

Proposed Bylaws of McAllen Baptist Temple

ARTICLE I. General Provisions

- 1) As per the articles of incorporation filed with the State of Texas on July 1, 1985, McAllen Baptist Temple (hereafter referred to as “the corporation”) is incorporated as a non-profit corporation of perpetual duration organized for the following purposes:
 - a. To conduct and carry on the business affairs of a Christian church;
 - b. To provide proper facilities for worship services for Christians affiliated with McAllen Baptist Temple; and,
 - c. To spread the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ to all mankind.
- 2) As per the articles of incorporation referenced above, in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, no part of the net revenue of the corporation, which revenue is to be obtained primarily through the contributions of members, shall inure to the benefit of any director of the corporation, officer of the corporation, or any private individual (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the corporation affecting one or more of its purposes), and no director or officer of the corporation or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets upon dissolution of the corporation. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall involve the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in or intervene in any political campaign (including the publication or distribution of statements) on behalf of any candidate for public office.
- 3) As a church, in accordance with the protections inherent in the Religion Clauses of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, the corporation has the right to decide matters of faith and doctrine without government intrusion. These rights protect the corporation’s autonomy with respect to internal management decisions. This autonomy includes all authority to fulfil its mission to facilitate, develop and promote the church faith community, including but not limited to promoting the church’s doctrinal positions and the fundamental Biblical principles that the church exists to glorify God by leading people to live transformed lives through biblical teaching, relevant worship, global concern, and authentic community. All ministers, teachers, employees, and agents of the church agree that their evaluation and performance will be reviewed under the bases of their commitment to the doctrinal position of the church and to religious practice and instruction, worship, and the personal modeling of those same faith principles.
- 4) Furthermore, upon dissolution of the corporation or the winding up of its affairs, the assets of the corporation shall be distributed exclusively to Christian organizations that qualify as non-profit religious organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE II. Specific Provisions

2.1 Governance

Elders

- 1) The elders serve as the directors of the corporation.
- 2) The elders will select new elder candidates. After a time of training for the candidates and congregational input regarding the candidates, a vote of affirmation by the members shall be conducted. The specific processes for the training and the solicitation of congregational input will be determined by the elders.
- 3) The number of elders will be at least three, one being the senior pastor, with the total number to be determined by the board.
- 4) The board of elders will provide governing oversight of all activities of the church with full decision-making authority, excepting those items that specifically require a vote of the membership.
- 5) An elder may be removed by resignation or by supermajority vote of the board. A supermajority is defined as at least 2/3 of the members of the elder board. Specific criteria for removal will be determined by board policy.

2.2 Administration

A. Senior Pastor

- 1) The senior pastor will serve as the president and chief executive officer of the corporation, and the secretary will be designated by the board.
- 2) For a vacancy of the senior pastor position, the elder board will establish a process by which candidates for the position will be vetted and brought to the membership for selection by vote.
- 3) The senior pastor may be removed by resignation or dismissal by vote of the membership, as set out in Section 2.3. Dismissal must be recommended to the members by at least two-thirds vote of the elder board.

B. Staff, Committees, and Teams

- 1) The senior pastor is authorized with the advice and consent of the elder board to establish, amend, and eliminate paid and volunteer staff positions, pastoral and otherwise, as necessary to further the mission of the church.
- 2) Employment policies will be determined by the elder board, upon the recommendation of the Senior Pastor.
- 3) The senior pastor is authorized to establish, amend, and disband committees and teams as necessary to further the mission of the church. Any elder may serve as an ex-officio member of any committee or team so established.

2.3 Membership

A. Members

- 1) Members are those individuals who have committed themselves to the church through the means and processes determined by the elders
- 2) Members will vote on the following items. Unless otherwise specified a vote to pass an item will require a simple majority:

- a) Calling and removal of the senior pastor. (Removal shall require a supermajority of 2/3 of the quorum of members present at a meeting called specifically for that purpose, as defined below.)
- b) Congregational affirmation of elders.
- c) The annual operating budget.
- d) Church debt exceeding three (3) times the annual operating budget of the church
- e) Amendments to the bylaws
- f) Dissolution of the church

B. Meetings

- 1) (Annual meeting) The members will meet at least once annually. The date and time of said meeting will be determined by the elders. Remote attendance and voting in real time via electronic means may be authorized by the elders. The date, time, and place and/or virtual platform of the annual meeting will be announced to the membership at least 30 days before the meeting is held. The announcement will be made by various means appropriate to current communications technology as determined by the elders.
- 2) (Other meetings) Other meetings of the membership may be called by the elder board as needed. Unless otherwise specified in these bylaws the announcement of the date, time, place (physical or virtual as authorized by the elders), and purpose of those meetings will be at least seven days prior to the meeting. The announcement will be made by various means appropriate to current communications technology as determined by the elders.
- 3) A meeting at which removal of the Senior Pastor is to be considered must be called with the notice required for the “annual meeting,” as set out in subsection (1) of this section.
- 4) A quorum for purposes of conducting business at all meetings of the membership will be that number of members present, physically or virtually as per elder authorization, at a meeting adequately announced as per the above announcement requirements.
- 5) Robert’s Rules of Order will serve as a guide for the conduct of meetings.

ARTICLE III. Amendments

- 1) Amendments to the bylaws will be recommended by the elder board and require a majority vote of the membership.
- 2) A meeting to vote on any amendments will be announced by various means as determined by the elders at least 30 days prior to the meeting. At the same time as the announcement the proposed amendment will be made available to the members by various means as determined by the elders.

ARTICLE IV. Statement of Basic Beliefs

We affirm the Holy Bible as the infallible, divinely inspired Word of God and the basis for our beliefs. The church subscribes to the doctrinal statements as follows:

Section 1. 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.

Section 2. 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.

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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 Savior, 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.

Section 3. 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.

Section 4. SALVATION

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, 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.

Section 5. 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.

Section 6. MARRIAGE

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.