

Temple Missionary Baptist Church
San Bernardino, CA

By-Laws
Doctrinal Statement
and Articles of Faith

Revised / Amended Version

July 21, 2008

By-Laws, Doctrinal Statement and Articles of Faith for:
Temple Missionary Baptist Church
San Bernardino, California as amended
July 21, 2008

Trusting only in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation believing in His teachings and the practices and the principles for which the Baptist Church has stood, namely:

1. The preeminence of Christ as our divine Lord and Master.
2. The supreme authority of the Bible and its sufficiency as the final rule of our faith and practice.
3. Symbolic ordinances of believers of Holy Communion and Baptism by immersion in obedience to the command of Christ.
4. The local church has independent governing authority from all outside ecclesiastical body.
5. The solemn obligation of majority rule, guarantee equal rights to all and special privileges to none.
6. The spiritual unity of all born again believers, for which the Master so earnestly played (John 17:21).
7. A fervent commitment for world missions and evangelism in obedience of the Great Commission of Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20).

We therefore band ourselves together as a body of born again baptized (immersed) believers of Christ Jesus and adopt the following By-Laws, Doctrinal Statement and Articles of Faith; hereafter referred to as "By-Laws and Statement of Faith":

ARTICLE I
Name

This organization shall be known as Temple Missionary Baptist Church of San Bernardino, California.

Temple Learning Center

As outlined in our purpose statement, our call is to teach the Word of God. Temple Learning Center is an intricate component of Temple Missionary Baptist Church. Therefore it is governed by the By-Laws and Statement of Faith.

ARTICLE II
Purpose

The purpose of this Church, through the aid of the Holy Spirit, is to: *teach the Word of God, Evangelize the World, and to Lead the Lost to Christ by demonstrating the love of Christ through Godly living and ministering to spiritual, physical, and emotional needs at home and abroad.*

ARTICLE III Relationships

The Pastor and members of this church recognize the need for cooperation with other born again believers and, insofar as is Biblical and practical, will cooperate with and support Local State, and National Conventions; but the Government of this Church is vested in the body of born again believers who compose the membership and is subject to the authority of no other ecclesiastical body.

ARTICLE IV Membership

Section 1: Membership Qualifications:- Any person, who affirms their agreement with the By-Laws and Statement of Faith of this church and agree to conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith, may become a member of this Church by the following means:

- a) Upon confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
- b) Upon acceptance of letter from some other church
- c) Upon statement of Christian experience
- d) By restoration
- e) By watch care whereby Christians sojourning in the community for a brief period of time may be received into the membership of this Church. Students may unite under watch care while they are enrolled in a local institution of learning. Military personnel may also be received under watch care while serving in this area

Section 2: Each perspective member is required to complete the New Member Orientation. The purpose of the orientation is to ensure that persons received into the body may be informed as to the duties of members. A copy of the Church By-Laws and Statement of Faith, Church Covenant, list of officers, time and dates of auxiliary meetings, and other necessary membership materials shall be made available to each prospective member.

Section 3: Subscriptions: No amount shall be fixed with which any member of the church is required to pay; however, to remain a member in good standing, members are required on a regular basis in accordance with our Church covenant, to financially contribute to the church for the support of the Ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor and the spreading of the Gospel.

Section 4: Voting right of members: Every member in good standing, 18 years of age or older, is entitled to vote in Church elections and on all questions submitted to the Church in conference.

Section 5: Disciplinary Process: All members are expected to exhibit Christian character that is consistent with the By-Laws and Statement of Faith. Should a member be found to be in conflict with Christian character and the By-Laws and Statement of Faith, said member will immediately be called into investigation by the Board of Elders and be required to go through a prescribed process of restoration, as deemed appropriate by the Board of Elders and the Pastor.

ARTICLE V Officers

Section 1: The officers of this Church shall be: Pastor, Board of Deacons and Deaconesses, Mothers Board, Board of Trustees, Board of Elders, Board of Finances, Director of Evangelism, Board of Mission, Board of Christian Education, which shall include the Superintendent of the Sunday School, the Director of Christian Education and the Director of Evangelism.

Section 2: All officers shall be members of this Church, in good standing. All officers shall be informed as to their duties, pertaining to their perspective offices. Each board shall, unless otherwise provided by the By-Laws and Statement of Faith, elect its own chairperson and meet regularly, at least once a month at a stated time. All officers shall assume office at the beginning of the Church fiscal year, January 1st of each year.

Section 3: Any officer, who for a period of three (3) consecutive months, fail to faithfully perform the duties pertaining to his office thereby automatically vacates said office. The Church has the power for good and sufficient cause, to remove from office any officer or committee person.

Section 4: All resignations of Officers shall be in writing to the Pastor and be effective upon acceptance.

ARTICLE VI Duties of Officers

Section 1: Duties of the Pastor: The Pastor shall be an ordained minister of the Gospel and adhere to the basic doctrines of faith as held by the Baptist denomination.

