



BYLAWS

of

Rocky Face Baptist Church, Inc.
1544 Rocky Face Railroad Street
Rocky Face, GA 30740-0357

December 2, 2012

(Approved by Congregational Vote in the Morning Worship)

OUR MISSION

"Glorifying God by making disciples of all nations."

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PREAMBLE

We declare and establish these bylaws to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the body in an orderly manner. These bylaws strive to preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in relation to other churches. They also serve to facilitate the vision and mission of the church.

ARTICLE I. NAME AND LOCATION

This body shall be known as Rocky Face Baptist Church, Inc., located at 1544 Rocky Face Railroad Street, Rocky Face, GA 30740-0357, and may also be referred to in these Bylaws as "the church" or "RFBC."

ARTICLE II. MISSION

The mission of Rocky Face Baptist Church is glorifying God by making disciples of all nations.

We seek to make disciples who love the LORD with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength and who love their neighbor as themselves; who continue to grow in the Word and in their Christian walk by being doers of the Word; and who serve the LORD wholeheartedly in the church in ministry and in the world in missions.

We believe that we have all been created to bring glory to God in all that we do now and for all eternity. To glorify God is our chief purpose.

While we are living on this earth, the LORD has given us a Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations. To make disciples is our mission, and the scope of our vision is to reach all nations. Our vision strategy moves from Rocky Face to Whitfield County to the State of Georgia to the United States of America to the uttermost parts of the world. As followers of Jesus, we go into our mission fields to engage and to impact people for the glory of God and for eternity.

Luke 10:27 (NIV84)

27 He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "

Matthew 28:18–20 (NIV84)

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV84)

12 And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

ARTICLE III. STATEMENT OF FAITH

Rocky Face Baptist Church is a member of the Southern Baptist Convention. More importantly, we are a part of God's universal church made up of all believers in the world. Thus, we affirm the fact that there are other devoted Christians who exist in a large number of other denominations. As Baptists, there are certain distinct practices of the faith which we hold dear. Many of these are the same practices that distinguish us from other denominations.

The Bible is the Word of God - We believe that the Bible was written by men under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Bible is literally God-breathed and contains no mixture of error. The truth of Scripture and the person of Christ are the foundations of the church and the life of the believer (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21).

Salvation is by Grace Alone - Man is sinful and does not have the ability to save himself, no matter how many good works he does. We believe that we are saved by God's grace when we put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Once we place our faith and trust in Christ, our faith will be evidenced by good works, obedience, and the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 5:22-23).

The Believer is Eternally Secure - We believe that if a person has made a true, heart-changing decision to accept Christ, then they can never lose their salvation (John 10:27-28; Romans 8:38-39). When a believer sins, their fellowship with God is interrupted, but never broken (1 John 1:9). However, the Bible is clear that those who do not place their faith and trust in Christ in this lifetime will spend eternity in a Christless hell (Revelation 21:8).

Every Believer has Access to God - We believe that every believer, both young and old, has direct access to God through Jesus Christ. This is sometimes referred to as the Priesthood of the Believer. Because of Christ's work on the cross, the believer has no need for human intermediaries, but can talk to God personally, as one of His children (1 John 2:1; Hebrews 4:14-16).

Baptism is by Immersion for the Believer - We believe that baptism does not save anyone, but is a believer's symbolic identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It is done by immersion as an act of obedience by those who have put their faith and trust in Christ (Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:3-5).

This Church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of "The Baptist Faith and Message" as adopted in the June 2000, meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

ARTICLE IV. CHURCH GOVERNANCE/POLITY

Section 1. Governance

We believe that Christ is the Head of the Church and that the congregation, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, is the most basic unit of church government. Through prayerful submission to God and His Word, members are responsible for approving their pastor, approving their deacons, approving new members, approving an annual budget, approving the By-Laws, approving the acquisition and sale of real property, approving the dissolution of the church if necessary, and preserving unity and purity in the church, as well as exercising church discipline when necessary (Colossians 1:18;

Acts 13, 15). Opportunities to exercise voting will be presented at quarterly meetings and at special called meeting. The agenda and material for the meeting will be presented in advance for prayerful consideration and for a time to ask questions.

