

MISSION BAPTIST CHURCH CONSTITUTION

Preamble

So that we may do things decently and in order, and be better able to help each other in our Christian service, we declare and establish this constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLE I - Name and Purpose

SECTION 1 - NAME

This congregation of believers shall be known as Mission Baptist Church.

SECTION 2 - PURPOSE

(A) This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building, maintaining and operating of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, day care centers, camps, nursing homes, and cemeteries, and any other ministries that the Church may be led of God to establish.

(B) The Church shall also license and ordain men to the Gospel ministry; evangelize the unsaved by proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; educate believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Holy Bible, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; maintain missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country; and engage in any other ministry that the Church may decide, from time to time, to pursue in obedience to the will of God.

ARTICLE II - Statements of Faith and Covenant

SECTION 1 - STATEMENTS OF FAITH

(A) The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit. We believe that there are no errors contained in it and that it is living and will stand for eternal ages. We further believe that it not only contains the word of God but it is the eternal word of God and therefore is the final authority for faith and life. Further, this Church recognizes only the Authorized or King James Version of the Bible to the exclusion of all other translations. It shall be the official and only translation used by this Church.

(II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:19-21, Galatians 1:11-12, I Corinthians 2:10-13, John 16:13, John 17:17, Psalms 119:11, Colossians 1:10, II Timothy 2:15)

(B) The True God

We believe that there is only one living and true God, the Maker and Creator and Supreme Ruler of Heaven, earth, and all of His Creation. We further believe He is Righteous, Holy, worthy of all possible honor and that the Godhead is three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that these three are one in Deity.

(John 1:1-4, Hebrews 1:1-8, Genesis 1:1, John 1:14, Colossians 1:15-17, Revelation 4:11, Psalms 145:3, Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 44:6, I Corinthians 8:4)

(C) The Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature. The work of the Holy Spirit includes sealing, enduing with power, convicting of sin, guiding in service, teaching, witnessing of the new birth, sanctifying and etc.

(John 14:16,17,26, John 16:7-11, John 15:26-27, Ephesians 1:13-14, Ephesians 4:30, Acts 5:1-4, I Corinthians 12:13, I Corinthians 6:19-20, Romans 8:26, Acts 1:8, Acts 5:32, Acts 4:31, I Corinthians 6:11)

(D) Satan

We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors, but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of the angels; that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world. We hold him to be man's great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the Saints, the author of all false religions, the power in back of the presents apostasy, the lord of the anti-christ, but destined however, to finally defeat at the hands of God's own Son, and to the judgment of an eternal justice in Hell.

(Isaiah 14:12-25, Ezekiel 28:14-17, Revelation 12:9, Jude 6, II Peter 2:4, Ephesians 2:2, John 14:30, Zechariah 3:1-7, Revelation 20:7-10)

(E) Creation

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, that man was created directly in God's own image and after His likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly, and that God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind."

(Genesis 1:1-31, Exodus 20:11, Acts 4:24, Colossians 1:16-17, Hebrews 11:3, John 1:3, Revelation 10:6, Romans 1:20, John 1:1, John 8:56-59, Hebrews 1:2)

(F) The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression, fell from his sinless and happy state, the result being death, and that death passed upon all man because all, having his nature are sinners by birth.

(Ephesians 2:1-3, Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12, Ecclesiastes 7:20, 1 Kings 8:46)

(G) Atonement for Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial office of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon himself our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that his atonement consisted not in setting us an example of his death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of himself in the sinners place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord, bearing our sins in his body on the tree; that, having risen from the dead, he is now sitting on the right hand of God the Father, having ascended into heaven, and there he ever makes intercession for us, being the only mediator between God and man. He is every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and all sufficient Saviour.

(Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 12:3, John 3:14-18, 1 Peter 3:18, Hebrews 7:25, Romans 5:15, Romans 5:17-21, Luke 17:5, Philippians 1:29, Romans 3:24, Romans 5:9, II Timothy 2:5)

(H) The Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a Virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of woman, and that He is both the Son of God and God the Son.

(Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:35, Mark 1:1, Galatians 4:4, I John 5:20, I Corinthians 15:47)

(I) The New Birth

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel, and that the proper evidence appears in the fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

(John 3:3, I Peter 1:23, II Corinthians 5:17, Colossians 2:13, I John 2:3-4)

(J) Freeness of Salvation

We believe in God's electing grace; that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel, which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

(Romans 8:28-34, Ephesians 1:1-13, John 3:16, I John 5:10-12, I Timothy 1:15, Revelation 22:17-19)

(K) Justification

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him, is justification; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed unto us.

(Romans 8:1, Romans 5:9, Romans 5:1, Titus 3:5-7, Romans 1:17, Hebrews 10:38, Romans 3:21-26, Galatians 2:16-21, Romans 4:1-8, I Corinthians 1:30-31)

(L) Repentance and Faith

We believe that repentance and faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God, at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and openly confessing him as our only and all sufficient Saviour.

(Romans 10:9-13, Luke 13:3,5, Romans 2:4, II Corinthians 7:10)

(M) The Church

We believe that a church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the ordinance of Christ, governed by his laws, exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word, that it's officers of ordination are pastors (Elders, Bishops) and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures: we believe that the true mission of the church is found in the great commission: First, to make individual disciples; Second, to build up to the church; Third, to teach and instruct as our

Lord has commanded. We do not believe in a reversal of this order; we hold that the local church has absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarch of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit, that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the judge of the measure of method of its cooperation; On all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

(Matthew 28:18-20, I Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:4-9, I Corinthians 12:12-13, Ephesians 5:23-24, Colossians 1:18)

(N) Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, with the authority of the local church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem of our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and fruit of the vine commemorate together the dying of Christ; preceded always by a solemn self-examination.

(Acts 8:36-39, Romans 6:3-5, Colossians 2:12, Acts 2:41-42, Matthew 28:19-20, I Corinthians 11:23-28)

(O) Perseverance of the Saints

We believe that such only are real believers as endure in faith unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark that distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal life.

(John 10:27-29, Romans 8:35-39, Jude 24)

(P) The Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only those who through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of God are positionally righteous in his sight and the wicked are under the curse, and this distinction holds among man both in life and after death, we believe in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

(1 John 5:20, Romans 3:21-28, Colossians 2:10, Romans 6:11, 11 Corinthians 5:21, 11 Timothy 2:10, 1 Corinthians 1:30-31, John 3:18-21, John 8:24, John 12:48, Revelation 20:11-15, Revelation 22:10-11)

(Q) Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, (except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the earth).

(Romans 13:1-7, Acts 5:29, Acts 23:5, Matthew 23:10, Matthew 10:28, Matthew 22:21, Titus 3:1, I Peter 2:13-17)

(R) The Resurrection and Return of Jesus Christ

We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their face and full value. Of the Resurrection, we believe that Christ rose bodily "the third day according to the scriptures" and

that He ascended to the right hand of the throne of God; that he alone is our merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God; that this same Jesus which is taken up from you into Heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into Heaven. We believe in the bodily, personal, premillennial return of Jesus Christ, the he will come before the seven year tribulation period to catch away his church, coming only into the air, and that he will come with his saints at the close of the tribulation to judge the living nations and set up his kingdom and reign for one thousand years, after which the wicked dead shall be raised and judged at the great White Throne.

(Acts 1:11, I Corinthians 15:51-58, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:31-46, Revelation 20:1-6, Revelation 20:11-15)

(8) Missions

This church will only support Bible Believing Baptist Missionaries and Mission Projects.

This church has complete control over said support and may withhold, lower or increase that support as our Lord leads. This church is totally independent of Mission Boards, organization and etc, and will not support any work that is unscriptural in doctrine. The membership of this church must approve the selection and support of any mission work. Any mission work that is established out of this church shall operate with this constitution until such a time it is organized as a church.

*Note, this does not mean that this church cannot freely utilize any Mission Boards and such which is deemed helpful for Missionaries and Ministries. It only means that we have control over said support.

In addition, individual members of this church may support any Missionary, ministry, activity, and such, that they feel led of God.

(Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 13:1-4, Philippians 4:14-18, III John 5-8)

(T) Human Sexuality

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex.

