



Constitution and By-Laws

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* Amendments 1 and 2 were approved by a unanimous vote of the voting membership on February 24, 2013 at the annual business meeting.

**MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

PREAMBLE

We, as members of the Body of Christ in Belleville, Michigan, in order to establish an autonomous and biblical assembly in accordance with God's plan for the local church as revealed in the Bible, do hereby establish and ordain this Constitution and By-Laws to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLE I: CORPORATE NAME

The name of this Corporation shall be Mount Calvary Baptist Church of Belleville.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES

This local church fellowship, as part of Christ's Body, exists for the purpose of bringing glory to Him as its Head. The Word of God is explicit in setting forth the purposes of the local church.

This church purposes to:

- A. Promote godly worship and spiritual growth of believers through a pulpit ministry of Bible exposition in preaching and teaching.
- B. Seek the salvation of the lost through the presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- C. Utilize the spiritual gifts of the members in the ministry of the church fellowship.
- D. Provide a godly fellowship among members with love, encouragement, and prayer for one another.
- E. Develop God's people to Christlike maturity, equip them for their ministry in the church and life mission in the world.
- F. Commission and ordain ministers of the gospel.

- G. Cultivate an awareness, interest and involvement in the work of missions around the world consistent with the doctrinal statement of Mount Calvary Baptist Church.
- H. Encourage personal holiness and purity of life by separation from worldly practices.
- I. Stand without compromise for the defense of the Word of God in days of ecclesiastical apostasy.
- J. Establish a church fellowship which shall be completely autonomous and independent of denominational control.
- K. Cultivate fellowship with other independent, fundamental, local churches and organizations, as long as such fellowship does not jeopardize its independent or fundamental character.

ARTICLE III: STATEMENT OF DOCTRINE

A. Of the Scriptures

We believe in the authority and sufficiency of the Holy Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, as originally written; that it was verbally and plenary inspired and is the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore is infallible and inerrant in all matters of which it speaks.

We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creed, and opinions shall be tried. II Timothy 3:16 & 17; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

B. The True God

We believe there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. Exodus 20:2, 3; I Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11.

C. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the Agent in the new birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer. John 14:16, 17; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Genesis 1:1-3; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5, 6; Ephesians 1:13, 14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Romans 8:14, 16, 26, 27.

D. The Devil, or Satan

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, the Devil; that he was created by God as an angel but through pride and rebellion became the enemy of his Creator; that he became the unholy god of this age and the ruler of all the powers of darkness and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire. Matthew 4:1-11; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10.

E. Creation

We believe the Biblical account of the creation of the physical universe, angels, and man; that this account is neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God without any evolutionary process; that man was created by a direct work of God and not from previously existing forms of life; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race. Genesis 1; 2; Colossians 1:16, 17; John 1:3.

F. The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence (in the image and likeness of God) under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression Adam fell from his sinless and happy

state, and all men sinned in him, in consequence of which all men are totally depraved, are partakers of Adam's fallen nature, and are sinners by nature and by conduct, and therefore are under just condemnation without defense or excuse. Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 3:10-19; 5:12, 19; 1:18, 32.

G. The Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can 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; John 1:14.

H. Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is divinely initiated and wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who, by the appointment of the Father, voluntarily took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, and honored the divine law by His personal obedience, thus qualifying Himself to be our Savior; that by the shedding of His blood in His death He fully satisfied the just demands of a holy and righteous God regarding sin; that His sacrifice consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that having risen from the dead He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all sufficient Savior.

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. Repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God prompted by the Holy Spirit and is an integral part of saving faith. Jonah 2:9; Ephesians 2:8; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24, 25; John 3:16; Matthew 18:11; Philippians 2:7, 8; Hebrews 2:14-17; Isaiah 53:4-7; I John 4:10; I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:24.

I. Resurrection and Priesthood of Christ

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ and in His ascension into Heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest interceding for us. Matthew 28:6,7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; I Corinthians 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6, 51; Acts 1:90-11; Revelation 3:21; Hebrews 8:6; 12:2; 7:25; I Timothy 2:5; I John 2:1; Hebrews 2:17; 5:9, 10.

J. Grace and the New Birth

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in 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 by our sovereign God in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with the divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life. John 3:3; II Corinthians 5:17; I John 5:1; Acts 16:20-33; II Peter 1:4; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1, 5; Colossians 2:13; John 3:8.

