

## **Preamble to the Constitution**

The Jacksonville United Baptist Church was formed in 1860 as an outgrowth of the Jacksontown Baptist Church. The first constitution was adopted at a quarterly business meeting on January 19, 1895. The church became a part of the United Baptist Convention on December 3, 1906, being in agreement with the Statement of Union, 1905. This Constitution replaced the 1895 Constitution on October 7, 1981. Amendments since that time were incorporated in the revision of 1995.

### **This Constitution includes:**

The Statement of Faith adopted on April 14, 1987 (Appendix 1); The Church Covenant (Appendix 2); The Leaders and Workers Guidelines (Appendix 3) and the Policy Regarding Use of the Christian Education Centre (Appendix 4). Reference to the Statement of Faith in the body of the Constitution refers to that in Appendix 1. Reference to the Covenant in the body of the Constitution refers to that in Appendix 2. Reference to the Leadership Guidelines in the body of the Constitution refers to that in Appendix 3.

The Statement of Faith was developed and adopted by our church as a doctrinal statement reflecting interpretation of Scripture consistent with Baptist beliefs (statement of Union 1905) on matters of Salvation, the nature of God, the nature of people, our relationship with God and our relationships with others. We believe that this reflects basic Christian truths common to all denominations where the Scripture is very clear about intent and practices. We believe that it also reflects our interpretation of Scripture where there has been debate about non-essential beliefs and practices that affect worship and Christian living. The Church Covenant was developed to clarify the actions that follow from our statement of beliefs. The Covenant is a reflection of our cultural interpretation of the non-cultural, eternal truths of Scripture. It outlines our historical and current attitudes and values about how we model Christian living in our time and community. The Leadership Guidelines clearly outline our expectation of people, whether members or not, who are selected or volunteer for leadership positions in the church.

This Constitution is intended to guide our practices and administration as a church and to give direction for major decisions that affect the membership. It is also intended to ensure that the church remains faithful to the historical principles and doctrine set out in the Statement of Faith while allowing flexibility of practice to meet the needs of the ministry in changing times.

# **CONSTITUTION ARTICLES**

## **1. NAME**

This local assembly of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ was organized November 21, 1860 and is known as the Jacksonville United Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Carleton County, New Brunswick, Canada.

## **2. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this church shall be the advancement of the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. The church will seek to attain this through:

- (a) the private and public worship of God.
- (b) the preaching of God's Holy Word in its entirety
- (c) consistent Christian living by its members.
- (d) personal evangelism through compassionate care, personal testimony and Biblical teachings. (*Amended January 20/11*)

- (e) global missionary outreach that extends locally and internationally through all Biblical means, including but not limited to compassionate care, construction, preaching, leadership development, personal witness, etc. (*Amended January 20/11*)
- (f) spiritual nurture.
- (g) Christian education.

### **3. CHURCH GOVERNMENT**

This church's government shall be vested in the body of its members. First and foremost, this church shall support and maintain the autonomy of the local church. It shall, however, maintain affiliation and cooperation with the Northwestern Association of United Baptist Churches, and with the United Baptist Convention of the Atlantic Provinces.

### **4. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

#### **A. Qualifications**

Any persons professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who gives satisfactory evidence of having been born again and having been baptized by immersion may be received into the membership of Jacksonville United Baptist Church. He/she will strive to uphold the ideals of the Constitution of this assembly. The Board of Deacons has responsibility for determining the qualifications of those seeking membership and those seeking dismissal. Recognizes the Christian living calls for the believer to sexual purity (Exodus 20: 14, Matthew 5: 27, 28; 1Corinthians 6: 17-20). Because of the teachings of Scripture on homosexuality, known practicing homosexual (including lesbians) shall not be eligible for membership in this congregation (Romans 1: 26, 27)<sup>1</sup>

#### **B. Admission**

Any person desiring membership in the Jacksonville United Baptist Church shall be recommended by the Board of Deacons. The candidate must satisfy them as to the genuineness of his/her profession of faith. He/she shall be received into the membership and fellowship, by a majority vote of the members present at any regular or specially called meeting of the membership in one of the following ways:

- (1) Upon confession of faith in Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Saviour and after baptism by immersion in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- (2) By letter of recommendation for some other church of like faith and doctrine.
- (3) By experience if the candidate has been baptized by immersion and gives satisfactory evidence of a Christian character, although unable to obtain a Letter of Dismissal from a Church of like faith and doctrine.
- (4) By restoration.

