

# CHURCH CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS FOR RISEN SON SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

*Adopted by the membership on February 26, 2003*

*Revised by the membership on February 1, 2015*

*Revised by the membership on November 8, 2020*

Since it pleased Almighty God, by His Holy Spirit, to call certain of His servants to unite here in 1999, for the worship of God and the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and He has sustained this work to the present day; and whereas we, the members of Risen Son Southern Baptist Church, having searched the Scriptures under the guidance of His Spirit, have recognized the need to reconstitute ourselves to more closely conform to His will for the Church in this age and prepare ourselves for greater efforts in His name; now therefore we, the members of Risen Son Southern Baptist Church, do hereby organize ourselves in accord with the Wyoming Nonprofit Corporation Act of 2011 and adopt this Constitution as our articles of governance, to be interpreted at all times to reflect the character of and bring glory to Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Holy Bible and articulated in the standards set forth in the adopted Statement of Faith, the Covenant of this church, and the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

## I. NAME AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE

- A. **Church Name and History.** The Church was founded and incorporated in 1999 as Risen Son Southern Baptist Church (hereinafter the “Church” also later referred to as “RSSBC”).
- B. **Principal Office.** The principal office is at 342 Amoretti St., Thermopolis, Wyoming 82443.

## II. THE CHURCH’S STATEMENT OF FAITH, OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE FOR EXISTENCE AS A CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND MINISTRY

- A. **Mission Statement.** Worshipping God and loving the saints for the fame of Jesus’ name.
- B. **Specific Detailed Statement of Faith.**

### THE WORD OF GOD

We believe the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. *1 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31, 32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32*

### THE TRINITY

We believe there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption. *Genesis 1:1, 26; John 1:1, 3; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19, 20; Ephesians 4:5, 6*

### GOD THE FATHER

We believe in God the Father, an infinite personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, He hears and answers prayer, and He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. *Luke 10:21,22; Matthew 23:9; John 3:16; 6:27; Romans 1:7; 1 Timothy 1:1, 2; 2:5, 6; 1 Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6*

## **JESUS CHRIST**

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth. *Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1; 20:28; Romans 9:5; 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:21-23; John 20:30, 31; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:4; Acts 1:11; Romans 5:6-8; 6:9, 10; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:28; 1 Timothy 3:16*

## **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, sent by the Father and Son, in the name of Jesus Christ to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide. *John 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26, 27; John 16:9-14; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 5:22-26*

## **REGENERATION**

We believe man was created by God in His own image; that man sinned and thereby incurred physical, spiritual, and eternal death which is separation from God; as a consequence, all human beings are conceived in sin, born with a sinful nature and are sinners by choice and therefore under condemnation. We believe those who repent and forsake sin, trusting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and become new creatures, delivered from condemnation, and receive eternal life. *Genesis 1:26; 5:2; Genesis 3; Genesis 2:17; 3:19; Ecclesiastes 2:11; John 3:14; 5:24; John 5:30; 7:13; 8:12; 10:26; Romans 9:22; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 19:3, 20; 20:10, 14, 15; 21:18; Psalm 51:7; Jeremiah 17:9; James 1:14; Romans 3:19; 5:19; Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9; John 3:16; John 1:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:1*

## **THE CHURCH**

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world. *Ephesians 2:19-22; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:19-21; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:23-25*

## **CHRISTIAN CONDUCT**

We believe a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of his fellow men; his conduct should be blameless before the world; he should be a faithful steward of his possessions; and he should seek to realize for himself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. *1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 12:1-3; Hebrews 12:1-2; John 14:15, 23-24; 1 John 2:3-6; 2 Corinthians 9:6-9; 1 Corinthians 4:2; Colossians 1:9-10*

## **THE ORDINANCES**

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. *Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

## **RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

Under the authority of Jesus Christ we believe in the autonomy of the local church. *1 Timothy 2:5; Romans 14:7-9, 12*

## **CHURCH COOPERATION**

We believe local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such organizations and associations exist and function by the will of the churches. This church is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, and may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary independent basis, and may be terminated at any time. *Acts 15:36,41; 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:1; Galatians 1:1-3; Revelation 1:4, 10, 11*

## **THE LAST THINGS**

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal bliss of the righteous in Christ and the endless suffering of the wicked. *Matthew 16:27; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:15; 2 Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15*

