

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
PINTLALA BAPTIST CHURCH
HOPE HULL, ALABAMA

Original Constitution adopted on April 9, 1961
with revisions through 2012

PREAMBLE

The first New Testament church was composed of a local and visible congregation of baptized believers, all giving testimony that “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God”. It was organized by our Lord Himself. He called it His Church. (Matthew 16:13-19)

He laid special emphasis upon the importance of the fellowship, directing it to exercise discipline when necessary in order to maintain the personal integrity of its members and the right relations between them. (Matthew 18:15-17)

He gave to it the largest task ever assigned to men, that of preaching the gospel in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth – baptizing believers and teaching, training, and enlisting them in all phases of His kingdom program. (Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:8)

He promised it the leadership of the Holy Spirit to interpret the Scriptures (John 16:13-14) and to endow it with power to carry out its task. (Acts 1:8)

Its membership was about 120 (Acts 1:15) and it began its active ministry on the day of Pentecost with a great revival meeting in which about 3,000 souls were saved. (Acts 2:1-41) And daily, as people were saved, they were baptized and added to the Church. (Acts 2:47)

It was a democratic body, not controlled by a hierarchy or any other group, but where all of the members had a voice in the direction of its affairs. (Acts 1:16-26; Acts 6:1-6; Acts 10:44-48)

All of the other New Testament churches followed the same general procedure as the first church in Jerusalem. All New Testament churches today follow the same pattern in doctrines and practices.

Therefore, the members of this Church, hoping that they have given themselves to God in spirit and truth, and to each other according to the principles of true Christian union as set forth in our Church Covenant which becomes a part of this Preamble and also the "Baptist Faith and Message" (May 9, 1963) which also becomes a part of this Preamble, and with a fixed determination to recognize the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to follow the teachings of the New Testament in all matters of faith and practice, hereby agree to adopt the following Constitution.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this Church is the Pintlala Baptist Church of Hope Hull, Alabama.

ARTICLE II – AUTHORITY

The New Testament shall be the sole and sufficient authority in all matters of faith and practice.

ARTICLE III – COOPERATION

Believing in the spirit of cooperation among Baptist bodies, this Church will cooperate with and help promote all of the work of Baptists, the Montgomery Baptist Association, the Alabama Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

ARTICLE IV – FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Church shall strive to give a minimum of ten percent (10 %) of all General Fund receipts to the Montgomery Baptist Association, the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, and the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Changes must be made by a vote of the Church.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Persons desiring membership in the Church may be received by the majority consent of this body under one of the following conditions:

1. Upon profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and New Testament baptism (Immersion).
2. Upon transfer of church letters from churches of like faith and order.
3. By statement when:
 - a. It is impossible to secure a church letter due to the inactivity of the church where membership is, at present.
 - b. A person desires to transfer their membership from another denomination and while in said denomination trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, and received New Testament baptism (Immersion).
4. By restoration, following withdrawal of fellowship.

Section 2: Persons objecting to the receiving of applicants for membership may be required to state their reason or reasons for such objection or to withdraw same at the option of the Church.

Section 3: When a member of this Church unites with another denomination or church of like faith, the Pastor may, at his discretion, furnish, upon request, a Certificate of Christian Character, and the Clerk shall drop the name from our roll without further action on the part of the Church.

Section 4: Church Letters are “Letters of Dismission” and are communications between churches that are to be sent to such churches of like faith and order with which members desire to place their membership.

ARTICLE II – THE PASTOR

Section 1: The Pastor shall be an ordained minister of approved standing in the Southern Baptist Denomination. In his professional and private life, he shall be in all sobriety and godliness an example to the flock.

Section 2: His call to the pastorate shall be for an indefinite period of time and requires a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the members present. There shall be a quorum present to bring this matter to a vote. His call can be terminated in thirty (30) days by his written resignation.

Section 3: The Church can terminate the service of the Pastor in the event the Pastor becomes the object of church discipline, the procedures of which are described in Article VIII, Section 2. In such cases, a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of members present and eligible to vote will be required. There must be a quorum present to bring this matter to a vote. Public notice will be given to the general membership of the Church a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the vote.

ARTICLE III – THE DEACONS

Deacons shall be chosen from among the membership of the Church. Those elected should, in the judgment of the Church, best meet the New Testament qualifications as set forth in Acts 6:3 and Timothy 3:8-13, seek to attain the standards as set forth in the Church Covenant, and take an active interest in all of the life and work of the Church.

ARTICLE IV – TRUSTEES

The office of the Trustee is necessary because of the relationship of the Church to the State. The Trustee shall act only at the discretion of the Church. The Trustees serve as legal representatives in all transactions of the Church. They hold legal title to church property. They sign all documents relating to the purchase, sale, mortgaging, or rental of church property after approval by the Church in regular business session. Three (3) Trustees shall be elected by the Church; one to serve one (1) year, one to serve two (2) years, and one to serve three (3) years; and thereafter each Trustee shall be elected for a three (3) year term.

