



# ROBINSON BAPTIST CHURCH

CONSTITUTION,  
COVENANT AND  
ARTICLES OF FAITH

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# DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

## SECTION 1: THE SCRIPTURES

We believe in the authority and sufficiency of the Holy Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, as originally written; that it was verbally and plenary inspired and is the product of Spirit-controlled men and therefore is infallible and inerrant in all matters of which it speaks.

We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creed and opinion shall be tried (II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:19-21).

## SECTION 2: THE TRUE GOD

We believe there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite Spirit, the Maker and supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (Exodus 20:2,3; I Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11)

## SECTION 3: THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purposes are fulfilled; that He convicts of sin; of righteousness and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the Agent in the new birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer. We do not believe the sign gifts (tongues, healing, etc.) are for this Dispensation. (John 14:16,17; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Genesis 1:1-3; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5,6; Ephesians 1:13, 14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Romans 8:14, 16, 26, 27; I Corinthians 13:8-10; 14:21,22; James 5:14,15).

## SECTION 4: THE DEVIL, OR SATAN

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, the Devil; and that he was created by God as an angel but through pride and rebellion became the enemy

of his Creator; that he became the unholy god of this age and the ruler of all the powers of darkness and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire. (Matthew 4:1-11; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10).

## **SECTION 5: CREATION**

We believe the Biblical account of the creation of the physical universe, angels, and man; that this account is neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God without any evolutionary process; that man was created by a direct work of God and not from previously existing forms of life, and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race (Genesis 1,2: Colossians 1:16,17; John 1:3).

## **SECTION 6: THE FALL OF MAN**

We believe that man was created in innocence (in the image and likeness of God) under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression Adam fell from his sinless and happy state, and all men sinned in him, in consequence of which all men are totally depraved, and partakers of Adam's fallen nature, and are sinners by nature and by conduct, and therefore are under just condemnation without defense or excuse ( Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 3:10-19; 5:12,19; 1:18,32).

## **SECTION 7: THE VIRGIN BIRTH**

We believe that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can be born of woman, and that He is both the Son of God, and God the Son (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:14).

## **SECTION 8: SALVATION**

We believe that the salvation of sinners is divinely initiated and wholly of grace through the mediatorial office of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who, by the appointment of the Father, voluntarily took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, and honored the divine law by His personal obedience, thus qualifying Himself to be our Savior; that by the shedding of His blood in His death He fully satisfied the just demands of a holy and righteous God regarding sin; that His sacrifice consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that having risen from the dead He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the most tender sympathies with divine

perfection, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior who died for the sins of the world.

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. Repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God prompted by the Holy Spirit and is an integral part of saving faith (Jonah 2:9; Ephesians 2:8; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24, 25; John 3:16; Matthew 18:11; Philippians 2:7,8; Hebrews 2:14-17; Isaiah 53:4-7; I John 4:10; I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:24).

## **SECTION 9: RESURRECTION AND PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ and in His ascension into Heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest interceding for us (Matthew 28:6,7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; I Corinthians 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6, 51; Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 3:21; Hebrews 8:6; 12:2; 7:25; I Timothy 2:5; I John 2:1; Hebrews 2:17; 5:9,10).

## **SECTION 10: GRACE AND THE NEW BIRTH**

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about by our sovereign God in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith and newness of life (John 3:3; II Corinthians 5:17; I John 5:1; Acts 16:20-33; II Peter 1:4; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1,5; Colossians 2:13; John 3:8).

## **SECTION 11: JUSTIFICATION**

We believe that justification is that judicial act of God whereby He declares the believer righteous upon the basis of the imputed righteousness of Christ; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's shed blood (Romans 3:24; 4:5; 5:1, 9; Galatians 2:16; Philippians 3:9).