#### **C. Duties of Members**

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<sup>1</sup> In taking this position regarding the issue of homosexuality, the congregation of the Jacksonville United Baptist Church is in agreement with the standard adopted by the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches. Reference: The Resolution on Homosexuality (passed at Convention Assembly in 1987 [Social Witness Binder Section 3-21], the Regulations Concerning the Ministry of the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches, Section III.B.9)

Members will endeavour to keep their obligations to the church Covenant and support the Church by:

- (1) Faithful prayer and witness.
- (2) Tithes and offerings.
- (3) Regular attendance.
- (4) Faithful service.

#### **D. Dismissal**

- a. Membership in this church may be dissolved by the decision of the Deacons for items 1 - 4 and by a 90% vote of the membership present at any regularly called meeting by the church for item 5. (*Amended January 20/11*)
  - i. By the written request of any member who wishes to withdraw from the membership of Jacksonville United Baptist Church.
  - ii. Upon receipt of a written request of transfer of membership from the Pastor or Clerk of another United Baptist Church, a letter of transfer shall be granted.
  - iii. By granting a letter of recommendation and statement of membership of this church upon the request of any member in good standing desiring to unite with some other Christian church of like faith.
  - iv. Upon receipt of proof of membership in some other church subsequent to our church's request, through personal contact, for confirmation of membership.
  - v. Upon a vote of the membership provided for in Article 5 - Discipline.

## **5. DISCIPLINE**

It shall be the practice of this church to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The pastor, deacons, and other members of the church are available for counsel and guidance. The attitude of members towards one another shall be guided by a concern for redemption and restoration rather than punishment or exclusion.

Should some serious condition exist which would cause a member to become a liability to the general welfare of the church, the Board of Deacons will take every reasonable measure to resolve the problem in accord with Matthew 18: 15, 16, and 17. If it becomes necessary for the church to take action to exclude a member, a special meeting will be called. A 90% percent vote of the eligible members present at the meeting is required for dismissal. All such proceedings shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance: Romans 16: 17, 18; 1 Timothy 5:20; Luke 17: 3; Galatians 6:1; Romans 13:10.

Upon the request of the excluded person, the church may restore them to membership under the terms of Article 4 of this Constitution.

## **6. ORGANIZATION**

### **Section 1 - Officers**

**A. Pastor** - In the case that the church has called more than one pastor, the following refers to pastoral staff paid by the church.

The Pastor shall give evidence of being a born again believer and baptized by immersion; shall be a member of this church, and shall agree to abide by this Constitution.

The pastor shall preach God's work in its entirety and administer the ordinances. He, in conjunction with the Board of Elders, shall have general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the church.

The Pastor and Elders are called of God to complementary and supplementary rolls.

He shall be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees of the church and its auxiliary organizations.

The Pastor shall be notified of all meetings. The minutes of each meeting will be given upon his request.

Because of the teachings of Scripture on homosexuality, no homosexual shall be pastor in this congregation (Romans 1: 26, 27)<sup>2</sup>

Because of the teachings of Scripture on church leadership, the pastor of this church will be male. (1Timothy 2:11, 12; 1Corinthians 14: 34)

To vacate the office of pastor, a three month notice from either church or pastor is necessary unless mutually agreed upon.

Should the church dismiss the Pastor, the Elders may require him to cease his duties immediately.

#### **B. The Elders Board – provides Accountable Spiritual Leadership:**

- a. Has the authority and responsibility to oversee the mission and ministry through accountable leadership.
- b. Is primarily responsible to declare and pursue the mission of the church.
- c. Works with the pastoral team to accomplish the mission of JUBC (by leading, teaching, visioning).
- d. Meets regularly with the pastors and periodically with the other leaders as deemed necessary for support, 2-way communication, and assistance as needed.
- e. Carries out these responsibilities through the following 4 activities:
  - i. **Prayer:** as an example for the congregation and to remind themselves of the true Head of the Church.
  - ii. **Decisions:** that help the Pastoral Staff to lead the church to establish its mission (Acts 15; 6: 2 – 5).
  - iii. **Advising and Protecting:** supporting the Pastors and other ministry leaders when criticized unfairly; and advise them when their own weaknesses or blindness lead them to poor decisions or actions. This includes establishing and maintaining two-way communication with the congregation.
  - iv. **Monitoring:**
    - The church's ongoing spiritual condition;
    - The church's essential doctrine (pulpit, Life Groups, other ministries);
    - The church's essential direction (mission, values, vision, results);
    - The church's pastoral leadership.

