

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Bylaws

Revised and Approved January 19, 2025

Mission Bible Fellowship
P.O. Box 68
Seeley Lake, MT 59868

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ARTICLE ONE
NAME, PURPOSE, OBJECTS AND PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

Section 1. Name. The name of this corporation is Mission Bible Fellowship, Inc. The corporation may herein be Referred to as the "Church".

Section 2. Office. The principal office of the corporation in the State of Montana shall be located in Seeley Lake, Missoula County. The corporation shall have and maintain in the State of Montana a registered office and a registered agent as required by the Montana Non-Profit Corporation Act.

Section 3. Purpose. The corporation is organized exclusively for religious and charitable purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distribution to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under sections 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United State-, Internal Revenue Law).

Section 4. Objects. The objects for which this Church is organized are as follows:

- A. To promote the worship of the only true God as He has revealed Himself to man through the Holy Bible.
- B. To bring a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ to the lost, in obedience to the Great Commission of Matt 28:19-20.
- C. To promote the growth of Christians into the character and image of the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph 4:11-16), through the regular proclamation and teaching of the Holy Scriptures and the establishment and maintenance of Christian education for all age levels.
- D. To establish and maintain a nondenominational Christian church, including the provision of an adequate facility for the gathering of the same.
- E. To support a Christian outreach ministry to the youth of the community.
- F. To support other missionary organizations.

In accordance with the laws of the State of Montana, the following objects will also be carried out:

- G. To accumulate and provide a fund or funds to be invested and reinvested. To use the income and principal thereof for the support, maintenance, operation and improvement of the Mission Bible Fellowship, Inc. in Seeley Lake, Montana; created and existing under the provisions of the 'Montana Nonprofit Corporation Act' as specified in Sections 35-2-101 through 35-2-1203 inclusive, of the Montana Code Annotated (1985). For the growth and development of Mission Bible Fellowship, Inc. and its facilities but limited and restricted to religious and charitable purposes.
- H. To adopt bylaws for their own government, and to make rules and regulations, not inconsistent with law, for the proper administration of the corporation in the interests of charitable and religious endeavors.
- I. To make an annual report and file it for inspection by donors and interested people. The report shall include a statement of all important transactions and acquisitions with suggestions and recommendations for the better realization of the purposes of the corporation and the improvement of its services.
- J. To accept, receive and administer in the name of the corporation, any gifts, donations, properties, securities, bequests and legacies that may be made to the corporation. Monies received by donation, gift, bequest, or legacy, unless otherwise provided by the donor, shall be deposited in an account on Mission Bible Fellowship, Inc. and used for its objects and purposes stated herein.

- K. To solicit contributions and donations and to engage in fund-raising activities to pay for the expenses of the operation of the corporation and the activities it promotes.
1. The church elders and deacons shall do all things lawfully incident to those objects, which are beneficial to the public, but limited and restricted to the corporation's purposes.

Section 5. Philosophy Statement.

Having stated the objects of the church and recognizing that there exist many different ideas regarding how to go about achieving those objects, Mission Bible Fellowship hereby sets forth the following Philosophy of Ministry Statement to serve as its course to follow in achieving its objectives:

- A. The guide for the ministry of Mission Bible Fellowship is the Bible, not human wisdom (Isaiah 55:6-11 - Cor. 2:12-14). The Bible, because it is inspired by God and therefore without error, is the final authority for Christian faith (what we believe) and practice (what methods we use in ministry). The Scriptures are powerful and living (Heb. 4:12) and are sufficient in themselves to equip the Christian to be all God calls him to be and to do all God calls him to do (2 Tim 3:16-17). As a result of these truths, Mission Bible Fellowship shall regularly proclaim and teach Holy Scriptures (2 Tim 4:1-2). The discipleship and Christian education ministries of the church shall ensure that teaching of the Scriptures is central in their methodologies.
- B. The starting point of the ministry of Mission Bible Fellowship is God, not human activity. That is, we recognize that it is the Lord Jesus Christ who builds the church, not human beings (Eph 2:19-22) and "unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it" (Psa 127: 1). God shall be given the glory for all things accomplished and it shall be Him to whom we look for all things needed. The church must never fall into the trap of relying upon man-made "gimmickry" to accomplish its purposes, rather, continual and fervent prayer shall remain the foundational methodology of Mission Bible Fellowship (James 5:16b).
- C. The church is a body of individual members, each member having a crucial function to contribute to the corporate body (I Cor 12:12ff). Therefore, the ministry of Mission Bible Fellowship shall be one characterized by every member of the church being active in ministry, not just the church leadership or a select few. Furthermore, the church shall ensure that every member is equipped to fulfill his/her personal contribution to the achievement of the purposes of the church (worship, evangelism, and edification).
- D. Mission Bible Fellowship recognizes that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church (Eph 5:23) and the Owner of it (I Cor 6:19-20). Church growth (both quantitative and qualitative) ultimately finds its source in Him, not human efforts. The church shall be diligent to discern the Lord's leading in all decisions, remembering that jealousy, strife and selfish ambition are not products of the Lord's Spirit but of sinful flesh.
- E. Mission Bible Fellowship acknowledges that Jesus Christ has granted a portion of His authority to undershepherds to care for the flock (I Pet 5:1-5) and calls upon the flock to submit to that authority Heb 13:17). We acknowledge that God's plan for church government is a "shepherd/sheep" relationship. It shall, therefore, be the policy of Mission Bible Fellowship to permit that church leadership to exercise its authority within the guidelines of Scripture, making necessary leadership decisions without being required to call for a congregational vote, unless otherwise specified by these bylaws. This does not mean, however, that the church leadership should not continually seek out the ideas, desires, and input of the congregation before decisions are made. Nor does it mean those church leaders are not accountable to the congregation. The installation and removal of church leaders by the congregation shall be allowed.
- F. Mission Bible Fellowship shall be a missionary church with a worldwide vision for fulfilling the Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20). While our primary emphasis in missionary outreach shall be the immediate community, the church must never become so limited in its vision that evangelism beyond community boundaries is neglected.
- G. Mission Bible Fellowship, in all its activities and endeavors shall strive to project a positive image to the

