

**BYLAWS OF THE  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
OF  
MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA**

**REVISED OCTOBER 12, 2017**

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## **ARTICLE I**

### **ORGANIZATION**

The name of this church shall be the First Baptist Church of Marshalltown, Iowa, a not-for-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Iowa. The Body of Christ is to resemble a living organism according to Romans 12 and Ephesians 4. The church empowers Pastors, Ministry Teams and Committees under the direction of the Governance Board to fulfill our mission through the local Body of Christ. The Governance Board, Pastors, Staff, Ministry Teams and Committees exist to lead and support the local Body of Christ and evangelize the unsaved.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this church is to glorify God in portraying and proclaiming Jesus Christ to all the world, beginning with our church, so that all people might come to know Christ as Savior and Lord. We endeavor to be a unified and growing church, committed to evangelism, discipleship, edification, worship, and education by ministering to all people and guiding them to a knowledge of and growing maturity in Christ by:

1. Proclaiming earnestly the Gospel message and to urge its acceptance by every person. (John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
2. Providing fellowship for Christian believers with regular public services – both worshipful and devotional in nature. (Hebrews 10:19-25)
3. Cooperating heartily with prayer, gifts, and service in a sincere effort to be obedient to the Great Commission. (Matthew 28:18-20)
4. Promoting systematic Bible study, training for Christian service, and encouraging regular participation in some form of Christian activity. (2 Timothy 2:15)
5. Encouraging our members to study and practice true Christianity and stewardship and helping them identify and exercise their spiritual gifts. (James 1:27; Romans 12)

## **ARTICLE III**

### **DOCTRINE AND STATEMENT OF FAITH**

This church declares the Holy Bible to be the all sufficient basis of doctrine and practice. It adopts the following church covenant, commonly accepted by Baptist churches, as a summary of principles for Christian conduct.

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and 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 compassion; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its doctrines; and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spreading of the Gospel throughout all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to teach our children Christian truths; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings and faithful in our obligations; exemplary in our conduct; and to be zealous in our efforts to hasten our Lord's return by bringing the Gospel to all nations.

We further engage to watch over each other 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, and to be slow to take offense but always ready for immediate reconciliation, being mindful of the teachings of our Savior.

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

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

#### **A. QUALIFICATIONS**

The membership of this church shall consist of persons who have made a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, have expressed a desire to follow Christ in their daily lives, and have given witness to the same by submitting to the ordinance of Christian baptism by immersion.

#### **B. ADMISSION**

Persons may be received into membership by any of the following methods, subject in each case to the recommendation of the Deacon Ministry Team and vote of the Governance Board or the church as follows:

1. **BAPTISM.** Any person who confesses Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and adopts substantially the views of faith and principles of this church and is baptized by immersion may be received into the fellowship of the church.
2. **LETTER OF TRANSFER.** Any person who is in substantial accord with the views of faith and the principles of this church, and has been baptized by immersion, may be received by letter of transfer from any other evangelical church.
3. **CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE.** Any believer of like faith and practice, who is in substantial accord with the views of faith and the principles of this church, and who has been baptized by immersion, may be received into membership on the basis of Christian experience.
4. **RESTORATION.** Any person who has lost their membership in this church for any reason may be restored to membership upon recommendation of the Deacons Ministry Team and vote of the Governance Board or the church.

All new memberships shall be reported at the Annual Business Meeting by the Governance Board.

#### **C. DUTIES**

Each member of this church is expected to be faithful in those responsibilities which usually accompany membership, i.e., to attend regularly the services of the church, to contribute regularly (with a tithe as a goal) to support the church and its missionary enterprises, to use gifts and talents to serve the church and its organized activities of leadership, training, and fellowship.

## ARTICLE IV – CHURCH MEMBERSHIP (continued)

### D. DISCIPLINE

1. If, in the studied opinion of the Governance Board, a member's conduct is not in harmony with Scriptural principles described in Section 3, the Governance Board shall initiate a process of interviewing and counseling the erring member according to Matthew 18:15-17 and Galatians 6:1. The Governance Board's actions shall be conducted in love and truth with the primary purpose being restoration of the erring member.
2. If, after the Matthew 18 process, the erring member should choose to continue in his/her unrepentance, the erring member shall be removed from the membership. Removal shall be accomplished upon recommendation from the Governance Board and shall be communicated in a timely fashion to the Congregation.
3. A member who has been removed from membership under this Section and desires re-admittance, may be restored to membership by giving satisfactory evidence to the Governance Board of repentance and reformation. The Governance Board may, at its sole discretion, determine whether to submit the person for membership. The applicant shall then follow the regular procedure for membership.

