

Bethel Primitive Baptist Church
Rules of Decorum

- 1) The Church shall hold at least one meeting for business each month.
- 2) Every business meeting shall be presided over by a Moderator, who shall be chosen by the Church.
- 3) Business meeting shall be opened in prayer.
- 4) It shall be the duty of the Moderator to keep order; to put all motions before the Church, and announce the vote; to recognize the person who has the right to speak; to decide questions of order; he may speak on any subject being discussed by calling someone to fill his place; in case a vote is evenly decided, he shall give the deciding vote. In the absence of special rules he shall observe such rules as are commonly followed by presiding officers of public bodies.
- 5) Members may appeal from the ruling of the Moderator to the Church.
- 6) The Church shall choose a clerk, whose duty it shall be to keep a minute of the proceedings of the Church. These minutes shall be read the following business meeting. The minutes shall be correctly and legibly recorded in a substantial book provided by the Church for that purpose, in which the clerk shall also keep a correct list of the members of the Church.
- 7) Each person desiring to speak shall arise and address the Moderator, and proceed only when recognized by the Moderator. No one shall speak more than twice on any one subject without leave of the Church.
- 8) All motions shall be brought before the Church by motion and second, and shall be decided by a majority of the members voting, except the receiving of members, granting letters of dismissal, choosing a pastor, or choosing one to the office of deacon, which shall be unanimous.
- 9) Offenses between brethren shall be dealt with as provided in Matthew 18:15-17. Members who have transgressed the rule of life for orderly Christians, or transgressed against the Church, should be reproved by the deacons, and may be by any member, and should make acknowledgment before the Church. The Church may make investigations of reports against the members.

- 10) The business may be taken up in the following order:
 - a. Invite visiting brethren to seats in counsel.
 - b. Announce the opportunity for persons to unite with the Church.
 - c. Call for reference from previous meetings.
 - d. Take up matters touching fellowship.
 - e. Opportunity given to introduce new business.
- 11) The treasurer shall give a monthly report to the clerk concerning the finances of the church, which will be read in the minutes the following conference.
- 12) The Church shall make inquiry as to the cause of members continuing to absent themselves from the meetings of the Church.
- 13) The Lord's Supper shall be observed two (2) times a year, at the regular meeting in the months of April and November.
- 14) Members may be received in the following ways:
 - a. By experience and baptism.
 - b. By letters of dismissal from other Churches.
 - c. By relation, that is, by satisfying the Church that the applicant had membership and good standing in a Church in order, but has ceased to meet, or for other sufficient reason cannot grant letters.
- 15) It is the duty of members to vote on all motions submitted to the Church for action.
- 16) Members who cannot for any cause attend the Church meetings, are expected to write to the Church at the regular times for observing the Lord's Supper.
- 17) The Articles of Faith, Church covenant, and the Rules of Decorum shall be read aloud to the congregation at the January business meeting of each year.
- 18) These rules may be amended, but notice of proposed change must be submitted at a regular meeting at least one month previous to the time the vote is taken.