



Mountain Grove Family Church, Inc.

A Missouri Nonprofit Corporation

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I.

Name and Affiliation

Section 1.01 Legal Name

The name of this nonprofit corporation is Mountain Grove Family Church, located in Mountain Grove, Missouri. This corporation will be further referred to in this constitution as the “church.”

Section 1.02 Location of Office and Gathering

The principal office for business transactions of the church is 10410 East Business 60 Mountain Grove, Missouri 65711; this office is located in Texas County.

The elders of the church, as described in Article III and the as defined by the Bylaws, shall have power and authority to establish other locations at any place or places where the church is qualified under applicable law to conduct its business in the event of an emergency, damage to the property, or temporary event.

Section 1.03 Church Government and Affiliations

The church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of outside control. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation with other churches in the fulfillment of its purposes, the church chooses to affiliate itself with the Southern Baptist Convention, the Missouri Baptist Convention, and to dually align itself with the Wright Douglas Ozark Baptist Association and the Texas County Baptist Association.

The church will be considered “Elder Led” in that the elders of the church will provide leadership and vision for the church.

Also, the church may voluntarily affiliate with other churches, organizations, and conventions by a passing vote (as defined by the Bylaws) of the elders. Any potential affiliations of the church will be made public knowledge in a form as outlined in the “Meetings” section of the *Bylaws* and allow a minimum of two (2) weeks for member prayer and comments.

Section 1.04 Non-profit Status

The church is a non-profit corporation under the laws of the state of Missouri so long as such ruling remains valid and applicable to the church. The exemption is granted under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3).

Section 1.05 Dissolution and Mergers

In the event of a voluntary dissolution of the church, the assets of the church shall be transferred to the Missouri Baptist Convention. The distribution will be in accordance with a passing vote of the church as defined in the bylaws.

In the event of a merger of the church with another church, then the assets of the church shall be held by the surviving entity.

ARTICLE II.

Articles of Faith

Section 2.01 Mission

The mission of this church is to bring glory to God by making disciples through following the teachings and Gospel-centered practices of the New Testament in worship, proclamation, discipleship, service to others, multiplication, and building community with one another.

Section 2.02 Statement of Basic Belief

The following beliefs represent our core beliefs from a biblical and historical perspective. While church members are not required to fully understand or articulate all aspects of these beliefs, the explicit rejection of any one of these particular beliefs disqualifies one from membership in Mountain Grove Family Church.

We believe...

...the Scriptures are true, authoritative and sufficient (Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

...there is only one God (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-6; Isaiah 46:9-10; John 17:3; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; 1 Timothy 2:5).

...The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. The Father is neither the Son nor the Holy Spirit. The Son is neither the Father nor the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is neither the Father nor the Son (Genesis 1:26; Psalm 45:6-7; Psalm 110:1; Matthew 3:13-17; Matthew 28:17-20; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

... All humanity (Christ excluded) is by birth and action a sinner (Genesis 6:5; Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23; 5:8, 12-21; 7:18; Ephesians 2:1-3).

...The deserved penalty for sin is death, both physical and spiritual (Genesis 2:15-17; Genesis 3:19; Romans 5:12; 6:23; James 1:14-15).

...Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, was born of a virgin and is both fully God and fully human (Matthew 1:20; Luke 2:52; John 1:1-4, 14; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-3).

...Jesus Christ died as my substitute to pay the penalty for sin (John 1:29; 10:1-18; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 1:4; 1 Peter 3:18).

...Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead (Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-53; John 1:20-21:25; 1 Corinthians 15:12-34).

...Jesus Christ physically ascended into heaven and will one day physically return (John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 1:7).

...There will be a future, physical resurrection of the dead. Those who trust in Jesus Christ alone will be raised to eternal reward. Those who have not trusted in Jesus Christ will be raised to eternal punishment including eternal separation from God (Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15).

...Only by trusting in the person and work of Jesus Christ alone can someone be reconciled to God and experience true life and joy (John 3:18, 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:21-26; 1 Timothy 2:5-6).

We further consider the *Baptist Faith and Message*, 2000 to be a summary of our basic beliefs.

ARTICLE III

Governance

Section 3.01 Definition

The overall policy, control, direction and management of the ministry, operations, property, and finances of the church shall be vested in the elder body. The elders are designated as the directors of this corporation. All corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the elders.

The Officers of the church shall be the President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers shall have the duties set

forth in the *Bylaws* and shall be elected annually by and from the elder body unless otherwise provided for in the *Bylaws*. The Lead Pastor shall serve as Moderator of all meetings regardless of whether or not he is the President of the Corporation.

Section 3.02 Elders

The selection and qualification of elders shall be defined by the *Bylaws*.

Section 3.03 Deacons

The selection and qualification of deacons shall be defined by the *Bylaws*.

Section 3.04 Members and Their Role

Members shall have a vote on the annual budget, the calling of pastoral staff, the purchase or liquidation of property, acquisition of any debt by the church, and any other matter brought to the church by the elders.

The membership process is defined in the *Bylaws*.

Section 3.05 Ministry Teams

The church shall have standing Ministry Teams, with duties, number of members, and terms as set forth by the *Bylaws*. The formation of Special Ministry Teams shall come through a decision of the elders. The numbers, structure, and duration of any Special Ministry Team shall be defined by the elders upon its formation.

Section 3.06 Public Worship

Meetings for public worship shall be held at such times and places as may be provided for under the direction of the elders.

Section 3.07 Church Business Meetings

There will be one regular annual meeting to approve a budget and conduct any further business as necessary. The elders shall have the sole authority to call a church business meeting or special meetings as needed. Decisions requiring such public meetings are outlined in the *Bylaws*.

ARTICLE IV

Amendments to Constitution

Section 4.01 Notice Required and Voting Procedure

This constitution or any provision contained herein may be altered, amended, repealed or restated, and a new constitution may be adopted by a passing vote of the church members, as defined in the *Bylaws*, at any regular annual meeting or special meeting following a two (2) week pre-notification detailing proposed changes via e-mail, church announcement, or other communication means. All amendments must come as a recommendation to the church from and by the elders prior to a church vote.

ARTICLE V

Temporary Leadership Team

Section 5.01 Formation of Temporary Leadership Team

Until a body of elders has been assembled, a Leadership Team shall be selected from the regular attendees of the church. The church staff will automatically be a part of this team with an additional 2-4 people forming the group. Each non-staff member shall have a term of 12 months on the team, but can be asked to continue on the team if no replacement is available.

Section 5.01 Duties of Temporary Leadership Team

The Temporary Leadership Team shall take on all legal duties and responsibilities otherwise designated to the Elders throughout this Constitution until which time they are disbanded. The Temporary Leadership Team shall make final financial decisions, discuss regular needs, and support the church through prayer through regular meetings. They shall not directly oversee the staff of the church who instead will be directed by the Lead Pastor.

Decisions made by the Temporary Leadership Team will be deemed “passing” with a 75% vote. However, unanimous decisions will be encouraged in most circumstances or an item will be tabled for prayer until another meeting is called.

Section 5.03 Dissolution of Temporary Leadership Team

Upon which date a suitable Elder Team is assembled, the Temporary Leadership team will be dissolved and their duties assumed by the Elder Team. This decision shall be done as a vote by the Temporary Leadership Team.

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