

**Mount Moriah Baptist Church
Smithfield, Pennsylvania**

CONSTITUTIONS AND BY-LAWS

**Article I
INCORPORATION**

This Church is duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania under the corporate name of the Mount Moriah Regular Baptist Church of Smithfield, PA, as of June 12, 1886.

**Article II
PURPOSE AND FINANCING**

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of this church shall be to maintain public services for the worship of God and for teaching and preaching the Gospel, the administration of the ordinances of the New Testament, the spiritual growth of its members, and in general to promote the interests of the kingdom of God according to the teachings of Christ.

Section 2. Mission Statement. The mission of the church is to love and serve our Lord Jesus Christ, to share His Good News with others and to provide opportunities for Christian growth.

Sections 3. Statement of Faith.

I. The Word of God

We believe the Bible, the 66 Books of the Old and New Testament, to be the inspired, only infallible authoritative Word of God, inerrant in the original manuscripts (Proverbs 30:5-6; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:17-18; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:19-21).

II. The Trinity

We believe there is one true and living God, eternally existing in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1, 26; John 1:1, 3; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19-20; Ephesians 4:5-6).

III. God the Father

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ (Luke 10:21-22; Matthew 23:9; John 3:16; 6:27; Romans 1:7; 1 Timothy 1:1-2; 2:5-6; 1 Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6).

IV. Jesus Christ

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, in His virgin birth, His sinless life, His substitutionary death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, His perpetual intercession for His people, and His personal return in glory and power (Matthew 1:18-25, 16:27, 20:28; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1; 20:28; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:21-23; John 20:30-31; Ephesians 1:4; Acts 1:11; Romans 5:6-8, 6:9-10; Hebrews 7:25, 9:28; 1 Timothy 3:16).

V. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the personality of the Holy Spirit and His ministry of convicting and regenerating sinful people and indwelling, filling, sealing and empowering believers (John 14:16-17,26; 15:26-27; John 16:9-14; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 5:22-26; Ephesians 5:30).

VI. The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created by God in His own image but that he sinned and fell from the state of innocence in which he was created to one of total depravity in which he is devoid of spiritual life and incapable, apart from divine power, of pleasing God (Genesis 1:26-28, 2:15-17, 3, 5:3; John 3:3-18, 6:44-47; Romans 3:9-26).

VII. Salvation

We believe that all who repent of sin and trust the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated, justified, and eternally secure in their salvation (John 3:16-18, 10:27-30; Romans 5:1-2, 8:1, 28-37; Philippians 1:6, 2:12-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:11-13; Jude 24-25).

VIII. Justification

We believe in the justification of the sinner by grace alone through faith alone in the person and work of Jesus Christ, totally apart from human works (John 3:16-18, 14:6; Romans 3:21-26, 4:4-8, 5:1-2, 8:1, 10:9-13; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5-7).

IX. Heaven and Hell

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved to eternal life with God in Heaven and of the lost to conscious eternal suffering in Hell (Daniel 12:1-2; Matthew 24:36-51; Mark 9:42-49; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Revelation 20).

X. The Church of Jesus Christ

We believe that the universal church is composed of all regenerated believers and that its members should assemble themselves together in local churches for worship, prayer, fellowship and teaching with a view of being equipped to fulfill the Great Commission (Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 4:4-7; Hebrews 10:24-25; Matthew 28:18-20).

XI. The Ordinances

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has established two ordinances for His Church, baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the full immersion of the believer upon their profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus Christ to commemorate His sacrificial death upon the cross for the sins of the world. We believe that the Church of Jesus Christ should participate in these two ordinances until His return (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32).

XII. Marriage

We believe in Biblical Marriage as ordained by God and described in Genesis 2. We believe God, in a special act of creation, made woman as a partner “helper” to man and instituted marriage to be a lifelong relationship between a man and a woman.

We also believe of the passages found in Genesis 2 that the “Hebrew” word for “wife” is gender specific as well as the “Hebrew” words for both “man” and “wife” are singular. Therefore, we believe marriage is a sacred union of one biological man and one biological woman and that all sexual relationships are to be preserved for that union. We believe that a

Biblically-based God ordained marriage as one that is Christ centered and in agreement with God's Holy Word.

