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The Constitution

4

of the Mount Vernon Baptist Church

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6 Since God established a Congregation in 1959 under the name Mount Vernon
7 Baptist Church, of Atlanta, Georgia, for the worship of God and the spread of the gospel
8 of Jesus Christ, and since He has sustained and prospered this work to the present day as
9 Mount Vernon Baptist Church of Sandy Springs, Georgia; and

10

11 Whereas we, having searched the Scriptures under the guidance of His Spirit,
12 have recognized the appropriateness of reconstituting the polity of the Congregation to
13 conform more closely to our understanding of the Scriptural model;

14

15 Now therefore, the Congregation does hereby reorganize itself in accord with the
16 Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code and the 1959 Articles of Incorporation of this
17 Church and adopts this Constitution as its articles of governance, to be interpreted at all
18 times to reflect the character of and bring glory to Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Holy
19 Bible and articulated in our Statement of Faith, the Baptist Faith and Message (2000), and
20 in our Church Covenant (which Covenant is attached hereto as Exhibit "A"). This
21 Constitution is in lieu of Bylaws and revokes and replaces previously adopted Bylaws.

22

Article One, Purpose

23

Section 1. The Purpose of this Church.

24

25 Clause 1. This Church exists for the worship and glory of God.

26

27 Clause 2. This Church seeks to accomplish this purpose by knowing one another,
28 equipping one another, and sending one another out to reach the lost, locally and
29 globally.

30

Article Two, Membership

31

Section 1. Eligibility for Membership.

32

33 Clause 1. Members of this Church shall be believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who:

34

35 (a) give evidence of regeneration;

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- 1 (b) have been baptized, by immersion, as believers in obedience to
2 Christ;
3
4 (c) hold without mental reservation the doctrines of our Church as
5 expressed in the Baptist Faith and Message (2000) and in the
6 Church Covenant; and
7
8 (d) promise to keep the commitments expressed in the Church
9 Covenant.

10
11 **Section 2. Admission to membership.**

12
13 Clause 1. An individual shall be received as a member of the Church upon the
14 recommendation of the Elders and the subsequent agreement by a three-quarters vote at
15 any Church in Conference.

16 m
17 Clause 2. Other than an Associate Member, no member of this Church shall retain
18 membership in any other Church.

19
20 **Section 3. Duties of members.**

21
22 Clause 1. Members shall be expected to participate actively in the life of the
23 Church by:

- 24 a. regularly attending its Lord's Day meetings;
25
26 b. faithfully observing its ordinances, namely, baptism and the Lord's
27 Supper;
28 c. submitting to its discipline and instruction;
29
30 d. contributing cheerfully and regularly to the support of this
31 church.
32 e. attending its Church in Conference; and
33
34 f. voting on the election of officers, on decisions regarding
35 membership, on issues related to doctrine, and on all other matters submitted to the
36 Congregation's vote;

37
38 Clause 2. No person who is not a member can vote or hold any elected or
39 appointed position in the Church.
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1 **Section 4. Termination of membership and Discipline of members.**

2
3 Clause 1. The Church shall recognize the termination of a person’s membership
4 following his or her death, and may do so following his or her voluntary resignation or
5 joining another church.

6
7 Clause 2. The Church shall have authority to exercise discipline over its members,
8 which may involve excluding from its membership any member consistently neglectful
9 of the duties enumerated in Article 2, Sections 1 and 3, or guilty of scandalous conduct
10 by which the reputation of Christ or His Church is dishonored. Any such action shall be
11 done in accordance with the instructions of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 18:15-17 and those
12 of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 and 2 Corinthians 2:6-8. The purpose of such
13 discipline is for the repentance, reconciliation, and spiritual growth of the individual
14 disciplined.

15
16 Clause 3. The Church shall have authority to refuse to accept a member’s
17 voluntary resignation or transfer of membership to another church for the purpose of
18 proceeding with, or continuing the process of, church discipline.

19
20 Clause 4. A member shall be removed from the membership as a matter of church
21 discipline upon the recommendation of the Elders and the subsequent agreement of at
22 least three-quarters vote at any Church in Conference.

23
24 **Section 5. Associate members.**

25
26 Clause 1. Students and others temporarily residing in the Atlanta area who
27 otherwise meet the requirements of membership in the Church may be received as
28 associate members, provided they are members in good standing of another evangelical,
29 Baptist church.

