

By-Laws

Preamble

These Bylaws are intended to provide structure and order in the operation and ministry of the church. They can be changed at any regular Quarterly Business Meeting where notice on two consecutive Sundays has been given. The meeting must have a 25% quorum and a majority vote greater than 50%.

Article I: Membership

1. All members of this church shall be born-again believers who have been baptized by immersion, following, and because of their regeneration. All candidates for membership shall be acquainted with the Constitution, Bylaws, Covenant and Doctrine of VBC and be in substantive agreement with their content. All prospective members must meet with the pastor and deacons and have their recommendation. This recommendation can be brought to the church at any regular or special business meeting for consideration by the congregation. Those candidates who are rebellious to the clear teachings of the Scripture will not be considered for membership.
2. Members can be removed from membership by:
 - a. Personal letter of request
 - b. Death
 - c. Discipline according to Matthew 18
 - d. Letter of transfer to a like-minded church.
 - e. Nonattendance. Nonattendance is defined as a failure to attend for a period of six months. Members will be contacted by the pastor or deacons prior to church action.
3. In order to maintain its purity and peace, the local church has the Scriptural right and responsibility to discipline its members who consistently and willfully neglect the teachings of Scripture. As situations come to light, a disciplinary committee will be formed by the pastor and deacons and they will take action according to the principles found in Galatians 6:1 and Matthew 18:15-17.

Article II: Business Meetings

1. VBC will conduct its business in an orderly, dignified and public manner. Rules of parliamentary procedure will be observed.
2. There will be four regularly scheduled business meetings each year. The first meeting for each year will be an annual meeting where reports will be presented concerning the various areas of the church's ministries, and the budget and the election of necessary officers will be approved for the new year. There will be three quarterly meetings scheduled following the annual meeting.

3. VBC will be bound by its approved Constitution and Bylaws during these meetings.
4. There must be a quorum of 25% of the voting active members of the church to conduct any business, unless otherwise stated in these papers.
5. Special business meetings may be called at any time to conduct business. These meetings may be called by the senior pastor, a majority of the deacons, or 50% of the voting membership of the church requesting the same by written petition. Notice and purpose of the special meetings shall be publicly read at two consecutive Sunday services and the agenda shall be posted in writing in a public place during the week prior to the meeting. No business except that which is posted may be transacted during special business meetings.
6. All church meetings will be officiated by the senior pastor, or, in his absence; the deacon who is currently vice-chairman. In the absence of these two men the deacons will elect one of their own to officiate.
7. Voting members will be at least 18 years of age and attend services regularly.
8. The clerk will keep minutes of all business transacted during the meeting. This report will be a written and public record read during the following regularly scheduled meeting. The clerk will also be the keeper of the church minutes, and will maintain an accurate record of church membership. The clerk will be appointed by the church leadership annually.

Article III: Ecclesiastical Associations

This church shall be free to associate with whom it pleases, but in obedience to 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, this church shall not be involved in any cooperative ministry (to include mission organizations, para-church organizations and providers of teaching materials) that associates it with a group which would deny the fundamentals of the faith (Virgin Birth, Deity of Christ, Substitutionary Atonement, Sinfulness of Man, Inspiration of Scripture, etc.).

Article IV: Finances

1. It is expected that the church shall assume its financial obligation by discharging any and all indebtedness on a scheduled payment plan. The church shall provide regularly and adequately for those whom God calls to minister here.
2. The ministries of the church will be financed by tithes and freewill offerings.
3. The deacons will appoint a financial secretary who shall keep a record of all giving, and this record will be available for each individual at the beginning of each year.

4. The deacons will appoint a treasurer who shall perform those duties common to this office. The treasurer will present quarterly reports to the church concerning all receipts and expenses. All checks will have a double signature; the second signature will be a designated deacon. No pastors will sign checks. All bills that are budgeted expenses shall be paid by the treasurer.
5. The deacons shall have full supervision of the finances of the church according to its desires. No indebtedness may be incurred at any time without congregational approval and not more than 20% of the average weekly budget may be paid out in any one month for nonbudgeted expenses without church authorization. The disbursement of these church funds requires a majority vote by the deacons.

Article V: Church Leadership

1. God has entrusted the leadership and oversight of His church to "faithful men" who fulfill the character qualities presented in 1 Timothy 3:1-13. These men are to fill two offices referred to in the Scripture as pastor (elder, bishop) and deacon. The church may have as many of each as its size and work demands. No pastor or deacon can be divorced or be a member of any secret organization that violates the Scripture. Each man elected to these two offices must live a life that is characterized by the character qualities listed in the Scripture. (Titus 1:5-9)
2. The senior pastor's duties are, according to the Scriptures: the giving of himself to prayer, the ministry of the Word, the administration of the ordinances, the pastoral oversight of the flock, and the administration and spiritual welfare of the church. He will be responsible for the worship services and securing pulpit supplies. All pastoral, office, maintenance, and appointed personnel shall be under his supervision either directly or indirectly through other pastors or deacons. He, in consultation with the deacons, shall be responsible for final determinations in hiring, dismissing and management of all personnel. He will serve as moderator of all business meetings and be an ex officio member of all organized groups and committees connected with the church.
3. All staff pastors will share in the general duties of pastoral ministries in the church. They will take full responsibilities for duties assigned to them and will report directly and regularly to the senior pastor.
4. When the pastorate becomes vacant, the deacons, in consultation with the membership, shall organize a "Pulpit Search Committee." This committee shall perform preliminary inquiry concerning the suitability of a new man for the pastorate. The congregation will be kept apprised concerning the progress of finding a new pastor and will be notified by mail when a candidate is being considered.
 - a. Suitable candidates shall first come as "pulpit supply."
 - b. They shall then, after appropriate inquiry, be invited to candidate.
 - c. The special meeting regarding the calling of the pastor will be announced

with a written notice sent to each member's home.

- d. The church then may extend a call to the candidate if the vote exceeds 75% with a 50% quorum of active members.
5. Deacons shall be elected from the membership for terms not to exceed three years. Prospective deacons will be nominated by the congregation. The pastor, in conjunction with the deacons, will finalize a ballot to be considered at the annual business meeting. Nominations will not be accepted from the floor at this business meeting. The deacons shall meet monthly with the pastor and assist him in the administration and the spiritual needs of the church. They shall elect one of their own as vice-chairman who will act in the pastor's place in his absence. They will constitute the "membership committee" and will interview prospective members. They will assist the poor and care for the benevolent needs of the church family.
6. All other leadership positions necessary for the efficient operation of the church will be appointed from the membership by the pastors/deacons. These positions will be filled with individuals who have shown themselves to be mature and godly.

Article VI: Standing Policies

Policy statements are guidelines for ministry. They are developed by the leadership (pastors/deacons) to provide structure to carry out ministry goals. Policy statements are always concordant with existing church papers. Policy statements deal with a wide range of issues and are available for public viewing upon request. Each policy statement will be reviewed by the pastors/deacons every three years.