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<sup>2</sup> In taking this position regarding the issue of homosexuality, the congregation of the Jacksonville United Baptist Church is in agreement with the standard adopted by the United Baptist Convention of the Atlantic Provinces. Reference: **The Resolution on Homosexuality** (Passed at Convention Assembly in 1987. [Social Witness Binder, Section 3-21]. **The Regulations Concerning the Ministry of the United Baptist Convention of Atlantic Provinces, Section III.B.9)**

The work of the Elders (including how Elders are chosen) is done through policies, which are beliefs or values that guide how a Governing Board makes its decisions. The value of a policy approach is that it makes sure that the Board's primary mission is always "ends" related (Matthew 28: 19- 20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8).

Qualifications of Elders: The Elders shall be men who are recognized servants of the church, whose qualifications are clearly set forth in Scripture (I Timothy 3:1 - 7 and Titus 1: 6- 9) and detailed in our Guidelines Manual.

### **C. Deacons - responsible for pastoral care and connection.**

Will work alongside pastoral staff in providing and overseeing day to day pastoral care based on Acts 6: 1 - 7.

- a. Serving widows and other vulnerable or disenfranchised individuals (i.e. A245);
- b. Supporting unity in the Body through modeling positive support of the leadership and unity with and love towards one another; to look out for those who, like the Grecian widows of Acts 6 are feeling disconnected or left out of the care of the Body;
- c. Supporting the pastors and elders through pastoral visitation (especially the sick, shut in, new comers and others in need); overseeing Ministry Connections (encouraging established members to connect with newcomers; Greeters; Communication Corner; etc.) arranging for the Ordinances (serving Communion, baptismal tank and candidates, extra towels and baptismal clothes); possibly Hospitality Ministry (as determined by the Elders and Deacons), and establishing an awareness of and presence in the Prayer Room on Sundays;

The work of the Deacons (including how Deacons are chosen) is done through policies, which are beliefs or values that guide how a group of leaders make its decisions. The value of a policy approach is that it makes sure that the leadership's primary mission is always "ends" related (Matthew 28; 19 - 20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8).

### **Qualifications of Deacons**

The Deacons shall be people who are deemed godly and wise, with a caring heart for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of others; with an ability to discern needs and empower others to meet needs; and that they be spiritually mature, as outlined in Acts 6:3; Galatians 5:22-23; and 1 Timothy 3:8-10.

### **D. Management Team**

The Management Team will oversee all matters relevant to the operation of JUBC such as finances, facility management, human resources, insurances and technology management.

- a. To prepare an annual budget for congregational approval in consultation with the Pastors and Elders that reflects the vision and priorities for the coming year.
- b. To monitor financial position weekly and monthly in terms of giving against budget, spending against budget and cash flow.
- c. To oversee the condition of the building and grounds considering policies of the Elders (i.e. Child Protection), safety, appearance and functionality for disciple-making; etc.
- d. To oversee the maintenance work by recruiting and overseeing a Maintenance Crew.
- e. To make sure that all work is within established budgets and current cash flow positions, or to recommend work exceeding the same to the Elders.

- f. To manage the acquisition, maintenance, storage and operation of all technology equipment such as computers, phones, photocopiers, projectors, etc.
- g. To make recommendations to the Elders on all matters pertaining to the remuneration and benefits of all paid staff.
- h. Other operational responsibilities as agreed upon by the Management Team and Elders.
- i. To use task forces, committees, etc. to carry out the work agreed upon as a team.
- j. To arrange the minutes of each meeting are kept and forwarded to each pastor and elder within a few days of any meeting, preferably by the next Sunday.
- k. To hold in trust all Church properties.

The work of the Management Team (including how they are chosen) is done through policies, which are beliefs or values that guide how a group of leaders makes its decisions. The value of a policy approach is that it makes sure that the leadership's primary mission is always "ends" related (Matthew 28: 19 - 20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8).

### **E. Clerk**

The Clerk shall:

- a. Keep accurate minutes of the business proceedings of the church; conduct all official correspondence; preserve and properly fill all letters, reports and other documents pertaining to the church, including the reception and dismissal of members.
- b. Issue letters of dismissal, baptismal certificates and certificates of Christian standing, as authorized by the church.
- c. Be responsible for filing and acknowledging all necessary memorials given to the church, keeping the Memorial book up to date and be responsible for sending memorials on behalf of the church.
- d. Circulate minutes of quarterly and special meetings to the membership two weeks in advance of meeting.
- e. Be responsible for compiling an agenda for the next meeting to be distributed the Sunday prior to the meeting.