Therefore, marriages outside of the Biblical parameters as set forth in scripture will not be performed by church ministers of the Mount Moriah Baptist Church. Likewise, the use of any and all church assets, property and services (inclusive of websites, social media, handouts, etc.) are prohibited.

(Genesis 2, Matthew 19, I Corinthians 7, Ephesians 5)

Article III

ORGANIZATION AND DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION

Section 1. Cooperation with other bodies. The Church's government is vested in the body which composes its membership; but because its parish is worldwide, it recognizes its obligations and privileges to cooperate with other religious bodies having the same general objectives. It shall therefore be affiliated with the Monongahela Baptist Association, American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware (ABCOPAD), and American Baptist Churches USA.

Section 2. Declaration of Doctrine and Principles, as stated in our Church Covenant. Having been led by the Spirit of God to profess our faith in Jesus Christ, and having been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we do now solemnly and joyfully affirm our covenant with God and with each other. We pledge to serve Christ in the fellowship of this congregation. We shall endeavor to love one another, to remember one another in prayer, to share in each other's joys, and to sustain each other in times of distress. We aspire to be a fellowship of the concerned, where the lost may find Jesus Christ, sinners may find pardon, seekers may find meaning for their lives, and where all who come may find welcome. We shall strive to be responsible church members, through faithful attendance, study and giving. We shall seek to be obedient to Christ in our daily living. Within our homes, in our labor, and while at leisure, we shall strive for attitudes and actions which will reflect God's spirit working through us. Believing that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, we shall endeavor to avoid experiences and habits which defile the body and hinder our witness. Bound together in a fellowship of faith with all who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we shall pray and labor for a spirit of unity among all Christians. Believing that our call to be a church is a call to witness in the world, we dedicate ourselves anew as servants of the Lord of all life. Whenever people are in bondage to ignorance, poverty, fear, or prejudice, we shall strive for justice, freedom, dignity and peace. Whenever people are separated by barriers of hostility and distrust, we shall be ministers of God's reconciling love. As we pledge our support to the work of our missionaries throughout the world, we commit ourselves to the mission to which God calls us all. Acknowledging our human frailties and ever seeking forgiveness, we profess our need of the Holy Spirit, and commit our lives to Jesus Christ and through Him to the care, the judgment, the deliverance, and the mercy of Almighty God. Amen.

We therefore band ourselves together as a body of baptized (immersed) believers in Jesus Christ and adopt for our government, plan of worship, and service the following articles:

Article IV RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Qualifications. Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior, giving evidence of a change of heart, and adopting the views of faith and practice held by this church, as set forth in the foregoing declaration may, upon baptism and recommendation of the Board of Deacons and by vote of the Joint Board be received into membership.

Article V GENERAL DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Section 1. To Themselves. The duties of members to themselves are the acquisition of scriptural knowledge, constant progress in spirituality, consistency of external conduct.

Section 2. To the Pastor. It is the duty of members to honor, esteem, and love their Pastor, to pray for him fervently and daily, to submit to him in the scriptural exercises of his official authority, to attend constantly upon his ministrations, to manifest a tender regard for his reputation, and contribute to his support in proportion to their ability.

Section 3. To One Another. It is the duty of each member to cultivate and cherish brotherly love for all other members of the church, to show this love to promote their spiritual benefit and prosperity and to faithfully attend services at the church.

Section 4. To Others. It is the duty of the members in fulfilling obligations and performing promises toward those who are not connected with the church, as opportunity and ability may enable, to commend the Gospel of Christ unto them.

Section 5. Upon Moving. Until such time as a letter of dismissal has been granted, a member shall furnish their name and place of residence.

Article VI DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Personal Offense. When an offense is given by one member of the church to another, the offended member shall proceed according to directions laid down in Matthew 18:15-18.

Section 2. Committee on Discipline. The deacons with the Pastor shall constitute a standing committee on discipline, to whom all cases of grievance and moral delinquencies shall be referred. No member accused shall be excluded from membership until visited or written to by the committee on discipline.

Section 3. Repentance. If a member under discipline will voluntarily manifest repentance, no further proceedings shall be entertained.

