

**CONSTITUTION
AND
BYLAWS
OF THE
HILLTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH
March 26, 2000**

**HILLTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH
26 UPPER CHURCH ROAD
HILLTOWN, PA 18927**

The following is a list of men who have served as shepherds of the flock in Hilltown Baptist Church:

Rev. William Thomas	1737-1757
Rev. John Thomas and others	1757-1781
Rev. John Thomas	1781-1789
Rev. James McLaughlin	1789-1804
Rev. Joseph Matthias	1804-1850
Rev. Charles Cox	1852-1856
Rev. John S. Christine	1857-1859 (1 st Pastorate)
Rev. Charles Pavey	1860-1871
Rev. John S. Christine	1871-1875 (2 nd Pastorate)
Rev. Lemuel T. Jones	1875-1878
Rev. C. T. Frame	1882-1889
Rev. N.B. Baldwin	1889-1894
Rev. A.F. Greenigz	1895-1896
Rev. Claude G. Langford	1896
Rev. Eugene B. Hughes	1896-1900
Rev. William H. VanToor	1900-1905
Rev. Jacob Rosenberger	1906-1908
Rev. Frederick Kern	1910-1914
Rev. John Russell	1914-1917
Rev. Charles Teasdale	1918-1919
Rev. William Owen	1919
Rev. E. Parke Brown	1921-1924
Rev. William Francis	1924-1928
Rev. Theodore Taylor	1929-1933
Rev. Iredell Clark	1934-1940
Rev. Wayne Soliday	1940-1943
Rev. George Rhoad, Jr.	1943-1946 (Interim)
Rev. Wayne Soliday	1946-1951
Rev. Raymond Brannen	1951-1953
Rev. Olan Hendrix	1953-1959
Rev. Norman Sweeting	1960-1966
Rev. George W. Lynch	1967-1979
Rev. George W. Hampshire	1980-1993
Rev. Peter Hook	1993-1994 (Interim)
Rev. Mark J. Crocco	1994-1998
Rev. Jay C. Burgman	1998-1999 (Interim)
Rev. Jay C. Burgman	1999- 2010
Rev. Timothy Buczek	2012-present

It has been the privilege of the members of Hilltown Baptist Church to serve the Lord in this community for more than two and one-half centuries. We have been a Christ-centered, country church with a ministry here in Hilltown and an outreach across the world, which God has blessed in a tremendous way. We are grateful for His good hand upon us, and we look forward to the future, as the Lord tarries, with great anticipation and faith.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF THE
HILLTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH
HILLTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

March 26, 2000

PREAMBLE

Having acknowledged our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, and having a desire to obey the Great Commission as found in Matthew 28:18-20, we, the members of this Church, do voluntarily agree to abide by the following CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS for the honor and glory of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE I - NAME

This Church shall be known as the HILLTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH of Hilltown, Pennsylvania. The Church was founded in 1737. It was most recently incorporated as a non-profit corporation by Decree of the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas, dated December 21, 1959. The Articles of Incorporation are recorded in Deed Book 1523, page 475. The Articles of Incorporation were revised by Decree of aforementioned court, dated April 9, 1963. The purpose of this revision was to conform to the regulations of the Internal Revenue Service relative to churches and non-profit corporations. Said revision is recorded in Deed Book 1705, page 478.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this Church shall be the preaching and teaching of the Word of God; the administration of the New Testament ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper; the spiritual growth and maturity of its members; the fostering and encouragement of Christian fellowship and service; the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our own community; and the support of a vital program of missions at home and abroad.

ARTICLE III - DOCTRINE

- SECTION 1. Confession of Faith
- SECTION 2. Church Covenant

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Reception of Members

- A. Any person who has professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, who has been baptized by immersion upon the confession of his/her faith, and who substantially adopts the views of faith and practice of this Church (as set forth in its Covenant and Confession of Faith) may be received into its membership. If a prospective member is not in complete and full agreement with the views expressed in the Confession of Faith or Covenant, then he/she shall so inform the Elders prior to their admission and shall, thereafter, meet with the Elders regarding any area(s) of disagreement. The Elders shall decide if the individual substantially adopts the views of the Church.
- B. Excluded members may be restored to membership upon the recommendation of the Board of Elders to the Church, after such members have confessed their errors and given satisfactory evidence of repentance.
- C. Applicants for membership shall fill in the Membership Application form and meet with the Pastor or an Assistant Pastor; shall give their testimony and be interviewed, and upon recommendation by the Board of Elders, shall be received by vote of the Church.
- D. Former members, who were in good standing when they left and whose membership had been moved elsewhere, may be reinstated by vote of the Board of Elders.

