

Bylaws of Mission Road Bible Church

First Amended and Approved October 16, 2005,
Subsequently Amended, Restated and Approved November 9, 2008,
Third Amended and Approved January 29, 2017

PREAMBLE

Since the Word of God requires that a church not only conform to His Word in doctrine and practice (*Ps. 119:105; Gal. 1:6-8; 2 Tim. 4:1-5*), but that all things be done in orderly fashion (*1 Cor. 14:40*) we, the members of Mission Road Bible Church, set forth these Bylaws by which the spiritual and material affairs of this local body, shall be conducted.

ARTICLE I: NAME AND LOCATION

The name of the Corporation is **Mission Road Bible Church** located in Prairie Village, Johnson County, Kansas.

ARTICLE II: STATEMENT OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE

The Statement of Faith of this Corporation is the Mission Road Bible Church Doctrinal Statement which was originally incorporated in its Articles of Incorporation as filed in the Office of the Secretary of State of the State of Kansas.

Mission Road Bible Church believes that the Holy Bible, as the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God, speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind. It alone is and will be the sole and final source of all that we believe, including faith, doctrine, purpose, structure and function of the church. The following five essential and non-negotiable declarations are the foundation and framework on which these Bylaws are based.

We Believe in a High View of God

God is absolutely sovereign in all things. The church is established and exists for His glory alone. God is directing and working all things after the counsel of His own will. (*Psalm 22:28; 33:6-9; 115:3; Daniel 4:34-35; Isaiah 40:17-18; Romans 9:13-29; Revelation 4:11*)

We Believe in a High View of Scripture.

Because the Bible is the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God in the original language passed down to us without change, it is the absolute and final authority on all matters. (*2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21*)

We Believe in the Preaching of Sound Doctrine.

Maintaining a high view of God and a high view of scripture necessitates the preaching, teaching, and practicing of sound doctrine. Doctrine always precedes duty. (*2 Timothy 4:1-5*)

We Believe in Personal Holiness.

Though we are in the world, we are not of the world. We are accountable to God and to each

other for what we do and how we live, for we have been bought and are not our own. We belong to Christ. (*Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Ephesians 5:3-12*)

We Believe in Spiritual Authority.

God himself has established order in every area of our lives, and the church is no exception. God in scripture has clearly given us the structure of authority for the church. Christ is the head of the church and He mediates His rule through the shepherding of godly elders (pastors). These elders (pastors), having a high view of God and scripture, being devoted to the preaching, teaching and practicing of sound doctrine, and being examples of personal holiness before the congregation, are responsible to lead the church. The Bible teaches that the congregation is accountable to the elders (pastors) and that the elders (pastors) are accountable to God. Therefore, for the purposes of church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline all decision-making authority is vested in the elders (pastors), who shepherd the church. (*Colossians 1:18; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Acts 15:6-21; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Timothy 5:17*)

ARTICLE III: PURPOSE AND GENERAL POWERS

Section 1 – General Purpose

Mission Road Bible Church exists by the grace of God, for the glory of God, which shall be the ultimate purpose in all its activities. As such, it is organized as a church for exclusively religious purposes (including charitable purposes common to a pastoral ministry as defined by Scripture).

Section 2 – Commission

Our commission is summarized as follows: *“And Jesus came up and spoke to them saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo. I am with you always, even to the end of the age’”* (*Matthew 28:18-20*).

Section 3 – Practice

Our practice is to glorify God and obey His commands through publicly worshipping Him; establishing believers in the faith through the preaching and teaching of the Word of God; encouraging biblical fellowship among believers; caring for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of believers through the “one-another’s” of Scripture; administering the New Testament ordinances of baptism and communion; and seeking the salvation of all men everywhere by promoting, supporting, and participating in the furtherance of the gospel through local, domestic, and international missions work.

As such, we have developed the following statement to guide these principles in all ministries:

We exist to magnify God and spread a passion for His glory by making disciples and shepherding them to value Jesus Christ above all else, in every dimension of life, as regulated by the Word of God.

