

By-Laws for Larkinsville Baptist Church

362 Harvey Wilborn St. Scottsboro Alabama

(Adopted 10/07/1998; Revision 06/15/2026)

Preamble (see I Cor. 14:40)

For the preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and so that this body may be governed in an orderly manner, we do declare and establish this constitution.

Article I: Name

The legal name of this church is Larkinsville Missionary Baptist Church. We are also known as Larkinsville Baptist Church or Larkinsville Baptist. We understand as time progresses Names, Titles, and Acronyms can associate with others with different beliefs. We desire to be known by what we believe and the principles stated in this constitution.

Article II: Mission (see Mt. 28:19-20; II Tim. 3:16; Heb. 11:6)

The mission of our church is to evangelize the lost and edify the saints (see Mt. 28:19-20). We believe in the articles of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message and strive to live by these articles. If that document should change from the version stated and unless stated in this constitution, It should be understood that this church believes in the articles of the 2000 BFM as the best organizational summary of Biblical beliefs.

Article III: Members

A. Qualifications

1. The membership of this church shall consist of such persons as confess Jesus Christ to be their Saviour and Lord enter into its covenant.

2. The membership of this church shall consist of such persons who, after due examination by the church as to their Christian experience (personal testimony) enter into its covenant.
3. The membership of this church shall consist of such persons who, if coming from other churches, as to their letters of dismissal and recommendation or satisfactory substitutes therefore, having been accepted by vote of the church and having been baptized enter into its covenant.
4. Persons received into membership of this body must receive a majority vote of the members present and voting .

B. Duties

Members are expected, first of all, to be faithful in all the duties essential to the Christian life; and also to attend habitually the services of this church, to give regularly for its support and its causes, and to share in its organized work.

C. Rights

Active members as are in full and regular standing and do not hold letters of dismissal, and such only, may act and vote in transactions of the church.

D. Quorum

Ten percent of the church membership shall constitute a quorum (a minimum of 10 members).

E. Active roll

From time to time the active member roll may be updated during a regular business meeting with a two-thirds or greater vote.

F. Termination

The continuance of membership shall be subject to the principles of Scripture and especially as follows:

1. Any member in good and regular standing who desires a letter of dismissal and recommendation to any other Baptist Church is entitled to receive it upon his request.

2. If a member requests to be released from his covenant obligations to this church for reasons which the church may finally deem satisfactory, after it shall have patiently and kindly endeavored to secure their continuance in its fellowship, such requests may be granted, and their membership terminated.
3. Should a member become an offense to the church and to its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, or by persistent breach of his covenant vows, or nonsupport of the church, the church may terminate his membership, but only after due notice and hearing, and after faithful efforts have been made to bring such members to repentance and amendment (Matt. 18: 15—17)
4. Any member having changed faith will be dropped from roll.

Article IV: Church Officers

A. Pastor

1. A pastor of like faith and beliefs shall be chosen and called by the church whenever vacancy occurs. His election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose of which at least one—week notice shall be given. A pulpit committee of no less than four shall be appointed by the church to seek out a suitable pastor, and their recommendation will constitute a nomination though any member has the privilege of making other nominations. The committee shall bring to the consideration of the church only one man at a time. The pastor shall be elected for one year of service, but may be terminated by the pastor upon thirty (30) days notice to the church or, the service of the pastor may be terminated by the church upon thirty (30) days notice to the pastor.
2. The pastor is to receive two-week's annual vacation with pay.
3. The pastor shall supply the pulpit at his expense except while on vacation or sick.

B. Deacons

In accordance with the meaning of the word and practice of the New Testament, deacons are to be servants of the church.

1. They are to be zealous to guard the unity of the spirit within the church in the bonds of peace.
2. The election of deacons, (unordained), will be by the church (Acts 6: 3) after due examination and qualifications being met and approved, these men will be ordained to active deacons of this church.
3. Deacons coming from other churches by transfer of letter will become active deacons of this body by invitation of the present active deacons and approved by the church.

