

Notice to Membership

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FT. LAUDERDALE, INC
(also known as First Baptist Fort Lauderdale)

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FT. LAUDERDALE, INC.
(also known as First Baptist Fort Lauderdale)
November 15, 2020 - Immediately Following the 11:00 A.M Church Service**

The Membership of the Church has called a Special Meeting to be held on November 15, 2020, immediately following the 11:00 A.M. Church Service, in accordance with the Bylaws, Section 4.1 (h), to conduct the business of the church as provided in the following Agenda.

AGENDA:

1. Select a Presiding Officer for the Special Meeting
2. Adopt Agenda for the Meeting
3. Presentation on the Rules of the Assembly and the Rights of Members
4. Consider the Resolution “*Resolved*, That Pastor James R. Welch shall be removed immediately from his position as Pastor.”
5. Consider the following Resolutions:
 1. “*Resolved*, That James R. Welch shall be removed immediately from the Trustee Board, and thereby removed immediately as an officer/director of FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FT. LAUDERDALE, INC.”
 2. “*Resolved*, That Romney Rogers shall be removed immediately from the Trustee Board, and thereby removed immediately as an officer/director of FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FT. LAUDERDALE, INC.”
 3. “*Resolved*, That Paul Weinberg shall be removed immediately from the Trustee Board, and thereby removed immediately as an officer/director of FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FT. LAUDERDALE, INC.”
 4. “*Resolved*, That Glenn Leonard shall be removed immediately from the Trustee Board, and thereby removed immediately as an officer/director of FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FT. LAUDERDALE, INC.”
 5. “*Resolved*, That Matt Johnson shall be removed immediately from the Trustee Board, and thereby removed immediately as an officer/director of FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FT. LAUDERDALE, INC.”
 6. “*Resolved*, That Susan Rocco shall be removed immediately from the Trustee Board, and thereby removed immediately as an officer/director of FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FT. LAUDERDALE, INC.”
 7. “*Resolved*, That Pat Houchens shall be removed immediately from the Trustee Board, and thereby removed immediately as an officer/director of FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FT. LAUDERDALE, INC.”
 8. “*Resolved*, That Bettye Grant shall be removed immediately from the Trustee Board, and thereby removed immediately as an officer/director of FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FT. LAUDERDALE, INC.”
 9. “*Resolved*, That Steve Blount shall be removed immediately from the Trustee Board, and thereby removed immediately as an officer/director of FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FT. LAUDERDALE, INC.”
 10. “*Resolved*, That William Holland shall be removed immediately from the Trustee Board, and thereby removed immediately as an officer/director of FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FT. LAUDERDALE, INC.”

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6. Consider Resolutions to remove each and every member from the Deacon Body, namely the following individuals: David Alba; Bruce Arbogast; Frank Barrett; Carlos Campusano; Rob Coffin; Stephen Farquharson; Bobby Fountain; Bob Gallion; Russell Garner; Jim Geiger; Paul Glenum; Mike Hajduk; David Herbert; Bill Hinson; Bill Holland; Tim Imhoff; Matt Johnson; Norm Kublin; Dennis Latchu; Glenn Leonard; Sam Lightbourne; Tim Mowrey; Jose Paes-Leme; Chris Pearson; Blake Peed; Jim Perry; Christian Regan; Tim Rice; Carlos Rodriguez; Alvin Rogers; Cam Rogers; Romney Rogers; Cesar Sastre; Alan Savarese; Paul Scarborough; Wilton Scott; Kelly Sisk; Bill Slade; Mike Smith; Eric Starke; Gerry Upthegrove; John White; Dan Wielhouwer; Paul Weinberg; Tom Wright.
7. Fill up to five vacancies on the Deacon Body
8. Consider a Resolution to remove Romney Rogers from the Budget/Audit Team
9. Consider a Resolution censuring the Trustee Board and Deacon Body for attempts to remove Deacons and Members elected by the Congregation.
10. Approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting

See explanations of agenda items below:

1. **Select a Presiding Officer for the Special Meeting**

The presiding officer for a business meeting should be selected for his knowledge of the rules and his ability to fairly and impartially enforce the rules while protecting the rights of members. He should have the confidence of the assembly, and he should not preside over any resolution that proposes to commend him, reprimand him, or remove him from office.

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 12th Edition, which is the leading authority on parliamentary law, states, "The presiding officer of an assembly—especially of a large one—should be chosen principally for the ability to preside. This person should be well versed in parliamentary law and should be thoroughly familiar with the bylaws and other rules of the organization—even if he or she is to have the assistance of a parliamentarian." - RONR (12th ed.) Section 47: Paragraph 6

"Invited temporary presiding officer. In certain instances in an ordinary society—for example, if an adjourned meeting or a special meeting must deal with a problem that has intensely divided the organization—it may be that such a meeting can accomplish more under the chairmanship of an invited nonmember who is skilled in presiding. (Sometimes this may be a professional presiding officer.)" - RONR (12th ed.) 47:13

2. **Adopt Agenda for the Meeting**

The assembly itself (not an individual or a board) is in charge of its agenda, and a meeting has no agenda until one is adopted by the assembly inside the meeting to which it will apply.

"In cases in which an agenda is adopted, usually this is done at the outset of the session and the agenda is intended to cover the entire session." - RONR (12th ed.) 41:61

"Unless a precirculated agenda is formally adopted at the session to which it applies, it is not binding as to detail or order of consideration . . ." - RONR (12th ed.) 41:62

3. **Presentation on the Rules of the Assembly and the Rights of Members**

In order for members to fully participate in the meeting and to confidently exercise their rights, a brief presentation on the rules and the rights of members will be provided by Tim Wynn, PRP, a Professional Registered Parliamentarian, who specializes in meeting rules and preserving the rights of members.