SECTION 2. Duty of Members

- A. It shall be the duty of members to abide by the Church Constitution and Bylaws, to respect and esteem their Pastors and other church leaders - praying for them regularly - to endeavor to preserve the unity of the Church, and to contribute to its support by regular attendance and tithes and offerings.
- B. If any member evidences a lack of interest in the life and ministry of the Church by not attending or by lack of support, he shall be contacted by one of the Pastors and/or the Elders concerning his inactivity. If the inactivity persists, the Elders may recommend to the Combined Board that he be excluded from membership after which the Combined Board may exclude him from membership.

SECTION 3. Discipline of Members

- A. The Board of Elders, with the Pastor, shall be responsible for Church discipline.
- B. In the case of personal differences between members of the Church, the Board of Elders shall recommend that the involved parties endeavor to settle their differences in the manner set forth by our Savior in Matthew 18:15-17.
- C. In cases of gross misconduct which adversely affect the testimony of the Church, the Pastor and Elders shall counsel with the member(s) concerned in order to help them to repentance and restoration. If the offender refuses to rectify the offense, the Elders may recommend to the Combined Board that the offender be excluded after which the Combined Board should have the power and the obligation to exclude the offender from the membership of the Church. The offender has the right to appeal the exclusion to the congregation of the Church. If an appeal is made, a congregational meeting will be called within 30 days. This meeting will be a closed meeting for all members of the Church who are 18 years of age or older. It shall take a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting to override the decision of the Combined Board.

ARTICLE V - GOVERNMENT

The government of this Church, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, is vested in the body of believers who compose it, whose majority vote, unless otherwise specified, shall be final. In all matters relating to policy, the Pastor, Board of Elders, Board of Deacons, Combined Board, and all the organizations of this Church, shall endeavor to conform their decisions, to the best of their understanding and knowledge, to Scriptural teachings and to the Constitution and Bylaws. If a question of interpretation of the Scriptures or Constitution and Bylaws arises, then the Combined Board shall render a decision on the issue at hand. A decision of the Combined Board shall only be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the congregation at a regularly or specially scheduled business meeting.

ARTICLE VI - PASTOR AND PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

SECTION 1. Senior Pastor

- A. The Senior Pastor shall meet the standards of the pastoral office commanded by the Scripture in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. He shall be the overseeing Elder and coordinator of all spiritual activities of the Church. It shall be his duty to preach and teach the Word of God, to administer the ordinances, to be faithful in pastoral visitation, and to perform all other duties incumbent upon his office.
- B. He will serve as a member ex-officio of all Boards and all committees.
- C. He shall be called for an indefinite period by the Church members upon the recommendation of the Pulpit Committee. His election shall be by secret ballot

at a congregational meeting properly called for the purpose. An 85% vote of all members present and voting shall be necessary for election.

- D. The termination of his service may be effected at any time by his resignation or by three-fourths vote of the membership present and voting at a special meeting of the Church.

SECTION 2. Pastoral Assistants

- A. Pastoral Assistants may be called to assist the Senior Pastor as overseeing Elders in such duties as he and/or the Combined Board shall assign. Titles, qualifications and duties of pastoral assistants shall be determined as the need arises by the Pastor and the Combined Board.
- B. Their election shall be by a secret ballot at a congregational meeting properly called for the purpose. A three-fourths vote of all members present and voting shall be necessary for election. The termination of an assistant's service may be effected at any time by his resignation, or by a majority vote of the members present and voting at a special meeting of the Church.

ARTICLE VII - CHURCH LEADERSHIP

SECTION 1. Leaders Named

The leaders of this Church in addition to the Pastors shall consist of six or more Elders, six or more Deacons and a Church Treasurer. All leaders shall be male members of the Church at least 25 years of age when elected.

SECTION 2. Obligations

- A. Elders and Deacons are clearly described in the New Testament as the two primary offices of Church leadership. The spiritual qualifications to serve either of these positions are extremely high: above reproach, husband of one wife, temperate, respectable, not given to drunkenness, manage his family well, see that his children obey him, does not pursue dishonest gain. (1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9)

- B. The primary differences between the offices of Elders and Deacons is one of function, not character or godliness. The principal New Testament role of an Elder is to provide spiritual guidance and support to the ministries of the Church. The principal New Testament role of a Deacon is one of practical service.
- C. All Leaders of this Church shall be especially faithful in attendance at the stated meetings of the Church. This is to be an example and encouragement to the members of the Church. Their attendance will also facilitate all being informed of the state of the Church.
- D. All Leaders of the Church shall faithfully submit themselves to the Scriptures and shall uphold the Constitution and Bylaws of this Church.