Section 2: The Pastor shall preach the Gospel, administer the ordinances, watch over his membership, promote the spiritual interest of the church, and organize and develop its strength for the best possible service. He shall serve as moderator or presiding officer of the general church business meetings, be an ex-officio member of the all Boards, departments, auxiliaries; and shall be empowered to call special meetings of all boards, departments, and auxiliaries and other church affiliated organizations in accordance with other provisions of the By-Laws and

Statement of Faith. The Pastor shall be empowered to appoint committee and chairpersons to meet various needs of the church with the exception of any committee, etc. that would supersede or duplicate the duties of a duly established Office, Board, Department, or Auxiliary. All vacancies shall be appointed by the Pastor, however the church in general shall further be empowered to remove any appointed committee members at a regular or specially called business meeting. The Pastor shall be consulted by all committee chairpersons before projects or the like is put into effect. He shall present an annual report on the state of the church to include highlights of the past year and plans for the future year. The Pastor shall maintain regular office hours. He or his designee shall be responsible for providing the day-to-day operation of the church and first line supervision of all paid personnel and shall work with the Board of Trustees in the hiring and termination of said personnel. He shall be responsible for promoting the Evangelistic program of the church. These duties are done in cooperation with the Trustees, Officers, Departments and all Auxiliaries.

Section 3: In the event the church considers it wise to hire one or more Assistant Pastors, the Pastor is given authority to select such an assistant subject to the consent and approval of the church body.

Section 4: Duties of the Board of Deacons: In accordance with the meaning of the Word and the practice of the New Testament, Deacons are to be servants of the church. The Board of Deacons shall consist of not less than (3) deacons and as many as are required to do the work of the ministry. As the need arises, this office may be filled upon recommendation by the Pastor and the Board of Deacons. Those persons to be accepted by the church body to fill the office of Deacon must demonstrate the moral qualifications as listed in **Acts 6:1-8** and **I Timothy 3:8-13**. Persons being approved by the church will be placed in training. At the end of this training and upon recommendation to the church by the Pastor and the review board, the candidate may be ordained. A Deacon shall hold office as long as he shall faithfully discharge his duties. The duties of the Board of Deacons shall be to assist the Pastor in spiritual matters that pertain to the church, cooperate with him as prayer meeting leaders, visit the church members, care for the needy, sick, and distressed members of the church; and perform other duties as delegated by the Pastor or the Church in Conference. In the event the pulpit becomes vacant, the Board of Deacons is to work in conjunction with the Pulpit Committee to provide spiritual guidance until such time a new pastor is in place.

Section 5: Duties of the Board of Finance: All members of the Board of Finance shall be appointed by the Pastor. The Board of Finance shall regularly review the income and expenditures of the church, and work in conjunction with the Board of Trustees to oversee the financial endeavors of the Church, within the guidelines prescribed by the Church in Conference.

Section 6: Duties of the Board of Deaconesses: In cooperation with other auxiliaries of the church, the duties of the Board of Deaconesses are to visit the sick and shut-in members of the Church; visit and encourage newcomers to the community; develop the spiritual life of the women and girls of the Church for the best Christian service; assist female candidates at the time of Baptism; assist in the physical preparations for the observances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Section 7: Duties of the Mothers Board: In cooperation with other auxiliaries of the Church, the Mothers Board shall be an Advisory Board comprised of women who have been faithful members of the Church and want to provide additional service to the Church in an advisory capacity. The members of the Mothers Board shall be appointed by the Pastor. The duties of the Mothers Board shall be to assist the Pastor, Deacons, Deaconesses, and other groups as needed; assist during funerals; visit the sick and shut-in members of the Church and community; and carry out other duties as delegated.

Section 8: Duties of the Board of Trustees: The Board of Trustees shall consist of at least 5 but no more than 9 members. Trustee terms shall be for three (3) years and no Trustee shall be elected to said office for more than two (2) consecutive terms. Trustee terms shall be staggered in order to allow approximately one-fourth of the Board to stand for election each year. The Board of Trustees shall hold in trust all property belonging to this Church and corporation, take all necessary measures for its protection, management, upkeep, and designate the banks where the funds of the Church will be deposited to insure the greatest return.

In cooperation with the Pastor, they shall have the authority to secure and terminate the services of paid personnel as become necessary. The Board of Trustees shall perform such other duties as may be required by the Church or the State. It shall be the function of the Trustees to affix their signature to legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchase or rental of property or other legal documents where the signatures of trustees are required. They shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property without a specific vote of the Church, authorizing such action. The Board of Trustees and the Pastor shall determine the use of the church building. The Board of Trustees shall make written reports to the Church at the business meetings and at such other times as may be desired by the Church. Any Trustees found not faithfully discharging his/her duties for **three (3) consecutive months** may be removed from office.

