

The  
Mount Prospect  
Bible Church

\* Our Constitution

November 2008

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**HISTORY**

THE MEMBERS OF THE CALVARY BIBLE CHURCH AND THE MOUNT PROSPECT BIBLE CHURCH, HAVING RECOGNIZED THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER, ON AUGUST 13, 1958 DID THEREBY UNITE AND FORM THE MOUNT PROSPECT BIBLE CHURCH (MPBC).

**PREAMBLE**

WITH OUR TRUST IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTOR OF OUR FAITH AND ACCEPTING THE SCRIPTURE AS OUR SOLE AND PERFECT RULE OF FAITH AND PRACTICE, WE JOIN TOGETHER AS A BODY OF BELIEVERS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND ADOPT THE FOLLOWING CONSTITUTION.

**ARTICLE 1 PURPOSE**

WE, THE MT PROSPECT BIBLE CHURCH, EXIST TO GLORIFY OUR GOD AND SAVIOR, TO BUILD UP HIS PEOPLE IN THE FAITH, AND TO HELP THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD TRUST JESUS CHRIST TO BE THEIR SAVIOR, AND TO SUBMIT THEIR LIVES TO HIM AS THEIR MASTER.

**ARTICLE 2 MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT**

AS A FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST, I JOYFULLY AND THOUGHTFULLY ENTER INTO A BOND OF MUTUAL EDIFICATION,<sup>1</sup> FELLOWSHIP,<sup>2</sup> AND ACCOUNTABILITY<sup>3</sup> WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THIS BODY. I HAVE REPENTED OF MY SIN,<sup>4</sup> TRUSTED IN CHRIST AS MY SAVIOR AND LORD,<sup>5</sup> AND BEEN BAPTIZED AS A TRUE BELIEVER.<sup>6</sup>

I WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE WITH THIS CHURCH IN WORSHIP, PRAYER, STUDY, FELLOWSHIP, AND THE ORDINANCES OF BAPTISM AND COMMUNION.<sup>7</sup> I WILL USE MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOR THE COMMON GOOD.<sup>8</sup> THROUGH MY INVOLVEMENT, AND EVEN SACRIFICE, I WILL SEEK TO ILLUSTRATE TO MY FAMILY AND A WATCHING WORLD THE IMMENSE SIGNIFICANCE OF LIFE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.<sup>9</sup>

IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH AND IN THE SPIRIT OF A TRUE DISCIPLE OF CHRIST, I WILL DILIGENTLY TRAIN MYSELF AND MY FAMILY IN THE DISCIPLINE

AND INSTRUCTION OF THE LORD, SEEKING TO DEVELOP CHRISTIAN CHARACTER, KNOWLEDGE, AND SKILLS.<sup>10</sup>

I WILL WORK TOWARD DOCTRINAL UNITY WITH A HUMBLE AND TEACHABLE SPIRIT.<sup>11</sup> FOR THIS REASON, I AM WILLING TO BE TAUGHT ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT OF FAITH WHICH THIS CHURCH BELIEVES TO BE AN ACCURATE SUMMARY OF BIBLICAL TRUTH.<sup>12</sup> WHERE THERE IS DISAGREEMENT OR A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING DOCTRINAL CONVICTIONS. I ASSUME THE LIBERTY TO ASK QUESTIONS AND ENGAGE IN EDIFYING DISCUSSION. I WILL REJECT ALL HERETICAL BELIEFS AND PRACTICES, USING SCRIPTURE AS THE FINAL AUTHORITY.<sup>13</sup>

I WILL ACCEPT AND FELLOWSHIP WITH ALL MEMBERS, REGARDLESS OF RACE, GENDER, BACKGROUND, SOCIAL STATUS, OR LEVEL OF EDUCATION SINCE ALL ARE OF EQUAL VALUE IN CHRIST.<sup>14</sup>

I WILL PURSUE PEACE WITH ALL PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY WITH OTHER BELIEVERS, ALWAYS BEING SLOW TO TAKE OFFENSE AND EAGER TO RECONCILE.<sup>15</sup> I WILL SHUN GOSSIP AND DIVISIVE WORDS, KNOWING THAT THEY ARE DESTRUCTIVE TO CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.<sup>16</sup>

I WILL SEEK TO LIVE A LIFE THAT IS ABOVE REPROACH. I WILL BE JUST AND HONEST IN MY DEALINGS AND FAITHFUL IN MY RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMMITMENTS. I WILL ABIDE BY THE STANDARDS OF SEXUAL PURITY AND ETHICAL INTEGRITY AS TAUGHT IN THE BIBLE.<sup>17</sup>

I WILL SEEK THE PRESERVATION OF MARRIAGE, KNOWING THAT GOD HATES DIVORCE, AND I WILL SUBMIT TO BIBLICAL REGULATIONS REGARDING DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE.<sup>18</sup>

I WILL WATCH OVER THE OTHER MEMBERS IN LOVE AS THEY WATCH OVER ME.<sup>19</sup> I WILL REMEMBER THEM IN PRAYER,<sup>20</sup> HELP THEM IN SICKNESS AND DISTRESS,<sup>21</sup> PROMOTE THEIR SPIRITUAL GROWTH,<sup>22</sup> RESTRAIN THEM FROM SIN,<sup>23</sup> AND STIR THEM UP TO LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS.<sup>24</sup>

I WILL SUBMIT TO THE CHURCH'S DISCIPLINE UPON MYSELF AND LOVINGLY ASSUME MY RESPONSIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCIPLINE OF OTHER MEMBERS, AS TAUGHT IN SCRIPTURE.<sup>25</sup> IF I AM OFFENDED IN CONNECTION WITH A DISCIPLINARY MATTER, I WILL SEEK RESOLUTION WITHIN THE CHURCH. I WILL NEVER INITIATE OR PURSUE CIVIL LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE CHURCH OR ANY OTHER CHRISTIAN.<sup>26</sup>

