# Patrick Baptist Church

## *Doctrinal Statement, By-Laws & Covenant*

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# Doctrinal Statement

## The Holy Scripture

We believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and that they compose the entire Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible, and God-breathed; and therefore, are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the complete and divine revelation of God to man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning. The King James Version of the Bible shall be the official and only English-language translation.

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 / 2 Peter 1:20-21*

## The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons – The Father, The Son, and Holy Spirit – each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections.

*Deuteronomy 6:4 / Matthew 28:19 / 2 Corinthians 13:14 / John 14:10+26*

## The Person and Work of Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary in order that he might reveal God and redeem sinful men.

*Isaiah 7:14, 9:6 / Luke 1:35 / John 1:12, 14:11 / 2 Corinthians 5:19-21 / Galatians 4:4-5 / Philippians 2:5-8*

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through his death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead.

*Acts 2:18-36 / Romans 3:24-25 / 1 Peter 1:3-5, 2:24 / Ephesians 1:7*

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministries of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate.

*Acts 1:9-10 / Hebrews 9:24, 7:25 / Romans 8:34 / 1 John 2:1-2*

## The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement; and that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption.

*John 16:8-11 / Romans 8:9 / 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 / 2 Corinthians 3:6 / Ephesians 1:13-14*

We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit.

*Ephesians 1:7-18, 5:18 / 1 John 2:20+27*

We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order that they can do the work of the ministry.

*Romans 12:3-8 / 1 Corinthians 12:4-11+28 / Ephesians 4:7-12*

We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing, were temporary. We believe that speaking in tongues was never a common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit and the ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayer of believers for physical healing.

*1 Corinthians 1:22, 13:8, 14:21-22*

## The Fallen Nature of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that all men are sinners by birth and by choice, and, of themselves, utterly unable to remedy their lost condition.

*Genesis 1:26-27 / Romans 3:22-23, 5:12, 6:23 / Ephesians 2:1-3, 4:17-19*

## Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of sins. And 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.

*John 1:12 / Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-10 / 1 Peter 1:18-19*



## Eternal Security

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever.

*John 6:37-40, 10:27-30 / Romans 8:1+38-39 / 1 Corinthians 1:4-8 / 1 Peter 1:4-5*

We believe that it is a privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh.

*Romans 13:13-14 / Galatians 5:13 / Titus 2:11-15*

## The Church

We believe that the local church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons.

*1 Corinthians 12:12-14 / 2 Corinthians 11:2 / Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:25*

We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures.

*Acts 14:27, 10:17+28-32*

We believe in the autonomy of the local church, free of any external authority or control.

*Acts 13:1-4, 15:19-31+20-28 / Romans 16:1+4 / 1 Corinthians 3:9+16, 5:4-7+13 / 1 Peter 5:1-4*

We recognize water baptism and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the church in this age.

*Matthew 28:19-20 / Acts 2:41-42 / 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

## Separation

We believe that all the saved should live in a manner that does not bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded of God.

*Romans 12:1-2, 14:13 / 2 Corinthians 6:14, 7:1 / 2 Timothy 3:1-5 / 1 John 2:15-17 / 2 John 9-11*

## The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in that "blessed hope," the personal, imminent return of Christ who will rapture His Church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom, which was promised to the nation of Israel.

*Psalm 89:3-4 / Daniel 2:31-45 / Zechariah 14:4-11 / 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 4:13-18 / Titus 2:13 / Revelation 3:10, 19:11-16, 20:1-6*

## The Eternal State

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men – the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment.

*Matthew 25:46 / John 5:28-29, 11:25-26 / Revelation 20:5+12-13*

We believe that the souls of the redeemed are at death absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord.

*Luke 23:43 / 2 Corinthians 5:8 / Philippians 1:23, 3:21 / 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 / Revelation 20:4-6*

We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection when, the soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgement and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment.

