

**Constitution**  
**of**  
**International Baptist Church**  
**of Eindhoven**  
**The Netherlands**

**version 1.0**  
**October 2009**

**Article I. Preamble**

We, the members of the International Baptist Church of Eindhoven, declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern this church body in an orderly manner.

**Article II. Name**

The name of this organization shall be known as ‘International Baptist Church of Eindhoven’, hereinafter referred to as IBC. The body is domiciled in Eindhoven. The body is a Church fellowship (“kerkgenootschap”), with corporate capacity in the sense of *Article 2 of Book 2 of the Civil Code of the Netherlands*, and is recognized as such under Dutch law.

**Article III. Identity**

IBC is a multinational and multicultural community of God’s people saved by grace, empowered by the Holy Spirit and united by our purpose to assist each other toward spiritual maturity and to be a light to the local and expatriate communities in order to make disciples. As a unified body of diverse people who trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior, Lord and God, we are committed to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves (*Matthew 22:37-39*).

**Article IV. Mission Statement**

As followers of Christ we accept His commandment to make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that He has commanded (*Matthew 28:18-20*).

**Article V. Church Covenant**

We are a fellowship of people who trust in Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord and God. We are committed to each other in love as a unified body of diverse people.

Our purposes are to celebrate in worship of our Lord, to proclaim the Gospel, to nurture and instruct believers, to encourage a vision for, and to be in support of missionary work in our community and around the world and to promote Christian standards in the wider community.

We commit to private and family worship. We commit to train our children conscientiously and to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

## **Article VI. Statement of faith**

We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God and the authoritative basis for our doctrine and practice. We regard this Statement of Faith as an expression of the essential doctrines of grace set forth in the Bible. All Biblical references contained within this constitution are from the *New International Version (NIV)* translation of the Bible. These references are representative only; they should not be considered an exhaustive listing.

### **Section 6.01 On the True God**

We believe in the only living and true God, Creator of all, holy, sovereign and eternal, existing in three equal persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 3:16, 17; 28:19, 20; Mark 12:29; John 1:14; Acts 5:3, 4; 2 Corinthians 13:14, Deuteronomy 6:4; Jeremiah 10:12*

### **Section 6.02 On the Bible**

We believe that the Bible, incorporating both Old and New Testaments, is the infallible Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit and therefore without error in the original writings. We further believe that this inspiration is not in different degrees, but extends equally and fully to all parts of the Bible. We therefore believe in the absolute authority of the Bible in all matters of faith and practice.

*2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:21*

### **Section 6.03 On the Fall of Man and the Wages of Sin**

We believe that man was divinely created in the image of God; that through Adam's sinful act of disobedience, man became guilty before God and is affected by sin in all aspects of his being. Therefore, all people are sinners by inherited nature and by choice, thereby incurring physical and spiritual death.

*Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5, 7, 18-22; 3:6-24; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18, 23; 5:6, 12, 19; 6:6; 6:23, 7:14-25; 8:14-18, 29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19, 21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11*

### **Section 6.04 On Jesus Christ and His Work**

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only Son of God, the Word made flesh, born of a virgin, conceived by the Holy Spirit, fully God and fully man, and after having been tempted in all things as we are, He remained holy, innocent and without sin; that He suffered and died on the cross for the remission of our sins; that He rose bodily from the grave and ascended into Heaven where He is the only mediator between God the Father and humanity and from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

*Luke 1:30-35; 2:7; John 1:1-4; Acts 1:11, 15:14-17; Romans 9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:3-7; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-19; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Hebrews 1:1-3; 7:25; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 2:2*

### **Section 6.05 On Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ**

We believe that, due to universal death through sin, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born again; that salvation is only by grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, and that all who repent of their sins and receive the Lord Jesus Christ through faith are declared righteous by God and thereby become children of God.

We believe the Bible teaches that spiritual rebirth is that act of God by which the Holy Spirit imparts a new nature and a new spiritual life, not previously possessed, and the person becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus. The mind is given a holy disposition and a new desire to serve God, the dominion of sin is broken and the heart is transformed from a love of sin and self to a love of holiness and God. As the believer walks in the power of the Holy Spirit, these new realities become evident in a life characterized by the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that those who have trusted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior by faith are eternally secure and can never lose their salvation. We further believe that all believers can be assured of their salvation and that this assurance rests not in themselves, but in the promises of God through the Bible.

*Genesis 3:15; Matthew 1:21; 16:21-26; 27:22 to 28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14, 29; 3:1-21, 36; 5:24; 6:39; 10:9, 27-29; 14:16; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3 ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18, 29-39; 10:9-10, 13; 11:29; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18, 30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 1:6; 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1 ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:22, 24-28; 11:1 to 12:8, 14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6 to 2:11, 2:19; Revelation 21:1 to 22:5*

### **Section 6.06 On the Work of the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is not merely an influence or force but a divine Person; that He is the source and power of all acceptable worship and service and is our abiding Counselor and Helper.

We believe that it is the Holy Spirit who produces true Christian life in principle and in action in those who have been elected through the predestination of God, and enables them to persevere to the end.

We believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs at the moment of conversion and is that act whereby believers are united with Christ as part of His body; that the Holy Spirit permanently indwells all believers in Christ; that He will never depart from the Church nor from the weakest believer; that by His indwelling the believer is enabled to live a godly life.

*John 14:16,17; 16:13-15; Acts 1:8; 5:3,4; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 12:13; Galatians 5:22,23; Ephesians 1:13-14*

### **Section 6.07 On the Ministry of the Word**

We believe that God has instituted a ministry of the Word in order to bring sinners to conversion and to guide them in the Christian life. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by any other method that is in harmony with the Gospel of Christ. We believe that the Word of God is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness; so that the people of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

*Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 15:7-8, 16; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; , 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39 to 12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17*

### **Section 6.08 On Local Churches**

We believe that each local church constituted according to the Word of God is a voluntary assembly of believers independent of all authority other than that of Jesus Christ, the sole Head of the universal church, which is His body. The members of a local church, associated by free engagement, are governed by the laws of Christ, and carry out in the general interest the duties that have been given them according to the talents and gifts with which they have been endowed.

*Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42, 47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23, 27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11, 21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 3:1-15; 4:14; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3*

### **Section 6.09 On the Return of Christ and the Resurrection**

We believe that at the moment of death, believers pass immediately into the presence of Christ and remain there in joyful fellowship with Him until the resurrection of their glorified bodies at His second coming, after which they will be forever with the Lord in glory.

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ will come down from heaven as He ascended, in accordance with what is written in the Bible. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the just and the unjust; in the final judgment where an eternal separation will be made between the unjust (who will suffer eternal punishment in hell) and the just, who will obtain everlasting life in heaven.

*Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27, 30, 36, 44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40, 48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28, 35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1 ff.; 2 Thessalonians. 1:7 ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1, 8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7 ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1 to 22:13*

### **Section 6.10 On Observing the Lord's Day**

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, to be observed in honor of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. On that day we will gather together in prayer, worship and fellowship and for the edification of the believers.

*Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1 ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3, 33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1, 19-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10*

### **Section 6.11 On Civil Government**

We believe that civil government is ordained by God in the interests of law and order within society, and that we should therefore pray for the governing authorities. We also believe we must honor and obey them in everything that is not contrary to the teachings of the Bible.

*Romans 13:1-7; Acts 5:17-32*

### **Section 6.12 Marriage and Family**

We believe that marriage was ordained by God at creation as the sacred union of one man and one woman. All sexual relations must therefore be reserved for that union. Christian marriage is a reflection of Christ's relationship to His church. We also believe that children are a blessing from the Lord, thus all human life is sacred and worthy of protection from the moment of conception until death.

*Genesis 1:26-28; 2:24; Psalm 127 & 128; 139:13-16; Matthew 19:1-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 5:22-33; Hebrew 13:4.*

### **Section 6.13 On Baptism**

We believe that Baptism by immersion is for repentant sinners who are voluntarily dead to sin, and is the solemn symbol of their entombment with Christ, with whom they are united through faith, and their resurrection with Him to live a new and holy life.

The act of baptism does not save, nor does it complete the salvation of a repentant sinner. It is a testimony to the church and to the world of one's personal experience of salvation and one's obedience to Christ's command to be baptized.

*Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12*

### **Section 6.14 On The Lord's Supper (Communion)**

We believe that the Lord's Supper as instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ must be observed in churches until He comes again; that the bread and the wine are the symbols of the body and the blood of our Savior. The Lord's Supper, as taught in the Bible, is a remembrance of the atoning death of Jesus Christ, a promise of His imminent return and a time for serious self-examination by the individual believer. Since it is never to be entered into lightly, only believers shall be encouraged to partake reverently and purposefully of the Lord's Supper.

*Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 21; 11:23-29*

## **Article VII. Ordinances**

We believe that the ordinances of the Church are two in number and constitute a scriptural means of public testimony for the church in this age. One is that of believer's baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and the other is the Lord's Supper. The Pastor or other appropriate men of faith as designated by the Board of Elders shall perform these ordinances as needed.

*Matthew 26:27-30; Matthew 28:19; Acts 16:30-33; 1 Corinthians 11:23-30*

### **Section 7.01 Baptism**

IBC shall receive for baptism by immersion any person who trusts in Jesus Christ as their Savior, Lord and God, who professes Him publicly and who indicates a commitment to follow Him as Lord. Appropriate instruction in the meaning of baptism and living a life of Christian discipleship will be given by the Pastor and/or Elders to all persons requesting baptism.

*Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12*

### **Section 7.02 The Lord's Supper**

IBC shall observe the Lord's Supper regularly. The Lord's Supper is open to all those who have made public profession of their faith in Christ and who are walking in harmony with the Holy Spirit and other Christians, with the admonition that they must first examine themselves in light of *1 Corinthians 11:23-30*.

*Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 21; 11:23-30*

## Article VIII. Membership

The Church is the universal Body of Christ consisting of all Christians made one by the indwelling Holy Spirit. As a local church IBC reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of IBC and the conditions of such membership. IBC allows various types of membership as outlined in the sections below.

### Section 8.01 Full Membership

(a) Eligibility

To be eligible for full membership in IBC, a person must:

- (i). affirm a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior;
- (ii). undergo believer's baptism by immersion or give testimony of prior believer's baptism by immersion;
- (iii). be at least 18 years old;
- (iv). accept the Church Covenant (Article V) and the Statement of Faith (Article VI) as the teaching position of IBC and be willing to submit to such;
- (v). be willing to support and submit to the rules of church governance as set forth in this constitution (Article X);
- (vi). be willing to follow the responsibilities of membership as outlined in item (b) of this section;
- (vii). complete the membership process as outlined in section 8.03;
- (viii). receive final approval for membership through a vote of at least 51% of the Board of Elders.

(b) Responsibilities

Membership of the body of IBC carries with it certain individual and corporate responsibilities. A person fulfills his/her responsibilities as a member of IBC by:

- (i). being faithful in attending IBC meetings (worship, business and others) (*Hebrews 10:25*);
- (ii). being faithful in prayer (*Philippians 4:6-7, Colossians 4:2*);
- (iii). being faithful in regular Bible reading (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*);
- (iv). being faithful in regular financial support (*1 Corinthians 9:13-14; 2 Corinthians 9:10-12*);
- (v). being salt and light to a lost world (*Matt 5:13-16; 28:18-20*);
- (vi). living daily under the Lordship of Christ Jesus and so developing a Christian lifestyle that is revealed to the outside world (*Colossians 1:9-10; 1 Peter 2:12*);
- (vii). giving prayerful consideration of any request to serve (*1 Peter 4:10*);
- (viii). promoting unity and fellowship within IBC and the universal Body of Christ (*Philippians 2:1-2*);
- (ix). being accountable to IBC leadership (*Matthew 18:15-20; Hebrews 13:17*).