### E. TERMINATION

1. The Governance Board approves all membership terminations.
2. A member who has not had contact with the church for one (1) year may be removed from the membership. The Governance Board will attempt to communicate with the member before the member is removed.
3. A member shall be removed from membership upon written request to the Governance Board.
4. When it has been established that a member has united with another church without notifying this church, the member will be removed from the membership.
5. Any member who is no longer willing to abide by the church's Statement of Faith and Bylaws has a duty to withdraw from membership.
6. Any person removed from membership, for a reason other than death, shall be notified by the Governance Board.
7. All membership terminations shall be reported at the Annual Business Meeting by the Governance Board.

# **ARTICLE V**

## **GOVERNANCE**

### **A. CONGREGATIONAL GOVERNMENT**

The First Baptist Church of Marshalltown, Iowa is a local, independent, self-governing body, responsible alone to Christ who is its Head, Savior and Lord. First Baptist Church shall maintain its fraternal and financial cooperation with American Baptist Churches USA. The government of this church shall be congregational, and as such, the primary authority resides in its membership. The membership shall delegate its authority to the Governance Board in all matters, except those matters listed below, which must be brought before the membership for approval at a Business Meeting:

1. Hiring the Senior Pastor.
2. Approving the Annual General Budget.
3. Building new structures, remodeling existing structures, or buying or selling real estate that exceeds 10% of the General Budget.
4. Incurring debt or signing a lease that exceeds 10% of the General Budget.
5. Changing the Articles of Incorporation and/or Bylaws.
6. Electing candidates to positions on the Governance Board.

### **B. BUSINESS MEETINGS**

#### **1. THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

The Annual Business Meeting of the membership shall be held within sixty (60) days prior to the end of the calendar year. If the Annual Business Meeting cannot, in the opinion of the Governance Board, be held as scheduled, then it shall be held at a time and place designated by the Governance Board. Notice of the meeting shall be provided to the membership at least two (2) Sundays prior to the date of the meeting. The purpose of the Annual Business Meeting shall be to elect candidates to positions, approve the Annual General Budget, and transact other business. Distribution of annual reports shall occur within sixty (60) days of the end of the calendar year.

#### **2. SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS**

Special Business Meetings may be called by the Senior Pastor, the Chairman of the Governance Board, or by a request signed by a quorum of members. Notice of a Special Business Meeting shall be provided to the membership by announcement at the regular services of the Church at least two (2) Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

## ARTICLE V – GOVERNANCE (continued)

### 3. INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

The church may hold Informational meetings which members may attend to discuss issues of concern to the church, but no member voting shall be conducted. Informational Meetings shall not be subject to the notice requirements of Annual or Special Business Meetings contained in these Bylaws.

### 4. QUORUM

Ten percent of active members shall constitute a quorum.

### 5. VOTING

All members of legal age (18 years or older) in attendance at a meeting have the right to vote in all motions coming before the Business Meetings. All motions shall be determined by simple majority vote of the members attending the meeting, except when otherwise specified by these Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, or as required by law.

### 6. AGENDA

The agenda for Business Meetings shall be determined by the Chairman of the Governance Board and the Senior Pastor. The agenda shall be published at least two (2) Sundays prior to the date of the meeting. Members may add an item to the Business Meeting agenda using the following process:

Step 1 – Create an agenda item proposal.

Step 2 – Gather at least ten (10) signatures from members to sign a petition supporting the agenda item proposal.

Step 3 – Submit the agenda item proposal and the signed petition to the Governance Board no later than four (4) days after the first meeting announcement.

Step 4 – Upon receiving the petition, the Chairman shall amend the agenda and present it, along with notice of the change by the Sunday prior to the meeting.

### 7. PROXIES/ABSENTEE BALLOTS

No proxies or absentee ballots allowed.

### 8. WRITTEN BALLOT

All elected positions (Governance Board and At-Large Nominating Committee members) shall be elected by a written ballot.

## ARTICLE V – GOVERNANCE (continued)

### 9. ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER

Robert’s Rules of Order, to the extent approved by the Governance Board, shall be the parliamentary guide to be used in all matters of business unless otherwise specified in the current Bylaws.

### 10. ELECTIONS

#### In uncontested elections:

- a. A majority vote of the eligible members present and voting at the Annual Business Meeting shall be required for all elected positions.

