

BYLAWS

Article 1 – Membership

1. Requirements for membership, discipline of members, and reasons for termination of membership are covered in detail in the Constitution.
2. In agreement with the Constitution and Statement of Faith, no member or members shall ever be allowed to serve a court injunction or any other legal paper against a member or members of Deaf Liberty Baptist Church when it is in relation to church business. Such action will automatically terminate without notice the membership of the person or persons instigating such action.
3. Any member placed on the inactive roll or under disciplinary action by the Pastor and Deacons is not “in good standing” with the church and cannot vote, take part in discussions during business meetings (unless specifically asked to do so by the Pastor) or hold an office in the Church until restored to an active and “in good standing” status.
4. Non-resident membership is limited to members formerly active but temporarily living elsewhere due to college, job transfer, military service, or extended illness away from home.

Article 2 – Meetings

1. Robert’s Rules of Order shall be the authorized procedure for all church business meetings in matters not covered by the constitution. In case of any conflict between said rules and the Bylaws of the church, the Bylaws shall govern.
2. A quorum for the transaction of church business shall be defined as the number of active, “in good standing” members present in any duly announced business meeting.

Article 3 – Officers

In keeping with Article 4, Section 3 of the Constitution, the legal positions of the church are the Pastor, the secretary, and the treasurer. In addition, there should also be a church clerk appointed.

The Pastor serves as the president of the corporation.

The Secretary serves as the secretary of the corporation.

The Treasurer serves as the head of the Finance committee.

The Church Clerk manages, tracks and records membership. Also, he will be responsible for the minutes to be taken at business meetings and include them in a complete file on record in the church office. The Church Clerk may be the head deacon.

The Treasurer must record all monies received from offerings, loans, grants, notes, wills annuities, etc., and is responsible to see that the financial records are set up to record

all monies of the church, received and disbursed. All offerings of cash, coin, or checks must be counted by two or more money-counters in the church building at a designated time. A report verifying incoming funds must be signed by those appointed money-counters. Additionally, he is responsible to keep records of these reports on file.

The treasurer must write all necessary checks for paying bills and making purchases, or instruct the Secretary to do so.

The Treasurer is to see that all bank accounts and financial records are balanced at all times and that regular reports are prepared, or instruct the secretary to do so. These reports are for his use in preparing for the Congregational Annual Business Meeting.

All officers shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith of this church; shall maintain loyalty to the church and pastor; and shall be exemplary in their lives, being free from all habits and indulgences which are unbecoming in conduct to an officer of this church. If at any time any of these matters shall be in question, the individual is expected to offer his or her resignation; otherwise the church will be compelled to replace said individual.

Article 4 – Finances

Our Lord specifies that we Christians are to give back to Him “as He has prospered” us. This denotes systematic giving of our money according to some standard or percentage basis rather than haphazard giving. The Old Testament minimum was a “tithe” or one tenth of one’s income whether money or value from material goods. Although the tithe might have been given as a duty or requirement of Old Testament law, the New Testament believers gave systematically too; however, the motive for giving was not out of a sense of duty and obedience to law but rather out of love and gratitude for the Lord’s grace and unspeakable gift to them. God loves a “cheerful giver.” In keeping with Scripture and the Statement of Faith, every member is expected to give regularly to the support of the church. All disbursements will be made as specified by an itemized budget, approved by church members. Any non-budgeted or over-budgeted expenditures up to \$200 should be taken to the Leadership Team for approval. Additionally, any expenditure in excess of \$1,000 should be taken to the congregation for approval. Designated gifts for specific use or causes must be in agreement with the purpose of the church or causes that the church would normally support.

All designated monies or gifts must be used for the purpose for which the donor specified unless the donor gives permission to do otherwise.

All records of giving will be kept in the church office to protect the privacy of individual donors, for security and to protect the integrity of all involved.

Article 5 – Missions

In accordance to the Statement of Faith, Deaf Liberty Baptist Church is to support the spread of the gospel in fields outside of the greater Kansas City area.

Missionaries shall be prayed for on a regular basis by the church, and their report letters will be brought to the attention of the congregation.

The church treasury will pay designated amounts monthly into mission ministries voted upon by the church.

When inviting a missionary to be in the services of the church, the church shall care for the housing while there, should pay the expenses of travel (only one way unless asked to make this trip specifically for this church) and give a love offering. Especially if this missionary is not supported by the church, we never want to put a financial burden on missionaries.

When this church decides to support a missionary financially, the church shall inform the missionary as to the amount and when the support will start and how long it will endure. God has always blessed churches being faithful to such commitments, especially when sacrificing.

The missionaries' responsibility:

1. Spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. Do the work which these documents prescribe.
3. Give an accounting of the work on a regular basis.
4. Report to the church when returning from the field.

Article 6 – Affiliation

Deaf Liberty Baptist Church was organized and shall remain an Independent Baptist Church. There is no church, institution, organization, or person which may supersede the Scripture in causing this church to relinquish her autonomous classification.

Should there ever be an attempt to change this church from its independence, a quorum of at least seven (7) members "in good and regular standing" would have the authority invested in them to prevent such action at any time.

Article 7 – Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended. Amendments to the Bylaws may be presented by the Pastor, the Deacons, or by any ten (10) active, in good standing members.

Amendments must be submitted in writing to the Pastor and Deacons thirty (30) days before the meeting in which it is to be considered and/or ratified. It must be read from the pulpit on two (2) Sundays immediately preceding the meeting in which it is to be considered or ratified. Amendments must be ratified by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the

active, in good standing, members present. The vote must be by secret ballot. The ballots must be counted by the deacons or Pastoral appointees together and in full view of the entire voting congregation and recorded immediately as ratified or not unless there is good reason for a recount.