(Genesis 2:24, Genesis 19:5,13, Genesis 26:8-9, Leviticus 18:1-30, Romans 1:26-29, I Corinthians 5:1, I Corinthians 6:9, I Thessalonians 4:1-8, Hebrews 13:4)

(U) Divorce and Remarriage

We believe that God intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication and desertion. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced may hold positions of service in the Church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon.

(Malachi 2:14-17, Matthew 19:3-12, Romans 7:1-3, I Corinthians 7:1-16, I Timothy 3:2,12, Titus 1:6)

(V) Abortion

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable.

(Job 3:16, Psalms 51:5, Psalms 139:14-16, Isaiah 44:24, Isaiah 49:1,5, Jeremiah 1:5, Jeremiah 20:15-18, Luke 1:44)

(W) Lawsuits Between Believers

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the Church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the Church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander.

(I Corinthians 6:1-8, Ephesians 4:31-32)

(X) Giving

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of what God has entrusted to them, is scripturally obligated to support their local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the Church and its ministries. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of their offerings once the gift has been made.

(Genesis 14:20, Proverbs 3:9-10, Acts 4:34-37, I Corinthians 16:2, II Corinthians 9:6-7, Galatians 6:6, Ephesians 4:28, I Timothy 5:17-18, I John 3:17, Malachi 3:10)

SECTION 2 - AUTHORITY OF STATEMENTS OF FAITH

The statements of Faith do not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. And if anything in this document violates the word of God, the word of God is final. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statements accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, binding upon all members.

SECTION 3 - COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, and upon the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage therefore, by the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministries, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions, to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our department; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Gospel through all nations.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feelings and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rule of our Saviour to secure it without delay. We moreover engage, that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible, unite with some other Church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

ARTICLE III - Membership

SECTION A - PURPOSE

The object of this church shall be to promote fellowship among God's people of like precious faith; to put forth every possible effort to spread the Gospel. To establish churches of like faith wheresoever the Lord shall lead. To do all the church can in promoting missions at home and abroad. To proclaim the whole counsel of God. To be an aggressive, evangelistic church.

SECTION B - AUTHORITY

The King James Version of the Bible (Authorized) shall be accepted as final authority on matters relating to faith and practice by the members of this church.

SECTION C - MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this Church may be attained as follows:

- (A) By profession of faith in Christ and Baptism by immersion.
- (B) By letter from any church of like faith and order, provided such a one has been scripturally baptized.
- (C) By statement of salvation and scriptural baptism.
- (D) By restoration, with repentance evidenced by faithfulness for a period of two months.

SECTION D - TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- (A) By letter of dismissal to another church of like faith and order. This letter will be mailed to that Pastor or Church Clerk.
- (B) By dropping from the rolls the name of anyone who joins a church of another faith.
- (C) By exclusion for conduct unbecoming a Christian. (By majority vote of members present in a regular business meeting.) Guidelines to be followed as found in the Bible. (*Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1-7*)
- (D) By erasure, upon the request of a member, after investigation.
- (E) By joining another church, the membership in this church for any person uniting with another church shall cease automatically.
- (F) By automatically dropping the name of anyone who has, without reasonable excuse, failed to attend the regular worship services for a period of six months. Upon good cause being shown to the Pastor, this provision for termination may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the Pastor.
- (G) Death.

SECTION E - DUTIES OF MEMBERS

To be in good standing, each member is expected to faithfully support the whole work of the church in the following ways:

1. By attending the services, prayer meetings, revival meetings, and business meetings as regularly as health and circumstances permit. (*Hebrews 10:25*)

(continued on next page)

2. It is the duty of the members to support the church with their tithes and offerings as the Lord had prospered them, (*I Corinthians 16:1-2*). The members should also work in the church with their talents and abilities as the Lord hath blessed them.

3. Only members sixteen years old and older shall be entitled to voting privileges in matters of church business.

4. Any member that absences themselves from the church services for a period of two months without an acceptable reason, shall be considered inactive and shall forfeit their right to voice and voting privileges in the business meeting. Voice and voting privileges shall be restored after the member has returned and shown faithfulness for two months. But if the member does not return to activity within six months they shall automatically be dropped from our church membership.

PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

This congregation functions, not as a pure democracy, but as body under the Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the Pastor as the under shepherd with the counsel of the Board of Deacons or others. Membership in this Church does not afford those individuals with any property, contract, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Determination of the internal affairs of this Church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the Church's own rules and procedures. The Pastor shall oversee and/or conduct all aspects of this Church. The Board of Deacons shall give counsel and assistance to the Pastor as requested by him. The membership of the Church has certain limited areas of exercising a vote. Members may not vote to initiate any Church action, but rather the vote of a member is to confirm and ratify the direction of the Church as determined by the Pastor.

SECTION F - OFFICERS

Scriptural officers of a New Testament Church are Pastors and Deacons, whose manner of calling and election are set forth in the scriptures: (*I Timothy 3, Titus 1, Acts 6*)

State required officers - Ohio General Code; (Trustees) Section 8623-106 Trustees. The corporate powers, property and affairs of every corporation not for profit, subject to limitations, contained in the general code, the articles or regulations shall be exercised, conducted and controlled by a board of not less than three trustees, each of whom shall be a member of the corporation and at least one whom shall be a citizen of the State of Ohio. The articles of, or regulations may provide the tenure of office of the trustees thereof, except that no term shall exceed in number of its trustees; provided, however, that members of any corporation heretofore or hereafter organized for the purpose of owning and conducting a hospital may provide for the election of a board of no more than fifteen trustees to serve during life.

Section 8623-110 Liability of Trustees. Neither the members nor the trustees of a corporation not for profit shall be personally liable for any debt or obligation of a corporation not for profit. Experience has shown that certain other officers and positions are necessary for the proper performance of the church in its full ministry and work. These officers shall be included and listed along with the Pastor, Deacons, and trustees. Their qualifications, election and duties have the following general requirements.

(A) Any and all officers of this church, the Sunday School classes and any organizations in the whole of the church, shall be a member of this church in good and active standing, must be in agreement with our statements of faith (ARTICLE 11), faithful to the work of the church and with a good Christian testimony and conduct.

(B) All officers of this church must be approved initially and thereafter by the Pastor in order for them to commence or continue in office.

(C) The offices of Pastor, Deacon, Trustee, Treasurer, Clerk, and etc, shall be approved by the members present at the business meeting.

(D) All Sunday School Teachers and like positions shall be appointed by the Pastor.

(E) Any officer who neglects or fails to carry out their duties as outlined in this constitution for a period of one month without an acceptable reason shall be automatically dropped from said office and another person will be, if needed, appointed or elected to serve the unexpired term.

SECTION G - PASTOR

1. The Pastor shall fulfill the scriptural requirements according to the New Testament and particularly: (*1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.*)

2. The Pastor shall be a regularly ordained minister of a Bible Believing Baptist Church, or if only licensed when called, shall be so ordained as soon as possible. His spiritual calling, his personal character, and his preaching ability should determine his fitness for the job.

3. The Pastor shall not have a living divorced wife nor be married to a wife having a living divorced husband, and shall meet the other qualifications as set forth in the Bible. He must also believe that the articles of faith as set forth in this constitution.

4. The Pastor shall be called to the pastorate of the church by a three fourths majority vote of the members present at a business meeting, and the Pastor is to serve for an indefinite period of time. If resigning as Pastor, he shall give the church at least thirty days notice. If removal of a Pastor is desired by the church because of unscriptural conduct or performance, he may be dismissed by a three fourths majority vote after a fair hearing and thirty days notice.

5. Dismissal of the Pastor must be by a three fourths majority of members present. Any meeting regarding the dismissal of the Pastor must be announced from the pulpit at least two weeks in advance. And this will be after (*1 Timothy 5:19 and Matthew 18:15-17*) are used as an ironclad commandment from God and then by a majority.

If the charges or complaints by the member or members are found to be false, or to have been made falsely for the purpose of injuring the reputation or ministry of the Pastor, the men shall be recommended the dismissal of the complaining member or members from membership in this Church. Such dismissal may be made by a majority vote of members at a business meeting.

