BY-LAWS
of the
Bayside Baptist Church
Superior, Wisconsin

ARTICLE 1 – MEMBERSHIP
Section 1. Procedure of Membership
A. Persons interested in becoming members of the church should contact any member of the Deacon Board or Pastoral staff.
B. Each candidate will participate in a class for instruction in church membership and the doctrines of the church.
C. If desired, a candidate may then fill out an application formally expressing an interest in becoming a member.
D. Candidates will then meet with representatives from the Deacon Board to review their application and give testimony of their Christian faith and experience.
E. The Deacon representative will bring the candidate’s application to the Deacon Board where it will be reviewed.
F. If approved, the candidate’s desire to become a member will be listed on the Business Meeting agenda and posted prior to the meeting so that members of Bayside can contact the Deacon Board with any concerns as to why the candidate should not become a member.
G. The Deacon Board will make a recommendation at the Business Meeting to accept the candidate into membership. After the candidate shares their personal testimony, a vote will be taken where a simple majority of Active members present will be required for acceptance into membership.
H. A letter will be sent to the church in which membership was previously held, if applicable.

Section 2. Active / Inactive Membership
A. Members of Bayside Baptist Church are considered to be Active members if they are actively involved in the life and ministry of Bayside and fulfilling their membership responsibilities as described in Article 5, Section 2 of the Constitution.
B. Members of Bayside Baptist Church are considered to be Inactive members if they have not participated in the life and ministry of Bayside in the past six months.

Section 3. Changes in Membership
A. Active / Inactive status
   1) After careful review of membership lists and attendance records, members who have not been regularly participating in the life and ministry of Bayside for three months will be contacted by a Deacon or Pastor.
2) If a satisfactory reason for the absences is given, the membership will remain Active, but will be reviewed again in three months.

3) If a satisfactory reason is not given, reasonable efforts to restore the member to Active participation will be made. If the member has not returned to Active participation by the end of six months, their membership will become Inactive.

4) If an Inactive member wishes to change the status of their membership to Active, they must contact a member of the Deacon Board or Pastoral staff. After Active participation in the life and ministry of Bayside for six months, the Deacon Board will change their membership status to Active.

B. Termination of Membership

1) Transfer of membership to another church
   Upon recommendation of the Deacon Board, a member in good standing will receive a letter of transfer upon request for the purpose of uniting with some other church of like faith and order.

2) Resignation of membership by request
   Upon receiving a written request for termination of membership, the Deacon Board will investigate. When it is determined that the membership cannot be restored, the Board will recommend that their membership be terminated.

3) Death

4) Inactive membership for over five years, unless approved by the Deacon Board

5) If a member is determined by the Deacon Board to be guilty of unrepentant conduct inconsistent with biblical teaching or the Church Covenant of Bayside Baptist Church, the member will be terminated from membership by a two-thirds affirmative vote by the Deacon Board. Such action will be taken only after reasonable efforts to lovingly restore the member to Christian fellowship following the process outlined in Matthew 18:15-20.

6) In all instances (except death), a vote at a Business Meeting will be taken to remove the member’s name from the membership roll.

7) Restoration of terminated membership will be according to the regular Procedures of Membership.

Section 4. Discipline of Members
Members whose conduct or belief is contrary to biblical principles and/or to the Constitution of Bayside and to the name of Christ will be ministered to according to scriptural principles of confrontation for the sake of restoration. (Matthew 5:23-34; 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Section 5. Non-Members
Non-members are encouraged to serve in any position not requiring membership status.
ARTICLE 2 – BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. **Names**
A. Church Board
B. Deacon Board
C. Administrative Board
D. Nominating Committee
E. Other special Committees as determined by congregation

Section 2. **General Responsibilities**
A. Boards and Committees will elect a Chair and Secretary at their first meeting which will take place within one month of election.
B. Meetings
   1) Meetings will be held on a regular basis as determined by the Chair.
   2) Members may meet by conference call.
   3) A quorum will constitute at least one-half of members.
C. Reporting
   1) The Secretary will take accurate minutes at each meeting.
   2) Reports will be made at Business Meetings as requested.
D. Specific Responsibilities are listed in the Position Descriptions

Section 3. **Terms**
A. Church Board members will be elected to a one-year term.
B. Deacon and Administrative Board members will be elected to a three-year term.
C. Nominating Committee members will be elected to a one-year term to be served from July 1 – June 30.
D. Members elected to special Committees will serve for the duration of the assignment.

Section 4. **Boards**
A. The Deacon Board will consist of a minimum of five members and a maximum of nine members as determined by current Board and Pastoral staff.
B. The Administrative Board will consist of a minimum of six members and a maximum of eight members as determined by the current Board and Pastoral staff.

ARTICLE 3 – ELECTIONS

Section 1. **Special Elections**
Elections for the Nominating Committee will take place during the second quarter Business Meeting. Other Committee elections will be held at Business Meetings as needed.

Section 2. **Notification**
Ballots will be publicly communicated to the congregation at least one week prior to the election.
Section 3. **Single/Equal Candidates**
When the number of candidates equals the number of open positions, a simple majority of those voting is required for election.

Section 4. **Effective Date of Service**
A. Officers, Board members, and Team Chairs will assume responsibility on January 1.
B. Committee members will assume responsibility at the Business Meeting where elected.

Section 5. **Voting**
A. Only Active members of legal voting age in good standing have the right to vote at Business Meetings.
B. Absentee ballots will not be accepted.
C. In the event of a tie, an additional vote will be taken with only those candidates that tied on the new ballot.

**ARTICLE 4 – ORDINANCES**

Section 1. **Baptism**
The Bible teaches that Baptism is to be done by immersion, following salvation, as a one-time act of obedience and identification with Jesus Christ as Lord. Believers interested in being baptized should contact a member of the Deacon Board or Pastoral staff for instruction on Baptism.

Section 2. **The Lord’s Supper**
The Lord's Supper is an ongoing symbol remembering our Lord's death, burial, resurrection and promised return. The Lord’s Supper will be observed on the first Sunday of the month unless otherwise designated by the Senior Pastor and/or the Deacon Board.

**ARTICLE 5 – AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS**

Section 1. **Proposed Amendments**
Proposed amendments will be submitted to and considered by the Church Board.

Section 2. **Notice**
Printed notice of the proposed amendment will be posted with the agenda one week prior to the Business Meeting.

Section 3. **Voting**
Introduction of proposed amendments will be made through formal motion at a Business Meeting. The formal motion to adopt the amendments will take place at the next Business Meeting and adoption will take place by a two-thirds vote of those members present.

Section 4. **Effective Date**
All amendments will be effective from the date of their adoption unless otherwise ordered at the time of their adoption.