world, which glorifies God, and draws the lost to Christ (Matt 5:14-16). Church facilities shall be attractively constructed and maintained and programs shall be efficiently executed through the diligent labor of the congregation.

- H. The lifestyle of Mission Bible Fellowship shall be one that is "in the world but not of the world" -(I Cor 5:9-10). That is, while seeking to lead the lost to Christ we must never isolate ourselves from them. At the same time however, we must not allow ourselves individually or corporately to be conformed to them (Rom 12:2, 1 Jn 2:5-17). The church must maintain a balance in all its ministries which conveys to the world that Christians are "aliens and strangers" on this earth who, though they do not love the world, love sinners lost in the darkness of it.

ARTICLE TWO CONFESSION AND COVENANT

Article 1 – God The Bible declares there is one true and living God, an infinitely perfect, eternal being of indefinite power, wisdom, and goodness, existing in three persons who are of one substance, power, and nature, namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is the Creator, Preserver and Ruler over all things: all things visible and invisible, temporal and eternal. (Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:14; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; John 5:8; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Timothy 1:17)

Article 2 – God The Father The Bible declares that God as Father creates and reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to His plan and purposes. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 42:5; Ps 145:8-16; Isaiah 46:10; Romans 8:15-16; 2 Corinthians 6:18, 1 John 3:1)

Article 3 - Jesus Christ The Bible declares that Jesus Christ is God incarnate - fully God and fully man, in Whom the divine and human natures are perfectly and inseparably united. Jesus is the eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He is the only Savior for all of humanity. He lived a sinless life and endured death on the cross, and in Him, the payment for sin was fulfilled. He was buried, rose from the dead, and ascended bodily into heaven to be with the Father, from which He shall also return. Faith in His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation. He is the eternal Savior, High Priest and Advocate, who intercedes for us, and who will also judge all. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; John 1:14; Acts 1:3, 1:9-11, 2:22-24, 4:9-10, 17:2-3; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Colossians 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 2:17, 4:14-16, 7:25; Revelation 20:11-15)

Article 4 - The Holy Spirit The Bible declares that the Holy Spirit is God The Spirit - the third person of The Trinity. He proceeds from and is of one Being with the Father and the Son. In all that He does, He glorifies God The Father and The Lord Jesus Christ. The Spirit convicts the world of sin, reveals the Truth (Jesus) to humanity, and leads us to repentance, salvation, and redemption. At salvation, the Holy Spirit baptizes, seals believers as God's own possession, and indwells those who believe and leads them into the fellowship of the Church, teaching, guiding, comforting, sustaining, gifting for the building up of the church, empowering, and sanctifying them for Christ-like living and service. (John 14:16-17, 14:26, 15:26-27, 16:7-15; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 12:11; Ephesians 1:13-14)

Article 5 - The Bible The Bible, in the entirety of both Old and New Testaments, is the inspired, inerrant, written Word of God. It alone contains the will of God as far as we must know it for life and salvation. If it is not found within the Canon of Scripture, understood as the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, it is not to be enjoined to any article of faith or doctrine essential to salvation. The Bible is authoritative and binding to the life of the believer, and reveals the nature of God, the world in which we live, and the plan and invitation of salvation which is offered to every person. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises. (Matthew 22:37-40; Galatians 1:8-9, 3:11, 3:23-25, 4:9-10; Colossians 2:16-17; 1 Timothy 1:5, 2:5; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; James 2:8; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Revelation 22:18-19)

Article 6- Depravity and Prevenient Grace The Bible declares that through the sin of Adam, all humanity has fallen from original righteousness and is entirely destitute of holiness, inclined to continual evil, sinners by nature and by choice. Because of this state, unless a person is born again and regenerated through faith in Jesus Christ, they are

not fit to enter the Kingdom of God. No person has the ability in and of themselves to resolve this, not by works or good deeds, but is wholly dependent upon the work of Christ to be saved from this depravity. The Bible further declares that humanity has been created with a free-will and is responsible for its own eternal destiny, yet is enabled to exercise the will to both follow Christ and live a life of obedience through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and the prevenient grace of God. (Genesis 6:5; Psalm 51:5, 58:3; John 3:3-7; Acts 17:24-28; Romans 2:4, 3:10-18, 3:22-23, 5:15-21; Ephesians 2:1-3, 2:8-10; Philippians 2:12-13; Titus 2:11-14)