SECTION 3. Corporate Board Officers

The combined Elder and Deacon Boards shall constitute the Board of Directors for corporate purposes, hereafter referred to as the “Combined Board”. They shall have charge and oversight of all the property of the corporation subject to the direction of the Church. They shall not purchase, sell, mortgage, or encumber any real estate belonging to the Church, or use in any way any money, real estate, or gift of any kind bequeathed or devised to the Church without authority in writing given by the Church at a regular or special meeting.

The number of Combined Board members required to constitute a quorum in order to conduct business at any business meeting shall be one-half plus one of the number of members of the Combined Board.

Corporate Church Officers are President, Vice President, Secretary and Church Treasurer. President, Vice President and Secretary will be elected at a joint meeting of the Combined Board. Church Treasurer will be elected by the Church.

SECTION 4. Term of Office

All Leaders, except the Pastors, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Church to hold office for a term of three years. No Leader shall serve more than two [2] consecutive terms. A minimum of two Elders and two Deacons shall be elected each year. In the case of vacancy occurring during the year due to death, resignation or dismissal, the office will be filled according to the provision in Article IX Section 2D.

SECTION 5. Dismissal of Leadership

In case the services of any elected leader shall prove to be unsatisfactory, or he should be found guilty of conduct unbecoming his office, he may, after charges are made in writing by five members of the Church, which then are found to be true upon investigation by the Pastor, Elders and Deacons, be removed at any business meeting of the Church by two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided two weeks notice of this meeting has been given from the pulpit.

ARTICLE VIII - FUNCTION OF LEADERS AND OFFICERS

SECTION 1. Board of Elders

- A. The Elders shall be men dedicated to the cause of Christ who have demonstrated spiritual insight and leadership and shall be selected as described in Acts 6:4, I Timothy 3: 1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.
- B. The Elders shall advise and aid the Pastor(s) in all matters relating to the spiritual welfare of the Church. They shall assure that sound Biblical doctrine is promulgated and defended properly, refuting others that either oppose it or believe in heresy.
- C. They shall provide biblical vision, direction, oversight and management to the ministry of the Church. They shall also seek to encourage the Church body unto good works, challenging and helping them to first discover and then serve the body with their spiritual gifts.
- D. The Elders and the Pastor(s) shall conduct the training of men and women in preparation for leadership positions in the Church.
- E. The Elders shall assure that the pulpit is supplied in the event that the Pastor is not able to be in attendance at the regular meetings.
- F. The Elders shall elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary every year.
 - 1. The Chairman shall serve as the Moderator of all Elder Board meetings.
 - 2. The Vice Chairman shall assist the chairman and act for the Chairman in his absence or incapacity.

3. The Secretary shall keep accurate records of all meetings of the Elders. He will act as corresponding Secretary for the Board of Elders. In the event of his absence, the Chairman shall appoint a fellow Elder to fill his responsibilities.
- G. The Board of Elders will meet monthly unless otherwise notified. The Pastor, the Board of Elders, or the Board of Deacons may call special meetings of the Combined Board when necessary. The number of Elders necessary to constitute a quorum in order to conduct business at any business meeting shall be one-half plus one the number of Elders holding office.

SECTION 2. Board of Deacons

- A. The Deacons shall be men dedicated to the cause of Christ. They shall be chosen from among men who have demonstrated spiritual insight and practical leadership and shall be elected to this office by Church members in light of Acts 6:3 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
- B. A Deacon's ministry is designed to assist the Elders, freeing them to function in their specified roles of ministry. An effective Board of Deacons is critical and indispensable to the Elders. This reality elevates the dignity and significance of both of these leaders and highlights the necessity of both Elders and Deacons functioning in their respective God-given roles.
- C. The Board of Deacons shall exercise practical concern over all members of the Church, relieving needs through appropriations from the Deacons' Fellowship Fund.
- D. The Board of Deacons shall assist the Pastor and Board of Elders in the administration of the ordinances, and in their efforts to evangelize and disciple members of the Church. They shall also seek to encourage the Church body unto good works, challenging and helping them to first discover and then serve the body with their spiritual gifts.
- E. The Board of Deacons shall keep the Church properties in good repair and adequately insured.
- F. It shall be the responsibility of the Deacons to care for all financial arrangements incidental to the hiring of salaried personnel, and to engage other persons and companies to do work, and to manage all other properties belonging to the Church.
- G. The Board of Deacons shall elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Fellowship Fund Treasurer annually.