- C. Summary Statement of Faith.** The Church is an organized body of Christians saved by personal faith in Jesus Christ and baptized in His name. While recognizing diversity in methods, we are united to proclaim the truth of the Bible, to equip our members for Christian service, spiritual growth and Christ-like living, and to carry out the Great Commission to take the Gospel to all the world. We affirm the Bible as the inspired Word of God and as the basis for our beliefs and actions. We affirm that personal saving faith in Jesus Christ is the only way a person can enter into an eternal heavenly relationship with God. As an affirmation of basic Christian beliefs, and for guidance in the programs and teachings of the Church, the Church accepts "The Baptist Faith and Message" as adopted in 1963 as amended and reaffirmed in 2000 as a general statement of our faith.

## **III. THE COVENANT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH**

RSSBC seeks to worship together under a covenant, or a statement of faith, of how we agree to live as a church. The church covenant is equal parts promise, summary of expectations, and ethical statement founded upon the Word of God. This covenant is a summary of how we promise to live together. It expresses the ethics and the moral principles of our worldview, and holds out a biblical standard by which we aim to live. The Scriptures are the only infallible rule of faith and practice, while this covenant is our agreement upon how we endeavor to live by that rule.

By featuring the covenant in our life together, we strive to protect ourselves from individual and corporate sin. Of equal importance, we spur one another on to live in light of a greater covenant, one initiated by love, sealed by sacrifice, and kept for eternity by our Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **AGREED COVENANT STATEMENT OF MEMBERS**

Having, as we trust, been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves to Him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully make this covenant with one other.

We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *Ephesians 4:1-3*

We will work for the purity of the body of Christ. *1 Corinthians 5:6-13; Ephesians 5:25- 27, 32*

We will walk together in brotherly love, as is becoming of members of a Christian Church, exercise an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other and faithfully admonish and entreat one another as occasion may require. *Romans 12:10; Galatians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; Hebrews 10:24, 25, 13:1; 2 Peter 1:7*

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor neglect to pray for ourselves and others. *Matthew 6:5-15; Hebrews 4:16, 10:24, 25*

We will endeavor to bring up those that may at any time be under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example to seek the salvation of our family and friends. *Deuteronomy 4:9, 10, 6:4-9; Psalm 78:4; Proverbs 22:6; Matthew 28:18-20*

We will rejoice at each other's happiness and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows. *Romans 12:15; 1 Corinthians 12:26; Galatians 6:2*

We will seek, by the power of the Spirit, to live carefully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and remembering that, as we have been voluntarily buried by baptism and raised from the grave, so there is on us a special obligation now to lead a new and holy life. *Isaiah 32:6; Romans 6:1-4, 8:12-14; 2 Timothy 2:16; 1 Peter 1:14-16, Philippians 1:27*

We will work together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, discipleship, and doctrines. We will 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. *Matthew 28:18-10; Romans 1:5, 6; Colossians 3:16, 17; 1 Corinthians 11:17-32; 2 Corinthians 8:1- 15, 9:6-11*

We will, when we move from this place, 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. *1 Corinthians 12:14-26; Hebrews 3:12, 13, 10:24, 25*

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen. *1 Corinthians 16:23, 24; Galatians 6:18; Philippians 4:23*

## BYLAWS

Because of the spiritual realities of the Church, these bylaws guide our efforts to fulfill our calling, utilizing our spiritual gifts and maximizing our service to the Lord. The bylaws are designed to maximize the impact of the members as a body, while protecting the agreed duties and privileges of members. *“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,” Philippians 2:2b–5, ESV*

### Article I Membership

#### A. Qualifications

Each member must agree to submit to the teaching of Scripture as expressed in the Statement of Faith and must promise to keep the commitments expressed in the Church Covenant. The elders shall be responsible for determining each person’s qualification for membership. In making this determination, they may rely on a person’s profession of faith, or such other evidence, as the elders deem appropriate.

- a. Qualifications for membership in this church: a person must be a believer in Jesus Christ whose life evidences regeneration, and wholeheartedly believes in the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible.
- b. Baptism by immersion as an expression of the obedience of faith.
- c. Public testimony before the RSSBC congregation.