Section 4. Restoration. Excluded members may be restored to the membership of this church upon acknowledging the error which led to their exclusion, and giving satisfactory evidence of their sincerest repentance and a determination thereafter to maintain a godly walk and conversation.

Article VII DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS

Upon death, a member's name will be removed from the church role. Upon recommendation of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons and by vote of the church in any of the following ways:

Section 1. By Letter. Members in good standing may, upon request, may be dismissed to unite with some other church. All church letters shall be sent by the Clerk of this church to the Pastor or Clerk of the church designated. A Letter of Transfer shall be granted for members whose names are on the inactive membership list.

Section 2. By Request. If a member wishes to withdraw from the church, his name, upon recommendation to the church by the Board of Deacons, shall be removed.

Section 3. Inactive Membership List. When a member has been inactive for a period of one year, without manifesting any interest therein by attending services, communicating with the church, or contributing to its support, the church may, upon recommendation by the Board of Deacons, transfer his name to the "Inactive Membership List." Consideration for such action shall only be made after a reasonable number of calls or correspondences have been made to encourage and assist in a renewal of the covenant. This procedure shall have no application if the absence, delinquency, or arrearage is excused by the Pastor and the Board of Deacons on account of sickness, lack of income, or other reasonable cause.

- a. Inactive Membership List: Persons, whose names are on the Inactive Membership List, shall not be counted or reported as members, may not have part in church business meetings, and may not hold office.
- b. Restoration: Any person whose name has been placed on the Inactive Membership List, who renews his covenant obligations, may be restored to active membership by vote of the Board of Deacons without further action of the church. Any person who has been expelled from membership in this church may, upon evidence of his repentance and reformation, and on recommendation of the Board of Deacons, be restored to membership by vote of the Joint Board.

Article VIII OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Section 1. Officers.

<u>Officer</u>	<u>How Elected</u>
Pastor	By Congregation
Moderator	Annually
V. Moderator	Annually
Deacons (7)	Annually
Deaconesses (7)	Annually
Trustees (7)	Annually
Associate Trustees (4)	Annually
Clerk	Annually
Asst. Clerk	Annually
Treasurer	Annually
Asst. Treasurer	Annually
Financial Secretary	Annually
Head Usher	Annually
Asst. Head Usher	Annually
Finance Committee (7)	Annually
Custodians (3)	Annually
Children's Worship	Annually
Board of Christian Ed (7)	Annually
Christian School Board (7)	Annually
Nominating Committee	Annually

No member shall serve concurrently on the Boards of Deacons, Trustees or Christian Education. As the need arises, a Pulpit Committee shall be appointed in accordance with Section 2 of this Article. The Deacons, Trustees, Board of Christian Education, Christian School Board and Finance Committee shall, at their first meeting after their election, organize by choosing one of their members as chairman and another as secretary to keep a record of all business transacted.

Section 2. Duties of the Officers

PASTOR: The Pastor shall be required to live in accordance with the Scriptural qualifications that are outlined in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. The duty of the Pastor shall be to preach the Gospel, administer the ordinances, and have in his charge the spiritual welfare of the congregation. He shall provide leadership in services of worship, evangelism, missionary endeavor, Christian education, stewardship, and missionary outreach. He shall be a member ex-officio of all committees, boards, and auxiliary organizations of the church. The Pastor shall be elected in a Church Business Meeting, the date and time of the meeting being announced in two morning worship services preceding the meeting. Three-fourths of the votes cast shall be

necessary for the election of a Pastor. The Pastor shall be a regularly ordained Baptist Minister whose credentials are recognized by the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware (ABCOPAD) or Baptist Lay Minister whose credentials are duly recognized by the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware (ABCOPAD) with not less than nine (9) years of full-time ministry experience. In the event of a vacancy in the pastorate, a Pulpit Committee shall be formed with the expressed purpose of recommending a prospective pastor to the church.

MODERATOR: The Moderator shall act as and be president of this corporation and shall preside at all business meetings of the church, and at all meetings of the Joint Boards. The Moderator shall appoint, with the approval of the church, special or temporary committees as the need arises, such as, Building Committee, Pulpit Committee, etc. and shall appoint delegates as needed to represent the church at all conferences and conventions: The Monongahela Baptist Association, the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware (ABCOPAD) , and the American Baptist Churches USA. The Moderator shall use as a guide for parliamentary procedure on matters of meeting discipline Robert's Rules of Order where they apply. The VICE MODERATOR is to preside in the absence of the Moderator.