30
31 Clause 2. An individual shall be received as an associate upon the
32 recommendation of the Elders and the subsequent agreement of at least three-quarters
33 vote at any Church in Conference.

34
35 Clause 3. Associate members shall retain membership in one other evangelical,
36 Baptist church.

37
38 Clause 4. Associate members shall be expected to participate actively in the life of
39 the Church in the same way as members, except that they shall not be eligible either to
40 stand for any office or to vote.

41
42 Clause 5. A person’s associate membership with the Church shall terminate
43 immediately upon the ending of residence in the Atlanta area or by voluntary resignation.
44 The Church shall have authority to terminate an individual’s associate membership if he

1 or she is consistently neglectful of his or her duties or guilty of scandalous conduct by
2 which the reputation of Christ or His Church is dishonored. In such an event, the Elders
3 shall refer disciplinary action to the Pastor or Elders of the excluded person's home
4 church.

5
6 *Article Three, Meetings*

7
8 **Section 1. Regular meetings.**

9
10 The Church shall meet together for public worship each Lord's Day and at other times
11 throughout the week as the Church may determine.

12
13
14 **Section 2. Church in Conference.**

15
16 Clause 1. The Church shall hold Church in Conference meetings at least every
17 quarter.

18
19 Clause 2. The Elders, whenever they deem it necessary, or within thirty days of
20 receiving a written request signed by ten percent of the voting membership, shall call a
21 special Church in Conference.

22
23 Clause 3. No Church in Conference shall be held until the date, time, and place of
24 such meeting has been announced at all Sunday morning and Sunday evening services of
25 the Church for at least two weeks prior to the Church in Conference in question.

26
27 Clause 4. The Chairman of Elders shall preside as the moderator at every Church
28 in Conference and shall be responsible to maintain order and to recognize the presence of
29 a quorum before considering any matters requiring a vote. In the event the Chairman of
30 Elders is not present at a meeting, those Elders who are present will designate a substitute
31 moderator for that meeting.

32
33 Clause 5. Church in Conference meetings shall proceed according to a reasonable
34 order.

35
36 Clause 6. Any action required to be taken by the Church in Conference shall
37 require the recognition of the presence of a quorum by the presiding officer. The
38 presence of five percent (5%) of the members shall constitute a quorum and shall be
39 required to do business. Motions shall be adopted upon the agreement of a majority of the
40 members present, except on matters requiring more than a mere majority vote as
41 otherwise provided for in this Constitution.

1
2 **Section 3. Actions taken in Church in Conference.**
3

4 The Church, duly assembled at a Church in Conference, shall be responsible:
5

- 6 (a) to elect officers;
7
8 (b) to receive individuals into Church membership;
9
10 (c) to recognize the termination of membership due to death, transfer
11 of membership, or voluntary resignation;
12
13 (d) to edit or amend the Statement of Faith or Church Covenant;
14
15 (e) to exercise Church discipline;
16
17 (f) to approve, once in every year, a Church budget;
18
19 (g) to hear reports from the Elders and, from time to time, various
20 Deacons and ministry teams; and
21
22 (h) to take any other action they deem necessary or desirable.
23

24 **Section 4. Alternative voting for members in special circumstances.**
25

26 When matters involving the election of Elders and Deacons and the approval of the
27 annual Church budget are to come before the Church in Conference for a vote, any
28 member of the Church who is serving under the Commission of this Church on the
29 mission field or who is known to be a home bound member or who is away on active
30 duty in military service shall be notified in writing of the proposed election or vote
31 and shall be eligible to vote by correspondence on the question. Writing or
32 correspondence shall include e-mail for those who regularly receive information
33 from the Church in that manner, but shall mean by regular mail for those known not
34 to have e-mail. It shall be the responsibility of the member to provide the Church
35 with a current address or e-mail.
36

37 *Article Four, Government*
38

39 **Section 1. Biblical offices.**
40

41 The biblical offices in the Church shall be Elders and Deacons, but final earthly authority
42 is vested in the assembled Congregation.