*Matthew 25:41-46 / Mark 9:43-48 / Luke 16:19-26 / 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 / Jude 6-7 / Revelation 20:11-15*

## The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin, and the cause of the fall of man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire.

*Job 1:6-7 / Isaiah 12:12-17 / Matthew 4:2-11, 25:41 / Revelation 20:10*

## Creation

We believe that God created the universe is six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin.

*Genesis 1-2 / Exodus 20:11*



## Civil Government

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: (1) the home, (2) the church, and (3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and are governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and has balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God.

*Romans 13:1-7 / Ephesians 5:22-24 / Hebrews 13:17 / 1 Peter 2:13-14*

## Unchaste Conduct

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate physical activity be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography is a sinful perversion of God's original intent for a physical relationship between a husband and wife.

*Genesis 2:24, 19:5+13, 26:8-9 / Leviticus 18:1-30 / Romans 1:26-29 / 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9 / 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 / Hebrews 13:4*

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

*Genesis 1:26-27*

We believe the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one male (as born at birth) and one female (as born at birth) in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a male (as born at birth) and female (as born at birth) who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a male and female.

*Genesis 1:26-27 / 1 Corinthians 6:18, 7:2-5 / Hebrews 13:4*

## Divorce and Remarriage

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses die. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of Pastor or deacon of the church.

*Malachi 2:14-17 / Matthew 19:3-12 / Romans 7:1-3 / 1 Timothy 3:2+12 / Titus 1:16*

## Abortion

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, inexcusable taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable.

*Job 3:16 / Psalm 51:5, 139:14-16 / Isaiah 44:24, 49:1+5 / Jeremiah 1:5, 20:15-18 / Luke 1:44*

## Missions

We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us.

*Matthew 28:19-20 / Mark 16:15 / Luke 24:46-48 / John 20:21 / Acts 1:8 / 2 Corinthians 5:20*

## Lawsuits Between Believers

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander.

*1 Corinthians 6:1-8*

## Giving

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made.

*Genesis 14:20 / Proverbs 3:9-10 / Acts 4:34-37 / 1 Corinthians 16:2 / 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 / Galatians 6:6 / Ephesians 4:28 / 1 Timothy 5:17-18 / 1 John 3:17*

# By-Laws

**Pre-amble:**

That we might with one mind and one voice glorify God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; that we might earnestly contend for, and never depart from the faith; that we might always be true to the holy Word of God; that our worship services and business meetings might be carried out in decency and in order, that in all things Christ might have the preeminence; we, the members of Patrick Baptist Church adopt the following by-laws.

## ARTICLE 1
### Name

The name of the church shall be the Patrick Baptist Church.

## ARTICLE 2
### Object

The object of this church shall be the maintenance of the preaching of the Gospel, the administration of the ordinances of the New Testament; the spiritual improvement of its members, and the getting of the Gospel to all the world.



## ARTICLE 3
### Membership

*Section 1: The Reception of Members*

The members of this church shall consist of persons who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. They must also ascribe to the Statement of Faith of this church and be accepted upon:

**A.** Baptism – Having baptism of Scriptural authority (immersion by a church of like faith), or willing to submit to baptism before membership, or:

**B.** Statement of Faith – having been previously scripturally baptized, or:

**C.** Promise of a letter from another church of like faith and practice.

**D.** Where it is deemed expedient, or the candidate is not known, the candidate shall appear before the Pastor and deacons for advice and instruction before the name is presented for membership.

*Section 2: The Duties of Members*

**A.** It shall be the duty of all members to abide by the church covenant as outlined in our doctrinal statement.

**B.** Because our church depends upon the tithes and offerings of our members, we assert our conviction that proportionate giving is a distinct and positive command in the Scriptures (Malachi 3:8-11) and pledge ourselves to a systematic contribution for the support of the church of such portion of our income as we believe God requires us according to the principle laid down in 1 Corinthians 16:2.