K. Justification

We believe that justification is that judicial act of God whereby He declares the believer righteous upon the basis of the imputed righteousness of Christ; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any work of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's shed blood. Romans 3:24; 4:5, 5:1, 9; Galatians 2:16; Philippians 3:9.

L. Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer unto God accomplished in a threefold manner; first, an eternal act of God, based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the believer in a position of holiness at the moment he trusts the Savior; second, a continuing process in the saint as

the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to the life; third, the final accomplishment of this process at the Lord's return. Hebrews 10:10-14; 3:1; John 17:17; II Corinthians 3:18; I Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 5:25-27; I Thessalonians 4:3, 4; 5:23, 24; I John 3:2; Jude 24, 25; Revelation 22:11.

M. The Security of the Saints

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6; John 10:28, 29; Romans 8:35-39; Jude 1.

N. The Church

We believe that a local church is an organized congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers are Pastors, Elders, and Deacons, whose qualifications, claim and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; 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 furtherance of the gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; that on all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. I Corinthians 11:2; Acts 20:17-18; I Timothy 3:1-13; Acts 2:41, 42.

We believe in the unity of all New Testament believers in the Church which is the Body of Christ. I Corinthians 12:12, 13; Ephesians 1:22, 23; 3:1-6; 4:11; 5:23; Colossians 1:18; Acts 15:13-18.

O. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the single immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our identification with the crucified, buried and risen Savior, through Whom we died to sin and rose to a new life; that baptism is to be performed under the authority of the local church; and that it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He come, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. Acts 8:36, 38, 39; John 3:23; Romans 6:3-5; Matthews 3:16; Colossians 2:12; I Corinthians 11:23-28; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41, 42.

P. Separation

We believe in obedience to the Biblical commands to separate ourselves unto God from worldliness and ecclesiastical apostasy. II Corinthians 6:14; 7:1; I Thessalonians 1:9, 10; I Timothy 6:3-5; Romans 16:17; II John 9-11.

Q. Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except in those things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ Who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming King of kings. Romans 13:1-7; II Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21, 22; Acts 23:5; Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:29; 4:19, 20; Daniel 3:17, 18.

R. Israel

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, and that she will be regathered in the Holy Land and, after the completion of the Church, will be saved as a nation at the second advent of Christ. Genesis 13:14-17; Romans 11:1-32; Ezekiel 37.

S. Rapture and Subsequent Events

We believe in the premillennial return of Christ, an event which can occur at any moment, and that at that moment the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, and the living in Christ shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and all shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air before the seven years of the Tribulation. I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:42-44, 51-54; Philippians 3:20, 21; Revelation 3:10.

We believe that the Tribulation, which follows the Rapture of the Church, will be culminated by the revelation of Christ in power and great glory to sit upon the throne of David and to establish the millennial kingdom. Daniel 9:25-27; Matthew 24:29-31; Luke 1:30-33; Isaiah 9:6, 7; 11:1-9; Acts 2:29, 30; Revelation 20:1-4, 6

T. 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 are justified by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Spirit of our God are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost in the lake of fire. Malachi 3:18; Genesis 18:23; Romans 6:17, 18; I John 5:19; Romans 7:6; 6:23; Proverbs 14:32; Luke 16:25; Matthew 25:34-41; John 8:21; Revelation 20:14, 15.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

A. Qualifications for Church Membership

Any person who:

1. has received Jesus Christ through personal faith as Savior,
2. has been baptized by immersion,

3. indicates agreement with the Statement of Faith, Constitution and By-Laws,
4. desires to be committed to Mount Calvary Baptist Church as a local body of believers and accepts the obligations and responsibilities that accompany being a member of the local body, and
5. agrees to voluntarily submit to the leadership, teaching, and discipline of the church shall be eligible for membership.

B. Application for Membership

All requests for membership are received by the Board of Elders. A person, upon making a request, will be given a Membership form along with a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws of this church.

C. Reception of Membership

This congregation shall receive into membership only those who have received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord, who subsequently have been baptized by immersion, who subscribe to the Statement of Faith, and who declare their intent to support the congregation in its purpose by their godly lives, personal interest, financial contributions and Christian love.

Christians who desire to associate themselves with this church, and who fulfill the qualifications for membership shall make application to the Pastor or the Elders. They shall meet with the Elders for approval.