1
2 **Section 2. Elders.**
3

4 Clause 1. Oversight of the ministry and resources of the Church shall be vested in
5 a Council of Elders, which shall be comprised of not fewer than seven men who are
6 members of the Church and who satisfy the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7
7 and Titus 1:6-9.
8

9 Clause 2. At least once in every year, the Elders shall at any regular Church in
10 Conference solicit from the Congregation recommendations for the office of Elder, which
11 recommendations shall be given to the Elders in private, and not publicly. The Elders
12 shall give due consideration to any recommendations received.
13

14 Clause 3. Elders shall be selected as follows: The Council of Elders shall at any
15 regular Church in Conference present to the Church a list of nominees to the office of
16 Elder. For a period of at least one month, the Church shall consider whether such
17 nominees are qualified for the office. If any member believes one or more of the
18 nominees to be unqualified, that member shall express such concern to the Elders, who
19 may on the basis of that advice remove names from the list of nominees. No name shall
20 be added to the list of nominees, which was not included on the initial list. When a period
21 of one month has elapsed, the Elders shall at the next regular Church in Conference
22 present a final list of nominees to the Church, who shall vote yea or nay by written and
23 signed ballot on each of the nominees separately. The Moderator and Treasurer (or in
24 their absence two or more members designated by the Elders) shall count the votes, and
25 any nominee receiving approval by three-fourths shall, in due haste, be publicly
26 recognized as an Elder and set apart as such.
27

28 Clause 4. In accordance with 1 Timothy 2:12 women shall not serve as Elders.
29

30 Clause 5. A majority of the Council of Elders shall be laymen, that is, Church
31 members not in the regular pay of the Church.
32

33 Clause 6. With the exception of the Elders serving on staff, Elders shall be
34 reaffirmed by vote of the Church triennially, and having served two consecutive three-
35 year terms, shall not be eligible for re-election for one year. Elders serving on staff shall
36 not be subject to a reaffirmation vote, or to any term limit. When the first class of Elders
37 is elected following the adoption of this Constitution, those Elders shall serve initial
38 terms of one, two or three years, as determined by the Elders at their first meeting
39 following that first election of Elders.
40

41 Clause 7. No Elder shall hold the office of Deacon during his tenure as an Elder.
42

43 Clause 8. The Council of Elders shall choose its Chairman, Vice Chairman and
44 Secretary. The Chairman of Elders shall be chosen by the Council of Elders from among

1 the lay elders, that is those not in the regular pay of the Church. The Council of Elders
2 shall serve in lieu of a board of directors and the Chairman of Elders shall serve as the
3 chief officer of the Church for legal purposes. In addition to such other duties as may be
4 set forth in this Constitution or otherwise be delegated by the Council of Elders, the Vice
5 Chairman shall serve as Chairman in the event of the incapacity or absence of the
6 Chairman.

7
8 Clause 9. The Elders shall, in keeping with the principles set forth in the
9 Scriptures, especially Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; James 5:14; and 1 Peter
10 5:1-4, undertake the responsibility of shepherding God's flock by devoting themselves to
11 prayer and the ministry of the Word. They shall have the following particular authority:

- 12 (a) to plan and oversee corporate worship services;
- 13 (b) to oversee the ordinances of the Church, which ordinances are
14 Baptism and the Lord's Supper;
- 15 (c) to examine and instruct prospective members;
- 16 (d) to oversee the process of Church discipline;
- 17 (e) to examine and recommend candidates for all offices and
18 positions;
- 19 (f) to oversee the work of the Deacons and all other agents of the
20 Church; and
- 21 (g) to set direction and take any other action which shall be necessary
22 and proper for faithfully overseeing and shepherding the Church.

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31 Clause 10. An Elder shall be removed from office by a three-fourths vote at any
32 Church in Conference. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions
33 of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 18:15-17 and those of the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 5:17-
34 21.

35
36
37 **Section 3. Deacons.**

38
39 Clause 1. Particular service to the Church shall be provided by Deacons, the
40 number of which shall vary as the Church has need, and who shall satisfy the
41 qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

1 Clause 2. Each diaconate position shall serve a particular need of the Church, and
2 shall be created or dissolved upon the recommendation of the Elders and the subsequent
3 agreement of three-fourths at any Church in Conference.
4

5 Clause 3. At least once every year, the Elders shall at a Church in Conference, and
6 by other notice, solicit from the Congregation recommendations for qualified persons to
7 serve as deacons, which recommendations shall be given to the Elders in private, and not
8 publicly. The Elders shall give due consideration to any recommendation received.
9