Article 7 - Atonement for Sin The Bible declares that God was, in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself. The offering of the pure and sinless Christ, freely made on the cross through the shedding of His blood, is the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of all of humanity, both original and actual. Because of this, no other payment is required. (John 19:30; Romans 3:21-25a; Hebrews 7:25-27, 9:25-28, 10:12)

Article 8 - Justification, Regeneration, and Adoption The Bible declares that we are not considered righteous before God through our works or merit, but only through faith in Jesus Christ. Regeneration is the renewal of our whole being through faith in Jesus Christ, being formed into His likeness by the power and work of the Holy Spirit. In this we are made partakers of the divine nature and restored into fellowship with God and His Church. By this new birth, the believer becomes a child of God, adopted into the Kingdom of God, and made an heir of the Kingdom of Heaven. The Spirit and the Word bear witness to this gracious work and assure the regenerate believer that they have passed from death unto life, their sins are forgiven, and that they are members of God's family. (Isaiah 64:6; John 1:12; Romans 4:3-5, 5:1-2, 8:13-16; 2 Corinthians 5:17, 6:18; Galatians 2:15-16, 20, 4:4-7, 5:5-6; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-5; 1 John 3:1-2)

Article 9 - Sanctification The Bible declares that God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially. The work of sanctification empowers this lifestyle. Sanctification begins at salvation and is the ongoing work of God's grace through the Word and the Holy Spirit, by which those who have been born again are enabled to increasingly live in accordance with God's will, honoring Him by pursuing holiness in all aspects of their lives. Sanctification does not deliver us from the infirmities, ignorance, and mistakes common to humanity, nor does it remove from us the possibility of further sin. A person is "set apart" so that they may experience continued growth in divine knowledge, spiritual strength, and good works to the glory of God. The follower of Christ must continue to guard against the temptations of spiritual pride and seek to live victoriously over this and every other temptation to sin. This desire to love and honor Christ above all things empowers a life of holiness, enabling the believer to walk even as He walked. (Matthew 22:37; Acts 15:8-9; Romans 6:1-14, 8:1-4, 12:1-2; Galatians 5:22-23; Philippians 2:1-5; Colossians 1:9-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Hebrews 12:10-15; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 1:9, 3:3)

Article 10 - Security of the Believer The Bible declares that believers are secure in Christ and demonstrate true conversion as they walk in surrender and faith. Those who have committed their lives to Christ in faith can have confidence in His completed work, and God's promise to keep them until the end. Also, those who fall into sin, may come to God in genuine repentance, and be confident that the grace and mercy of God is always theirs through the work of Christ on the cross. (John 3:16, 10:27-30; Philippians 1:4-6, 2:12; Hebrews 7:25; Jude 24-25, 1 John 1:9; 1 John 5:11-13)

Article 11 - Love and Obedience The Bible declares that love and obedience are the fruits of faith and regeneration. They do not have the ability to remove sin, nor satisfy the required judgement of sin. Obedience to Christ, from a heart of love, springs from a true and living faith, revealing to the World that a person follows Jesus. (John 15:1-8; Galatians 2:15-16; Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 1:9-11; James 2:17-18, 3:10-13)

Article 12 - The Church The Bible declares that the Church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone, living under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It is this fellowship of the redeemed by which Christ is Worshiped, the Word of God is preached, and the sacraments are shared. Under the headship of Christ and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the Church exists to fulfill the Great Commission by encouraging and enabling Worship, growing and building up believers, and taking the message of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. (Acts 2:41-47; Colossians 1:18-21; 1 John 1:7)

Article 13 - The Sacraments The Bible declares that the sacraments, as ordained by Christ, are not only symbolic of a believer's profession, but they are also signs of God's love and grace toward us. Through these sacraments, the

Spirit works in us, quickening, strengthening, and confirming our faith in Him. The two sacraments ordained by Christ are Baptism and Communion.

1. Baptism - Baptism signifies the entrance of a believer into the household of faith and is symbolic of surrender, repentance, and cleansing. It is a representation of the new birth in Christ Jesus and a mark of Christian discipleship. All believers should endeavor to be baptized, as the sacrament of Baptism is established for and administered to only those who have received Christ Jesus as Savior and Lord. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38-41, 8:36-39; 16:30-33)

2. Communion - Communion is a representation of our redemption, a memorial of the sufferings and death of Christ, and a token of love and union that believers have with Christ and one another. Believers are exhorted to rightly and worthily eat the broken bread and drink the blessed cup in remembrance of Christ's broken body and shed blood. In so doing, the Church proclaims the Lord's death until He comes. (Luke 22:19-22; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

Article 14 - Healing The Bible declares that God is able to heal and that we ought to pray for those who are sick. Although healing cannot be demanded of God, it may be sought in accordance with the instructions in Scripture. We believe that God heals in three ways: (1) through the natural processes of the human body, which may be aided by medical help, (2) through the instantaneous intervention of God bringing healing to the body, and (3) through the death and resurrection of the body to a glorified state. (James 5:13-16)

