

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FOR THE
TREMONT TEMPLE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.

Preamble

The membership of this church, realizing that each Baptist Church is Autonomous (a self governing body) and having no entire specific directory for its government and discipline, and that each local church, being left at liberty to make such regulations, additional to those found in the New Testament, and in harmony with those principles in the New Testament, best adapted to its situation and circumstances; relying upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for the promotion of the Kingdom of Christ, the practice of brotherly love, growth in grace, true spiritual development, and for the accomplishment of the grand design for which the church was established on earth, we the members of The Tremont Temple Missionary Baptist Church of Macon (Bibb County), Georgia adopt the following for our guidance and government:

Article I

Name

The Corporate name of this church, a nonprofit ecclesiastical Corporation shall be "The Tremont Temple Missionary Baptist Church, Inc." which is chartered and incorporated under the State of Georgia.

Article II

Purpose

The purpose of this Congregation is to give visible form to that faith and fellowship to which God has called His people. We acknowledge ourselves to be a local manifestation of the Universal Church which Jesus Christ continues to minister to the world by His Holy Spirit. This church declares it's adherence to the teachings of Christ as set forth in the New Testament to Evangelism, Education, and the work of Mission, both Home and Foreign which are given to:

1. The Maintenance of Public Worship to God
2. The study and practice of right living as revealed and taught in the sacred scriptures
3. The promotion and advancement of Christ's cause and Kingdom in all the earth

Mission Statement

The Tremont Temple Missionary Baptist Church, Inc., is a historic predominately African American Church located in downtown Macon for more than 100 years. We are a God Fearing, Holy Spirit led, Bible believing, progressive, friendly, inclusive body of disciples of Jesus Christ, seeking to advance the Kingdom of God through:

- T Teaching: Holistic Comprehensive Christian Education
- R Reaching humanity through preaching the saving gospel of Jesus Christ and Evangelism; personal and corporate witnessing
- E Encouraging and supporting our members in consistent Christian living
- M Magnifying the Lord in the public worship of God in spirit and in truth
- O Ongoing missionary endeavors and mission education; providing help to the oppressed, engaging in the dynamics of the community and the world, providing food, clothing, spiritual encouragement and support for church and unchurched persons desiring to improve their spiritual and personal lives
- N Nurturing our members through Christian fellowship
- T Tithing our income and time, giving of our treasure, the use of our talents, and total sacrifice to God

Article III

Policy

Section 1: The government of this church is vested in the members (active and in good standing, in regular attendance and regular financial contributors) who compose it, and as such, it is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical organization. None of the church's executive governmental or policy making powers.

Section 2: This church shall affiliate with The Union Baptist Missionary and Educational Association of Middle GA, Inc., the New Era Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, The Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. (PNBC), its Congresses and such Church wide Fellowship, structured within the frame work of our Denominational affiliates.

- Section 2A: 1. All delegates to any of the above Denominational affiliations must be members in good standing (active in regular attendance and regular financial contributors of the ministries or departments sending delegates.)
2. All delegates sent by the church or by any of its departments shall bring back to the church and department an accurate report of the proceedings of meeting attended.
3. The church shall also cooperate by making all reasonable reports requested to said conventions

Article IV

Doctrine

This church accepts the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Bible as the inspired record of God's revelatory actions in human history and as the Authoritative basis for its doctrine and practice. This church also has adopted the following Covenant as a means by which its members may express their intent to accept the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the affairs of daily life. This document shall be subject to revision by the congregation as new insights from the Word of God shall indicate ways in which our faith and life may be brought into closer accord with the teaching of the scriptures.

CHURCH COVENANT

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

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge and holiness; to give it a place in our affections, prayers and services above every organization of human origin; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, toward its expenses, for the support of a faithful and evangelical ministry among us, the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. In case of difference of opinion in the church, we will strive to avoid a contentious spirit, and if we cannot unanimously agree, we will cheerfully recognize the right of the majority to govern.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to study diligently the Word of God; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintance; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be kind and just to those in our employ, and faithful in the service we promise others;

endeavoring in the purity of heart and good will towards all humankind to exemplify and commend our holy faith.