### **Section 8.02 Associate Membership**

IBC also welcomes Christians who have not undergone believer's baptism by immersion to participate in worship and fellowship as associate members under the watchful care of IBC.

(a) Eligibility

To be eligible for associate membership in IBC, a person must:

- (i). affirm a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior;
- (ii). be at least 18 years old;
- (iii). accept the Church Covenant (Article V) and the Statement of Faith (Article VI) as the teaching position of IBC and be willing to submit to such;
- (iv). be willing to support and submit to the rules of church governance as set forth in this constitution (Article X);
- (v). be willing to take up the responsibilities of membership as outlined in section 8.01;
- (vi). complete the membership process as outlined in section 8.03;
- (vii). receive final approval for membership through a vote of at least 51% of the Board of Elders.

(b) Responsibilities

Associate membership in the body of IBC carries the same individual and corporate responsibilities as full membership.

(c) Limitations

Associate membership has several limitations. Associate members:

- (i). may not vote to adopt a new constitution of IBC;
- (ii). may not vote on amendments to the constitution of IBC;
- (iii). may not vote on changes to the Church Covenant of IBC;
- (iv). may not vote on changes to the Articles of Faith of IBC;
- (v). may not vote for the dissolution of IBC;
- (vi). may become full members without other qualification or process by undergoing believer's baptism by immersion.

### **Section 8.03 Process for Membership**

All prospects for any membership in IBC shall be required to follow the following membership process:

- (i). A prospective member shall notify the Pastor and/or any Elder as to his or her desire for membership.
- (ii). A prospective member shall complete the New Members Orientation Class.
- (iii). A prospective member must accept and sign the Church Covenant (Article V) and the Statement of Faith (Article VI) as the teaching position of IBC and must be willing to submit to such.
- (iv). A prospective member shall give testimony of his/her personal salvation to any member of the Board of Elders during the class.

- (v). Upon the approval of the Board of Elders, his/her name shall be announced to the congregation.
- (vi). No sooner than one week later, the new member shall be presented to the congregation and added to the membership register.

### **Section 8.04 Inactive Membership List**

(a) Purpose

The inactive membership list is used to ensure that IBC has a means to manage its voting quorum.

(b) Process

Members can be transferred to the inactive membership list due to:

- (i). extended absence from church activity for time-related reasons (e.g. work commitments, educational reasons, travel, sabbatical);
- (ii). extended absence from church activity due to incapacity;
- (iii). extended absence from church activity due to spiritual neglect, as outlined in item (c) of this section.

(c) Spiritual neglect

- (i). Definition: spiritual neglect is defined as not regularly participating in worship meetings, business meetings and the activities of IBC, other than for the reasons named in points (b)(i) and (b)(ii) of this item, for a period of three months or longer.
- (ii). Cases of spiritual neglect shall be identified at the discretion of the Board of Elders.
- (iii). Process: said member shall be contacted by the Board of Elders or delegated member(s) of IBC to ascertain the circumstances. If the Board of Elders determines that such infrequent participation is the result of spiritual neglect and indifference, restoration shall be attempted by the Board of Elders or delegated member(s) of IBC. When such an attempt is not successful, and upon agreement of at least 67% of the Board of Elders, the member shall be notified in writing that his/her name has been transferred to the inactive membership list. A notification of this transfer shall be given to the congregation.

(d) Voting

Members on the inactive membership list shall not be taken into consideration when determining voting quorums and shall not be eligible to vote or hold office.

(e) Reinstatement

Members on the inactive membership list may be transferred back to active membership status by submitting a request to and being approved by the Board of Elders. Reinstated members shall be presented to the congregation.

### **Section 8.05 Termination of Membership**

Membership of IBC shall be terminated as follows:

(a) By letter

A letter of recommendation/transfer may be granted by the Board of Elders for a member in good standing. Once such a letter has been granted, the member's name shall be removed from the membership register and membership of IBC shall be terminated.

(b) By request

Upon a member's written request to the Board of Elders, his or her name shall be removed from the membership register and membership of IBC shall be terminated.

(c) By transfer from the inactive membership list

Once a member has been on the inactive membership list for three months other than for the reasons outlined in section 8.04(b)(i) and section 8.04(b)(ii), his/her membership of IBC shall be terminated.

(d) By removal under church discipline

If the process of church discipline (Article IX) does not result in the restoration of the member, his/her membership of IBC shall be terminated.

(e) By removal due to death

In all the above cases, the congregation shall be notified of the termination of the membership.

### **Section 8.06 Membership Register**

The Board of Elders shall ensure that there is a regularly maintained register of all IBC members. Additions to the membership register shall be performed as outlined in section 8.03. Removals from the membership register shall be performed as outlined in section 8.05.

### **Section 8.07 Non-members**

A non-member of IBC may take part in the worship meetings, Bible studies, Sunday school classes, prayer meetings and congregational meetings of IBC subject to their orderly conduct. A non-member may teach or assist in a Sunday school class or be a member of any ministry team of IBC upon approval of the Board of Elders and after accepting and signing the Church Covenant (Article V) and the Statement of Faith (Article VI) as the teaching position of IBC. A non-member may not take on any of the leadership roles in IBC specified in Article X. A non-member who wishes to take part in any of the activities of IBC shall submit to IBC leadership authority and shall maintain the standards of discipline, purity and unity also required of members. Non-members shall not be taken into consideration when determining voting quorums and shall not be eligible to vote.

## **Article IX. Church Discipline and Grievances**

### **Section 9.01 Church Discipline**

It is the practice of IBC to assist and restore any troubled individual attending IBC. The attitude of members toward one another shall be governed by a desire for restoration rather than a thirst for punishment.

