

**Constitution**  
Of  
Rocky Mountain Baptist Church  
Ennis, Montana

Preamble

This constitution is adopted, ordained and established for our plan of worship, government and service; so that the Lord's work may be carried on decently and in order.

Article I

**Section 1. History**

In 1939 a Sunday School was started in the upstairs of Woodman Hall by George Hires, Allan Hires, and two young missionaries, Walter Bryen and Bill Orr. Under the leadership of Walter Bryen and Dr. Arthur Allen, the Rocky Mountain Baptist Church was organized and incorporated August 26, 1955 with fifteen charter members.

The present facilities were dedicated on September 23, 1979 under the direction of Pastor Paul C. Leslie.

**Section 2. Biblical Position**

A. This church shall forever believe and hold to the great New Testament doctrines and practices that have distinguished New Testament churches since Apostolic times.

1. The Word of God in the sole authority in all matters of faith and practice.
2. A regenerated church membership.
3. The baptism of believers only, by immersion only.
4. The complete autonomy of the local church.
5. The priesthood of believers and soul-liberty of every believer.
6. The separation of church and state.

B. This church shall be an independent (under the Lordship of Christ), autonomous (having the right of self-government, without outside control), Baptist congregation.

C. The government of this church is vested in the body which is composed of its active members in good standing.

D. It is further declared that this church is to remain separated from ecumenicalism, and from any ministry or group that would bring about compromise or deviation from our historical, dispensational, Bible-believing, Baptist position. (Article IV)

### **Section 3. New Testament Distinctive**

The literal, historical, dispensational interpretation of the Bible has led this church to believe that all church doctrine, polity and practice is a New Testament revelation, not found in the Old Testament. Therefore, Rocky Mountain Baptist Church shall be New Testament in all areas of church doctrine, polity and practice and shall support only those ministries that are true to New Testament doctrine, polity and practice.

#### Article II Name, Purpose, and Objective

### **Section 1. Name**

The name of this organization shall be Rocky Mountain Baptist Church of Ennis, Montana. Hereafter referred to as RMBC.

### **Section 2. Purpose and Objective**

It shall be the purpose and objective of this church, collectively and individually, to minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for all purposes required or consistent with Scriptures, as set forth within our Doctrinal Statement and Covenant, including but not limited to, the purpose of:

- A. Evangelizing the unsaved by preaching and teaching the Gospel of Christ and the distribution of Bibles and other Christian literature throughout Ennis and to the uttermost parts of the world.
- B. Encouraging and training believers to observe the teachings of Christ, confess Him openly through baptism, scripturally obey Him through local church membership, and consecrate themselves to His service.
- C. Edifying, strengthening and educating our members and their children in a manner consistent with the requirements set forth in Holy Scripture through worship, teaching and training.
- D. Actively engaging in the enterprise of missions both at home and abroad with prayers, programs and financial support.
- E. The purpose is further expressed in our Church Covenant.

### Article III

#### Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the public profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; we do now in the presence of God and this assembly, solemnly enter into covenant with one another, as on body in Christ, to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called.

We purpose, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to attend its services regularly; to uphold its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to give it sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to give faithfully of time and talent in its activities; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel throughout all nations.

We also purpose to maintain family and personal devotions; to train our children according to the Word of God, to seek the salvation of family, friends and all men; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our conduct; to avoid all gossip, backbiting and unrighteous anger; to abstain from all forms of activities which dishonor our Lord Jesus Christ, cause a fellow believer to stumble or hinder the winning of souls to Christ; to abstain from the use of all intoxicating beverages, mind altering substances and pornographic materials; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the cause of Christ our Savior and to give Him preeminence in all things.

We further purpose to comfort one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return; to encourage one another in brotherly love and accountability, giving and receiving admonition with meekness and love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian compassion and courtesy of speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to seek it without delay.

We moreover purpose, that when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with another church of like faith and practice, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. If there is no such church, we shall seek, with the Lord's help to establish one.

## Article IV Doctrinal Statement

This church believes the Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and sole authority in all matters of faith and practice. Our understanding of Christian truth as therein contained is expressed by the following declaration of faith.

### The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures, the sixty-six books from Genesis to Revelation, is the inspired Word of God; that it was written by holy men of God who were controlled by the Holy Spirit as to the very words used. Therefore, it is totally without error as originally given of God. It is and shall remain, until the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; that it is basic to Christian unity and the supreme authority by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried. **(2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:10; 2 Peter 1:21)**

### The Godhead

We believe there is one and only one living and true God. He is an infinite, perfect, self-existent, sovereign, holy, personal, loving, all-knowing (Omniscient), all-powerful (Omnipotent), everywhere present (Omnipresent) spirit, whose name is Jehovah. He is the creator and ruler of Heaven and Earth; revealed in three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each of these persons is to be honored and worshipped equally as true God. **(Genesis 1:26-27; Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:29; Psalm 18:31, 33:6-9; Isaiah 63:16; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1-11, 4:24, 10:30; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Colossians 1:17, 2:9)**

### The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is co-eternal and co-existent with God the Father and God the Son; that He Came to convict the world of sin, of righteousness and Judgement; and to regenerate, sanctify, comfort, teach, indwell, guide, and empower those who believe in Jesus Christ. **(John 14:14-16)**

- A. He is a person, not an impersonal influence. He came on the day of Pentecost, in response to the Savior's promise, to perform His many ministries on our behalf.
- B. We believe the Holy Spirit indwells every true Christian who, in turn, is commanded to be filled and controlled by the Spirit. **(Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:18)**
- C. We believe that the answer to daily victory in Christian living and power for personal evangelism is found in the fulness of the Holy Spirit. **(Acts 1:8; Romans 7-8)**

D. We believe that all worship, witness, evangelism, and missions should be conducted in the power of the Holy Spirit. We therefore discourage the use of fleshly methods of evangelism. All work and ministry of this church must be supported by Holy Spirit giving (tithes and offerings) and no other methods (raffles, spaghetti suppers, ect). **(John 4:24; 1 Corinthians 1:18, 27-31, 2:6-16)**