Article 15 - The Lord's Day (Sabbath) The Bible declares that ultimately, Jesus is our sabbath. It is He Who makes us lie down in green pastures, leads us to quiet waters and restores our souls. However, it is in our nature and given by God's example that we must take time to regularly rest from unnecessary labor, and be devoted to spiritual renewal, growth, Christian fellowship, and service. Sunday is a good day to observe this. (Psalm 23:1-3; Matthew 28:1; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Colossians 2:16-17; Hebrews 10:24-25; Revelation 1:10)

Article 16 - Public Worship The Bible declares that God-focused worship is the duty and privilege of every person, who, in the presence of God, bows in adoration, humility, and dedication. This assembling of believers is essential to the life of the Church and vital to the life of the individual believer. The Scriptures further reveal that the order of public worship need not be the same in all places but may be modified by the Church according to circumstances and the needs of the body. All things should be done in a manner consistent with the Scriptures and for the purpose of building up those who believe, and glorifying God. (Psalm 95:1-7; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 5:1-7, chapters 12-14; Ephesians 4:11-16, 5:19-20; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:24-25)

Article 17 - The Return of Christ The Bible declares the personal, bodily and glorious return of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the earth and that He will ultimately fulfill all prophecies made concerning His final and complete triumph over all evil. Faith in the imminent return of Jesus is both rational and a hope to those who believe and demands constant expectancy, and as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and joyful participation in God's mission to reach the ends of the earth with The Gospel. (Matthew 25:1-13, 14-30; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-15)

Article 18 - Resurrection, Judgement and the Future State The Bible declares that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous and that all will stand before God, the righteous and just Judge. Those who have trusted Christ by faith shall receive the promise of eternal life in heaven, however those who have rejected God's free gift of salvation shall receive endless punishment apart from God, in hell. (Ecclesiastes 12:14; Isaiah 35:8-10; Matthew 25:41-46; John 5:22-24; Acts 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:8-10; 1 John 5:11-12; Revelation 20:11-15, 21:8, 21:22-27)

Moral Values and Position Statements

1. Position on the SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE: We believe that God allows conception and is the Creator of all human life. Because of this, human life is of inestimable worth and significance in all its dimensions, including the unborn, the aged, the widowed, the mentally impaired, the physically challenged and every other condition in which humanness is expressed from conception to death. We believe that every human life should be both preserved and protected. Consequently, we are opposed to abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, and any other act that would terminate life for the sake of convenience.

2. Position on HUMAN VALUE: We believe that God has created every human life in His image, and therefore the Church must respect the uniqueness of God's creative design, inherent in every race, nation, creed and gender (male and female). We believe that the Bible teaches that Humanity's value is found in our Creator and that there is no reason whatsoever for the belief in the superiority or inferiority of any people. A disciple, following the example of Christ, should reflect this value in the way they think, communicate, and act toward every person. Because of this, we oppose all prejudice or segregation based upon differences of race or national origin, as well as any action that exploits and destroys the created value of a person, such as slavery, prostitution, human trafficking, drug and alcohol abuse.

3. We Value MARRIAGE: We believe that the institution of marriage was created by God and intended to be a permanent, life-long, growing, and life-giving relationship only between one man and one woman. This covenant is not dependent upon life's circumstances nor diminished by difficulties or trials, but should reflect the enduring nature of God's faithfulness to His promises.

Because of this, Disciples should: a. Understand the sacred nature of marriage and maintain a reverent posture toward marriage in thought and practice. b. Practice prayerful deliberation and wisdom in every step leading toward marriage, including not being unequally yoked with those who do not follow Jesus, and seeking God-honoring counsel and guidance in preparation for marriage. c. Endeavor to faithfully reflect the character of Christ in their marriage, following the Biblical guidance of roles and responsibilities of Husbands and Wives.

Because marriage is a Divine covenant before God, when human failure results in placing the marriage in jeopardy, the Church strongly urges the persons involved to seek counsel in order to effect reconciliation and restoration, that the marriage may be preserved. Every effort should be made to seek reconciliation, even in the most dire of circumstances, knowing that "God hates divorce" and calls those who follow him to walk in faithfulness, grace, forgiveness, and humility toward each other. Because of this Biblical view of the Marriage covenant, we oppose such things that would devalue or corrupt that union, including same-sex unions or marriages, polygamy, or divorce (except on the grounds of adultery or abandonment). We also believe that abuse of any form within a marriage fails to honor God and the covenant entered into.

4. We Value the FAMILY: We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is built upon a marriage of one man and one woman, in a covenant commitment for a lifetime, which reflects the union of Christ and His Church. It is in the context of this relationship that God provides a framework for companionship, sexual expression, and reproduction.