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4. Consider the Resolution “*Resolved*, That Pastor James R. Welch shall be removed immediately from his position as Pastor.”

This is a question of privilege, which can be made by any member. It is debatable, and according to the Bylaws (section 6.1d), “The vote to remove a Lead Pastor shall be taken by voice vote, and if approved by the majority, shall be deemed unanimous acclamation.”

Information has been disseminated by some members of the church that the Congregation cannot remove its own Lead Pastor. However, the true meaning of the bylaws can only be determined by the Congregation itself, by majority vote. No one can twist the meaning of a bylaw into something that the Congregation doesn’t consent to being the true meaning of the bylaw. If the chair rules that the bylaws prevent the Congregation from removing its own Lead Pastor, the ruling is subject to an immediate appeal, which is then debated by the Congregation and decided by the Congregation by majority vote.

“Each society decides for itself the meaning of its bylaws. . . . If a bylaw is ambiguous, it must be interpreted, if possible, in harmony with the other bylaws. The interpretation should be in accordance with the intention of the society at the time the bylaw was adopted, as far as this can be determined. . . . where an ambiguity exists, a majority vote is all that is required to decide the question.” - RONR (12th ed.) 56:68(1)

5. Consider the following Resolutions:

1. “*Resolved*, That James R. Welch shall be removed immediately from the Trustee Board, and thereby removed immediately as an officer/director of FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FT. LAUDERDALE, INC.”
2. “*Resolved*, That Romney Rogers shall be removed immediately from the Trustee Board, and thereby removed immediately as an officer/director of FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FT. LAUDERDALE, INC.”
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10. “*Resolved*, That William Holland shall be removed immediately from the Trustee Board, and thereby removed immediately as an officer/director of FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FT. LAUDERDALE, INC.”

According to procedural rules contained in Florida Statutes (617.0808), a Trustee may be removed from office by the members if the Trustee was elected or appointed by the members. The procedural rules in the statutes use the term “Board of Directors” instead of “Trustee Board” and the term “Directors” instead of “Trustees,” but procedural rules contained in Florida Statutes clarify this by specifically providing (in 617.01401) that “**‘Board of directors’ means** the group of persons vested with the management of the affairs of the corporation irrespective of the name by which such group is designated, including, but not limited to, managers or **trustees.**”

6. **Consider Resolutions to remove each and every member from the Deacon Body, namely the following individuals: David Alba; Bruce Arbogast; Frank Barrett; Carlos Campusano; Rob Coffin; Stephen Farquharson; Bobby Fountain; Bob Gallion; Russell Garner; Jim Geiger; Paul Glenum; Mike Hajduk; David Herbert; Bill Hinson; Bill Holland; Tim Imhoff; Matt Johnson; Norm Kublin; Dennis Latchu; Glenn Leonard; Sam Lightbourne; Tim Mowrey; Jose Paes-Leme; Chris Pearson; Blake Peed; Jim Perry; Christian Regan; Tim Rice; Carlos Rodriguez; Alvin Rogers; Cam Rogers; Romney Rogers; Cesar Sastre; Alan Savarese; Paul Scarborough; Wilton Scott; Kelly Sisk; Bill Slade; Mike Smith; Eric Starke; Gerry Upthegrove; John White; Dan Wielhouwer; Paul Weinberg; Tom Wright.**

According to procedural rules contained in Florida Statutes (617.0808), a member of the Deacon Body may be removed from office by the members if the member of the Deacon Body was elected or appointed by the members. The procedural rules in the statutes use the term “Board of Directors” instead of “Deacon Body” and the term “Directors” instead of “Deacons,” but procedural rules contained in Florida Statutes clarify this by specifically providing (in 617.01401) that “**‘Board of directors’ means the group of persons vested with the management of the affairs of the corporation irrespective of the name by which such group is designated,** including, but not limited to, managers or trustees.”

7. **Fill up to five vacancies on the Deacon Body**

Procedural rules in Florida Statutes [617.0808(e)] provide the following: “If removal is effected at a meeting, any **vacancies** created **shall be filled by the members** or directors **eligible to vote for the removal.**”

8. **Consider a Resolution to remove Romney Rogers from the Budget/Audit Team**

The Congregation has the authority to Rescind the selection of an individual to serve on the Budget/Audit Team, thereby removing that individual from the team.

“Rescind—also known as *Repeal* or *Annul*—is the motion by which a previous action or order can be canceled or countermanded.” - RONR (12) 35:1

“The Trustees from the Deacon Body and Budget/Audit Team shall serve by virtue of having been nominated by the Church Nominating Committee and **elected by the church body to serve on the Deacon**

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Body and Budget/Audit Team at the annual meeting.” - Bylaws 5.2b

9. **Consider a Resolution censuring the Trustee Board and Deacon Body for attempts to remove Deacons and Members elected by the Congregation.**

As the superior body of the church, the Congregation has the authority and responsibility to discipline its subordinate bodies whenever those bodies take inappropriate and unauthorized action.

“It is also possible to adopt a motion of censure without formal disciplinary procedures.” - RONR (12th ed.) 61:2

10. **Approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting**

Minutes normally wait until the next regular meeting for approval, but given the importance and timeliness of the business to be considered, an immediate approval of the minutes, accurately reflecting the business transacted in the meeting, would be advantageous to the church.