DEACONS/DEACONESSSES: It shall be required of the Deacons/Deaconesses that they conduct themselves in the manner and spirit of I Timothy 3:7-13 and Acts 6:3. Deacons/Deaconesses shall advise the Pastor and hold special prayer for him. It shall be the duty of Deacons/Deaconesses to labor in close cooperation with the Pastor in the performance of his duties; to maintain general supervision of the spiritual welfare of the church; to assist in conducting the ordinances of the church; to provide spiritual help for individuals as required; to seek out those folk who are needful of material assistance and, when warranted, providing aid through the Deacon Fellowship Fund and/or as otherwise led; to see that the pulpit is regularly supplied; to interview and ascertain the acceptability of all applicants for membership; to visit the sick; to be active participants in the church visitation program; to follow the Great Commission as given us by Our Lord in Matthew 28:19-20; to deal with delinquent members, taking action in cases requiring discipline; consistent with Article VI of this Constitution. Additionally, the Diaconate Board shall initiate, promote, participate and maintain general supervision of outreach ministries inclusive of; social media, web, streaming, online and various other missional ministries. The Diaconate Board shall likewise be responsible to enlist, appoint and maintain general supervision of the Worship Leader(s).

In addition, the Deaconesses shall prepare the elements for the Lord's Supper, care for the Communion Set, assist in the Service of Baptism, and maintain the baptismal robes.

TRUSTEES/ASSOCIATE TRUSTEES: The qualifications of a Trustee/Associate Trustee must equal those of a Deacon/Deaconess in character and devotion. They should be persons of thriftiness, good judgment and financial discretion. The Board of Trustees shall have care and oversight of the Church building, contents and property. The Board of Trustees shall endeavor to maintain and improve the property of the Church and parsonage, also the Cemetery property. The Board will organize and elect a President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer

at the beginning of each church year. If no member of the Board of Trustees wishes to serve as Secretary–Treasurer of the board, the board can elect a member of the church to serve in that capacity. They shall hold stated monthly meetings. The Board of Trustees holds the property of the church and the signatures of the President and Secretary-Treasurer are required on all deeds, bank notes, mortgages, etc. The Board of Trustees will have the authority to spend up to \$1,000 on any project without advertising for bids. Any necessary expenditure exceeding cash on hand or over \$3,000 shall be voted on by the church. All equipment and furniture for the church shall be approved by the Board of Trustees before purchase commitment may be made. The Board of Trustees shall hire suitable Janitors and prescribe their duties. They shall not permit the Church buildings to be used for any other purpose than that for which they have been set apart, without the express authority of the Church for so doing. The Trustee Board will attend to the beautification and the physical comforts of the Parsonage and the Church Building.

CLERK: The Clerk shall attend regular business meetings of the church; keep records of proceedings of business conducted and care for all records; keep a registry of church membership, baptisms, deaths; and issue letters of dismissal. The Clerk shall make annual reports to the Monongahela Association and the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware (ABCOPAD).

ASSISTANT CLERK: It shall be the duty of the Clerk to notify the Assistant Clerk if unable to attend a stated or called meeting and in the absence of the Clerk; the assistant shall fulfill the duties of the Clerk.

TREASURER: The Treasurer must be an active member of the church and should be familiar with and understand how to keep records. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all receipts, expenses, and transactions of the church. The Treasurer shall have custody of the money received through offerings and pledges. The Treasurer shall disburse monies only upon authorization of the Board of Deacons and the Board of Trustees, or by vote of the church. The Treasurer shall present the books for an annual audit by the Finance Committee. The Church Treasurer is authorized to sign checks and disburse money for any budgeted item as long as the amount is not overspent. Any money over the amount must be authorized by the Finance Committee.

ASSISTANT TREASURER: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to notify the Assistant Treasurer if unable to attend a stated or called meeting and in the absence of the Treasurer; the Assistant shall fulfill the duties of the Treasurer.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: The Financial Secretary shall maintain a record of all contributing church members, envelope numbers, amount of contributions, and be prepared to issue an annual statement to individual members of their own contributions, if requested. The Financial Secretary shall see that the Church envelopes are available to those who desire them.