### **Assistant Clerk**

The Assistant Clerk will perform the full duties of the clerk when that is necessary and assist the clerk in any way possible.

### **F. Treasurer**

The church treasurer will be custodian of all money contributed to the church

It shall be the responsibility of the treasurer to arrange for the receipt and deposit of all monies entrusted to him/her in a chartered banking institution. Such deposits shall be made at the earliest possible date.

The treasurer shall promptly pay, by cheque only, all bills covered by the approved budget. The treasurer shall automatically pay all miscellaneous bills accrued by officers, committee or board members to a maximum of \$50 (Fifty dollars). Any bill exceeding \$50 for items not included in the budget must have the approval of the chairman of the Management Team.

Receipts for income tax purposes shall be sent out by the end of January.

The treasurer's reports and accounts shall be certified yearly by a chartered accountant authorized by the church at the annual meeting.

### **G. Financial Secretary(s)**

The Financial Secretary(s) shall keep an account of each member using envelopes, showing pledges made and contributions received for each fund.

The Financial Secretary(s) shall make offering envelopes available to each member or adherent.

The Financial Secretary(s) shall act as assistant treasurer and shall be a member of the Financial Committee.

### **H. Sunday School Superintendent(s)**

The superintendents(s) of the Sunday School, in co-operation with the pastor(s) and the Christian Education committee, shall have general supervision of the Sunday School.

The superintendent(s) shall be elected at the annual business meetings of the church.

The Sunday School Superintendent(s) shall call an annual meeting of the Sunday School and any other meetings that are needed.

## **Section 2 - Committees**

All committees of the church will conduct business in accordance with the **Statement of Faith** and the **Covenant**.

Each committee will have an annual budget and will recommend to the Finance Committee an estimated budget for the next year. If the need for funding exceeds the budget, the committee needs to consult with the Finance Committee who may make a request to the church at a church meeting.

Each committee will select a chair from within the committee membership as soon as possible for the annual meeting. A list of committee chair people will be included in the bulletin the first Sunday in February.

### **A. Social Committee**

The Social Committee shall consist of no less than two members elected at the annual meeting.

They shall be responsible for all arrangements on any occasion when refreshments are to be served in the church.

The Social Committee shall be responsible for the church kitchen and supplies.

They will be responsible for arranging billeting of guests if needed.

### **B. Flower and Decorating Committee**

The Flower & Decorating Committee shall consist of no less than two members elected at the annual meeting.

They will ensure that a spiritual emphasis is maintained through all decorations.

They will be responsible for all arrangements for decorating on regular and special occasions and to assist the trustees with the beautification of church grounds.

They will distribute flowers after the services to sick or shut-ins and will ensure cleanup of any decorations in the church after they have served their purpose.

### **C. Baptismal Committee**

The Baptismal Committee shall consist of the Deacons and their wives. They shall have the care of the robes and the preparation of the candidates for baptism.

They shall be responsible for the follow-up program for the candidates using the material approved by the church.

### **D. Cemetery Committee**

The Cemetery Committee shall consist of the trustees of the church and a chairperson elected from the membership at the annual meeting.

The Cemetery Committee is responsible for the finances, record keeping, the care and sale of lots in the Upper Jacksonville United Baptist Cemetery. No lot is sold without the perpetual care bond. All money received after July 1980 shall be invested at the discretion of the committee.

It is the responsibility of the committee to hire a caretaker. The chairman shall maintain a map of the cemetery.

### **E. Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee shall consist of one deacon, chairman of Christian Education Committee, Sunday School Superintendent and three other member's names at large and elected by the church. The Deacon named shall be responsible to call the first meeting.

### **F. Communion Committee**

The Communion Committee shall consist of no less than two members who shall be elected annually.

The bills for any expenses incurred will be presented to the church treasurer. They shall take care of preparing the elements for the Communion Service.

### **G. Ushers Committee**

The Head Usher shall be elected at the annual meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Head Usher:

- a. To select a team of ushers for the year.
- b. To select a team of ushers for each service.
- c. To see that ushers are prepared to act on the occasion of all special services.

The Head Usher shall solicit volunteers from the members and adherents of the church in accordance with the Leadership Guidelines (Appendix 3). The duties of the ushers are to:

- a. To welcome the congregation.
- b. Pass out bulletins.
- c. To direct visitors if necessary.
- d. To receive the offering
- e. To ensure that heat and ventilation are in order

### **H. Pulpit Committee**

The Deacons are the Pulpit Committee, as stated under the duties of the Deacons.