Mission Road Bible Church is authorized to carry on Christian educational, ministerial, and evangelistic work; to provide a suitable place of worship and service; to purchase and hold real estate and personal property; to receive, hold and possess property, by device, donation or subscription or by revenue received and obtained in the usual conduct of the affairs of a congregation of Christian believers, with right to use, transfer or sell the same as it deems advisable for the accomplishment of the named ends.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Membership Roll

The Membership Roll was adopted by open vote in the first annual business meeting held January 15, 1969, and new members added thereafter. The Secretary of the Board of Elders shall maintain electronic copies of the membership role and review them no less than once a year to make recommendations for updates to the Board of Elders as necessary.

Section 2 – Membership Eligibility

Membership at Mission Road Bible Church shall be limited to those who profess Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.

Section 3 – Membership Qualifications

To qualify for membership at Mission Road Bible Church a person must 1) be 18 years old; 2) give testimony of their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; 3) give evidence of a godly/biblical lifestyle; 4) be baptized as a confession of their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; 5) abide by the Mission Road Bible Church doctrinal positions as outlined in the “What We Teach” doctrinal statement; 6) subscribe to the MRBC Bylaws; 7) have a desire to be actively involved in the ministry at Mission Road Bible Church.

Section 4 – Membership Application

All persons requesting membership shall be invited to attend a church membership class. During the membership class, each person will be given an application for membership, along with a copy of the “What We Teach” doctrinal statement, and MRBC Bylaws. Upon completion of the class, each person will be asked to complete the application, assent to the “What We Teach” doctrinal statement and MRBC Bylaws, and meet with a Pastor or Elder. Any questions about or disagreements with the “What We Teach” doctrinal statement or MRBC Bylaws must be indicated on the membership application.

If, upon review of an application for membership or after meeting with a prospective member, the Pastoral Staff person or Elder determines that the applicant does not confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, has not been baptized as a Christian, lacks of evidence of a godly/biblical lifestyle, or is in ardent disagreement with the MRBC “What We Teach” doctrinal statement and/or Bylaws, membership will be denied.

Students and other temporary residents of the Kansas City metro area who are members in good standing of an evangelical church may apply for dual membership. Qualifications are identical to those of a regular membership, as set forth above, except that home church membership must be retained. Termination of dual membership as a disciplinary measure will be as it is for regular members, except that the pastor or elders of the home church will be notified of that termination. Dual membership will normally terminate immediately upon the ending of the period of temporary residence in the Kansas City metro area.

Applicants admitted to membership (regular or dual) shall, if possible, present themselves at a specially designated worship service, at which time such applicants shall publicly affirm their membership commitment and be publicly acknowledged as members.

Section 5 – Membership Responsibilities

All members of Mission Road Bible Church shall covenant to: 1) be diligent to exercise self-control so that their lifestyle exhibits both true Christian love and personal holiness; 2) take seriously their

relationship to others in the body of Christ, striving to maintain unity, avoiding gossip, backbiting, anger, and doing all they can to stimulate love and good deeds in others as they seek to exercise their spiritual gifts in faithful service; 3) consistently contribute, as a good steward of God's blessings, such time, talent, and money, in the measure that God prospers, so that the local and worldwide ministry of spreading the gospel may continue; 4) teach biblical truth to their family and acquaintances, as God gives opportunity, with a desire to see them come to trust Christ and be saved; 5) be willing to both give and receive admonition and instruction with meekness and in love; 6) promote the spiritual well-being of others at MRBC, sustain its worship, ordinances, and doctrines, and submit to the process of Biblical discipline; 7) commit to praying for the ministry at MRBC, brothers and sisters in Christ, and the lost who need the Savior.

Section 6 – Membership Privileges

Each member at Mission Road Bible Church shall gain the privilege of shepherding and pastoral care as offered by the pastors and elders at Mission Road Bible Church. Each member shall be privileged and expected to participate in and contribute to the ministry and life of the church, consistent with God's leading and with the gifts, time, and material resources each has received from God. In addition, members shall be privileged to use the church facilities for weddings, funerals and fellowship activities when approved by the Board of Elders and/or Pastoral Staff.