E. We believe that “speaking in tongues” is not the sign of Holy Spirit baptism. **(1 Corinthians 12:13, 30)**

F. We believe that of all the spiritual gifts, speaking in tongues was recognized by Paul to be open to certain abuses and dangers, so that, even in the New Testament age it occupied a subordinate position in the life of Christians. Ecstatic utterances do not necessarily require a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit, nor can it be assumed that this is a definite indication of His presence. **(1 Corinthians 12:27-31)**

G. We believe that the gifts of tongues, healing, and prophecy (revelatory) were a sign to Israel for the Apostolic Period and that, in this dispensation, God does not in His Word, teach us that such signs are for the Church age. **This church is neither Pentecostal nor Charismatic and the teachings and practices of those groups are not allowed within the fellowship or membership of this RMBC, lest divisions occur and the harmony of the assembly be weakened. (Deuteronomy 28:49; Psalm 133:1; Isaiah 28:11-12; 1 Corinthians 14:21-23, 33-34, 40)**

H. We believe that Scripture stresses love as the most excellent way, greater even than spiritual gifts.

#### Person and Work of Jesus Christ

We believe in the deity and virgin birth of our Lord Jesus Christ; that He is the eternal and only begotten Son of God; that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, not having a human father; that He was sinless in His life, and is true God and true man; that He made atonement for the sins of the world by His death, was buried and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. We believe in His bodily resurrection, His ascension into Heaven and His life there as High Priest and Advocate; that He is the only mediator between God and man. We believe that His coming for His own (the Rapture) is imminent (pre-tribulation) and that following the Tribulation period He will return to set up His Millennial Reign. **(Isaiah 4:14, 53:4-7; Matthew 1:18-25, 28:18-20; John 1:1-14; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-10, 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8; 1 Timothy 4:10; Titus 2:10-15; Hebrews 1:8, 4:14-15; Revelation 19:11-20:6)**

#### Satan

We believe in the existence of Satan: who was originally created a holy and perfect being, but through pride and unlawful ambition rebelled against God **(Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:13-17; 1 Timothy 3:7)**, thus becoming utterly depraved in

character (**John 8:44**), the great adversary of God and His people (**Matthew 4:1-11; Revelation 12:10**), leader of all other evil angels and spirits (**Matthew 12:22-28, 25:41**), the deceiver and god of this present world (**2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 2:9**); that his powers are supernaturally great, but strictly limited by the permissive will of God, who overrules all his wicked devices for good (**Book of Job, Luke 22:31-32**), and that he was defeated and judged at the cross and, therefore, his final doom is certain (**John 12:31-32, 16:11; Revelation 20:10**), that we are able to resist and overcome him only in the armor of God and by the blood of the lamb. (**Ephesians 6:11-18, Revelation 12:11**)

### State of Man

We believe in the total depravity of man. We believe that the material universe, including man, came into being by direct creation of God, and not by process of evolution. We believe that man was created in holiness, in the image and likeness of God, under the law of his Creator; but by voluntary transgression (Adam's sin) the whole human race fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind inherited a sinful nature and was alienated from God, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, and that man is totally depraved, positively inclined to evil and therefore under just condemnation to eternal judgement, without defense or excuse and of himself utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. (**Genesis 1:1, 1:26-27, 2:7, 3:1-15; John 1:1-3; Romans 1:18, 3:21-23, 5:12-14; Ephesians 2:1-3; Titus 3:5; Revelation 21:8**)

### Salvation of Man

A. We believe that faith in our Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition for salvation. Salvation is totally of grace and made possible only through the vicarious death of Jesus Christ upon the cross of Calvary and His resurrection from the dead. There is salvation in none other than Christ, and the personal acceptance of Him is absolutely essential. To be saved, a sinner must be born again; the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus, and it is instantaneous, not a process; evidenced by visible fruit of the Holy Spirit. (**John 3:6-7, 16-18, 36; Romans 6:23; 1 John 5:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:22-23; Acts 4:12, 16:31; Ephesians 2:8-9**)

B. We believe that the blessings of salvation are freely offered to all who will believe and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel. (**Isaiah 1:18; Revelation 22:17; Matthew 23:27; Mark 1:15; Romans 16:25-26; 2 Thessalonians 1:8**)

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

consummated at the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ. **(John 17:17; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 5:27; Hebrews 3:1, 10:9-10; 1 John 3:2)**

D. We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures for all who believe in Him is Justification. This justification includes the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life. It is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which His perfect righteousness is imputed to us of God, and that it brings us into a state of blessed peace, needful for time and eternity. **(Isaiah 53:11-12; Matthew 6:33, 9:6; John 2:16; Acts 10:43, 13:39; Romans 5:1-2, 17, 21; 1 Corinthians 1:30-31; Ephesians 3:8; Philippians 3:7-9; Titus 3:5-7)**

E. We believe, based on literal meaning, that all true believers possess eternal and everlasting life; that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation; and that they are saved and kept not by self-righteousness, but by the righteousness of Christ. **(John 3:16, 10:28-29; Romans 1:16; Hebrews 13:5; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Jude 24-25)**

#### Christian Walk

A. We believe that we are called with a holy calling to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit; to live in the power of the indwelling Spirit that we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. But the flesh with its Adamic nature, which in this life is never eradicated, being with us to the end of our earthly pilgrimage, needs to be kept by the Spirit constantly in subjection to Christ, or it will surely manifest its presence in our lives to the dishonor of our Lord. **(Romans 6:11-13, 8:4, 12, 13; Galatians 5:16-23; Ephesians 4:22-24; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 1:6-7, 3:5-9)**

B. We believe that the Bible teaches both personal and local church separation. All believers are called to separation from the evil in the world and to separation unto God. Separation is God's only provision to preserve His people from worldliness and to keep His churches from apostasy. **(John 17:15; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 2 John 2:15-17, 9-11)**