Husbands and wives are of equal worth before God as both are created in His image and God shows no partiality among persons. The posture of relationships within a family is one of mutual respect, honor, and submission. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loves the Church, and wives are to submit to their husbands, as to the Lord. Each should seek to reflect an attitude of humility, not insisting on their own rights but rather, seeking the best for the other in love. Husbands have the God-given responsibility to lead, love and honor his wife. Wives have the God-given responsibility to follow, love, and respect her husband.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to set an example of Godliness for their children, as well as to be a model of God's pattern for marriage. They are to lead their children into the fear and admonition of the Lord, calling them to surrender to Christ in faith, as well as to teach them how to walk as faithful disciples, following the spiritual and moral values as set forth in the Bible. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

5. We Value BIBLICAL SEXUALITY: We believe that the Bible clearly teaches that humanity possesses a God-created sexuality that is designed for heterosexual expression within a monogamous Biblical marriage. Any deviation from this is sin and a forsaking of God’s purposeful and blessed intention, expression and experience of human sexuality. For those who have fallen into sin in this area, God’s grace and forgiveness is given to those who repent and return to Him, and they can experience perfect healing, deliverance, and restoration to a life of personal dignity and human sexuality as set forth in the Scripture.

6. We Value CITIZENSHIP: We believe that the Bible has called believers to, first and foremost, live as citizens of the Kingdom of God who live as “aliens and strangers” in this present world. However, God has also called us to seek the welfare and peace of the land in which he has placed us. This means we must take seriously our privileges and responsibilities under any such God-ordained human government in which we live. Disciples of Christ are called to pray for those in governmental leadership, obey the laws established by government (unless they conflict with God’s laws), and to reflect the heart and values of Christ through informed voting and influence.

7. We Value THE HUMAN BODY: We believe that the Bible clearly teaches that God created all people either male or female. Each person was designed by God and assigned the gender that He planned for them at conception. There are no mistakes by God and no possibility of transitioning from one gender to another. Each human is created with great skill and care by God as He designed and intended.

Additionally, through Christ’s redeeming work, the believer’s body has become the temple and dwelling place of God. Therefore, the believer should endeavor to take proper care of their body so that they might honor God’s creation and have the strength and vitality to serve Him to the fullest potential. Any practice, including the use of harmful substances that harm the body and diminish its “strength to serve” is dishonoring to the Lord and we encourage believers to abstain from them. The Bible also clearly warns about the dangers of alcohol and other non-medically prescribed substances, and believers are strongly urged to wisely heed these Biblical warnings.

8. We Value THE HUMAN MIND: We believe that the Bible teaches that as Disciples, we are to think on the positive and God-honoring things of life. We are to seek to have “the mind of Christ” and to purposefully grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we encourage every believer to consistently fill their minds with the Truth, daily reading and meditating on God’s Word, and to guard their minds, “taking every thought captive” and staying away from materials/content that corrupt and undermine the transforming work of Truth in our minds.

Church Covenant

Section 8. Church Covenant

All new members shall subscribe to the following church covenant before the congregation:

I therefore promise, in dependence upon the grace of God, which empowers us for obedience, to attend as diligently as possible the worship of God in this church. To be faithful in my private worship, and in all things to honor our Savior as Lord by a walk becoming the Gospel of Christ, yielding myself to the Lord and to the guidance of His Holy Spirit.

Furthermore, by His grace, I do promise to support and sustain the work of God in this church, to honor and worship God in the giving of tithes and offerings, as the Lord leads me.

To preserve the good name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I promise to strive for a consistent walk as the Lord gives me grace that no reproach shall be brought upon His name.

To that end I identify with this assembly that I might participate in its endeavors, share its blessings, and submit to its discipline according to the Word of God.

ARTICLE THREE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. General Powers: Its Board of Directors shall manage the affairs of the Church. The Board of Directors may hereinafter be referred to as the "Church Board" or the "Deacon Board".

Section 2. Titles. Church Board positions shall be entitled "deacon", "deaconess", or "pastor".

Section 3. Number. The Church Board shall consist of not less than three (3) deacons and/or deaconesses and the Pastor. The number of Board positions may be increased or decreased, but not to less than the above-specified minimum, from time to time by amendment of these bylaws. The Pastor shall remain a member of the Board during the period of time he is employed by the Church.

Section 4. Tenure and Election, The terms of office for deacons, and deaconess shall be three (3) years. The Pastor's term of office shall be indefinite.

Prior to the annual meeting of the Church members, the Church Board shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of the Pastor, one (1) member of the Board and one (1) active church member not a member of the Board. This committee shall meet a minimum of six (6) weeks before the annual meeting of the Church members, make announcement to the membership which Board members terms are expiring, the number of Board members to be elected and that the committee is presently receiving nominations from the membership for selection to those positions. The committee may itself make such nominations. Announcements of meetings and nominees may be by printed notice in the Sunday Worship bulletin.

After allowing a reasonable time for the reception of nominations, the committee shall close nominations and review those nominations received in light of the qualifications for Board members as outlined in this bylaw (section 5). Nominees who, in the judgment of the committee, fulfill these qualifications shall be referred to the Elder Board for approval. Upon approval by the Elder Board these nominees' names shall be placed on the ballot to be put before the membership at the annual membership meeting. The final ballot shall be conspicuously posted in the Church facility and/or bulletin at least one (1) week prior to the membership meeting. Nominees may not be added after the ballot is posted, unless the revised ballot is posted at least one (1) week prior to the membership meeting. Voting shall be by closed ballot. Tabulation of the ballots shall be by two church members selected by the Board chairman. Voters may vote for as many candidates as there are vacant positions (ie If there are 2 vacant positions, voters may vote for 2 candidates). Vacant positions shall be filled by those receiving a majority of votes from the membership present at the meeting. In the event of a tie, the Chairman of the Board will break the tie.

