

## 2026 Proposed First Baptist Church Constitution Revisions with Rational

Overall summary of changes

### Main changes

- Included wording that committee Chairs and Facilitators should be active participants of FBC (Article VIII)
- Number of members needed for a quorum during business meetings (Article X)

### Minor changes

- Updated wording to reflect current practices and policies, no changes in meaning of Articles

Original	Changes	Final
Article V Section 3 Second Paragraph  At the end of the year, the Church Clerk and Financial Secretary will review the active /inactive status of all members, and will communicate to the Board and Pastor any who in their understanding have become inactive as well as any inactive members who have re-engaged.	Article V Section 3 Second Paragraph  At the end of the year, the <del>Church Clerk and Financial Secretary</del> <ins>Financial Secretary and Church Clerk or other Board member approved by the Board</ins> will review the active /inactive status of all members, and will communicate to the Board and Pastor any who in their understanding have become inactive as well as any inactive members who have re-engaged.	Article V Section 3 Second Paragraph  At the end of the year, the Financial Secretary and Church Clerk or other Board member approved by the Board will review the active /inactive status of all members, and will communicate to the Board and Pastor any who in their understanding have become inactive as well as any inactive members who have re-engaged.
<p>Explanation: If the Financial Secretary and Church Clerk are the same person, or if one is not available, two people should work on this task. This allows the Board to appoint a second person if necessary to complete this task.</p>		
Article VI Officers Section 2 Term of office, second paragraph  In the event an officer, other than the pastor, church staff members or the moderator, is unable to fulfill his/her elected term, the board shall appoint a replacement until the next regular election of officers occurs. At that time an officer will be elected to the vacated position for a regular three-year term.	Article VI Officers Section 2 Term of office, second paragraph  In the event an officer, other than the pastor, church staff members or the moderator, is unable to fulfill his/her elected term, the <del>Board</del> shall appoint a replacement <del>until the next regular election of officers occurs. At that time an officer will be elected to the vacated position for a regular three-year term. to complete the unexpired term.</del>	Article VI Officers Section 2 Term of office, second paragraph  In the event an officer, other than the pastor, church staff members or the moderator, is unable to fulfill his/her elected term, the Board shall appoint a replacement to complete the unexpired term.
<p>Explanation: The term expiration for Officers is set up so that one third of the Board positions are elected each year. This allows for continuity in the Board.</p>		

Article VI Section 3 Duties A,B,C,D	Article VI Section 3 Duties A,B,C,D (New 3 <sup>rd</sup> paragraph) <b>All guidelines set forth in the Investment Policy and Accounting Policies need to be followed</b>	Article VI Section 3 Duties A,B,C,D All guidelines set forth in the Investment Policy and Accounting Policies need to be followed
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Explanation: The Investment Policy and Accounting Policies were updated in 2025 and outline the procedures that should be followed by the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Board. The Treasurer should be familiar with these documents.

Article VII Pastoral Relations Section 2B Associate or Assistant Pastors and Director of Christian Education  When a vacancy occurs in any of these positions that the Church Board decides to fill, it shall be filled by following the same general process as used for selecting a pastor. The Church Board shall appoint a committee of at least 9 church members that shall include the Pastor and at least one representative from the Church Board and the Pastor Relations Committee	Article VII Pastoral Relations Section 2B <del>Associate or Assistant Pastors and Director of Christian Education</del>  When a vacancy occurs in any of these positions that the Church Board decides to fill, it shall be filled by following the same general process as used for selecting a pastor. The Church Board shall appoint a committee of at least <b>nine (9)</b> church members that shall include the Pastor and at least one <b>(1)</b> representative from the Church Board and the <b>Pastor Relations Committee</b> <b>Pastoral Relations Service Team.</b>	Article VII Pastoral Relations Section 2B Associate or Assistant Pastors  When a vacancy occurs in any of these positions that the Church Board decides to fill, it shall be filled by following the same general process as used for selecting a pastor. The Church Board shall appoint a committee of at least nine (9) church members that shall include the Pastor and at least one (1) representative from the Church Board and the Pastoral Relations Service Team.
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Explanation: The Director of Christian Education has not existed for many years so it is being deleted. This change will take out outdated language.

Article VIII Church Board Section 2 Organization  The Church Board shall consist of the officers of the church and the chairperson of designated committees of the Church. Board members will be elected for a three (3) year term so arranged that 1/3 will be elected each year.	Article VIII Church Board Section 2 Organization  The Church Board shall consist of the officers of the church and the chairperson of designated committees of the Church. Board members will be elected for a three (3) year term so arranged that 1/3 will be elected each year. <b>Committee chairs and Facilitators should be active participants in the life of the church</b>	Article VIII Church Board Section 2 Organization  The Church Board shall consist of the officers of the church and the chairperson of designated Committees of the Church. Board members will be elected for a three (3) year term so arranged that 1/3 will be elected each year. Committee Chairs and Facilitators should be active participants in the life of the church.
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Explanation: Officers are discussed in Article VI Section 2. This is not currently included in the constitution, but the Board feels that it needs to be included. This change reflects the need for commitment and active participation.

