

BY-LAWS

OCALA SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH Ocala, Florida

ARTICLE I. AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

The by-laws of this corporation may be amended by a majority vote of its voting members present and voting at any special called meeting of the church for this purpose: said purposed change having been placed before the church in writing not less than two weeks before the time of the proposed action. The Church Constitution may also be amended in the same manner with the exception of a required two-thirds vote of its members present.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 General

This church shall consist of baptized believers in Christ, who are in agreement with the **Baptist Faith and Message, but not reformed of the Southern Baptist belief**, Articles of Faith, Church Covenant and Mission Purpose adopted by the church.

Section 2 Church Membership

A person will be considered for church membership by the following process:

1. They present themselves publicly to the church for membership either by:
 - a) Public profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior with evidence of confession of sin and repentance.
 - b) Statement of conversion experience and believers' baptism by immersion.
 - c) Letter from another church of like faith and order.
2. They **are interviewed** by a pre-selected **Layperson** who will talk with them concerning their decision, pray with them, and **record their information and submit it to the Pastor. The Pastor will have the authority to waive the requirement for baptism for any person who has accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and for physical problems or other serious handicap cannot be immersed for baptism.**
3. They **attend** a new member orientation as established by the **Polity Manual**.
4. **Ocala Springs Baptist Church strongly encourages all members to be active in the ministry of the church.**
5. They are presented for membership to the church congregation for voice vote at any regular scheduled worship service: (Wednesday night, Sunday AM.)

6. **Associate Membership (Dual)**

Associate Membership may be extended to persons who are in the area temporarily and wish to identify with a local church without moving their membership. Such persons shall receive membership with all privileges extended to them in compliance with Section 2. **No voting right for those of other denominations.**

7. **Assimilation of New Members**

Every new member **should** be enrolled in a Bible Study and **assigned a deacon**. The **Deacon will be responsible** for introducing the new member to other church members, making sure the new member is invited to activities within the church, being aware of the attendance of the new member and notifying the church in the event of problems or illness within the new member's family.

8. **Membership Recognition**

The name, address, phone number, etc. of each new member will be **at the church office**.

9 **Discipline of Members**

Using the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 18:15-20 as our guide, church discipline will be for the purpose of redemption, **reconciliation**, and exercised in Christian love.

10 **Restoration to Active Membership**

Any person may be restored to active membership by decision of the **church**.

11 **Voting Rights**

Only active members of this church, being personally present at any church business meeting shall be entitled to vote. **The majority rules.**

12 **Termination of Membership**

Membership can be terminated by either death, transfer to another Southern Baptist Church by letter, joined with a church of another faith or denomination, request of member, or disciplinary action of the church.

Article III Pastor

The pastor is the spiritual leader of the church. His specific areas of responsibilities will be defined in his job description **in the Church Polity Manual**.

A. Requirements:

1. He shall meet the scriptural requirements as set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7.
2. He shall be a man called of God dedicated to the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. He shall be a man of spiritual discernment and insight!
4. He shall be evangelistic in his total ministry.
5. He shall be missionary in spirit, seeking to lead the church in every area to carry out the "Great Commission" (Matthew 28:19-20).
6. His doctrinal beliefs shall be consistent with **the** Church Covenant, Articles of The Baptist Faith and Message, **but not the reformed of the Southern Baptist belief.**
7. He shall be a member of a Southern Baptist Church and an ordained minister of the gospel.

B. Responsibilities

1. The pastor shall be the "Under Shepherd" of the church, giving spiritual leadership and guidance to the church.
2. He shall seek to comfort, counsel and guide the members of the church in spiritual matters and assist all church officers in carrying out their responsibilities.
3. He shall be ex-officio member of all church committees and church ministries. **Unless otherwise specified.**
4. He shall be in charge of preaching at regular and special services. He shall have freedom to proclaim the Word of God as he is led by the Holy Spirit.
5. He **with the Deacons** shall guide and direct **paid personnel as approved by the church include annual salary and benefit recommendations.**
6. He shall equip the church to carry out its ministries.
7. **Perform other duties as outlined in the Church Polity Manual.**