Section 5. Qualifications & Duties:

A. General Qualifications: Every member of the Board shall:

1. Be in agreement with the doctrinal statement of Mission Bible Fellowship as set forth in these bylaws,
2. Be characterized by a spirit of harmonious cooperation toward fellow Deacon Board members, and agree to support all decisions made by the Board,
3. Have demonstrated a significant level of commitment to Mission Bible Fellowship (1 Tim 3:10),
4. Enthusiastically support the various ministry programs of Mission Bible Fellowship, (Sunday school, discipleship classes, etc). Such support is to include regular participation in such ministries when such participation is reasonably possible,
5. Faithfully perform the tasks assigned to them by the Board, and,
6. Be an active member of Mission Bible Fellowship.

B. Specific Duties and Qualifications

1. Deacons are men who are the servants of the church. While the Elders' responsibilities concern the spiritual welfare of the Church, the deacons' duties focus on the physical welfare of the Church, Acts 6:1-6. Typical tasks of deacons therefore would include physical facilities, purchasing, deacon's fund, special activities, etc.
2. Deacons, shall be men whose lives exhibit an overall pattern of the following traits (I Tim 3:8-13)
 - a. Dignified takes his role seriously, respectable.
 - b. Not double tongued his word can be trusted.
 - c. Not indulging in much wine; doesn't spend an excessive amount of time drinking alcohol.
 - d. Not fond of sordid gain not greedy, doesn't use unethical business practices to make money.
 - e. Clear conscience lives the Christian life without hypocrisy, "practices what he preaches".
 - f. Has been tested in another ministry responsibility and found to be reliable. A deacon should not be a new Christian who is untested.
 - g. Beyond reproach blameless. No verifiable proof of wrongdoing against him.
 - h. Husband of one wife and faithfully devoted to his wife in accordance with scripture.
 - i. Good manager of his household including his children. as a father, as a husband, as a financial manager. Has children who believe and who are not rebellious or characterized by dissipation.
3. Deaconess- the deaconess' role is also that of a servant (Rom 16: 1: I Tim 3: 11) whose duties concern the physical welfare of the Church: Her presence on the board serves to ensure input from the women in the Church.

The Board shall ensure that the deaconess is not assigned responsibilities which involve teaching Scripture to men or directly exercising authority over men (I Tim 2:9-15). Her qualifications are:

- a. Dignified same as for deacon, see above.
- b. Not a gossip listens more than she talks, not a slanderer or talebearer, keeps confidences.
- c. Temperate stable, steadfast, a clear thinker not vulnerable to extremes balanced judgment, not given to fanaticism.
- d. Faithful trustworthy, reliable.

Section 6. Removal A Board member may be removed from the Board without vote by the board if member misses three (3) consecutive meetings, whether a regular, special, or Annual meeting, or five (5) meetings, whether a regular, special, or annual meeting, within any calendar year, unless the Board votes to reinstate the member.

In addition a Board member may be removed from the Board by:

- A. A vote of more than 2/3 of the entire number of the Church Board, at any meeting of the Board called in accordance with these bylaws, or
- B. A vote of more than 2/3 of the active voting members of the Church at a meeting called in accordance with

these bylaws.

Section 7. Regular Meetings The Board may provide, by regulation, the time and place for holding its regular meetings without other notice than such regulation.

Section 8. Special Meetings Special meetings of the Board may be called by or at the request of the president or any two Board members. The person or persons authorized to call special meetings of the Board may fix any place, within Missoula County, Montana, as the place for holding any special meeting of the Board called by them.

Section 9. Notice. Notice of any special meeting of the Board shall be given at least three days previously. (a) By oral announcement of the place, day and hour of such meeting by the Pastor or by the secretary from the pulpit at a Church service conducted by the Church not less than three (3) days before the meeting. (b) By written notice delivered personally or sent by mail to each Board member at his address as shown by the records of the Church. If mailed, such notices shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail in a sealed envelope so addressed, with postage thereon prepaid. Any Board member may waive notice of any meeting. The attendance of a Board member at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where a deacon attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened. The business to be transacted at the meeting need not be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of such meeting, unless specifically required by law or by these bylaws.

Section 10. Quorum A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board shall be constituted by the presence at such meeting of a majority of the current total number of Board members. If less than a quorum is present, a majority of members present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

Section 11. Board Decisions The act of a majority of the Board members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board, unless that act of a greater number is required by law or by these bylaws.

Section 12. Vacancies Any vacancy occurring in the Church Board and any Board position to be filled by reason of an increase in the number of Board positions, shall be filled by the Board. A member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the unexpired term of his predecessor in office. The term of a person filling a new position created by the Board shall run until the next annual meeting.

Section 13 Informal Action by the Church Board: Any action required by law to be taken at a meeting of deacons, or any action which may be taken at a meeting of the Board, may be taken without a meeting. If consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by a majority of the Board members.

Section 14 Budget. The Church Board shall, prior to the end of the fiscal year, prepare an annual budget and operate under the guidelines of the budget.