In the event of the vacancy of the pulpit, the Board of Trustees is authorized to secure the services of paid personnel and to pay all bills of a regular and routine nature that is required to insure the normal operations of the Church and to protect the Church facilities.

Section 9: Duties of the Missionary Society: It is the duty of the Missionary Society to engage in the Spiritual education and Christian development of the members and to provide Benevolent or missionary service to members of the Church as well as families in the community when and where needed. This service should extend to include active participation in the support of Foreign Missions. The Missionary Society should be represented in the District, State, and National bodies with which Temple Missionary Baptist Church is affiliated.

Section 10: Duties of the Board of Christian Education: The members of the Board of Christian Education shall be the Director of Christian Education, the Superintendent of the Sunday School, Director of Evangelism, President of Missions and four (4) members at large, to be elected by the Church Body. The duties of the Board of Christian Education shall be to develop a Christian Education program for the upgrading of Christian workers of the Church; to make recommendations and suggest improvements in the Christian Education Program; to integrate and unify the total program of Christian Education in the Church; to make an annual outlined report to the Church within an evaluation of the results; to provide arrangements for the development and training of workers and to help in the recruitment of personnel for various positions; to oversee the Church's Library and assure that suitable books are available; and to assure that there is a Vacation Bible School and the proper literature and personnel to carry out the same.

Section 11: Duties of the Church Clerk: The Church Clerk shall keep accurate minutes of the business proceedings of the Church; be responsible for documentation of the reception and dismissing of members; write and read resolutions as needed during worship and funeral services; send cards of sympathy and/or flowers to deceased members' families; keep a record of all sick and shut-in members; compose and dispatch the annual letter to the convention; record any notes of historical interest given in any worship service of the Church. The Church Clerk shall perform any other clerical duties as requested by the Pastor in the absence of the Church Secretary. The Church Clerk shall use ink of a permanent kind so that records may be legible in future years. The Church Clerk shall deliver immediately to his/her successor all books, files, records, and other such documents in his or her possession.

The Church, at its discretion, may elect an Assistant Church Clerk.

The Church Clerk and Assistant Clerk if any, work under the direction and supervision of the Pastor.

Section 12: Duties of the General Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Pastor and **must** be bonded. The General Treasurer shall have custody of the funds of the Church and all the deposits made in the name of the Church. The General Treasurer shall receive all monies belonging to the Church; keep accurate accounts of all funds raised or contributed. Monies received shall be deposited within forty-eight (48) hours in the church account or by the end of the next business day. The General Treasurer will oversee the functions of the Finance Committee.

Section 13: Duties of the Sunday School Superintendent: The Sunday School Superintendent shall plan and implement programs of biblical education. To enlist, guide, and supervise Christian workers for the Sunday School; develop an effective teacher training program; assure that an adequate recording system is used and kept current; report regularly to the Pastor and the Board of Christian Education; and present an annual budget to the Board of Trustees.

Section 14: Duties of the Usher Board: The duties of the Usher Board shall be to greet people as they enter the Sanctuary; be able to provide information regarding Church office hours, bus schedules, restroom locations, Pastor's background, the Church Covenant, parking; know the location of every Church School Department and Adult classrooms, locations of telephones, Church nursery and policies, lost and found department and first aid facilities; seat people at the proper times; be aware of and prevent distractions whenever possible; receive the offering if directed by Church officials; distribute wheelchairs, if available, to those who need them and receive and store them at the end of the worship service; provide aid in any emergency such as illness, fire, earthquake, etc. and provide an accurate count of the worship service attendance.

Section 15: Duties of the Music Department: The Church Music Department shall be under the direction of a Minister of Music or other appointed personnel. The duties of said person shall be to provide music suitable for worship services; supervise all choirs and music groups of the Church; work closely with the Pastor when selecting suitable music for worship services; provide first-line supervision and direction to other assigned music personnel and meet as directed with the Board of Trustees and Pastor for periodic review and evaluation of all paid music staff.

Section 16: Duties of the Children and Youth Departments: A comprehensive program of Cultural, Recreation, Educational, and Spiritual Development shall take place under the auspices of the Children and Youth departments in conjunction with the various other departments of the Church. Children, for purposes of this section, shall be defined as persons under the age of twelve (12) while youth shall be defined as unmarried persons under the age of nineteen (19).

Section 17: Duties of the Leadership Team: The Auxiliary Heads shall serve as the Leadership Team. The Auxiliary Heads shall meet monthly to report and discuss the ensuring month's activities, and gives reports to their respective auxiliaries. The Leadership Team shall have as regular members the Pastor, or his designee who shall serve as chairperson, and the president, superintendent, or head of each department, Board and Auxiliary of the Church.

Section 18: Duties of the Director of Evangelism: The duties of the Director of Evangelism are to promote on-going Christian discipleship and home visitations with personal evangelism as the primary purpose.