10 Clause 4. Deacons shall be selected as follows: The Council of Elders shall at a
11 Church in Conference present to the Church a list identifying a nominee for each specific
12 diaconate position to be filled. For a period of at least one month, the Church shall
13 consider whether each nominee is qualified for the office of deacon and gifted for the
14 specific deacon position to which he is nominated. If any member believes one or more
15 of the nominees to be unqualified to be a deacon or not gifted for the specific deacon
16 position to which he is nominated, that member shall express such concern to the Elders,
17 who may on the basis of that advice remove names from the list of nominees and
18 substitute for specific deacon positions other names who are already in nomination by the
19 Church. When a period of one month has elapsed, the Elders shall at the next Church in
20 Conference present to the Church a final list of deacon nominees and associated
21 diaconate positions. The Church in Conference shall vote yea or nay by written, signed
22 ballot on each of the nominees in turn. The Moderator and Treasurer (or, in their absence,
23 two or more members designated by the Elders) shall count the votes, and any nominee
24 receiving approval by three-fourths shall be a Deacon, and shall in due haste be publicly
25 recognized and set apart as such.
26

27 Clause 5. Deacons shall serve for one term of three years and may be reaffirmed
28 by a vote of the Church for one additional three-year term. Deacons who have served
29 two consecutive three-year terms shall then not be eligible to serve as a deacon for a
30 period of one year.
31

32 Clause 6. In keeping with the principles set forth in Acts 6:1-6, Deacons shall
33 support the Elders' ministry of the Word while they work to maintain the unity of the
34 Church, and care for the physical needs of the Church. The Elders shall, from time to
35 time, request the Deacons, individually or as a group, to meet together with the Elders for
36 the purpose of discussing the Deacon ministry of the Church. In addition, the Vice
37 Chairman of Elders shall call and lead a meeting at least once each quarter of all
38 Deacons, along with all non-Deacon heads of ministry teams, for the purpose of prayer,
39 encouragement and coordination of Deacon and ministry team activities.
40

41 Clause 7. The Church will, upon recommendation by the Elders, recognize
42 Deacons to take responsibility for the following specific ministries:
43

- 44 (a) for overseeing the budget and financial affairs of the Church ;

- 1 (b) for attending to matters related to Church personnel;
- 2 (c) for attending to the mission outreach of the Church;
- 3 (d) for seeing that the sick, the sorrowing, the aged, and the infirm
- 4 receive spiritual and physical comfort;
- 5 (e) for receiving, holding, and disbursing a fund for benevolence, and
- 6 for reporting from time to time on the use of such funds to both
- 7 the Elders and the Church;
- 8 (f) for attending to the accommodations for corporate worship,
- 9 including greeting;
- 10 (g) for attending to the elements of the Lord's Supper;
- 11 (h) for attending to baptisms; and
- 12 (i) for attending to details pertaining to sound and media.

13
14 In addition, the Elders may identify and recommend to the Church the
15 recognition of deacons to serve in other specific diaconate ministries as the Church may
16 have need.

17
18 Clause 8. After the Elders have approved a budget, the Deacon of Finance shall
19 present to the Church in August a budget, which shall then be considered and voted upon
20 by the Church in September in accordance with a fiscal year starting October 1. The
21 Deacon of Finance shall work closely with the Treasurer to track the account balances,
22 revenues, and expenses of the Church for the Elders and the Congregation with the goal
23 of achieving a balanced budget within each fiscal year. No person or group shall solicit
24 money on behalf of the Church or any of its ministries without the prior written approval
25 of the Council of Elders and the Deacon of Finance.

26
27 Clause 9. A Deacon may be removed from office by a decision of the Elders, or
28 upon the recommendation of the Elders and the subsequent agreement of three-fourths
29 vote at any Church in Conference.

30
31 Clause 10. In the event a diaconate position becomes vacant or the Elders identify
32 a new diaconate position, the Elders may appoint a person to fill that position and assume
33 its responsibilities, until such time as that or another person can be duly recognized by the
34 Church as a Deacon to serve in that specific diaconate ministry.

35
36 Clause 11. Ministry teams may be formed by the Deacons to assist them in
37 fulfilling their roles. The Elders and Staff shall provide assistance to the Deacons in the
38 forming of ministry teams by helping identify Church members who have appropriate
39 gifts and the desire to serve in particular areas. The Senior Pastor or Elders may form
40 additional ministry teams. Members of ministry teams shall be reported to the Church at a
41 Church in Conference but no vote of confirmation by the Church is required.

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44

1 **Section 4. Senior Pastor.**

2
3 Clause 1. Primary responsibility for preaching and teaching the Scriptures in
4 public meetings of the Church may be vested in a Senior Pastor, who shall be an Elder.

