

EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
CONSTITUTION
ARTICLES OF FAITH
CHURCH COVENANT
BY-LAWS
PREAMBLE

For the purpose of preserving and making secure the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the teaching of the New Testament and the accepted tenets of Independent Baptist Churches. Also for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this church, and to preserve the freedom of action of this church with respect to its relations to other churches of the same faith, we do declare and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I
NAME

This body shall be known as the East Side Independent Baptist Church of 1616 East Dixie Drive, Asheboro, North Carolina.

ARTICLE II
PURPOSE

The purpose of this body shall be to provide regular opportunities for public worship; to sustain the ordinances, doctrines, and ethics set forth in the New Testament for the church of our Lord Jesus Christ; to teach and train its members through a program of Christian education; to support with its offerings all phases of the Lord's work; and to preach and propagate among all people the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the end that lost souls might be saved.

ARTICLE III
STATEMENT OF FAITH

WORD OF GOD: We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith, life and church establishment, inerrant in the original writings, and preserved inerrant in the King James Version for the English speaking world. (II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:20-21, Psalm 12:6-7)

TRINITY: We believe in one true God eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, having the same attributes and perfection's.
(Deuteronomy 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14)

GOD THE FATHER: We believe the Father is the one living God; an infinite and intelligent Spirit. (Exodus 20:2-3; John 4:24)

GOD THE SON: We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God and God the Son. We believe in His pre-incarnate deity (John 1:1); virgin birth (Luke 1:35); sinless life (Hebrews 4:15); substitutionary death (II Corinthians 5:21); imminent pre-tribulational premillennial coming of Christ for His saints (I Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-18); and His coming again with His saints to set up His kingdom on the earth (Revelations 19).

GOD THE SPIRIT: We believe that God the Spirit is a Divine Person equal with the Father and the Son (Matthew 28:19). He is restraining the evil one in this world (II Thessalonians 2:9). He convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgement (John 16:8-11). He comforts (John 14:16-17), witnesses (Romans 8:16) and sanctifies (I Peter 1:2).

SATAN: We believe in the existence of Satan who was once sinless being but who later fell through pride. (Isaiah 14:12-14)

CREATION: We believe in the Genesis account of the direct creation of the universe and man by God. We do not believe in the process of evolution. (Genesis 1:1; Exodus 20:11; John 1:1-3; Hebrews 11:3)

MANKIND: We believe man was created by a special act of God in a state of perfect innocence under the law of his Maker; but by willful and voluntary disobedience and transgression, fell from that perfect state of innocence; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners by nature and by choice; and being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God and positively inclined to evil, is therefore under the just condemnation of God to eternal death without defense or excuse. (Genesis 3:1-7; Romans 5:12)

SALVATION: We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly and only through the grace of God by faith in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 15:1-4) as Savior and Lord; that saved sinners are sustained and kept by the power of God through the shed blood of Christ an intercessory work of Christ on our behalf at the right hand of God; and that anyone who is thus truly saved is eternally saved and can never be lost. (Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:16)

ETERNAL SECURITY: We believe that all who have been truly saved and regenerated by the Holy Spirit of God will be kept in Christ until death or until He returns; that all true believers are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1)

HEAVEN AND HELL: We believe in the eternal bliss in heaven for all who are saved through Christ's shed blood. We believe in a literal hell and eternal damnation for all who are lost. (John 14:1-6; Revelations 20:11-15)

JUSTIFICATION AND RIGHTEOUSNESS: We believe that justification and righteousness are inseparably united in the Scriptures; that justification may be defined as the judicial

act of God whereby He justly declares righteous, one who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ; that the believing sinner is justified because of Christ, having bore his sins on the cross, has been "made unto him righteousness." (I Corinthians 1:30); that the saved, justified sinner has been in God's court, only to find that nothing is laid to his charge (Romans 8:1); that justification secures for us every spiritual blessing that is needed for time and eternity.