(a) Grounds for Church Discipline

Church discipline shall extend to matters of conduct (unwillingness to become reconciled to an offended brother (*Matthew 18:15-17*); unwillingness to engage in work (*2 Thessalonians 3:6-15*); divisiveness in the church (*Romans 16:17, 18; Titus 3:9,10*); sexual immorality (*1 Corinthians 5:1-13*); general sinful conduct (*Galatians 6:1*) or the promotion of doctrinal positions (*1 Timothy 1:20, 2 Timothy 2:17-18*)) that are not in accordance with the Church Covenant (Article V) and the Statement of Faith (Article VI) as the teaching position of IBC.

(b) Process

The responsibility and authority for handling discipline in IBC shall be vested in the Board of Elders following the teaching of *Matthew 7, Matthew 18 and Galatians 6*.

- (i). IBC encourages individuals to attempt personal reconciliation and resolution first, before involving the Board of Elders.
- (ii). Where individual reconciliation/resolution has failed, the Board of Elders should also attempt to resolve the situation.
- (iii). If the Board of Elders determines that it has become necessary for IBC to take further action to exclude a member, a vote of at least 75% of the members present at a specially called meeting is required. All such proceedings shall be conducted in the spirit of Christian Biblical principles, prayer, forbearance and love.
- (iv). In case point (iii) of this item result in the exclusion of a member, the congregation shall be notified.

(c) Restoration

IBC may restore to membership any person previously excluded upon the request of the excluded person and at the recommendation of the Board of Elders based on confirmation of the person's repentance and reformation. Once these conditions have been met, a vote of at least 51% of the members present at a duly called meeting is required. Restored members shall be presented to the congregation.

### **Section 9.02 Grievances**

Grievances and conflicts should be resolved individually following the teaching of *Matthew 7, Matthew 18 and Galatians 6*. If individuals are unable to reconcile their differences, then they are to direct their concerns to the Board of Elders. If the Board of Elders is unable to resolve the issue, the process as outlined in section 9.01 shall be followed.

## **Article X. Governance and Leadership**

While affirming the privileges and spiritual duties of fellowship and shared ministry with all believers, IBC is an independent church body that shall not be accountable to any other ecclesiastical or denominational body. IBC is a sovereign and democratic church under the leadership of Jesus Christ. Final authority over the ministry and witness of IBC as well as the property of IBC shall be retained by the members acting in accordance with the procedures and through the leadership as set forth in this constitution. The membership body retains the exclusive right to self-governance. IBC recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation with and the support of the International Baptist Convention.

In accordance with generally accepted Baptist Church policy, the members shall have high authority in the life of IBC. The members shall retain the authority to affirm, by vote, God's call of the Pastor and Elders, the appointment of Deacons, Treasurer and Clerk and shall approve, by vote, the fiscal budget of IBC. The members shall authorize the Pastor, Board of Elders and other persons in authority to carry out the execution of the approved budget and the daily administration of IBC by delegation of authority and subject to this constitution.

### **Section 10.01 Elders**

(a) Biblical role

The Elders are a group of biblically qualified men who are members and are charged with leading IBC under the headship of Christ Jesus. God raises up and selects men to be Elders (*1 Timothy 3:1*). The main responsibilities of the Elders are to keep watch over and shepherd the members (*Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:2*), to direct the affairs of the church (*1 Timothy 5:17*) and to provide preaching and teaching (*1 Timothy 5:17*). Those serving as Elders must live a life which is an example to those inside and outside the church, manage their own family well, be able to teach, encourage and correct and not be a recent convert (*1 Timothy 3:2-12, Titus 1:6-9*). IBC recognizes God's calling through the confirmation/affirmation process described below.

(b) Qualifications

A nominee for Elder must:

- (i). be a man whose life clearly demonstrates conformity to the biblical qualifications for this position as outlined in section 10.01 item (a);
- (ii). be a full member of IBC;
- (iii). have demonstrated an active involvement in the ministry of IBC while a regular attendee and/or member;
- (iv). be able and willing to endorse, defend and abide by the Church Covenant (Article V) and the Statement of Faith (Article VI) as the teaching position of IBC wholeheartedly and unreservedly.

(c) Responsibilities

The Elders are responsible for the general oversight of all matters pertaining to the work of IBC (*1 Timothy 5:17*); shall protect against doctrinal error (*Acts 15:6*); shall lead the church (*1 Peter 5:3*); shall pray for the sick (*James 5:17*); shall preach and teach (*1 Timothy 5:17*); shall appoint leaders (*1 Timothy 4:14*); shall accept and distribute money (*Acts 11:29-30*); shall welcome visitors (*Acts 15:4*); shall keep watch over themselves and all IBC members (*Acts 20:28*) and maintain church discipline (*1 Thessalonians 5:12*). As part of the general oversight, the Elders shall establish the policies of IBC. The Elders are accountable to the members and shall report on a semi-annual basis the affairs and status of IBC and its ministries.

(d) Term

Elders shall serve a three-year term. An Elder may be re-elected to a second three-year term. Thereafter he shall be required to relinquish his position for one year before being eligible for re-election. One-third of the Board of Elders shall be elected each year. There are two exceptions to this section:

- (i). The Pastor is a voting member of the Board of Elders by virtue of his position and is not subject to the term limit stipulated in this item.
- (ii). Any Elder who replaces another Elder who has served part of his term shall serve for the remainder of that term and this term shall not count towards the two terms limit.

(e) Number

The minimum number of Elders including the Pastor shall be five. There is no maximum number of Elders. There are two exceptions to this section:

- (i). If, due to circumstances, IBC is unable to seat a minimum Board of Elders (five), then approval for a provisional solution will be sought from the voting members at the next regularly scheduled business meeting.
- (ii). If, due to circumstances, no Elders remain on the Board of Elders, the membership shall convene a specially called meeting to install an interim leadership board that functions as the Board of Elders until qualified Elders can be found and voted in as outlined in item (f) of this section.