I WILL CONTRIBUTE CHEERFULLY AND REGULARLY TO THIS CHURCH FOR ITS GENERAL MINISTRY AND EXPENSES, THE RELIEF OF THE POOR, THE CAUSE OF REFORMATION AND REVIVAL, AND THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. I WILL DEDICATE MYSELF, MY MONEY, AND MY

**POSSESSIONS TO THE CAUSE OF CHRIST AS A FAITHFUL STEWARD, AVOIDING ALL FORMS OF GREED.27**

**I WILL SEEK THE SALVATION OF MY FAMILY, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, CO-WORKERS, ACQUAINTANCES, AND PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONS.28**

**I PROMISE TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THIS CHURCH IN MEMBERSHIP. I WILL CONSULT WITH THE PASTOR(S) IN ADVANCE IF I SENSE THAT GOD IS DIRECTING ME ELSEWHERE. IF I MUST LEAVE, I WILL UNITE WITH ANOTHER TRUE CHURCH.29**

**IN SUMMARY, I WILL LOVE THE LORD MY GOD WITH ALL MY HEART, SOUL, MIND, AND STRENGTH, AND I WILL LOVE OTHERS AS CHRIST LOVES ME.30**

**I WILL NOT ALLOW MY WEAKNESSES AND FAILURES TO DETER ME FROM MY INTENTION TO ABIDE BY THESE CHRISTIAN STANDARDS. I WILL PURSUE HOLINESS THROUGH GENUINE REPENTANCE AND PERSEVERING FAITH IN THE ONE TO WHOM I OWE ALL OBEDIENCE FOR TIME AND ETERNITY, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.31**

*Scripture Proofs*

- (1) *Romans 14:19; 1 Corinthians 12:7; 14:26; Ephesians 4:16, 29; 1 Thessalonians 5:11*
- (2) *Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 2:1-4*
- (3) *Proverbs 27:17; Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15; James 5:16; 2 John 8*
- (4) *Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:15; Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38; 17:30; 26:20; 2 Corinthians 7:10*
- (5) *John 3:16; Acts 4:12; 16:30-31; Romans 10:9-10*
- (6) *Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; 8:36-38; 10:47-48*
- (7) *Matthew 28:19; Luke 22:14-20; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Hebrews 10:24-25*
- (8) *Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 18:27; Ephesians 4:11-16*
- (9) *Matthew 6:19-21, 24-26, 16:24; Hebrews 10:24-25; James 4:1-5; 1 Peter 2:9-10; 1 John 2:15-17*
- (10) *Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4; 1 Timothy 4:7; Hebrews 5:13-14; 1 Peter 2:1-3; 2 Peter 1:5-11; 3:17-18*
- (11) *Psalms 133:1; Romans 15:5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Ephesians 4:1-6; Philippians 2:2*
- (12) *Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Timothy 4:16; Titus 1:9; 2:1; Hebrews 13:17; James 3:1*
- (13) *Isaiah 8:20; Acts 17:11; 2 Corinthians 11:3-4; Galatians 1:6-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 Timothy 1:3-4; 3:15; 6:3-5, 20-21; 2 Timothy 2:15-18; 4:3-4; Hebrews 13:8-9; 2 John 9:11; Jude 3*
- (14) *Romans 10:12; Galatians 3:26-28; James 2:1-5*
- (15) *Matthew 5:23-24; Romans 12:18; 14:19; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Colossians 3:12-15; Hebrews 12:14; James 1:19-20*
- (16) *Proverbs 6:16-19; 10:19; Romans 16:17; Ephesians 4:29,31; 1 Timothy 5:13; Titus 3:10-11; James 3:6-10*
- (17) *Proverbs 10:9; Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:16,37; Luke 16:10; 1 Corinthians 6:18; 2 Corinthians 6:3; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 4:25; Titus 2:6-8; Hebrews 13:4*

- (18) *Malachi 2:16; Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-9; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18;*  
*1 Corinthians 7*
- (19) *1 Corinthians 10:24; Galatians 6:1-2, 10; Philippians 2:4*
- (20) *2 Corinthians 1:11; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 1:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:25;*  
*James 5:14-16*
- (21) *Matthew 25:34-40; Romans 12:13,15; Galatians 6:2-10; Philippians 4:14;*  
*1 John 3:16-18*
- (22) *Titus 2:1-15; Hebrews 5:12-14; 2 Peter 3:17-18*
- (23) *Proverbs 24:11; Galatians 6:1; 1 Timothy 5:20; James 5:19-20*
- (24) *Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:1-10; 3:8, 14; Hebrews 10:24; 13:16*
- (25) *Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15; 1 Timothy 5:20*
- (26) *1 Corinthians 6:1-8*
- (27) *Malachi 3:8-10; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7; 9:6-7; Philippians 4:18*
- (28) *Matthew 9:36-38; 28:18-20; Romans 10:14-15; 1 Peter 3:15;*  
*1 Corinthians 9:19-22; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20*
- (29) *Proverbs 3:5-6; 11:14; 12:15; 15:22; 18:1; 19:20; 20:18; 24:6; 1 Corinthians 12:18;*  
*Philippians 2:3-4; Hebrews 10:24*
- (30) *Mark 12:28-31; John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 1 John 3:16-19; 4:7-21*
- (31) *Matthew 5:6; Philippians 3:12-14; Hebrews 12:1-4; 1 Peter 1:14-19*

