

## ARTICLE VII

[\(top\)](#)

### Dissolution of Church and Disposition of Church Property

In the event of the dissolution of the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church or in the event that the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church ceases to exist as a Louisiana Baptist congregation, all property of the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church, real, personal, and mixed of whatsoever kind and wherever located shall be disposed of in the following manner and order:

- A. All of the said property shall be transferred to the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Association or successor Baptist Association if the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Association has merged with another Louisiana Baptist Association; if the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Association has ceased to exist or has not merged with another Louisiana Baptist Association, then all of the said property shall be transferred to the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.
  
- B. Dissolution of the church shall occur if the church by official action votes to dissolve as a church, or upon termination of regular worship services for more than twelve consecutive Sundays. Upon such action, the president or other officer of the corporation, is authorized to sign all necessary documents to convey the property as herein provided.
  
- C. Factors which indicate that the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church has ceased or is ceasing to exist as a Louisiana Baptist Congregation shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
  1. Terminating mission contributions through the Cooperative Program of the Louisiana and Southern Baptist Conventions. This is in accordance with the Louisiana and Southern Baptist Convention remaining in like faith and following the historical significance, belief and doctrine,
  2. Terminating mission contributions to the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Association if the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Association has merged with another Louisiana Baptist Association,

3. Ceasing to promote special offerings of the Louisiana and Southern Baptist Conventions, such as Annie Armstrong Home Missions Offering, Lottie Moon Foreign Missions Offering, and the Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering,
4. Ceasing to utilize Baptist literature in church ministries and organizations, unless approved by pastor and/or deacons,
5. Direct or indirect financial support of non-Baptist pastors, evangelists, preachers, home or foreign missionaries, or through budget allotment, unless approved by pastor and/or deacons, and/or
6. Calling as pastor or other ministerial staff persons who are not affiliated with or a member of a Southern Baptist church.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

[\(top\)](#)

### **Amendments**

This constitution may be amended at a special called business meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting. The amendment must have been submitted in writing at the previous regular business meeting and/or notice is given to all members in two consecutive Sunday Morning Services through the bulletin or announcements.

**Continue down to next page for a statement that can be used in a regular business meeting, if there is no statement in the Articles of Constitution or By-laws.**

## **If Church Ceases to Exist**

The [insert name] Baptist Church shall continue in existence, unless earlier revoked, so long as [insert name] Baptist Church shall continue to exist. If [insert name] Baptist Church should cease to exist, then the assets constituting the fund when [insert name] Baptist Church ceases to exist shall become the property of a successor Southern Baptist Church, or, if no successor Southern Baptist Church, then it may be disposed of by 2/3 majority vote of the members present in regular or special session. An effort shall be made to insure that any and all properties held by the [insert name] Baptist Church, upon special conditions, restrictions or limitations should continue to be subject to the conditions, restrictions or limitations upon which such properties are held. If [insert name] Baptist Church dissolves, it shall, at the time of such dissolution, have the right and duty to determine the existence of a successor Southern Baptist Church, if any, providing such successor Church must qualify as an exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code, and [insert name] Baptist Church shall execute the necessary documents to affect such transfer.

### **Governing Board and Officers**

The Church Council shall be responsible for all funds. The Treasurer of the Congregation shall be responsible for receipts by and disbursements from the funds, shall maintain complete and accurate books of account, and shall provide, at least annually, a written financial report of the funds to the members.

The Congregational Moderator may call special meetings with 24 hours written or oral notice to the members of the [insert name] Baptist Church or any two members.

Suggested amendments to these By-Laws must be presented at a regular constituted Meeting of the members. The passing of such amendments requires a 2/3 vote of those present.

### **Or A very Simple Statement may be used:**

Should \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church located at \_\_\_\_\_ cease to conduct services, or should the above mentioned church cease to be of like faith and belief as determined by the doctrinal stance of the Baptist Faith and Message; all properties will immediately revert to the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Association.