### **I. Christian Education Committee**

The members of this committee shall consist of a Deacon, Sunday School Superintendent, Youth Coordinator, Awana Commander, a representative of the Social Committee, Nursery, Jr. Church, Library, Music, Sound and all auxiliary groups meeting in the name of the church.

One of the Pastors in conjunction with the previous chair will be responsible for calling the first meeting; the committee shall then select its own Chairperson.

The Christian Education Committee will meet in May, September and January of each year. Additional meetings may be called by the Committee as needed. In the event that a member of the committee cannot attend, an alternate must be designated.

Purpose - The coordination of educational activities in the church, the formulation of annual goals and objectives for both the Sunday School and Church and to ensure better publicity of events taking place in both our own church and elsewhere; as well, to stimulate the missionary outreach of the church.

### **Additional Responsibilities of Officers and Committee Members**

All officers, committee members and employees of the church who hold any church property shall, at the close of their term of office, hand over to their successors or to the church all books, records, funds, or other church property in their possession.

If any member of any board or committee shall absent himself without reasonable explanation three times a year from any meeting of his board or committee, other than church services, he shall cease to be a member of that committee upon notification of the chairman of the board.

Resignation of officers, committee members and employees are to be in writing and presented to the Clerk stating the effective date.

## **7. VOTING**

A. In any vote of the membership or its committees, a secret ballot shall be granted if one member calls for it.

B. Voting shall always be by secret ballot when the vote concerns;

- a. Choosing Deacons or Church Treasurer.
- b. Dismissing a member as a disciplinary measure.
- c. Buy, selling or mortgaging property.
- d. Calling or dismissing a pastor
- e. Amending the Constitution

C. Any member not having attended or contributed to the spiritual welfare of the church within a period of 12 months shall not have the privilege of voting. Any questions of voting eligibility will be referred to the Deacons who will make the final decision.

D. If there are nominations from the floor to add to the Nominating Committee report, voting shall be by secret ballot.

E. Section B of this article requires a 75% vote of those present and voting with the exception of dismissing a member as a disciplinary measure, changing the Covenant or changing the Statement of Faith. These will require a 90% vote. The Clerk shall give two weeks written notice to the eligible membership (eligibility determined by Section C of this article). The notice shall include the subject, the date, the time and the place; and it must be given in such a manner that all resident members have opportunity to know of the meeting. Any other motion requires a majority vote.

F. Every eligible member of the church is entitled to vote in all elections and all questions submitted to the church with exception of those requiring the legal age.

## **8. MEETINGS**

### **Section 1 – Lord’s Day and Communion**

#### **A. Lord’s Day**

The Church shall meet regularly each Lord’s Day for worship of Almighty God and the preaching of God’s Holy Word. No speaker shall be allowed to use the sermon time solely for the promotion of his own work.

This church shall strive to hold a church school every Lord’s Day.

#### **B. Communion**

The church shall meet for the observance of the Lord’s Supper upon the first Sunday morning service of the month or at such other times as the church may decide. We believe that the Lord’s Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. (1Corinthians 11: 23-28)

Communion shall be open to all who have received the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. (1Corinthians 11: 27-30)

An opportunity shall be given by the Pastor for those not wishing to remain during the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper to feel free to leave if they wish, before the Communion service begins.

### **Section 2 – Mid Week Service**

There shall be a weekly meeting for praise, prayer or Bible Study. Any change must be by arrangement of the Board of Deacons.

### **Section 3 – There will be 3 Congregational meetings per year, as follows:**

1. Early Fall: Ministry Year Goals
2. Late Fall: Budget and Vision
3. Mid Spring: Reporting and Evaluation

Any business can be conducted at any meeting, but each meeting has a specific focus and purpose to encourage greater interest.

Congregational Meetings are to be announced from the pulpit two Sundays prior to the meeting.

### **Section 4 – Special Meetings**

Special meetings may be called by the Pastor and/or the Board of Elders after due consideration, upon request of a member, members, or committee.

#### **A. Special Business Meetings**

A one-week notice must be given for the specially called business meeting unless extreme urgency renders such notice impractical. The notice shall include the subject, the date, the time and place; and it must be given in such a manner that all resident members have an opportunity to know of the meeting.

## **B. Baptismal Services**

Baptismal services will be held as the need arises. The arrangements are to be made by the Pastor and the Baptismal Committee.

## **Section 6 – Chairman, Election of**

Once a quorum is present, the clerk shall bring the meeting to order and call for a motion to appoint a chairman for the meeting from the members present.