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### **ARTICLE 3 STATEMENT OF FAITH (SEPARATE DOCUMENT)**

### **ARTICLE 4 MEMBERSHIP**

#### **SECTION 4.1 ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP**

**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP IN THE MOUNT PROSPECT BIBLE CHURCH SHALL BE OPEN TO ALL PERSONS WHO CONFESS CHRIST AS THEIR LORD AND SAVIOR AND WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED. VOTING PRIVILEGES AT CHURCH MEETINGS IS LIMITED TO ACTIVE MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING WHO ARE EIGHTEEN YEARS AND OLDER.**

#### **SECTION 4.2 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**MEMBERSHIP MATTERS ARE HANDLED BY THE ELDERS. CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP WILL MEET WITH TWO ELDERS OR THEIR APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES TO HEAR THEIR PROFESSION OF FAITH AND TO ASCERTAIN THEIR NEED FOR BAPTISM.**

**A CANDIDATE MUST PROFESS FAITH IN CHRIST AS THEIR PERSONAL SAVIOR AND ACCEPT THE SCRIPTURES OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS AS THE WORD OF GOD AND AGREE WITH THE DOCTRINE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE MPBC.**

ALL BAPTISMS MUST BE BY IMMERSION. PREVIOUS IMMERSION IS ACCEPTABLE, IF THE CANDIDATE WAS A BELIEVER AT THE TIME OF IMMERSION AND IF THAT BAPTISM WAS NOT CONSTRUED TO BE NECESSARY TO SALVATION. PRIOR TO MEMBERSHIP, THE CANDIDATE MUST ATTEND THE MPBC MEMBERSHIP SEMINAR AND MEET THE REQUIREMENTS AS SET FORTH IN THIS CONSTITUTION. UPON APPROVAL BY THE INTERVIEWING ELDERS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, THE CANDIDATE'S NAME IS SUBMITTED TO THE ELDERS FOR FINAL APPROVAL BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE ELDERS.

#### **SECTION 4.3 RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS**

MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO STRIVE, BY GOD'S GRACE, TO LIVE A PRAYERFUL, SURRENDERED, AND SEPARATED LIFE, BEING CAREFUL TO AVOID ANYTHING THAT WOULD DAMAGE THEIR TESTIMONY AND BE A STUMBLING BLOCK TO OTHERS. (I COR. 6:12; 19-20; I JOHN 2:15-17; ROM. 12:1-2; ROM. 14:13; HEB. 13:20-21). MEMBERS SHALL SEEK TO EXERCISE THEIR SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOR THE EDIFICATION OF ALL THE CHURCH BODY AND SHALL SUBMIT TO THE LOVING RULE OF THE ELDERS (HEB 13:17).

#### **SECTION 4.4 ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS**

THE ELDERS AND THE DEACONS WILL REGULARLY CONTACT THOSE MEMBERS WHO ARE INACTIVE IN ATTENDANCE. THOSE WHO HAVE NOT ATTENDED (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HEALTH REASONS OR PHYSICAL INABILITY) OR INDICATE MINIMAL INTEREST IN THE CHURCH FOR THREE MONTHS ARE PLACED ON AN INACTIVE ROLL AND SENT WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF THIS ACTION. DURING THE FOLLOWING THREE MONTH PERIOD, THE MEMBER MAY APPLY TO THE ELDERS FOR REINSTATEMENT TO THE ACTIVE ROLL. IF A MEMBER FAILS TO HAVE THEIR NAME REINSTATED TO THE ACTIVE ROLL DURING THIS THREE MONTH PERIOD, THEY WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH AND SENT A WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF REMOVAL. THESE ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN BY UNANIMOUS DECISION OF THE ELDERS.

#### **SECTION 4.5 CHURCH DISCIPLINE**

(EXPANDED IN "WHAT WE BELIEVE & PRACTICE")

ONGOING SIN IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER OBSTRUCTS HIS WALK WITH THE LORD, THREATENS THE UNITY AND FELLOWSHIP WITHIN THE BODY, AND ULTIMATELY WEAKENS THE WITNESS OF THE CHURCH AMONG NON-BELIEVERS.

ANY MEMBER DETERMINED BY THE ELDERS AND THE SENIOR PASTOR TO BE GUILTY OF GROSS MISCONDUCT WHICH IS CONTRARY TO THE MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT OF THE MPBC

MAY BE TERMINATED FROM MEMBERSHIP BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE ELDERS. THIS ACTION IS TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF MATTHEW 18; ROMANS 16:17; TITUS 3:8-11 AND GALATIANS 6:1-5 AS EXPANDED IN "WHAT WE BELIEVE AND PRACTICE."

## **ARTICLE 5 GOVERNMENT**

### **SECTION 5.1 CONTROL**

THE GOVERNMENT OF THIS CHURCH IS VESTED IN THE BODY OF MEMBERS WHO COMPOSE IT AND AS DELEGATED TO ITS LEADERSHIP BY THIS CONSTITUTION. THE CHURCH IS SUBJECT TO THE CONTROL OF NO OTHER ECCLESIASTICAL BODY, BUT RECOGNIZES OUR UNITY WITH ALL BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS EVERYWHERE.

### **SECTION 5.2 FISCAL YEAR**

THE FISCAL YEAR OF THIS CHURCH BEGINS ON THE FIRST DAY OF MAY AND CLOSSES ON THE LAST DAY OF APRIL EACH YEAR.