#### The Church

We believe that a church (local assembly) is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; established by Jesus Christ, who is the sole head; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising its Scriptural rights and privileges; that its only Scriptural officers are Bishops, or Pastors, and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus. We believe that the church began on the Day of Pentecost and will be consummated at the coming of Christ in the rapture. **(Matthew 16:15-20, 18:15-21; Acts 1:8, 2:1-47, 5:11, 8:1, 11:21-23, 14:22-23; 1 Corinthians 1:1-10, 11:2, 14:12; 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1; 3 John 9)**

## Church Ordinances

We believe that there are two church ordinances, Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

A. We believe that Believer's Baptism is immersion in water of a believer in Christ, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit to show forth in a solemn and beautiful picture our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, and our death to sin and resurrection to new life. Baptism should precede the privileges of church membership and the Lord's Supper. **(Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:42-43, 8:36-39, 16:14-15, 30-34; Romans 6:1-23)**

B. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a provision of unleavened bread and the unfermented fruit of the vine representing Christ's body and blood, partaken of by believers in commemoration of the death of our Lord and Savior, showing our faith and participation in the merits of His sacrifice, our dependence on Him for spiritual life and nourishment, resurrection from the dead, and our hope of the soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His own. **(Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 22:23-29)**

## Life after Death

We believe in future life, bodily resurrection, and eternal judgment; that the spirits of the redeemed at death go immediately to be with Christ in Heaven **(Philippians 1:21-23; 2 Corinthians 5:8)**, where they abide in joyful fellowship with Him until His second coming (rapture), when their bodies shall be raised from the grave and changed into the likeness of His own glorious body **(Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38; 1 John 3:2)**, at which time their works shall be brought before the Judgement Seat of Christ – a judgement which may issue in reward or the loss of rewards, or rebuke, but not the loss of the soul **(1 Corinthians 3:8-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Colossians 3:24-25)**, that the spirits of the unsaved at death descend immediately into Hades where they are kept under punishment until the final day of judgement **(Luke 16:19-31; 2 Peter 2:9)**, at which time their bodies shall be raised from the grave and they shall be judged according to their works and cast into the place of final and everlasting punishment. **(Mark 9:43-48, Jude 13; Revelation 20:11-15, 21:8)**

## Biblical Prophecy

**We believe in the pre-tribulation, pre-millennial return of Christ (rapture) for His Bride (the church).** This is the blessed hope for which we should constantly watch and pray, the time being unrevealed, but always imminent.

We believe that at the end of the tribulation period the Lord Jesus Christ will bodily, visibly return in order to establish His glorious and literal kingdom over all the nations for a thousand years; at the close of which God will raise and judge the unsaved



dead; and finally Christ will reign eternally with the Father, over the redeemed, in the new heaven and the new earth. **(John 14:3, Acts 2:22; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-10, 4:13-18; 2 Timothy 4:8; Revelation 1:7, 19:20-21)**

## Civil Government

We believe that civil government is ordained of God for the punishment of evil doers and the protection of the good. **(Romans 13:1-7)** We therefore, consider it our duty to pray for all those in authority **(1 Timothy 2:1-3)** and to be submissive and obedient to that authority, except in those things opposed to the will of God. **(Matthew 23:10; Acts 4:19, 5:29; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 1:3-14)** We believe in the separation of church and state.

## Article V

### Membership

It is the prayerful desire of this church to follow the simple Scriptural procedure concerning church membership as outlined in Acts 2:40-47. This includes the preaching of the Gospel of Christ, salvation by faith, baptism, church membership and the Lord's Supper.

#### Grounds upon which membership may be established

##### A. By profession and baptism

Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, giving evidence of regeneration, and adopting the views of faith and practice as set forth in this Church Constitution may, upon baptism by immersion, be received into full church membership.

##### B. By letter

Any person who is in accord with the views and principles of this church may be received into membership upon acceptance of a letter from a sister church of like faith and practice, in which they hold membership.

##### C. By experience

A believer of worthy Christian character, who was formerly a member of a church of like faith and practice, who, for sufficient reason, cannot present a letter from that church, but agrees with the views of faith and practice held by this church, may be received into membership upon statement of faith and evidence of Scriptural baptism.

#### D. By restoration

Any member who has lost their membership for any reason and has shown fruit of repentance may be restored to membership upon the recommendation of the pastor and deacons (or trustees) and the unanimous decision of the church. Public offenses require public repentance and possibly a period of prohibition.

#### Application and Procedure

A. Each candidate for membership shall meet with the pastor and deacons and indicate their desire to become members of RMBC. If needed, instruction in the areas of Bible doctrine, Baptist polity and the responsibilities of church membership, will be provided. Each candidate must declare their understanding and acceptance of the Church Constitution before a recommendation can be made.

B. Each applicant for church membership may be presented to the church {and voted on} at the close of any service or during the regular administrative meetings of the church. Each candidate will at this time share their public profession of faith in Jesus Christ and subsequent Scriptural baptism.

C. All candidates, after they have been received into membership, shall be extended the "Right hand of fellowship" by all members at the next communion service, if possible. Official standing as members begins at this time. The names of all such newly received members shall be recorded in the church's permanent records by the clerk.

#### Seasonal Members

In our efforts to reflect the Biblical principles of local church membership, it is the decision of RMBC to make provision for those individuals who reside in the Madison Valley for only a portion of the year. The intent is to allow those individuals, who are faithful in their attendance and support of this ministry, to have all the rights and privileges of membership while they are here. Any seasonal individual may request to become a member in keeping with the guidelines above with two additional points of clarity.

A. The pastor of the individual's home church must agree with this arrangement. The pastor of RMBC will speak with and confirm that this policy is okay with the other church.

B. This status only applies while physically in residence in Montana. There is no allowance for absentee voting for regular or seasonal members.

#### Duties of membership

A. **Members shall strive to keep their covenant obligations (Article III).** They should honor, esteem and love the pastor; pray for him daily; recognize his authority in spiritual affairs, and assist him in carrying out the programs of the church. Each member should have a

brotherly love for all members and endeavor to preserve the unity of the church. If at any time a member finds himself unchangingly opposed to the doctrines and procedures of this church (as described in the Constitution), he will not seek to disrupt its fellowship, but will quietly submit a request for immediate removal from membership upon a church vote.