In case of a pastoral problem, after a fair hearing with the men of the church and by a majority vote of the men, a problem will be taken to the membership of the church, and the men will choose a man to preside at that business meeting of a neutral nature, and he shall ask the Pastor to announce this meeting at least two weeks in advance. If the Pastor refuses to make this announcement, this man will make the announcement, and will post a notice on the church bulletin board.

6. The Pastor's Duties - The Pastor shall be charged with the general oversight of the Church, its preaching and teaching ministry, its services and its spiritual welfare. He shall preach the Gospel, declare the whole counsel of God and administer the ordinances, and preside at business meetings of the Church, except those concerning himself, his family, or his tenure of office. He shall be a member of all boards and committees of the Church and its organizations. It is the Pastor's responsibility to fill the pulpit. The Pastor shall be considered as the Shepherd, Bishop, Elder, and Teacher of his flock.

7. The Pastor's salary shall be set by the church, with the teaching of (*1 Timothy 5:17-18*). The Pastor's salary should be reviewed at least once a year and more often if desired by the church. The Pastor shall be allowed a regular vacation amount to be set by the church, the Deacons shall lead the church in this respect and shall make sure that their Pastor is cared for in this respect.

8. In the event the Church is without a Pastor for whatever reason, a pulpit committee shall be formed from the Deacons of the Church, or if there are no Deacons, the most scriptural and spiritual men in the Church.

SECTION H - DEACONS

All Deacons must be approved by the church, and Deacons are to be ordained to their office.

We believe a Deacon is a gift from God to a Church and he must meet the Bible qualifications of a Deacon and his wife. The duties and qualifications of a Deacon shall be in accordance with (*Acts 6:1-7 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13, 1 Corinthians 4:2, and 1 Corinthians 16:1-2*). They must be a disciple and we cannot waive these qualifications just to say we have Deacons. A Deacon is a servant to the church and is to serve in whatever area the church asks him to serve, and his service is under the oversight of the Pastor. A Deacon shall serve three years and then become inactive until elected to another term, (If there are no other men meeting Deacon qualifications he may be elected to remain in office).

PASTORS, DEACONS AND TRUSTEES' AUTHORITY FOR EXPENDITURES

Pastor, Deacons, and Trustees together shall have authority to spend as much as \$1000.00 per month (above what is required for the regular payment of all bills and expenditures involved in the ministry of this Church) without membership approval for whatever they consider is needed in God's work. More than this is to be first approved by the membership. Of course in the event of an emergency they shall have authority to spend whatever they deem necessary without membership approval. Membership will be informed of all expenditures in the regular financial statements.

SECTION I - TRUSTEES

(A) The number of trustees shall be determined by the church, but by State law, we must have at least three. Deacons may serve as Trustees, but to be a Trustee one does not have to meet Deacon qualifications.

(B) The Trustees shall be in charge of the upkeep, and repair, and maintenance of the church property and buildings. A Trustee may spend up to \$100.00 to perform their job, but any amount over that must be approved by the rest of the Board, Pastor, Deacons, and Trustees.

(C) The Trustees must sign any legal papers to obligate the Mission Baptist Church, but they can only sign after it has been approved by the voting members of the church.

(D) Any Trustee that refuses to sign as directed by the will of the church (vote), will be automatically removed from office and replaced.

(E) No Trustee or any other person may obligate this church to any responsibility without the approval of the voting members of the church.

(F) A Chairman should be selected from the Trustees each year.

(G) Trustees are to serve a three year term and may be re-elected to that office.

SECTION J - MINISTER OF FINANCE, TREASURER

(A) The Minister of finance shall handle the church funds and pay all bills (on time). He shall disburse the same as ordered by the Church. He shall post a financial statement on the church bulletin board, and keep records of tithes and offerings, and keep records suitable for the IRS. The Minister of finance shall hold office for an indefinite period of time and shall also serve as secretary of the church.

(B) The books shall be open for inspection at all times.

(C) All books, records, and accounts kept by the Minister of Finance shall be considered the property of the church.