## **SECTION 12: SANCTIFICATION**

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer unto

God accomplished in a threefold manner; first, an eternal act of God, based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the believer in a position of holiness at the moment he trusts the Savior; second, a continuing process in the saint as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to the life; third, the final accomplishment of this process at the Lord's return (Hebrews 10:10-14; 3:1; John 17:17; II Corinthians 3:18; I Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 5:25-27; I Thessalonians 4:3,4; 5:23,24; I John 3:2; Jude 24,25; Revelation 22:11).

### **SECTION 13: THE SECURITY OF THE SAINTS**

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6; John 10:28,29; Romans 8:35-39; Jude 1).

### **SECTION 14: THE CHURCH**

We believe that a local church is an organized congregation of immersed believers associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers are pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe that the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only Superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation, that on all matters of membership, polity, government, discipline, benevolence, the will of the local church is final. (I Corinthians 11:2; Acts 20:17-28; I Timothy 3:1-13; Acts 2:41,42).

We believe in the unity of all New Testament believers in the Church which is the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:12,13; Ephesians 1:22,23; 3:1-6, 4:11, 5:23; Colossians 1:18; Acts 15:13-18).

### **SECTION 15: BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER**

We believe that Christian baptism is the single immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our identification with the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, through whom we died to sin and rose to a new life; that baptism is to be performed under the authority of the local church, and that it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He

comes, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. We believe that the Biblical order of the ordinances is baptism first and then the Lord's Supper, and that participants in the Lord's Supper should be immersed believers (Acts 8:36,38,39; John 3:23; Romans 6:3-5; Matthew 3:16; Colossians 2:12; I Corinthians 11:23-28; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:31,42)

## **SECTION 16: SEPARATION**

We believe in obedience to the Biblical commands to separate ourselves unto God from worldliness and ecclesiastical apostasy (II Corinthians 6:14-7:1; I Thessalonians 1:9-10; I Timothy 6:3-5; Romans 16:17; II John 9-11).

## **SECTION 17: CIVIL GOVERNMENT**

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in those things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming King of kings (Romans 13:1-7; II Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21,22; Acts 23:5; Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:29; 4:19,20; Daniel 3:17,18)

## **SECTION 18: ISRAEL**

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, and that she will be re-gathered in the Holy land and, after the completion of the Church will be saved as a nation at the second advent of Christ (Genesis 13:14-17; Romans 11:1-32; Ezekiel 37).

## **SECTION 19: RAPTURE AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

We believe in the pre-millennial return of Christ; an event which can occur at any moment, and that at that moment the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, and the living in Christ shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and all shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air before the seven years of the Tribulation (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:42-44 & 51-54; Philippians 3:20,21; Revelation 3:10).

We believe that the Tribulation, which follows the Rapture of the Church, will be culminated by the revelation of Christ in power and great glory to sit upon the throne of David and to establish the millennial kingdom (Daniel 9:25-27; Matthew 24:29-31; Luke 1:30-33; Isaiah 9:6,7; 11:1-9; Acts 2:29, 30; Revelation 20:1-4,6).

## **SECTION 20: THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED**

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only those who are justified by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Spirit of our God are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost in the lake of fire (Malachi 3:18; Genesis 18:23; Romans 6:17,18; I John 5:19; Romans 7:6; 6:23; Proverbs 14:32; Luke 16:25; Matthew 25:34-41; John 8:21; Revelation 20:14,15).

# Church Covenant

Having been led by the Holy Spirit of God, to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and to confess Him as Lord, and on confession of this 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, most solemnly and joyfully covenant with one another, as one body in Christ, to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him.

We promise by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to forsake the ways of sin and to walk together in Christian love and in the paths of righteousness. With this in view we engage to strive together for both the peace and purity of this church; to sustain its worship and steadfastly to cherish and hold its ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute, as faithful stewards, such time, talent and money, in the measure that God prospers each of us, that the responsibility for the work of the local church and the world-wide ministry of spreading the Gospel be faithfully and effectively discharged.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to teach the Bible to our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to be just in our dealings and faithful in our engagements; to be exemplary in our deportment; to avoid unkind words and unrighteous anger; to abstain from the use and the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage and from every form of evil; to combine zeal and knowledge in our efforts to advance the cause of our Savior; to make Christ first in all things, both spiritual and temporal.