B. Each member of the church is expected to attend its meetings, work for its spiritual and physical growth, guard its good name in the community, and keep the clerk informed as to their residence.

C. Every member is expected to walk circumspectly before the world and support the ministry through prayer and financial giving (as the Spirit leads) according to Biblical beliefs.

### Termination of Membership

Membership may be terminated in the following ways by congregational vote.

A. Death of a member

B. Letter of transfer and commendation to any other church of like faith and practice. Such a letter shall be sent only to a requesting church.

C. Discipline

A member may be removed from membership as a result of disciplinary action per Article VI.

D. Inactivity

### Standing of Members

Members who do not attend at least one service per week for a period of 3 months and have not communicated with the church shall be placed on Inactive status and after another 3-month period be removed.

A. An inactive member shall not have the privilege of voting in any administrative meeting or holding any office of leadership.

B. Names continuing on inactive status for more than 3 months shall be removed from membership by church vote.

C. Members on inactive status may be reinstated to active status by church vote, following a personal request, after a period of 3 months of regular attendance and evidence of resumption of covenant obligations.

D. Members who communicate legitimate reasons for their absence shall not be placed on inactive status: e.g. the sick, shut-ins, seasonal.

## Church Discipline

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ states the church's duty to exercise discipline, excluding from its fellowship any member who persists in sin and disobedience to God's Word. His command to exercise discipline in the church is as definite as His commands to baptize and to commemorate His death by the use of symbols. **(Matthew 18:15-20)** The discipling of sinning members is necessary for the spiritual health and blessing of the church. It is indispensable to building truly Christian, spiritual, victorious congregations. To surrender this duty and privilege means weakness and defeat; sin and the world will slip in and take over; the Holy Spirit will be grieved and quenched.

### Section 1 Personal offenses

Offenses are inevitable, and it is important that they be settled privately according to the pattern outlined in Matthew 18:15-17. Members are to seek reconciliation in a spirit of love when offenses occur, whether noticed by the offender **(Matthew 5:23-24)** or the offended person. However, if the parties involved will not follow this pattern, or if, upon following it, reconciliation has not been reached, the pastor and deacons may need to become involved in order to preserve the peace and unity of the church.

- A. When the sin or offense is personal and private, the injured should go at once to the one who has done the injury and show him his fault. Every effort should be made for reconciliation. Patience, love and understanding should be exercised. **(Matthew 18:15-22; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7)**
- B. In connection with these Scriptures it is well to consider also, the duty of one who has reason to believe that a brother has been injured by him and is offended. We find the law of the Lord Jesus Christ for such cases in Matthew 5:23-24. This is also to be a very private matter between the two. Each should carefully guard the reputation of the other. To follow these teachings of the Lord would mean continued harmony, love, fellowship and the blessings of God upon the church.
- C. If the injured goes to the one doing the injury, and that one sees his/her fault and repents of it, the injured party should immediately and fully forgive him/her, at which time the matter would end.
- D. But if the one doing the injury will not see and acknowledge his/her fault, or repent of it, a second step must be taken. When such private effort at supporting righteousness fails, the injured party is commanded to get one or two spiritual persons to go with him to the offender. It is suggested that these persons be pastors or deacons.
- E. If after much prayerful discussion a reconciliation is not made, the injured may then take the matter to the church, should it be of serious enough nature to warrant such action. No public recommendation to either consider or prosecute such a move shall be made except by the pastor and deacons.

F. If the offending party will hear the church and yield to the prayerful decision of the members assembled, there should be an immediate and complete reconciliation.

G. If the member will not hear the church and do right, then by vote of the church, membership shall be revoked.

H. The members of the church shall continue to work and pray for the individual's restoration but shall not extend such comfort and sympathy as would lessen or alleviate the effect of the exclusion.

## Section 2 General offenses

Should any member become an offense to the church and a stumbling block to the ministry, secretly or otherwise, by reason of: immoral, disorderly, or un Christ-like conduct; undermining, divisive or rebellious actions; consistent breach of covenant vows; or by reason of heretical beliefs, the church may terminate membership.

A. No public recommendation to either consider or prosecute such a move shall be made except by the pastor and deacons.

B. In all cases where disciplinary discharge is considered, the pastor and deacons shall exercise every spiritual means of persuasion and prayer to draw the errant member back to the fellowship of the church.

C. When every effort has failed to restore such a member, the pastor and deacons shall recommend disciplinary action by the church.

D. The member in question shall then be notified by the head deacon or by the pastor, as to the time when such a recommendation is to be presented to the church.

E. A member shall be excluded from church membership only after much prayer and loving patience has been exercised towards a Scriptural reconciliation. The end purpose of church discipline is restoration.

## Article VII

### Church Officers

#### Section 1 Pastors (Shepherds, Bishops, Elders)

A. **Qualifications 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:4-2:15**

1. He must be above reproach (blameless). No grounds for accusing him of improper behavior; does not mean sinless perfection.

2. Husband of first wife, except in the case of widower

3. Cautious, observing, watchful, alert

4. Prudent, sensible, wise, self-controlled and balanced in judgment.
  5. Respectable, demonstrating good behavior and an orderly life
  6. Hospitable, unselfish, willing to share his home, material blessings, and personal life with others.
  7. Able to teach, able to communicate sound doctrine and truth to others in a non-argumentative way.
  8. Temperate, absolute abstinence from alcoholic beverages. The overseer must not be a drinker.
  9. Not a striker or person given to physical violence; gentle.
  10. Uncontentious; not given to quarreling or selfish argumentation.
  11. Free from the love of money; not stingy with his material blessings and a good steward of his money.
  12. One who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity. He must have the respect and obedience of his family.
  13. Not a new convert; a mature believer who demonstrates spirituality.
  14. Good reputation with those outside the church. Unbelievers respect his character and integrity.
  15. Not self-willed; not stubborn or one who tries to have his own way.
  16. Not quick tempered; doesn't anger quickly or "fly off the handle".
  17. Loves what is good; desires to do the will of God in everything.
  18. Must be just, fair and impartial; Judgments are based upon principles.
  19. Devout; separated from sin.
  20. Must hold fast the faithful Word of God; stable in the faith does not teach one thing and live another.
- B. There shall be a senior pastor who shall preside over the pastors, deacons and congregation.
- C. Duties
1. The New Testament clearly teaches that the pastors of local churches have a multiple ministry: they are pastors(shepherds) who lead, feed, teach,

protect the congregation (flock); they are bishops (superintendents); and elders (presiding officers).