RFBC is an autonomous church not owed or governed in any way by her affiliates. The government of RFBC, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, is vested jointly in the body of believers who compose her membership and the Pastor and Deacons who shall have the authority to direct the daily affairs of the church. Under the direction of Jesus Christ, RFBC is pastor-led, deacon-served, team-functioned, and congregationally-approved.

Section 2. Relationships.

This Church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches. We are, and shall remain, a part of the North Georgia Baptist Association, the Georgia Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention and shall support and promote the mission causes fostered by the aforementioned groups as well as other mission causes determined by the church.

Section 3. Representation in Denominational Meetings

Local Associations. Once each year messengers may be sent to represent the church in the association with which it may be affiliated. Their duties shall be to cooperate with the messengers of other churches in promoting the ministries of the kingdom of Christ and to indicate to the association the condition of our Church.

Conventions. Messengers may be elected each year by the Church in conference to attend the sessions of the Georgia Baptist State Convention and of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Pastor and Conventions. The Senior Pastor shall be considered by virtue of his office, an appointed messenger to these denominational meetings; his expenses will be paid in accordance with the annual budget approved by the Church.

ARTICLE V. FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship with Rocky Face Baptist Church, Inc. takes place by visiting, attending, participating in one or more church ministries, or membership. Those in fellowship with RFBC are sometimes referred to as "the congregation."

Section 1. Visitors

Visitors are those persons attending a worship service at Rocky Face Baptist Church, Inc., a church-sponsored event, or on church property with permission, for the first time.

Section 2. Attenders

Attenders are those persons attending a worship service at Rocky Face Baptist Church, Inc., a church-sponsored event, or on church property with permission, after the first time.

Section 3. Participants in Any Rocky Face Baptist Church, Inc. Ministry

Participants are those persons taking part or sharing in any Rocky Face Baptist Church, Inc. ministry.

Section 4. Membership

We believe that church membership is important to all believers. Jesus gave priority to the church (Matthew 16:10-19). Membership identifies a person as a part of the body of Christ (Ephesians

2:19) Membership expresses your commitment to God (Matthew 22:37). Membership provides a spiritual family to support and encourage you in your walk with Christ (Hebrews 10: 24-25). Membership gives you the opportunity to discover and exercise your gifts in ministry. (1 Corinthians 12: 4-27). Membership gives you the accountability you need to help you become a mature follower of Christ (Ephesians 4: 13-16).

A. Expectations and Requirements for Membership:

In order to be a member at Rocky Face Baptist Church, a person must present themselves as a candidate for membership during a worship service. A candidate must profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of their life and experience baptism by immersion as a symbol of their faith in Christ. We require a candidate to attend a "Starting Point" class to understand the purpose, vision, and ministries of RFBC as well as review his or her Christian faith and journey. After professing Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior of one's life, following in believer's baptism by immersion, presenting oneself as candidate for membership during a worship service, and completing the "Starting Point" class, the person will be presented to the church to be received into membership by an affirmative vote of the church.

We believe that members should strive to LOVE the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength and LOVE their neighbor, GROW in the Word and in their walk with the Lord, and SERVE the Lord in ministry in the church and/or in missions in the world. The environments which facilitate these areas of growth are Worship (Love), Small Life Group Bible Studies (Grow), and Ministry and Missions groups (Serve). We encourage each member to incorporate weekly Worship, Bible Study Group, and Service into their Christian walk so that they position themselves to hear from God, to grow in Him, and be used of Him.

B. The Way We Accept Members into the Church:

You may present yourself for membership at RFBC in one of the following ways:

Profession of Faith and Baptism: Individuals who profess for the first time that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior join the church through their profession of faith and baptized by immersion.