Section 7 – Membership Leadership and Authority

Mission Road Bible Church functions as a body under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ (*Ephesians 5:23*) and the leadership of the Board of Elders who serve as under-shepherds of Jesus Christ. Membership at Mission Road Bible Church does not afford those individuals any rights to property, contract or civil rights based on the principles of democratic government. Any and all internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the Church's own constitution consisting of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The final authority in all matters relating to Mission Road Bible Church is the Holy Bible (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*).

Section 8 – Membership Discipline and Restoration

To maintain the peace and purity of the church, Scripture directs the disciplining of any wayward person by restricting active participation and membership in the local church. Church discipline shall be imposed whenever there is uncorrected, deliberate sin, whether in doctrine or practice (*Romans 16:17, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; 2 Timothy 2:16-21*).

The three-fold purpose of church discipline is to 1) glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (*1 Corinthians 5:6*); 2) edify believers by deterring sin (*1 Timothy 5:20*); and 3) promote the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (*Galatians 6:1*).

Members of Mission Road Bible Church and all other professing Christians who regularly attend or fellowship with Mission Road Bible Church who err in doctrine or who engage in conduct that violates Scripture shall be subject to church discipline, including dismissal, as a result of the membership discipline and restoration process which is outlined below. The Board of Elders shall have sole authority in determining deviations from Scripture and the Mission Road Bible Church doctrinal statement. Once the process of membership discipline and restoration of any member has begun, resignation of membership will not necessarily end the process.

This church discipline and restoration process shall be carried out in accordance with the step-by-step process as outlined in Matthew 18:15-17, which is listed below.

1. Any member of Mission Road Bible Church who has become aware of another member engaging in continuing sin, should warn the offending member by going to them in private, seeking restoration and repentance. If the offending member does not heed this warning, then...
2. The warning member should go again to seek restoration and repentance. But this time the warning member should take one or two witnesses to confirm that the sin is occurring and that the member engaged in continuing sin has been confronted and has refused to repent. If the offending member still refuses to heed this warning, then...
3. It should be brought to the attention of the Board of Elders. If the Board of Elders determines, after thorough investigation, that the offending member is in continuing sin, has been appropriately confronted according to steps 1 and 2 above, and refuses to confess and repent, then the elders will inform the church at a regularly scheduled worship service so that the church will focus on admonishment and calling the person to repentance. If the offending member does not repent in response to the church and its collective call to repentance, then...
4. An announcement should be made to the church of the offending member's refusal to repent, the offending member's name will be removed from the church membership list, and they will be to the church, "as an unbeliever." If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the church membership, contact with the person from that point forward should be for the sake of evangelism or restoration.

Should a substantiated accusation against a member in leadership occur according to 1 Timothy 5:19-20, that person shall step down until the Board of Elders has investigated the accusation and deemed it false or the matter has been closed.

In the case of a divisive man who comes into the church, the Board of Elders may act quickly to reject him so as to protect the unity of the church as instructed in Titus 3:9-11.

Should the membership discipline and restoration process be successful and result in repentance, an announcement should be made to the church at a regularly scheduled worship service.

Section 9 – Membership Removal

Voluntary resignations from membership are possible only by members who are in good standing.

The Board of Elders shall contact any member, who is physically able, and fails to meet the membership responsibilities as outlined in Section 5. Based on the person's response and approval by the Board of Elders, the person's membership may be revoked. In addition, members who have not responded in repentance to the membership discipline and restoration process shall have their names removed from the membership roll. The removed members shall be advised of the action by letter.

Upon request for removal of membership, the Board of Elders will be advised and a letter of confirmation sent. Members who permanently move from the area will be automatically removed from membership after four months unless they notify the church office of their plans.

Section 10 – Membership Meetings

The Board of Elders shall hold a regular annual membership meeting. Special membership meetings may be called at any time by the order of the Senior Pastor, the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Board of Elders, or by a quorum of the members of the Board of Elders. At such meetings, the

members shall consider reports of the affairs of the church and other business as the Board of Elders determine shall be brought before the meeting, including but not limited to affirmation of elders, deacons, and/or other ministry leaders.

Any member of Christ's family is welcome to attend the membership meetings. However, only members of Mission Road Bible Church will be allowed to actively participate in a membership meeting. And, the Board of Elders may declare any such membership meeting to be "Members Only."