(f) Selection

Selection of Elders shall take place at the Annual Meeting or, if the Board of Elders determines that a replacement for a departing Elder is needed, a specially called meeting may be convened. The selection process shall be as follows:

- (i). Notice of the beginning of the selection process shall be given to the members who shall submit recommendations for Eldership to any of the Elders in writing within two weeks of the notice.
- (ii). The Elders shall interview prospective Elder(s) to determine whether or not the prospective Elder(s) meets the qualifications of Eldership and whether such person(s) is/are willing to serve. Upon a vote of at least 67% of the Elders that a man or men meet(s) the qualifications for Eldership, the Elders will contact the candidate(s) again for a specific discussion with him to determine each man's assessment of God's will for him in this matter.
- (iii). The Elders shall then present to the members the name(s) of those men who the Elders agree possess the Biblical qualifications for Eldership and who have agreed to serve as Elders under the Lord's direction subject to subsequent confirmation by the members through voting.

- (iv). Members shall have two weeks prior to the meeting to consider the prospective Elder(s) prayerfully. If any of the members have any reservations about a man's eligibility for Eldership, they should discuss those reservations with the individual and if those reservations are not satisfactorily resolved, bring the matter(s) to the attention of the Elders.
  - (v). Upon affirmation by vote of the members, the new Elder(s) will be confirmed and commissioned for service before the Lord by the laying on of hands by the Elders before the congregation.
- (g) Dismissal of an Elder
- (i). An Elder may be removed from office prior to the expiration of his term at his own request or if otherwise incapable of continuing his duties.
  - (ii). Also, if at least 67% of the Board of Elders is of the opinion, or at least 75% of the members agree at a specially called meeting, that an Elder no longer satisfies the biblical qualifications for Elder, the Board of Elders shall recommend to the membership that he be removed from office. Any such removal will be accomplished only after the Elder in question has been given at least two weeks notice and an opportunity to defend his qualifications before the Board of Elders. After prayerful application of the process set out in Article IX, *Matthew 18* and other biblical passages relating to church discipline and fitness to serve, the Elder may be removed by a vote of the members at a specially called meeting. Removal shall take effect directly after the vote by the members to remove the Elder.
  - (iii). The congregation shall be notified of the removal of the Elder.

### **Section 10.02 Pastors**

- (a) Biblical Role  
IBC may select a Pastor who is called and gifted by God to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (*Ephesians 4:12*). As part of the Board of Elders, the Pastor is responsible for leading the church in its mission and ministries.
- (b) Qualifications  
The Pastor must be:
- (i). a man whose life clearly demonstrates conformity to the biblical qualifications for this position as outlined in section 10.01 item (a) and section 10.02 item (a);
  - (ii). a full member of IBC. Upon signing the Church Covenant and Articles of Faith, he shall be added to the membership register;
  - (iii). able and willing to endorse, defend, and abide by the Church Covenant (Article V) and the Statement of Faith (Article VI) as the teaching position of IBC wholeheartedly and unreservedly.
- (c) Responsibilities  
The Pastor shall:
- (i). support and promote the vision and mission of IBC together with the Board of Elders;
  - (ii). oversee all ministries of IBC together with the Board of Elders and ensure that they are well looked after and effectively run in service to the Lord and for the benefit of the congregation;

- (iii). preach the Word, administer its ordinances (communion and baptism), shepherd IBC and lead it in its fulfillment of its sacred task, publicly extend the hand of fellowship to new members on behalf of IBC and advise in matters of faith and practice;
  - (iv). serve in the role of teaching Elder and not hold any officer position (outlined in section 10.04) within IBC.
- (d) Term  
The Pastor shall serve until the relationship is terminated at his own request or by IBC as outlined in section 10.02 item (f).
- (e) Selection
- (i). The membership body will mandate the Board of Elders to seek out a suitable candidate Pastor, and its recommendations will constitute a nomination.
  - (ii). A candidate Pastor recognized by the membership body as being called and gifted by God as a Pastor for IBC may be selected as Pastor, member of the Board of Elders and full member of IBC by affirmative vote of the membership at a specially called meeting.
- (f) Dismissal of a Pastor
- (i). The Pastor may be removed from office at his own request or if otherwise incapable of continuing his duties.
  - (ii). Also, if at least 67% of the Board of Elders is of the opinion, or at least 75% of the members agree at a specially called meeting, that the Pastor no longer satisfies the biblical qualifications for his position, the Board of Elders shall recommend to the membership that he be removed from his position. Any such removal will be accomplished only after the Pastor has been given at least two weeks notice and an opportunity to defend his qualifications before the Board of Elders. After prayerful application of the process set out in Article IX, *Matthew 18* and other biblical passages relating to church discipline and fitness to serve, the Pastor may be removed by a vote of the members at a specially called meeting. Removal shall take effect directly after the vote by the members to dismiss the Pastor.
  - (iii). The congregation shall be notified of the removal of the Pastor.
- (g) Accountability  
The Pastor shall be accountable to the Board of Elders and IBC.

### **Section 10.03 Deacons**

- (a) Biblical Role  
Deacons and Deaconesses, hereinafter referred to as Deacons, shall serve under the supervision of the Board of Elders, undertaking those areas of service necessary for the church's functioning to allow the Board of Elders to perform their Biblical responsibilities (*Acts 6:1-7*). Those serving as Deacons must live a life that is an example to those inside and outside the church, manage their own family well, and not be a recent convert (*1 Timothy 3:8-12*) IBC recognizes God's calling through the confirmation/affirmation process described below.

(b) Qualifications

A nominee for Deacon must:

- (i). be a man or a woman whose life clearly demonstrates conformity to the biblical qualifications for this position as outlined in section 10.03 item (a);
- (ii). be a full or associate member of IBC;
- (iii). have demonstrated an active involvement in the ministry of IBC while a regular attendee and/or member;
- (iv). accept the Church Covenant (Article V) and the Statement of Faith (Article VI) as the teaching position of IBC and be willing to submit to such.