2. The pastor shall serve as the chairman of the deacons.
3. As the under shepherd of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the senior pastor shall have charge of the pulpit ministry and conduct the regular and special services of the church. He shall have pastoral supervision of all the teaching and preaching of the church and its ministries in fulfillment of the Great Commission.
4. The pastors of this church are cautioned against “being lords over God’s heritage” (**1 Peter 5:3**), ever remembering their ministry is one of love, example, service, and spirit-filled leadership. They must always remember their accountability to the Lord and to this church body. (**1 Peter 5:4**)
5. As God provides and leads, this church may call, ordain (if necessary) and/or designate certain God-called men to serve as associate pastor, youth pastor, or minister (director) of music, etc. Only the senior pastor shall submit candidate recommendations to the church body for consideration.

#### D. Leadership Styles (**Romans 12:3**)

1. New Testament pastors are not to be confused with Old Testament prophets (**1 Chronicles 16:22**); They have no special anointing that other believers do not have, nor are they to be thought of as Old Testament “men of God,” i.e., men with special revelations or missions given directly from God. (**Deuteronomy 33:1; 1 Samuel 2:27; 2 Chronicles 23:14**) Pastors are to remember the priesthood of all believers and that Christ Jesus is the only mediator between God and man.

2. Believers should listen prayerfully and respectfully to their pastor’s teaching and preaching, but they should listen with an open Bible before them. (**Acts 17:11**) Every ministry must be judged by God’s Word.

#### E. It is the duty of every member of this church to love and support the ministry of the pastor(s) of the church, so long as the ministry is Scriptural and Christ honoring. (**Acts 17:11; Hebrews 13:7, 17**)

1. Every church member should respect and acknowledge the pastor’s position and calling as the spiritual leader of the congregation, putting into practice the admonition of Hebrews 13:17

2. Every church member should seek to shield and protect the pastor(s) from destructive and unkind criticism. (**2 Thessalonians 3:1-5; Hebrews 13:18**)

3. Above all else, every church member should continually pray for the pastor(s). (**1 Thessalonians 5:25; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5; Hebrews 13:18**)

F. The provision and care of the pastor

1. When it is necessary to call a pastor, the pulpit committee, shall discuss the financial arrangements with the prospective candidate.
2. The matters of salary. Housing, utilities, insurance (including health, automobile, house, and life), auto-mobile and transportation expenses, travel allowance, library allowance, vacation and retirement, ect., shall be mutually agreed upon. These arrangements shall be reviewed annually by the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee shall present their recommendations to the Committee shall present their recommendations to the congregation for church action at the annual meeting.

G. The call of the pastor

This is the general procedure to be followed by the Pulpit Committee:

1. Prayerfully seek out possible qualified candidates.
2. When so led by the Holy Spirit, discuss with the prospective candidate the possibility of being called to this church and give background information concerning the church.
3. Mail or give to the possible candidate a copy of the Church Constitution.
4. After the possible candidate has had sufficient time to study the constitution he should be questioned as to his understanding and adherence.
5. If the possible candidate professes agreement with the constitution (including the Doctrinal Statement, and Covenant) he may, by unanimous decision of the pulpit committee, be invited to the church to candidate. During this visit the candidate should be thoroughly examined by the pulpit committee concerning doctrine, polity, and practice. Provision should be made for an informal congregational meeting to better acquaint the candidate with the congregation and for a time of questions and answers.
6. Only one candidate at a time may be presented to the church for a vote.
7. The pastor's tenure shall be for an indefinite period.
8. This tenure may be terminated by the resignation of the pastor or by vote of the church as a result of disciplinary action.

Section 2 Deacons

A. Qualifications **(Acts 6:3; 1 Timothy 3:8-13)**

1. "A man of dignity" – means a man who is held in high respect



2. “Not double-tongued” – not a person who slanders or is a talebearer.
3. “Not addicted to much wine” – total, absolute abstinence from alcoholic beverages or anything else that is harmful to the body or mind.
4. “Not fond of sordid gain” – means he is free from the love of money, or the selfish pursuit of money.
5. “Holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience” – a pure and loyal conscience is the means by which he preserves the faith.
6. “Beyond reproach” – means blameless; no grounds for accusing him of improper behavior; does not mean sinless perfection.
7. “Husband of the first wife” – except in the case of widower.
8. “Good managers of their children and their own households” – means they superintend the home relationship well.

Deacons must not be selected who do not possess the qualifications as given in the above Scriptures. The number of deacons must be determined by the church, based on the number of qualified men.

- B. The Greek word for deacon was a common everyday household word for ministering servant. In the New Testament the word is used to speak of a very special Scriptural office of ministry and service to the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ. **(1 Timothy 3:10-12 restricts this office to men only)**

The deacons of this church shall not be thought of as being a managerial board. They are to be born-again, spirit-filled laymen who have a “servant spirit”. **(Philippians 2:7)** Every effort must be made to maintain Biblical pastoral leadership, deacon service, and congregational government.

- C. Organization

1. The deacons shall choose from their number a head deacon and secretary. The head deacon shall assist the senior pastor in presiding over the meetings of the deacons, and in the absence of the senior pastor, act as the chairman. He shall represent the deacons to the congregation whenever that seems advisable.
2. The secretary of the deacons shall keep the minutes from which a summary will be taken and submitted, with the annual deacon’s report, to the church.

D. Pulpit watch care

The church body, under the leadership of the head deacon, shall exercise a loving, caring and unselfish watch care over the testimony and ministry of the pastor(s) of the church. In the unhappy event that any pastor should be found guilty of immoral conduct, serious neglect of pastoral duties, or doctrinal heresy, the church body shall move in disciplinary action against the pastor by following the procedure as found in **(1 Timothy 5:19)**, (with accusations being well documented and two or three witnesses presenting the accusations in writing), and in Article VI Section 3. Such action would terminate his membership and office as pastor of the Church.