A member of the Pastoral Staff or Board of Elders shall give verbal notice of all membership meetings at a regularly scheduled worship service for two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting. In addition, an announcement shall be published in the church bulletin or via electronic media for two consecutive weeks prior to the meeting.

The Board of Elders shall be responsible to set the agenda and appoint the Moderator to preside over all membership meetings.

A quorum at all membership meetings shall consist of the following: The Senior Pastor or Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Board of Elders, and at least 40% of the members as of the date of the meeting.

Those admitted to church membership do not constitute a legislative body. They cannot vote, pass resolutions binding on Mission Road Bible Church, nor can they have any equity in the real property of Mission Road Bible Church.

The members of Mission Road Bible Church shall vote by written ballot, with a two-thirds majority vote required for approval, on the following two items: (1) selection of a Senior Pastor; (2) purchase or sale of real property.

ARTICLE VI: SPECIFIC CHURCH LEADERS

Section 1 – Board of Elders

The New Testament is very clear about those who have ultimate responsibility of rule, oversight, and care for the church. These men are called elders, overseers and bishops. All three different titles are used to refer to the same spiritual office of leadership in the church and are interchangeable. Mission Road Bible Church refers to these men who lead by serving the church as the Elders.

A. Board of Elders Composition

The Board of Elders shall be comprised of the Senior Pastor, ordained members of the Pastoral Staff, and lay Elders. Each member of the Board of Elders must be an active member of Mission Road Bible Church, believing wholeheartedly in the Mission Road Bible Church statement of faith, church government, Bylaws, philosophy of ministry and objectives. Each Elder will continue to serve until he Biblically disqualifies himself, desires to remove himself from the office, or is requested to step down by the other Elders, at which time he will no longer be considered an Elder.

B. Selection and Term of Office

Board of Elder members shall be nominated from the church membership by the Board of Elders. Each Board of Elders candidate shall be presented to the congregation by the Board of Elders for a period of two weeks for affirmation, after which time he shall be confirmed. Each Board of Elders member will continue to serve until he Biblically disqualifies himself, desires to remove himself from the office, or is requested to step down by the Board of Elders, at which

time he will no longer be considered an Elder. Each Board of Elders member shall be reaffirmed on an annual basis at the annual Membership Meeting.

“Board Elders” are those actively serving on the Board of Elders. Any Board Elder may request a sabbatical for up to two years and still retain his elder status. However, matters arising from Elder Board actions should be addressed by/to “Board Elders” only.

C. Elder Qualifications

Most importantly, each member of the Board of Elders must be examined in accordance with the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. He shall be:

1. Blameless as a steward of God and above reproach;
2. Husband of one wife – a one-woman man;
3. Temperate, sober, vigilant;
4. Sober-minded, prudent;
5. Of good behavior, orderly, respectable;
6. Given to hospitality;
7. Apt to teach, able to teach, can exhort believers and refute false teaching;
8. Not given to wine;
9. Not violent, not pugnacious;
10. Patient, moderate, forbearing, gentle;
11. Not a brawler, uncontentious, not soon angry or quick-tempered;
12. Not covetous, a lover of money or greedy;
13. Rules his own house well and his children are faithful;
14. Not accused of rebellion to God;
15. Not be a new convert;
16. Has a good report or reputation with outsiders;
17. Not self-willed;
18. A lover of good men and things;
19. Just, fair, holy, devout;
20. Self-controlled.

D. Elder Responsibilities and Powers

The primary responsibilities of the Elders are to shepherd the flock, teach the Word, care for the spiritual welfare of the church, oversee the administration of the church and disciple future leaders. They shall have full responsibility for the government and discipline of the Church. They shall select all employees of the Church, as well as recommend for Church Body affirmation all board members, officers, and staff pastors. They shall conduct, manage, guard, and control the activities and affairs of the church in order to maintain spiritual and doctrinal integrity consistent with the Scriptures and in accordance with the laws of the State of Kansas, with the Articles of Incorporation, and with these Bylaws.