1. The Chairman shall serve as the Moderator of all Deacon Board meetings.
2. The Vice Chairman shall assist the Chairman and act for the Chairman in his absence or incapacity.
3. The Secretary shall keep accurate records of all meetings of the Board of Deacons. He will act as Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Deacons. In the event of his absence, the Chairman shall appoint a fellow Deacon to fill his responsibilities.
4. The Fellowship Fund Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements. He shall report monthly to the Elders and Deacons. He shall annually report to the Church.

H. The Board of Deacons will meet monthly unless otherwise notified. The Pastor, the Board of Elders, or the Board of Deacons may call special meetings of the Combined Board when necessary. The number of Deacons necessary to constitute a quorum in order to conduct business at any business meeting shall be one-half plus one the number of Deacons holding office.

SECTION 3. Election of Corporate Officers

At the beginning of each new fiscal year, the Combined Board shall meet to elect the Corporate Officers (President, Vice President and Secretary) of the Church. These Officers shall be members of the Combined Board. These Officers shall serve for one year and they may be re-elected to serve consecutive terms. The Church shall elect the Church Treasurer. The Treasurer's term of office shall be three years and he may be re-elected to serve consecutive terms.

- A. **PRESIDENT:** He shall serve as the President of the Corporation and have the power to execute all instruments on behalf of the Church.
- B. **VICE PRESIDENT:** He shall assist the President and act for the President in his absence or incapacity.
- C. **SECRETARY:** He shall keep all records of the Church Business Meetings. He shall have custody of all insurance policies, deeds, lease agreements, and the corporate seal of the Church. In the event of his absence, the President shall appoint either Board's Secretary to fill his responsibilities.

D. TREASURER:

1. The Treasurer shall receive and take charge of all monies and disburse the same in accordance with orders of the Church and the Combined Board. He shall keep a full and faithful account of all monies received and expended, and he shall submit a monthly report to both Boards. He shall make a detailed report to the Church annually, or he may delegate this responsibility to the Chairman of the Finance Committee.
2. The Treasurer's books and accounts shall be reviewed annually and a report furnished to the Church at the annual meeting.
3. Every third year, the books and accounts shall be subject to a complete audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. An audit includes examining evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. This audit shall be conducted by a public accountant and a report shall be furnished to the Church at the annual meeting.
4. The Treasurer, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and/or the President of the Church shall be authorized to sign checks.

SECTION 4. Committees and Dual Board Activities

A. The following Committees, at least, shall be established to carry out these designated ministry responsibilities subject to the Board of Elders, Board of Deacons and the Combined Board:

1. **MEMBER AND FAMILY:**
This committee shall be responsible for encouraging new membership, interviewing candidates for membership, and seeking to maintain good relationships among present members.
2. **WORSHIP:**
This committee shall have the responsibility for the oversight of worship and music in the services of the Church. They shall also have responsibility for the preparation and conduct of the services of communion and baptism. They shall oversee all subcommittees involved with worship in the Church.

3. **MISSIONARY:**
This committee shall have the oversight of all missionary work in the Church, including scheduling speakers, planning conferences, and maintaining a keen missionary awareness in our congregation.
4. **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:**
This committee shall have the oversight of all the educational work of the Church, including Sunday School, all club programs, youth work, Children's Church work, fellowship groups, and the library and resource center.
5. **PHYSICAL PLANT:**
This committee shall have the oversight and maintenance of all Church facilities and vehicles, the insurance of these, the employment of custodial help, procurement of supplies, the proper use of all facilities, and the physical operation of both cemeteries.
6. **FINANCE:**
This committee shall have the oversight of all Church finances, salaries, and benefits. They shall be responsible for the proper counting, banking, and recording of all finances; the preparation of the annual budget; and shall give regular reports to each Board and the Church.
7. **EVANGELISM:**
This committee shall maintain and oversee a vital plan of outreach in our community.
8. **PUBLICITY:**
This committee shall have the oversight of all Church advertising and publicity, both internal and external.