C. Moderator

The moderator shall be the pastor. In the absence of the pastor the chairman of the deacons (vice— moderator) shall preside; or in the absence of both, the clerk shall call the church to order and a moderator protem shall be elected.

D. Clerk

The clerk of the church shall keep in a suitable book a record of all the actions of the church including committee reports, except as otherwise herein provided. The clerk shall keep a register of the names of members. The clerk shall issue letters of dismission voted by the church, preserve on file all communications and written official reports.

E. Treasurer

The church shall elect annually a treasurer . It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive, preserve, and pay out as authorized by the church, all money or things of value paid or given to the church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements . The treasurer will give a monthly report to the church at the regular business meeting, and an annual report at the end of the church year.

F. Trustees

The trustees are elected to represent the church in all legal matters required by law. Executing such documents as may from time to time be authorized by the church. They shall, further, be entrusted with the care of all current papers, documents, maps, blueprints, and property maintenance. All recommendations of the trustees involving buying, selling, or

mortgaging of church property shall be presented in writing to the church for approval or disapproval. Such recommendations shall be presented to the church two (2) weeks in advance of church action. Such action by the church shall require two—thirds (2/3) vote of approval of the members present and voting.

G. Organizational Officers

All organizations of the church shall be under church control, and officers being elected by the church and reporting regularly to the church.

These officers include church clerk, treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent, teachers, and any other officers the church may deem necessary.

The term for the named officers shall be for one year.

Article V: Committees

The church shall elect, or appoint, such committees as shall be necessary to assist in the ministry of the church, both physical and spiritual . These committees shall consist of an annual standing committee or, temporary committees, their need and length of service determined by the church.

Article VI: CHURCH FINANCE

The financing of the Lord' s work is to be financed as He taught in His Word, by tithes and offerings. All funds coming into the church through any regular or special offering will go into the church treasury. Designated gifts will be kept in separate funds. All financial activities will be done in the name of the church.

Article VII: Meetings

A. Worship

1. Public services shall be held on the Lord's day and on some regular evening or evenings of each week.

2. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at such times as determined by the church.
3. Revivals and religious meetings shall be held at such times as determined by the church.

B. Business meetings

1. The regular monthly business meeting of this church shall be held on Wednesday evening after the first (1) Sunday of each month.
2. Urgent business that calls for immediate action (business not otherwise restricted by previous statements of this constitution and by—laws), may be transacted at any regular meeting of the church.
3. The pastor may, and shall, when requested by the deacons, trustees, or standing committee, call from the pulpit special business meetings, the particular object of the meeting being clearly stated in the notice.
4. The annual meeting of the church shall be held on Wednesday after the first (1) Sunday in September, or at a date deemed appropriate by the church. If at a date other than stated, advance notice must be given by the church.
5. Roberts' rules of order shall be the parliamentary guide in all business meetings .

Article VIII: Discipline

1. Should any unhappy difference arise between members, the aggrieved member shall follow, in a tender spirit, the rules given by our Lord in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew.
2. Should any case of gross breach of covenant, or of public scandal, occur, the deacons shall endeavor to remove the offense by personal visitation, if such effort fail, shall report the case to the church .
3. If the church vote to entertain a complaint, which must be made in writing, it shall appoint a reasonable time and place of hearing and notify the person in question thereof, furnishing him with a copy of the charges.
4. At such hearing, the accused member may call to his or her aid any member of the church as counsel . If he or she shall not present themselves at the time appointed, or give satisfactory reasons for his or her neglect to do so, the church may proceed in his or her absence.
5. All such proceedings shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance, but should an adverse decision be reached, the church may

proceed to admonish the offender or declare him or her to be no longer in the membership of the church.

Article IX: Organization and Association

This church may, at the members approval, associate with other organizations. This church operates autonomously under no other organization.

Article X: Amendments

This constitution and accompanying by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present and voting at a meeting specially called for that purpose. Said proposed change having been laid before the church in writing at a business meeting not less than one month before the time of the proposed action, and read from the pulpit four consecutive Sundays in the morning services.