We further engage to watch over, to pray for, to exhort and stir up each other unto every good word and work; to guard each other's reputation, not needlessly exposing the infirmities of others; to participate in each other's joys, and with tender sympathy bear one another's burdens and sorrows; to cultivate Christian courtesy; to be slow to give or take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, being mindful of the rules of the Savior in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew, to secure it without delay; and through life, amid evil report, and good report, to seek to live to the glory of God, who hath called us out of darkness into the marvelous light.

When we remove from this place, we engage as soon as possible to unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Article V

Church Membership

Section 1: Admission of Members

Persons may be received into membership by any of the following methods, subject in each case to the recommendation of the Deacon Ministry and the vote of the Church

Section 1A: By Baptism

A person who confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and is baptized by immersion may be received into the fellowship of the church.

Section 1B: By Letter

A person who is in substantial accord with the views of faith and the principles of this church may be received from any other Christian Church, pending satisfaction of membership when deemed necessary.

Section 1C: By Christian Experiences

A believer who has formerly been a member of a Christian church, but who for a sufficient reason cannot present a letter from that church, but is in accord with the views of faith and principles of this church, may be received upon statement of experience, pending notification of membership when deemed necessary.

Section 1D: Restoration

A person who has lost membership, may be restored to the church membership on confession of their errors to the church and giving evidence of repentance upon recommendation of the Deacons Ministry and the vote of the church.

Section 1E: Watch Care

A person who is a member of another Christian church and is living in this community for a brief period of time may be received into the membership. Students may unite under watch care while they are enrolled in a local institution of learning. All applications for admission to church membership shall be received upon recommendation by the Deacons Ministry and the vote of the church.

Section 2: Dismissal of Members

Section 2A: By Death

Section 2B: By Letter

Any member in good standing (contributing regular to the support of the church, regular in attendance to church services) who desires a letter of recommendation and dismissal to unite with another Christian church, may receive it upon the recommendation of the Deacons Ministry and the vote of the church. All such letters are valid for six (6) months, and those receiving them still are members of this church until received by another church and we are so notified.

Section 2C: By Statement

Any member in good standing (contributing regular to the support of the church, regular in attendance to church services) may be granted a certificate of standing for the purpose of associating with any evangelical church other than a Baptist church.

Section 2D: By Suspension

1. Any member of this church, resident or non-resident who could have, but failed to attend its worship services (Sunday School, Bible Study or partake of the Lord's Supper) for ninety (90) days and who has been communicated with by the Deacon Ministry or Trustee Ministry without making any response, shall without any action of the church be lapsed from active membership and the name placed upon a list of inactive membership.

These inactive members may be restored to full membership without any action of the church when he/she shows a renewed interest in the church by regular attendance and finance.

2. The Deacons Ministry shall prepare from year to year a list of those members who have failed to participate in the services of worship, financial support or the educational program of the church without a valid excuse. When names have been on the inactive list for one (1) year, their names shall be erased from our roll without any special action of the church. The matters of final adjustment shall be left to the Pastor and the Board of Deacons.
3. Any member causing discord/division amongst the membership i.e., instituting court case/or suit against the Pastor and/or Church will also be suspended. Proverbs 6:16-19, Romans 16:27

Section 2E: By Exclusion

When there is a persistent disregard of Covenant obligations, and such member be an offense to the church and its' good name by reason of immoral or un-Christian conduct, the church may terminate his/her membership only after due notice and hearing before the Deacons Ministry, and after faithful efforts have been made to reclaim and bring such member to repentance.

Article VI

Officers of the Church

The officers of the church shall be: Pastor, Deacons, Trustees, Deaconesses, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Financial Secretary, Assistant Financial Secretary.

The following officers of the Church shall comprise the Board of Directors, Pastor, Chairman and Vice Chairman of Deacons, Chairman and Vice Chairman of Trustees, Church Clerk, Financial Secretary, and Auxiliary Presidents.