- B. The nature of some Church committees and issues are such, that they may be best served by joint leadership by a member from both the Elder and Deacon Boards. Joint counsel of the Pastor and the Combined Board will reach such decisions. In this event the Deacon will assist the Elder in matters that relate to practical implementation of the Elder's shepherding roles of biblical vision, direction, and spiritual oversight pertaining to this Committee and its ministry work.
- C. These committees may be combined or other committees or subcommittees may be established by the Combined Board to better accomplish their assigned responsibilities and to make the committees more effective.
- D. Annually the Combined Board shall review the existing committees to determine their effectiveness and the fulfilling of their responsibilities. The Combined Board shall jointly determine which committees may have one or more representatives from the Elder Board and the Deacon Board to better carry out their designated assignments.

- E. The Elder and Deacon Boards shall have cross representation at their respective meetings to report on actions taken. Issues that span the common interests of the Elder and Deacon Boards shall be considered at meetings of the Combined Board. Combined Board meetings shall be held no less than quarterly.
- F. To safe guard the spiritual life of these men and the Church, the Combined Board shall meet at the Pastor's direction for the study of Scripture, prayer and exhortation. Four or more leaders may call for such a meeting for fasting and prayer for specific needs which may affect the welfare of the Church.
- G. Training of prospective Leaders shall be conducted. The Pastor(s) and members of the Elder Board shall organize a system to equip Leaders to participate after their election.

ARTICLE IX - CHURCH STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. Pulpit Committee

- A. When the Church is in need of a Pastor, a Pulpit Committee shall be elected by the Church for the purpose of searching out and recommending to the Church a desirable candidate for the Pulpit. The Committee, working in conjunction with the Combined Board, shall also keep the pulpit supplied in the interim period with men of good reputation and ability as ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. The Pulpit Committee shall consist of five (5) male and two (2) female adult members in good standing. Two (2) of the five males shall be one (1) Elder and one (1) Deacon.
- C. The Committee members shall be elected at a special meeting of the Church called for that purpose in accordance with Article X, Section 7. The Deacons shall present a slate of at least five (5) male names and at least two (2) female names. The slate shall be read and posted at least four (4) weeks before the meeting. Members may submit additional names for consideration by the Combined Board during the two (2) weeks following the posting. No nominations will be accepted at the meeting. The final slate of nominations will be posted by the Combined Board two (2) weeks before the meeting. All nominees shall be voted on by secret ballot. The Elder, Deacon, and the three (3) other male nominees with the highest number of votes shall be elected. The (2) female nominees with the highest votes shall be elected also.

SECTION 2. Nominating Committee

- A. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Pastor and six (6) Church members. This shall be one (1) member from the Board of Elders, one (1) member from the Board of Deacons and four (4) from the Church at large. The Combined Board will appoint this Committee.
- B. The term of office of this Committee shall be one year. If during the year any member cannot serve, the Combined Board shall make the replacement.
- C. The complete list of nominations, which, if possible, should include more than one for each office, shall be read and posted at least four (4) weeks before the annual meeting. Members may submit additional names for consideration by the Nominating Committee during the two (2) weeks following the posting. No nominations will be accepted at any election meeting. The final slate of nominations shall be posted by the Nominating Committee two weeks before the annual meeting.
- D. When vacancies occur in Church elective offices, the Nominating Committee shall act under the same procedures as for the annual meeting, with its recommendations being submitted to the Church membership at a constitutionally called special business meeting.

SECTION 3. Other Committees

Other Church Standing Committees may be appointed by the Combined Board and/or the Church as the need arises for these committees.

ARTICLE X - MEETINGS

SECTION 1. Except as otherwise determined by the Board of Elders, the Church shall meet every Lord's Day, morning and evening, for public worship; at least once a week for prayer and conference; and at other such times for religious purposes as the Elder Board shall recommend.

SECTION 2. The Ordinances of the Lord's Supper shall be observed by the Church upon the first Lord's Day of every month during the regular service, or as otherwise determined by the Board of Elders, at which time a collection for the Fellowship Fund of the Church shall be received.

SECTION 3. The Ordinances of Baptism shall be administered at such times as the Pastor and Elders shall suggest.