We further engage to give and receive admonition with meekness and affection; to remember each other in prayer, and to aid each other in case of sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the Scriptures, to seek it without delay; to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return.

We moreover engage that when we move from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some local church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of the Word of God.

*(Ecclesiastical Corporation)*

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

We, the undersigned, desiring to become incorporated under the provisions of Act No. 327, P.A. 1931, as amended, do hereby make, execute and adopt the following articles of association, to-wit:

**First**, the name assumed by this corporation and by which it shall be known in law, is Robinson Baptist Church.

**Second**, the location of said church or society shall be in the Township of Robinson, County of Ottawa, and state of Michigan.

Mailing address of registered office:

11914 N. Cedar, R#1, Grand Haven, Michigan. (Church Clerk)

**Third**, the time for which said corporation shall be created shall be perpetual.

**Fourth**, the members of said church or society shall worship and labor together according to the discipline, rules and usage of the Constitution & By Laws of Robinson Baptist Church in the United States of America.

# CONSTITUTION

## Article I

### *Name and Organization*

1. NAME: The name of this church shall be - Robinson Baptist Church of Grand Haven, Michigan.
2. ORGANIZATION: The organization took place April 13, 1960.
3. INCORPORATION: This organization was incorporated in the State of Michigan, December 7, 1960.
4. PURPOSE: The purpose of this Church shall be the salvation of souls and the edification of Christians through the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the teaching of God's Word, the Bible, and the administration of the ordinances of the New Testament.

## Article II

### *Membership*

#### I. METHOD OF ADMISSION\*

- A. **Admission by Baptism** - Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, giving evidence of regeneration, and adopting the views of faith and practice held by this church, may, upon baptism by immersion, be received into its membership.
- B. **Admission by Letter** - Members of other Baptist churches may be received by virtue of their letter, certifying their baptism by immersion, duly granted by said churches, and upon their profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and acceptance of the views of faith and practice as approved by this church.
- C. **Admission by Restoration** - A former member of a Baptist church, whose membership has lapsed, due to dereliction on his or her part, may be restored to fellowship on their profession of faith, and acceptance of the views of faith and practice as approved by this church.
- D. **Admission by Experience** - Persons who are not members of other Baptist churches, but have been immersed upon the

profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and accept the views of faith and practice as approved by this church, may be received into membership by virtue of their experience.

*\*Approved by Congregation 1/6/93*

PROCEDURE OF ADMISSION - All applicants for admission to the membership of the church shall appear before the Deacon Board for consultation and examination. Any applicant that has been recommended by the Board of Deacons shall be voted on by the church at any stated meeting.

## II METHOD OF DISMISSION

- A. **Dismission By Letter of Transfer** - Any member, if in good standing, shall be granted on request, a regular letter of dismissal to any other church of the same faith and order.
- B. **Dismission By Letter of Reference** - When a member of this church desires to unite with an evangelical church of another denomination, a reference of Christian standing may be given upon recommendation by the pastor and deacons.
- C. **Dismission By Exclusion** - When a member's testimony is seriously inconsistent with the Church Covenant and Affirmation of Faith, upon recommendation by the Pastor, and the deacons, the church may vote to exclude the individual from membership.
- D. **Dismission By Voluntary Disassociation** - Upon personal written request, a member may be released from membership after investigation by the Pastor and Deacon Board.

## III DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERSHIP

- A. **Grievances** - In all cases of grievances between members, the offenders shall be dealt with in accordance with the rules laid down in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew, and no public complaint shall be preferred, until this course shall have been pursued. Charges, when made, shall be in writing and shall be submitted to the deacons and proper recommendation to the church.
- B. **Delinquent** - The Pastor and deacons shall be and constitute a committee on delinquents.