Section 1: Pastor

The Pastor of the Church must be an Ordained Missionary Baptist Minister

Section 1A: Duties of the Pastor

He is the general overseer (Acts 20:28); Undershepherd (1 Peter 4:2-4) and has physical authority (Hebrews 13:17). He is responsible for the Annual Calendar of church events and for the

selection of the Annual Days and promotional Sundays. He is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Church

The caller and moderator of all meetings, and the executive official leader of all auxiliaries, and may call them together at any time. He has full charge of all choirs. The Pastor shall approve the agenda for all meetings. The Pastor will hire all church personnel, music staff, clerical staff and custodial staff. These persons will be presented to the church membership. The Pastor shall determine the number of staff members, their job duties, days and hours of employment, titles and salaries and may terminate their employment at his discretion. The Pastor shall appoint all committees. The Pastor has full charge of the pulpit, and only the Pastor has the privilege to offer it to any other minister or lay person. The Pastor is in charge of all services at the church and they will be directed by him. All services held in the name of Tremont Temple Missionary Baptist Church, whether held on the church premises or away from the church premises must be approved by the Pastor. The Pastor shall have the power to silence and/or expel any member, who is not found in accord with the guidelines of Matthew 18:15-19, I Corinthians 6:1-2, Romans 16:17, and/or the rules herein contained. The Pastor shall visit the sick and have them visited by an associate when called upon whether confined in the home or hospital (James 5:14). All expenses incurred by the Pastor for this purpose shall be reimbursed by the church.

The Pastor shall be moderator of all meetings when present, and when absent, the chairman of the Deacons Ministry and chairman of the Trustees Ministry shall preside.

Whenever said Moderator is involved in discussion (meaning the Pastor, Chairman of Deacons Ministry and Chairman of the Trustee Ministry) shall surrender the chair.

Section 1B: Election of Pastor

When it is necessary to call a Pastor, the church shall select a representative pulpit committee of not less than five (5) and not more than seven (7) members, whose duties are to take necessary steps to secure a pastor. The Committee shall investigate the merits of every Candidate under consideration in regards to personal character, education, Ministerial record, preaching ability and above all his spirituality as a disciple of Christ. When the most suitable candidate is found, the committee shall recommend that person to the church for consideration.

The election (call) of a pastor shall come before the church at a special meeting called for that purpose. The public notice shall be given from the pulpit two (2) consecutive Sundays proceeding the election. A vote of two thirds (2/3) of all votes casted shall be necessary for an election of pastor. The vote shall be a written ballot. Members that are in good standing with the church (contributing regular to the support of the church and regular in attendance in church service) but due to circumstances beyond their control cannot be present when voting is to take place may file an absentee ballot to exercise their voting before the day of election.

The Pastor shall be called for an indefinite period of time. The salary of the pastor shall be fixed at the time of all and may be changed by vote of the church at any regular business meeting provided such change has been considered by the Deacons Ministry and the Trustee Ministry in a joint meeting. The salary shall be paid monthly, and will be given two (2) weeks vacation with pay after one (1) year of services subject to review thereafter. The church will pay the pastor a salary plus all living expenses. The church shall be responsible for the maintenance of the Pastor's home, utility bills (lights, water, gas, telephone, car allowance and the following allowances life insurance, retirement, and health insurance. Sick leave days for the Pastor shall be one (1) day per month that will be accumulative.

Section 1C: Termination of Pastor

The relationship between the Pastor and church shall continue until termination by mutual consent on the part of the pastor or church is expressed. Termination notification shall require the giving of a ninety (90) day notice by either party. *In the event the membership becomes dissatisfied with the Pastor, a two third (2/3) vote of the total voting membership determined qualified (members in good standing, who contribute regular to the support of the church and regular in attendance to its church services) will be required to force the Pastor's resignation. The house will be polled prior to voting and the vote taken will be a standing vote.* Termination of the office shall be voted on at a regular called business meeting. Notice of such meeting and its' purpose must be read from the pulpit on two (2) consecutive Sundays prior to the called meeting. If the majority votes against the Pastor, the church, at that time shall pay the Pastor three (3) months salary in advance or his service shall continue until such time as the church meets this requirement. If at any time, the Pastor shall become dissatisfied or for any reason desires to resign, he shall be responsible to the

church for three (3) months, if the church votes to accept his resignation.

In the event of the Pastor's death while in service, the church will pay his spouse or beneficiary for a period of ninety (90) days. The Pastor's chair will be draped for a period of thirty (30) days and the lectern will be draped for a period of ninety (90) days.