5
6 Clause 2. A Senior Pastor shall be selected as follows. The Elders shall form a
7 Senior Pastor Search Committee whenever a vacancy occurs. That committee shall
8 present their recommendation to the Elders. The Elders at any Church in Conference shall
9 present to the Church the name of one nominee to the position of Senior Pastor. For a
10 period of at least one month, the Church shall consider the nominee's gifts in preaching
11 and teaching, and his commitment to minister personally to the members of this Church.
12 If any member believes the nominee to be unqualified, that member shall express his
13 concern to the Elders. When a period of one month has elapsed, the Elders shall at a
14 Church in Conference, present the nominee for Senior Pastor to the Church, who shall, by
15 written and signed ballot, vote yea or nay on his selection as such. The Moderator and
16 Treasurer (or, in their absence those members designated by the Elders present) shall
17 count the votes, and if the nominee receives the approval of at least three-quarters of the
18 members present and voting, he shall be a member of the Church, an Elder, and the
19 Senior Pastor, and the Church shall in due haste publicly recognize him as such.
20

21 Clause 3. The Senior Pastor shall preach regularly on the Lord's Day, administer
22 the ordinance of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and perform such other duties as usually
23 pertain to that office.
24

25 Clause 4. In the absence or incapacity of the Senior Pastor, the Elders shall
26 assume responsibility for his duties, any of which can be delegated.
27

28 **Section 5. Associate Pastors.**

29
30 Clause 1. The Church may call additional pastors whose relationship to the Senior
31 Pastor is that of associate.
32

33 Clause 2. An Associate Pastor shall assist the Senior Pastor in the performance of
34 his regular duties and shall perform any other duties as usually pertain to the office of
35 pastor.
36

37 Clause 3. An Associate Pastor shall be selected in a manner identical to the
38 selection of the Senior Pastor, except that a search committee is not required.
39

40 **Section 6. Assistant Pastors.**

41
42 Clause 1. The Church may call additional pastors whose relationship to the
43 Senior Pastor is that of an assistant.
44

1 Clause 2. An Assistant Pastor shall assist the Senior and Associate Pastor(s) in the
2 performance of their regular duties, and shall perform other duties as usually pertain to
3 the office of pastor.

4
5 Clause 3. An Assistant Pastor shall be selected in a manner identical to the
6 selection of the Senior Pastor, except that a search committee is not required.

7
8 **Section 7. Staff.**

9
10 The Elders may hire additional staff to assist with pastoral and administrative ministry.

11
12 *Article Five, Administration*

13
14 **Section 1. Clerk.**

15
16 Clause 1. The Clerk, who shall be considered an officer of the Church, shall
17 record the minutes of all regular and special Church in Conference meetings and give
18 reports as requested by the Elders, particular Deacons, or the Church. In compliance with
19 O.C.G.A. 14-3-840 (e), the Clerk shall serve in lieu of the legal office of secretary.

20
21 Clause 2. The Clerk shall be selected to a renewable term of one year upon the
22 recommendation of the Elders and the subsequent agreement of a three-fourths vote at
23 any Church in Conference.

24
25 Clause 3. The Clerk may be removed from office by a decision of the Elders, or
26 by a three-quarters vote at any Church in Conference.

27
28 **Section 2. Treasurer.**

29
30 Clause 1. The Treasurer, who shall be considered an officer of the Church, shall
31 ensure that all funds and securities of the Church are properly secured in such banks,
32 financial institutions, or depositories as designated by the Church. The Treasurer shall
33 also ensure that full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements are kept in
34 books belonging to the Church, and that adequate controls are implemented to guarantee
35 that all funds belonging to the Church are appropriately handled by any officer,
36 employee, or agent of the Church. The Treasurer shall render to the Elders, whenever
37 they may require it, an account of all financial transactions and of the financial condition
38 of the Church. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for presenting regular reports of
39 the account balances, revenues, and expenses of the Church to the Congregation.

40
41 Clause 2. The Treasurer shall be elected to a renewable term of one year upon the
42 recommendation of the Elders and the subsequent agreement of three-quarters vote at a
43 Church in Conference.

1
2 Clause 3. No person shall serve more than three consecutive terms as Treasurer.

3
4 Clause 4. No person currently serving as an Elder, paid staff member of the
5 Church, or as the Deacon of Finance, shall be eligible for the office of Treasurer.

