

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF  
MADISON AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
OF MARYVILLE, TENNESSEE INCORPORATED

October 2015

PREAMBLE

This Constitution was written and adopted as a system of procedures to be practiced by Madison Avenue Missionary Baptist Church as an organization and is to serve as the By-Laws of the incorporated Church. This Constitution does not take the place of the Word of God but is an application of principles and doctrines in the Word of God for the operation of a local New Testament Church. This Constitution provides the framework to govern the Church in an orderly manner consistent with the teachings of the New Testament while preserving the liberties of each Church member.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The Corporation shall be identified by the name of "Madison Avenue Missionary Baptist Church" located in Maryville, Tennessee. Its business shall be transacted in that name. The Corporation shall, hereinafter, be referred to as the Church.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purposes of this Church are to proclaim to all people the good news that Jesus Christ is the way of salvation; to magnify God through the preaching and teaching of the Holy Bible; to promote individual and collective divine worship; to provide opportunities for training, service, fellowship, and Christian growth; to administer the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; to care for the physical and spiritual needs of people and to strengthen and uphold the moral fiber of its members and society in general.

ARTICLE III - PROPERTY

All property of Madison Avenue Missionary Baptist Church is held for the use and benefit of its membership who adhere to, maintain and propagate the doctrine, faith, and practices of Southern Baptist churches as delineated in the eighteen articles of faith adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000, (known as The Baptist Faith and Message) and subscribe to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Church.

Should the majority of members cease to adhere to the principles specified in this article, the minority shall retain title to all property. Should there be no minority, then the title to all property shall revert to and become vested in the Chilhowee Baptist Association as trustee, an agency of the Tennessee Baptist Convention to hold and use the property or the proceeds therefrom to advance and propagate the Baptist cause and denomination in Blount County, Tennessee.

All property is held by the Church pursuant to its Constitution and By-Laws.

The foregoing shall be considered a part of any and all instruments transferring title to property to said Church whether the same be set out in said deeds or not.

## ARTICLE IV - ARTICLES OF FAITH

The members of the Church, and thereby the Church, do believe, practice, and adopt the seventeen articles of faith adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000, known as the Baptist Faith and Message as set forth below.

### I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

### II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

#### A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

#### B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into

heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

### C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

### III. Man

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

### IV. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption

for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

B. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

C. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

D. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

#### V. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

#### VI. The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.

### VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

### VIII. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.

### IX. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-

52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

#### X. Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.

#### XI. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. 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 thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.

#### XII. Education

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide 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. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.

### XIII. Stewardship

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

Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21, 42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

### XIV. Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18.

### XV. The Christian and the Social Order

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order 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.

Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.

### XVI. Peace and War

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9,38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36,38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2.

### XVII. Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7,24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

### XVIII. The Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1

Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

## ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1 - General Qualifications

The membership of this Church will consist of persons who confess Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord; who have been accepted by vote of this Church and baptized by scriptural immersion (or previously baptized by immersion after salvation) and who adhere to the teaching of scripture as referenced in The Baptist Faith and Message (2000) as adopted in Article IV above.

### Section 2 - Receiving Church Members

Any person may present himself or herself (or request membership by writing to the Pastor), as a candidate for membership in this Church at any worship or business service in the following ways:

- A. By profession of faith in, and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and requesting baptism according to the policies of this Church.
- B. By receipt of a letter of recommendation from another church of like faith and order.
- C. By statement of faith and scriptural baptism after salvation.
- D. By statement of faith without scriptural immersion baptism. The candidate must be willing to be baptized by immersion.

Should there be any questions or dissent as to any candidate, the vote will be deferred for a period of prayerful consideration of not less than one week. Thereafter the person may present himself or herself as a candidate for membership at any worship service or business meeting. A 75% vote of the Church members present and voting will be required to receive such candidate into membership.

### Section 3 - Termination of Membership

The termination of membership will be subject to the following:

- A. When any member desires to unite with another church of like faith and order, and a request is received for a letter of recommendation, membership will be terminated and such a letter will be granted.
- B. If a member unites with a church of another faith and order, his or her name will be removed from the church membership.
- C. If a member requests in writing to be released from his or her membership to this Church, the Church will grant the request.
- D. The Church may terminate the membership of persons whom, as determined by a 75% vote of church members present and voting in a regular meeting, become an offense to the Church and to its good name by persistent living contrary to scripture as referenced in The Baptist Faith and Message (2000). Faithful efforts shall be made to bring such members to repentance in accordance with the scriptural injunction of Matthew 18:15-19.