Section 2: Deacons Ministry

There shall be a Deacons Ministry. They shall be ordained to their work according to Acts 6:1-8 and I Timothy 3:8-13. Any member being considered for membership to the Deacons Ministry shall be:

1. God fearing
2. His moral character, spirituality and faithfulness to the church should be above reproach
3. Any member being considered for the Deacon's Ministry should be regular in attendance in all departments of the church, playing an active part toward the continued growth of the total church program.

Section 2A: Election of Deacons

As the need arise, this office may be filled upon recommendation from the Pastor to the church. A special meeting should be called for this purpose and read two (2) consecutive Sundays prior to the business meeting of the Deacons Ministry.

Section 2B: Ordination of Deacons

All Deacons having been duly elected shall undergo rigorous training and preparation for the task for a probationary period at the pastor's directive. At the end of this period and upon recommendation to the church, the candidate or candidates will be ordained. These public services will consist of a sermon preached on the office and duties of a Deacon and the hands the council are laid on the heads of the candidate(s) during the Ordination prayer.

Section 2C: Duties of the Deacons

They shall be associated with the Pastor in having charge of the spiritual interest of the church, the administration of the ordinances and the direction of all public worship. Cooperate with the Deaconesses in the relief of the poor. They shall consider with the pastor all applications for membership. The Ministry shall promote Christian instruction and ministry to the church membership, cooperate with the Pastor in the spiritual

development of the church and serve as leaders of the prayer meeting, visiting members, caring for the sick, needy and distressed members of the church.

The Deacon Ministry shall choose annually a Chairman, Vice Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer and shall meet regularly each month. Four (4) members in attendance will consist of a quorum. Any member found meeting in houses to discuss church business shall automatically be removed from the deaconship. Any meeting, special meeting may be called by the Chairman or the Secretary who shall notify the Pastor and other ministry members. Any meeting without the presence of the Pastor shall be of no effect. Any Deacon who for a period of three (3) months fails to perform the duties of his office faithfully, automatically vacate the same. The church may for good and sufficient cause, remove any Deacon from office.

Section 3: Deaconess

The Deaconess Ministry shall assist the pastor in developing the spiritual life of the women and girls of the church for the best possible service. They shall inquire after those who absent themselves from the church services, watch for and welcome strangers, assist candidates for baptism, care for the baptismal robes and the preparation for the Lord's Supper. The Deaconesses shall assist the pastor and deacons in visiting the members, in the care of the sick, needy and distressed members of the church.

Deaconesses shall hold office as long as they shall faithfully discharge their duties. Deaconesses who for a period of three(3) months fail to perform faithfully the duties of her office automatically vacates the same. The church may for good and sufficient cause, remove any Deaconess from office.

The Deaconess Ministry shall choose annually a chairman, vice chairman, secretary, and a treasurer and shall meet regularly each month.

Special meetings may be called by the Chairwoman or the Secretary who shall notify other members. Five (5) members in attendance consist of a quorum.

Section 4: Trustees

The Trustees Ministry shall consist of the church financial secretary who shall be elected by the Trustees, the church treasurer and not more than eleven (11) other persons. The Pastor by virtue of his position shall automatically be a voting member of

The Trustee Ministry. All other Trustees shall be appointed by the Pastor.

Failure to attend Worship Services (Hebrews 10:25) Sunday School (II Timothy 2:15) or the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 11:17-34) without cause (i.e. work, illness) failure to contribute financially (Malachi 3:8-10), (I Corinthians 16:2) to the support of the church and to cause division (Matthew 18:15-19, Romans 16:17, I Corinthians 6) merits removal from the ministry. Any Trustee found meeting in houses to discuss church business shall automatically be removed from the Trustees Ministry. Any meeting held without the presence of the Pastor shall be of no effect.

Section 4A: Duties of the Trustees

The Trustees Ministry shall hold in trust all property belonging to the church and shall be charged with the management and up keep of same. They shall not sell, mortgage or otherwise encumber the real estate or other property of the church unless with the consent of two thirds (2/3) of the members present at a meeting called with public notice of said meeting which has been given from the pulpit two (2) Sundays proceeding the date of meeting.

It shall be designate the bank where funds of the church shall be deposited. All bills authorized by the church shall be cleared through the Trustee Ministry before payment is made.