USHERS: The tasks of Ushers are to greet and seat the congregation at Church services, being careful not to seat persons during prayer and reading of scripture. They are to receive the offerings and keep an accurate count of persons present at services. Ushers should watch over

ventilation, the closing and opening of windows, drawing shades and watch the thermometer for the comfort of the worshippers.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Finance Committee should be made up of persons of integrity, thriftiness, financial ability, and good judgment. They should prepare a Church budget in conjunction with the Joint Board for approval before presenting it to the congregation at the annual Church Business Meeting and shall devise and put into operation ways and means for raising the necessary funds for support of said budget. The Finance Committee shall from time to time conduct an every member canvass for funds. They shall see to it that the books of the church are audited annually. They shall also be in charge of special money drives and financial campaigns, empowered to utilize the assistance of the Board of Deacons and Trustees to secure these funds.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: The Board of Christian Education shall unify, supervise and promote all educational interest in the Church, including the Sunday Church School, Vacation Bible School, -Young People's Groups and all other groups and classes operating in the field of Christian Education. It shall appoint and/or approve all Sunday Church School and Vacation Bible School officers not elected by the church, all teachers, advisors, counselors, club leaders and all other needed workers. It shall promote study classes for the training of workers in the field of Christian Education, personal evangelism, missions and such other classes as the Church may request. It shall supervise the grading of the Sunday Church School, encourage regularity of attendance, the follow up of Sunday school newcomers, and recommend ways and means of building up the church. The Board shall recommend to the Joint Board, a budget for the promotion of the Christian Education, and shall supervise its expenditures. All Adult Teachers are to be elected by the respective classes. In the event a class fails, for any reason, to elect a teacher that vacancy will be filled by the Board of Christian Education acting in conjunction with the Superintendent of the Sunday school.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: The Sunday School Superintendent shall be appointed by and report to the Board of Christian Education, who will be responsible for defining the tasks of the staff and make certain these tasks are being performed. The Sunday School Superintendent is to ascertain the quantity needed and order all materials used in Sunday school; will see to it that all classes have teachers, and if a substitute teacher is not prepared on such short notice, a merger of two classes may be necessary; will represent the Sunday morning school at official board meetings, at Church meetings, and at interdenominational affairs. The Sunday School Superintendent should schedule an annual officer and teachers meeting. The staff shall look after the spiritual interests of the Sunday school and seek the early conversion of those under their care.

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BOARD: The School Board shall be responsible to establish policies and standards consistent with the Church's mission, vision and values. Additionally, the board shall be responsible to ensure compliance with adopted policies and procedures, applicable laws and regulations, the staffing of and the financial well-being of the organization, as well as the safety and academic achievement of its students. The School Board shall be responsible to supervise all aspects related to the Christian school inclusive of planning, strategy and execution of its goals and objectives.

PULPIT COMMITTEE: The Pulpit Committee shall be composed of two members of the Board of Deacons, two members of the Board of Christian Education, and other auxiliary organizations representatives as deemed appropriate by the Moderator. In addition, two members-at-large shall be appointed by the Moderator. Husband and wife, parent and offspring, or brother and sister may not serve concurrently. The Pulpit Committee shall be convened by the Moderator, who shall be a member thereof, and shall elect its own chairman and secretary. For the purpose of calling a pastor, a quorum of 50% of active resident membership will be required. The voting for a Pastor shall be by secret ballot, and shall require three-fourths (3/4) vote of members present and voting. Announcement of voting shall be given at two regular Sunday morning church services, at least two Sundays previous to voting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The Nominating Committee shall consist of active members of the church and be enlisted when appropriate by invitation of the Pastor and Moderator. The Moderator shall act as the committee chairperson. It shall be the duty of the committee to ensure qualified candidates are identified, encouraged and enlisted to utilize their spiritual gifts in serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Specifically, the committee is responsible to enlist members to participate on the elected boards and committees of the church. The committee shall meet as necessary and present qualified candidates willing to serve to the moderator no later than the second Sunday in December. The moderator, in turn, will formally post the listing for membership review and call for a vote on or before the last Sunday in December.