*Section 3: Rules of Membership*

**A.** Only active members (18 years old and above) shall be allowed to speak or vote on church business.

**B.** All those who show their interest in the welfare of the church and the Kingdom of our Lord by regular attendance and financial support shall be classified as active members.

**C.** Inactive members: Any person who is absent from worship services for a period of three months (except when due to unavoidable circumstances such as illness or military service) shall be placed on the list of inactive members and denied voting privileges. Inactive members may regain active status by regular attendance at 75% of the Sunday worship services for one month.

**D.** Every member shall conduct himself or herself in a scriptural manner during church business meetings, God's business is to be transacted decently, orderly, and according to the teaching of the Scriptures. Any member who shows an un-Christian attitude or is out of order in any way may be called to order by the Moderator and can be subject to church discipline, if necessary. (1 Corinthians 14:40)

### *Section 4: Termination of Membership*

**A.** Any member in good standing may, at his own request, may be granted a letter of dismissal to another church of like faith and practice. This letter shall be granted to a specified church.

**B.** Members who are known to be deceased, or who have joined some other church, and those who request that their names be dropped from the roll may be erased from the roll by action of the church.

**C.** A member may be removed from the roll for not living in accordance with their signed church covenant by a majority vote of the church. Such action may be rescinded upon the person's repentance and promise to support their church.



## ARTICLE 4
## Officers

### *Section 1: The Lead Pastor*

**A.** The first officer of the church shall be the Lead Pastor, whose qualifications, duties, and leadership responsibilities are set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 in the instrument known as the King James Bible.

**B.** The Pastor is the ex-official chairman of all committees of the church.

**C.** The Pastor shall be called for an indefinite period of time. He shall be the Moderator of the church and the Boards of Deacons and Trustees. He shall seek to fill the qualifications set out in the Scriptures. The Pastor shall conduct the public services for the edification of the saints and the salvation of sinners. The general development of the church work shall be under his supervision. He shall be an ex-official member of all boards and committees. He may call any board or committee together for the transaction of business. He shall be able to veto the nomination or selection of any officer in connection with the church or Sunday school upon consultation with the Board of Deacons. No person shall be nominated or selected over the Pastor's veto. The Pastor shall have authority to appoint all committees. All employees of the church shall be responsible to his direction.

**D.** The Lead Pastor shall be dismissed upon the Pastor's refusal to affirm the Statement of Faith as herein set forth, or upon behavior that is against the Biblical qualifications of his office. This dismissal will follow the procedure outlined in Article 5 – Section 6.

**E.** The Pastor shall receive such compensation as the church may decide. He shall have three weeks' vacation with pay for the first five years with the church; four weeks' vacation with pay the next fifteen years, and five weeks' vacation with pay each year thereafter. The church will pay for pulpit supply during his vacation.

### *Section 2: Deacons*

**A.** The qualifications and duties of Deacons are set forth in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-7 in the instrument known as the King James Bible.

**B.** Deacons shall assist the Pastor by visiting the sick, preparing the elements of the Lord's Supper, and cooperating with the Pastor in whatever areas are needed. And be the first to assist any endeavor of the church.

**C.** It shall be a duty of the Board of Deacons to meet once each month, when such a meeting is necessary. They shall select a chairman and a

secretary from among their own number. The secretary shall keep a record of the minutes and proceedings of all meetings.

**D.** Nominations for the office of Deacon will be made by the Pastor with a 2/3 majority vote of the members present at a duly-called business meeting required for their installation into office.

**E.** Members of the Board of Deacons shall serve in an active capacity for a regular term of three years. These terms being staggered so as always to have an experienced Deacon on the Board.

### *Section 3: Trustees*

**A.** The Board of Trustees shall consist of a minimum of three members selected by the Pastor and accepted by a majority of the church. They shall be kept by a vote of confidence from the congregation during the annual business meeting. If they do not receive a vote of confidence, they will be terminated.

**B.** This Board shall act in an advisory capacity in all matters concerning legal transactions and church properties. The Trustees shall hold in trust all properties.