E. Ordinances

The deacons (or trustees in the absence of deacons) shall prepare for and assist in the observances of believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper. They shall be stewards of the deacons' (benevolence) fund.

F. Membership

The deacons along with the pastor, shall be responsible for the instruction and presentation of new members to the church. They shall also assist the pastor and church clerk in updating the membership list.

G. Term of office

The deacon shall be elected to serve a three-year term of office. After serving two consecutive terms of three years, deacons shall not be eligible for re-election until they have been out of office for one year. This restriction may be waived, by unanimous vote of the church, in the absence of qualified men.

“For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” **(1 Timothy 3:13)**

“Wherefore, brethren, look out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.” **(Acts 6:3)**

Section 3 Deaconesses

A. Qualifications

The number of deaconesses shall be determined by the church body, based on the number of qualified women. (A deaconess is not an officer of the church) **(Romans 16:1-2; Titus 2:3-5; Philippians 4:3; 1 Timothy 3:8-13)**

B. Duties

1. The deaconesses shall assist the pastor and deacons in the watch care ministry of the membership, especially in the areas of teaching and counseling the younger women.
2. Deaconesses shall be available to:
  - a. assist the deacons' wives in preparation of the Lord's Supper.
  - b. assist women and girls in preparation for believer's baptism.

C. Terms of office      See section 2 G.

Article VIII

Church Leaders

Section 1      Leaders of the church

A. The elected leaders of the church shall be; treasurer; clerk and trustees.

B. Appointed leaders include:

Sunday School Superintendent

Social/Hospitality Coordinator

Nursery Coordinator

These leaders will be recruited by the senior pastor, and upon acceptance of their appointment, will serve in their capacity for one year, at which time they may be recruited for re-appointment or not. The senior pastor will provide each with a job description and provide continued leadership/supervision in their respective areas of ministry. Their appointment will be announced at the annual meeting, at which time their year of service begins.

C. No one shall be elected to office who has not reached their eighteenth birthday or has not been a member of the church for at least one year; except that upon recommendation of the pastor and deacons a person may be considered by the church body as a candidate for office after only six months of membership.

D. All positions of service and responsibility in the church represent places of leadership and as such, place a sacred trust upon those Christians who have accepted such a call. To them is entrusted a serious matter, for which they will be accountable before God, as they share in the program and ministry of the church to therefore glorify God, edify the saints, and be a means to the end of leading the unsaved to the Lord Jesus Christ.

- E. In light of 1 Timothy 4:12 all leaders shall be an example to the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith and in purity.
- F. Therefore, all leaders shall display spiritual maturity, be loyal to the Word of God, dedicated and devoted to Jesus Christ, the spiritual welfare of the church and the maintenance of its properties. They shall also be faithful in attendance and participation, both in regular services and administrative meetings of the church.
- G. Term of office is one year, with elections held at the annual meeting. All nominations should be routed through the nominating committee.
- H. Any leader unable or unwilling to fulfill the duties of his office shall resign. If, at any time, a leader (elected or appointed) cannot, in good faith, abide by this constitution, his/her office will be declared vacant, and the church will move in disciplinary proceedings against that individual.
- I. All leaders shall assume their duties following the annual meeting. Retiring leaders shall hold office until the terms of newly-elected begins. The overlap period shall be a time of training and transition.

#### Section 2. Moderator

1. The moderator of the church shall be the senior pastor. He shall preside over all regular and duly called meetings of the church. The church business meetings shall be conducted on the "Love Principle" as outlined in Philippians 2.
2. Ample time shall be given to prayer and discussion in an effort to seek, know, and do the will of the Lord Jesus Christ. Every prayerful effort shall be exercised to always reach a unanimous decision.
3. In the absence of a senior pastor, the position of moderator shall be filled in the following order: Associate pastor, head deacon/trustee, or chairman of the pulpit committee.

#### Section 3. Clerk

The church clerk shall keep an accurate record of all administrative meetings and membership rolls, including dates of admission, placement on Inactive status list, terminations, etc. The clerk shall be custodian of all papers and documents of the church. Two weeks before the annual administrative meeting a notice shall be posted which shall include: the reports of the nominating committee and the proposed budget for the coming year. The clerk shall serve as secretary of the corporation.

#### Section 4. Treasurer

- A. The treasurer, along with a representative from the deacons, trustees or church body (in that order) shall count all monies received at the end of each church service.

- B. Records shall be kept in accordance with customary church-accounting procedures, in compliance with current IRS guidelines.
- C. The treasurer shall provide the church body with a record of all money received and deposited, specifying the distribution into various funds, as indicated by the donors or by special offerings.
- D. The treasurer shall be responsible for depositing all funds in the bank.
- E. In the absence of a treasurer, the pastor shall appoint an alternate treasurer from the officers or elected/appointed leaders to supervise the counting, recording and depositing of all offerings.
- F. The treasurer shall be responsible for the recording of all financial transaction in permanent records and shall make quarterly and annual reports to the church.
- G. The treasurer shall pay the bills of the church in a timely manner. Checks shall be countersigned by one other person authorized by the church body. At no time will a husband and wife both be authorized to sign checks.
- H. The treasurer shall act as corporate treasurer.

#### Section 5. Trustees

- A. Shall meet the maintenance needs of the church, parsonage and grounds in an effort to keep a good testimony before the community and be good stewards of God's provision.
- B. Shall act as corporate trustees, as civil law requires.
- C. Shall oversee the annual inventory, maintenance and use of all church property (fixed, real or movable), in accordance with the instructions of the church. Recommendations for any maintenance requiring church funds of over \$200.00 shall be submitted to the church body.
- D. The worship and education units shall be used only for such meetings and activities as shall promote the Gospel and honor the Lord. At no time will the buildings be used for profit-making or for activities that are contrary to our Constitution.
- E. The Trustees shall meet at least quarterly to review the maintenance needs of the church and its properties.