(c) Responsibilities

Each Deacon shall be responsible for a designated area of ministry, shall be accountable to the Board of Elders and shall have the delegated authority from the Board of Elders to administer the activities of that ministry. Such activities shall include, but not be limited to, administering the budgeted finances and organizing within that area of ministry.

- (i). Deacons shall be required to submit budgets to the Board of Elders for their designated area of ministry. They will consult with the Board of Elders for finalization of these budgets.
- (ii). Deacons shall meet with the Board of Elders quarterly, and at such other times as requested by the Board of Elders, to review with the Board of Elders the activities of their designated area of ministry.

(d) Term

Deacons shall serve a two-year term. A Deacon may be re-elected to a second and a third two-year term and thereafter shall be required to relinquish his position for one year before being eligible for re-election. There are two exceptions to this section:

- (i). Any Deacon who replaces another Deacon who has served part of his/her term shall serve for the remainder of that term and this term shall not count towards the three-term limit.
- (ii). The term limit clause shall not prevent a Deacon from consideration for election to the position of Elder in the subsequent year.

(e) Number

No specific, ongoing roles for Deacons are mentioned in the Bible, so the role and number of Deacons shall be variable according to needs.

(f) Selection

Selection of Deacons shall take place at the Annual Meeting. The selection process shall be as follows:

- (i). With biblical qualifications in mind, members will be invited to submit names to the Board of Elders for the position of Deacon at least six weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.
- (ii). Candidates for the position of Deacon will be selected by the Board of Elders.
- (iii). Upon affirmation by vote of the members, the new Deacons will be confirmed and commissioned for service before the Lord by the laying on of hands by the Elders before the congregation.

- (iv). Any vacancies that may arise among the Deacons during interim periods shall be filled as appointed by the Board of Elders. Such Deacons shall serve in that role until the next Annual Meeting, when they must be confirmed as outlined in point (iii) of this item.
- (g) Dismissal of Deacons
  - (i). A Deacon may be removed from office prior to the expiration of his/her term at his/her own request or if otherwise incapable of continuing his/her duties.
  - (ii). Also, if at least 67% of the Board of Elders is of the opinion, or at least 75% of the members agree at a specially called meeting, that a Deacon no longer satisfies the biblical qualifications for Deacon, the Board of Elders shall recommend to the membership that he/she be removed from office. Any such removal will be accomplished only after the Deacon in question has been given at least two weeks notice and an opportunity to defend his/her qualifications before the Board of Elders. After prayerful application of the process set out in Article IX, *Matthew 18* and other biblical passages relating to church discipline and fitness to serve, the Deacon may be removed by a vote of the members at a specially called meeting. Removal shall take effect directly after the vote by the members to remove the Deacon.
  - (iii). The congregation shall be notified of the removal of the Deacon.

#### **Section 10.04 Officers**

The officers of IBC shall be the chairman, vice-chairman and secretary of the Board of Elders and the treasurer, assistant treasurer and clerk. These officers shall serve as necessary for legal or other purposes as the officers of IBC. In their capacity as officers, they shall have the duties and responsibilities attendant to officers, subject to the express limits and reservations set forth in this constitution.

(a) Chairman of the Board of Elders

The chairman of the Board of Elders:

- (i). shall, whenever required by law or practice, serve as the President of the IBC Organization, having, however, only such express powers as are granted by IBC, and having no power absent such express authorization to bind the IBC Organization in any matter or act for it;
- (ii). shall be appointed by the Board of Elders from within the Board of Elders at the first meeting of the Board of Elders following the Annual Meeting.

(b) Vice-Chairman of the Board of Elders

The vice-chairman of the Board of Elders:

- (i). shall, in a similar manner as the Chairman of the Board of Elders, and subject to the same limitations, be authorized to act as the Vice-President of the IBC Organization;
- (ii). shall be appointed by the Board of Elders from within the Board of Elders at the first meeting of the Board of Elders following the Annual Meeting.

(c) Secretary of the Board of Elders

The secretary of the Board of Elders:

- (i). shall keep a confidential record of the meetings of the Board of Elders;
- (ii). shall be appointed by the Board of Elders from within the Board of Elders at the first meeting of the Board of Elders following the Annual Meeting.

(d) Treasurer

- (i). The responsibilities of the treasurer shall be to receive, deposit in a dedicated account in the name of IBC within a Dutch bank and disburse all monies committed to IBC. The treasurer shall be responsible at all times for an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements and shall issue regular reports to IBC regarding IBC's finances.
- (ii). The Board of Elders shall present to the members the name of a qualified candidate for the role of treasurer. The candidate shall be confirmed by a vote of the members at the Annual Meeting or at specially called meeting. The treasurer shall serve for three years.
- (iii). All books and accounts kept by the treasurer shall be the property of IBC and may be reviewed as directed by the Board of Elders. Upon relinquishing his/her position, whether through resignation, election of a successor or otherwise, the treasurer shall promptly deliver to the elected successor (or, if there is no successor, to the chairman of the Board of Elders) all books and accounts as well as all copies thereof.

(e) Assistant Treasurer

The assistant treasurer:

- (i). shall be appointed by the Board of Elders;
- (ii). may assist the treasurer in his/her duties;
- (iii). shall perform the duties of the treasurer in the event of the treasurer's absence;
- (iv). shall perform the duties of the treasurer in the event of the treasurer's dismissal until a new treasurer is voted in as outlined in point (d)(ii) of this section.

(f) Clerk

- (i). The responsibilities of the clerk shall be to keep the official records of IBC, to receive and archive official IBC correspondence, to take and archive the minutes of the business and specially called meetings of IBC and to provide notification of all business and specially called meetings to IBC members.
- (ii). The Board of Elders shall present to the members the name of a qualified candidate for the role of clerk. The candidate shall be confirmed by a vote of the members at the Annual Meeting or at a specially called meeting. The clerk shall serve for three years.
- (iii). All records kept by the clerk shall be the property of IBC and may be reviewed as directed by the Elders. Upon relinquishing his/her position, whether through resignation, election of a successor or otherwise, the clerk shall promptly deliver to the elected successor (or, if there is no successor, to the chairman of the Board of Elders) all records as well as all copies thereof.