ARTICLE FOUR OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers The officers of the Church Board shall consist of a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer, and such other officers as the Church Board may from time to time determine. The president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer of the Board shall serve in the same offices of the church.

Section 2. Election Officers shall be elected for a one-year term at the first meeting of the new Church Board. Each officer shall hold office until a successor is elected, unless his resignation, removal or death ends the term of the officer. Any two offices may be held by the same person, except the offices of president and vice president.

Section 3. Removal Any officer or agent elected or appointed by the Board may be removed by majority vote of the Board. Whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Church would be served thereby, but such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract right, if any, of the person so removed.

Section 4. Vacancies A vacancy in any office for any reason may be filled by the board for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 5. President The president shall exercise a general supervision and direction of the affairs of the Church. He shall preside at all meetings of the Church Board. He shall review all proposals for appropriation of funds submitting them with recommendations to the Board. He shall be responsible for the execution of the full details of the various programs, which shall be determined from time to time by the Board. He shall sign or countersign all instruments that require his signature and shall make such reports and perform such other duties incident to his office as are required of him by the Board. He shall be an ex officio member of all committees under the jurisdiction of the Board. Subject to such limitations as the Board may impose, the duties of the president may be discharged by assistants or employees acting under his supervision and direction.

Section 6. Vice-President In the absence or disability of the president, the vice-president shall exercise all his functions. He shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the president of the Board.

Section 7. Secretary The secretary shall issue notices of all upcoming meetings of the Board, record the minutes of the meetings and maintain a file of the meeting minutes. The secretary shall also keep a register of the post office addresses of each member. In general perform all duties incident to the office of secretary and other such duties as from time to time may be assigned by the president of the Church Board. Assistants or employees acting under his supervision and direction may discharge the duties of the secretary.

Section 8. Treasurer Subject to such provisions as may be made from time to time by the Board, the treasurer shall have the custody of all monies, funds, securities, contract, mortgages, deeds of trust, leases, and deeds of the corporation. He shall keep proper books of account thereof, which books shall, at all times, be open to inspection by each Board member. The treasurer shall deposit the monies and securities of the Church in such depositories and on such terms and conditions as the Board may direct, and when so deposited, the treasurer shall not be personally responsible for their safe keeping. The treasurer shall render such reports relating to the monies, funds, securities, investments, and fiscal affairs of the Church as may be required of him from time to time by the Board. He shall sign or countersign checks, stocks, securities, contracts, mortgages, deeds of trust, leases, deeds and other instruments as require his signature, and shall perform all duties incident to his office or that are properly required of him by the Church Board. He shall not pay out money, invest any funds, transfer or dispose of any securities or any other property, excepting on the authorization of the Board. The treasurer shall give such bond, with such security, as the Board from time to time may require; the cost or premium of any such bond shall be the sole cost and expense of the Church. Subject to such limitations as the Board may impose, the duties of the treasurer may be discharged, and his books and records kept by assistant treasurers acting under his direction.

Section 9, Committees, the Board may determine and as provided in Section 35-2-407 of the Montana Nonprofit Corporation Act.

Section 10. Pastor. It shall be the duty of the Church Board to employ a Pastor in accordance with Article V of these bylaws. The Pastor shall be ex officio a member of all committees and shall be a member of the Church Board for and during the time the Church employs him as Pastor.

ARTICLE FIVE THE PASTOR AND ELDERS

Section 1. Duties of the Pastor:

The Pastor of Mission Bible Fellowship shall perform the following duties as set forth in the Scriptures:

- A. Equipping the saints for the work of service (Eph 4:11-16). The Pastor, through preaching and teaching the Scriptures (2 Tim 3:16-17), is to train Christians to do the work of ministry that God has called them to do

and promote their growth into the image of Christ. (I Tim 5:17; 1 Pet 2:2; Acts 6:2).

- B. Protection of the flock from false teachers: As a shepherd of the flock, the Pastor not only is responsible for feeding, but for protecting it from wolves (Acts 20:28-31). The Elder Board shall approve any person's occupying the pulpit in the Pastor's absence.
- C. Living- and example of Christ likeness for the flock to model: The Pastor is to live in such a manner that his life serves as an example for the flock to imitate (1 Pet 5:3).
- D. Rebuke and correction of members of the flock: The Pastor shall, when he observes a member of the flock sinning, strive to turn such member away from his sin (Titus 1:13; 1 Tim 5:1-2; Heb 13:17).
- E. Visitation of and prayer for the sick and downcast. Whenever possible, the Pastor shall meet with and pray for sick and discouraged members of the flock. He shall be assisted in this ministry, as needed, by the elders of the church (James 5:14-15).
- F. Counseling. Upon request, the Pastor shall meet with individuals in need of counseling. Such counseling shall be from the Scriptures and may be done in cooperation with the elders.
- G. General oversight and coordination of church functions. The Pastor shall function as the administrator of the church to ensure that the organizational aspects of the church function smoothly and efficiently.
- H. Officiating at weddings and funerals.

