

# **Buchanan Baptist Church**

408 Magnolia Street Stamps, AR 71860

Pastor Antoine J Anthony M.Div

## ***By-Laws***

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# **CONSTITUTION**

## ***Preamble***

### **SECTION I**

We declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith, and to govern the body in an orderly manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other churches.

#### **1. NAME**

This body shall be called the: Buchanan  
Missionary Baptist Church of Stamps Arkansas.

## 2. LOCATION

The Location of Buchanan Missionary Baptist Church is at 408 Magnolia Street Stamps, Arkansas 71860.

## 3. ORDINANCES

Two Ordinances will be observed according to our Baptist Doctrine; and that is Baptism (Occasionally); and Observing the Lord's Supper upon the First Sunday of each month unless rescheduled by the Elders of the church at least 2 week prior to 1st Sunday of that upcoming month.

# **Article I**

## **Membership**

### **Section 1. General**

This is a sovereign and democratic Baptist Church under the lordship of Jesus Christ. The Members retain unto itself the exclusive rights of self-government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this church.

### **Section 2. Candidacy**

Any person may offer themselves as a candidate for membership in this church. All such persons shall be presented to the church at

any regular church service or meeting; for membership in any of the following ways:

A. By Profession of Faith as a candidate for Baptism according to the availability of the Elders of the Church.

B. By Giving a Letter of Transferal to the Pastor and/or Deacons of Buchanan Baptist Church from a previous Baptist church.

C. Christian Experience

D. Restoration; due to removal of membership previously.

### **Section 3. New Member Orientation**

New church members will be expected to participate in the church's new member orientation plan. Which should include a Saturday Brunch with the Pastor and Staff.

## **Section 4. Voting Rights of Members**

Every (16 years old or older) member of this church is entitled to One vote per election and must be present at the meeting in order for vote to be accounted for. Absentee ballots can be requested from the Church Clerk at least a week prior to the election; the ballot must not leave the property of the church.

## **Section 5. Termination of Membership**

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways:

- a. Death
- b. Transfer of membership to another Church

## **Section 6. Duties of a Member**

Members are expected to wholeheartedly participate in, give to, and support the ministries of the church. They are to joyfully support, encourage, edify, pray for, and fellowship with other members and regular attendees of the body.

Active members may:

- (1) participate in all church ministries and programs.
- (2) serve in any lay ministry position for which they qualify.
- (3) vote in congregational elections.
- (4) serve in elected or appointed lay leadership positions for which they qualify.



## **Section 7: Inactive Members**

Inactive members shall be defined as those who voluntarily absent themselves from the church services and do not support the church in giving for a period of six months or more. Inactive status means loss of voting privileges during elections. After 6 months a member who decides to rejoin Buchanan must come by Restoration of Membership.

Those who are absent because they are sick, in the Lord's service, in the Armed Forces, in school, or otherwise physically hindered from being in the regular church services may be classified as an Active member.

Buchanan Baptist Church Virtual Campus is a Online extension

of our church for our Local Sick & Shut in member and Member aboard to tune in to the weekly worship experience.

## **Article II**

### **Church Officers**

#### **Section 1. Pastor**

The Pastor is responsible for leading the Church to function as a New Testament Church. The pastor will lead the body of Christ here at Buchanan, while working with Deacons; Trustees; and Church Staff to:

- a. Lead the Church to accomplish its vision and mission
- b. Proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to all that will hear
- c. Care for Members and other persons in our community.
- d. He shall preside at all regular meetings

A Pastor will be chosen and called to Pastor the Church; when a vacancy occurs. His Election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose. The Pastor, thus elected; shall serve until the relationship is terminated; by his voluntary request (Resignation) which will be in Letter Form to the Congregation. If the Church requests that the Pastor should be terminated a meeting would be called where 2/3 votes; present and in favor of the dismissal would immediately terminate his relationship with the church.

## **Section 2. Deacons**

### **A. Qualifications**

Deacons and candidates for the office of Deacon shall meet the qualifications of Scripture, specifically I Timothy 3:8-13

and Acts 6:1-3. Candidates for the office of Deacon; should be put on a trial for at least 4-6 months to determine if they should be ordained.

## **B. Duties**

The primary role of the Deacons is to assist the Pastor so that he can devote his time to the oversight and shepherding of the church. They shall aid the Pastor as called upon in the administration of the Lord's Supper, baptism, worship services, prayer meetings, visiting the sick and sorrowing, visiting the membership, and participating in outreach ministries.

## **C. Examination**

A Candidate will become an Ordained Deacon of this church; after completing a successful trial period. He will be asked if he

would like to take an Oral or Written Exam; which will be completed on the day of his Ordination Service. That service will be his choice of the timing; where he will be brought before the body of Christ to be commissioned for the office of Deacon.

### **Section 3. Treasurer**

The church treasurer will oversee the recording of the church income and disbursements and preparation of quarterly and annual financial reports.

- A. The treasurer is responsible for the receiving and processing of all church funds.
- B. Pay out and keep records of disbursements.
- C. The treasurer will be appointed by the Pastor and Deacons.

D. The Treasurer is responsible for giving an annual report at the Church Business Meeting in December.

#### **Section 4. Church Clerk**

This person is responsible for performing clerical duties; including but not limited to Maintaining Accurate Church Records; keep a membership log and give official reports during all business meetings. Perform other duties as assigned. They will serve until resignation or death.

#### **Section 5. Trustee**

Seven Trustees appointed by the Church will hold in trust the church property. They will have to affix their signature on any

legal documents concerning the church where they are needed to do so. Trustees will be involved in any sales, mortgage, purchase of property at Buchanan Missionary Baptist Church. They will serve until resignation or death.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **MEETINGS**

#### **SECTION 1. Business Meetings**

A. A church Pastor will preside at all church business meetings.

This will be the chairman of the Council of Elders or his designate.

B. The order of conduct is governed by Robert's Rule of Order.

C. Church business meetings will be held semi-annually.

D. Special church business meetings may be called at any time by the Pastor or/and Deacons.



## **ARTICLE IV**

### **AMENDMENTS**

(A) Any part of these Bylaws may be amended.

(B) Amendments must not conflict with the church Doctrine.

(C) The membership is notified about proposed amendments at least two weeks before they are voted on at a business meeting.

(D) Amendments are passed when they receive the majority vote of at least Seventy-five percent of the church membership present at the meeting.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God. to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God. 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 Spirit 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 circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of, intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

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

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.