(D) All records must be kept where they can be brought to the church for a full and complete audit or inspection.

(E) The treasury will be audited one a year by three men of the church who must be approved by the church in a business meeting.

SECTION K - MINISTER OF RECORDS, CLERK

The Minister of records shall keep minutes of all business meetings, membership records and such. The Minister of records shall hold office for an indefinite period of time.

SECTION L - SONG LEADER

The song leader shall be selected by the Pastor and shall work under the leadership of the Pastor to administer the musical programs of the church.

SECTION M - PASTORAL OVERSIGHT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

(A) Subject to the approval of the Church membership and on the condition that they become a member of the Church upon assuming their duties, the Pastor may hire associate and assistants, to assist the Pastor in carrying out his God-given responsibilities.

(B) All Church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the Pastor who has sole authority to hire, appoint, or dismiss the same.

SECTION N - GOVERNMENT

This church shall be a Christian fellowship for mutual helpfulness. It shall be independent, strictly self-governing in all matters, as set forth in the contents of this constitution, it shall never be subject to the control of any other ecclesiastical body, and no denominational or associational representatives shall ever sit in judgment over its affairs. This church may fellowship and cooperate with other churches of like faith for the furtherance of the Gospel.

SECTION O - THE CHURCH BUSINESS

(A) Church business meetings shall be carried on in an orderly fashion, and with everything being done in order and decently.

(B) There will be one annual meeting each year for election of officers and other major business.

The time for this will be on the last Sunday evening of each February in the PM service, but if

(continued on next page)

need be it may be rescheduled with advance notice. All other business meetings will be scheduled as frequently as desired and needed by the Pastor.

SECTION P - DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER

(A) There shall be Discipline of members as deemed necessary by the Pastor with the counsel of Deacons and other spiritual men in the Church. They shall have authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statements of Faith and violations of the Church Covenant. If the Pastor or another is the subject of a disciplinary matter, they shall not be involved in the procedure of disciplining and shall be entitled to the same steps as any member and be subject to the same discipline.

(B) When Discipline is deemed necessary, the steps outlined in Matthew 18: 15-17 are to be followed with the goal of restoration. But if the matter is still unresolved because such members refuse to repent and be restored, the Church has the right to remove them from membership by majority vote at a meeting called for that purpose.

(C) If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the Church membership, all contact with them from that point forward must be for the sake of restoration (except family members).

SECTION Q - ORDINANCES

This Church shall maintain two ordinances; Water Baptism (by complete immersion) and only after profession of saving faith in Jesus Christ. The saved are to be baptized in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. The Lord's Supper (by the sacred use of bread and fruit of the vine) shall be commemorated as often as desired, and in the Sunday evening service.

SECTION R - FINANCES

The finances of this church shall be supplied by the tithes and offerings of its membership. It may also receive gifts and offerings from anyone. But this church shall not sponsor any money making activities.

ARTICLE IV Tax-Exempt Provisions

SECTION I-PRIVATE INUREMENT

No part of the net earnings of the Church shall inure to the benefit of be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article 1, Section 2 hereof.

SECTION 2 - POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

No substantial part of the activities of the Church shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The Church shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

SECTION 3 - DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of the Church, the Trustees shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the Church, dispose of all the assets of the Church to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Trustees shall determine. Assets may be distributed only to organizations which agree with the Church's Statement of Faith.

SECTION 4 - RACIAL NONDISCRIMINATION

The Church shall have a racially nondiscriminatory policy and therefore shall not discriminate against members, applicants, students, and others on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin.

ARTICLE V - Designated Contributions

From time to time the Church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the Pastor and board of Deacons and Trustees. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the Church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Article 1, Section 2.

ARTICLE VI - Amendments

This Constitution may be revised or amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting, at any regular Church business meeting, provided that said revision or amendment has been referenced;and announced from the pulpit two weeks before the vote is taken.

ADOPTION

This Constitution was adopted by a unanimous vote of the members present and voting at a duly-called meeting of the Church.

This Constitution supersedes the previous constitution of the Mission Baptist Church and becomes effective on this date, Feb. 21, 1993.



Pastor, William Rains
Minister of Records