They shall submit an annual estimate of financial needs and devise and put into operations ways and means for raising the funds these funds as appropriate. All contracts binding the church shall be executed by the Chairman of the Trustees Ministry upon its authority. It shall make written reports to the church to the quarterly business meetings and at such other times as may be desired. The Ministry shall see that the following activities will not be permitted:

1. Ticket selling for function on church property
2. The sale of Raffle Tickets
3. Gleaner Contributions

Activities Permitted

1. Dinners from the church (people given their monies worth)
2. Teas – by contributions
3. Contests – by contributions
4. Ads and Patrons

Section 5: Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be elected at each annual meeting and shall have custody of the funds of the church and all the deposits made in the name of the church and all checks drawn by the treasurer shall be in the name of the church.

1. The treasurer shall receive all monies belonging to the church. No Benevolence or Mission monies is ever to be used for current expenses.
2. The Treasurer shall keep separate accounts of all funds raised or contributed for a particular purpose or organization. No funds shall be disbursed by the treasurer except for the purpose for which they were raised or contributed. All requests for monies should be made by vouchers.
3. The treasurer shall have custody of securities, investments, title papers and other valuable documents of the church.

The treasurer shall deposit all monies received within twenty four (24) hours after receipt of in a bank selected by the Trustee Ministry.

4. The treasurer shall submit to the Trustees upon request, information as to the condition of the treasury.
5. The treasurer shall submit to the church an itemized report of receipts and disbursements, showing the actual financial status of the church at each monthly meeting. At the annual meeting of the church, upon receipt of the treasurer's report, the books shall be submitted to the auditors.

The treasurer of this church must be bonded by a reputable Bonding firm.

Section 6: Assistant Treasurer

The Assistant Treasurer shall have charge of the collection of monies at the regular services. He/she shall keep an accurate record of the loose collection and the amount paid through the envelope system and shall turn over monies collected weekly to the treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer will work closely with the Treasurer and be bonded by a reputable bonding firm.

Section 7: Finance Committee/Board

There shall be a finance board of six (6) members. It shall act as a budget committee for the church. It shall report all pledges to the financial secretary and devise means and solicit subscriptions for the revenue of the church. The chairman of the Trustee Ministry

and the Church Financial Secretary shall serve as ex-office members of the ministry. This Ministry shall lead and direct the financial efforts of the church.

This board shall elect a chairman and a secretary and shall meet monthly or as the need arises.

Section 8: Financial Secretary

The financial secretary shall be elected at each annual meeting. It shall be the duty of the Financial Secretary of this church to keep a detailed financial record of all monies, income and disbursements and make a report to the church concerning the same. The secretary is to report to the Deacons Ministry the names of those members who have failed to make any contributions toward church expenses or funds.

The financial secretary shall submit records upon receipt of the church to the auditors at the annual meeting. He/she must keep an accurate record of the receipts and disbursements of all auxiliaries, departments, groups, boards, and the benevolent funds.

The financial secretary shall be bonded. The financial secretary shall also be an ex-officer member of the Finance Board.

Section 9: Assistant Financial Secretary

The Assistant Financial Secretary duties are the same as the Financial Secretary. He/she must work and assist the financial secretary whenever the secretary requires his/her assistance. The assistant financial secretary will keep records when the primary secretary is absent and forward these records to the office of the financial secretary.

Section 10: Church Clerk

The Church Clerk shall be elected at each annual meeting. The clerk shall keep correct records of all business proceedings of the church and read at the next business meetings for approval. The clerk shall keep a record of the names and addresses of the members with date and manner of admission or termination. Also a record of Baptism and a list of those suspended. The clerk shall issue letters of terminations and recommendations voted by the church, preserve on file all communication and written reports. The clerk shall deliver immediately to his/her successor all books and records for which he or she has been responsible for as clerk.

Section 10A: Assistant Church Clerk

The Assistant Church Clerk shall perform the same functions in the absence of the official clerk and give whatever assistance necessary in carrying out the duties of the clerk.

