



Metro East Baptist Church Bylaws

October 2, 2022

This document supersedes all previous issued versions and amendments.

Article 1 – Name

This church shall be known as Metro East Baptist Church, hereafter referred to as “The Church” located at 333 N. 143rd Street E., Wichita, KS 67230.

Article 2 – Purpose

The purpose of The Church is to glorify God by using the Old and New Testament to fulfill the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). This is done through:

- A. Evangelism/Missions: “To share the Good News of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in our community and throughout the world.” (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 2 Peter 3:9).
- B. Education: “To help Members develop toward full Christian maturity and train them for effective ministry. To promote personal, spiritual growth and discipleship through Bible teaching.” (Ephesians 4:11-13, 2 Timothy 2:2).
- C. Worship: To participate in public worship services together. (John 4:24, Matthew 18:20).
- D. Ministry/Service: “To serve unselfishly, in Jesus’ name, meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those in our Church, community and in the world.” (1 Peter 4:10-11, Matthew 25:34-40, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, and Galatians 5:13).
- E. Fellowship: “To encourage, support and pray for each other as members of the Family of God. To share our lives together.” (1 John 1:7, Acts 2:44-47, Hebrews 10:23-25, Romans 15:5-7, and John 13:34-35).

Article 3 – Organization/Incorporation

- A. The Church shall be operated exclusively for religious, charitable and educational purposes in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service and the laws of Kansas.
- B. The officers of The Church shall be:
 - Elder Leader (selected by the body of Elders)

- Treasurer (selected by the Church Council)
- Secretary/Clerk (selected by the Nominating Committee)
- Trustee (selected by the Church Council)
- Board of Directors shall consist of the Senior Pastor and the body of Elders

C. Standing committees (i.e., Personnel, Missions, Hospitality, etc.) shall be established to carry out the regular ministries of the church. Establishing a Standing Committee is done through the coordination and approval from the appropriate staff member and the Body of Elders. The Nominating Committee is responsible for identifying members to serve on these committees. Individual committee members vote to select a leader. Leader duties include:

- Leading the committee in their duties to meet the requirements of their ministry.
- Prepare an annual budget for the committee.
- Represent the committee on the Church Council.

Standing committees do not include adhoc committees established to meet a temporary need (i.e., By-Laws, Pastor Search, etc.) as identified by the Body of Elders and staff members.

D. The Church Council shall consist of chairpersons of the standing committees, Lead Elder, Lead Deacon, Trustee, Treasurer, Church Clerk, Senior Pastor and other staff as the issue demands. They have authority over:

- A. Affairs pertaining to property as required by law for nonprofit corporations.
- B. Selecting the Treasurer and Trustee.

Article 4 – Statement of Faith

We affirm the Holy Bible in its entirety as the inspired Word of God and as the only basis for our beliefs. This Church accepts the statement adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, dated June 14, 2000, “The Baptist Faith and Message” affirmation of basic Christian beliefs as a general statement of our faith.

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as either male or female, and that these two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including, but not limited to pedophilia, adultery, fornication, cohabitation, homosexual behavior, rejection of one’s biological sex, or use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

We believe the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25).

We believe that God created marriage to be exclusively the union of one man and one woman, and that intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union.

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

Article 5 – Membership

Membership in The Church shall consist of all persons (18 years of age and over) who have expressed a desire, meet the qualifications for membership, and are listed on the membership rolls.