### **SECTION 5.3 LEADERSHIP**

IT IS REQUIRED OF ALL LEADERSHIP (OFFICERS, ELDERS, AND DEACONS) TO LIVE, BY GOD'S GRACE, A PRAYERFUL, SURRENDERED, AND SEPARATED LIFE, BEING CAREFUL TO AVOID ANYTHING THAT WOULD DAMAGE THEIR TESTIMONY OR BE A STUMBLING BLOCK TO OTHERS. (I COR. 6:12, 19-20; I JOHN 2:15-17; ROM. 12:1-2; ROM. 14:13; HEB. 13:20-21)

## **ARTICLE 6 OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 6.1 DESIGNATED OFFICERS**

THE DESIGNATED OFFICERS OF THE MPBC ARE:

SENIOR PASTOR	SECRETARY
CHAIRMAN	TREASURER
VICE-CHAIRMAN	FINANCIAL SECRETARY

IN ACCORDANCE WITH 1 TIMOTHY 2:12 THE MINISTRIES OF PASTOR, ELDER AND DEACON ARE RESERVED FOR MEN.

### **SECTION 6.2 TERMS OF OFFICERS**

THE TREASURER AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY SERVE FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS AND WHEN POSSIBLE THEIR TERMS ARE STAGGERED, SO AS NOT TO ELECT THEM IN THE SAME YEAR. THEIR TERM OF OFFICE BEGINS ON THE FIRST MEETING FOLLOWING THEIR ELECTION. THE TREASURER AND FINANCIAL

SECRETARY ARE ELECTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 9.

THE VICE-TREASURER AND VICE-FINANCIAL SECRETARY, IF NEEDED ARE SELECTED BY THE ELDERS. THEY SERVE FOR NO MORE THAN A TWO YEAR TERM AS DESIGNATED AT THE TIME OF THEIR APPOINTMENT.

### **SECTION 6.3 RESIGNATION**

ANY OFFICER MAY RESIGN THROUGH A WRITTEN LETTER TO THE ELDERS. THEIR RESIGNATION IS EFFECTIVE ON THE DATE SPECIFIED IN THE RESIGNATION, UNLESS OTHERWISE DESIGNATED BY THE ELDERS.

## **ARTICLE 7 DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 7.1 CHAIRMAN**

THE ELDER SELECTED AS CHAIRMAN PRESIDES AT ALL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS, DISCHARGES THE DUTIES OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER, AND PRESENTS AT EACH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS A REPORT OF THE BUSINESS OF MPBC FOR THE PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR. HE ALSO PERFORMS WHATEVER DUTIES THE ELDERS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME PRESCRIBE. THE CHAIRMAN EXECUTES ALL LEGAL DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF MPBC. HE IS AN EX-OFFICIO MEMBER, WITH VOTING RIGHTS ON ALL BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CHURCH.

### **SECTION 7.2 VICE-CHAIRMAN**

IN THE ABSENCE OF THE CHAIRMAN, THE ELDER SELECTED AS VICE-CHAIRMAN PERFORMS THE DUTIES AND EXERCISE THE POWERS OF THE CHAIRMAN. HE ALSO PERFORMS WHATEVER DUTIES AND HAS WHATEVER POWERS THE ELDERS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME ASSIGN HIM.

### **SECTION 7.3 SECRETARY**

THE ELDER SELECTED AS SECRETARY ATTENDS ALL MEETINGS OF THE ELDERS AS WELL AS BUSINESS MEETINGS (ANNUAL AND SPECIAL) OF THE CHURCH. HE KEEPS OR CAUSES TO BE KEPT A TRUE AND COMPLETE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THESE MEETINGS. THE SECRETARY GIVES, OR CAUSES TO BE GIVEN, NOTICE OF ALL MEETINGS OF THE ELDERS OR BUSINESS MEETINGS AND PERFORMS WHATEVER ADDITIONAL DUTIES THE ELDERS AND THE CHAIRMAN MAY FROM TIME TO TIME ASSIGN HIM.

### **SECTION 7.4 TREASURER**

THE TREASURER KEEPS AN ACCURATE AND DETAILED ACCOUNT OF ALL FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS. HE/SHE RECORDS

ALL MONIES DEPOSITED IN THE BANK BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND MAKES PAYMENTS OF ALL OBLIGATIONS INCURRED BY THE CHURCH. ALL PAYMENTS ARE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DIRECTIVES OF THE DEACONS, THE BUDGET OR THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. THE TREASURER REPORTS THESE FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS THROUGH MONTHLY REPORTS TO THE ELDERS AND DEACONS. HE/SHE ALSO PROVIDES AN ANNUAL REPORT WITH A PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE SUBSEQUENT YEAR AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHURCH.

IF THE ELDERS BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY, THEY MAY SELECT A VICE-TREASURER WHO, IN THE ABSENCE OF THE TREASURER, PERFORMS THE DUTIES OF AND EXERCISES THE POWERS OF THE TREASURER. HE/SHE ALSO PERFORMS WHATEVER DUTIES AND HAS WHATEVER POWERS THE ELDERS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME ASSIGN HIM.

### **SECTION 7.5 FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY MAKES CERTAIN THAT THE COUNTING OF ALL OFFERINGS IS CONDUCTED BY AT LEAST TWO PEOPLE AUTHORIZED BY THE ELDERS AND DEACONS. SHE/HE ENSURES THAT THE OFFERING IS DEPOSITED IN THE NAME OF MPBC IN THE BANK ACCOUNT DESIGNATED BY THE DEACONS.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY MAINTAINS AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF ALL MONIES RECEIVED. SHE/HE MAKES AVAILABLE TO THE CHURCH MEMBERS CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AND ANNUALLY PROVIDES STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNT TO EACH MEMBER AND CONTRIBUTOR.

IF THE ELDERS BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY, THEY MAY SELECT A VICE-FINANCIAL SECRETARY WHO, IN THE ABSENCE OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, PERFORMS THE DUTIES OF AND EXERCISES THE POWERS OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY. SHE/HE ALSO PERFORMS WHATEVER DUTIES AND HAS WHATEVER POWERS THE ELDERS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME ASSIGN HER/HIM.