**C.** The Board of Trustees will make up the financial and missions committee and will recommend the Pastor's remuneration.

**D.** The Trustees shall have no power to buy, sell, trade, transfer, or lease church property without the specific vote of the church authorizing such action.

### *Section 4: Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer*

**A.** The Treasurer will receive all contributions to the church, not otherwise directed; they shall keep a record of all contributions, pledges, and pay the regular bills of the church by check or cash.

**B.** The Treasurer shall be voted in for the term of one year by a majority vote.

**C.** The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer and assume their position in the Treasurer's absence.

### *Section 5: Clerk*

**A.** The Clerk shall keep a record of all the proceedings of the church and shall have charge of all documents, papers, and letters except as otherwise provided for. He or she shall issue letters of dismissal and recommendation. This office is to be voted upon annually.



### *Section 6: The Associate Pastor*

**A.** The Associate Pastor shall serve as a help to the job of the Lead Pastor, and he must meet the Biblical qualifications as found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 in the King James Bible.

**B.** The Associate Pastor may serve as Pastor over a particular ministry (i.e. Children's Pastor or Youth Pastor), or as a general help to the office and duties of the Lead Pastor.

**C.** The Associate Pastor shall be called for an indefinite period of time. He will assist the Lead Pastor in the service of the church through preaching, teaching or counseling of the flock.

**D.** The Associate Pastorate shall be dismissed upon the Associate Pastor's refusal to affirm the Statement of Faith as herein set forth, or upon behavior that is against the Biblical qualifications of his office. This dismissal will follow the procedure outlined in Article 5 – Section 6.

**E.** The Associate Pastor shall receive such compensation and vacation as the church may decide.

### *Section 7: Other Positions*

All other positions shall be appointed by the Pastor.

## ARTICLE 5
## Meetings

### *Section 1: Worship Meetings*

The church shall meet twice regularly every Lord's Day and once through the week for Worship of Almighty God.

### *Section 2: Annual Business Meeting*

The church shall hold its annual business meeting the second Sunday evening in January. This is for the election of officers as described in Article 4, the officer's reading of their annual reports, and the transaction of other appropriate business, which will include an annual review of the church "Children and Youth Safety Policy" which was instituted in May 2021. No business shall be brought up without the Pastor's knowledge and prior consent at any business meeting. The annual meeting shall be announced at least twice from the pulpit.

### *Section 3: Regular Business Meetings*

A regular business meeting of the church can be called for any Sunday evening or midweek evening.

### *Section 4: Minor Business Items*

Minor business items may be transacted at any Sunday evening or Wednesday evening without calling a special business meeting.

### *Section 5: Large Purchases*

When not clearly provided for beforehand in the yearly budget, a purchase or expenditure below $1000 must be approved by a 2/3s vote among the sitting Trustees. Any purchases above this amount must be approved by a church vote.

### *Section 6: Election or Dismissal of Pastor*

Any man holding the office of Pastor at Patrick Baptist Church is beholden to the word of God as the first and final authority regarding his beliefs and behavior.



If at any point while a man is serving in the office of Pastor, should he be found to be living in violation of the qualifications of the office of Pastor as outlined in Article 6 – Section 1, or is refusing to affirm the Statement of Faith as set forth in these by-laws, he should first be confronted privately concerning his sin, as Matthew 18:15-19 requires.

If the Pastor refuses to repent of his disqualifying behavior, or believes himself to be innocent of the charges against him, the church may call for a "Pastoral Review" meeting after any scheduled service to address the charges against the Pastor publicly and give him the opportunity to respond. This "Pastoral Review" meeting suspends the Lead Pastor's role as moderator if he is the one under investigation. This meeting must only be moderated by either a Pastor who is not under investigation, a church member, or if needed, a Pastor from another Baptist church of like faith.