ARTICLE V – THE CLERK

A Church Clerk shall be elected annually and shall keep a complete and accurate record of all the proceedings of the Church. The Clerk shall perform all other duties as set forth by the Church *Policies and Procedures Manual* and is empowered to select and appoint such assistants as needed to perform these duties.

ARTICLE VI – THE TREASURER

The Church Treasurer shall be elected annually and work closely with the Stewardship Committee and the Financial Secretary. The Treasurer shall perform all duties as set forth by the Church *Policies and Procedures Manual*.

ARTICLE VII – CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Section 1: The Congregational form of government shall be inviolably preserved in this Church. The assumption of authority by any individual or group apart from the responsibilities placed upon them by this Constitution is thoroughly inconsistent with spirit and intent of this Constitution and will of the Church.

Section 2: The most recent edition of *Roberts Rules of Order* will be the parliamentary authority for the Church and for all its organizations, departments, committees, etc.

Section 3: The Church may adopt special rules, if desired, not in conflict with this Constitution or generally accepted parliamentary practices.

Section 4: Unless otherwise stated, all matters will be decided by a majority of the members present and voting.

Section 5: In receiving members there must be a majority vote.

Section 6: The regular meeting of the Church for business shall be held at a designated time, as determined by the Church to be necessary to perform the business of the Church, but not less than once per quarter.

Section 7: The Church may be called into a special business meeting for the transaction of any special business at any regular meeting of the body, or at the discretion of the Pastor, senior pastoral staff member, or the Deacons. A two (2) week notice must be given for special called business meetings with exception of the Nominating Committee. Members may be received or Letters of Dismissal granted at any business or devotional meeting of the Church.

Section 8: Matters involving the purchase, sale, or mortgaging of any of the real property of the Church must be announced from the pulpit and copies of recommendations made available to members at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting at which such purchase, sale, or mortgaging will be considered. The purpose of such meeting shall be put in writing and recorded in the records of the Church.

Section 9: Ten percent (10%) of the resident membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 10: The Church shall meet regularly each Lord's Day for the public worship of Almighty God, for Bible study, and for training in church membership. At least once each week, the Church shall meet for prayer and testimony other than on the Lord's Day. These schedules may be cancelled or adjusted at the discretion of the Pastor.

Section 11: The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed at least once each quarter or as directed by the Church or Pastor.

ARTICLE VIII – DISCIPLINE

Section 1: The Church will exercise discipline over its members in accordance with the commands of the Lord and the teachings of the New Testament. The primary purpose of all discipline is to maintain the integrity of the Church, strengthen the fellowship among its members, and help weak brethren to overcome their weaknesses.

Section 2: Charges against a brother shall be preferred in writing directly to the Pastor; and in every case, a signed copy of the charges are to be sent to the brother involved. The member or members making the charges shall within three (3) days thereafter communicate to the Pastor all the facts or circumstances known to him or them to sustain the charges and give any source of information he or they may possess which will enable the Pastor to investigate the matter fully. The Pastor shall fully investigate the case as soon as possible and report his findings to the Church at the next business meeting following the conclusion, with such recommendations as he may deem wise. Final actions in every case will rest with the Church.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

Should there be a need for amending or interpreting this Constitution and By-Laws, a committee of seven (7), including the Pastor, shall be elected from the membership as a whole. They shall present recommendations to the membership which shall have the power to adopt the recommendation by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of members present and eligible to vote. There must be a quorum present to bring this matter to a vote. Notice and copies of the proposed amendment will be made available to the general membership of the Church a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the vote.

Article II, Section 3, and Article VIII, Section 2 of the By-Laws shall not be subject to amendment while there is any pending litigation against a Pastor or Brother.

ARTICLE X – COMMITTEES

Committees shall be elected by the Church to perform specific duties. These committees shall include but not be limited to: Baptism Committee, Lord's Supper Committee, Stewardship Committee, Nominating Committee, Personnel Committee, Maintenance and Grounds Committee, Counting Committee, and the Scholarship Committee. Any other committee deemed necessary by the Church may be added in the Church *Policies and Procedures Manual* by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will nominate church members to fill committee positions, subject to approval by the Church.

ARTICLE XI – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A church Policies and Procedures Manual shall be developed in order to organize and provide written policies and procedures for all elected positions and organizations of the Church. The *Policies and Procedures Manual* can be changed at any business meeting by a majority vote of members present and eligible to vote. Notice of proposed changes will be made available to the general membership of the Church a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the vote.