## **Section 7 – Quorums**

Twenty one eligible voting members will constitute a quorum in any stated and properly called business meeting.

## **Section 8 – Business Procedures**

Order of Business:

- A. Call to order.
- B. Prayer and scripture reading by Pastor or Deacon.
- C. Reading by the Clerk of the minutes of the previous meeting and the reading of Article 7 of the Constitution.
- D. Correspondence.
- E. Reports.
- F. Candidates for membership.
- G. Dismissals.
- H. Unfinished business.
- I. New business.
- J. Termination with prayer.

In the conduct of business meetings, any parliamentary questions not covered by this Constitution shall be decided by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

## **9. AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS**

A. The constitutions of Auxiliary Organizations shall be drawn so as not to conflict with the Constitution of this church.

B. Meetings of Auxiliary Organizations may be held at such times as will not conflict with the meetings of this church.

C. All organizations meeting within the church and/or having the name of the church included in their official name shall be considered as auxiliary organizations.

D. All auxiliary organizations shall provide an annual report forth the church at the time of the Annual Meeting.

E. An anticipated special activities of said auxiliary organizations shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Elders.

## **10. FINANCES**

The activities of the church will be supported by freewill giving only.

## **11. FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year will begin on January 1 of each year and end on December 31 of the same year.

## **12. CALLING A PASTOR**

- A. Whenever necessary, because of resignation, death or dismissal of a pastor, the Pulpit Committee shall, without delay, fill the vacancy.
- B. The Pulpit Committee shall recommend an interim Pastor.
- C. The Pulpit Committee shall investigate the merits of each candidate under consideration, in regard to his personal character, education. Ministerial record and preaching ability in determining his fitness for said pastorate. When a suitable man is found, the Committee shall recommend him to the church for consideration.
- D. The Pastor shall be called for an indefinite period of time; the salary shall be fixed at the time of the call and may be changed by the vote of the church at the Annual Budget and Vision meeting. The salary shall be paid by weekly. The Pastor shall be entitled to an annual vacation for four weeks. This may be taken at various time of the year; however, the terms of vacation shall be agreed upon by the Pastor and the Board of Elders.

## **13. AMENDMENTS**

- A. This Constitution shall be amended or add to by a motion which has lain on the table at least three months. The meeting in which the amendments or additions are presented must have been announced from the pulpit two Sundays preceding the meeting. A 75% vote of the eligible voting members present at the meeting shall be required to carry any amendments or additions.
- B. The Statement of Faith and Church Covenant within the Constitution shall only be changed by a 90% vote of the eligible voting members present. The Clerk will notify all eligible members of the motion by letter two weeks before the date of the vote. Members may reply by written proxy if unable to attend.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

Jacksonville United Baptist Church

1. We believe in THE HOLY SCRIPTURE: accepting fully the writings of the Old and New Testaments as the very Word of God, verbally inspired in all parts and therefore wholly without error as originally given of God, altogether sufficient in themselves as our authoritative rule of faith and practice. We believe the Scriptures are historically accurate (Psalm 119:160; Proverbs 30:5a; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).
2. We believe in THE ONE TRUE GOD: Who is an intelligent, sovereign, spiritual and personal Being; perfect, infinite, and eternal in His being, holiness and love, wisdom and power; absolutely separated from and above the world as the Upholder of all things. He is revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three distinct persons but without division of nature, essence or being, and having a distinct ministry in God's relation to His creation and people. (Genesis 1:1; Exodus 15:11; Psalm 83:18; 139:7-9; Matthew 28: 19; John 10:30; 15:26).
3. We believe in THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: Who is the second person of the Triune God, the eternal Word and Only Begotten Son; that without any change in His divine Person, He became man by miracle of the Virgin Birth, thus to continue forever as both true God and true Man, one Person with two natures: that as a man He was tempted in all points as we

are, yet without sin; that as the Perfect Lamb of God He gave Himself in death upon the cross, bearing there the sin of the world, and suffering its full penalty of divine wrath in our stead; that He arose from the grave in a glorified body; that as our great High Priest He ascended into Heaven, there to appear before the face of God as our Advocate and Intercessor. (John 1:1,14; 3:16; Matthew 1:18-25; Galatians 4:4,5; Philippians 2:6-10; I Corinthians 15:3-7; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 John 2:1,2).