Article VIII Section 4B Committee members shall be approved and appointed by the Church Board. A Committee and Team member shall serve a term as designated by the Church Board and until his/her	Article VIII Section 4B Committee members shall be approved and appointed by the Church Board. A Committee and Team member shall serve a term as designated by the Church Board and until his/her	Article VIII Section 4B Committee members shall be approved and appointed by the Church Board. A Committee and Team member shall serve a term as designated by the Church Board and until his/her
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successor is appointed. Each Committee and Team shall elect a secretary.	successor is appointed. <del>Each Committee and Team shall elect a secretary. Each Committee and Team shall keep a record of its meetings</del>	successor is appointed. Each Committee and Team shall keep a record of its meetings.
<p><b>Explanation:</b> It is not essential that a secretary be elected, this is no longer done. It is important that minutes of all meeting be kept and sent to the Administrative Assistant for archival purposes. The Administrative Assistant will send meeting minutes to the Board so everyone on the Board knows what the Committees or Teams are discussing.</p>		
Article VIII Section 5 A Unfulfilled Terms of Office In the event a committee chairperson is unable to fulfill his/her elected term, the nominating committee shall nominate for board approval a replacement to fulfill the vacated position until the next regular election of committee chairs occurs. At that time a replacement will be elected to the vacated position for a regular three-year term.	Article VIII Section 5 A Unfulfilled Terms of Office In the event a committee chairperson <b>or Team Facilitator</b> is unable to fulfill his/her elected term, the nominating committee service team shall nominate for board approval a replacement to fulfill the vacated position until the next regular election of committee chairs <b>and Team Facilitator</b> occurs. At that time a replacement will be elected to the vacated position for a regular three year term. <b>the remainder of the term</b>	Article VIII Section 5 A Unfulfilled Terms of Office In the event a committee chairperson or Team Facilitator is unable to fulfill his/her elected term, the nominating service team shall nominate for board approval a replacement to fulfill the vacated position until the next regular election of committee chairs and Team Facilitator occurs. At that time a replacement will be elected to the vacated position for the remainder of the term
<p><b>Explanation:</b> The term expiration for Board positions is set up so that one third of the Board positions are elected each year. This allows for continuity in the Board. This is consistent with Article VI language for Officers.</p>		
Article X Section 2D Notice Notice of a special meeting to fill a vacancy in an office or to dissolve the relationship with the pastor, associate or assistant pastor or director of Christian education shall be given by mail to all members at least ten (10) days prior to said meeting. Notice of all other meetings shall be given by publication in the church bulletin or by announcement from the pulpit on the Sunday preceding said meeting.	Article X Section 2D Notice Notice of a special meeting to fill a vacancy in <del>an</del> the office of Vice Moderator, Treasurer, or Church Clerk, or to dissolve the relationship with the pastor, associate or assistant pastor <del>or director of Christian education</del> shall be given <del>communicated by</del> mail to all members at least ten (10) days prior to said meeting. Notice of all other meetings shall be given by publication in the church bulletin or by announcement from the pulpit on the Sunday preceding said meeting.	Article X Section 2D Notice Notice of a special meeting to fill a vacancy in the office of Vice Moderator, Treasurer, or Church Clerk, or to dissolve the relationship with the pastor, associate or assistant pastor shall be communicated to all members at least ten (10) days prior to said meeting. Notice of all other meetings shall be given by publication in the church bulletin or by announcement from the pulpit on the Sunday preceding said meeting.
<p><b>Explanation:</b> The offices should be specified for clarity. The procedure for replacing the Moderator is spelled out in Article VI Section 3 Duties B Vice Moderator paragraph 3.</p>		
Article X Meetings Section 3 Rules of Order A quorum shall consist of thirty-five (35) members except as otherwise provided.	Article X Meetings Section 3 Rules of Order A quorum shall consist of <del>thirty five (35)</del> twenty percent (20%) of members as determined by the Annual Report of the previous year.	Article X Meetings Section 3 Rules of Order A quorum shall consist of twenty percent (20%) of members as determined by the Annual Report of the previous year.
<p><b>Explanation:</b> In the past, there were more active members making it easier to achieve the thirty-five person quorum. There are currently 127 active members on the church rolls. 20% of the active members would be approximately 25 people. The quorum will be determined yearly.</p>		

Article XII Amendments Section 2 Other Amendments  An amendment to any other article of this constitution shall require a majority vote of active members present and voting. Such a vote will require at least 35 members in attendance at any meeting in which a constitutional amendment is decided.	Article XII Amendments Section 2 Other Amendments  An amendment to any other article of this constitution shall require a majority vote of active members present and voting. Such a vote will require at least <b>35 twenty percent (20%) of members as determined by the Annual Report of the previous year.</b>	Article XII Amendments Section 2 Other Amendments  An amendment to any other article of this constitution shall require a majority vote of active members present and voting. Such a vote will require at least twenty percent (20%) of members as determined by the Annual Report of the previous year.
<p><b>Explanation:</b> In the past, there were more active members making it easier to achieve the thirty-five person quorum. There are currently 127 active members on the church rolls. 20% of the active members would be approximately 25 people. The quorum will be determined yearly.</p>		

#### Editorial Resolution

**Resolved.** That the 2025-2026 Church Board of First Baptist Church, Bloomington, Illinois be authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuations, and cross-references and to make sure other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of First Baptist Church.