A. Qualifications for membership are:

- Believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord
 - Baptized by immersion as a testimony of salvation
 - Be affirmed by congregational vote
 - Complete a church membership class
 - Agree with and adhere to the Statement of Faith (Article 4)

Or

- Transfer from another church of like faith
 - Complete a church membership class
 - Be affirmed by congregational vote

B. Members are expected to:

- Protect the unity of The Church and be faithful to Christian life (1 Peter 1:22, Hebrews 13:17, Ephesians 4:11-13, Romans 12:15)
- Attend faithfully the services of The Church (Hebrews 10:25)
- Give regularly for the support and ministry of The Church (Leviticus 27:30)
- Share in the work of The Church (1 Peter 4:10)
- Conduct themselves in accordance with the Statement of Faith (Article 4)

C. Voting Rights of Members:

Members have voting authority on the following items presented at regular member meetings:

- Annual budget of The Church
- Calling a new Senior Pastor
- Adding new congregational members
- Adding additional Pastoral Staff members
- Moving, merger or dissolution of The Church

- Acquisition of real property and related indebtedness
- Starting a building program
- Changing the By-Laws.

D. Termination of Membership:

Members may be removed from The Church roll for any of the following reasons:

- Upon death.
- Transfer of membership to another church by letter.
- The Church may move members to inactive status who do not attend services for more than 2 years (except home-bound or shut-in members).
- Personal request of the member.
- If it becomes necessary to remove a person from membership for inappropriate behavior, the dismissal process shall be according to Matthew 18:15-17. Elders, Deacons, or the Senior Pastor will advise the member who will be removed.
- An Elder, Deacon, Senior Pastor or any staff member may be removed (without notifying the membership) for criminal activity or sexual immorality. An Elder, Deacon, Senior Pastor or Pastoral Staff Member may be removed for other causes by 2/3 majority vote in a member meeting.

E. Restoration of Membership:

Members who have been dismissed may be restored to full membership privileges by the body of Elders according to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:6-8 when their conduct is judged by the Elders to be in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17.

Article 6 – Governance

A. The Church is an autonomous, independent congregation, not aligned with any hierarchical structure beyond the local church. In all actions, The Church is Spirit led, Senior Pastor/Elder guided, Deacon served, and Congregation affirmed. The Senior Pastor, all staff members, Elders and Deacons may take appropriate action, through established procedures, to ensure:

- The efficient organization of Church activities.
- Legal matters are appropriately dealt with.
- Business issues are handled in an ethical and appropriate manner.

B. All meetings that require a membership vote, shall be called and noted at least two weeks in advance of the meeting date. A quorum (the minimum number of members necessary to conduct the business of The Church) is defined as those members who are present at the meeting. The vote will carry by at least a 2/3 majority.

C. A Member Meeting shall be held annually in which members shall elect Elders, Deacons, and other leaders presented by the Nominating Committee; and the members shall adopt an annual budget and transact other business as needed. The moderator shall be appointed by the Elders.

D. Quarterly meetings shall be held for committees to give their reports. The moderator shall be appointed by the Elders.

Article 7 – Senior Pastor

A proposed Senior Pastor candidate shall be recommended by a Pastor Search Committee, approved by the Elders, and affirmed by a membership vote (see also Article 6, paragraph B). The Senior Pastor must be an ordained male. He acts as the spiritual leader of the congregation and manages the organization and all staff members in the performance of their duties. The Senior Pastor:

- A. Is responsible for guiding The Church in worship, evangelism, discipleship and providing pastoral care and counseling.
- B. Serves alongside the Elders as the first among equals in ministering to The Church according to Matt.10-2-4; Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:14-16; Acts 1:13.
- C. May add Pastoral Staff members whose position must be approved by the Personnel Committee, Elders, and by member vote.
- D. May add non-pastoral staff members whose position must be approved by the Personnel Committee.
- E. Serves on the Church Council.

Article 8 – Elders/Deacons

Elders and Deacons must be ordained male voting members. The Number of Elders and Deacons shall be based on The Church needs and availability of qualified candidates. Elders and Deacons shall choose officers from within their own groups. Any congregational member may nominate a man for the office of Deacon or Elder by giving the name(s) to any of the Elders. Elders and Deacons may serve a term of three years. Any extension beyond this limit is subject to Church need and availability of candidates.