If the church finds the charges brought against the Pastor to be true and disqualifying of his office, the church may make a motion to dismiss the Pastor in question by a ¾ majority vote of those present in the meeting. If the motion passes, the Pastor in question will be dismissed from his office immediately and permanently. If the vote fails, or there is no vote and the Pastor is found to be innocent of the charges brought against him, he will continue serving in his elected office.

# ARTICLE 6
## Elections

### *Section 1: Procurement of Lead Pastor*

When it is necessary by the death, resignation or dismissal of the Lead Pastor, the church shall proceed to procure a new Lead Pastor in the following manner:

Seven adults who have been members of the church for at least one year shall be known as the "Pulpit Committee". This committee shall be chosen by the church at a church business meeting. When seven people have been selected to serve on this committee, they will be voted upon - one at a time - by the church members present at said meeting, and must obtain a simple majority vote of the church members present in order to serve on this committee.

The duty of this committee is to search for potential candidates for the office of Pastor. They will interview a candidate and report their findings to the church. This procedure will be done one candidate at a time, and in chronological order based upon the time of the candidates' applications. They are to examine the candidate and compare them to the Biblical qualifications of a Pastor (a.k.a "Elder" or "Bishop") as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, and Titus 1:5-9:

**Blameless**
This means a man who is not easily able to be blamed or credibly accused of ongoing sin. He is "above reproach".

**Husband of one wife**
This means several things. First, the candidate must be a man, not a woman (1 Timothy 2:12-15). Second, if a man is married, he must only be married to one woman; he must not be married to multiple women. Third, he must not have unbiblically divorced a previous wife while a Christian. To do so would be a grave sin against the institution of marriage. Fourth, he does not have to be married, as Paul the Apostle himself was not married either, yet held the office of Elder.

**Vigilant**
This means a man who is on-guard and aware of the spiritual warfare going on in the world around him, and is not ignorant or naive to its reality in this life, or the life to come.

**Sober**
This means a man who has control over his own mind, is level-headed and mature, and subjects his thoughts to God's commands. He is not easily clouded in his judgement, but rather is a clear thinker and Biblical decision maker.



**Good behavior**
This mean a man who is known by his good works, and his fruit precedes him. His good behavior shows evidence of a life lived for Jesus, not himself.

**Given to hospitality**
This means a man who is welcoming to both known friends, and new people. He loves people, because he is in the people business. While a man may have some natural introversion, he still must have a hospitable bent, and not purposefully and regularly avoid people.

**Apt to teach**
This means a man who is able to teach and preach the word of God well, so that the church is nourished and growing in their understanding. He must be a student of the word, so he can teach it to others.

**Not given to wine**
This means a man must not be controlled by alcohol in any form. Wine or strong drink do not control him or his decisions, he does not get drunk, and he could not even be credibly accused of such a charge. He abstains from even the appearance of evil, and does not cause others to stumble.

**No striker**
This mean a man must not be violent in his behavior. Whether verbal or physical, he is not one to glorify violence or became easily angered. He knows how to control his temper as Jesus Christ commands of him. He desires that all people, even his enemies, would be saved.

**Not greedy of filthy lucre**
This means a man must not be pursuing the office of Pastor for selfish gain; be it financial, social, or personal. He must have a true call of God to serve the people, and not be looking to use the church and leave when he gets what he wants out of it. However, it is appropriate and right for a candidate to want to ensure his family will be financially taken care of during his time in office. God commands the local church to provide for their Elders (1 Cor. 9:13-14), and commands men to provide for their households (1 Tim. 5:8).

**Not a brawler**
This means a man must not be one who is always looking for an argument or dispute, but rather one who seeks peace where it is possible. He desires to end disputes, not create them.

**Not covetous**
The man must be content with the things God has given him, and not be one who desires what others have.

**One that ruleth well his own house**
This means a man who practices his role as the leader of his home, and does it well. He is not lazy and does not abdicate his duties as a man, husband, or father. He is responsible as an adult, and does not make reckless decisions that hurt his home. If he cannot manage his home, he cannot manage the church.