Section 19: Duties of the Scholarship Committee: The duties of the Scholarship Committee shall be to establish and review criteria for scholarship applicants; they shall review and select recipients for all the scholarship funds of the church; they shall be responsible for maintaining scholarship funds for the church. The committee shall consist of nine (9) members elected by the church. The members shall have staggered three (3) year terms.

Section 20: Duties of the Board of Elders: The Board of Elders shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Pastor. The Board of Elders is to provide Biblical guidance in the investigation of allegations through the Church's disciplinary process and make recommendations to the Pastor. In addition, the Board of Elders serves as mediators in disputes and grievances among church members.

ARTICLE VII

Elections

Section 1: Qualifications of Voters: All members in good standing, at least eighteen (18) years of age, shall be qualified to vote in all Church matters.

Section 2: Once proper procedures are followed, a majority of such members present and voting at any regularly scheduled or specially called business meeting shall be sufficient to decide any question presented, unless otherwise provided by this By-Laws and Statement of Faith.

Section 3: The term of office for all officers and officers of the Church, shall be one (1) year, with the exception of the Pastor, Board of Deacons, Board of Deaconesses, Mothers Board, Board of Trustees and others as deemed necessary by the church in conference.

Section 4: In the event any officer misses three regularly scheduled meetings in succession of his/her respective department, board of auxiliary, that group shall meet to determine a decision regarding the officer's status. If it is determined that the officer in question is failing to discharge the duties of his office in a satisfactory

manner, he shall be subject to immediate removal and so notified in writing by the department, board, or auxiliary after consulting with the Pastor.

Section 5: The following positions shall be filled by the Church at the annual business meeting for the election of officers prior to December 31: Sunday School Superintendent, Director of Evangelism, Director of Christian Education, the Scholarship Committee, and the Board of Trustees.

Procedure:

Nominations will be made from the floor. A secret ballot will be used for all positions at the Church general election. The majority vote will prevail.

ARTICLE VIII Meetings and Special Days

Section 1: Regular Church Business Meetings: The Church shall have as many business meetings as determined to be necessary, but at least annually.

Section 2: Special Business Meetings: Special called business meetings may be held to consider urgent matters of a significant nature. A five-day notice of the subject, date, time, and location must be given for the specially called business meeting unless extreme urgency renders such notice impractical. A special business meeting may be called by any two (2) of the following entities; the Pastor, Chairman of the Board of Deacons, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, or signed petition of at least ten percent (10%) of the Church members who are in good standing.

Parliamentary Rules: Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) shall be the authority for parliamentary rules of procedure for all business meetings of the Church. All business meetings shall be closed to non-members of the Church, except by invitation.

Section 3: In tribute to the Missionary Band, who came together in December 1938 to form the foundation for the establishing of Temple Missionary Baptist Church, we set aside the second Sunday in December as Founder's Day. The Church Anniversary shall be observed on the second Sunday of January.

Section 4: The Church shall meet regularly each Sunday and other times as scheduled; for preaching, instruction, prayer, fellowship and the worship of Almighty God. The Church shall schedule regular prayer meetings.

Section 5: The Church may choose to recognize other special days such as: Mother's Day, Father's Day, Men's Day, Black History Week, Youth Day, Children's Day, Pastor's Anniversary, Rev Abram Shorts Day or any other special day designated by the Pastor and the Church body.

ARTICLE IX Finance

Section 1: The Budget of this Church shall be financed by the tithes, offerings, gifts, pledges, bequests, and other special financial efforts as determined by the Church. Any and all funds that are donated, collected, or raised by or through, Temple Missionary Baptist Church or its auxiliaries are deemed to be public funds and are subject to the governance of the Board of Trustees. All monies shall be audited annually.

Section 2: Each Board or functioning auxiliaries may hold in its Treasury an amount not to exceed \$500.00 at any time; unless otherwise authorized by the Pastor and Board of Trustees. All monies in excess of \$500.00 MUST be relinquished to the general church treasury immediately. All Boards and functioning auxiliaries of this Church shall present to the Trustees a written accounting report of its income and expenditures each quarterly.

ARTICLE X Ordinances

Section 1: Baptism: Any person who receives Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith; who professes Him publicly and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord, and shall be received as a candidate for Baptism. Process leading to Baptism shall be as follows:

- a) Completion of Baptism class (Candidates under the age of 10 must be accompanied by a parent and/or legal guardian)
- b) Baptism shall be by immersion in water
- c) Baptism shall be administered by the Pastor or his designee. The Deacons and Deaconesses shall assist in the preparation for and observance of, Baptism.
- d) Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship and is encouraged to be conducted during a regular worship service.

Section 2: The Lord's Supper: The Lord's Supper is an act of obedience to God's Word whereby members of the Church, through partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine, commemorate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and anticipation of His second coming.

- a) The Lord's Supper shall be observed monthly, preferable the first Sunday of the month, or as otherwise scheduled.