Section 11: Interim Government

If the Pastor dies, resigns or be removed from the office in accordance with provisions of Article 9, the remaining officers of the church shall continue to serve in their respective capacities as such until the next succeeding Annual Conference Meeting of the Church. In the interim, each successor to the Pastor shall serve in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws, subject, however, to the direction of the Trustees and Deacons, acting jointly as the interim governing body of the church. At the next succeeding Annual Conference Meeting of the Church, the Trustees, together with any proposed alterations or amendments, to the Voting Members of the Church for ratification in accordance with the provisions of Article 13. Thereafter, the Church shall be governed by its Articles of Incorporation and the Constitution and Bylaws in the form ratified by the Voting Members.

Any vacancy in any office of the Church (other than that of Pastor) which may occur during the period of interim government may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining members of the Trustees and Deacons, acting jointly.

Section 12: Board of Directors/Ways and Means Council

This council will work under the leadership of the Pastor. It will consist of the chairman of the various boards, the treasurer, Church School Superintendents, Presidents of every department and organization in the church. The council shall meet monthly to discuss the concerns and needs of the church, spiritual condition, and ways of improvement. The council shall whenever possible, make specific suggestions to the church at the regularly business meetings. The council shall assist the Pastor in any way possible and shall hold special meetings at the request of the Pastor when any specific problem shall arise.

Section 13: Departments and Auxiliaries

Each auxiliary shall submit recommended officers annually to the Pastor for approval. All such officers shall serve the term for one (1) year and shall have the ability to succeed themselves.

No auxiliary is a banking unit. All monies, if any, must be turned into the church office. If any such monies are received for benevolent purposes, they will be disbursed by a check written through the Church office.

No person will be allowed to be a member of an auxiliary unit if he/she fails to attend Sunday School (II Timothy 2:15; Acts 11:26); Worship Services (Hebrews 10:25), the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 11:17-34), or fails to contribute financially (Malachi 3:8-10; I Corinthians 16:2). Any auxiliary members that fail to do so will automatically relinquish their auxiliary positions.

The same standards must be met by: Junior Church workers, Nursery workers, Sunday School Teachers and members of the Board of Christian Education.

Ministry units that are presently established:

- Choirs
- Ushers
- Courtesy Guild
- Nurses Guild
- Deaconesses
- Kitchen
- Laymen

Section 14: Christian Education Ministry

The Ministry of Christian Education shall consist of not less than eight (8) not more than twelve (12) members. In addition to the elected members, the following persons will serve by virtue of their office as ex-officio members with voting privileges. They are the Pastor, the Director/Minister of Christian Education and the general Superintendent of the Church School.

The work of the Ministry will be divided into the following areas: Children, Youth, Young Adults, Adults, Family, Leadership Development and Education for Missions.

The Ministry shall be responsible for the organization, administration and supervision of the entire educational program of the church.

The Ministry shall be organized promptly, following the annual election. It shall elect from its own membership a Chairman, an Assistant Chairman and a Secretary. The Ministry shall meet monthly at a stated time. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman or Director of Christian Education.

The Ministry shall prepare a report of activities and programs to be submitted at the monthly meetings of the Ways and Means Council and the Annual Meeting.

The Ministry of Christian Education shall appoint the Counselors for the youth and shall interview and approve teachers for the Church School. The Ministry shall nominate the leaders of the Church School.

Section 15: Mission Ministry

The Mission Ministry shall promote interest in Mission at home and abroad.

The Mission Ministry will consist of the Presidents of the Brotherhood and the Women's Missionary Department, Chairman of the Deacons Ministry, Deaconesses, Trustees, Christian Education and Finance. An Assistant/Associate in the Ministry, may be assigned to work with the Ministry as an Ex-officio member.

The Ministry shall accept and reach a high goal of Missionary giving and shall cooperate with state, regional and national groups on Missionary Cooperation to promote giving.

This Ministry shall cooperate with the Pastor in providing practical ways for implementing the evangelistic mission of the church, such as neighborhood visitations, preaching service, and study groups, etc.

The Ministry shall elect a chairman, a vice chairman and a secretary from its own membership. The board shall be organized promptly following the annual election or meeting. The board will prepare a report of activities to be submitted at the monthly meeting of the Ways and Means Council.

Article VII

Committees

Section 1: Music Committee

The committee shall consist of seven (7) members and they are the Director of Music and the President of the choirs and two at-large members and the Pastor.