Transfer of Membership: Individuals who are members of another Baptist church can request membership via transfer of their membership to this congregation. The church clerk will contact the other Baptist church for an official recommendation and transfer of membership.

Statement of Faith: Persons who are members of churches from another denomination may join upon their profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and upon acknowledgement that they've been baptized by immersion as a believer.

Baptism: People who are members of a church from another denomination but who have never been immersed as a believer may join the church by way of statement of faith and baptism by immersion.

Watchcare: These individuals are members of another church yet want to join our church family while they are living in our community. They do not want to transfer their membership from their church, but want to identify with our church family. College students and short-term workers in the area can use this membership option. While Watchcare membership allows

for all the privileges of fellowship and worship, one may not serve in an elected position of leadership.

C. **Voting Procedures**

Acceptance. All candidates for membership shall be presented to the church at any regular times of worship to begin the membership process. At the completion of the process, the candidate will be presented to the church for membership. A three-fourths vote of the church members present and voting shall be required to elect the candidate to membership.

Dissent. Should there be any dissent as to any candidate, such dissent shall be referred to the Pastor and Deacons for investigation and to discuss with the candidate.

Exceptions. Exceptions to these procedures may be made by the Church upon recommendation of the Pastor and Deacons with due regard to unusual circumstances which may justify a change from normal practice.

D. **Duties and Rights**

Members are expected to support, pray for, and participate in the mission and ministry of the church as we preserve our unity in Christ. We are the body of Christ at Rocky Face, and each one of us is a member of it. We are to seek to be in fellowship with the LORD and one another as we learn to love the LORD and our neighbor as ourselves. We are to encourage and build up the body by being involved in a group of believers who gather around the Word of God for the purpose of studying the Bible and living the Christian life. We are to equip believers by serving the church in ministry and to evangelize the lost by sharing the Gospel in the world in missions. We are one in Christ, and we serve and glorify God by making disciples.

Through prayerful submission to God and His Word, members are responsible for voting to approve their pastor, approve their deacons, approve new members, approve an annual budget, approve the By-Laws, approve the acquisition and sale of real property, approve the dissolution of the church if necessary, and preserve unity and purity in the church, as well as exercise church discipline when necessary (Colossians 1:18; Acts 13, 15).

E. **Termination of Membership**

Letter of Transfer. A letter of transfer shall be issued to another Baptist church upon request of the member or of the church.

Membership with Another Denomination. Satisfactory evidence that a member has united with a church of another denomination and terminates membership.

Death. The death of a member removes his name from church rolls.

Request for Release. If a member requests to be released from his obligation to this church, the request shall be referred to the Pastor. If efforts to secure continuance in fellowship fail, such request shall be granted and membership terminated; provided, that if it appears to the Pastor and Deacons that a member has requested termination to avoid discipline, that request shall not be given effect until the discipline process has concluded.

Disciplinary Action. Termination of membership by disciplinary action of the church shall be by the guidelines in Article V.F. (Discipline) of these Bylaws.

Termination of membership for any reason shall be reported to the Church at the first business meeting following such action.

F. Discipline.

Purpose. The threefold purpose of church discipline is to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Cor. 5:6,13), to edify believers by deterring sin (1 Tim. 5:20), and to promote the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Gal6:1). Rocky Face Baptist Church, Inc. shall take all reasonable measures to assist any troubled person in fellowship with the church. The Pastor and Deacons, or others identified by them, are available for spiritual counsel and guidance. Restoration, rather than punishment, shall be the attitude of those in fellowship with Rocky Face Baptist Church, Inc.