REPENTANCE: We believe that repentance and faith are Scriptural necessities to regeneration and are also inseparable graces. When one repents and believes in Christ, he will turn to God with contrition and confession, calling on God for mercy. These are wrought in the heart by the conviction of the Holy Spirit. (Mark 1:15; Luke 24:47; Matthew 9:13; Acts 20:21)

SANCTIFICATION: We believe that the word sanctification means to set apart anyone or anything wholly for God's use, that Scriptural sanctification is in three tenses; we are sanctified in Christ eternally when we accepted Christ as Savior; we are now being sanctified daily through the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit and the cleansing of the Word of God and prayer; and we shall be completely sanctified when we meet Christ in our resurrection bodies. By daily and progressive sanctification we gradually grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ. (John 17:17,19; Romans 15:16)

RESURRECTION: We believe that the Scriptures clearly teach that Jesus rose from the dead and because He lives, we too shall live after death; that the Scriptures teach there will be two resurrections; all dead in Christ shall rise first (I Thessalonians 4:16-17 and Revelation 20:5), and appear in heaven before Christ at His Judgement Seat (II Corinthians 5:10), and all the wicked dead shall be raised together to stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgement (Revelation 20:11-15); that these two resurrections will be separated by the thousand year reign of Christ. (John 5:28-29; I Corinthians 15:12-23)

SECOND COMING: We believe that the return of the Lord is in two distinct phases; in the first phase (I Thessalonians 4:13-18) the Lord descends into the air to catch away His body and Bride. In the second phase He comes to the earth with His saints (Revelation 19:11-16) to live and reign with them on the earth for one thousand years. The time of His coming in the air is nowhere revealed; and that it is the duty of all believers to live in readiness because His coming is imminent and will be sudden (I Corinthians 15:51-53); that the time of His coming to the earth with His saints is likewise unknown except for the signs (Matthew 24 and 25) that Jesus said would precede His return to the earth.

ETERNITY: We believe that all who are ever saved by faith in Christ out of every age of time will dwell forever with Christ in heaven and on earth in His eternal Kingdom; that the unbelieving of all ages of time, along with the Devil and his angels, will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:11-15; 21:9-27).

THE CHURCH: We believe that a local, visible, New Testament Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, meeting together regularly for worship, the teaching and preaching of

God's Word, and the observances of the ordinances of Christ; governed by the teaching of His Word, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that the only Scriptural offices are pastors, (also called bishops and elders) and deacons, whose qualifications and duties are defined in the epistles of Paul. (I and II Timothy; I Timothy 3:15)

THE BODY OF CHRIST: We believe in the comprehensive body of Christ that is made up of all who are truly saved and born again regardless of race, color, or denomination; that one becomes a member of the Body of Christ the moment of salvation. We believe that this body is a holy temple for the habitation of God through the Spirit; that it is one flesh with Christ, and is espoused to Him as a chaste virgin to one husband. (Ephesians 2:21-22; 5:30-31; I Corinthians 2:2-4). This body is formed by the baptism of the Spirit, which takes place at the moment of salvation. (I Corinthians 12:13)

BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER: We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are the only ordinances of Christ given to the local church; that baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; that this act is a symbol and public testimony of our faith in a crucified, buried and risen Savior; that its effect should be our death to sin and resurrection to newness of life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper; that in commemorating the Lord's Supper, the members of the church remember the Lord's death until He comes; that a solemn self-examination must always precede the taking of the Lord's Supper. (Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 11:23-28; Romans 6:4-5)

LORD'S DAY: We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day (Revelation 1:10), for regular observance in the New Testament; that it commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in the exercise of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT: We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; that those in authority are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except in those things that are contrary to the Word of God and opposed to the will of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Romans 13); that the church and state should be separate and that the church should not resort to civil power or authority to carry on its work; that the Christian ideal is a free church in a free state; that the church has the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by any civil power.

ECUMENICAL AND CHARISMATIC: We do not believe or accept any form of the ecumenical or charismatic movements of this day.

ARTICLE IV **OUR CHURCH**

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

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintance; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of, intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to be zealous in our effort to advance the Kingdom of our Savior. We also believe that the homosexual lifestyle is contrary to Scripture and not to be accepted.

We further engage to watch over one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rule of our Savior to secure it without delay.

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

May the God of peace who brought again from the dead the Great Shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an eternal covenant, even our Lord Jesus, make us perfect in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to Whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

ARTICLE V **CHARACTER**

POLITY: The government of this church is vested in the body of baptized believers that compose it, who recognize Christ as the head of this church. It is subject to the control of no other person or group of persons.

DOCTRINE: We believe in the Bible as the supreme authority on earth and the New Testament as final on faith and practice. We believe the Articles of Faith and the Church Covenant of the church are in accord with the truth contained in the Scriptures and with other Independent Baptist Churches.