#### Section 4 - Voting Rights of Members

Only members present at business meetings are entitled to participate in discussion, voting, elections, and questions submitted to the Church for consideration and action. As determined by the Moderator, members who are providentially hindered from being present during a vote may participate by submission of a signed written ballot.

### ARTICLE VI - ORDINANCES

As instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ, in the Holy Scriptures, the Church observes two ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

#### Section 1-Baptism (Immersion)

A person who receives Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith, who professes Him publicly at a worship service, and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord will be received for baptism. Baptism will be administered at any worship service by the Pastor or whomever the Pastor authorizes.

#### Section 2-The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby baptized believers, through the partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine, commemorate the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate His second coming. The Pastor and the Deacons will be responsible for the periodic administration of the Lord's Supper.

### ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

#### Section 1- Worship Services

The Church normally meets each Sunday and Wednesday for preaching, prayer, instruction, evangelism and for the worship of the true God. These meetings will be open to all people and will be conducted under the direction of the Pastor.

#### Section 2 - Special Services

Revival services and other meetings which are essential in the promotion of Church objectives will be placed on the calendar under the direction of the Pastor.

#### Section 3 - Regular Business Meetings

Business meetings will be held on a regular basis, quarterly, as determined by action of the Church.

#### Section 4 - Special Business Meetings

A special called business meeting may be held to consider matters of significant nature. A one-week notice of the subject, date, time and location must be given for the special called business meeting unless extreme urgency renders such notice impractical. Special business meetings may be called by the moderator or by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees.

#### Section 5 - Quorum

The quorum consists of members in attendance at a regular or properly called business meeting.

#### Section 6-Recommendations

All recommendations for consideration will be presented by the appropriate team. The recommendation procedure is explained in the Team Procedures section of the Operations Manual.

#### Section 7-Parliamentary Rules

All business meetings shall be conducted in an orderly manner in accordance with the

Operations Manual.

Section 8-Moderator

It shall be the duty of the Pastor to preside as moderator at all business meetings. In his absence, the order of succession for service as moderator will be Associate Pastor, Chairman of the Deacons, and then other persons elected by the Church.

ARTICLE VIII - CHURCH STAFF, OFFICERS AND TEAMS

Section 1-Church Staff

The following are general outlines for the ministerial staff. All references to “the Pastor” within this Constitution and By-Laws indicates the “Senior Pastor.” Complete and detailed job descriptions for all ministerial staff and employees will be maintained in the Church Operations Manual.

All ministerial staff must believe that the ministry is his life's work under the conviction that it is God's will and divine call for him.

PASTOR

SCRIPTURAL BASIS:

The purpose of the Pastor is to lead and organize groups of believers and to focus their efforts in serving God. In the Old Testament God appointed men for this purpose. This continued into the New Testament Church, with the Apostle Paul specifying the qualifications of the overseer, or Pastor, in 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. Provide nurture and discipline for the flock by keeping relationships harmonious among the Church family. To do this, the Pastor shall model a spirit filled wisdom in relational skills. The Pastor's relationship with the Church family shall compare to a Godly father's relationship with his own family.
- B. Preach the Word consistently and accurately, show its relevancy to the needs of the people, and lead people into a passionate pursuit of God.
- C. Shepherd the flock by protecting the Church from false doctrine (Acts 20:28-30), equipping the Church for Christ's redemptive work, guiding the Church to a shared vision, ministering to the needs of the membership and community and by providing opportunities for Christian growth.
- D. Lead the Church in keeping a priority commitment to evangelism (Matthew 28: 19-20, the Great Commission).

PULPIT SUPPLY TEAM:

If the pastor is absent due to serious illness or other emergency, or in event of a vacancy in the office of pastor, a Supply Team (composed of the Chairman of the Deacons, the Chairman of the Personnel Team, and the longest tenured ministerial staff member at Madison Avenue Missionary Baptist Church) shall secure a pulpit supply which may include an Interim Pastor as approved by a 75% majority of the votes of Church members present and voting at a special called business meeting as set forth in Article VII, Section 4. The duties and responsibilities of the Interim Pastor shall be determined at said meeting upon recommendation of the Supply Team.