(g) Dismissal of Officers

- (i). Any officer may be removed from office prior to the expiration of his/her term at his/her own request or if otherwise incapable of continuing his/her duties.
- (ii). If at least 67% of the Board of Elders is of the opinion, or at least 75% of the members agree at a specially called meeting, that an officer no longer satisfies the qualifications for the position, the Board of Elders shall remove him/her from office. Any such removal will be accomplished only after the officer in question has been given at least two weeks notice and an opportunity to defend his/her qualifications before the Board of Elders.
- (iii). Decisions to dismiss officers who do not hold the position of Elder may be kept confidential at the discretion of the Board of Elders.

- (iv). In the event of the absence or dismissal of an officer, the Board of Elders shall appoint a suitable interim officer.
- (v). The congregation shall be notified of the dismissal of officers and the appointment of interim officers.

#### **Section 10.05 Other roles and responsibilities**

- (a) The Board of Elders shall establish and abolish other positions not specifically mentioned in this constitution as necessary to the proper administration of the affairs of IBC.
- (b) If at least 67% of the Board of Elders agrees, the Board of Elders may remove any person from any position outlined in item (a) of this section. Before such removal, the Board of Elders shall speak with the person affected and give that person the right to be heard before the Board of Elders.

#### **Section 10.06 Ministries and Committees**

- (a) The Board of Elders shall establish and abolish any ministry or committee as necessary to the proper administration of the affairs of IBC.
- (b) If at least 67% of the Board of Elders agrees, the Board of Elders may remove any person from any ministry or committee position. Before such removal, the Board of Elders shall speak with the person affected and give that person the right to be heard before the Board of Elders.

## **Article XI. Meetings**

### **Section 11.01 General meetings**

- (a) The members of IBC shall gather regularly, but at least each Sunday, for worship, education, fellowship and outreach.
- (b) Other meetings that are essential to the advancement of IBC's mission or ministries may be held as needed, subject to approval by the Board of Elders.

### **Section 11.02 Business meetings**

- (a) Purpose  
IBC shall conduct at least two business meetings in the course of each calendar year:
  - (i). The first business meeting shall be held on such date in the first three months of the year as the Board of Elders may determine for the primary purposes of: accepting IBC financial reports for the preceding year, the presentation of all audit reports and all written group reports and a presentation by the Pastor and/or Board of Elders of their goals for the year ahead.
  - (ii). The second business meeting is called the Annual Meeting and shall be held on such date in November as the Board of Elders may determine for a number of purposes, including but not limited to: the election of Elders, the confirmation of Deacons, the confirmation of officers and the approval of the budget of IBC for the next fiscal year.
- (b) Notification  
The Board of Elders shall set the date, time, and place of the business meetings and shall give notice of the business meetings at least two weeks in advance.
- (c) Quorum
  - (i). A quorum shall consist of 40% of the members unless otherwise provided for in this constitution.
  - (ii). In the event of there being no quorum, the business meeting shall be adjourned to such other date or time as the members decide, but no sooner than after the next Sunday worship meeting and no later than 15 days hence.
  - (iii). Notification of the reconvened business meeting shall be given at the next Sunday worship meeting.
  - (iv). In the event of there being no quorum at the reconvened business meeting, those members present shall constitute a quorum.

(d) Voting

- (i). Only members whose names appear on the members' register are entitled to vote at business meetings.
- (ii). Voting may be by hand vote, by ballot or by absentee ballot. The Board of Elders shall determine the mode(s) of voting for the business meeting and/or the matters on the agenda. In the case of an absentee ballot, the member in question shall be responsible for obtaining the ballot from the clerk and shall ensure that the completed ballot reaches the clerk at least 24 hours before the scheduled business meeting. Absentee ballots do not count towards a quorum.
- (iii). For the purpose of business meetings, a vote of at least 51% shall suffice unless otherwise specified in this constitution.

(e) Moderator

- (i). The chairman of the Board of Elders shall preside as moderator at all business meetings.
- (ii). In the absence of the chairman of the Board of Elders, the vice-chairman of the Board of Elders shall preside as moderator.
- (iii). In the absence of the vice-chairman of the Board of Elders, the secretary of the Board of Elders shall preside as moderator.
- (iv). In the absence of all three, the members present at the business meeting shall select a male member as moderator for the business meeting.
- (v). The Board of Elders may also designate a male member as moderator for the business meeting.

(f) Adjournments

- (i). A business meeting may be adjourned at any time to any other date or time as the members may determine.
- (ii). A call for an adjournment shall be made by the meeting moderator and approved by a vote of the members.
- (iii). If the business meeting is adjourned for any reason, any vote in progress shall be null and void and a new vote must take place at the reconvened business meeting.

(g) Point of Order

- (i). *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised* shall govern the conduct of all business meetings of IBC.
- (ii). A member may raise a point of order concerning the proper procedure during the business meeting. The decision reached on the point of order by the moderator shall be binding.

### **Section 11.03 Specially called meetings**

(a) Purpose

- (i). Specially called meetings shall be held as defined elsewhere in this constitution.
- (ii). Specially called meetings may be held at the discretion of the Board of Elders.
- (iii). Specially called meetings may also be held by a petition of at least 25% of the members submitted in writing to the Board of Elders. Any such petition must include the subject to be discussed, hence the reason for the requesting of the specially called meeting.
- (iv). In the situation when there is no Board of Elders, a petition of at least 25% of the members for a specially called meeting must be presented to the membership. Any such petition must include the subject to be discussed, hence the reason for requesting the specially called meeting, including the date, time and place of the specially called meeting.