- SECTION 4. Except as otherwise determined by the Board of Elders, the Sunday School shall meet every Sunday for the study of the Bible.
- SECTION 5. The Annual Business Meeting of the Church shall be held on the third Wednesday evening in May. At that time the progress and work of the Church for the preceding year, in its departments, shall be presented; its financial condition and outlook shall be considered; and such officers as are elected annually shall be elected to serve for their specific term.
- SECTION 6. Special business meetings may be called by the Pastor or the Combined Board on the request of not less than seven (7) adult members, and the notice shall first be publicly given on the Lord's Day preceding. A quorum must be present for any special meeting.
- SECTION 7. In the event of a vacancy in the pulpit, the President of the Combined Board shall, without delay, call a special meeting of the congregation for the purpose of electing a Pulpit Committee. Four (4) weeks prior notice by posting and announcing from the pulpit shall be given such a meeting.
- SECTION 8. One-fifth of the voting membership of the Church shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business, except the calling of a Senior Pastor, when twice the ordinary number shall be necessary for a quorum.
- SECTION 9. Members under the age of eighteen (18) shall not be permitted to vote on legal or corporate matters. Members under the age of fourteen (14) shall not be permitted to vote on any question.
- SECTION 10. No person or group of persons may use the buildings of this Church or any part thereof unless permission is first obtained from the Combined Board for any meeting or gathering, except those pertaining to the Church or any of its organizations.

ARTICLE XI - FINANCE

SECTION 1. Collections

The income of this Church shall be comprised solely of freewill offerings and gifts from its members and friends. All special offerings must be approved by the Combined Board. No meetings, entertainments, or suppers, which charge admission for profit, shall be held in the buildings of this Church by any person or organizations.

SECTION 2. Accounting

The method of accounting and disbursing Church funds shall be the “unified budget” concept. All funds received shall be combined into a unified Church treasury which shall not be divided into various funds except as may be necessary for proper banking. The Church Treasurer shall disburse all funds according to the budget approved by the Church. The exceptions to this will be the Grace Fund, the Fellowship Fund, bequests from which the Church is benefiting and the Cemetery Fund.

SECTION 3. Budgets

All organizations and required committees of the Church shall submit a budget of anticipated expenses under their control to the Finance Committee by April 1 of the year preceding the year the budget will cover. The fiscal year of the Church shall extend from June 1 to May 31 of the following year.

ARTICLE XII - LICENSURE AND ORDINATION

SECTION 1. Licensure

Hilltown Baptist Church recognizes that all of its members are called to Christian witness. Gifted men may be set apart for recognition as Licensed Lay Ministers. Such individuals will make written application to the Board of Elders for examination. Upon examination, should the Elders feel convinced that the individual possesses suitable gifts, preparation and calling, such judgment being based in part upon at least one year’s satisfactory public ministry, a recommendation shall be made to the Church membership for recognition as Licensed Lay Minister.

SECTION 2. Ordination

A gifted and trained man desiring recognition as an Ordained Minister of the Gospel may request the Senior Pastor to present his letter of application to the Board of Elders. The Combined Board, if it so agrees, will convene an Ordination Council consisting of Elder and Deacon Board members, ordained ministers of the fellowship, and other such evangelical ministers and representatives as the Combined Board sees fit to invite. The candidate will present a written statement concerning the educational background and experience, his call to the Christian ministry, and his doctrinal position. He will be questioned orally in these areas. The Ordination Council, upon a three-fourths affirmative vote, shall recommend the granting of an Ordination Certificate. If the membership in a properly called congregational meeting grants this request, a suitable public ordination service shall be arranged by the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE XIII - PROCEDURE

In matters involving parliamentary procedure, Roberts Rules of Order shall serve as a guide, however, strict adherence to Roberts Rules is not required.

ARTICLE XIV - AMENDMENT

SECTION 1. This Constitution and Bylaws may be altered or amended at any regular or called meeting of the Church by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, providing the notice of such alteration or amendment is presented by the Church in written form at least one month before action is taken.

SECTION 2. The previous Constitution and Bylaws (May 15, 1991) with all amendments will become void upon the Church's acceptance of this new and revised Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE XV - LIMITED LIABILITY OF BOARD MEMBERS

An Elder or Deacon (Combined Board member) shall not be personally liable for monetary damages for any action taken, or any failure to take any action, unless said individual has breached or failed to perform the duties of his office under Section 5712 of the Non-Profit Corporation Act (relating to standard of care and justifiable reliance); and the breach or failure to perform constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct or recklessness. The provisions of this article shall not apply to the responsibility or liability of a Board member pursuant to any criminal statute; or the liability of a Board member for payment of taxes pursuant to Federal, State or local law.