Applicants who have been approved for reception into the membership shall be recommended to the Church. Their approval then shall be announced from the pulpit, or in the bulletin at the regular church service. If no valid objections are received by the Elders during a two week period, then the right hand of fellowship shall be extended to them at a following Sunday service. Their membership shall then be in force.

D. Types of Membership

The membership of this church shall consist of the following types:

1. Active Membership

Active membership is open to all persons who have been received in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and By-Laws, and who do not retain membership in any other church. Voting privileges, however, are restricted to those who are eighteen (18) years of age and older and have been faithful in church attendance for the past six (6) months.

2. Inactive Membership

Inactive Membership is the designation of the membership who no longer resides in the area, but still desires to retain their membership in this church. The Elders may also place in the group any active member who has not attended the service of the church for six months without a plausible reason. Requests for reinstatement of active membership will be processed by the Elders. Members who are under church disciplinary action are automatically considered inactive members until such time as they are removed from such discipline by the Elders. Inactive members are not entitled to vote.

3. Termination of Membership

Membership in this church body is terminated in one of the following ways:

1. By written request to be received and acted upon by the Elders,
2. By death,
3. By becoming an active member in another church fellowship,

4. By disciplinary action by the Elders and Deacons because of embracing heresy or persistence in conduct unbecoming to a Christian,
5. By vote of the Elders for any member who willfully and without plausible reason absents himself from the services of the church for a period of one (1) year.

E. Discipline

The purpose and goal of all matters of church discipline will be to restore those who have sinned. In the case where heretical doctrine has been propagated or persistence in conduct unbecoming to believers and in every case involving gross immorality, a member shall be subject to disciplinary action of the Church. Principles outlined in Matthew 18:15-17 will be followed where the Board of Elders, Deacons and Pastor will represent the church. In the discharge of its duties, the Elders and Pastor shall use kindness, grace, consideration and love throughout the disciplinary proceedings. The accused member shall have the right to present his or her side of the case to the Elders, Deacons and Pastor prior to any final disciplinary action by the Elders, Deacons and Pastor. If the Elders, Deacons and Pastor deem it necessary, however, a member's name may be removed from the membership rolls. The Elders shall inform the church body of such disciplinary action. All members of the Church body recognize they are under the spiritual authority of the church and will not have recourse to the decision of the Church as to any disciplinary action, which for all purposes shall be final.

ARTICLE V: BOARD OF ELDERS

A. Statement of Authority

It is recognized that the ultimate authority of the church is the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Chief Shepherd. The oversight and administration of the church is vested in the Elders. They are responsible for the corporate business and affairs of the Mount Calvary Baptist Church, subject to the limitations of the Articles of Incorporation and other sections of this Constitution and By-Laws. The Elders are to seek through an unforced unanimity to find the mind of the Lord. The authority of the church is not the authority of men, but of God. It is expressed through the Elders who do not act as individuals, but as servant-leaders who are Spirit-filled men in collective and united agreement of all matters (Acts 20:28).

The Elders are charged with the responsibility of clearly knowing and following the leading of the Lord. It is the path of wisdom that some matters have visible support of the voting membership. Such expressions of support shall be sought at the annual selection of members for Elders, Deacons, the acquiring and disposal of real property, the calling of the Pastor-Teacher, annual budgets and major financial expenditures, amendments to this Constitution and By-Laws, and such other matters as the Elders deem advisable.

B. Qualifications

It is the Holy Spirit who selects and appoints men for specific ministry in leadership. His choices are expressed through human agency. Men selected for leadership of the flock of God must be men of exceptional spiritual attainment and noted for their godly walk and life, because their office makes them examples to the flock. An individual who aspires to the office of Elder must meet the following qualifications:

1. Meet the qualifications specified in I Timothy 3:1-7 and in Titus 1:6-9.

2. Hold active membership in this church for a period of two years, with a minimum of one (1) year as a current deacon.
3. Be an example to the congregation in the purity of his life.
4. Demonstrate faithful attendance at the church services.

No one shall be considered for the Office of Elder who does not meet these qualifications. It is desirable that there be at least five (5) Elders.

C. Term of Service And Removal From Office

The term of service shall be three (3) years. Their terms shall be arranged so that all do not terminate at the same time. There shall be no limit to the number of years an Elder may serve, if he serves well by fulfilling the responsibilities of the office, if he does not disqualify himself, and if he is approved by the membership at the beginning of each term of service.

