually upon recommendation of the Finance Committee. The church treasurer

will be bonded in an amount determined by the Finance Committee. The bonding premium will be paid by the Church. The church treasurer will be a member of the Church and not a member of the ministerial staff. The term of office for the church treasurer will commence on the first day in January each year. Each church treasurer will continue in office until a successor will have been elected as provided herein.

The treasurer will ensure that a full and faithful account of all monies received, and all monies disbursed. The treasurer will also ensure that a full and faithful account of the specific purpose for which monies are expended.

G. **TRUSTEES**

1. There will be six trustees who will be members of the Church. Trustees will serve as the legal representatives of the Church. Trustees are vested with full power to purchase and receive title to property and to sell and convey title to the property owned by the Church. All of the transactions of the trustees will be directed by the membership of the Church at a regular conference meeting, or a special conference meeting called for that purpose. The nominees for trustees will be selected by the Committee on Committees and annually elected by the Church. Three (3) of the six (6) trustees can act on behalf of the Church.
2. The Church may sell, convey, mortgage, encumber or otherwise deal with or dispose of any real or personal property owned by the Church, and may evidence any such transaction by deed, bill of sale, mortgage, deed of trust, contract or other appropriate instrument, with or without the seal of the Church, signed by the trustees of the church when such transaction is authorized by appropriate resolution of the Deacons and adopted in accordance with these bylaws and approved by the Church.

ARTICLE IV THE CORPORATE OFFICERS

THE CORPORATE OFFICERS In compliance with Chapter 22 of the Texas Business Organizations Code, the Church will have the following Corporate Officers:

- A. **PRESIDENT.** The office of President and chairman of the Deacons will be held by the same person. In addition to duties as Chairman of the Deacons, the President's only other authority in the capacity of President will be the power to execute on behalf of The Church documents, the execution of which have not been otherwise delegated herein.

- B. **VICE PRESIDENT.** The offices of Vice President and Vice Chairman of the Deacons will be held by the same person. In addition to duties as Vice Chairman of the Deacons, the Vice-President's only other authority in the capacity of Vice-President will be the power to perform the duties of the President upon the death, absence, or resignation of the President, or upon the President's inability to perform the duties of President.
- C. **SECRETARY.** The Secretary of the nonprofit corporation will be the Secretary of the Deacons.
- D. **TREASURER.** The Treasurer of the nonprofit corporation will be the Church Treasurer.
- E. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS.** All officers provided for in this Article IV (with the exception of the Treasurer), but including the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Deacons and a Secretary of the Deacons, will be elected for a term of two (2) years by the Deacons, whose term of office will begin the first day of January in the year after election year. Unless an officer's term of office is terminated as provided in Article IV, Paragraph G, each officer to be elected by the Deacons will continue in office until a successor will have been elected as herein provided and will have assumed the responsibilities of the office. A vacancy in any office (with the exception of the Treasurer) may be filled by the Deacons at any regular or special meetings of the Deacons.
- F. **OTHER DUTIES AND OFFICERS.** The Deacons, at the Deacons' discretion, may impose upon the officers referred to in Article IV, Paragraphs A, B, C, and D such other duties as the Deacons may designate consistent with these bylaws. The Deacons may also, at the Deacons' discretion, elect such other officers and assistant officers as the Deacons may deem necessary. Any such additional officer or assistant officer may or may not be a Deacon but must be a member of the Church.
- G. **REMOVAL OF OFFICERS.** Any officer authorized to be elected by the Deacons may be removed by the Deacons at any time whenever in the judgment of the Deacons, the best interest of the Church will thereby be served. Any office will become vacant when the holder thereof dies, resigns, or is no longer a member of the Church.
- H. **COMPENSATION.** Unless expressly authorized by the Deacons, the officers provided for in this Article IV will receive no salary or compensation for services.

ARTICLE V
COMMITTEES OF THE CHURCH

FUNCTION OF THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM The Church will be administered through a congregational-controlled committee system, as is more fully described in the Church's Committee and Ministry Team Guidelines.

- A. **PERMANENT COMMITTEES** All permanent committees of the church will be nominated by the Committee on Committees and elected by the Church and will hold office until their prescribed term of service is complete. Such committees will be designated as "permanent committees." Permanent committees will keep the Deacons informed of their actions as appropriate and will seek Deacon authorization when proposing the expenditure of funds exceeding the currently prescribed spending limitations for committees.

- B. **TEMPORARY COMMITTEES** All temporary committees of the Church will be nominated by the Committee on Committees and elected by the Church and a future date will be established at the time of election whereby the authority and responsibility of any such temporary committee will automatically terminate unless such future date is renewed and extended by the Committee on Committees with the approval of the Church.

- C. **AUTHORITY OF COMMITTEES** The Church reserves the right at any time and in such manner as it may determine to elect any new committee, permanent or temporary, which will be considered a Church Committee, when the Church may deem it necessary or advisable. Each such committee will be elected by the church and will have the duties and responsibilities imposed upon it by the Church.

ARTICLE VI
TAX EXEMPT PURPOSE

The assets of this Church will be used in performing the Church's religious functions and upon discontinuance of the Church by dissolution or otherwise, the assets of this Church are to be transferred to a charitable, educational, religious or otherwise similar organization that qualifies as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

- A. **PURPOSE** This nonprofit corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious and educational purposes, including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

- B. **LIMITATION OF ACTIVITIES** No substantial part of the activities of the nonprofit corporation will be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and this nonprofit corporation will not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the nonprofit corporation will not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law, or (b) by nonprofit corporation contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.
- C. **RESTRICTION ON DISTRIBUTION OF EARNINGS** No part of the net earnings of this nonprofit corporation will inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that this nonprofit corporation will be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in these articles.

ARTICLE VII EFFECTIVE DATE, IMPLEMENTATION AND CONDUCT OF ALL MEETINGS

These bylaws will become effective as of the first day of the calendar month immediately following adoption of these bylaws by the Church; and will supersede and take effect in lieu of the bylaws in effect prior to that time. All meetings and conferences will be conducted according to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order. These bylaws will be implemented by Church policies recommended by the Deacons and approved by the Church; however, in no event will Church policy contravene these bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS

These bylaws, as adopted, may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting at any regular conference meeting or special conference meeting.

These bylaws were adopted on the 23 day of October 2024, by Green Acres Baptist Church in conference.

Church Clerk