ARTICLE VI

This church is completely independent from all other organizations. A local church is to be self-governing, self-propagating, and self-supporting.

ARTICLE VII **AMMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended, altered, or replaced by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at any regular business meeting of the church, provided, however, that such amendment, alteration, or repeal be given to the clerk in writing. This proposed change should be presented to the church at least 30 days prior to the time the vote is taken.

BY-LAWS OF THE CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I **MEMBERSHIP**

QUALIFICATIONS: The membership of this church shall be composed of persons who have given evidence of regeneration, who have been baptized by immersion, who have subscribed to the Covenant and Constitution of this church, and who have been received by vote of the church.

RECEPTION OF A MEMBER: Candidates for church membership will be accepted upon agreement with the Covenant and Statement of Faith.

By letter from a church of like faith and practice.

Upon statement of salvation by faith, and having been baptized according to the commandment of Christ in a church of like faith and practice.

Candidates for church membership will be presented to the church after counseling by the pastor or his selected representative.

DUTIES: Members are expected to:
Be faithful in all the duties essential to the Christian life, including habitual attendance at every service of the church.
To give regularly of their time, talents and tithes for the support of the church and its causes, and to share in the work of its organizations.

RIGHTS: Such members as are in full and regular standing, and are 16 years old and above, which do not hold letters of dismissal and such only, may act and vote in the transactions of the church.

Any person not attending either Church or Sunday School for a period of 90 days will be put on an inactive list. Any person on the inactive list will not be given a privilege to vote on any church business. After any person returns to Church or Sunday School, let the church decide whether they warrant being put back on the active list.

QUORUM: Five percent (5%) of the active roll of the membership shall constitute a quorum, except for election of officers when ten percent (10%) shall be required, and for the call of a pastor twenty-five percent (25%) shall be required.

TERMINATION: The continuance of membership shall be subject to the principles and usage's of Baptist Churches, and especially as follows:

Letters of dismissal may be granted to any church of like faith and order for members in good standing. When letters are granted, membership in this church will terminate.

When a member of this church joins a church of different faith and order, membership in this church will terminate.

The church may also, after due notice and hearing and kindly effort to make such action unnecessary, terminate the membership of persons who have been non-resident for the space of one year or for the same space of time have not been habitually worshipping with the church, or for the same space of time have not been contributing to its support.

Should a member become an offense to the church and to its good name by reason of immoral, unchristian conduct, or by persistent breach of his covenant vows, or by non-support of the church, the church may terminate his/her membership after due notice and hearing and after faithful efforts have been made to bring such members to repentance and amendment. (Galatians 6:1)

RESTORATION: Any person whose membership has been terminated for any offense may be restored by a vote of the church, upon evidence of his repentance and reformation.

ARTICLE II **CHURCH OFFICERS AND ASSIGNED POSITIONS**

QUALIFICATIONS

The moral conduct shall be beyond reproach and free of carnal indulgences such as the use of intoxicating beverages, tobacco in all forms, and narcotic drugs. They shall

be a member of the church in good standing. They must be faithful in attendance to all the services of the church, must be exemplary in their deportment, and modest and consistent in their dress.

PASTOR: His Call And Duties:

A pastor shall be chosen and called by the church whenever a vacancy occurs. His election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least a one-week public notice shall be given. A pulpit committee shall be appointed by the church in such a case to seek out a suitable pastor and their recommendation shall constitute a nomination, though any member has a right to make nominations. The pulpit committee shall bring only one man at a time to the church for consideration. Three-fourths (3/4) of those present must vote in the affirmative until the relationship is terminated by mutual consent. The pastor shall have charge of all the welfare and oversight of this church. He shall preside at all meetings of the church, except as herein provided. The pastor is the chief administrative officer of the church, as pertaining both to its spiritual ministry and programs, and its business, secular, and material affairs. Certain powers, duties, and prerogatives are not to be exercised by the pastor as a dictator, but under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and wise counsel of deacons, general officers, and the membership of the church as a whole.

His Vacation And Revivals:

The pastor shall be given 3 weeks each year with pay, at such time as he elects. The length of each vacation to be decided by the deacons and the church. In addition to the aforesaid vacation he shall be granted the privilege of conducting revival meetings away from the church. The number of these revivals to be determined by an understanding between the pastor and the church.