Process. Persons in fellowship with this church who err in doctrine, who engage in conduct that violates Scripture, or whose conduct is not in accordance with these Bylaws, in such a way that he hinders the ministry influence of Rocky Face Baptist Church in the community, as determined by the Pastor and Deacons, shall be subject to church discipline (Titus 3:9-11), and/or including dismissal after following the procedures contained in Matt. 18: 15-17, with respect to which the exclusive remedy is contained in Article XII (Resolution of Disputes) of these Bylaws. All such disciplining proceedings shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance. But, finding that the welfare of the church will best be served by the exclusion of the member, upon prior notice to the individual, the church may take this action (termination from fellowship) by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members present and voting at a meeting called for this purpose; and the church may proceed to declare the offender to be no longer in the fellowship of this church. A member's actions may scripturally disqualify them from leadership positions but may not necessitate the termination of fellowship.

Restoration. Any person whose fellowship has been terminated for any condition which has made it necessary for the church to exclude them, may upon his request, be restored to fellowship by a vote of the church upon evidence of his repentance and reformation.

ARTICLE VI. CHURCH ORDINANCES

Section 1. Baptism

A person who receives Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith, who professes Him publicly at a worship service, and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord, shall be received for Baptism. Baptism shall be by immersion in water and shall be administered by the Pastor or whomever the Pastor or church shall authorize. Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship during any worship service or designated time.

A person professing Christ and failing to be baptized after a reasonable length of time shall be counseled by the Deacons or designated representative. If a lack of interest is ascertained, the person shall be deleted from the list of those awaiting Baptism.

Section 2. The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby Christians, through partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine, commemorate the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate his second coming. The Lord's Supper shall be observed quarterly, or as otherwise scheduled. The Deacons shall be responsible for the administration of the Lord's Supper.

ARTICLE VII. CHURCH OFFICES

Section 1. Offices Generally

The Biblical offices in the church are that of Elders (those who direct the affairs of the church, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching -1 Tim. 5:17) and Deacons (ministering servants). In addition, RFBC recognizes the offices under these by-laws of Secretary/Clerk, Treasurer, and Trustees. (The persons holding the office of Elder, Deacon, Clerk, Treasurer and Trustee are hereinafter referred to collectively as "officers".) All officers and staff shall be members of RFBC who are regular in attendance and supportive of the church and her ministries. All officers and staff must be in agreement with RFBC's Statement of Faith and strive to follow Jesus in their daily lives.

All officers and staff shall submit to a confidential criminal background check before assuming office.

Section 2. Senior Pastor and Associate Pastors

Senior Pastor as Elder. The Senior Pastor (sometimes referred to herein as "the Pastor" shall be an Elder of the church.

Qualifications. The Senior Pastor shall be spiritually mature (1 Timothy 3:6; 5:22) and meet the qualifications outlined in 1 Timothy 3: 1-7; 5: 17-22 and Titus 1 :5-9.

Duties of Senior Pastor.

The Senior Pastor shall devote his time to prayer and the ministry of the Word by teaching, preaching, and encouraging sound doctrine and practice (Acts 6:2, 4). He will work to equip the saints to do the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4) as he gives oversight and shepherds the flock of God through the ministry of administration and care.

In the absence or incapacity of the Senior Pastor, the Associate Pastor or, if no associate Pastor, the chairman of the Deacons shall assume responsibility for his duties, any of which can be delegated to a person meeting the qualifications of Elder.

B. **Associate Pastor as Elder.** An Associate Pastor shall be an Elder of the church.

Qualifications. The Associate Pastor shall be spiritually mature (1 Timothy 3:6; 5:22) and meets the qualifications outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 5:17-22 and Titus 1:5-9.

Duties of Associate Pastor. An Associate Pastor will support and grow the vision and mission of the church in ministry areas assigned to his role. In addition to his duties as outlined in his job description, the Associate Pastor shall assist the Senior Pastor in the performance of his regular duties as needed.

In the absence or incapacity of the Senior Pastor for defined periods of time (such as sabbatical or illness), an Associate Pastor(s) may be assigned the responsibility for his duties by the Pastor or the Deacons on an interim or temporary basis.