- b) The Pastor and Deacons shall be responsible for the administration of the Lord's Supper.
- c) The Deacons, assisted by the Deaconesses, shall be responsible for the physical preparations of the Lord's Supper.

Section 3: The Marriage Ceremony: Marriage is a sacrament of the Church, established by God therefore shall be conducted as a Holy ceremony by the clergy. Due to the sacredness of marriage and its Biblical witness, this Church adopts the following policy:

a) Clergy: Only duly ordained clergy shall officiate at marriages ceremonies conducted on church property. Clergy employed or recognized by this church shall be subject to dismissal and/or loss of ordination for officiating a same gender marriage ceremony.

b) Applicants: Applicants wishing to have a ceremony performed by a member of the clergy employed or recognized by this church, or to use the church facilities, shall affirm their agreement with the By-Laws and Statement of Faith and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith. Further, applicants shall receive a minimum of 6 hours of premarital counseling by clergy or counselors employed by or recognized by the church or other person who, in the sole opinion of the pastoral staff of the church, have appropriate training, experience, and spiritual understanding to provide such counseling.

c) Premises: Any marriage performed on the church premises shall be officiated by a member of the clergy. Clergy officiating marriage ceremonies on the church premises, whether or not employed by the church, shall affirm their agreement with the By-Laws and Statement of Faith and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith. The clergy assigned by the church to implement the procedures contained in this By-Law and Statement of Faith article, may in his or her sole discretion, decline to make church facilities available for, and or decline to officiate at a ceremony when, in his or her judgment, there are significant concerns that one or both of the applicants may not be qualified to enter into the sacred bond of marriage for theological, doctrinal, moral, or legal reasons.

ARTICLE XI

Auxiliary Organizations

The officers and voting members of all Auxiliary organizations of the Church shall be members of this Church in good standing. Officers shall be elected by the respective organization and are subject to ratification by the Church, unless otherwise stated in this By-Laws and Statement of Faith. All Departments and Auxiliaries shall annually hold an election of officers for the coming year by December 31. The guidelines of Auxiliary organizations and committees shall be drawn so as not to conflict with the regular By-Laws

and Statement of Faith of the Church, except that the voting age in Auxiliaries may be lower than age eighteen (18).

Regular meetings of Auxiliaries shall be held at such times as will not conflict with the regular meetings of the Church.

ARTICLE XII

Church Year

The fiscal and program year of this Church shall begin the first day of January of each year and close the last day of December each year.

ARTICLE XIII

How To Call A Pastor

Section 1: A Pastor shall be chosen and called by this Church whenever a vacancy occurs. The Church shall select a Pulpit Committee of eleven (11) members. The members of this committee shall consist of three Deacons, three Trustees, and five (5) members in good standing. The prospective members of the committee shall be recommended by the Church Body and the Church Body will make the final decision. Nominations for the committee will be made from the floor. The Pulpit Committee shall investigate the merits of every person under consideration in regards to his personal character, education, ministerial record, preaching ability, teaching ability, and administrative ability in determining his fitness for said pastorate. When suitable candidates are found, the committee shall recommend the top three to the Church for consideration and justify the selection of the candidates. The congregation will be notified and each candidate shall be invited to preach during a regular worship service and conduct one mid-week Bible study.

Section 2: The call of a Pastor shall come before the Church at a regular called business meeting for that purpose, notice of which shall be read from the pulpit on two consecutive Sundays immediately preceding its gathering, and telling of that date, time, place, and purpose. Members in good standing present at such meeting shall select a Pastor or extend a call. Only the names of the three (3) candidates shall be presented to the Church at this meeting. The election shall be conducted by show of hands, standing vote or secret ballot. The candidate receiving the most votes shall be called as the Pastor. This meeting shall be closed to non-members of this Church.

Section 3: The Pastor shall be called for an indefinite period of time; the salary shall be fixed by the Pulpit Committee. The salary shall be paid in at least twelve (12) monthly installments per year, or at such regular periods as agreed upon by the Pastor and Board of Trustees. The Pastor shall be entitled to an annual vacation of two (2) weeks with full pay after a full year of service and at least one (1) month with full pay each year thereafter. The time of such vacations is to be agreed upon by the Pastor and Board of Deacons and Trustees.

Section 4: Termination of the Pastor may occur upon **90 days** notification on the part of the Pastor or the Church. Termination of the Pastor shall be voted on at a regularly scheduled business meeting. Notice of the meeting shall be considered first by the Board of Deacons and Trustees before delivery to either the Church or the Pastor. The Board at their discretion shall advise reconsideration on either the part of the Pastor or the Church. A majority of the votes of the members in good standing present shall terminate the service of the Pastor. Those voting shall so indicate their participation by standing or secret ballot.

Section 5: The service of the Pastor may be brought to an end at a period of less than 90 days by mutual consent.