His Supply Ministers:

It shall be the responsibility of the pastor to secure all pulpit supplies in his absence. The church is to pay such supplies when the pastor is away on vacation or such absences with the approval of the church. The pastor is to pay his supplies when the absence is because of revival meetings.

Termination:

Termination of the pastor may be by death, resignation, or removal by the church. For any violation of his call and purpose, the church shall without unnecessary delay, start the process of election of a new pastor.

Resignation:

It shall be expected that when the pastor feels the definite call of God to sever his relationship with the church, having become aware through the leadership of the Holy Spirit that his work in this church is finished; he shall give the church fair and reasonable notice of his intentions in order that the program of the church not be allowed to suffer. After resignation, the

pastor will be paid an extra two-week salary and will be expected to vacate the parsonage by the end of the two weeks.

Removal By The Church:

The church body only may terminate the pastor. This is to be done by a paper ballot vote. The vote is to be under the direction of the chairman of the deacons, serving as moderator. The vote must be 75% or higher in favor of removal before removal can take place. In the case of removal by the Church, termination shall be immediate with the vote. After a vote of termination the Church may elect to extend the pastor's income program for a period not to exceed one month. The pastor will be expected to vacate the parsonage by the end of one-month following termination.

DEACONS: Number:

The number of deacons shall be established by the church and/or the pastor, as needed each year. They will be presented annually for church approval.

Term Of Office:

Each year the deacon that has served the longest will rotate off the deacon board for a period of one year. The date of rotation is the date of the annual business meeting.

Duties:

1. The deacons shall at all times consider themselves as servants of the church and be zealous to guard the unity of the church.
2. They shall serve as the counsel of advice and conference with the pastor in matters pertaining to the welfare and work of the church and the extension and growth of the church.
3. They are to help the pastor in the oversight of the church especially in the physical need and the moral and spiritual problems of the members.
4. They, together with the pastor, shall be free to call upon any member to aid in disciplinary action.
5. They shall arrange for a temporary ministry when the church is without a pastor, unless the church shall direct otherwise.

MODERATOR: The Moderator of the church shall be the pastor. In the absence of the pastor, the chairman of the deacons shall preside. In the case of the absence of both the pastor and the chairman, the clerk shall call the meeting to order and a moderator shall be elected.

CLERK: The clerk of this church shall keep in a suitable book, a record of all the actions of this church. The clerk shall keep a register of the names of members, with dates of admission, dismissal, or death, together with a record of baptism. The clerk shall issue letters of dismissal voted on by the church. The clerk will be elected by the church.

TREASURER: This church shall elect a treasurer. It shall be the treasurer's duty to receive, preserve, and pay out all money, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. Payment of all bills shall be made by check as promptly as possible. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to render the church an itemized account of all books, records, and accounts kept by the treasurer. All records and accounts kept by the treasurer shall be considered as the property of the church. The books shall be opened at all times for inspection by the active deacons of the church. The treasurer shall, upon the election of his successor, promptly deliver to the active chairman of the deacons, all books, records, and accounts in his hands pertaining or relating to, in any manner, the duties of the office the treasurer is relinquishing. All counting and handling of monies is to be overseen by deacons, treasurer and/or assistant.

CHAIRMAN OF THE USHERS: The chairman of the ushers shall be elected annually. He shall care for the seating and comfort of the congregation. He shall try to prevent all interruption and distractions; he shall supervise the receiving of the offering at all services. He has the responsibility of selecting suitable aids to help in this procedure.

TRUSTEES: There shall be at least 3 trustees elected by the church. They shall hold in trust the property of the church. They shall have the actual care of any property of the church, but shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property without a specific vote of the church authorizing such action.

OFFICERS OF CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS: All organizations of the church shall be under church control, all officers being elected by the church and responsible to the church. It is understood that the pastor is ex-officio head of all organizations, classes, unions, committees, etc. and his leadership is to be recognized in them all.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS OF ALL OFFICERS AND TEACHERS: All officers and teachers of the church shall be members, and shall hold like faith as accepted by this church and stated in its "Articles of Faith".

HOLDING AN OFFICE: Those who are called to office in the church are to lead a life in obedience to Scripture and in conformity to the covenant of this church. Among these standards is the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage of a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness. Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice, which is in violation of the Scripture and the Covenant of this church, shall not be installed or allowed to continue in any office of this church.