## **ARTICLE 8 TERMS OF OFFICE**

### **SECTION 8.1 SENIOR PASTOR**

THE SENIOR PASTOR SERVES FOR AN INDETERMINATE TERM.

### **SECTION 8.2 TERMS OF ELDERS**

AN ELDER SERVES FOR A TWO YEAR TERM. AT THE END OF THIS TERM OF SERVICE HE MAY BE ASKED TO RECOMMIT

FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWO YEARS SUBJECT TO RE-AFFIRMATION BY THE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP. AN ELDER IS ELIGIBLE FOR NO MORE THAN THREE CONSECUTIVE TERMS OF SERVICE, AT THE END OF WHICH TIME A ONE YEAR SERVICE-LEAVE IS REQUIRED. AN ELDER'S TERM OF OFFICE BEGINS ON THE FIRST MEETING FOLLOWING THEIR ELECTION. WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO OUR ELDERS WHO FAITHFULLY SERVE OUR LORD AND OUR CHURCH WITHOUT FINANCIAL COMPENSATION.

### **SECTION 8.3 THE TREASURER AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

THE TREASURER AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY SERVE FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS AND WHEN POSSIBLE THEIR TERMS ARE STAGGERED, SO AS NOT TO ELECT THEM IN THE SAME YEAR. THEIR TERM OF OFFICE BEGINS ON THE FIRST MEETING FOLLOWING THEIR ELECTION.

### **SECTION 8.4 THE VICE-TREASURER AND VICE-FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

THE VICE-TREASURER AND VICE-FINANCIAL SECRETARY, IF ANY ARE SELECTED BY THE ELDERS. THEY SERVE FOR NO MORE THAN A TWO YEAR TERM AS DESIGNATED AT THE TIME OF THEIR APPOINTMENT.

### **SECTION 8.5 RESIGNATION**

ANY OFFICER MAY RESIGN THROUGH A WRITTEN LETTER TO THE ELDERS. THEIR RESIGNATION IS EFFECTIVE ON THE DATE SPECIFIED IN THE RESIGNATION, UNLESS OTHERWISE DESIGNATED BY THE ELDERS.

## **ARTICLE 9 MINISTRY OF ELDERS**

THE ELDERS ARE THE RULING, GOVERNING BODY OF THE CHURCH ACCORDING TO 1 TIMOTHY 5.17 AND HEBREWS 13.17. ALL THE ACTIVITIES AND AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH SHALL BE EXERCISED BY OR UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE ELDERS, WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SHEPHERDING AND OVERSEEING THE FLOCK. DECISIONS MADE BY THE ELDERS SHALL BE REACHED AFTER PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION BY UNANIMOUS VOTE IN A SPIRIT OF HUMILITY, WITH EACH ELDER REGARDING ONE ANOTHER BEFORE HIMSELF.

### **SECTION 9.1 QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS**

THE ELDERS CONSIST OF MEN POSSESSING THE QUALIFICATIONS DESCRIBED IN I TIMOTHY 3:2-7 AND TITUS 1:6-9. IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE MEMBERS TO PROPERLY

EVALUATE A MAN'S QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELDER, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT ANY CANDIDATE FOR ELDER BE A MPBC MEMBER FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS.

## **SECTION 9.2 ELECTION OF ELDERS**

THE ELDERS ARE ELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 15. THE ELDERS THEN SELECT THE CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN, AND SECRETARY BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE AT THEIR FIRST MEETING FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MEETING. EACH OF THESE OFFICERS SERVES FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM, BUT MAY BE RE-ELECTED.

## **SECTION 9.3 DUTIES OF ELDERS**

AS SPIRITUAL OVERSEERS OF THE FLOCK, ELDERS ARE TO DETERMINE CHURCH POLICY (ACTS 15:22), OVERSEE THE CHURCH (ACTS 20:28), ORDAIN OTHERS (1 TIM 4:14), RULE, TEACH AND PREACH (1 TIM 5:17, 1 THESS 5:12, 1 TIM 3:2), EXHORT AND REFUTE (TITUS 1:9) AND ACT AS SHEPHERDS SETTING AN EXAMPLE (1 PETER 5:1-3). THE ELDERS CONDUCT REGULAR REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF THE TOTAL CHURCH MINISTRY ALONG WITH:

- \* ESTABLISHING STRATEGIES AND OBJECTIVES TO FULFILL THE CHURCH'S PURPOSES;
- \* REVIEWING PROGRESS AGAINST THE OBJECTIVES;
- \* DETERMINING WHETHER THE OBJECTIVES ARE BEING ACCOMPLISHED;
- \* ENSURING THAT THE CHURCH OPERATES CONSISTENTLY WITHIN ITS STRATEGIES AND OBJECTIVES.

THEY PROVIDE TO THE SENIOR PASTOR AN ANNUAL APPRAISAL OF BOTH HIS MINISTRY AND THE MINISTRY OF HIS STAFF IN ORDER TO PROVIDE COUNSEL AND GUIDANCE. THE ELDERS PROVIDE DIRECTION AND APPROVAL OF THE JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR ALL CHURCH STAFF POSITIONS. THE ELDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO APPOINT AND OVERSEE THE DUTIES OF THE DEACONS.