### CALLING OF PASTOR:

Whenever a pastoral vacancy occurs, the membership of the Church shall, after prayerful consideration, elect a Search Team, consisting of five adult Church members, at a business meeting. These persons shall be elected by secret ballot and shall consist of those persons receiving the highest votes. The person receiving the most votes becomes chair. If someone declines the nomination or elects not to serve they shall be replaced with the person who received the next highest vote. The Search Team shall bring to the consideration of the Church only one person at a time.

When the Search Team has agreed on a nomination, the chair of the team shall contact the prospective minister. The Search Team, Finance Team, and Personnel Team shall reach tentative terms of agreement with the prospective minister prior to a meeting of the church for the purpose of considering the nominee. This written agreement shall be furnished to the church at the time the nomination is presented. The agreement will stipulate salary, benefits, number of weeks allowed to be out of the pulpit for speaking engagements, mission trips, educational training, etc.

An affirmative vote of 75% of those Church members voting by secret ballot, shall be required to approve the calling of a pastor. Ballots will be counted by a team appointed by the Deacon body.

### DISMISSAL OF PASTOR

Upon recommendation of 75% of the Personnel Team and Trustees, the employment of the Pastor may be terminated by an affirmative vote of 75% of the church members voting by secret ballot in a called business meeting. Ballots shall be counted by a team appointed by the Deacon body. At least two weeks advance notice must be given to the congregation before such vote is taken.

### CALLING OF MINISTERIAL STAFF:

- A. **MINISTERIAL STAFF VACANCY.** If a ministerial staff vacancy occurs, and it is determined by the Pastor, in consultation with the Chairman of the Deacons, the Chairman of the Personnel Team, and the Chairman of the Finance Team, and approved by 75% of the church members present and voting in a called business meeting, that the vacant position should be filled, the Pastor shall appoint a Search Team, consisting of five adult church members, at a business meeting. The Pastor shall specify the Chair and Secretary of the Search Team. The Search Team shall bring to the consideration of the Church only one person at a time.
- B. **NEW MINISTERIAL STAFF POSITION.** If it is determined by the Pastor, in consultation with the Chairman of the Deacons, the Chairman of the Personnel Team, and the Chairman of the Finance Team, and approved by the 75% of the church members present and voting in a called business meeting, that a new ministerial staff position is needed, the Pastor shall appoint a Search Team consisting of five adult church members at a business meeting. The Pastor shall specify the Chairman and Secretary of the Search Team. The Search Team shall bring to the consideration of the Church only one person at a time.
- C. **SEARCH TEAM.** When the Search Team has agreed on a nomination and the Pastor has given his approval, the Chairman of the Search Team shall contact the prospective minister, the Finance Team, and the Personnel Team, to reach tentative terms of agreement prior to a meeting of the Church for the purpose of considering the nominee. This written agreement shall be read at the time the nomination is presented to the Church. This agreement shall stipulate salary, benefits, number of

annual ministerial absences, position responsibilities, and any other terms of the agreement.

- D. VOTE. An affirmative vote of 75% of those members voting by secret ballot, shall be necessary to approve the calling of a Minister. Ballots shall be counted by a team appointed by the Deacon body.

#### CALLING OF OTHER MINISTERIAL STAFF

The Church, through its recommendation procedures, may vote to call additional ministerial staff as the need may arise.

#### DISMISSAL OF MINISTERIAL STAFF

Upon the recommendation of the Pastor and 75% of the Personnel Team and Trustees, the employment of any ministerial staff may be terminated by an affirmative vote of 75% of the church members voting by secret ballot in a called business meeting. Ballots shall be counted by a team appointed by the Deacon body. At least two weeks advance notice must be given to the congregation before such vote is taken.

### Section 2-Officers

#### TRUSTEES

The Trustees shall comprise the Board of Directors for the Church. Trustees serve as legal representatives in all transactions of the Church.