An Elder who is charged with sin is to be dealt with according to I Timothy 5:19-21. The Elders shall take what steps they see as necessary and prudent to deal with the situation. They shall have the power to discipline and to remove from office an Elder who has been proven guilty of doctrinal or moral defection, inconsistent Christian conduct, or failure to properly fulfill the office of Elder, while seeking the spiritual restoration of the individual.

D. Duties

The Elders are responsible for the teaching of truth, the refutation of error, and the administration of discipline. They shall oversee the entire ministry of the church. Some specific duties shall include:

1. The election of a chairman, assistant chairman, secretary and treasurer, all of whom shall hold office for one-year terms.

2. The establishment of policies, the determination of practices for the church body and the approval of personnel needed for efficient church operation and ministry.
3. The rendering of assistance in conducting the ordinances of the church.
4. Determine compensation of all church ministers and staff.
5. The oversight of the financial affairs of the church.
6. The general oversight of all church property.
7. The acquiring, encumbering, or disposing of property of any kind in accordance with Article V, Section A and Article XI. (Church Approval)
8. The provision with Deacons for the disciplining of erring members when such action is deemed necessary while striving for restoration of those members, following the procedures as given in Matthew 18:15-17.
9. The officers shall serve as the corporate trustees, and shall be responsible to arrange compliance with legal requirements for the State of Michigan.

E. Officers

1. Chairman

The Chairman shall preside at all Board meetings which are to be conducted according to the Biblical principles as set forth in Philippians 2:2-8, and according to Robert's Rules of Order in parliamentary procedures except where they violate Scripture or this Constitution and By-Laws. The Chairman shall be responsible for the leadership of the church services in the absence of the Pastor-Teacher.

2. Assistant Chairman

The Assistant Chairman shall assume all of the above enumerated duties of the Chairman in his absence.

3. Secretary

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Elders, and shall attach to said minutes all official correspondence relating to the Board. He shall be charged with the duty of giving proper notice to the congregation of annual and special meetings.

4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for all monies collected by the church, and shall oversee the deposit in banks or other financial institutions designated by the Board of Elders. He shall be responsible for the presentation of a monthly financial report to the Board and provide the congregation with a monthly printed report. At the annual business meeting of the congregation he shall present an annual report of the financial activity. Proper records and books concerning all incoming and outgoing funds shall be kept, and such records and books shall be available for auditing or inspection at any reasonable time.

5. Assistant Treasurer

The Assistant Treasurer shall assume all of the above enumerated duties of the Treasurer in his absence and assist in the counting of the offerings.

F. Meetings And Quorums

Elders shall meet as often as necessary to adequately lead the church. They shall meet with the church body as often as necessary to communicate and interact with the body.

A majority of the Board membership shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting church business. Whenever the business of the Board concerns calling or dismissing a Pastor, the purchase or disposal of real property, or disciplining of an Elder or Deacon, a quorum shall consist of not less than three-fourths (3/4) majority.

G. Decision-Making Process

The Elders shall seek to be led by the Holy Spirit in making all decisions. These decisions shall be reached after prayerful consideration by unanimous vote in a spirit of humility with each Elder regarding one another before himself. If there is initial disagreement, the Elders shall postpone the decision, then study and pray until they come to full agreement (I Corinthians 1:10, Philippians 1:27, Ephesians 4:3-6; Romans 15:5-6).

Any Elder who is the object of disciplinary action shall have no vote in determining the outcome in his situation.

Any person receiving compensation directly or indirectly from Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall not be in a position to determine the nature or amount of said compensation.

H. Councils And Committees

To enable efficient handling of church matters, the Elders may appoint various councils and committees from within its membership, the staff, and from the church-at-large.

ARTICLE VI: DEACONS

The desirable number of Deacons to serve each year shall be at least five (5). The Deacons shall consist of members possessing the qualifications described in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3. They shall be elected at the annual business meeting for terms of two (2) years. There shall be no limit on the number of terms that a man may serve, if he has served well.

A. Duties

1. Assist the Elders in the shepherding of the saints,
2. Assist the Elders in communion and baptismal services,
3. Aid in the general care of the church,
4. Have oversight of spiritual needs and growth of the church,
5. Provide for visitation of shut-ins and sick.