The music committee shall plan and review the Church's Musical program for the year, maintain a file of all musicians in the church, provide training experiences for the church musicians,

including workshops, seminars, etc., select hymnals to be used by the church for worship, provide for the robbing of the choirs, and prepare the music budget of the church and submit the same to the Finance Board.

Section 2: Election of Delegates

Each Ministry (Sunday School, Mission, etc.) and lay members will elect delegates and representatives to conventions and etc.

Section 3: Ushering

The Ushers Ministry shall be under the supervision of the church. They shall attend to the seating of the congregation and to the receiving of the offerings.

The Ministry shall elect from its own membership a president, vice president, and secretary and any other officers deemed necessary to carry out the functions of the Ministry.

Section 4: Pulpit Committee

Pulpit Committee (See Article VI, Section 1B).

Section 5: Special and General Committee

Special and General Committees shall be appointed by the Pastor as the need arises.

Article VIII

Elections

Section 1: Time

The annual elections of officers shall be held during the annual meeting of the church, which shall be approved in December.

All ministries shall submit the slate of their officers to the Pastor for review who in turn will present to the Deacons Ministry on approval with a recommendation to the church for ratification.

The slate of officers must be submitted to the Pastor on or before the date affixed by the Pastor.

Section 2: Qualification

All matters pertaining to the purchase, sale, or mortgaging of property shall be voted on only by members in Good Standing (contributing regular to the support of the church, regular in

attendance to church services) who are of legal age (18 years of age and older); on all other matters, members in good standing are entitled to vote.

Section 3: Vacancies

Vacancies occurring during the year may be filled for the unexpired term at any business meeting by the Pastor and Board of Deacons.

Article IX

Meetings

Section 1: Worship Services

Public services shall be on each Lord's Day (Sundays). The Church School shall meet each Sunday morning.

Section 2: Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper shall be observed on the first Lord's day of each month and at any other time as the Pastor and church may determine.

This church shall welcome the Lord's Supper any loyal disciple of Jesus Christ.

Section 3: Prayer Meeting

A weekly Prayer Meeting will be held each Wednesday evening, which the members are expected to attend. It is mandatory for all officers to attend these services. (A church that prays together is strengthened and is fortified for a better service for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.)

Section 4: Business Meeting

The annual business meeting shall be in December for the purpose of receiving the annual reports of individual officers, ministries and committees of the church, and its auxiliaries, the election of officers and the transaction of such other business as is proper to come before this meeting. There will also be a monthly meeting of the Ways and Means Council.

Special business meetings may be called by the Pastor at any time. Notices of such meetings and the purpose for which it is called shall be given on the Sunday preceding the date of the meeting. After any of the regular meetings of worship, however, the church may, without notice, act upon the appointment of delegates to

council, associations and conventions, act upon the reception of members, and upon the Dismission of members to another church.

Article X

Church Year

The fiscal year of this church shall be the Calendar year (January first (1) through December thirty-first (31)).

Article XI

Section 1: Furnishing a Ministry Licensing

Any member who has the scriptural specifications and by zeal and aptness, give evidence that he/she is called of God to preach the Gospel, and have preached before the church, shall be given a license to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, providing two-thirds (2/3) of the members present agree thereto.

Section 2: Ordaining

When any licensed preacher of our church shall desire to be ordained, the clerk shall notify the Chairman of the District Association in event the pastor is not available.

Article XII

Organization

The Church regards as an integral part of itself all organizations, formed among its members for Christian education, fellowship and service, which use the facilities of the church property. Of all such organizations, the Pastor and Deacons shall have general oversight and the church will expect a report from each at its monthly meetings.

Article XIII

Rules of Order

Section 1:

The Hiscox Guide for Baptist Churches, by Edward T. Hiscox, is the general manual.

Section 2:

The rules contained in the Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the business proceedings of this church in all cases where they are not inconsistent with the Holy Bible and Constitution.

Article XIV

Amendments

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended, altered or stricken out by consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting at any church meeting provided notification of intended change has been given from the pulpit four (4) consecutive Sundays before the voting is to take place, or a notice of intended change can be given in writing at least thirty (30) days before action is had upon it.