**Having his children in subjection**
This means that a man's children who are living in his house are obedient and being raised as Christian children. While no child is perfect, if a man's children are known by their character to be unruly and dishonorable, this indicates the man is struggling to father at home, and should not be placed in leadership in the church. This does not apply to adult children who are living independently of their parents, nor does it mean a man must have children in order to be a Pastor. Once again, Paul the Apostle did not have children either.

**Not a novice**
This means a man cannot be a recent convert to the Christian faith. The Greek word for "novice" is neophutos, which means "newly planted". You do not want someone who is new to the faith and has much to learn, to be the one trying to lead others. A man must be established in his walk with Christ, and have fruit to show for it. He must also be ordained for ministry (Hebrews 5:1-4). This does not mean a man must have prior experience as a Pastor, or else new Pastors could never enter the ministry. There are no half-way roles a man must complete first, such as "Associate Pastor" or "Youth Pastor". Either a man is called and ordained of God, or he is not.

**Good report of them which are without**
This means a man must have a good reputation among people outside of the church he desires to be a Pastor at. Whether it be his former church, his secular coworkers, family members or friends, he must be known to behave as a Christian wherever he goes. There is no scandal or grievous sin that would cause harm to the ministry of the church.

Once the seven members of the Pulpit Committee have all spoken with and examined a candidate, they must report all of their findings to the church at a scheduled meeting for this purpose. Church members will be able to ask questions and share convictions, as will the Pulpit Committee. After discussion of the candidate, the church body present at this meeting will take a simple majority vote (hereby called an "invitational vote") to decide whether or not to invite this candidate to preach at the church in view of a call. If the invitational vote fails, the Pulpit Committee must move on to examine a new candidate. Previous candidates can be reconsidered later if the need arises. If the invitational vote passes, the candidate in question will be scheduled to come and preach in view of a call, and this day must be announced to the church no later than one week in advance.

This scheduled day will be the day that church members shall cast a "pastoral vote" on the candidate to become the new Pastor. The pastoral vote must pass by a ¾ majority of the members present for the sermon. If the pastoral vote passes, and the candidate accepts the call, he shall become the new Pastor, and the Pulpit Committee shall cease to exist. If the pastoral vote fails, the candidate can no longer be considered for the office of Lead Pastor in the election, and the Pulpit Committee must move on to a different candidate, and repeat the process.



### *Section 2: Election of Deacons*

The election of deacons shall be held at the annual business meeting and in accordance with Article 4 of this instrument.

### *Section 3: Procurement of Associate Pastor*

If the church decides, upon the approval of the Lead Pastor, that an Associate Pastor is needed for the growth and health of the church or a particular ministry, then the church shall procure an Associate Pastor in the following way:

Four adult members of the church shall be known as the "Associate Committee". This committee shall be chosen by the church at a scheduled church business meeting. When four people have been selected to serve on this committee, they will be voted upon - one at a time - by the church members present at said meeting, and must obtain a simple majority vote of the church members present in order to serve on this committee.

Once confirmed, these four members will work alongside the Lead Pastor, who will constitute the fifth member of the Associate Committee. They will interview a candidate and report their findings to the church. This procedure will be done one candidate at a time, and in order as the Lead Pastor decides. They are to examine the candidate and compare them to the Biblical qualifications of a Pastor, as found in Article 6 – Section 1 of these by-laws.

Once the five members of the Associate Committee have all spoken with and examined a candidate, they must report all of their findings to the church at a scheduled meeting for both discussion and a final vote. Church members will be able to ask questions and share convictions, as will the Associate Committee. After discussion of the candidate, the church body present at this meeting will take a final ¾ majority vote to accept or reject the candidate for Associate Pastor. The Lead Pastor has the ability to veto the vote to accept a candidate for Associate Pastor.

If the vote passes, the Associate Committee will cease to exist, and the candidate will become an Associate Pastor of Patrick Baptist Church, who's duties will be assigned by the Lead Pastor. If the vote fails, the Associate Committee will move on to a new candidate and repeat the process.