B. Officer

Chairman of the Deacons

1. Responsible for the direction of the visitation program for church growth.
2. Provide for the needs within the church body during times of bereavement.

C. Meetings

The Deacons shall meet with the Elders as often as necessary to meet the needs of and to lead the church body.

ARTICLE VII: CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

A. Annual Business Meetings

The annual business meeting of the church shall be held during the month of February. Notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting shall be given from the pulpit and in the church bulletin on two successive Sundays prior to the meeting.

B. Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings may be called by the Pastor-Teacher, or by the Chairman of the Board of Elders, or by a quorum of the members of the Board of Elders. Notice of the date, time, place, and purpose of the meeting shall be given from the pulpit and in the church bulletin on two successive Sundays prior to the meeting.

However, the Elders may determine in some cases to have a shorter time of notification. In such cases, the date, time, location, and purpose of the meeting shall be announced in the following manner:

1. An oral announcement shall be made from the pulpit on the Sunday morning preceding the meeting,
2. A written announcement shall be published in a church bulletin on that Sunday in which it is announced,

3. Written notification shall be sent through the mail to the voting membership prior to the meeting.

C. Special Meetings

The Elders shall be empowered to call special meetings to communicate with the church membership and to gather information and input. Such meetings do not need prior notice.

D. Rule of Order

Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed in all business meetings except where it would be inconsistent with Scripture or this Constitution and By-Laws.

E. Quorum for Business Meetings

All members present shall constitute a quorum for transacting business.

F. Agenda for Business Meetings

The agenda for all business meetings of the church shall be set by the Board of Elders.

G. Decision-Making Process

The Elders, working under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, shall seek unanimous approval in all business matters placed before the membership. Such unanimity may demonstrate both the membership's support and approval as well as the confirmation of the will of God to the Elders. In business matters placed before the membership as required by this Constitution and By-Laws, a minimum of a three-fourths (3/4) majority of the votes cast shall be required for approval. All voting shall be by ballot. No voting by proxy or absentee ballots shall be permitted.

ARTICLE VIII: ELECTIONS

A. Time and Mode of Elections

The election of Elders and Deacons of this church enumerated in Articles V and VI of this Constitution and By-laws shall be at the annual business meeting. All elections shall be by ballot. No voting by proxy or absentee ballots shall be permitted. To be elected to the office of Elder or Deacon a man must receive three-fourths (3/4) majority of the ballots cast. The ballots shall be counted by the Chairman of the Deacons and two persons nominated from the floor.

B. Nominating Committee

1. During the month of October a Nominating Committee shall be appointed and approved by the Elder and Deacon Boards. This committee shall consist of the Pastor, two Elders, two Deacons, and one man from the Membership. They shall elect one as Chairman.
2. The Nominating Committee shall thoroughly investigate qualifications and capabilities of every person considered for office. When a majority of the committee are agreed upon the candidates, the nominating committee shall present the proposed ballot to the Elder and Deacon Boards for approval. Upon approval the proposed candidates shall be examined as to their willingness to serve. Then the approved ballot shall be listed in the church bulletin at least two weeks prior to the annual election.
3. Instructions to the Nominating Committee: The following scriptures shall be the guidelines for the nominating Committee: I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11; Acts 6:1-7, Acts 20:28-35.

C. Interim Vacancies

In the event that any of the elective offices becomes vacant during the interim between annual elections, the Pastor and the Board of Elders and Deacons shall have the authority to fill such vacancies until the next annual election.

ARTICLE IX: PASTOR-TEACHER

A. Selection

A candidate for Pastor-Teacher shall be selected by the Board of Elders. The Elders shall prayerfully strive for one-hundred percent confirmation of the candidate when presented to the membership. Only one candidate at a time will be presented to the church and voted upon. The minimum confirmation shall be by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of all votes cast at the annual business meeting or at a special business meeting. Upon acceptance of the call and the assumption of his official duties, the Pastor-Teacher and his wife (provided he is married) automatically become members of the church.

B. Duties

The Pastor-Teacher is responsible to God for the spiritual welfare of the church. The Pastor-Teacher's chief responsibility shall be to dispense the Word of God and to oversee the flock of God, thereby enabling the saints to reach spiritual maturity. He shall be an ex-officio member of all councils, committees, and organizations within the church. Attendance at these meetings are at the Pastor's discretion. The Pastor-Teacher shall be responsible for all public and regular services of the church, and for the general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the church. He is directly responsible to the Board of Elders and Deacons to see that these responsibilities are fulfilled.