C. **The Calling of the Senior Pastor and Associate Pastors.** In the calling of any man to these positions, the Deacons will establish a Pastor Search Team. The team will be responsible for recognizing godly and gifted men within the church, or searching for godly and gifted men outside of the church. In addition, the church must be given reasonable opportunity to assess the preaching and ministry gifts of any candidate before being asked to express her

judgment, and must receive assurance from the Pastor Search Team that having interviewed the man concerned, they are in no doubt as to his wholehearted agreement with RFBC's doctrine and bylaws. Having been nominated by the Pastor Search Team, the congregation will voice her prayerful judgment during a Special Members' Meeting, with a call being extended to the candidate provided that an 80% majority of the voting members present, during the Special Members' Meeting, affirm the Pastor Search Team's nomination. The call will also serve as receiving both the Pastor and his wife, if he is married, and their children into the membership of the church, if they meet the qualifications of membership.

D. The Termination of the Senior Pastor and Associate Pastors

By Resignation. A Pastor, after sensing the call of God in a new direction of ministry, may submit his resignation to the congregation, provided that four weeks notice is given unless otherwise agreed upon.

By Grievance. When a grievance exists against a Pastor, either due to his preaching or teaching contrary to the beliefs of this church or to alleged conduct on his part unfitting an Elder, any member may bring such grievance before the Deacons. If the Deacons, after thorough investigation and consideration, believe the grievance to be true and substantial, they shall call for a Special Members' Meeting. The vocational call of the Pastor may be terminated at such a meeting given the following:

A recommendation of the Deacons for removal
and a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote by ballot is reached.

The termination shall be immediate, and any compensation shall be rendered in not more than 30 days. Unless otherwise recommended by the Deacons, the church will compensate the Pastor so removed with not less than one-twelfth of his total annual compensation.

Section 3. Deacons

Qualifications. Deacons and nominees for Deacon shall be qualified for the office as specified in the Bible (1 Timothy 3:8-12). The church shall recognize men who are giving of themselves in service to the church, who possess particular gifts of service, and who are willing to serve in this calling. These men shall be received as gifts of Christ to His Church and set apart as Deacons.

Dacons shall be members of RFBC for a minimum of one year prior to serving, be a Christian for more than 3 years, and at least 18 years of age. They shall be in agreement with the mission and doctrine of the church.

The Term of Office. The term of office of deacons will be three years on a rotating basis. A deacon who rotates off is ineligible for re-nomination until a year has expired.

Selection of Deacons. On a nominating ballot given to the church, church members may nominate qualified men of the church to be deacons. Each member present may nominate up to as many names as there are deacons to be chosen.

Men will be given opportunity to indicate if they do not want to be considered as a deacon.

A Team of Deacons will visit with the qualified nominees and discuss the qualifications of a deacon and their willingness to serve as well as the current state of their walk with the LORD.

The willing, qualified, and selected nominees will be set apart for a period of six weeks to pray and to consider their role as deacons or for a time period deemed appropriate for special circumstances.

At the end of this time, the nominees will be recommended by the deacons to the church for an affirming vote.

New deacons will assume the duties of a deacon in January.

Prior to January, the church will ordain as deacons any men elected to serve who have not been previously ordained.

In the case of death, removal, or incapacity to serve, the church may elect a deacon to fulfill the unexpired term in the manner prescribe, if deemed necessary.

It is pertinent for the deacons to recommend to the church active life-time membership for any deacon who by reason of age or infirmities shall, after honorable service, be no longer able to render active service. They shall be honored as Deacon Emeritus.