## ARTICLE 7

### Policy

*Section 1: Association*

The Patrick Baptist Church shall be known as a fundamental, independent Baptist Church affiliated with no organization or group.

*Section 2: Teaching Text*

The King James version of the Holy Bible shall be the only text from the pulpit and in any class.

*Section 3: Literature*

No literature of any kind which denies the articles in the Statement of Faith shall be used.

*Section 4: Biblical Baptist Distinctives*

The church will abide by the Biblical Baptist Distinctives that Baptist Churches have stood for down through the ages. We shall be missionary in Spirit and in practice, contributing to the support of missionaries at home and abroad.

*Section 5: Amendments*

These by-laws may be amended, repealed, or new ones may be adopted by a 2/3 vote of the members present of a legal age at any annual meeting of the church, or a specially called and previously announced meeting for said purpose.



## ARTICLE 8

### DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY (Legal Description: Martin West ABST 1525 PG 105, TR 2.2 ACS 1.7855 CALC) IN THE EVENT OF DISBANDMENT OR CEASING TO OPERATE AS A CHURCH

WHEREAS, Section 11.20 of the PROPERTY TAX CODE which provides for ad valorem tax exemption of property owned by a religious organization requires that certain clauses be placed in governing documents of the religious organization in order for that organization to qualify for ad valorem tax exemption and, WHEREAS Patrick Baptist Church does desire to claim the ad valorem tax exemption available to them under the Constitution and statutes of the STATE OF TEXAS, THEREAFTER, BE IT HEREAFTER KNOWN THAT Patrick Baptist Church is organized and operated primarily for the purpose of engaging in religious worship and promoting the spiritual development and well-being of individuals, AND THAT, Patrick Baptist Church DOES HEREBY (1) pledge its assets for use in performing the organization's religious functions and, (2) will direct that on discontinuance of the organization by dissolution or otherwise the assets are to be transferred to Arlington Baptist College, an educational religious organization that is qualified as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended. ABC EIN: 75-0983821. Revision of Article 8 was adopted by members of Patrick Baptist Church on August 3, 2014 and affirmed by Pastor, Deacon and Trustee. See Minutes of August 3, 2014.

# Covenant

Having been led, as I believe, by the Holy Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior; and on the profession of my faith having been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, I do now in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most sincerely and joyfully enter into covenant with Patrick Baptist Church.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit within me, I shall make and keep these promises:

I promise to attend worship gatherings and meetings faithfully and as often as I am able. I will support the church and its ministries with my time, talent, and treasure - all as God enables me to do.

I promise to encourage and sharpen fellow believers, to pray for them, provide for their needs, and dwell with them in peace as God has commanded me. I will not seek my own benefit, but the benefit of others.

I promise to pursue a Christian home and to model it on the teachings of the scriptures, knowing that the home is the first ministry God has given to me, and that the church is not a replacement for family discipleship.

I promise to follow Christ in both how I walk and talk, in public and in private. I will not live in purposeful rebellion to God's commands, and will be quick to confess my sin and seek the help of the Holy Spirit where I am weak.

I promise to live out the Great Commission as Jesus assigned it. I will share the Gospel with my friends, family and strangers, support the work of global missions, and make the Gospel known in all that I do.

I finally promise that I will not treat my membership with Patrick Baptist Church as some light thing. I will seek to be faithful to the Lord's calling in both my joining and my leaving, never acting hastily or selfishly. I promise that if I leave, I will join another faithful Christian church, and in so doing I will continue my commitment to Christ, his people, and the Great Commission.

*Amended: December 5, 2012*

*Amended: June 8, 2014*

*Amended: August 3, 2014*

*Amended: December 3, 2017*

*Amended: June 20, 2021*

*Amended: April 23, 2023*

*Amended: January 19, 2025*

*Amended: January 18, 2026*