ARTICLE XIV Amendments

This By-Laws and Statement of Faith may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the Church by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting. Notice of such amendment, stating the purposed changes, shall have been given from the Pulpit on two successive Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting. This meeting shall be closed to non-members of this Church.

All By-Laws and Statement of Faith previous to this By-Laws and Statement of Faith when or whenever accepted and adopted are null and void and shall be replaced by this revised By-Laws and Statement of Faith which shall take effect upon its adoption dated: ***July 21, 2008.***

Doctrinal Statement

I. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error, for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried,

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) 2 Timothy 3:15 - 17
- (2) 1 Peter 1:10-12; Acts 11:14; Romans 1:16; Mark 16:16; John 5:38-39
- (3) Proverbs 30:5-6; John 17:17; Revelation 22:18-19
- (4) Romans 2:12; John 12:47-48; I Corinthians 4:3-4
- (5) Philippians 3:16; Ephesians 4:3-6
- (6) I John 4:1; Isaiah 8:20; I Thessalonians 5:21

II. Of the True God

We believe that there is one and only one living and true God, an intelligent, spiritual and personal being, the Creator, Preserver and Ruler of the universe, infinite in holiness and all other perfections to whom we owe the highest love, reverence and obedience. He is revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being.

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) John 4:24; Psalm 147:5; Psalm 83:18
- (2) Exodus 15:11; Isaiah 6:3; I Peter 1:15
- (3) Mark 12:30; Revelation 4:11; Matthew 10:37
- (4) Matthew 28:19; John 15:26; I Corinthians 12:4-6
- (5) John 10:30; John 5:17; 14:23, 17:5
- (6) Ephesians 2:18; II Corinthians 2:10-11; Philippians 2:5-6

III. Of the Fall of Man

We believe that man was created by the special act of God, as recorded in Genesis, "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created He them" (Genesis 1:27), "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Genesis 2:7), He was created in a state of holiness under the law of his Maker, but through the temptation of Satan, he transgressed the command of God and fell from his original holiness and righteousness; whereby his posterity inherit a nature corrupt and in bondage to sins, are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressor.

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) Genesis 1:27; Geneses 1:31; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Acts 17:26-29
- (2) Geneses 3:6 & 24; Romans 5:12
- (3) Romans 5:19; John 3:6; Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:15-19 & 8:7
- (4) Isaiah 53:6; Genesis 6:12; Romans 3:9-18
- (5) Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 1:18
- (6) Ezekiel 18:19-20; Romans 3:19; Galatians 3:22

IV. Of The Way of Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinner is wholly of grace, through the mediation of the Son of God, who by the Holy Spirit was born of the Virgin Mary and took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin honored the divine law by His personal obedience and made atonement for our sins by his death. Being raised from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven, and, uniting in His person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, He is in every way qualified to be a compassionate and all-sufficient Savior.

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) Ephesians 2:8; Matthew 18:11; I John 4:10; I Corinthians 3:5,7
- (2) John 3:16, 1:1-14; Hebrews 4:14; 12:24
- (3) Philippians 2:6-7; Hebrews 2:9,14; II Corinthians 5:21
- (4) Isaiah 42:21; Philippians 2:8; Galatians 4:4-5; Romans 3:21
- (5) Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 20:28; Romans 4:25 & 3:21-26
- (6) Hebrews 1:8; Hebrews 1:3 & 8:1; Colossians 3:1-4
- (7) Hebrews 7:25; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 2:18 & 7:26

V. Of Justification

We believe that justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of righteousness of all sinners who believe in Christ. This blessing is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness, which we have done, but through the redemption that is in and through Jesus Christ, It brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other needed blessing.

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) John 1:16; Ephesians 3:8
- (2) Acts 13:39; Isaiah 53:11,12; Romans 8:1
- (3) Romans 5:9; Zechariah 13:1; Matthew 9:6; Acts 10:43
- (4) Romans 5:17; Titus 3:5-7; I Peter 3:7; I John 2:25
- (5) Romans 4:4-5, 5:21, 6:23; Philippians 3:7-9
- (6) Romans 5:19; 3:24-26; 4:24-25; I John 2:12
- (7) Romans 5:1-2; 5:11; I Corinthians 1:30-31; Matthew 6:33

VI. Of the Freeness of Salvation

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel. It is the duty of all to accept them by penitent and obedient faith. Nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner except his own voluntary refusal to accept Jesus Christ as Teacher, Savior, and Lord,

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) Isaiah 55:1; Revelation 22:17; Luke 14:17
- (2) Romans 16:25-26; Mark 1:15; Romans 1:15-17
- (3) John 5:40; Matthew 23:37; Romans 9:32; Proverbs 1:24
- (4) John 3:19; Matthew 11:20; Luke 19:27; II Thessalonians 1:8

VII. Of Grace in Regeneration

We believe that regeneration or the new birth is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit, whereby we become partakers of the divine nature and a holy disposition is given, leading to the love and practice of righteousness, manifest by the fruit, which we bring forth to the glory of God.