THE EXECUTIVE OR JOINT BOARD OF THE CHURCH: The Executive or Joint Board of the Church is one and the same and shall consist of the following boards, committees, and individuals: Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees, Moderator, Church Clerk, Church Treasurer, Finance Committee, Board of Christian Education and Christian School Board.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS FOR CUSTODIANS

Provisions for the care and investment of the Endowment Funds of Mount Moriah Baptist Church and Cemetery: Whereas, a number of bequests already have come to the Mount Moriah Baptist Church and Cemetery of Smithfield, Pennsylvania; and whereas, we believe that members and friends of the Church and Cemetery should be encouraged to perpetuate their memory, and continue their support of the Church and Cemetery; therefore, be it resolved that we hereby adopt the following rules and regulations for the care and use of the Endowment Funds:

- I. a. The Church shall elect a Board of Custodians consisting of three (3) members who shall receive, invest and distribute the earnings of all Endowment Funds.
- b. A full and active Board of Custodians shall be maintained, and no business affecting the investments, securities or rates of interest of any part of the Endowment Fund shall be transacted except when three (3) members are in written agreement. Immediately after the annual business meeting of the church, the board shall meet and organize by electing a chairman and secretary, and such other officers of committees as may be found expedient.
- II. Duties of Custodians
 - a. Secure a fire and burglar proof drawer in the safety vault of a bank or other institution, and keep all securities and records therein.
 - b. The Executive or Joint Board of the Church, consisting of the Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees, Moderator, Church Clerk, Church Treasurer, Board of Christian Education, and the Finance Committee, may authorize the Board of Custodians to establish a trust fund of the Cemetery Endowments, by a two-third majority of their members present and voting.
 - c. No portion of the principal or any part of the Endowment Funds may be used by the Trustees or other Boards of the Church.
 - d. Investments in the Trust Fund shall be limited to the following:
 - 1. U.S. Government Bonds.
 - 2. U.S. Treasury Certificates.
 - 3. Certificates of Savings or Savings Accounts to the limit guaranteed by the F.D.I.C. (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation)
 - e. The Custodians may establish funds in banking institutions which from time to time may exceed the present F.D.I.C. limit, contingent upon a satisfactory review of the financial condition of the bank, also in consideration of enhanced rate and ease in management of funds and with the approval by the majority vote of the

Board of Custodians. These modifications would provide for a greater rate of return.

- f. The Custodians are authorized to turn any current cemetery endowments over to the Trust Fund for investment, taking their receipt for the same. Any Custodian receiving an Endowment is authorized to issue a temporary receipt to the donor and then as soon as possible give them an official receipt signed by all three (3) Custodians.
 - g. The Trust Officer shall report to the Custodians semi-annually (January 1st and July 1st) listing the investments and their income. The income to be paid annually from the Trust Fund to the Custodians on January 1st. (See sub-paragraph II c.).
 - h. At the annual business meeting of the church, the Board of Custodians shall present a complete copy of the Endowment Fund Securities and the names of new donors and the amount of these Endowments received by them during the past year, and pay to each treasurer of the church their respective shares of the earnings.
 - i. Endowments, bequests and gifts to the church and missions shall be kept in a financial institution insured by F.D.I.C in interest bearing accounts or invested in U.S. Government securities and the income, along with the list of new donors, shall be reported and paid by the Custodians at the annual business meeting of the church, the report to be recorded in the church minutes by the clerk. (See subparagraph II e.)
- III. Classes of Endowments: Donors may have a choice of the use to which the income of their bequests or donations shall be applied as follows:
- a. To the support of the church, the income used for pastor's salary and other current expenses.
 - b. To the Cemetery, the income is to be used under the direction of the Board of Trustees, for the maintenance of specific cemetery lots as designated by the donors. Any surplus is to be used for the general maintenance of the cemetery.
 - c. To the missionary work to which the church contributes, the income being placed with the missionary funds of the church, and distributed as designated by the donors.
- IV. The Perpetuity of the Fund: The principal or any part of the Endowment Funds shall never be used by the Church or Cemetery for current expenses or otherwise. Only the income from said funds shall be so used, and that in accordance with the purpose so designated by the donors. In the event that the Mount Moriah Baptist Church should ever cease to function as a religious and corporate body, that

portion of the Endowment Fund designated for use in the Cemetery shall be turned over to the corporation having charge of said cemetery and shall be used by the corporation for the specific purposes designated by donors, and the Endowment Fund designated for missions, to the International Mission Board, for use in accordance with its charter, and the Endowment Fund designated for church expenses to the Cemetery Trust Fund.