#### B. Admission of Members

- a. Applicants shall be given access to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Church, be recommended by the elders for admission, must be accepted by a vote of the members at any regular or special meeting of the members, and shall at that point relinquish their membership in other churches.
- b. In the event of an objection by any member, upon the applicant’s request for membership, the elders will undertake further examination of the candidate.

#### C. Duties and Privileges of Membership

- a. In accord with the duties enumerated in the Church Covenant, each member shall be privileged and expected to participate in and contribute to the ministry and life of the church consistent with God’s leading and with the gifting, time, and material resources each has received from God. Only members of this congregation shall be entitled to serve in the ministries of the church; non-members may serve on an ad-hoc basis with the approval of the elders.
- b. Notwithstanding, non-members may serve the church for purposes of administration and professional consultation. Under Christ this congregation is governed by its members. Therefore, it is the privilege and responsibility of members to attend members’ meetings and vote on the election of officers, on decisions regarding membership, and on such other matters as may be submitted to a vote. Voting members must be 18 years of age.

#### D. On Church Discipline

- a. Accountability and church discipline are the biblical foundations for church membership. Any member consistently neglectful of his or her duties or guilty of conduct by which the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be dishonored, and so opposing the welfare of the church and/or rendering doubtful a profession of faith, shall be subject to the admonition of the elders and the discipline of the church, according to the instructions of our Lord in Matthew 18:15–17 and the example of Scripture. *1 Corinthians 5:4-5*

- b. Church discipline should ordinarily be contemplated after individual private admonition has failed. Church discipline can include admonition by the elders or congregation, deposition from office, and excommunication. *Matthew 18:15–17; I Timothy 5:19–20; I Corinthians 5:4–5.*
- c. The purpose of such discipline should be
  - i. for the repentance, reconciliation, and spiritual growth of the individual disciplined, *Proverbs 15:5; 29: 15; I Corinthians 4:14; Ephesians 6:4; I Timothy 3:4–5; Hebrews 12:1–11; Psalm 119:115; 141:5; Proverbs 17:10; 25:12; 27:5; Ecclesiastes 7:5; Matthew 7:26–27; 18:15–17; Luke 17:3; Acts 2:40; I Corinthians 5:5; Galatians 6:1–5; II Thessalonians 3:6, 14–15; I Timothy 1:20; Titus 1:13–14; James 1:22;*
  - ii. for the instruction in righteousness and good of other Christians, as an example to them, *Proverbs 13:20; Romans 15:14; I Corinthians 5:11; 15:33; Colossians 3:16; I Thessalonians 5:14 [note this is written to the whole church, not just to leaders]; I Timothy 5:20; Titus 1:11; Hebrews 10:24–25;*
  - iii. for the purity of the church as a whole, *I Corinthians 5:6–7; II Corinthians 13:10; Ephesians 5:27; II John 10; Jude 24; Revelation 21:2;*
  - iv. for the good of our corporate witness to non-Christians, *Proverbs 28:7; Matthew 5:13–16; John 13:35; Acts 5:1–14; Ephesians 5:11; I Timothy 3:7; II Peter 2:2; I John 3:10;*
  - v. and supremely for the glory of God by reflecting His holy character. *Deuteronomy 5:11; I Kings 11:2; II Chronicles 19:2; Ezra 6:21; Nehemiah 9:2; Isaiah 52:11; Ezekiel 36:20; Matthew 5:16; John 15:8; 18:17, 25; Romans 2:24; 15:5–6; II Corinthians 6:14–7:1; Ephesians 1:4; 5:27; I Peter 2:12.*

#### E. Termination of Membership

- a. The church shall recognize the termination of a person's membership following his or her death, and it shall also recognize the termination of a person's membership following his or her self-professed apostasy as confirmed by congregational vote.
- b. The church may recognize the termination of a person's membership after he or she has voluntarily resigned or joined another church.
- c. Membership may also be terminated as an act of church discipline (ordinarily, but not necessarily, at the recommendation of the elders) upon the vote of at least two-thirds of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the members.
- d. The church shall have authority to refuse a member's voluntary resignation or transfer of membership to another church, either for the purpose of proceeding with a process of church discipline or for any other biblical reason.

## Article II Leadership and Organization

### A. Summary

The biblical offices in the church are elders and deacons. In addition, our church recognizes the administrative positions under this constitution of clerk, treasurer, and financial secretary. All officers must be members of this church prior to assuming their responsibilities.