### Article IX

#### Commîtes

#### Section 1. Guidelines

- A. There shall be no standing committees in the Rocky Mountain Baptist Church. Committees will be formed for a specific purpose, remain intact for a set length of time, and then be dissolved.
- B. There shall be three committees that convene on a recurring basis. They are: Pulpit committee, Budget committee, and Nominating Committee.
- C. The senior pastor is the ex-officio chairman of the budget and nominating committees.
- D. All committees are to be made up of church members in good standing.

#### Section 2. The Pulpit committee

- A. The purpose of the Pulpit committee is to
  1. Provide leadership to the church during the transition between pastors
  2. Search for a suitable pastoral candidate
  3. Present their choice of candidate to the church for consideration while acting as the hosts and transition liaison during the canidating process.
- B. Due to the serious nature of this purpose, the PC should be made up of 3 men who are spiritual and faithful with the ability to discern godly character. They should possess sensitivity and insight to represent the long-term needs of RMBC.
- C. Since the selection and call of the pastoral candidate requires discretion and confidentiality, the church body delegates this awesome responsibility to the PC. The church then has the opportunity during the actual candidating process to vote her conscience. Only the PC has the authority of the church to select and invite candidates.
- D. Upon resignation of the pastor, the church should immediately select her PC. The resigning pastor should provide leadership in this process. If, however, the pastor is leaving due to discipline or ill-will, the church must still immediately select 3 worthy men to serve as the PC. Once a new pastor has accepted a call from the church, the PC is dissolved.

#### Section 3. The Budget Committee

- A. The purpose of the Budget Committee (BC) is to project and prepare a yearly budget proposal for the church. This proposed budget is then presented to the church at its annual business meeting. The church may then choose to adopt the proposed budget or adopt the budget with specified changes. Included in the BC's proposal is an annual review of the pastor's financial support, which will necessarily involve a recommendation to maintain or modify said support.

- B. The BC should consist of the treasurer and trustees of the church plus one other spiritual individual selected by the church at its October quarterly business meeting. The BC should have its budget proposal prepared and ready to distribute on the first Sunday of January.
- C. The BC is dissolved upon completion of the annual business meeting.

#### Section 4. The Nominating Committee

- A. The purpose of the Nominating Committee (NC) is to select nominees from the church body who are qualified to serve the church in selected areas of leadership, and to select nominees for the office of deacon. It is the responsibility of the NC to contact the prospective nominees to ascertain their willingness to serve before submitting their names for consideration.
- B. The final list of nominees shall be ready for distribution on the first Sunday of January. Nominations for elected leaders and deacons will not be taken from the floor during the annual business meeting, therefore, request for nominees must be routed through the NC well before the annual meeting.
- C. The NC will consist of the deacons/trustees and one other spiritual and faithful church member selected by the church during the October quarterly meeting. The church body delegates authority to the NC to select nominees, then moves as a body to vote for the leaders of its choice during the annual business meeting in January. Upon completion of the annual meeting the NC is dissolved.

### Article X

#### Church Government

##### Section 1. Congregational Church Government

In an effort to be true to the New Testament model. This church shall practice the congregational form of church government. This church shall not be governed by “bishops” from without the church, nor by “lay leaders” from within.

##### Section 2. Definition

- A. By congregational government we mean that the pastors should be functioning as the bishops and overseers that they are; the deacons should be functioning as the ministering servants of the church; and all other members should be exercising their believer priesthood responsibilities. Here we see the pastors, deacons, and other members prayerfully and lovingly working together as a local church congregation. This is true congregational government.
- B. Congregational government should not be thought of as government by the members of the church as though they were somehow apart from the pastors

and deacons. Pastoral leadership, deacon service and prayerful participation by the entire membership results in true congregational government.

- C. All of this must be done under the Lordship of Christ, the leadership of the Holy Spirit, the authority of the Word and in Christian love. Every member of the church must be courteous, ever seeking to put others first.
- D. Every member of the church must learn to seek the Lordship of Christ over the church. All self-will and self-seeking independence must be put aside. We must all surrender our wills to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All “rights” belong to Him. **(Acts 20:28; Romans 12; Philippians 2:1-11; 1 Peter 5:1-7)**

### Section 3. Church Polity

- A. This church shall not be organized nor, shall it function as a political unit, in the derogatory sense of the word. Prayerful effort must be made to avoid self-will, politicking, scheming, rivalry, polarizing into rival cliques and carnal division. **(James 3:14-17)**
- B. This church is a priesthood of believers seeking, knowing and doing the will of the Lord Jesus Christ, exercising soul liberty with every member equal before God, free to express and/or vote their conscience as taught by the Word of God and led by the Holy Spirit in answer to earnest prayer. Section 4. The Love Principle

This church shall practice the “Love Principle” of church government as outlined below:

1. Every area of church life shall be governed by an overriding principle of “love one another” **(Ephesians 4:2-3)**
2. The principles of church polity as taught in Philippians 2
  - a. “Be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind”...v2
  - b. “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory,” stop and pray until there is unity, love and mutual understanding...v3
  - c. “In lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves”...v3
  - d. Pastors, deacons and all members should manifest a servant’s spirit. V5-8
3. The Lordship of Christ, not the will of the people, is to be acknowledged and honored. **(Romans 14:9; 1 Corinthians 12:3; Ephesians 1:22; Philippians 2:11)**



4. The leadership of the Holy Spirit is to be sought and followed. **(Galatians 5:16-26)**
5. Ample time shall be given to prayer and discussion in an effort to seek and do the will of Christ. Every prayerful effort shall be exercised to reach a unanimous decision.
6. In the event of disagreement, after much prayer and effort to reach a unanimous decision, the church may settle the matter by using a ballot vote and then abiding by the majority 80%.

