

**JERSEY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**2008 Proposed Constitution and By-Laws**  
**Summary**

**I**     **NAME**

The incorporated name of our church is Jersey Baptist Church. The state of Ohio required “Board of Directors” is the newly established “Church Council”.

**II**    **PURPOSE**

Jersey Baptist Church remains a member of the Southern Baptist Convention seeking to be obedient to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). Our faith is anchored in Jesus Christ and our understanding of God is derived from the Bible with our doctrinal beliefs clarified in the current Baptist Faith & Message adopted June 2000.

**III**   **MEMBERSHIP**

There are two (2) categories of members (General Member and Church Council Members). There are three (3) qualifications for membership including:

1.       Genuine experience of regeneration through faith in Jesus Christ.
2.       Post-conversion baptism by immersion as a testimony of salvation.
3.       Completion of the established new member process. (for new members only)

Under the direction of the Senior Pastor, the Ministry Staff reviews status of individual members to ensure that all General Members remain active and in good standing.

Members may be removed from Jersey Baptist Church based upon any of the following:

1.       Biblical church Discipline (Matthew 18:15-16) in cases where the Senior Pastor, the Ministry Staff and the Deacons deem lesser forms of biblical discipline unsuccessful.
2.       Habitually failing to meet the agreed upon Statement of Commitment
3.       Resignation by providing notice to the Secretary of the Church.
4.       At death a person shall be removed from membership.

**Rights/ Privileges of General Members**

General Members at least eighteen (18) years of age and of a sound mind shall be voting members of the Church. General Members shall vote on: (i) election of members to the Church Council, (ii) calling of a new Senior Pastor; (iii) removal of the Senior Pastor; (iv) approval of the annual operating budget of the Church; (v) authorizing the incurrence of debt beyond 1/12 of the Church’s most recent annual operating budget; during any fiscal year (vi) purchase of land/ buildings; (vii) amendment of the Articles of Incorporation and/or the Constitution; and, (viii) change in our Affiliations. All other Church operational matters will be decided by vote of the Church Council and/or decision of the Ministry Staff. General Members will have Annual Meetings as well as Special Meetings called by the Senior Pastor or Church Council as needed. All claims, disputes and controversies shall be settled solely by biblically-based mediation implementing the provisions of I Corinthians 6 and, if necessary, by legally binding arbitration.

**IV**    **GOVERNMENT**

The government of the Church shall be focused on seeking and maintaining the Lordship and direction of Jesus Christ over His Body. All those in authority shall continually seek His mind and will, through His Spirit and the Word of God in all actions and decisions.

In order to facilitate the effective operation of church business and ministry, the majority of day-to-day activities are delegated by the Church to the Senior Pastor and his Staff and/or to the Church Council, who serve the Church as a whole. Major decisions require approval by vote of the General members of the Church (as listed in Section III above).

**V**     **OFFICERS**

The officers of the church shall consist of the following – each of whom must be a council member: Chair of the Church Council, President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

**VI SENIOR PASTOR**

The Senior Pastor shall exhibit the qualities found in I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Peter 5:1-3. The Senior Pastor is to spend time with God through prayer, receiving God's Vision for the Church, have the spiritual authority to oversee and direct spiritual growth. The Senior Pastor shall be the President of the Corporation, its chief executive officer, and a member of the Church Council. Senior Pastor candidates will be nominated by the Church Council and confirmed by the vote of the General Members.

**VII CHURCH COUNCIL**

The Church Council serves as the board of directors of the Church for purposes of Ohio Law. The Church Council shall conduct, manage, oversee and control the business affairs of the Church; adopt and amend the Policies; recommend Amendments to the Articles in this Constitution; and borrow money, incur indebtedness for the purpose of the Church. The members of the Church Council will be members in good standing, recommended by the Senior Pastor, and elected by the affirmative vote of the General Members.

**VIII DEACONS**

The Senior Pastor shall nominate and the Church Council shall appoint Deacons to assist the Senior Pastor and the Ministry Staff in providing pastoral care and spiritual oversight for the members.

**IX PROPERTY**

The Church Council, subject to the approval of the General Members, will have the authority to acquire, hold, sell, assign, transfer, mortgage, pledge or otherwise dispose of property acquired by Jersey Baptist Church.

**X FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year for JBC shall begin on the first day of September and end on the last day of August.

**XI INDEMNIFICATION**

**(Definition: an agreement to compensate another for loss or to protect him/her against liability.)**

To the extent not prohibited by applicable law, the church shall indemnify various members of the church and others as is deemed appropriate. The church may purchase insurance on behalf of these persons against any liability asserted against and incurred by such person. All expenses incurred by a person defending any threatened or pending action may be paid by the church. Repayment to the church would be required by the person if it is proved by clear and convincing evidence in a court, of intent to cause injury to the church, or reckless disregard for the best interests of the church.

**XII DISSOLUTION**

Dissolution of Jersey Baptist Church shall require the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the General Members after a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Church Council. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Church Council shall be required to authorize the distribution of assets to a non-profit entity with compatible purposes.

**XIII AMENDMENTS**

The General Members shall have the exclusive power to amend this Constitution and to adopt a new Constitution by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those General Members.

-- In the event that there is a discrepancy between this document and the Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail.