

Constitution of **The People's Church at Oak Mountain**

Revision 1 – 11-1-2006

Preamble

For the purpose of preserving and making secure the principles of faith and to the end that this body be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the principles of scripture, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of the church, and to set forth the relationship of this body to other bodies of the faith, we do declare and establish this Constitution.

Name

The name of this church shall be The People's Church at Oak Mountain, **herein described as TPCOM.**

Denomination

For the purpose of being involved in kingdom causes both locally and abroad we will be a supporting church in the **Birmingham** Baptist Association and the Southern Baptist Convention. These organizations will have no authority over our church finances, polity, beliefs, or decision-making. They will provide us with opportunities to be involved in projects that extend beyond our own church.

Purpose

The People's Church at Oak Mountain is committed to becoming a church following the biblical principles outlined below.

1. God's church is a spiritual body. (1:1-26)

- **It is centered around the person of Christ. (1:1-3)**
-*Eph. 4:15-16*, growing into Christ the head
-*1 Cor. 12:12, 27*, the body of Christ
- **It is empowered by the Holy Spirit. (1:4-5)**
- **It is not about human control or agendas. (1:6-11)**
-The church does have a mission.
-We exist for God's purposes not our own.
- **It is to be led on a spiritual path by spiritual people. (1:12-26)**

-They gathered, prayed, and trusted God to lead them.

2. God wants the freedom to be God among his people.

(2:1-22)

- **Acts 2:32-33, 37, 43, 5:12, 8:6, 8:13, 14:3, 15:12, 19:11-12**

3. God wants us to focus on simply being his church.

(2:42-47)

- In the early days three things were powerfully in our hearts...we wanted to be the church plain and simple...we believed that God had more at stake than we did, so we needed to let him lead it **(Matt. 16:18)**...we believed that if we really were all gifted than God would bring his gifted people to serve and we would be functioning as his body.
- The kind of church we wanted to be a part of would be:
 - Devoted to God's word
 - A place of true friends for all ages
 - A place that focused on the sacrifice of Christ
 - serving as the body
 - not owning our finances
 - serving our community

Declaration of Faith

For the purpose of having a doctrinal statement that serves as a guide for our leadership we will use "The Baptist Faith and Message" 1963 edition as a basis.

BYLAWS

Article I: Membership

Any individual who desires can fully participate in any and all ministries, events, and activities related to TPCOM. TPCOM exists for all people everywhere.

If an individual desires membership in TPCOM he or she can request membership one of the following ways:

1. By professing saving faith in Jesus Christ
2. by letter or statement from another church of like faith (That salvation is in Christ alone, that salvation

- cannot be earned or lost, and the baptism is administered following one's salvation experience.)
3. By restoration to active fellowship one who has previously lost such standing in this church.

Membership is removed upon request of the member, on behalf of the member by a sister church of like faith, by death, by a 2/3 majority vote of the Navigation Team for reason of non-participation or by church discipline means as set forth in scripture, specifically, Matthew 18. Matters of church discipline shall be administered by the Navigation Team and the purpose will be to restore the individual who is falling away from God. It does not have disassociation as its goal.

ARTICLE II: Membership Meetings

SECTION I: Place

Meetings of the members shall be held at places as may be designated from time to time by the **Navigation Team**.

SECTION II: Annual Meetings

An annual meeting of the members shall **be held at a date, time and location set by the Navigation Team** each year. The purpose of this meeting shall be to adopt an annual budget and to approve the Navigation Team. Any other proper business may be conducted at this meeting as determined by the Navigation Team.

SECTION III: Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called at any time by the Navigation Team for any purpose by giving notice to the members.

SECTION IV: Quorum

Those members present and voting at a meeting duly noticed and called shall constitute a quorum of the membership for the transaction of business.

SECTION V: Responsibilities of Membership

The responsibilities of membership are to **learn and live the message of God**.

SECTION VI: Voting Rights of Membership

Every Member shall have the right to vote on the following matters: the approval of the annual budget of the Church, the approval of the Navigation Team, the disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Church, the merger or dissolution of the Church, the acquisition of real property and related indebtedness, amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of the Church, and the calling of Navigation Team members. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

ARTICLE III: Navigation Team

SECTION I: Number and Term

The authorized number of Navigation Team members shall be, until changed by amendment of the Articles of Incorporation or by a Bylaw duly adopted by the members, 5-10 **and serve a three year term**. The **Navigation Team** will be selected by a nominating committee including the **Senior Pastor** and approved by the members at the annual membership meeting. The Navigation Team members may be removed by a 2/3 vote of the Navigation Team. Individual responsibilities of the Navigation Team will be outlined by the teams Moderator, Navigation Team, and **Senior Pastor**.

SECTION II: Powers

The Navigation Team shall have the following powers and duties:

1. General corporate powers. Subject to the provisions and limitations in the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws, the activities, business and affairs of the Church shall be conducted and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of **Navigation Team**.
2. Specific Powers. Without prejudice to the general powers set forth above, and subject to same limitations, the **Navigation Team** shall have the power to:
 - a. Select and remove all officers, agents and employees; prescribe any powers and duties for them that are consistent with law, with the Articles of Incorporation and with these Bylaws; and

- b. Change the principal executive office or the principal business office of the Church from one location to another, and designate any place for the holding of any meeting or meetings of the **Navigation Team**; and
- c. Adopt, make and use a corporate seal and alter the form of the seal; and
- d. To provide financial counsel and accountability to the Pastor/s and staff.
- e. To conduct such other duties and activities as the Navigation Team may deem appropriate.

The **Navigation Team** of the church shall manage and operate the day-to-day business affairs of the church and be responsible for providing leadership and support to the ministry leaders of the church.

SENIOR PASTOR

A Senior Pastor must evidence a clear call from God to pastoral ministry.

Responsibilities:

The **Senior Pastor** is responsible for leading the church to function as a New Testament Church. The pastor will lead the congregation, the organizations, and the church staff to perform their tasks.

The **Senior Pastor** is leader of pastoral ministries in the church. As such, he works with the Navigation Team and church staff to: (1) lead the church in the achievement of its mission, (2) proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers, and (3) care for the church members and persons in the community.

Selection of Senior Pastor

Whenever a vacancy occurs the **Navigation Team** shall establish a search team made of both Navigation Team members and church members. This team shall seek out a **Senior Pastor**, and its recommendation shall constitute a nomination. The committee shall bring to the consideration of the church only one person at a time.

An affirmative vote by secret ballot of three-fourths of those members present and voting shall be necessary to approve the calling of a Senior Pastor.

All other Staff and Pastor(s) are at will employees as deemed necessary by the Navigation Team.

Removal of Senior Pastor

The **Senior Pastor** may relinquish the office of pastor by giving at least 2 weeks notice to the church at the time of resignation.

The church may declare the office of **Senior Pastor** to be vacant. Such action shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one week's public notice has been given. Prior to any such declaration, due consideration should be given to Matthew 7:1-2; Matthew 18:15-17; and I Timothy 5:17-19. Any accusation shall first be taken to the **Navigation Team** who shall then consider such accusation and the validity thereof. They shall then counsel with the **Senior Pastor** and/or make further recommendations to the church. A meeting to consider the pulpit vacant may be called upon by a majority vote of the Navigation Team.

ARTICLE V: Meetings of the Navigation Team

SECTION I: Place of Meetings

Regular or special meetings of the **Navigation Team** may be held at any place that has been designated from time to time by resolution of the Moderator of the Navigation Team or by the Navigation Team.

Article VI: Process for Changing Legal Documentation

Changes in these Bylaws or in the Articles of Incorporation shall be made by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Church members present at a regular or specially called Membership Meeting with the following provisions: The proposed change(s) shall be published and distributed to the membership at the meeting at which a vote is to be held. Each

amendment shall be presented at a regular or specially called Membership Meeting for a vote.

Article VI: Bylaws – Adoption, Changes, and Rules of Order

These Bylaws are hereby adopted in lieu of and to supersede and take precedence over any previously existing Rules or Bylaws or any conflicting minutes of the Church and shall become effective on the date of adoption or as stipulated. Changes in these Bylaws shall be made by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Church members present at a regular or specially called Membership Meeting. The proposed changes shall be published and distributed to the membership at the meeting at which the vote is held. Except where the Bylaws state otherwise, Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised, shall be the accepted pattern for the transaction of the business of the Church.