Replacement/Discipline/Termination of a Deacon

A Deacon's term of office may be terminated by resignation or by dismissal by a 75% vote of the Deacons if he is found to be physically or mentally incapacitated or spiritually unqualified. (see Article V, Section 4E, on How Church Members are to be Disciplined)

A Deacon who is otherwise unable to fulfill his duties and responsibilities, or has exhibited conduct unbecoming a Deacon, is subject to discipline and/or termination of membership by an 75% vote of the Deacons. (see Article V, Section 4E, on How Church Members are to be Disciplined)

Duties. In accordance with the meaning of the word "deacon" and the practice of the New Testament, deacons are to be the servants of the church. They are to be involved in the life of the church and in the lives of the people. They are to zealously guard the unity of the Spirit within the church in the bond of peace.

They are to assume the role of encouragers to care for members of the body and to help meet the needs of the members especially those of widows, widowers, and orphans.

They are to administer the Benevolence Fund to assist the poor and needy and otherwise provide aid in times of crises or distress.

They are to assist in administering the ordinances of the church.

The Deacons shall be ready to assist the Pastor(s) in any service that shall support and promote the ministry of the Word and Prayer, new and existing ministries of the Church, and the care for the members of the congregation. They are to aid, encourage, and protect the pastor and staff.

Number of Deacons. The number of Deacons shall be determined by the needs of the ministry and by the call and qualification of men in the church. This number shall be recommended by the Pastor and Deacons.

Meetings. Deacons shall meet as often as necessary to carry out their duties.

Quorum. 75% of active Deacons must be in attendance at a meeting where official church business is conducted. A simple majority vote is required to transact business.

Organization of Deacons. The Deacons shall organize themselves however they determine to be best to achieve the mission of the church. The Elders or the Deacons may designate any specific Deacon or group of Deacons to specialize in some particular diaconal function. The deacons shall annually elect a chairman, vice chairman, and secretary. The positions will begin in January.

Section 4. Other Church Offices

Clerk. The Clerk, elected at the annual meeting by the members of RFBC, shall be responsible to record the minutes of all regular and Special Members' Meetings of the church, to preserve an accurate roll of the membership, and to render reports as requested by the Pastor, Deacons or the church. In the absence of the Clerk from any Members' Meeting, the Moderator will appoint a member as Clerk for that particular meeting.

Treasurer. The Treasurer, elected at the annual meeting by the members of RFBC, will not be an active Deacon or paid church staff member. The treasurer will ensure, while working with the Finance/Stewardship Team, that all funds and securities of the church are properly secured in banks, financial institutions, or depositories as appropriate. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for presenting financial reports quarterly. The Treasurer shall assure that full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements are kept in books belonging to the church, and that adequate controls are implemented to guarantee that all funds belonging to the church are appropriately handled by any officer, employee, or agent of the church. The treasurer shall assure that a monthly audit is performed by (a) qualified individual(s). The Treasurer shall be the corporation's Chief Financial Officer.

Trustees. The temporal affairs (e.g., legal and business) of the church, in compliance with the Georgia Nonprofit Corporations Code, shall be conducted by the Board of Trustees, which shall consist of:

- Two members of the Deacon Body
- The Treasurer as chief financial officer of the corporation, and
- Two other such officers as may be elected by the Deacons.

The trustees shall appoint from within, a president/CEO of the corporation and a secretary/clerk of the corporation. They shall meet as prescribed by the articles of incorporation.

The Trustees shall hold in trust the church property. Upon a specific vote of the church authorizing each action, the Trustees shall have the power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any church property, with at least three signatures of the Trustees appearing on any legal document.

ARTICLE IX. MINISTRY TEAMS

Section 1. General

Ministry Teams may be appointed for certain tasks designated by the Pastor and Deacons.

All ministry teams will work with the Finance Stewardship Team in submitting for approval their annual budgets.

Ministry Teams will function to support the mission and vision of the church within a particular ministry area.

Ministry Team Leaders will work with and support the Pastor and leadership of the church as well as their team members.

Section 2. Finance Stewardship Team

This team shall consist of 5 members serving for 3 years on a rotating basis. The Church Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member. At least one Deacon must serve on this team.