1. After consultation with the deacons, the Pastor (with one of the deacons if necessary) shall hold a consultation with the individual to determine his/her spiritual relationship and desire for obedience to God's Word.
2. When reconciliation cannot be achieved through exhaustive efforts, the Pastor and deacons (after careful and prayerful deliberation) shall recommend to the congregation that disciplinary action be taken regarding the unrepentant, which may include one or more of the following:
  - a. Removal from any offices or leadership positions held in the church. Placing on an inactive membership role status. A member, who has been declared inactive, shall be notified in writing that he/she is being placed on an *Inactive Membership List* for a period of one year from the date of the letter, during which time efforts toward restoration will be attempted.
  - b. Removal from the church membership. (May not necessarily be preceded by placement on the Inactive Membership List.)

## **Article III**

### *Meetings*

#### I. PUBLIC MEETING

- A. The stated meetings of this Church shall be Sunday Bible School, Sunday Morning and Evening services, and a midweek service.
- B. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at least once quarterly.

#### II. BUSINESS MEETINGS

- A. Business meetings of the Church shall be held at least once each quarter.
- B. Special business meetings of the Church may be held at any time by order of the Church Board and shall be announced at the services of the Church at least one Sunday in advance.

- C. Any ordinary business requiring action by the Church may be presented and acted upon at any ordinary meeting of the congregation.
- D. The annual meeting of the Church shall be held as near January 1 as is conveniently possible.
- E. A quorum shall consist of one-fourth of the active voting age church membership.
- F. For the purposes of quorum those who are regularly unable to attend/ participate in the regular activities of RBC (i.e. college students, military, and shut-ins) shall not be counted as Active for purposes of Quorum. These still may vote by absentee ballot.  
\*Amendment F approved by congregational vote on April 26, 2015
- G. A voting member is defined as one who has reached the age of eighteen years and is in good and regular standing (one not on the Inactive Membership List).
- H. Absentee Voting - Any voting age member who is ill or out of the area and unable to attend the meeting personally may submit an absentee ballot. This ballot must be in a sealed envelope and presented to either the Pastor, or the vice-chairman of the Deacon Board, previous to the opening of the meeting. No absentee ballot will be accepted after a meeting has been called to order.

## **Article IV**

### *Fiscal Year*

The fiscal year of the Church shall be from January 1 to December 31, inclusive.

## **Article V**

### *Officers of the Church*

- I. OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH, the officers shall be:
  - A. Chairman, which office shall be held by the Senior Pastor.
  - B. Vice-Chairman, which office shall be held by a deacon appointed by the Board.
  - C. Board of Deacons

- D. Church Clerk
- E. Treasurer
- F. Sunday School Superintendent

## II. QUALIFICATIONS

- A. To hold office in this church a person must be a member in good standing for at least a period of 6 months.
- B. The qualifications for local church officers are clearly stated in the Scriptures. (cf. I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; Acts 6:3)

## III. TERM OF OFFICE

- A. The Pastor shall serve for an indefinite period.
- B. Deacons serve for 3-year terms.
- C. All other offices are for 1 year, or in case of filling a vacancy, for the unexpired portion of the fiscal year term.

## IV. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- A. THE PASTOR, the Pastor shall perform all of the Scriptural duties of his office and, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, have freedom of the pulpit. The Pastor shall also perform such duties in connection with the work of the Church accepted by him. He shall be the chairman of the Church Deacons and ex-officio member of all organizations, boards and committees.

### B. BOARD OF DEACONS

- 1. NUMBER OF DEACONS, the number of Deacons shall be 10, with additional Deacons added as needed.