### B. Elders

- a. The council of elders should be comprised of not less than three men who satisfy the qualifications for the office of elder set forth in I Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:6–9. No elder shall hold the office of deacon during his service as elder. Subject to the will of the congregation, the elders shall oversee the ministry and resources of the church. In

- keeping with the principles set forth in Acts 6:1–6 and I Peter 5:1–4, the elders shall devote their time to prayer, the ministry of the Word (by teaching and encouraging sound doctrine), and shepherding God’s flock.
- b. The church shall recognize men gifted and willing to serve in this calling in accordance with the constitutional provisions on elections. These men shall be received as gifts of Christ to His church and set apart as elders.
  - c. The elders shall take particular responsibility to examine and instruct prospective members, examine and recommend all prospective candidates for offices and positions, oversee the work of the deacons and appointed church agents and committees, conduct worship services, administer the ordinances of baptism and communion, equip the membership for the work of the ministry, encourage sound doctrine and practice, admonish and correct error, oversee the process of church discipline, coordinate and promote the ministries of the church, and mobilize the church for world missions.
  - d. The elders should seek to ensure that all who minister the Word to the congregation, including outside speakers, affirm our fundamental Gospel convictions and do not teach our church anything contrary to the Statement of Faith. The elders may establish ministry positions or committees to assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities, (see, Article III).
  - e. The elders may also propose new staff positions. The membership shall approve all candidates to fill pastoral staff positions.
  - f. Each year the elders, after consultation with the deacons, and the membership, shall present to the church an itemized budget. This budget shall be presented for discussion at a regular or specially-called budget meeting and called up for a vote at the following members’ meeting. No money shall be solicited by or on behalf of the church or any of its ministries without the approval of the elders.
  - g. The elders shall elect a chairman of elders’ meetings and shall also elect one from among their number to serve as moderator of members’ meetings. The elders shall also select a treasurer from among their number to be affirmed by the congregation.
  - h. For purposes of compliance with the nonprofit corporation laws of Wyoming, the elders shall elect one from among their number to serve as the president of the corporation.
  - i. **Call by the Church**  
 The members shall call an elder (1) by ballot upon recommendation of the Council of Elders and (2) by at least a 90% majority of those members voting at the meeting with a quorum as defined in Article IV.B. Notice shall be given according to the criterion for member’s meetings as articulated in Article IV.B.(3) If the church is without elders, the staff elder shall select men for the position of elder, upon the approval of the church by a 90% margin of members voting. (4) If the church is without a staff elder, or a Council of Elders and is seeking to fill the position of staff or non-staff Elder, the appointed leaders or leading members, and willing participants of the church, shall agree together to appoint a committee at a members meeting to place a candidate before the church. The established requirements for voting and approving of an elder are the same for a staff elder, or non-staff elder.
    - i. The call by the Church of an elder will happen after a substantial vetting process. A candidate will be interviewed, waterboarded, and tested for at least a one year period before approval as an official elder of the church. In the case of a staff elder this process may be sped up in the case of moving from another community.
  - j. **Organization**
    - i. The Council of Elders shall organize itself however it determines to be best to achieve the mission of the Church. The elders shall be equal in authority but may

be specialized in function. Meetings of the Council of Elders may be held at any location and may be conducted by means of electronic communication through which the elders may simultaneously hear each other. Unless the Council provides otherwise, meetings of the Council may be held immediately upon notice. The Council shall annually select its officers from among its non-staff elders.

- ii. Staff-elders shall not be elected to various offices/duties within the church for the protection of the church and the elder. Staff-elders shall not be the treasurer, financial secretary, an officer of the elders, or a trustee/legal representative.
- iii. If the church is unable to have the elders required for filling positions necessary for function and compliance with Wyoming Nonprofit Corporation Act of 2011, the Church may fill those offices with members as qualified as possible.

#### C. Deacons

##### a. Qualifications

Deacons and nominees for deacon shall be men who are members in good standing and demonstrate godly character and possess particular gifts of service. deacons will exemplify the godly characteristics set forth in I Timothy 3:8-12.

##### b. Responsibilities

The deacons shall advise and be ready to assist the elders in any service that shall support and promote the ministry of the Word, new and existing ministries of the Church, and the care for the members of the congregation. Their responsibilities may include: administering a fund to assist the poor and needy and otherwise providing aid in times of crisis or distress, the greeting and welcoming ministries of the Church, assisting in administering the ordinances of the Gospel, assisting at fellowship gatherings of the Church, caring for and maintaining the Church properties, administering the business affairs of the Church that pertain to its material assets.

##### c. Composition

Deacons may or may not be employed by the Church. The number of deacons shall be determined by the needs of the ministry and by the call and qualification of men in the Church.

##### d. Call by the Church

The members shall call a deacon (1) by ballot upon recommendation of the Council of Elders and (2) by at least a two-thirds majority of those members voting at the meeting with a quorum as defined in Article IV.B. Notice shall be given according to the criterion for members' meetings as articulated in Article IV.B.

##### e. Organization

Under the direction of the elders, the deacons shall organize themselves however they determine to be best to achieve the mission of the Church. The elders or the deacons may designate any specific deacon or group of deacons to specialize in some particular diaconal function. Meetings of the deacons, or subcommittees thereof, shall be held as needed to best fulfill the responsibilities of the deacons.

#### D. Administrative Positions

These positions will be selected by the council of elders, and then affirmed by the membership. The affirmation will be by a simple majority vote.

##### a. Clerk

The clerk will be responsible for the orderly filing and recording of church documents. This includes, but is not limited to: recording detailed minutes of all members meetings,



registering pertinent documents with the state, as well as with the Southern Baptist Convention and its affiliates, and curating membership roles underneath the guidance of the elders. The staff secretary may assist in some of these duties.

b. Treasurer

For details related to treasurer see Article II.B.g. This position is to exercise oversight of expenditures of the budget as voted on by the church.

c. Financial Secretary

This administrative position can be filled by multiple people to count monies received, manage deposits, pay bills, and handle the general bookkeeping under the direction of the Treasurer. This position will not be filled by anyone on the Council of Elders, but will be selected by them.

E. Removal

a. Resignation

Officers and leadership may resign their office at any time if they find they are no longer able to discharge the duties of the office.

b. Grievance

Where a grievance exists against an officer or leader due to teaching contrary to the beliefs of the Church as set forth in Section II of its Constitution or to alleged conduct on their part unfitting of an officer or leader, such grievance may be brought before the Council of Elders by any two members in good standing. If the Council, after thorough investigation and consideration, believes the grievance to be true and substantial, then the position of the officer or leader may be terminated at any business meeting upon the recommendation of the Council of Elders when supported by closed ballot of a majority of those members of the Church present and voting with at least ten percent (10%) of the membership of the Church present at such meeting. Oral notice of any such meeting, stating its object, shall be given from the pulpit on the two successive Sundays preceding the meeting. Notice shall also be given by mail (electronic or otherwise) to the membership at least one week before the meeting.

If the Council is unresponsive to the grievance, and 10% of voting membership petition together to bring the matter before a members meeting, it is then permissible to bring the grievance before the church without elder approval.

c. Nonparticipation

Defined as chronic absenteeism in church meetings or failure to complete duties of office, hired or appointed. This applies for meetings of leadership as well as fellowship meetings. Elders and deacons, by good faith, will evaluate such issues as may arise with sensitivity on a case by case basis.

F. Licensing and Ordination

In the matter of licensure and ordination to the gospel ministry, the Church shall follow the procedure approved by the Council of Elders.

### Article III Church Ministry

Members of this church shall have the liberty to participate in and organize themselves for ministry, provided that such participation and organization does not conflict with Article II of the Constitution. Any such organization may seek church sanction from the Council of Elders as an official ministry of the church. Such sanction shall be granted provided that the object, purpose, belief and conduct of the organization and its members is consistent with Article II of the Constitution. Such support may be requested as provided by the leadership of the church.

Sanction by the Council of Elders does not necessarily imply support of the organization by the church with personnel, finances, or facilities.

#### **Article IV Meetings**

##### **A. Worship Meetings**

Worship services shall be held each Lord's Day, and may be held throughout the week as the church determines.

##### **B. Members' Meetings**

- a. In every meeting together, members shall act in that spirit of mutual trust, openness, and loving consideration which is appropriate within the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. There should be a regular members' meeting at least quarterly. The November meeting should be for financial purposes. All meetings shall follow a preset agenda.
- b. An elder designated by the elders shall preside as moderator at all members' meetings of the church. The elders shall see that the stated meetings of the church are regularly held and that required reports are submitted to the church by the responsible members.
- c. Provided all constitutional provisions for notification have been met, a quorum shall be understood to be met by those members present. All votes shall be tallied based on the number of votes cast by members present.
- d. A budget shall be approved by the membership at a members' meeting not more than three months after the start of the fiscal year. Congregational approval shall proceed, without amendment, as a single vote on the budget in its entirety. Prior to this approval and subject to the elders' discretion, expenditures may continue at the prior year's level.
- e. Special members' meetings may be called as required by the elders, or at the written request, submitted to the elders, of five percent of the voting membership. The date, time, and purpose of any special meeting shall be announced at all public services of the church within two weeks preceding the meeting and posted at all entrances to the church during that time period. In the event of a written request from the members, the elders shall call a special meeting to be held within one month of their receipt of the request.
- f. Rules Governing Business Meetings. Robert's Rules of Order shall be recognized as the general pattern for the conduct of the business meetings of the Church. Seeking the Lord's wisdom and blessing through thankful prayer shall be a part of every meeting.
- g. Oral notice of any member's meeting, stating its object, shall be given from the pulpit on the next two successive Sundays preceding the meeting. Notice shall be communicated, electronic or otherwise, to the membership at least one week before the meeting.

#### **Article V Finance**

##### **A. In General**

- a. No method of raising funds shall be entertained which is in conflict with the Scriptural ideals of the Church.
- b. All funds donated for missions by the societies and organizations of the Church shall pass through the Church Finance Secretary and the Treasurer in order that due record may be made and credit given to the Church. The Deacons shall provide assistance for the Financial Secretary in accounting for funds donated.

##### **B. Contributions**

It is understood that membership in this church involves responsibilities to financially support the Church and its causes with regular and proportionate giving. Each member shall be encouraged in Scriptural giving. Special offerings may be sought by the Church, or by any of its organizations, with the approval of the Council of Elders. This shall not

- preclude individuals from making special offerings or designated gifts at any time as the Spirit of God may move them.
- C. Financial Planning  
The financial planning of the Church shall be carried out through the medium of annual budgets for carrying out of the various programs of its work. Annual budgets shall be adopted by the Church upon recommendation of the Council of Elders, or, if authorized by the Council, the Deacons or other committee. Matters involving staff compensation shall be the responsibility of the members of the Council of Elders. The Council of Elders may delegate this responsibility to deacons or other members of the Church.
- D. Accounts  
Financial receipts from all sources shall be accounted for by the Finance Secretary according to the purposes for which contributions are designated. The Treasurer of the Church shall disburse these funds promptly according to the financial program of the Church as detailed in the budgets or other authorized designations. All monies for missions shall be remitted in accordance with the mission budget of the Church or otherwise designated, preferably each month and not less than each quarter.
- E. Indebtedness  
No note or contract exceeding 1% of the total annual budget whereby the credit of the Church is pledged shall be made except by recommendation of the Council of Elders and approved by the Church.
- F. Authority to Bind the Church  
The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council of Elders are the only officers who have authority, in accordance with these By-Laws, the Church Constitution, and any applicable laws, to execute legal documents relating to real estate, church property, and church finances.

## **Article VI Indemnification**

- A. Mandatory Indemnification  
If a legal claim or criminal allegation is made against a person because he or she is or was an officer, employee, or agent of the church, the church shall provide indemnification against liability and costs incurred in defending against the claim if the elders determine that the person acted:
- i. in good faith,
  - ii. with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a similar position would exercise under similar circumstances,
  - iii. in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the church, and the person had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful.
- B. Permissive Indemnification  
At the discretion of the elders, the church may also indemnify any person who acted in good faith and reasonably believed that his or her conduct was in the church's best interest and not unlawful.
- C. Procedure  
If elders are not available for an indemnification determination because of the number of elders seeking indemnification, the requisite determination may be made by the membership or by special legal counsel appointed by the membership.

### **Article VII Dispute Resolution**

- A. Believing that the Bible commands Christians to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian Church (see e.g. Matthew 18: 15–20, I Corinthians 6: 1–8), the church shall require its members to resolve ordinary civil disputes among themselves according to biblically based principles, without reliance on the secular courts.
- B. In the case of criminal activity within the congregation, the State has a God-given responsibility to protect the peace and security of its citizens that should be supported and encouraged. Consistent with its call to peacemaking, the church shall encourage the use of biblically based principles to resolve disputes between itself and those outside the church, whether Christian or pagan and whether individuals or corporate entities.