#### In contested elections:

- b. The candidate receiving a majority vote of the eligible members present and voting will be elected.
- c. If there are more than two (2) candidates:
  - i. Each voting member may cast votes for up to the number of open positions.
  - ii. The candidate(s) receiving the most votes will be elected if they receive the majority vote of the members present and voting.
  - iii. If necessary, a runoff vote between the top remaining candidates (one (1) more than the number of open positions) will be taken immediately. Each voting member may cast votes for up to the number of open positions. The candidate(s) receiving the most votes will be elected if they receive the majority vote of the members present and voting.
  - iv. Positions not filled after the second ballot will be treated as vacant.

The holder of an office may be re-elected, except as otherwise prescribed in these Bylaws.

# ARTICLE VI

## LEADERSHIP

### A. GOVERNANCE BOARD OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

#### 1. PURPOSE

The general role of the church Governance Board is to oversee the spiritual health and direction of the church, and provide policy guidance. As required by law, the Governance Board serves as the Board of Directors of the corporation.

#### 2. BOARD STRUCTURE

- a. The Governance Board will consist of the Senior Pastor and no more than nine (9) church members. The Board shall also consist of a majority of men.
- b. The Governance Board shall be members of the church who display spiritual maturity and recognize the calling of the Holy Spirit to serve the church. They shall also be members of the church who have demonstrated leadership qualities similar to those listed in 1 Timothy 3.
- c. Neither Board members nor their immediate household shall be full-time employees of the church. Spouses may not serve on the board at the same time.
- d. The Church membership elects the Governance Board at the Annual Business Meeting. Board members will be elected by a majority vote of the church members who are present and voting.
- e. The term of a Governance Board member will be three (3) years. Each term will commence at the beginning of the calendar year, with individual terms staggered so approximately one-third (1/3) of the Governance Board is elected each year.
- f. Board members may be elected to serve a second term. Governance Board members shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms. A former Governance Board member may again be presented as a candidate after not serving for one (1) year.
- g. Board members serve on the Governance Board without compensation, other than normal and reasonable reimbursement for approved expenses they incur as a member.
- h. Divorce and remarriage: The Congregation believes the passages that speak of “husband of one wife” (1 Timothy 3:2 and Titus 1:6) mean a person is committed to one spouse. If divorce and remarriage are part of a Governance Board candidate’s past, the candidate’s attitude concerning these areas will be carefully explored by the Senior Pastor and the chair of the Governance Board. Divorce and remarriage do not automatically disqualify a person from serving on the Governance Board.
- i. Board members may also serve on a Ministry Team should they desire to do so.

## ARTICLE VI – LEADERSHIP (continued)

### 3. RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the Governance Board shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Maintain theological purity in accordance with the Bible first, and then with the First Baptist Church Statement of Faith.
- b. Oversee the spiritual health of the church.
- c. Pray for the Congregation, the Staff, and each other.
- d. Regularly assess the effectiveness of the Governance Board's spiritual leadership and governance in the church.
- e. Provide supervision, accountability, and protection for the Senior Pastor.
- f. Produce and maintain the governing policies of the church.
- g. Oversee the church membership.
- h. Provide church discipline and participate in conflict resolution.
- i. Present the Annual General Budget to the membership for approval.
- j. Ensure a financial review or audit is conducted and reported to the membership annually.
- k. Provide a written report to the membership annually.
- l. Have the authority to spend an amount above the General Budget without membership notification and approval when they discern an emergency situation so merits.
- m. Interpret the church By-Laws as the need arises.
- n. Fill unexpired terms of the Governance Board.
- o. Approve the plans which the pastoral staff shall regularly submit to the board.
- p. Initiate and dissolve Ministry Teams and committees as needed.
- q. Approve Ministry Team leaders from submitted names.

### 4. MEETINGS

- a. The Governance Board shall meet monthly (unless otherwise agreed upon by the Governance Board).
- b. Regular meetings shall be held on the church property.
- c. No official business shall be conducted unless there is a quorum of two-thirds (2/3) of the Governance Board present.
- d. The Governance Board is not required to make public the agenda prior to the meetings unless required by law or these Bylaws.
- e. Any action that can be taken at a regular meeting may be taken by an alternative means of communication when approved by the Governance Board. The motion is effective when approved by a majority vote of the Governance Board members unless a different effective time is provided and recorded in the meeting minutes.

## ARTICLE VI – LEADERSHIP (continued)

- f. Special Meetings:
  - i. Special Meetings by the Governance Board shall be given at least five (5) days' notice prior to the meeting date. All Governance Board members shall be notified of the meeting by direct personal conversation in person, by phone, or by written notice delivered personally, sent by mail to each Governance Board member at his or her address as shown by the records of the church, or by electronic communication when directed to a telephone number at which the Governance Board member has consented to receive notice, or by electronic mail when directed to an electronic mail address at which the Governance Board member has consented to receive notice.
  - ii. Whenever any notice of a Special Meeting is required to be given under the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws of this church, the time frame of prior notice may be waived by the Governance Board in writing, orally, or by authenticated electronic communication.