Article IX MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

Sections 1. Public Worship Services. The public worship services of God are to be regularly observed every Sunday, the Lord's Supper is to be administered the first Sunday of each quarter (unless a change in time is deemed necessary by the Deacon Board).

Sections 2. Mid-Week Service. Weekly services for prayer and Bible Study shall be maintained on Wednesday evening.

Section 3. There shall be a quarterly business meeting held in January, April, July, and October. The day and time of the quarterly meetings will be determined by the Joint Board and advertised to church members at a minimum of two weeks in advance of the meeting. The Pastor(s), as well as the Church Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Mount Moriah Baptist Cemetery, Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees, Board of Christian Education and various other ministries of the church, shall provide a written report concerning their activities each quarter. The Custodians shall provide their report at the annual meeting held in January.

Section 4. A quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special business meeting shall consist of 15 persons of the church's active resident membership. This rule shall prevail except in those instances which are covered by Article VIII of these by-laws. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern when not in conflict with these by-laws.

Article X VOTING

Section 1. Eligible Voters. Only active members of the church 12 years or older shall be eligible to vote on any question presented at a business meeting. Whenever action is called for by the church or by the congregation, such term shall mean action by the active members of the church. The voting age of 18 years or older shall apply when question pertains to financial matters or changes in denominational relationship.

Section 2. Except for routine matters, all voting of the membership shall be by secret ballot. However, this procedure may be waived by the majority consent of those present and voting. The affirmative vote of a majority of eligible voters shall be required for any vote to pass on any matter of business other than questions affecting pastoral relations. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

Article XI RULES OF ORDER

The Moderator shall:

1. keep order, state and explain propositions, and by his or her vote, if the Moderator desires, decide questions upon which there is a tie vote;
2. cause every meeting to be opened with prayer;
3. call for the business of the Church in the following order:
 - a. Read minutes of previous meeting
 - b. Report of letters of admission from sister churches.
 - c. Report of granted letters of dismissal to those requesting them.
 - d. Hear reports of officers, committees, and any other unfinished business.
 - e. New business.
4. permit no second motion to be entertained until the one under consideration has been disposed of, except motions to amend, postpone, adjourn or put the main questions to vote;
5. call to order any member who, while speaking, introduces any subject foreign to the one under discussion;
6. call to order any member who uses discourteous language or whose remarks are considered injurious to the reputation or feelings of any member;
7. speak upon the subject under discussion by inviting a brother to preside in the Moderator's place;
8. expect every member who wishes to speak to arise and respectfully address the Moderator;
9. assure that every proposition presented for the action of the Church be introduced by motion of one member (in writing if requested) and seconded by another;
10. assure that no member speak more than twice upon the same subject without the consent of the Moderator;
11. recognize that upon any point of order a member may appeal from the Moderator to the Church whose decision shall be final;
12. assure that all questions be decided upon by vote of the majority, except in the cases mentioned in other sections in this constitution.

Article XII AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by recommendation of the Joint Board at any regular or called business meeting of the Church by two-thirds vote of eligible voters present and voting, and that providing a quorum is present and voting, and that notice of such amendment stating the proposed change, shall have been given from the pulpit on two successive Sundays.

Article XIII
ABSENTEEISM

When absenteeism of members serving on Boards and Committees of the Church, without reasonable excuses shall be evident, the Moderator may be permitted to ask for the resignation of the member and shall appoint a replacement to fulfill the unexpired term. An example of a reasonable excuse may be illness or livelihood requirements.

This Constitution and By-Laws was ratified by the Church, August 7, 1968, and contains additions approved by the Church through January 10, 2001, October 4, 2010, January 26, 2014, March 23, 2014, November 2, 2014, September 11, 2016, November 27, 2022.