### **Article VIII Deviations of Practice**

If a church member believes the church to be out of accord with this constitution, he or she should inform an elder. When the elders determine that the church is out of accord with this constitution, they must provide an update at each members' meeting until the situation is remedied.

### **Article IX Amendments**

- A. The Statement of Faith and Church Covenant may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a members' meeting, provided the amendment shall have been offered in writing at the previous members' meeting, and shall have been announced from the pulpit at church services two successive Sundays prior to such vote.
- B. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a members' meeting, provided the amendment shall have been offered in writing at the previous members' meeting, and shall have been announced from the pulpit at church services two successive Sundays prior to such vote. The revised version of this constitution shall be made available to all church members by the church clerk.
- C. Section II.A doctrinal statement and Article VI.B of this constitution shall not be repealed, amended or revised.
- D. Amendments to these By-Laws may be introduced through written motion at any quarterly meeting, with the exception of Article II.B.b regarding amending the Elder Affirmation of Faith which as previously stated may only be amended by a recommendation of the Council of Elders to the church. Amendments shall not be acted on until the following quarterly or annual meeting, at which time an affirmative vote of the majority of the membership of the Church, or a two-thirds majority of those members present at the meeting and voting shall be required for acceptance, provided however, that at least ten percent (10%) of the membership of the Church be present at such meeting, and notice of the proposed change or amendment be given from the pulpit at church services on at least two successive Sundays and in writing to the resident membership in the interim period between the meetings.

### **Article X Dissolution**

- A. In the event that the elders of the church determine that there is reasonable cause to dissolve the Risen Son SBC as a corporate entity, the elders shall recommend dissolution to the membership.
- B. The elders shall call a special members' meeting as set out in Article 4, Section 2. Notice of the meeting shall be sent in writing to the membership and posted at all entrances to the church building no less than sixty days prior to the meeting. The notice shall state that the purpose of the

meeting is to consider dissolution of the corporation and how the assets of the corporation will be distributed after all creditors have been paid. At least two-thirds of the members present at the meeting must vote in the affirmative to approve the proposal of dissolution.

- C. After approval of dissolution by the members, all of the corporation’s debts shall be fully satisfied. None of its assets or holdings shall be divided among the members or other individuals, but shall be irrevocably designated, as approved by a simple majority of the members present at a members’ meeting, to one or more religious organizations which are in agreement with the letter and spirit of the Statement of Faith. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of exclusively for such exempt purposes by a court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the corporation is then located.

UPON AUTHORIZATION OF THE MEMBERS properly meeting and voting to affirm the acceptance of the same, the above and foregoing Bylaws of Risen Son Southern Baptist Church are hereby officially executed and enacted to be the official bylaws of Risen Son Southern Baptist Church on this 8th day of November, 2020.

RISEN SON SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.

\_\_\_\_\_ By: Brian Johnson, Senior Pastor

CERTIFICATE OF CLERK

Acting as the Clerk of Risen Son Southern Baptist Church, I verify and affirm that Brian Johnson, as Senior Pastor of Risen Son Southern Baptist Church, signed this official set of the church’s bylaws, consisting of 13 pages, as adopted by a vote of the members of the Church on November, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_ , Church Clerk

CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMITY

This is to certify that the foregoing document, consisting of \_\_\_\_\_ pages, is a true and correct copy of the Bylaws of Risen Son Southern Baptist Church, a Wyoming church incorporated as a Nonprofit Religious Corporation, as adopted at a meeting of the members of Risen Son Southern Baptist Church, Inc., on the day of November, 2020, after proper notice and at which a proper quorum of members was present.

The meeting was duly held in accordance with law, the articles of incorporation, and the bylaws of the church.

It is further certified that the foregoing Articles of Incorporation are in full force and effect and have not been amended or modified subsequent to the date of its adoption, endorsement and filing in the office of the Secretary of State of Wyoming.

It is further certified that the foregoing document is a conformed copy that agrees with the original document and all amendments to the original.

Verified & Witnessed:

\_\_\_\_\_ , Church Clerk

RISEN SON SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.

\_\_\_\_\_ By: Brian Johnson, Senior Pastor