E. Elder Ministries

The Elders are to teach the Bible (*Acts 20:27*); to meet the needs of the people (*1 Peter 5:2*); to guard the Church against false teaching and maintain the purity and peace of the Church (*Acts 20:29*); and to serve and give of themselves for the people (*Acts 20:31*). The Elder should be

characterized as one who admonishes, encourages, and helps in a patient, loving way (*1 Thessalonians 5:14*).

F. Elder Removal from Office

Any elder may be removed from office at any regular or special Board of Elder Meeting if he is found to be biblically unqualified after thorough corroborating investigation by the Elders (or a duly appointed Committee of the Board of Elders, at the sole discretion of the Board of Elders), in accord with the procedures prescribed in Matthew 18:15-18 and 1 Timothy 5:19 which is identified in Article IV, Section 8. When an Elder is removed because of sin that is deemed sufficient to disqualify him from shepherding, and if he refuses to repent from that sin, the removal shall be accompanied by a public rebuke, and notice shall be made before the church and the congregation at a regularly-scheduled worship service as prescribed in 1 Timothy 5:20.

G. Elder Regular and Special Meetings

The Board of Elders meets periodically for business, prayer, leadership development and mutual care for one another. Regular Board of Elder Meetings shall be held without call or notice each Thursday after the third Sunday of each month. Regular Board of Elder meetings are open to church members. Special Board of Elder Meetings may be called at any time by order of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman or the Secretary of the Board of Elders, or by a quorum of the members of the Board of Elders.

Sixty percent of the Elders currently serving on the Board of Elders constitutes a quorum for all Regular and Special Board of Elder Meetings.

Board of Elder members may participate in a meeting through the use of conference telephone or similar communications equipment, so long as all members participating in the meeting can hear one another.

Section 2 – Senior Pastor

The Senior Pastors primary areas of ministry shall be to preach and teach the Word of God, discipleship and shepherding of the flock. He shall be the lead teaching elder and as such, shall fulfill the same spiritual qualifications as the elder qualifications listed in Article VI, Section 1(B) (*1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9*). He shall be committed to the absolute sufficiency of the Scriptures.

A. Selection

The Board of Elders shall appoint a Pulpit Supply committee to search out, screen and recommend candidates for Senior Pastor. The Board of Elders shall, upon unanimous approval, select and invite a candidate who was recommended by the Pulpit Supply committee for an in-person interview. The Board of Elders, upon unanimous approval, shall make recommendation to the church body membership to select a candidate to the position of Senior Pastor. The church body membership shall confirm the Board of Elders recommended selection by a 75% approval vote at a properly called Membership Meeting. The Senior Pastor is an employee of the Church, and an annual affirmation by the membership is not required.

B. Duties

The Senior Pastor is to “*equip the saints for the work of service*” (*Ephesians 4:11-12*). He shall be an ex officio member of all committees and shall be responsible to the Board of Elders. He shall be responsible for the overall spiritual welfare of the church, which includes providing leadership to and oversight of the public and regular services. He shall also be responsible for developing church leadership with current and future church leaders.

Section 3 – Pastoral Staff

All Pastoral Staff positions shall be appointed by the Board of Elders. They shall be under the direction of the Senior Pastor and the Board of Elders. They shall meet the qualifications of an elder as stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. Their duties shall be designed so as to assist the Senior Pastor as fellow laborers in the ministry, serving the Lord with gladness and a spirit of cooperation. The Pastoral Staff are employees of the Church, and an annual affirmation by the membership is not required.

Section 4 – Deacons

The New Testament is very clear about those who have been recognized as servants in the church. The term “deacon” comes from the Greek “diakonos” meaning “servant.” Deacons care for the physical and financial concerns of the church as directed by the Elders. Whereas, the Elders and Deacons work together to meet the general needs of the congregation, the Deacons will provide help to various ministries under the oversight of the Board of Elders and serve on various ministry committees under the guidance of an Elder.

H. Selection and Term of Office

Deacons shall be nominated from the church membership by the Board of Elders. Each Deacon candidate shall be presented to the congregation by the Board of Elders for a period of two weeks for affirmation, after which time he shall be confirmed. Deacons will continue to serve until he Biblically disqualifies himself, desires to remove himself from the office, or is requested to step down by the Board of Elders, at which time he will no longer be considered a Deacon. Deacons shall be reaffirmed on an annual basis at the January Membership Meeting.