ADDITIONAL STAFF: Recommendations for additional staff are to be made to the active deacons, by the pastor, by the deacons, or by any active members. Deacons and the pastor are to be unanimous on the calling of any additional staff member before it is presented to the church for a vote. Three-fourths (3/4) of those present must vote in the affirmative to call any additional staff member. This voting must be taken by secret ballot.

ARTICLE IV **MEETINGS**

WORSHIP: Public worship services shall be held at stated times on each Lord's Day, (Sunday) and on Wednesday evening or some other regular evening during the week. The Lord's Supper shall be observed no less than twice a year.

BUSINESS: At any regular meeting of the church, the pastor may call for a business conference to act upon minor matters of business such as the granting of letters, or any other minor matter of business.

Special business meetings may be called by the pastor or when requested by a majority of the deacon board or the trustees, or any standing committee of the church. A meeting may also be called upon the presentation of a written petition setting forth the object of the proposed meeting signed by at least 25 members of the church, each of whom shall be 16 years old or older.

Such a special business meeting shall be called by announcing from the pulpit the object of the meeting, date, time, and place at least one week in advance.

The annual business meeting of the church shall be held in the church on the second Wednesday of January, at which time all reports will be given, and other business will be discussed.

ARTICLE V **DISCIPLINE**

PROCEDURE: Should any unhappy differences arise between members, the aggrieved member shall in the true Christian spirit, carry out the instructions of our Lord as set forth in Matthew 18:15-17.

In the case of grave difficulty, the church shall be ready, if requested, to ask the advice of an acceptable council from one or more neighboring churches of like faith and order.

If any breach of the covenant or public scandal occur, the deacons shall endeavor to remove the offense. If such effort shall fail they shall report the case to the church. The church may then vote to entertain a complaint against the offender. This complaint must be in writing. The church shall set a date for a hearing on some day other than the Lord's Day of which notice is to be given at least 30 days in advance.

If the accused member is not present at the appointed time of the hearing, or is unable to give satisfactory reasons for his failure to attend, then the church may proceed in his absence. Should an adverse decision be reached against the offender, the church may withdraw fellowship from said member.

ARTICLE VI
LICENSE TO PREACH

PROCEDURE: In the event a member of this church requests a license to preach, he shall first submit to an examination by the pastor and the deacons, or the pastor and a committee especially appointed for that purpose by the church. This examination is to determine the applicant's qualification and fitness to preach under a license of this church. Upon recommendation of the pastor and deacons or committee, and upon approval of 90% of the members present at any regular business meeting of the church, a license shall be granted.

ARTICLE VII
ORDINATION OF MINISTERS

PROCEDURE: In the event that a member of this church expresses a desire to become a candidate for ordination to the ministry in Independent Baptist Churches, the church will first express approval by a vote of three fourths (3/4) of the members present at any time of a regular business meeting of the church. Upon approval by the church, the applicant shall then be examined; and upon a unanimous report of the examining committee in favor of ordaining the applicant, and upon approval by a vote of 90% of the members present at the next regularly scheduled business meeting, the church shall proceed with the ordination.

ARTICLE VIII
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Parliamentary procedure and law shall be followed at all business meetings of the church and in all business of this church. In the event a controversy over procedure should arise, the final interpretation of the rules shall be decided by the church.

ARTICLE IX
AMENDMENTS

PROCEDURE: These by-laws may be amended, altered, or repealed by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at any regular business meeting of the church, provided however, that such amendment, alteration, or repeal be given to the clerk in writing. This proposed change would then be presented to the church at least 30 days prior to the time the vote is taken.

ARTICLE X
SECRET BALLOT

When voting to call a new pastor, the vote, in accordance with Article II of the Constitution, must be taken by secret ballot. When voting to call any additional staff,

part-time or full-time, the vote must be taken by secret ballot. When voting for any elective officers of the church, the vote must be taken by secret ballot.

ARTICLE XI **CREATION & MARRIAGE**

Since God created mankind into genders distinctly male and female, we believe that the only legitimate marriage is that between a man and a woman. He has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God rejects any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Genesis 1:26,27)

ARTICLE XII **POSITIONS**

We believe men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions of men and women in the home and in the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and men are to hold the leadership positions (pastor and deacons) in the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible of licensure and ordination for pastor by the church. (I Timothy 3:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33)