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) John 3:3 & 6-7; I Corinthians 2:14; Revelation 14:3; 21:27
- (2) II Corinthians 5:17; Ezekiel 36:26; Deuteronomy 30:6; Romans 2:28-29; 5:5; I John 4:7
- (3) John 3:8; James 1:16-18; I Corinthians 1:30; Philippians 2:13
- (4) I Peter 1:22-25; I John 5:1; Ephesians 4:20-24

VIII. Of Repentance and Faith

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition confessions and supplication of mercy; at same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) Mark 1:15; Acts 11:18; Ephesians 2:8
- (2) John 16:8; Acts 23:7-8; 16:30-31
- (3) Luke 18:13, 15:18-21; James 4:7-10
- (4) Roman 10:9-11; Acts 3:22-23; Hebrews 4:14

IX. Of God's Purpose of Grace

We believe that election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners. It is perfectly consistent with the free agency of man in no way interferes with the salvation of any individual. It is a most glorious display of God's sovereign

goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility. It encourages the use of means in the highest degree.

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) II Timothy 1:8-9; Ephesians 1:3-14; I Peter 1:1-2
- (2) II Thessalonians 2:13-14; Acts 13:48; John 10:16
- (3) Exodus 33:18-19; Romans 9:23-24; Jeremiah 31:3
- (4) I Corinthians 4:7; 1:26-31; Romans 3:27
- (5) II Timothy 2:10; I Corinthians 9:22; John 6:37-40
- (6) I Thessalonians 1:4-10
- (7) Romans 8:28-31, Isaiah 42:16

X. Of Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer, and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means, especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) I Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23; II Corinthians 7:1, 13:9
- (2) Proverbs 4:18; Hebrews 6:1-2; II Peter 1:5-8
- (3) I John 2:29; Romans 8:5; John 3:6
- (4) Philippians 2:12-13; Ephesians 4:11, 21

XI. Of the Perseverance of Saints

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

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) John 8:31; I John 2:27-28; 3:9; 5:18
- (2) I John 2:19; John 13:18; Matthew 13:20-21
- (3) Romans 8:28; Matthew 6:30-33; Jeremiah 32:40
- (4) Philippians 1:6, 2:12-13; Jude 24, 25; Hebrews 13:5

XII. Of the Harmony of the Law and the Gospel

We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just, and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to

restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church,

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) Romans 3:31; Mathew 5:17; Luke 16:17; Romans 3:20
- (2) Romans 7:12, 7:7, 14, 22; Galatians 3:21; Psalms 119
- (3) Romans 8:7-8; Joshua 24:19; Jeremiah 13:23
- (4) Romans 8:2-4; Hebrews 8:10, 12:14

XIII. Of Human Sexuality

We believe legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, sexual activities, such as, but not limited to, adultery, fornication, incest, homosexuality, pedophilia and bestiality are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the Church. Further, lascivious behavior, the creation and/or distribution and/or viewing of pornography, and efforts to alter one's gender, are incompatible with the Biblical witness.

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) Exodus 20:14
- (2) Romans 1:26
- (3) Romans 1:27

XIV. Of Marriage Union

Marriage is a union of one woman and one man ordained by God. It was first instituted by God in the early chapters of Genesis, codified in the Levitical law, the Old Testament prophets compared it to a relationship between God and His people, examples of it are in the historical narratives, and, the wisdom (poetic) books discuss the unique unity of this relationship. Jesus explained the original intention and core elements of marriage, and several New Testament Epistles give explicit instructions on this union. Marriage is a typology of Christ and the Church. As such, the Church views marriage as a profound spiritual institution, established by God.

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) Genesis 2:22
- (2) Genesis 2:24
- (3) Genesis 2:2

XV. Of a Gospel Church

We believe that a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers associated by covenant in the 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 only Scriptural officers are bishops, or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the epistles of Timothy and Titus.

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) I Corinthians 1:1-13; Matthew 18:17; Acts 5:11; 8:1
- (2) Acts :41-42; II Corinthians 8:5; Acts 2:47
- (3) I Corinthians 11:2; II Thessalonians 3:6
- (4) Matthew 28; Galatians 6:2; II John 6
- (5) Ephesians 4:7; I Corinthians 14:2
- (6) Philippians 1:1; Acts 14:1-23; I Timothy 3

XVI. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

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

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) Acts 8:36-39; Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16
- (2) Mathew 8:19; Acts 10:47-48
- (3) Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; I Peter 3:20-21
- (4) Acts :41-42; Matthew 28:19-20
- (5) I Corinthians 11:26; Matthew 26:26-29
- (6) I Corinthians 11:28, 5:1, 10:3-32; John 6:26-71

XVII. Of the Christian Sabbath

We Believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations; by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) Acts 20:7; Genesis 2:3; Colossians 2:16-17; Mark 2:27
- (2) Exodus 20:8; Revelation 1:10; Psalm 118:24
- (3) Isaiah 58:13-14
- (4) Psalm 118:15
- (5) Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 11:26
- (6) Hebrews 4:3-11

XVIII. Of Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed;

except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the prince of the kings of the earth.