### 5. SELECTION

The selection of Governance Board candidates shall be a process of seeking God's direction and provision to meet the needs of His Church.

- a. The Nominating Committee, with the advice of the Governance Board, shall be responsible for identifying candidates.
- b. Candidates shall complete an application process.
- c. Candidates shall introduce themselves and provide their personal testimony to the church.
- d. Candidates must have been a member of the church for at least two (2) years.
- e. Specific selection process is addressed under Article V, Section B, #10.

### 6. TERMINATION

A member of the Governance Board may be removed from the Board by any one of the following:

- a. His or her own decision
- b. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the other members of the Governance Board
- c. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present and voting at a Business Meeting

## **ARTICLE VI – LEADERSHIP (continued)**

### **B. OFFICERS**

The officers of the church shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. The officers shall have such powers to perform such duties as specified in resolutions or other directives from the Governance Board. In the absence of such directives, each officer shall have the power and authority and shall perform and fulfill the duties of the offices of the same title serving in nonprofit corporations having the same or similar general purposes and objectives as in the church. An officer may resign his or her office at any time if no longer able to fulfill the duties of the office. Any two or more offices may be held by the same person, except that one person may not hold the office of Chairman and Vice Chairman at the same time. All officers shall be members of the church, eighteen (18) years of age or older, and meet all other legal requirements for the positions.

The Governance Board shall determine which officer(s) shall sign and deliver, in the name of the corporation, deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, or other instruments pertaining to the business of the corporation. No Governance Board or officer of the Governance Board shall have authority to act on his or her own in church matters apart from the delegated authority.

#### **1. CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

The Governance Board shall annually appoint from within its membership, a Chairman and a Vice Chairman who shall also serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the church. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman shall assume all duties of the Chairman of the Governance Board. The Chairman shall preside at all Business Meetings of the church. In cases where he or she may be absent, the Vice Chairman shall preside.

#### **2. TREASURER**

The Governance Board shall appoint a Treasurer, who may be a member of the Governance Board. The Treasurer shall have the authority and perform the duties prescribed by the Governance Board. The Treasurer shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the church for legal purposes.

#### **3. SECRETARY**

The Governance Board shall appoint a Secretary from within its membership who shall record the minutes of the meetings of the Governance Board and Business Meetings and keep them on file in the church.

## ARTICLE VI – LEADERSHIP (continued)

### 4. TERMINATION

Any officer elected or appointed by the Governance Board may be removed by the Governance Board whenever, in its judgment, the best interests of the church would be served thereby. An elected officer may be removed from office by any one of the following:

- a. His or her own decision
- b. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the other members of the Governance Board
- c. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present and voting at a Business Meeting

### C. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee shall prepare a proposed slate of candidates for all elected positions identified in these Bylaws. The Nominating Committee will operate under policies and procedures approved by the Governance Board including, but not limited to, the following:

#### 1. SIZE AND TERMS

- a. The committee shall consist of the following: Two (2) Governance Board members as selected by the Governance Board, with one of the Governance Board members serving as the Chairman; the Senior Pastor; and three (3) at-large members (excluding Pastoral and Administrative staff).
- b. At-Large members are nominated by the current nominating committee, and elected by a majority vote of the members present and voting at the Business Meeting.
- c. Members elected at the Annual Business Meeting shall assume their duties at the beginning of the new calendar year.
- d. Members shall serve no more than three (3) consecutive one (1) year terms.
- e. After completing three (3) consecutive terms, a member may again be nominated provided he or she has been separated from the Nominating Committee for a minimum of one (1) year.

#### 2. NOMINATING PROCESS

- a. The Governance Board shall notify the Nominating Committee at least two (2) months prior to the Annual Business meeting all positions that need to be filled.
- b. The Nominating Committee shall contact the church members to provide suggestions of individuals who meet the qualifications of the open positions. Members are encouraged to provide recommendations to the Nominating Committee. Recommendations shall be submitted in writing at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual Business Meeting.

## ARTICLE VI – LEADERSHIP (continued)

- c. The Nominating Committee shall prayerfully screen and evaluate all candidates. Recommendations will be made based on position requirements.
- d. The Nominating Committee will provide the slate of recommended candidates to the Governance Board for final approval and presentation to the membership at least three (3) Sundays prior to the Annual Business Meeting.