- A. Trustees shall consist of three members and a majority thereof shall constitute a quorum. The assent of a majority of the Trustees shall be required for any action taken by a Trustee.
- B. The Deacons shall recommend a Trustee to the Church annually. After election by the Church, the Trustee shall serve a three-year term. A trustee may also be removed upon recommendation of 75% of the Deacon body and an affirmative vote of 75% of the Church members present and voting in a business meeting. This may only come to the church as a recommendation from 75% of the deacon body.
- C. Trustees shall hold legal title to the Church property and sign all documents related to the purchase, sale, mortgaging or rental of Church property after approval by the Church in a business meeting. The Trustees shall maintain all real and personal property belonging to the Church in accordance with the purposes of the Church. The Trustees shall take such action as is necessary to the preservation of the property and shall provide such insurance as may be determined by the Trustees. No real or personal property shall be conveyed, sold or encumbered without the expressed authorization of a majority of a quorum of bona fide members of the Church present at a meeting and voting upon such proposition.
- D. The Chairperson of the Trustees shall execute all deeds, contracts, deeds of trust, notes and other written instruments in the name of the Church by the President and attested by the Secretary of the Church.
- E. Trustees may never act independently of the Church. A Trustee who acts without authority of the Church, is personally responsible for the action.

- F. Trustees may provide counsel to teams within the Church upon request.
- G. The Trustees shall elect a chairperson from its membership, who shall be the President of the Church and shall serve for one year and until a successor is elected and assumes office.
- H. The Trustees shall also elect a vice-chairperson from its membership who shall be the Vice-President of the Church and shall serve for one year and until a successor is elected and assumes office. In the absence or inability or disability of the chairperson, the vice-chairperson shall exercise all the powers of the chairperson.
- I. The Trustees shall also elect a secretary from its membership who shall be the Secretary of the Church and shall serve for one year and until a successor is elected and assumes office.
- J. The Trustees shall meet at such times and places as shall be determined by its own rules of procedure.
- K. The Trustees shall keep a record of all actions taken, which records shall be open to all members of the Church.
- L. The Trustees shall make a report the Church at its last business meeting of each year.

#### DEACONS

In accordance with the meaning of the word and the practice of the New Testament (I Timothy 3:8-13), Deacons are to be servants of the Church.

- A. **CALLING OF DEACONS:** Upon the recommendations of the current Deacons, the Church may elect as many Deacons as it feels necessary to carry out the regular functions of a New Testament Church.
- B. **QUORUM:** Fifty percent of active deacons must be present to form a quo-rum for a meeting.
- C. **ACTIVE STATUS:** A Deacon may maintain active status as long as he continues to meet the qualifications and continues to fulfill the duties of a Deacon and is endorsed by the Church.
- D. **DUTIES:**
  - 1. Deacons must be zealous to guard the unity of the spirit within the Church in the bonds of peace.
  - 2. Deacons serve as a council of advice and conference with the pastor.
  - 3. Deacons shall maintain personal oversight of all the membership of the Church. Deacons shall seek to know the physical and spiritual struggles of the membership, and to serve the Church in these matters.
  - 4. The Deacons shall, at the last meeting of the year, elect a chairman, vice-chairman, and a secretary and appoint such teams as are necessary.

5. The Deacons, in council with the Pastor, shall maintain appropriate Church discipline as set forth in Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 5:9-13; I Thessalonians 5:12-14. Each deacon shall freely confer with the pastor about all matters and cases of discipline, which in his judgment would be most wisely and spiritually handled in private.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Deacons and approval of the Church, a Deacon may receive the designation of Deacon Emeritus. A Deacon holding such designation shall have the same privileges as all Deacons.

#### CHURCH CLERK

The clerk shall keep an accurate record of all business transacted by the Church and maintain a current list of members.

#### CHURCH TREASURER

The Church shall have a Treasurer and/or a Financial Secretary, who shall make prompt payment of all bills by check. All designated funds shall be properly dispersed. The Treasurer and/or the Financial Secretary shall be prepared to report to the Church at regular or special business meetings.

#### TEAMS

Teams form the organizational structure of the Church. Teams serve to help the Church operate smoothly and to provide each member an equal voice in the operation of the Church. Teams may be established, and vacancies filled, by a majority vote of the Church members voting at a regular or special business meeting. The current teams and procedures are found in the Operations Manual.

### ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a 75% majority of the votes of members cast at any regular business or special business meeting of the Church, provided that no amendment shall be considered at any meeting unless notice of such meeting has been announced to the Church during Sunday morning worship services for two (2) consecutive Sundays at least fourteen (14) calendar days in advance of such meeting. Written details of the proposed change(s) will be available at the Church.

This Constitution and By-Laws was passed by the Church Corporation membership on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ 2015. Attested to by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Church Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
President-Chairperson of the Board of Trustees

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

