

Suggested Revisions for HHBC Bylaws

Below is a summary of the recommended changes to the by-laws.

- **Bold red text** indicates additions to the by-laws.
- Text that is struck through is a deletion to the by-laws.
- **Blue** is our explanation for suggested changes.

Recommendation 1:

The committee received Legal consultation and were supplied with language to add for clarification purposes. Also we inserted a clause to require a 75% Church vote for actions such as a Church merger.

ARTICLE II

The Church reaffirms as part of its by-laws the principles set forth in the resolution dated June 7, 1961, as amended

"Said Harpeth Heights Baptist Church is to be, and known forever as a missionary Baptist Church, and its property is to be held for the use and benefit of those of the membership, even though they be a minority, who adhere to, maintain, propagate the doctrines, faith and practices of missionary Baptists in Churches, and which cooperate with the local Baptist Association, Tennessee Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention, and refusal of the membership, though they be a majority, to cooperate with the local Baptist Association, Tennessee Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention, shall constitute such a deviation from the accepted usage's, practices and beliefs of Baptists, that said majority shall no longer constitute the true congregation of said Church, and the title to the property of said Church shall vest in, and be held for, the use and benefit of the minority, who do adhere to and maintain the doctrines, faith and practices of Baptist Churches which cooperate with the local Baptist Association, Tennessee Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention.

If there is no minority to make adequate use of said property then the title to said property shall revert to or become vested in the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, as Trustee, to hold and use said property or the proceeds, there from, to advance and propagate the Baptist cause and denomination in Tennessee."

It is the intention and the purpose for the ministry and property of Harpeth Heights Baptist Church to remain within the membership of the local Baptist Association, Tennessee Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention.

Any merger or affiliation with another Baptist church within the membership of the local Baptist Association, Tennessee Baptist Convention or Southern Baptist Convention would not constitute a deviation of the accepted usages, practices and beliefs as missionary Baptists of Harpeth Heights Baptist Church. Such a merger with another Baptist church must be approved by 75 % of the votes cast by the members present at a special called business meeting.

Recommendation 2:

We currently do not elect or vote on Sunday School teachers. We do not have RAs, GAs or Acteens. The committee felt Ministerial Staff should develop the educational programs that are needed for the church and Article X states that all ministries, organizations and services shall be under the Church control. All leaders shall be selected by the Pastor, the Ministerial Staff or other elected leaders. Article X is printed below for reference only.

The following section under Article VIII – Church Leadership will be deleted in its entirety.

~~Section 5—Officers of Church Organizations~~

~~All organizations of the Church shall be under Church control, all officers being elected by the Church and responsible to it. All officers shall be members of the Church.~~

~~(1)—Sunday School Officers and Teachers~~

~~The Church shall annually elect those Sunday School officers it deems necessary to provide an organized Sunday School program. The Church will approve teachers for each class whose duty it is to promote Bible Education.~~

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~~(2)—Women’s Missionary Union~~

~~The director of the WMU, general officers, and the leaders of its auxiliary organizations (Mission Friends, Girls in Action (GA's), Acteens, and Women on Mission) shall be elected by the Church, upon the nomination of the WMU. They are authorized to solicit offerings for the annual International, North American, and state mission’s goals, and to promote an overall missions program.~~

~~(3)—Royal Ambassadors Leaders~~

~~Leaders for the Royal Ambassadors positions shall be elected annually by the Church.~~

ARTICLE X Educational Ministries

The Church shall have such ministries, organizations and services as are determined necessary to accomplish the purpose of the Church as stated in Article III of these bylaws. All of these shall be under the Church control. All leaders shall be selected by the Pastor, the Ministerial Staff or other elected leaders, and all activities shall be subject to Church coordination and supervision.

Recommendation 3:

The committee felt Article XII should be amended to reflect our current meeting times.

ARTICLE XII Church Meetings

Section 1 - Worship Services

- (1) The Church shall meet regularly each Sunday morning, ~~evening, and on Wednesday evenings~~ **and at such times as designated by the ministerial staff** for preaching, prayer, instruction, evangelism, and worship of the Almighty God. These meetings shall be open for members and visitors and shall be conducted under the direction of the Pastor, or one authorized by the Church or Pastor. These services may be called off only (1) by Church approval, or (2) by the Pastor/**Interim Pastor/Chairman of the Deacons or Church Administrator** when they feel an emergency situation so exists that would threaten the safety of the members.

Recommendation 4:

The committee felt Article XIV should be updated. The new Baptist Faith and Message added a section XVIII about the family and states that marriage is between one man and one woman. A comparison between the 1925, 1963 and the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message can be found on the web at the following location: <http://www.sbc.net/bfm2000/bfmcomparison.asp>.

ARTICLE XIV Article of Faith

We subscribe to the Articles of Faith in the **1963** Baptist Faith and Message adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention **and as amended in 1998**.