## **SECTION 9.5 REMOVAL OF ELDERS**

ANY ELDER MAY BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE AT ANY REGULAR OR SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ELDERS IF HE IS FOUND TO BE PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY INCAPACITATED OR SPIRITUALLY UNQUALIFIED (ACCORDING TO PERTINENT SCRIPTURE, INCLUDING 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7 AND TITUS 1:5-9), AFTER THOROUGH CORROBORATING INVESTIGATION BY THE ELDERS, IN ACCORD WITH THE PROCEDURES PRESCRIBED BY PERTINENT SCRIPTURE, INCLUDING MATTHEW 18:15-18 AND 1

**TIMOTHY 5:19. WHEN AN ELDER IS REMOVED BECAUSE OF SIN THAT IS DEEMED SUFFICIENT TO DISQUALIFY HIM FROM SHEPHERDING, AND IF HE REFUSES TO REPENT FROM THAT SIN, THE REMOVAL SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PUBLIC REBUKE, AND NOTICE SHALL BE MADE BEFORE THE CHURCH AND THE CONGREGATION THEREOF AT A REGULARLY-SCHEDULED WORSHIP SERVICE AS PRESCRIBED IN 1 TIMOTHY 5:20.**

## **ARTICLE 10 SENIOR PASTOR**

### **SECTION 10.1 QUALIFICATIONS**

**THE SENIOR PASTOR MUST BE AN ORDAINED MINISTER WHO BELIEVES THAT THE BIBLE IS VERBALLY INSPIRED AND IS WITHOUT ERROR IN THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS, WHO EXEMPLIFIES THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE, HAS A BURDEN FOR THE LOST, RECOGNIZES THE VALUE OF DISCIPLESHIP, AND WHOSE PULPIT MINISTRY APPLIES THE WORD OF GOD TO LIFE IN A PRACTICAL WAY. AS AN ELDER, HE MUST POSSESS THE QUALIFICATIONS DESCRIBED IN I TIMOTHY 3:2-7 AND TITUS 1:6-9 AND LEAD THE CHURCH BY EXAMPLE AS STATED IN THE PRIOR SCRIPTURE PASSAGES.**

### **SECTION 10.2 CALLING**

**THE SENIOR PASTOR SHALL BE SELECTED BY THE ELDERS AND AFFIRMED BY THE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER. WHEN IT IS NECESSARY TO CALL THE SENIOR PASTOR, A PULPIT COMMITTEE IS FORMED, CONSISTING OF FOUR MEMBERS FROM THE ELDERS AND THREE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF MPBC SELECTED BY THE ELDERS AND AFFIRMED BY THE CHURCH MEMBERS AT A SPECIAL MEETING. IT IS THE DUTY OF THE PULPIT COMMITTEE TO SEEK UNDER GOD'S GUIDANCE A CANDIDATE FOR SENIOR PASTOR. THE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATES THE MERITS OF ANY MAN UNDER CONSIDERATION IN REGARD TO HIS PERSONAL CHARACTER, CALLING, FAMILY, EDUCATION, MINISTERIAL RECORD AND PREACHING ABILITY TO DETERMINE HIS FITNESS FOR SENIOR PASTOR. WHEN A SUITABLE MAN IS FOUND, THE COMMITTEE SUBMITS HIS NAME TO THE ELDERS FOR CONSIDERATION. IF THE ELDERS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVE THE CANDIDATE A RECOMMENDATION IS MADE TO THE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP FOR THEIR AFFIRMATION.**

**THE CALL OF THE SENIOR PASTOR COMES BEFORE THE CHURCH AT A SPECIALLY CALLED BUSINESS MEETING WHOSE PURPOSE IS READ FROM THE PULPIT ON TWO SUCCESSIVE SUNDAYS IN ADDITION TO A WRITTEN NOTICE SENT TO ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS. A VOTE OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE ACTIVE MEMBERS IS NECESSARY TO EXTEND A CALL TO ANYONE UNDER CONSIDERATION. ONLY ONE CANDIDATE MAY BE PRESENTED**

TO THE CHURCH AT ONE TIME. VOTING IS DONE BY WRITTEN BALLOT.

### **SECTION 10.3 DUTIES**

THE SENIOR PASTOR PREACHES AND TEACHES GOD'S WORD; ADMINISTERS THE ORDINANCES; WATCHES OVER THE MEMBERSHIP; PROMOTES THE SPIRITUAL INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCH; AND EQUIPS THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY. HE IS AN EX-OFFICIO MEMBER, WITH VOTING RIGHTS ON ALL BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CHURCH AND HE SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE TO THE ELDERS. IN THE ABSENCE OF THE SENIOR PASTOR, THE ELDERS (OR A DULY APPOINTED COMMITTEE OF THE ELDERS) SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR THE PUBLIC AND REGULAR SERVICES OF THE CHURCH.

THE SENIOR PASTOR HAS THE AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE ANY PASTORAL OR OTHER CHURCH STAFF, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BUDGET AND SALARY GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE ELDERS AND APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP.

### **SECTION 10.4 SUPPORT**

THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE SENIOR PASTOR IS DETERMINED AT THE TIME OF THE CALL AND MAY BE CHANGED UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE ELDERS AND AFFIRMATION OF THE CHURCH AT ANY BUSINESS MEETING.

### **SECTION 10.5 RESIGNATION**

THE TERM OF THE SENIOR PASTOR'S OFFICE MAY BE ENDED BY THE PASTOR'S VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION WITH A MINIMUM OF THIRTY DAYS WRITTEN NOTIFICATION. THE SENIOR PASTOR FIRST GIVES HIS RESIGNATION TO THE ELDERS BEFORE IT IS PRESENTED TO THE CHURCH. THE ELDERS MAY AT THEIR DISCRETION ACCEPT AN EARLIER TERMINATION DATE.