I. Qualifications

Deacons shall consist of members possessing the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. A Deacon shall be a man of dignity, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not fond of sordid gain, holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience, first tested and found above reproach.

Section 5 – Other Councils and Committees

To promote efficient handling of church matters, the Board of Elders may appoint various councils and committees from within its membership, the Pastoral Staff, and from the church at large. These councils and committees shall perform tasks solely in accordance with the duties and powers specifically delegated by the Board of Elders. The general function of councils and committees are: (1) to bring considered recommendations to the Board of Elders concerning ministries, and (2) to provide a wider range of counsel to the Elders having oversight of specific ministries. All councils and committees shall exist for a period as specified by the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

Section 1 – Election of Officers of the Corporation

The Board of Elders shall elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary from among their members, each of which shall serve as officers of the Corporation. No paid staff member shall serve as Chairman or Vice-Chairman. Each officer of the Corporation shall hold his office until he shall resign, be removed, or become otherwise disqualified to serve, or until his successor shall be elected and qualified.

A. Chairman

The Chairman shall act as President of the Corporation and shall, subject to the control of the Board of Elders, have general supervision, direction, and control of the activities and officers of

the Corporation. He shall preside at all Board of Elder meetings, which are to be conducted according to Scriptural principles such as set forth in Philippians 2:2-8. He shall be an ex officio member of all standing councils or committees, if any, and shall have the powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders. He shall have the powers to sign all bonds, mortgages, contracts and other instruments of writing required to be executed by the Corporation.

B. Vice-Chairman

In the absence or disability of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall perform all the duties of the Chairman, and when so acting shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions upon, the Chairman. The Vice-Chairman shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as from time to time may be prescribed for him by the Board of Elders.

C. Secretary

The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, a book of minutes at the principal office or such other place as the Board of Elders may order, of all member meetings and Board of Elder meetings and its committees, whether regular or special, which includes the proceedings and the names of those present at the meetings. He shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the Board of Elders and any committee meetings. He shall keep, or cause to be kept, at the principal office in the State of Kansas, the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, as amended to date. He shall keep, or cause to be kept at the principle office of the Corporation, an up to date church membership register, showing the names of the members and their addresses. In the absence of or as directed by the Chairman, he shall have the powers to sign all bonds, mortgages, contracts and other instruments of writing required to be executed by the Corporation. He shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as from time to time may be prescribed for him by the Board of Elders.

Section 2 – Selection of Other Officers

The Board of Elders shall select a Treasurer from among the deacons. In addition, the Board of Elders may appoint, and may empower the Chairman to appoint, such other officers as the church may require to conduct business as deemed necessary. The Treasurer and each other officer's term of office shall be renewable annually upon evaluation and approval of the Board of Elders.

A. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall ensure the stewardship of the physical and financial resources of the Corporation, *"taking precaution that no one should discredit us in our administration...for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men"* (2 Corinthians 8:20-21). He shall select *"men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom"* (Acts 6:3) to implement and accomplish this responsibility.

The Treasurer shall ensure that all financial activities and transactions are consistent with these Bylaws and the State of Kansas. He shall maintain, or cause to be maintained, adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the Corporation. He shall maintain, or cause to be maintained, full and accurate accounts of all offerings, receipts and disbursements. The book of accounts shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection and/or audit, by any Board of Elder member.

The Treasurer shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, all monies and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the Corporation with such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Elders. He may disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the Corporation as

may be ordered by the Board of Elders, shall render, or cause to be rendered, to the Chairman and the Elders, whenever they request it, an account of all the transactions and the financial condition of the Corporation, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders. He shall make, or cause to be made, the financial reports at each regular Board of Elder meeting and at the annual membership meeting.