Ministries and activities of the Pastor-Teacher in other places shall be arranged with the consent and advisement of the Elders. Suitable arrangements for carrying on the services of the church during his absences shall be made by the Pastor-Teacher in cooperation with the Board of Elders. No speaker shall minister in the church who does not subscribe to the doctrinal statement found in this Constitution and By-laws.

ARTICLE X: ORDINATION AND COMMISSIONING

A. Ordination

When the Elders and Deacons have received a request for ordination from a man who is a member of this church, or in special cases, a non-member, they shall proceed in a manner as they see fit to determine his fitness and competency to be ordained to the Gospel ministry. Once a candidate has been approved for ordination, he shall be ordained in a public ordination ceremony.

B. Commissioning of Missionaries

Individuals who desire to be sent out by this church into missionary service shall notify the Elders and Deacons of their intent. All missionaries who are candidates to be commissioned by this church shall meet the following requirement:

1. The candidates shall be members of this church.
2. They shall have demonstrated a godly life and such spiritual gifts as would commend them for their intended service.
3. The missionary board under which they intend to serve shall be in agreement with the doctrinal statement of this church.

When Elders and Deacons have determined that the candidates have met the requirements fully, they shall arrange a public commissioning service.

C. Discipline of Those Ordained or Commissioned

The Elders and Deacons shall have the power to revoke the ordination credentials, or commissioning credentials of anyone who has been ordained, or commissioned under this Constitution and By-laws, or if that individual has been found guilty of doctrinal or moral defection, or has demonstrated inconsistent Christian conduct which brings reproach upon the name of Christ.

ARTICLE XI: PROPERTY RIGHTS AND DISSOLUTION

A. Property Rights

The title to all personal and real property of the church shall be in the name of the corporation. The acquiring, encumbering, or disposal of all real property shall be in accordance with Article V, Section A and F. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any donor, member, director or officer of the corporation, or any private individual; and no donor, member, director or officer of the corporation, or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporation assets. In case of dissension, the title to all church property, real and personal, shall remain with that group abiding by this Constitution and By-Laws.

B. Dissolution

Upon dissolution, any assets of the corporation must be distributed to an independent, fundamental, and biblical mission organization which is in agreement with this Constitution and By-laws which is exempt from Federal Income Tax.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

The church may amend this Constitution and By-laws in any way that it deems necessary; but such amendments must be submitted to the voting membership by the Board of Elders in written form, not later than four (4) weeks prior to a meeting, and can be adopted only by three-fourths (3/4) of the majority present. The Articles of Faith shall not be amendable.

AMENDMENTS

Amendment 1: We believe the scriptures teach that marriage is a union between a man and a woman (Genesis 2:23-25). We believe that marriage is the only legitimate and accepted sexual relationship. (Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:18, Mark 10:6-9).

Amendment 2: Marriage Services at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church facilities are only available to active church members who are in good standing as defined by the constitution.

MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Covenant of Fellowship

Since I have received the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord, and since I have read and agree with the Statement of Doctrine of this church and understand it to be the basis of its belief and teaching, I do hereby express my desire to enter into membership and understand that I am placing myself under the authority and care of the Elders and Deacons (I Thessalonians 5:12; Hebrews 13:17), and further understand that I am expressing a desire to grow spiritually in Christ, and to be trained and equipped for the work of service in His Body (Ephesians 4:11-12).

By the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, I covenant to:

1. Endeavor to be an example of Christ in my speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity of my life and to forsake the ways of sin.
2. Exercise a mutual care of other members in the Body of Christ.
3. Be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation and, mindful of the Scriptures, seek it without delay.
4. Strive with others for both the peace and purity of this assembly as part of Christ's Body.
5. Attend faithfully the stated services of the church.
6. Cherish the Word of God and the ordinances of the Church.
7. Contribute as a faithful steward such time, talent, and money, in the measure that Christ prospers me, so that the responsibility of the local church and the world-wide ministry of spreading the Gospel be faithfully discharged.
8. Teach my children the Word of God.
9. Seek the salvation of my family and acquaintances, and to walk circumspectly in the world so that I can be a faithful witness for our Lord Jesus Christ.
10. Encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's soon return and to engage in regular Bible reading and prayer so that I may be ready to