6
7 Clause 5. The Treasurer shall be removed from office upon the recommendation
8 of the Elders and the subsequent agreement of a three-quarters vote at any Church in
9 Conference. In addition, the Treasurer and any Assistant Treasurer may be removed
10 immediately for defalcation or dishonesty by action of the Elders.

11
12 Clause 6. One or more Assistant Treasurers may be recommended by the Elders.
13 Any Assistant Treasurer shall be elected in a similar manner, for similar terms and shall
14 have similar qualifications, as the Treasurer.

15
16 *Article Six, Church Policy Manual*

17 The Council of Elders shall be responsible for creating and adopting a Church Policy
18 Manual which shall set forth Church policies not covered in this Constitution. The
19 Church Policy Manual may not contain any policies or procedures that are in conflict
20 with this Constitution. The Church shall be informed when the Church Policy Manual is
21 adopted or amended by the Elders. The Church Policy Manual shall be kept in the
22 Church office and a copy shall be provided upon request to any member of the Church
23

24 *Article Seven, Property and Assets*

25 Clause 1. The Church shall have the power to receive, either by gift or purchase,
26 and so hold such real, personal, or mixed property as it is authorized by the laws of the
27 State of Georgia, and is deemed necessary or appropriate for the functioning of the
28 Church, and shall have the power to dispose of such property by mortgage, bill of sale,
29 deed, or otherwise. All property shall be held in the name of the Church.

30
31 Clause 2. No real property shall be purchased, disposed of, encumbered or leased
32 without approval by a three-fourths vote at a Church in Conference where notice of the
33 conference and the proposed action have been given at all Sunday morning and Sunday
34 evening services for two weeks prior to the conference.

35
36 Clause 3. In case of division of the Church by conflict (from which we pray God
37 by His mercy to preserve us), all property and assets of the Church shall belong to those
38 who abide by this Constitution.

39
40 Clause 4. In case of dissolution of the Church, the property and all assets shall be
41 sold, either through private or public sale. From the proceeds, firstly all current and long-
42 term obligations of the Church shall be paid. Secondly, all remaining funds shall be
43 distributed to one or more Christian ministries (recognized as an IRS 501 (c) (3))

1 organization), as the Church shall determine. The Church shall be considered dissolved
2 if so decided by the Church by a three-fourths written ballot vote at a Church in
3 Conference called for that purpose, or when no Church in Conference meeting has been
4 held for three consecutive years, or when less than six members remain.

5
6 *Article Eight, Indemnification*

7 The Church shall indemnify and hold harmless any and all Elders, Deacons, officers,
8 business administrators, Pastors and staff personnel for any expenses actually or
9 necessarily incurred in conjunction with any action, suit or proceeding against such
10 members as a result of matters arising out of their discharge of duties to the Church. This
11 indemnification shall include attorney fees and shall occur as the expenses are incurred
12 and in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit or proceeding, on receipt of the
13 members' promise to repay the amount advanced if proved in court that the conduct
14 which is the subject matter of the action involved a deliberate intent by said member to
15 injure the Church's best interests.

16
17 *Article Nine, Ratification*

18
19 This Constitution shall be ratified upon the approval of a three-fourths vote at a Church in
20 Conference, and shall take effect upon the recognition of at least seven Elders pursuant to
21 a transition plan which shall first be approved by a three-fourths vote at a Church in
22 Conference.

23
24 *Article Ten, Amendments*

25
26 **Section 1. Amendment of Statement of Faith or Church Covenant.**

27
28 The Statement of Faith or Church Covenant shall be amended upon the recommendation
29 of the Elders and the subsequent agreement of a three-quarters vote at any regular Church
30 in Conference, provided the amendment shall have been offered in writing at any
31 previous Church in Conference, and shall have been announced at all Sunday morning
32 and Sunday evening services of the Church for at least two weeks immediately prior to
33 final consideration. Any member serving under the commission of this Church on the
34 mission field or who is known to be a homebound member shall be notified in writing of
35 the proposed amendment and shall be eligible to vote by correspondence on this question.

36
37 **Section 2. Amendment of this Constitution.**

38
39 This Constitution shall be amended by a three-quarters vote at any regular Church in
40 Conference, provided the amendment shall have been offered in writing at any previous
41 Church in Conference, and shall have been announced at all Sunday morning and Sunday

1 evening services of the Church for at least two weeks immediately prior to final
2 consideration. Any member serving under the commission of this Church on the mission
3 field or who is know to be a home-bound member shall be notified in writing of the
4 amendment and shall be eligible to vote by correspondence on this question.