### **SECTION 10.6 TERMINATION**

ANY ACTION TO TERMINATE THE SENIOR PASTOR MUST BE REFERRED TO THE ELDERS FOR ITS CONSIDERATION BEFORE BEING PRESENTED TO THE CHURCH. THE ELDERS ARE REQUIRED TO PRESENT TO THE CHURCH ANY WRITTEN REQUEST FOR THE TERMINATION OF THE PASTOR, WHEN IT IS SIGNED BY ONE FOURTH OF THE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH PROVIDED THAT A REQUEST HAS NOT BEEN MADE IN THE PRIOR TWELVE MONTHS. SUCH AN ACTION IS PRESENTED AT A SPECIAL MEETING CALLED FOR THE PRE-ANNOUNCED PURPOSE OF TAKING A VOTE ON THE REQUEST. VOTING IS DONE BY WRITTEN BALLOT AND A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE

OF MEMBERS PRESENT IS REQUIRED TO CARRY A MOTION FOR TERMINATION. IF THE MOTION FOR TERMINATION OF THE SENIOR PASTOR PASSES, HE IS GIVEN WRITTEN NOTICE BY THE ELDERS. THE ELDERS MAY PERMIT THE PASTOR TO REMAIN AFTER TERMINATION FOR SO LONG AS THEY DEEM ADVISABLE.

IF THE SENIOR PASTOR IS NOT TERMINATED AT THE SPECIAL MEETING, ANY OFFICER, ELDER OR DEACON WHO SIGNED THE WRITTEN REQUEST FOR TERMINATION MUST AUTOMATICALLY RESIGN THEIR LEADERSHIP POSITION EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

## **ARTICLE 11 PASTORAL STAFF**

### **SECTION 11.1 PASTORAL AND OTHER CHURCH STAFF**

THE APPOINTMENT OF ANY PASTORAL AND OTHER CHURCH STAFF INCLUDING THEIR TERMS OF COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS IS GOVERNED BY THE ELDERS AND SHALL BE AFFIRMED AT A DULY APPOINTED BUSINESS MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP. A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT IS NEEDED TO AFFIRM A CANDIDATE. ALL PASTORAL AND OTHER CHURCH STAFF ARE EMPLOYEES UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE SENIOR PASTOR.

### **SECTION 11.2 COMPENSATION**

COMPENSATION FOR THE PASTORAL OR OTHER CHURCH STAFF IS FIXED AT THE TIME OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT. IT MAY BE CHANGED UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE ELDERS AND AFFIRMATION BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE CHURCH.

### **SECTION 11.3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

THE ELDERS DETERMINE THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAFF AND THE SENIOR PASTOR PROVIDES EACH EMPLOYEE A WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

### **SECTION 11.4 TERMINATION OF PASTORAL AND OTHER STAFF**

THE ELDERS HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO TERMINATE ANY PASTORAL OR OTHER CHURCH STAFF.

## **ARTICLE 12 MINISTRY OF DEACONS**

### **SECTION 12.1 QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS**

THE DEACONS SHALL CONSIST OF MEN POSSESSING THE QUALIFICATIONS DESCRIBED IN I TIMOTHY 3:8-13 AND SHALL BE NOMINATED BY MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH. IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE ELDERS TO PROPERLY EVALUATE A MAN'S

QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEACON, THE ELDERS RECOMMEND THAT ANY CANDIDATE BE AN MPBC MEMBER FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT BY THE ELDERS. THE ELDERS DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF DEACONS.

## **SECTION 12.2 SELECTION OF DEACONS**

THE DEACONS ARE APPOINTED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE ELDERS. THE NUMBER OF DEACONS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE ELDERS.

## **SECTION 12.3 DUTIES OF DEACONS**

THE DEACONS SHALL ASSIST THE ELDERS IN THE SHEPHERDING OF THE SAINTS, AID IN THE PHYSICAL CARE OF THE BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH, AND PERFORM OTHER DUTIES AS ASSIGNED BY THE ELDERS.

## **SECTION 12.4 TERMS OF DEACONS**

A DEACON SERVES FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM. AT THE END OF HIS TERM OF SERVICE HE MAY BE ASKED TO RECOMMIT FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWO YEARS SUBJECT TO RE-AFFIRMATION BY THE ELDERS. HE IS ELIGIBLE TO SERVE FOR NO MORE THAN THREE CONSECUTIVE TERMS OF SERVICE, AT THE END OF WHICH TIME A ONE YEAR SERVICE-LEAVE IS REQUIRED. WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO OUR DEACONS WHO FAITHFULLY SERVE OUR LORD AND OUR CHURCH WITHOUT FINANCIAL COMPENSATION.

## **ARTICLE 13 MINISTRY TEAMS**

THE ELDERS MAY APPOINT VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND MINISTRY TEAMS FROM WITHIN ITS MEMBERSHIP, THE STAFF, AND FROM THE CHURCH AT LARGE. THESE TEAMS SHALL PERFORM TASKS SOLELY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DUTIES AND WITH POWERS SPECIFICALLY DELEGATED BY THE ELDERS.

A MINISTRY TEAM PROVIDES A CHARTER THAT MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- SCOPE OF THE MINISTRY
- A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AS IT RELATES TO THE OVERALL MINISTRY OF MPBC;
- STRATEGIES TO ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSES OF THE MINISTRY –
  - I.E., A PLAN TO RECRUIT, TRAIN PERSONNEL;
- RESOURCES REQUIRED TO FACILITATE THE MINISTRY –
  - I.E., A REQUEST FOR FUNDS, BUILDING USAGE;
- MEASUREMENTS OF THE MINISTRY - GOALS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED;

- LEADERS AND KEY PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE MINISTRY.

THE ELDERS REVIEW MINISTRY TEAM CHARTERS (AT LEAST) ANNUALLY AND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM MINISTRY TEAMS MAY BE PRESENTED TO THE MEMBERS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING. MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS ARE TO REPORT TO THE ELDERS AT LEAST ANNUALLY. THE ELDERS DETERMINE THE NUMBER AND DURATION OF MINISTRY TEAMS.