## Article XI

### Administrative Meetings

Suggested order of business for the annual meeting:

1. Bible Study and Prayer
2. A reading and approval of the minutes from previous meeting.
3. Clerk's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Deacon's Report
6. Pastor's Report
7. Election of officers and leaders
8. Unfinished business
9. New business – acceptance of budget for following year
10. Adjournment

#### Section 1. The Quarterly Business meetings

Regular administrative meetings shall be held quarterly in April, July and October for the purpose of receiving financial reports and taking care of minutes of the previous quarterly meeting and of any prior special meeting. An announcement shall be made from the pulpit 2 Sundays prior to the quarterly meeting stating the date, time and place.

#### Section 2. Specially called administrative meetings

Special meetings may be called by the pastor, the deacons or by majority vote of the church body. All special meetings shall be announced in at least one Sunday service prior to the special meeting.

Section 3. Specially called meeting for extending a pastoral call.

The pulpit committee may call a special administrative meeting for the purpose of voting on the call of a pastor, by having a proper announcement made in both morning and evening services on the Sunday prior to the meeting. An 80% majority vote shall be required in order to extend a call to a pastor. Every prayerful effort must be made to reach a unanimous decision in this most important matter.

Section 4. Absentee Voting

There shall be no absentee voting in any administrative meeting of the church.

Section 5.

All administrative meetings shall begin with Bible study and prayer for God's guidance.

Section 6. Quorum of Members

The members present at any regularly scheduled worship service on Sunday or Wednesday of each week shall constitute a quorum. The members present at a specially called administrative meeting, after notice thereof shall constitute a quorum.

## Article XII

### Missions

This church shall support missionary cause consistent with its own beliefs and practices. All missionaries supported by this church shall indicate full agreement with the doctrinal position of this church by signing its statement of faith with any reservations. Designated gifts to missionaries will be honored if said missionaries are in harmony with the doctrines and practices of this church.

The missionary policies of this church shall be as follows:

Section 1. Missionary support (for foreign missionaries) shall be for one term only, and this shall be clearly stated to missionaries whom the church supports. At the end of

each term they should meet with the pastor and deacons of the church, to be questioned concerning his doctrinal position and work. This shall be the normal procedure, but in cases where a personal interview is absolutely impossible, detailed questions shall be submitted to each missionary, or the pastor of this church will conduct the interview in person on the field. No missionary shall receive further support from this church who does not satisfactorily answer or refuses to answer, such questions as may be asked, or who evidences a departure from the faith and practices of this church.

Section 2. The missionary support of home missionaries normally shall be reviewed every four years though the church may review their work at any time it deems necessary. It is to be expected that home missionaries being supported by this church shall visit the church at least once in a four-year period. And will be interviewed by the pastor and deacons in the same manner as foreign missionaries.

Section 3. This church shall support missionaries who are members of a fundamental Baptist church not in fellowship with any convention or association that permits apostasy and who are engaged in founding Baptists churches on the fields where they are laboring or are engaged in some type of church planting effort. The church shall not look with favor upon the support of "institutional" missionaries who are engaged in educational, medical, literature, linguistic or other work unless that work is directly related to the establishment of churches. Missionary work is therefore recognized to be the establishment of local churches throughout the world and all efforts not directly related to that goal are not to be supported by this church under the missions budget.

Section 4. No organization within the church shall give occasional gifts of money or material goods to ministries or Christian workers not normally supported by the church without first receiving the approval of the church.

Section 5. When the pastor and deacons discover that foreign or home missionaries who are supported by this church have departed from the faith and practices of this church, these facts shall be brought to the attention of the church at a business meeting. Missionaries who have deviated in this manner will be removed from the mission's budget by vote of the church.

Section 6. The church shall make every effort to send its pastor on an annual missions' trip. One purpose of this trip will be to personally encourage our missionaries on their field, and report back to the church concerning their needs and effectiveness. Another purpose may be to survey other fields to ascertain the need of establishing a mission work there, or to explore the possibility of supporting a work already established, but not yet supported by this church.

### Article XIII

#### Amendments

Amendments or revisions to this constitution must be presented to the pastor for prayerful consideration and recommendation to the church. All such proposed

amendments and/or revisions shall be presented to the church for adoption only at the annual January administrative meeting and only after they have been printed, distributed to members, posted and publicly read two Sundays prior to the meeting. An 80% majority vote shall be required for adoption. Every prayerful effort must be made to reach a unanimous decision.

**CAUTION:** At no time shall any revision or amendment be made to the Biblical position, purpose and objective, doctrinal statement or church government portions of this constitution that would change the meaning or stated intention.

#### Article XIV

##### Financial Policy

This church shall be supported by the tithes, offerings and voluntary gifts of the Lord's people. We believe that every Christian should seek to give systematically, regularly, proportionately, sacrificially and cheerfully of his substance to the Lord's work through the local church. **(2 Corinthians 9:6-7)** No means such as raffles, suppers, rummage sales, games or entertainment shall be used to raise money for the church and its ministries.

#### Article XV

##### Distribution of Assets

Upon dissolution of this church, the trustees may pay or make provision for the payment of all liabilities of the church, dispose of all the assets of this church exclusively for the purposes of the church in such manner, or to such organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision given the advance of time) and only to fundamental, seperatistic, pre-millennial, Baptist, non-profit corporation, the doctrinal position of which is in keeping with the doctrinal statement of this constitution.

#### Article XVI

##### Non-discriminatory Policy

This church shall have a racially non-discriminatory policy as to members and therefore, shall not discriminate against applicants on the basis of race, color and national or ethnic origin.

## Article XVII

## RMBC Statement on Marriage, Sexuality, &amp; Gender

We believe that God has established marriage as a lifelong, exclusive relationship between one man and one woman and that all sexual activity outside the marriage relationship, whether heterosexual, homosexual or otherwise, is immoral and therefore sin. **(Genesis 2:24-25; Exodus 20:14, 17, 22:19; Leviticus 18:22-23, 20:13, 15-16; Matthew 19:4-6; Romans 1:18-31; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 15-20; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; Jude 7)**

We believe that God created the human race male and female and that all conduct with the intent to adopt a gender other than one's biological gender at birth is opposed to the clear teaching of Scripture. **(Genesis 1:27; Deuteronomy 22:5)**

**Accepted 4/30/2023**

**Pastor Nate Holt**

**Clerk/Recorder Justin Mahsman**