The team shall prepare the proposed annual budget for the following church year in cooperation with all ministry teams and departments and submit it to the church for approval in December to be put in place in January.

The team shall promote the stewardship of church members.

By the first Quarterly report, the newly elected finance team shall review all books and internal controls pertaining to all church funds.

ARTICLE XII. RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES*

RFBC is committed to following the scriptural instructions for resolving disputes. Matt. 18:15-17; 1Cor. 6:1-8; Matt. 5:23-25 Therefore, any claim, controversy or dispute arising from or relating to the Articles of Incorporation or Constitution and Bylaws of RFBC, or breach thereof, involving or relating to the fellowship of the church (hereinafter "dispute" which term is to be interpreted expansively), shall be settled by mediation and, if mediation is unsuccessful, arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Dispute Resolution (the complete text of which is available from the church office or WMApeace.com). The methods described in this paragraph shall be the sole remedy for any such dispute, except to enforce an arbitration decision. This paragraph is governed by the Federal Arbitration Act (9 USC §§ 1-16) and shall continue to govern any dispute that may arise during or relating to any term of fellowship in or with the church, even after such fellowship is terminated for any reason.

ARTICLE XIII. CONFIDENTIALITY*

Section 1. Protection of Confidential Information

The Bible teaches that Christians should carefully guard any personal and private information that others reveal to them. Protecting confidences is a sign of Christian love and respect. (See Matt. 7: 12) It also discourages harmful gossip (Prov. 16:28; 26:20), invites confession (See Provo 11 :13; 28:13; James 5:16), and encourages people to seek needed counseling (See Provo 20:19; Rom. 15:14). As these goals are essential to the ministry of the gospel and the work of this church, all members are expected to refrain from gossip and to respect the confidences of others. In particular, all information received through pastoral counseling shall be carefully protected, subject to the following guidelines.

Section 2. Exceptions to Confidentiality

Although confidentiality is to be respected as much as possible, there are times when revealing certain information to others is appropriate. In particular, when it is biblically necessary, confidential information may be disclosed to appropriate people in the following circumstances:

When there is uncertainty about how to counsel a person concerning a particular problem and the need to seek advice from one in fellowship with this church or, if the person attends another church, from the Deacons (or the equivalent) in that church. (See Provo 11:14; 13:10; 15:22; 19:20; Matt. 18:15-17);

When the person who disclosed the information or any other person is in imminent danger of serious harm unless others intervene. (See Provo 24:11-12);

When a person refuses to repent of sin and instituting disciplinary proceedings [Matt. 18: 15-20 and Article V. Section 4. F. (Discipline) of these Bylaws], or seeking the assistance of individuals or agencies outside this church, (See, e.g., Ro. 13:1-5) is necessary; or

When required by law to report suspected abuse of a child, spouse, elder or disabled person.

Section 3. Disclosure of Confidential Information

Scripture commands that confidential information is to be shared with others only when a problem cannot be resolved through the efforts of a small group of people within the church (Matt. 18: 15-17). Therefore, except as provided in Article XII (Resolution of Disputes) of these Bylaws, no one shall disclose confidential information to anyone outside this church without the approval of the Deacons or the consent of the person who originally disclosed the information. The Deacons may approve such disclosure only when they find that all internal efforts to resolve a problem have been exhausted (See I Cor. 6:1-8) and the problem cannot be satisfactorily resolved without the assistance of individuals or agencies outside this church (See, e.g., Ro. 13: 1-5). This limitation shall apply to, but is not limited to, the giving of testimony in a court of law and the reporting of abuse.

Section 4. Effectiveness of These Provisions with or Without Notice

The Deacons may, but need not, provide counselees or disputing parties with written notice of these confidentiality provisions, but these provisions shall be in effect regardless of whether such notice is given.