4. We believe in THE HOLY SPIRIT: Who is the third person of the Trinity, and divine Agent in creation, revelation, and redemption; that He convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment; that He regenerates, indwells, baptizes, seals and anoints all who become children of God through Christ; that He further empowers, guides, teaches, sanctifies and fills believers who daily surrender to Him. (John 3:3; 14:16, 17, 26; 16:7-14; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:13; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 1:13; 5:18).
5. We believe ALL MEN ARE BY NATURE AND CHOICE SINFUL AND LOST: that man was the direct creation of God, made in His image and likeness; that by personal disobedience to the revealed will of God, man became a sinful creature, the father of a fallen race which is universally sinful in both nature and practice, thus alienated from the life and family of God, under the righteous judgment and wrath of God, and has within himself no possible means of salvation. (Genesis 1:27; 3:6; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23; 5:12, 19; Galatians 3:11).
6. We believe in SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH: that "God is not willing that any should perish"; that salvation is the free gift of God, neither merited nor secured in part or in whole by any virtue of man, but received only by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, in Whom all true believers have as a present possession the gift of eternal life, a perfect righteousness, sonship in the family of God, deliverance and security from all condemnation, every spiritual resource needed for life and godliness, and the divine guarantee that they shall never perish; that this salvation affects the whole man; that apart from Christ there is no possible salvation. (Ephesians 2:8,9; Titus 3:5; John 1:12; 3:14; 10:28,29; Romans 8:1; Philippians 1:6).
7. We believe in RIGHTEOUS LIVING AND GODLY WORKS: not as a means of salvation in any sense, but as its proper evidence and fruit; and therefore as Christians we should obey the Word of our Lord, seek the things which are above, walk as He walked, accept as our solemn responsibility the duty and privileges of bearing the Gospel to a lost world; remembering that a victorious and fruitful Christian life is possible only for those who in gratitude for the infinite and undeserved mercies of God have presented themselves wholly to Christ. (Ephesians 2:10; Romans 12:1, 2; Philippians 2:16).
8. We believe in the EXISTENCE OF SATAN: who originally was created a holy and perfect being, but through pride and wicked ambition rebelled against God, thus becoming utterly depraved in character, the great adversary of God and His people, leader of all other evil angels and wicked spirits, the deceiver and god of this present world; that his powers are vast, but strictly limited by the permissive will of God Who overrules all his wicked devices for good; that he was defeated and judged at the cross, and therefore his final doom is certain; that we are able to resist and overcome him only in the armour of God, by the blood of the Lamb and through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ephesians 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 3:8; Revelation 12:9-11; 20:10).
9. We believe in THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST: that His coming in the air to rapture His Church is always imminent: that when he has resurrected His Church ("the dead in

Christ... we who are alive at His coming"), He will pour out the righteous judgment of God upon the unbelieving world during the seven years of the Tribulation Period and afterwards descend with His Church and establish His glorious and literal kingdom over all nations for a thousand years. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; James 5:8; Hebrews 10:37; Jude 14, 15; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:4-7).

10. We believe in FUTURE LIFE, BODILY RESURRECTION AND ETERNAL JUDGEMENT: that the spirits of the saved at death go immediately to be with Christ in heaven, that their works shall be brought before the Judgment Seat of Christ for the determination of rewards which will take place at the time when Christ comes for His own; that the spirits of the unsaved at death descend immediately into Hades where they are kept under punishment until the final day of judgment, at which time their bodies shall be raised from the grave, that they shall be judged and cast into Hell, the place of final and everlasting punishment. (1 Corinthians 15:11; 2 Corinthians 5:8-10; Luke 16:19-23; Revelation 20:11-15).
11. We believe in THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE: with each having definite and distinct spheres of responsibility. (Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1-7).
12. We believe in THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS: that Christ is our Great High Priest and through Him every born-again person has direct access into God's presence without the need of a human priest; that the believer has the right and responsibility to personally study and interpret the Scriptures guided by the Holy Spirit. (John 14:6; Hebrews 4:16; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 2:1, 5, 9).
13. We believe in THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST: that He alone is Head of the Body of Christ, into which all true believers are immediately baptized by the Holy Spirit; that all members of this one body should assemble and identify themselves in local churches. (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:22, 23; 4:11-15; Galatians 1:22).
14. We believe in THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH: that a New Testament church is a local assembly of born-again baptized believers united in organization to practice New Testament ordinances, to meet together for worship, prayer, fellowship, teaching, and a united testimony, and to actively engage in carrying out the Great Commission. (Acts 2:41, 42; 1 Corinthians 11:2; Matthew 28:19, 20).
15. We believe in THE INDEPENDENCE AND AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH: that each New Testament church is free to govern itself without ecclesiastical interference, and should cooperate with other New Testament churches as the Holy Spirit leads; that it is responsible to follow the pattern of the New Testament church and is accountable directly to God. (Matthew 18:17; Acts 6:1-5; 13:1-3; 15:22, 23).
16. We believe in THE ORDINANCES GIVEN TO THE LOCAL CHURCH ARE TWO, BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER: that Baptism is by immersion of believers, thus portraying the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ; that the Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and the cup by the believer as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ. (Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 2:41; 8:38, 39; Matthew 26-30; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34).