Section 3 – Removal and Resignation of Officers

Any Officer shall be removed from office upon disqualification and removal as an Elder per Article VI, Section 1(E) of these Bylaws. Any Officer in good standing may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Elders, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, or Secretary of the Corporation. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of the receipt of the notice or at any later time specified; and unless otherwise specified, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

ARTICLE VIII: ORDINATION AND COMMISSIONING

Section 1 – Ordination

Ordination refers to the unanimous recognition by the Board of Elders of a man's call to ministry, preparation as a shepherd, and qualification to serve. Any man who has been a member at MRBC in excess of one year, whom displays evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry and who possesses the qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3:2-7, 1 Peter 5:1-3 and Titus 1:6-9, may request, or be recommended by the Board of Elders for Ordination into the ministry of Jesus Christ. Ordination shall be conferred for life, so long as the man continues to manifest the qualifications of the office.

The Senior Pastor shall have authority to direct all Ordination processes and procedures.

Section 2 – Commissioning

The State of Kansas does not require Ordination or Licensing to perform ecclesiastical duties and functions of the church. Therefore, where ordination would be unnecessary or inappropriate, any man who has been a member at MRBC in excess of one year, whom displays outward evidences of the fruit of the Spirit and a genuine desire to serve the church may be Commissioned by the Board of Elders to minister. This Commission continues as long as the opportunity to minister remains in effect and as long as the person maintains the qualifications for ministry.

ARTICLE IX: SETTLEMENT OF MEMBERS' GRIEVANCES

Section 1 – General

The Bible clarifies how member grievances should be handled. We believe Christians should never bring lawsuits against the Church, one another, Elders or the Pastoral Staff to resolve personal disputes (*1 Corinthians 6:1-11*). In the event of any dispute, claim, question, or disagreement between members, the members shall use their best efforts to settle such dispute, claim, question, or disagreement between themselves in a spirit of humility, with each regarding one another before himself and striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (*Ephesians 4:1-3*).

In the event of any dispute between elders, pastors, deacons, or staff pertaining to any matter of spiritual teaching or practice, church finance, or title to property purchased with church contributions, the dispute will be resolved by the Board of Elders or a duly appointed Committee of the Board or Elders. A decision shall be reached after prayerful consideration and binding thereafter.

ARTICLE X: OTHER PROVISIONS

Section 1 – Endorsement of Documents and Contracts

The Board of Elders, except as in the Bylaws otherwise provided, may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized by the Board of Elders, no officer, agent or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the Corporation by any contract or agreement, or pledge its credit, or to render it liable for any purpose or to any amount.

Section 2 – Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended and new and additional Bylaws may be made from time to time at any time by the Board of Elders in the exercise of the power granted to said Board of Elders by these Bylaws.

Section 3 – Receipt and Disbursement of Funds

A. Receipt

The Corporation shall receive all monies or properties transferred to it for the purposes for which the Corporation was formed in its Articles of Incorporation. However, nothing shall require the Board of Elders to accept or receive any money or property of any kind if it shall determine in its discretion that receipt of such money or property is contrary to the expressed purposes of the Corporation.

B. Disbursement

The Corporation shall hold, manage, and disburse any funds or properties received by it from any source in a manner that is consistent with the expressed purposes of this Corporation

Section 4 – Corporate Records and Reports

A. Records

The Corporation shall maintain adequate and correct accounts, books, and records of its business and property. All such books, records, and accounts shall be kept at its principal place of business in the State of Kansas.

B. Inspection of Books and Records

Every Elder shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect all books, records, documents of every kind, and the physical properties of the Corporation, and also its subsidiary organizations, if any.

C. Fiscal Year of the Corporation

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December in each year.

Section 5 – Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of this Corporation for any reason, the Board of Elders shall cause the remaining assets after payment of all obligations to be distributed to another Corporation whose purposes are similar to those of this Corporation or to such other organizations whose principal purposes are to carry on religious, educational or evangelistic work in accordance with Article III of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XI: CHURCH POLICY

Section 1 – Statement on Marriage, Gender and Sexuality

The Bible is very clear on issues of marriage, gender and sexuality. Therefore, Mission Road Bible Church holds to the following Statement on Marriage and Sexuality.

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male and female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (*Genesis 1:26-27*). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one natural man and one natural women in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (*Genesis 2:18-25*).

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other (*1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4*). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, the use of pornography or any attempt to change one's gender, or disagreement with one's biological gender, is sinful and a grievous offense to God (*Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10*).