- A. Eligibility for Elders and Deacons (as proscribed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 Timothy 3:8-12 and Titus 1:6-8):
 - Must aspire to the role.
 - Been a member of The Church for at least one year.
 - Faithful to one wife (if married).

- Able to teach with astute theology (qualification for Elders only).
- Tested and a proven record of faithful service.
- Respectful to others and above reproach in his life.
- Sober-minded and self-controlled.
- Not prone to violent actions or outbursts and is not quarrelsome in his actions with others.
- A good leader of his household.

B. Elders are Shepherd Leaders and Pastors who serve alongside the Senior Pastor.

C. Elders are expected to:

- Lead with humility and honesty.
- Teach and preach the Gospel.
- Ensure doctrinal integrity.
- Oversee public worship.
- Promote spiritual growth and evangelism of the membership.
- Ensure spiritual accountability of Senior Pastor and Pastoral Staff.
- Deliver discipline as needed.
- Mentor potential candidates for Deacon/Elder positions.
- Provide a moderator for Member Meetings.
- Counsel the selection of new Pastoral Staff members
- When necessary, acts to form a pastoral search committee.
- The Lead Elder shall serve on the Church Council.

D. Deacons are Servant Ministers and are expected to:

- Receive and Control the Benevolence Fund, using it to respond to the physical and material needs of members or others in our community.
- Minister to members in spiritual or tangible need.
- Visit the sick and shut-in.
- Prepare and serve the Lord's Supper.
- Mobilize acts of service.
- Lead Deacon shall serve on the Church Council.

Article 9 – Church Staff, Officers and Volunteers

Church Staff are those individuals that are paid for the service they perform for the Church. Volunteers are those that undertake a service to the Church without being paid. Church Officers are defined in Article 3, paragraph B.

A. These individuals shall serve the Lord and their Church. They must agree to and adhere to the Statement of Faith (Article 4). They may leave of their own will, or they may be immediately removed for sexual immorality or any type of criminal activity.

- B. The Personnel Committee is responsible for writing job descriptions, setting salaries, and recruitment activities for all staff members and officers. Performance appraisals for all staff members are a function of the Senior Pastor.
- C. Volunteers work under the guidance and direction of a paid staff member.
- D. The Senior Pastor and other Pastoral Staff members may resign their position giving two weeks' notice.
- E. The Church shall avoid creating or maintaining circumstances of favoritism or nepotism when choosing individuals for staff members, volunteers, or officers.

Article 10 – Ownership and Distribution of Property

Should The Church completely disband so that it no longer functions as a congregation its property shall be distributed as follows:

- A. All obligations shall be paid.
- B. Any assets requiring return shall be returned.
- C. No assets will be distributed to any church member, staff, or officer.
- D. Assets may be transferred to an organization engaged in similar activities (for example, another Southern Baptist Church) per section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or as revised in later iterations).
- E. Any remaining assets may be transferred to the Kansas Nebraska Southern Baptist Convention for disbursement at their discretion.

Article 11 – Indemnification of Officers

The Church may indemnify the expenses of any officer or employee or agent of The Church against claims, liabilities, expenses incurred in connection with the settlement of any action in which he/she is made a party by reason of having been affiliated with The Church if:

- A. The conduct was in good faith.
- B. Believed to be in the best interest of The Church.
- C. The activity was not known to be unlawful.

However, such expenses will not be indemnified if the proceeding was brought, and he/she was judged liable or he/she received improper personal benefit.

Article 12 – Statement of Final Authority



The statement of faith 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 that we believe. For purposes of Metro East Baptist Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our body of Elders are the final interpretive authority on the Bible's application.

Article 13 - Amendment of the Bylaws

These Bylaws may be corrected, amended, or repealed by an affirmative vote of 2/3 majority of the voting members.

Revision History

Version	Date	Revision History
1.1	10/2/2022	Revisions to Articles 3, 7, 8, and 9
1.0	7/10/2022	Reissue of MEBC Bylaws
4.0	2008	MEBC Constitution and Bylaws