### **D. ADOPTION OF COMMITTEES/MINISTRY TEAMS**

The Governance Board may designate one or more standing committees, special committees, and ministry teams which shall have and exercise the authority designated based on the job descriptions approved by the Senior Pastor and Governance Board. These committees/ministry teams shall submit an annual written report of the work done during the year which shall be distributed at the Annual Business Meeting.

### **E. ELECTED POSITION VACANCIES**

If any elected position becomes vacant, the Governance Board may appoint an interim replacement until the next Annual Business Meeting. All interim replacements shall meet the qualifications of the position as outlined in Article IV for the Governance Board or the Nominating Committee. An election (see Article III, Section B., Number 10) to fill the remainder of the term shall be held at the next Annual Business Meeting. If the remainder of the term is less than one half (1/2) of the total term, the time served shall not count as one (1) of the consecutive terms available to the person elected for the remaining term.

### **F. CHURCH STAFF**

#### **1. SENIOR PASTOR**

The Senior Pastor shall be defined as the man called by the membership to fulfill the responsibilities outlined in his job description as determined by the Governance Board including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. He shall serve in a full-time capacity.
- b. Immediate family of the Senior Pastor shall not be employed by the church.

## ARTICLE VI – LEADERSHIP (continued)

- c. The Senior Pastor shall be chosen by a vote of at least three-quarters (3/4) of eligible members present and voting at the Business Meeting. The vote to call a Senior Pastor shall include acceptance into church membership for him and, if he is married, his wife.
- d. This man shall be called for an indefinite period of time.
- e. He shall be of irreproachable Christian character, having a “good report.” (1 Timothy 3:1-13)
- f. The Senior Pastor shall preach and teach the Word of God in complete agreement with our Statement of Faith, provide spiritual leadership for the congregation, watch over the spiritual welfare of the congregation, administer the ordinances and instruct the congregation in true and authentic Christian living.
- g. The authority of the Senior Pastor rests in the office, i.e., steward of the Word of God. Hence, pastoral authority is not that of a person, but the teaching authority of the Scripture. (2 Timothy 4:1-2)
- h. The Senior Pastor is accountable to the membership through the Governance Board for the performance of his duties.
- i. He shall report to the Governance Board at its meetings and present a written report at the Annual Business Meeting.
- j. Accusations against the Senior Pastor shall be considered by the Governance Board only when supported by the testimony of two (2) or more witnesses and in the manner indicated in the Word of God. (Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1) Should he unfortunately be found to err in doctrine or conduct, the Governance Board shall, in humility, truth and love, admonish him. If necessary, the Governance Board may temporarily remove the Senior Pastor from his duties, with pay. If the accusations remain unresolved, the matter shall be referred to the membership for a vote. A vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the eligible members present and voting in disapproval of the Senior Pastor shall constitute dismissal from his position of office.

### 2. ASSOCIATE MINISTRY STAFF

The Senior Pastor, with input from the Governance Board, shall hire and/or terminate Associate Ministry Staff according to the needs of the church and within the limits of the approved budget.

- a. Associate Ministry Staff shall oversee a ministry area, as determined by the Senior Pastor, shall be in complete agreement with the FBC Statement of Faith, and shall provide spiritual leadership to his or her ministry area.
- b. Associate Ministry Staff shall meet the scriptural requirements for service and shall display evidence of irreproachable Christian character. (1 Timothy 3:1-7)
- c. Associate Ministry Staff must fulfill the requirements of church membership as outlined in Article IV.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE**

Marriage is instituted by God. This church defines marriage as the exclusive covenantal union of one man and one woman in which such union is a lifetime commitment. A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by the church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of marriage found in this Article.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **DEFINITION OF LEGITIMATE SEXUAL RELATIONS**

Legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, sexual activities outside of marriage (referred to in the New Testament as "porneia" – πορνεία) including, but not limited to, adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality and pedophilia, are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the church. Further, lascivious conduct, transgender behavior and the creation, distribution, or viewing of pornography are incompatible with the Biblical witness.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to these Bylaws must be submitted to the members in writing and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of eligible members present and voting at a Business Meeting.

These Amended and Restated Bylaws are hereby adopted as the Bylaws of The First Baptist Church of Marshalltown, Iowa.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **DISSOLUTION**

Upon the dissolution of this corporation, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, education and/or religious purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3).

The selection of the recipient nonprofit organization shall be determined by a majority vote of the Governance Board. Preference should be given to like-minded churches or Christ-centered organizations such that the property may continue its use in furthering the Gospel.