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Mission Road Bible Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Mission Road Bible Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly (*Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22*).

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (*Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11*).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (*Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31*). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of Mission Road Bible Church.

Section 3 – Statement on Human Life

The Bible clearly states that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. We believe that human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically and mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore, called to defend, protect, and value human life (*Psalms 139*).

Section 4 – Statement on Factious and Divisive Behavior

The Bible clearly defines factious and divisive behavior as offenses that are grievous unto God and that, apart from genuine confession and repentance they are grounds for church discipline per Article IV, Section 8 of these Bylaws (*Titus 3:9-11; Proverbs 6:16-19*).

Section 5 – Statement on the Roles of Men and Women

The Bible clearly teaches that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and in the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and men are to be the leaders of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible to serve as an Elder and only men are eligible to be commissioned or ordained for ministry by the church (*Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:18; 1 Timothy 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12*).

Section 6 – Statement on Church Facility Usage

A. Purpose

The Mission Road Bible Church facility is provided through God’s benevolence and by the sacrificial generosity of church members. The church desires that its facilities be used for the fellowship of the Body of Christ and to bring God glory. Although the facilities are not generally open to the public, we make our facilities available to approved non-members as a witness of our faith, in a spirit of Christian charity, and as a means of demonstrating the Gospel of Jesus Christ in practice.

However, facility use will not be permitted to persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs or practices that conflict with the Mission Road Bible Church Doctrinal Statement or Bylaws. Nor may church facilities be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed inconsistent with, the Mission Road Bible Church Doctrinal Statement or Bylaws. The Executive Pastor, under the direction of the Board of Elders, or his designee, is the final decision-maker concerning church facility usage.

This restricted facility usage policy is necessary for the following reasons:

1. Mission Road Bible Church may not in good conscience materially cooperate in activities or beliefs that are contrary to its faith. Allowing its facilities to be used for purposes that contradict the church’s beliefs would be material cooperation with the activity, and would be a grave violation of the church’s faith and religious practice (*2 Corinthians 6:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:22*).
2. Mission Road Bible Church must present a consistent message to the community, and it is very important that the leadership and membership conscientiously maintain that message as part of their testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Allowing facility usage by groups or persons who express beliefs or engage in practices contrary to the Mission Road Bible Church Doctrinal Position or Bylaws would have a severe, negative impact on the message that the church strives to promote. It could also cause confusion and scandal to church members and the community because they may reasonably perceive that by allowing facility usage, the Mission Road Bible Church agrees with the beliefs or practices of the persons or groups using its facilities.

Therefore, in no event shall persons or groups who hold, advance, or advocate beliefs, or advance, advocate, or engage in practices that contradict the church’s Doctrinal Statement or Bylaws use any church facility. Nor may the church facility be used in any way that contradicts the church’s faith.

B. Approved Users and Priority of Use

The Executive Pastor, under the direction of the Board of Elders, or his designee must approve all church facility usage. Generally, priority shall be given to church membership, their immediate families, and organized groups that are part of the ministry or sponsored activities of

the church. Church facilities and equipment will be made available to non-members or outside groups meeting the following qualifications:

1. Groups or persons requesting facility usage must affirm that their beliefs and practices and planned uses are consistent with the church's faith and practice.
2. The group or persons seeking facility usage must submit a signed "Facility Usage Request and Agreement" form (obtained from the church offices).
3. The group or persons seeking facility usage must be willing to take responsibility for the facilities and equipment used and must agree to abide by the church's rules and conduct for facility usage as stated on the "Facility Usage Request and Agreement" form and as described in any additional instructions by the church staff.
4. In addition, the Board of Elders has granted the Executive Pastor, or his designee, sole authority to grant special permission for facility usage in the event of a community emergency. In such exceptional cases, the "Facility Usage Request and Agreement" form and certain restrictions as outlined in this "Statement on Church Facility Usage" may be bypassed to provide community assistance.

Section 7 – Statement of Final Authority on matters of Faith and Conduct

The Mission Road Bible Church "What We Teach" Doctrinal Statement and Bylaws does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all we believe. For purposes of Mission Road Bible Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Board of Elders is Mission Road Bible Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.