- 2. DUTIES OF DEACONS

- a. The Deacons are to attend to the spiritual affairs of the Church in conjunction with the Pastor.
- b. The Deacons are to assist the Pastor in promoting the various church services, to assist in the observance of the Lord's Supper, and to assist baptismal candidates in the baptismal service.
- c. The Deacons shall visit the sick and delinquent members.
- d. They shall serve as a membership committee to examine prospective candidates for baptism and person

- seeking membership by restoration or experience, and submit recommendations to the church.
- e. In the absence of the Pastor, the Deacons shall arrange for a temporary supply of the pulpit.
  - f. They are to review with the Pastor, the membership roll at least once a year to consider action on members who are not in good standing.
  - g. To confidentially counsel with the Pastor on any problems of pastoral relations that may arise.
  - h. The Board of Deacons shall elect a Vice-Chairman and Deacon Secretary and all standing committee chairmen at their first meeting following the Annual meeting of the church. The Pastor shall be Chairman of Deacons.
  - i. Meet with the Pastor at least once a month to aid in all matters relating to the spiritual interests of the church.
  - j. Have charge of the property of the church and be responsible for the upkeep of the property.
  - k. See that sufficient ushers are present to serve the congregation at all times.
  - l. Administer the secular, temporal and spiritual affairs of the church. This includes decisions on recommendations from any committees. Majority vote will rule. Any resignations may be replaced by the majority vote of the Board.
  - m. The Deacon Board shall recommend employment of all church staff members and the salaries of all employees to the congregation for their approval.
  - n. The Deacon Board shall be divided for such committee responsibilities as the Board deems necessary for the proper operation of the church. Each Deacon shall serve as chairman of the committee to which he is assigned. The committee chairman shall choose the personnel for this committee subject to approval by the Deacon Board.
  - o. Each Deacon shall be assigned a nearly equal number of church families for ministry in a Deacon Care Program.

### 3. RESTRICTIONS

- a. The Deacon Board shall not sell, mortgage or otherwise encumber church property without the consent of the church called together for that purpose.
- b. The Deacon Board shall not buy any equipment or

materials not budgeted without the approval of the congregation except for emergency repair.

- C. OFFICERS, the duties of the officers of the Church shall be as follows:
1. VICE CHAIRMAN, the Vice Chairman shall discharge the administrative duties of the Pastor, in his absence. He shall serve as the Vice Chairman of the Deacons and the church.
  2. CHURCH CLERK, the Church Clerk shall keep the minutes of all business meetings of the Church, and take care of the correspondence in the name of the Church that may be assigned. The Clerk shall maintain an accurate record of all the members of the Church, and preserve and care for all non-current Church records or other documents dealing with the history of the Church.
  3. CHURCH TREASURER
    - a. Shall keep an accurate account of all monies deposited in the bank.
    - b. Shall make payments of all obligations incurred by the Church by check drawn on such account.
    - c. Shall make a statement at all regular business meetings and at the annual meeting.
  4. SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT
    - a. Shall direct the program of the Sunday Bible School under the general supervision of the Board of Deacons.
    - b. Shall advise the Board of Deacons as to teacher appointments.
    - c. Shall provide for the annual Christmas program of the Bible School and superintend all other special projects and programs of the school.

# Article VI

## *Pastoral Relations*

### I. PASTORAL CALL

- A. The calling of the Pastor shall be done in all cases by ballot with a three-fourths majority of the members present, and at a business meeting, announcement of which has been given at the services on the preceding Sunday.
- B. Procedure for selecting, hearing, and voting on candidates shall be as follows:
  - 1. A man will be heard as pulpit supply only for the first time.
  - 2. If then desired, he will be asked to speak again, this time as a candidate for the position as pastor.
  - 3. At either a regular or a special congregational meeting a vote will be taken to determine the desire of the congregation concerning this candidate. If this vote is negative in nature, or he rejects the call, the above procedure shall be repeated for the next man considered.
- C. DISSOLUTION OF RELATIONSHIP: The dissolution of relationship may be realized by:
  - 1. Presentation of written resignation by the Pastor.
  - 2. When grievances exist with the Pastor, dissolution may be considered by a recommendation of the majority of the Deacon Board, and by referral of the question to the members of the Church. In this case the pastoral relationship shall be dissolved by ballot of a majority of the members present, provided that one-half of the membership be present. Notice of the object of the meeting shall be given to the members in writing at least one week before the intended business meeting.

