Missionary Grove Baptist Church of Camden, Inc.

Constitution and Bylaws

**September 2020 Revision**

# PROPOSED

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## Constitution

### Preamble

In recognition of our submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ as our Savior and His authority as head of the church; to this end that this body may be governed as a Biblically functioning church in accordance with God’s Word and for the purpose of glorifying our Savior Jesus Christ and obeying His great commission, we do declare and establish this constitution.

### Name

This body of believers shall be known as Missionary Grove Baptist Church Of Camden, Inc. This body meets periodically at 165 Missionary Gove Church Road, Camden, Tennessee 38320.

Mission

Our mission is to lead all people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

### Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and being in agreement with the values and ideas presented at MGBC, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Missionary Grove Baptist Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. **I will protect the unity of my church**:

1. By acting in love toward other members.
2. By refusing to gossip.
3. By following the leaders.

*So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. Romans 14:19 (NLT)*

*May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for follower of Christ Jesus. Romans 15:5 (NLT)*

*You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart. 1 Peter 1:22 (NLT)*

*Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. Ephesians 4:29 (NLT)*

*Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit. Hebrews 13:17 (NLT)*

1. **I will share the responsibility of my church**:
   1. By praying for its growth.
   2. By inviting the unchurched to attend.
   3. By warmly welcoming those who visit.

*To the church… we always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2 (NIV)*

*So his master said, “Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.” Luke 14:23 (NLT)*

*Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory. Romans 15:7 (NLT)*

1. **I will serve the ministry of my church**:
   1. By discovering my spiritual gift and talents.
   2. By being equipped to serve by my pastors.
   3. By developing a servant’s heart.

*God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)*

*Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12 (NLT)*

*Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus… by taking on the very nature of a servant. Philippians 2:4-5, 7 (NIV)*

1. **I will support the testimony of my church**:
   1. By attending church faithfully.
   2. By living a Godly life.
   3. By giving regularly.

*All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. Acts 2:42 (NLT) And let us not neglect our meeting together… but encourage one another... Hebrews*

*10:25 (NLT)*

*Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ... Philippians 1:27 (NLT)*

*Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering. 1 Corinthians 16:2 (LB)*

*One-tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain form the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to him as holy. Leviticus 27:30 (NLT)*

Articles of Faith

The Baptist Faith and Message (2000) as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

### Affiliation

This body of believers is autonomous and chooses to affiliate with:

The Carroll-Benton Baptist Association

The Tennessee Baptist Convention

The Southern Baptist Convention

## Bylaws

### Article I: Membership

Section I – Qualifications

Membership in this church shall be obtained in one of the following ways:

1. By Profession of Faith and Baptism
2. By receipt of a letter from a church of like faith and order
3. By statement of faith when a letter cannot be obtained. Such a statement must include a testimony of their profession of faith in Christ, their baptism by immersion in a church of like faith and order.

Section II – Rights

Members as are in full and regular standing, may act and vote in the traditions of the church. They may also hold any of the elected offices or positions in the church.

Section III – Termination

Members can be removed from membership by requesting the removal of their names from membership. Members may be removed from membership if they:

1. Die, or
2. Join another church, or
3. Engage in and refuse to halt any behavior that violates the member covenant.

### Article II: Church Authority

Authority is vested in the membership as defined in this constitution and bylaws. Jesus Christ and the Bible serve as the ultimate source of authority for this church.

### Article III: Church Officers

Section I – Pastor

The pastor shall oversee, lead, and care for the church. His qualifications are found in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1 and 1 Peter 5.

When the church is seeking a pastor, a Pastor Search Committee is to be formed. The composition of this committee shall exhibit an earnest attempt to represent the ages, genders and concerns of the church membership. The committee shall consider one candidate at a time and must be unanimous in their recommendations of a candidate to the church membership.

The selection of a pastor must be approved by the church membership during Sunday worship services. To approve the calling of a pastor, a minimum of 75 percent of the members present and voting on the Sunday that the candidate is presented to the church body for approval and call must confirm or approve the call.

Section II - Deacons

Deacons are to be servants of the church and are to work closely with the pastor in the care of the church membership.

Deacons in this church shall be men who have been ordained to this ministry, either by this church or by a church of like faith and order. In the case of one who comes from another church, he many not function as a deacon until he has been a member of the church for at least six months and has shown himself faithful in his Christian walk, and has shown that he meets the qualifications for deacons as given in Acts 6 and 1 Timothy 3.

When it is deemed that the church needs more deacons, the church may ordain deacons in the following way:

* The membership shall be given the opportunity to nominate men that they believe to be qualified and worthy of this office.
* These nominated men shall meet with the pastor and deacons to determine their eligibility and willingness to serve in this office.
* The pastor and deacons shall recommend to the church body that an ordination be held and that other churches of like faith and order by invited to participate in such questioning as is deemed necessary, and for the purpose of laying on of hands on those being ordained.

Section III – Trustees and Board of Directors

Trustees are member/servants of the church that will work to properly handle the business and legal matters as directed through business meeting results and directives. An odd number of Trustees is recommended.

The Trustees will also serve on the Board of Directors for the Corporation. The Board will include a President and Secretary that will also equally vote on all legal matters addressed. The Pastor shall be the President. Trustees and Board members will be appointed through business meetings, as needed. The Board will be authorized to complete all legal matters that come before the church. The Board will assure that all local, State &/or Federal legal requirements for the Corporation are maintained. All Board members shall serve in one year (min) terms.

Section IV - Church Administrator

The Church Administrator will be elected annually or for multiple years in conjunction with the direction of church business meetings.

Primary Function:

* Responsible to the Pastor for administering the regular business affairs of the church, working with members and staff to achieve the mission of MGBC.
* Responsibilities include overall direction for the daily management of the church office, the coordination of all human resources, facilities maintenance, event scheduling and normal maintenance purchasing.

Section V – Church Council

The Church Council shall be made up of a minimum of 5 church leaders appointed by the senior pastor and confirmed at business meeting. This group has the ability to make necessary decisions for the church between normal business meetings. These decisions include moving funding within the budget.

### Article IV: Meetings

Section I – Corporate Worship

1. Worship services shall be conducted at least weekly.
2. The Lord’s Supper shall be observed on a regular basis.
3. Worship activities or meetings of a special nature may be scheduled by the pastor as approved by the church.

Section II – Business

1. ~~Monthly~~ Business meetings shall be conducted ~~on the first Wednesday after the first Sunday of each month~~ at minimum biannually. The pastor shall moderate these meetings. In the absence of the pastor~~, the Associate Pastor or Youth Pastor shall be the moderator~~ a substitute moderator will be appointed.
2. Reports of the progress of the church shall be presented at these meetings, including but not limited to: Sunday School, ~~Discipleship Training~~, Budget/Finance.
3. Matters of business may be presented to the church by committees or by any church member. These shall be free discussion of any such business and all members present shall have the right to voice opinions and vote on all matters. The members present shall compose a quorum and other than specific matters dealt with in this constitution and bylaws, a majority of those voting shall determine the passage of all matters of business.

### Article V: Amendments

This constitution and bylaws may be amended by a two thirds vote of the members present and voting at any regular business meeting after notice has been given of the proposed changes at least one month prior. The meeting to vote on the proposed changes must be publicly announced from the pulpit for at least two weeks in Sunday morning worship services prior to voting.