ARTICLE XIV. CORPORATE POWERS***Section 1. Duration**

The Church shall have perpetual duration and succession in her corporate name.

Section 2. Powers

The Church has the same powers as an individual to do all things necessary or convenient to carry out her business and affairs, including without limitation those powers enumerated in and by Section 14-3-302 of the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code, Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) , in effect on the date of ratification of these Bylaws, or as expanded by amendment thereafter by the Georgia General Assembly, which powers are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 3. Emergency Powers

In addition to the powers to which reference is made in Article XIV. Section 2. (Powers) of these Bylaws, the Church Trustees shall have the powers in anticipation of or during an emergency enumerated in and by Section 14-3-303 of the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation

Code, O.C.G.A., in effect on the date of ratification of these Bylaws, or as expanded by amendment thereafter by the Georgia General Assembly, which powers are incorporated herein by reference. An "emergency" exists for the purpose of this section if a quorum of the church's officers cannot readily be assembled because of some catastrophic event, in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 14-3-303(d).

Section 4. Indemnification

The Church shall indemnify her officers and trustees for those amounts authorized by Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 8, Part 5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A. § 14-3-830 ff); provided, however, indemnification shall only be made upon compliance with the requirements of, and only in those circumstances in which indemnification is authorized under, those provisions.

Section 5. Insurance

Liability insurance may be purchased by the Church on behalf of those persons for whom she is entitled to purchase and maintain such coverage under, and to the extent permitted by, O.C.G.A. § 14-3-857.

ARTICLE XV. CHURCH POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUALS

Section 1. General

The manuals shall be kept in the church office and made available to any member of the church by a designated staff member. Additions, revisions, or deletions of church policies require (a) a recommendation from a church officer or organization (including teams) to whose area(s) of assignment the policy relates, or (b) approval by the Deacons, or (c) approval of the church, if deemed necessary by the Deacons.

ARTICLE XVI. DISSOLUTION OF THE CHURCH

Dissolution of Rocky Face Baptist Church, Inc. shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Georgia Nonprofit Corporations Code, O.C.G.A. § 14-3-1402 et seq.

ARTICLE XVII. INTERPRETATION AND DEFINITIONS*

Section 1. Guiding Principles

Rocky Face Baptist Church, Inc., Inc.'s Articles of Incorporation and Constitution and Bylaws shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the Holy Bible and, where applicable, the laws of the State of Georgia as they pertain to nonprofit corporations, with the exception of Article XII (Resolution of Disputes) of these Bylaws which shall be governed by the Federal Arbitration Act (9 U.S.C. §§ 1-16) with the Bible always as supreme authority.

Section 2. Conflict Between Church Doctrine and the Georgia Non-profit Corporation Code

Where doctrine governing the affairs of the church is inconsistent with the provisions of the Georgia Nonprofit Corporations Code on the same subject, the church doctrine shall control, as expressed in Article III (Doctrinal Statement/Statement of Faith), of these Bylaws to the full extent allowed by the Constitution of the United States or the State of Georgia, whichever is more expansive on the subject. Ref.: O.C.G.A. § 14-3-180

Section 3. Headings

All paragraph headings appearing herein are intended to facilitate references to the terms and provisions hereof and are not in any manner to be deemed to affect the construction or meaning of any term or provision.

Section 4. Use of Masculine and Singular Pronouns

Throughout these Bylaws the use of masculine pronouns (e.g., "he") includes the feminine (e.g., "her"), and the neuter (e.g., "it") where applicable.

ARTICLE XVIII. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

New Bylaws may be adopted, amended or repealed after such action is proposed in writing and distributed at a quarterly conference, and by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of qualified church members present at the next regularly scheduled conference or in a special called member's meeting for this purpose.

Ratified by the congregation of Rocky Face Baptist Church, Inc. on December 2, 2012.

Senior Pastor: Van E Smith

Chief Executive Officer

Secretary: Linda McClure

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August 2012