## APPENDIX 2

## OUR CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on profession of our faith, having been baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

We do now, in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ. We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Ghost, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectfully in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, back-biting and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drink as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always be ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour to secure it without delay.

## APPENDIX 3

### GUIDELINES FOR LEADERS AND WORKERS AT JACKSONVILLE UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH

The Board of Deacons has outlined a number of leadership guidelines which we feel are necessary as we minister to our children, young people and adults. The following is to be reviewed with each prospective leader or church worker.

#### **1. Christian Conversion**

To have received Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and Lord (Romans 10:9, 10; Romans 12:1, 2).

#### **2. Christian Growth**

In recognizing our sinfulness and failings, still have a desire to grow towards spiritual maturity in Christ (Ephesians 4).

#### **3. Christian Attitude**

To desire God's help, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, to have a Christian approach to all of life (Psalm 37:3, 4; Colossians 1:9).

#### **4. Christian Living**

That leaders be encouraged to develop a devotional life in terms of daily Bible reading and prayer.

To possess and develop habits and skills which promote spiritual growth in one's personal life and be willing to apply Christian standards of conduct in every area of life, e.g., avoidance of lifestyles which would not be helpful to a clear Christian witness (1 Corinthians 10:31).

To recognize that Christian living calls the believer to sexual purity (Exodus 20:14; Matthew 5:27, 28; 1 Corinthians 6:17-20). Because of the teachings of Scripture on homosexuality, known practicing homosexuals (including lesbians) shall not be eligible for positions of leadership in this congregation (Romans: 26,27)<sup>3</sup>.

### **5. Christian Responsibility**

To recognize that each person is made in the image of God and if and when the opportunity arises, to seek the salvation of such and to assist them in their spiritual growth (Genesis 1:26; 2 Peter 3:9).

That each leader regard his or her responsibilities in ministry with true conscientiousness and Christian compassion, always showing a sincere and genuine interest in the spiritual and social welfare of those who are in his or her care.

That a sense of supportive fellowship be cultivated between our leaders in the spirit of Galatians 6:1, 2: "Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Also see Romans 14:10-13)

## **APPENDIX 4**

### **Policy Re: Use Of Christian Education Centre**

The Constitution of the Jacksonville United Baptist Church, states, "The Board of Deacons shall have authority to decide on the character of the gatherings, meetings, and ceremonies that may be held within the Church buildings, and shall determine the conditions under which permission is granted" (Article 6; Section 1; B.)

The buildings of the Church are for the use of the Church members, adherents and their immediate families. The Christian Education Building is not a Community Hall. The community has a hall that serves a very vital part in drawing our community together.

Each individual request that comes before the Deacon's Board will be dealt with in an objective way. Each case warrants its own response.

The Church Buildings are not to be used on Sunday, except for Church-sponsored programs and services.

If permission is granted to use the Church Buildings these are some guidelines that must be followed:

1. The building is to be cleaned and left in the same manner as it was found.

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<sup>3</sup> In taking this position regarding the issue of homosexuality, the congregation of the Jacksonville United Baptist Church is in agreement with the standard adopted by the United Baptist Convention of the Atlantic Provinces. References: **The Resolution on Homosexuality** (passed at Convention Assembly in 1987 [Social Witness Binder – Section 3 – 21]), **The Regulations Concerning the Ministry of the United Baptist Convention of the Atlantic Provinces** – Section III.B.9)

2. All garbage is to be removed from the Church property.
3. Any furniture (i.e. chairs, tables, etc.) that has been used, must be returned to their proper place. All furniture brought into the building from outside must be removed immediately.
4. There is to be no liquor brought on to the Church property or allowed within the Church buildings. No intoxicated person is to be part of a gathering, reception, etc.
5. There is to be no smoking within the Church buildings.
6. The party using the building is responsible to make every effort to see that the individual guests conduct themselves in a way that is conducive to Christian principles.

Sincerely submitted,  
The Board of Deacons, Jacksonville United Baptist Church