## **ARTICLE 14 MEETINGS**

### **SECTION 14.1 PUBLIC WORSHIP**

THE STATED MEETING TIME FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP IS SUNDAY MORNING. THE CHURCH WILL MEET FOR OBSERVANCE OF THE ORDINANCE OF THE LORD'S TABLE EVERY SIX WEEKS, OR AT SUCH TIMES AS THE ELDERS DETERMINE.

### **SECTION 14.2 BUSINESS MEETINGS**

THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE CHURCH MEMBERS WILL BE HELD IN MAY ON A DAY AND TIME DETERMINED BY THE ELDERS. NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE GIVEN FROM THE PULPIT FOUR WEEKS IN ADVANCE AND A COPY OF THE NOTICE WILL BE POSTED FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE SUNDAYS PRIOR TO SUCH A MEETING. AT SUCH REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING THE MEMBERS WILL CONSIDER REPORTS OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH, AND TRANSACT SUCH OTHER BUSINESS AS THE ELDERS DETERMINE WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE MEETING.

SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH MAY BE HELD ON ANY DAY AND TIME CHOSEN BY THE ELDERS PROVIDED A TWO-WEEK NOTICE IS GIVEN FROM THE PULPIT.

ATTENDANCE AT A BUSINESS MEETING BY NON-MEMBERS AND INACTIVE MEMBERS IS PERMISSIBLE, HOWEVER THEIR ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE BY ASKING QUESTIONS OR MAKING STATEMENTS IS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN.

## **ARTICLE 15 ELECTIONS**

### **SECTION 15.1 TIME**

ELECTIONS FOR ELDERS, TREASURER, AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY ARE HELD AT THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

### **SECTION 15.2 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

A NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF THREE CHURCH MEMBERS AND AT LEAST ONE PASTORAL STAFF SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE ELDERS TO SERVE FOR ONE YEAR. NO PERSON SERVES ON THE COMMITTEE TWICE IN SUCCESSION. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THIS COMMITTEE IS TO PRESENT THE NAME OF AT LEAST ONE PERSON FOR EACH ELECTIVE OFFICE.

EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF VACANCIES, THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE IS POSTED FIFTEEN DAYS PRIOR TO AN ELECTION. NO CANDIDATE MAY BE BROUGHT TO THE ELDERS FOR CONSIDERATION UNLESS AGREED UPON BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE. THE ELDERS CAN ADD TO OR SUBTRACT FROM THE LIST GIVEN BY THE COMMITTEE.

### **SECTION 15.3 PROCEDURE**

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE PRESENTS THE NAME OF ONE QUALIFIED PERSON FOR EACH ELECTIVE OFFICE. NO NOMINATIONS MAY BE MADE FROM THE FLOOR AT THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING. ALL ELECTIONS ARE BY WRITTEN BALLOT, A MAJORITY OF THE BALLOTS CAST BEING NECESSARY FOR THE ELECTION OF EACH OFFICER.

### **SECTION 15.4 VACANCIES**

VACANCIES OCCURRING DURING THE YEAR MAY BE FILLED FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF OFFICE BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE MAKING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE ELDERS. A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE ELDERS MUST APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION AND THEN A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS IS HELD WHERE A MAJORITY OF THE BALLOTS CAST ARE NECESSARY FOR AFFIRMATION OF THE NOMINATION.

### **SECTION 15.5 QUORUM**

QUORUMS ARE DETERMINED BY THE TYPE OF MEETINGS BEING HELD, AS FOLLOWS:

SPECIAL MEETINGS: ACTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT.

ANNUAL MEETINGS: ACTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT.

CALLING OR TERMINATING A PASTOR: TWO THIRDS OF THE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP.

## **ARTICLE 16 AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS**

NO ORGANIZATION IS FORMED OR CONSIDERED A PART OF THE CHURCH ACTIVITIES BEFORE ITS SPONSORS HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR PLANS TO THE ELDERS FOR SANCTION AND APPROVAL AND SUCH SANCTION AND APPROVAL HAS BEEN GRANTED.

## **ARTICLE 17 FINANCES**

NECESSARY FINANCES FOR CONDUCTING THE CHURCH, ITS PROGRAMS AND MISSIONARY OUTREACH, ARE OBTAINED THROUGH VOLUNTARY TITHING AND REGULAR OFFERINGS. ONLY WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE ELDERS MAY A FUND RAISING ACTIVITY OR FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BE CONDUCTED. UPON THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE ELDERS, AUXILIARY

ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CHURCH MAY TAKE OFFERINGS OR PROVIDE SERVICES TO EARN MONEY FOR SELECTED ACTIVITIES.

### **ARTICLE 18 AMENDMENTS**

THIS CONSTITUTION MAY BE AMENDED AT ANY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE CHURCH BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT. THE NOTICE OF THE INTENT TO MAKE SUCH AN AMENDMENT MUST BE PRESENTED FROM THE PULPIT ON FOUR SUCCESSIVE SUNDAYS IN ADVANCE OF ANY VOTE. A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT MUST BE POSTED FOR TWO SUCCESSIVE SUNDAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING AND WRITTEN NOTICE GIVEN TO THE MEMBERSHIP.

### **ARTICLE 19 DISSOLUTION**

UPON DISSOLUTION OF THIS CORPORATION, THE ELDERS SHALL CAUSE THE ASSETS HEREIN TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO ANOTHER CORPORATION WITH BELIEFS AND PURPOSES SIMILAR TO THAT IDENTIFIED IN ARTICLES 1, 2, 3, & 4 OF THIS CONSTITUTION.

### **ARTICLE 20 RULES OF ORDER**

THE RULES CONTAINED IN ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER GOVERN THE BUSINESS PROCEEDINGS OF THE MOUNT PROSPECT BIBLE CHURCH IN ALL CASES WHERE THEY ARE NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THIS CONSTITUTION AND ITS BY-LAWS.