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) Romans 13:1-7; Deuteronomy 16:18; II Samuel 23:3
- (2) Matthew 22:21; Titus 3:1; I Peter :13; I Timothy 2:1-3
- (3) Acts 5:29; Daniel 3:15-18, 6:7-10; Acts 4:18-20
- (4) Matthew 23:10; Psalm 7:11, Psalm 2; Romans 14:9-13

XIX. Of the Righteousness and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked. Those only who are justified through the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Holy Spirit are truly righteous in His sight, Those who continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight and the wicked hold in and after death, and will be made manifest at the judgment when final and everlasting awards are made to all men,

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) Malachi 3:18; Proverbs 12:26; Isaiah 5:20; Genesis 18:23
- (2) Romans 1:17, 7:6; Proverbs 11:31; I Peter 4:17-18
- (3) I John 5:19; Galatians 3:10; John 3:3; Isaiah 57:31
- (4) Proverbs 14:32; Luke 16:25

XX. Of Christian Education

We believe that Christianity is the religion of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is therefore a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. An adequate system of schools is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people. The cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is coordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches.

Places to the Bible Where Taught

- (1) Proverbs 10:14, 8:10-12; Acts 7:22, 3:1, 17:30
- (2) II Timothy 2:15; Luke 32:52; Acts 19:8-10

XXI. Of Social Service

We believe that every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ regnant in his own life and in human society; to oppose in the Spirit of Christ every form of greed, selfishness and vice; to provide for the orphaned, the aged, the helpless, and the sick; to *seek* to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth and brotherly love; to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work *with all men of good will in any good cause*, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and his truth. All means and methods used in social

service for the amelioration of society and the establishment of righteousness among men must finally depend of the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Christ Jesus.

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) Matthew 25:35-36; James 1:27; Mark 9:38-41
- (2) Acts 11:29; Romans 15:26; I Corinthians 16:1

XXII. Of Stewardship

We believe that god is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to him. We have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in our possessions. We are therefore under obligation to serve him with our time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to us to use for the glory of God and helping others. Christians should cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately and liberally contribute of their means to advancing the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) I Peter 4:10; I Timothy 6:17-19; Malachi 3:8-10
- (2) I Corinthians 16:1-2; Matthew 16:24; Luke 11:42

XXIII. Of Evangelism and Missions

We believe that it is the duty of every Christian man and woman, and the duty of every church of Christ, to seek to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thusly upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life. It is also expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ, It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other methods sanctioned by the gospel of Christ.

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 8:30-35
- (2) I Corinthians 9:19-27

XXIV. Of the Resurrection

We believe that the Scriptures clearly teach that Jesus rose from the dead. His grave was emptied of its contents. He appeared to the disciples after his resurrection in many convincing manifestations. He now exists in his glorified body at God's right hand. There will be a resurrection of the righteous and the wicked. The bodies of the righteous will conform to the glorious spiritual body of Jesus,

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (1) Matthew 28:1-6; Luke 24:1-7; Mark 16:1-7; John 20:1-10

(2) I Corinthians 15:1-8; John 5:28-29

XXV. Of the Return of the Lord

We believe that the New Testament teaches in many places the visible and personal return of Jesus to this earth. "This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." The time of his coming is not revealed. "Of that day and hour knouted no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Mathew 24:36). It is the duty of all believers to live in readiness for his coming and by diligence in good works to make manifest to all men the reality and power of their hope in Christ.

Places in the Bible Where Taught

(1) Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11-16; II Thessalonians 1:1-12

XXVI. Of the World to Come

We believe that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

Places in the Bible Where Taught

I Peter 4:7; I Corinthians 7:29-31; Hebrews 1:10-12; Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7; Hebrews 9:28; Acts 3:21; Acts 24:15; I Corinthians 15:12-28; Luke 14:14; Daniel 12:2; Matthew 13:49, 13:37-43, 24:30-31, 25:31-46; Revelation 22; John 4:36

**By-Laws, Doctrinal Statement and Articles of Faith
FINAL DRAFT
TEMPLE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH (REVISED)
By-Laws, Doctrinal Statement and Articles of Faith Committee**

Of

July 12, 2008

Pastor David McKenzie
Joyce E. Payne
Barbara Riley
Deacon Rodolfo A. Cordoba
Deacon Samuel Gibbs
Pastor Draymond Crawford
Susan Marquez

Cheryl Turner
Pastor Jeff Wiggins
Pastor Raymond Turner
Pastor Anthony Blacksher
Cynthia Alexander
Tehetena Turner