# Article VII

## *Affiliations*

- I Robinson Baptist Church is an independent, fundamental, local Baptist Church.
- II Robinson Baptist Church is opposed to the modern ecumenical movement (Illustrations - W.C.C., N.C.C.) with its inclusive methods of operation.
- III Robinson Baptist Church opposes involvements or association with any

churches or church organization which contains or cooperates with liberalism and modern ecumenism.

- IV Robinson Baptist Church actively seeks fellowship with others of like precious faith.
- V Involvement in any fellowship or organization of churches will only be realized after thorough investigation by the Pastor and Deacons and approval by the congregation.

## **Article VIII**

### *Disposition of Church Property*

- I. DIVISION: In case of organic division of the Church membership, the property shall belong to those members who abide by this constitution.
- II. DISSOLUTION: Should conditions arise when, for any reason, the Church ceases to function, the Church property shall be transferred to Continental Baptist Mission.

## **Article IX**

### *Amendments*

Amendments to this Constitution may be introduced through formal motion at any regular business meeting, but shall not be acted on until the following regular business meeting, at which time an affirmative vote of a majority of the Church or a two-thirds majority of the members present at the meeting shall be required for acceptance; provided, however, that in the meantime the members have been duly informed of the proposed amendment. At no time can any amendment be adopted that would be contrary to historic Baptist beliefs and practices.

# BY-LAWS

## Article I

### *Procedure of Business Meetings*

- I Devotional service.
- II Reading of minutes.
- III Reports of officers, boards and committees.
- IV Reports of special committees.
- V Unfinished business.
- VI New business.
- VII Adjournment.
- VIII Prayer.

## Article II

### *Elections*

- I **NOMINATION:** The Deacon Board shall annually select a Nomination Committee chaired by a deacon. The church shall approve the selected Committee at the Second Quarterly Business meeting and thereby charge the Committee with the responsibility to provide a slate of nominees for the necessary elected offices of the church for the following fiscal year. All nominees must be approved by the Deacon Board. The approved list of nominees shall be posted in a conspicuous place at the church at least one week before the congregational vote on the nominees, which shall be held at the Third Quarterly Business meeting each year.
- II **QUALIFICATIONS:** All officers shall be at least eighteen years of age with the exception of deacons who shall be at least twenty-one years of age.

- III **VACANCIES:** A vacancy in any office may be immediately filled by the Deacon Board until the next Annual Meeting.
- IV **PAID WORKERS:** The appointment of paid workers shall be approved by the church.

## **Article III**

### *Standing Committees*

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- A. The duties of the Finance Committee, appointed by the Deacon Board, shall be:
- B. To prepare the annual Church budget, subject to approval by the Church.
- C. To counsel the treasurer as to proper banking and recording of funds.
- D. To supervise the raising of funds and encourage the giving of tithes and offerings.

#### **MUSIC COMMITTEE**

- A. Appointed by the Deacon Board, this committee shall work in cooperation with the Pastor, and shall have the following duties:
  - 1. To arrange for special music at the regular services of the church.
  - 2. To encourage those who have musical talent to take part in the Church services.
  - 3. To organize a Church Choir.

## **Article IV**

### *Auxiliary Societies and Special Committees*

#### **I. SOCIETIES**

- A. No organization shall be formed or permitted to serve as a subsidiary organization to the Church unless its sponsors have previously submitted their plans and purposes to the Pastor and Deacon Board for sanction and approval.
- B. The various organizations are requested to confer with the Pastor from time to time regarding their plans and activities, and all

matters of importance that affect the Church shall be submitted to the Deacon Board for approval.

- C. The president and vice-president of any Church-sponsored organization must be a member of the Church and in good standing, except in the children's organizations.

II. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- A. All committees serving for some special purpose shall be appointed and dismissed, as required, by the Deacon Board.

## **Article V**

### *Amendments*

Amendments to these By-laws may be adopted at any regular business meeting of the Church by a two-thirds vote of those present, provided announcement has been made at a public service previous to such business meeting.