(b) Notification

- (i). The Board of Elders shall set the date, time, and place of the specially called meeting and shall give notice of the specially called meeting at least two weeks in advance.
- (ii). In the case of an emergency, and upon a vote of at least 51% of the Board of Elders, a specially called meeting may be convened immediately and without notice solely for the purpose of taking such action as is required by the emergency. Every effort shall be made to advise the membership beforehand, and where possible, the meeting shall be held in conjunction with a Sunday worship meeting.

(c) Quorum

- (i). A quorum shall consist of 40% of the members unless otherwise provided for in this constitution.
- (ii). In the event of there being no quorum, the specially called meeting shall be adjourned to such other date or time as the members decide, but no sooner than after the next Sunday worship meeting and no later than 15 days hence.
- (iii). Notification of the reconvened specially called meeting shall be given at the next Sunday worship meeting.
- (iv). In the event of there being no quorum at the reconvened specially called meeting, those members present shall constitute a quorum.

(d) Voting

- (i). Only members whose names appear on the members' register are entitled to vote at specially called meetings.
- (ii). Voting may be by hand vote, by ballot or by absentee ballot. The Board of Elders shall determine the mode(s) of voting for the specially called meeting and/or the matters on the agenda. In the case of an absentee ballot, the member in question shall be responsible for obtaining the ballot from the clerk and shall ensure that the completed ballot reaches the clerk at least 24 hours before the specially called meeting.
- (iii). For the purpose of specially called meetings, a vote of at least 51% shall suffice unless otherwise specified in this constitution.

(e) Moderator

- (i). The Chairman of the Board of Elders shall preside as moderator at all specially called meetings.
- (ii). In the absence of the Chairman of the Board of Elders, the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Elders shall preside as moderator.
- (iii). In the absence of the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Elders, the Secretary of the Board of Elders shall preside as moderator.
- (iv). In the absence of all three, the members present at the specially called meeting shall select a male member as moderator.
- (v). The Board of Elders may also designate a male member as moderator for the specially called meeting.

(f) Adjournments

- (i). A specially called meeting may be adjourned at any time to any other date or time as the members may determine.
- (ii). A call for an adjournment shall be made by the meeting moderator and approved by a vote of the members.
- (iii). If the specially called meeting is adjourned for any reason, any vote in progress shall be null and void and a new vote must take place at the reconvened specially called meeting.

(g) Point of Order

- (i). *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised* shall govern the conduct of all specially called meetings of IBC.
- (ii). A member may raise a point of order concerning the proper procedure during the specially called meeting. The decision reached on the point of order by the moderator shall be binding.

**Section 11.04 Board of Elders Meetings**

- (a) The Board of Elders shall meet regularly for study, prayer and oversight of IBC.
- (b) Unless otherwise specified in this constitution, a vote of at least 51% shall decide all questions presented before the Board of Elders.
- (c) The Board of Elders shall keep a record of their meetings. These records shall be confidential and for the use of the Board of Elders only.

## **Article XII. Finances**

### **Section 12.01 Financial Authority**

Unless otherwise stated in this constitution or formally approved by IBC in a duly called meeting, all financial authority and accountability rests with the membership.

Financial responsibility rests with the Board of Elders. Additional financial budgetary responsibility can be delegated to IBC officers, committee chairmen, and other appointed church functionaries for the orderly conduct of church affairs. Where these delegations are unclear, all financial matters under question should be presented for approval at a business meeting.

### **Section 12.02 Financial Approvals**

(a) Budget Approval

Financial matters requiring approval by the IBC membership shall include:

- (i). the IBC annual budget program;
- (ii). individual expenditures exceeding 10% of the proposed IBC annual budget (these shall be a specifically declared line item of the IBC annual budget);
- (iii). non-budgeted items exceeding 5% of the approved IBC annual budget;
- (iv). the purchase, sale or disposition of IBC property exceeding 10% of the approved IBC annual budget.

(b) Contract Approvals

Contractual matters that must be approved by the IBC membership shall include:

- (i). the execution of all contracts exceeding 25% of the approved IBC annual budget or that exceed three years in duration, with the exception of updated, revised compensation packages;
- (ii). financial obligations or contingent liabilities for all IBC contracts, which must have been approved as part of the annual budget or in another business meeting.

(c) Contract Executions

The legal execution of IBC contracts must be by IBC officers.

## **Article XIII. Dissolution**

- (a) A specially called meeting to consider dissolution of IBC must meet the quorum of 40% of the eligible voting members.
- (b) The dissolution of IBC requires the affirmative vote of not less than 67% of the eligible voting members present.
- (c) In the event of the dissolution of IBC, the net assets after due payment of all liabilities shall not be distributed to the members but shall be given to the International Baptist Convention, headquartered in Germany.
- (d) Notice of dissolution of IBC shall be given to the government authorities as appropriate within seven days of the dissolution decision.

## **Article XIV. Amendments**

### **Section 14.01 Process for Amendments**

- (a) Any proposed amendment(s) shall be presented in writing by a member to the Board of Elders for consideration.
- (b) The Board of Elders shall consider the proposal prayerfully and, if necessary, shall appoint a constitution review committee to consider the proposed amendment(s), any possible repercussions and any other amendments where appropriate.
- (c) If the Board of Elders considers that the reviewed amendment(s) are necessary, it shall present the proposal to the members in writing.
- (d) Not earlier than two weeks thereafter, the Board of Elders shall convene a specially called meeting for the members to vote on the proposed amendment(s).

### **Section 14.02 Approval of Amendments**

- (a) A specially called meeting to consider amendments of this constitution must meet the quorum of 40% of eligible voting members.
- (b) Approval of an amendment requires the affirmative vote of not less than 67% of the eligible members present.

## **Article XV. Final provisions**

- (a) The Board of Elders is authorized to establish policies and procedures that contain rules not currently present or not fully described in this constitution, provided that they do not contradict this constitution or the Dutch law.
- (b) In any case where this constitution or the policies and procedures of IBC are not clear or open to interpretation, the matter shall be considered before the Board of Elders. The decision of the Board of Elders on the matter shall be binding.

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This constitution has been approved by the membership of IBC on October 14, 2009