Section 2. Duties of the Elders

- A.
 1. Elders shall be nominated by members of the Elder Board, Deacon Board or the Pastor. All such nominations must be approved by a 2/3 positive vote of the combined Elder and Deacon Boards.
 2. Nominees will be presented to the Church membership for a vote, following a minimum one week posting of nominations in the Church bulletin or other means to allow Church members to reflect on the nominees prior to a vote.
 3. The Church membership vote shall be by secret ballot, and a 2/3 positive vote is required to elect a nominee to the Elder Board.
 4. The term of an Elder shall be 3 years, with the opportunity to be reelected to one additional term of 3 years. Following a maximum term of 6 years, an Elder must step down from that role for a minimum of one year before being eligible to again be nominated to serve as an Elder.
- B. The Elders duties shall include:
 1. Assist the Pastor in the promotion of the spiritual well being of the Church:
 2. Visit members of the Church, the sick, and newcomers to the Church and/or community;
 3. Assist the Pastor in preaching and teaching the Scriptures.
 4. Assist the Pastor in the observation of the Church ordinances:
 5. Assist the Pastor as required in the ministry of counseling:
 6. Meet together with the Pastor on a regular basis.
- C. The office of Elder shall be filled by men whose lives exhibit an overall pattern of the following qualifications as outlined in I Tim 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
 1. Above reproach blameless. No verifiable proof of wrongdoing against him.
 2. Husband of one wife and faithfully devoted to his wife, in accordance with scripture.

3. Temperate stable, steadfast, a clear thinker not vulnerable to extremes balanced judgment, not given to fanaticism.
4. Prudent sensible in his thinking and actions. Avoids quick decisions.
5. Respectable lives an orderly life. Doesn't run from crisis to crisis because of his own disorganization.
6. Hospitable a lover of strangers, friendly.
7. Able to teach knows the Bible well and is able to apply it to life and teach it to others. Also that he is "teachable"
8. Not indulging in much wine; doesn't spend an excessive amount of time drinking alcohol.
9. Not pugnacious literally, not a "striker". Doesn't resort to displays of temper or intimidation in order to control others.
10. Gentle gracious, kind, considerate.
11. Uncontentious not a person who likes to argue.
12. Free from the love of money not a greedy person. Doesn't use unethical business practices.
13. Manages his own household well as a father, as a husband, as a financial manager.
14. Keeps his children under control has children who believe and who are not rebellious or characterized by dissipation.
15. Not a new convert not a new Christian. A new Christian in leadership will fall to the sin of pride.
16. Good reputation outside the church what do unsaved people in the community think of him?
17. Not self-willed not overbearing and inconsiderate.
18. Not quick tempered doesn't become angry easily.
19. Loves what is good ready to do good to others rather than evil.
20. Just doing what is right, fair in all situations.
21. Devout earnest desire to be pleasing to God.
22. Self-controlled a disciplined life in control of his passions and appetites.
23. Holds fast the faithful word a firm grounding in Biblical doctrine.

Section 3 Calling of the Pastor

It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Elder and Deacon Boards, upon prior approval of the Church membership, to employ a pastor.

- A. 1. In the event a Pastor is to be called, and Pastoral candidates are to be sought and vetted, it shall be the responsibility of the Deacon Board, in consultation with the Elder board, to appoint a Search committee for the purpose of soliciting, evaluating, and interviewing Pastoral candidates, and present the results of such efforts to the Combined Deacon and Elder Boards for their consideration, and ultimate approval. The Search Committee will work in collaboration with Western Conference, who is a member of the

Evangelical Church denomination, and any candidates put forth to the combined Deacon and Elder Boards must be acceptable to Western Conference. The Search committee shall be composed of at least 4 active Church members (who are not Board members), 1-2 Deacon Board members, 1-2 Elder Board members, and the Superintendent of Western Conference. Presentation of the Committee's results to the combined Boards shall require a 2/3 positive vote by the Committee members to do so

2. Upon a 2/3 positive vote by the combined Deacon and Elder Boards to recommend a Pastoral candidate to the Church membership, a presentation shall be made to the Church membership as follows:
 - A. A regular or special meeting of the Church membership shall be called for the purpose of acting on the recommendation of the combined Boards as regards to approval of hiring a Pastor.
 - B. A presentation shall be made to the Church Membership, which shall include (1) the process utilized by the Search Committee; (2) the results of the Committee's work; (3) relevant points from the combined Boards discussion; (4) and why the recommended candidate is considered an appropriate and superior candidate over other candidates considered.
 - C. A two week prior notice period must be given to the Church membership before any meeting presentation or vote by the Church membership.
 - D. Following the presentation, and an opportunity for Church members to voice questions and comments, a vote on the recommended candidate shall be taken by the Church membership. Voting shall be by secret ballot, and only one candidate may be voted on at the meeting. A 2/3 positive vote of the Church membership present at such meeting shall constitute valid approval to elect the Pastoral candidate.
 - E. The Pastor's term of office shall be for an indefinite period of time

Section 4 Ministry Assessment (Includes Pastor as Ministry Leader)

The combined Elder and Deacon Boards shall evaluate the Pastor's leadership and assess the success of reaching predetermined goals for the year.

During the first year of the Pastor's employment by the church, the combined Elder and Deacon Boards shall meet with him quarterly for the purpose of giving feedback on his leadership, making suggestions and listening to his own recommendations. Thereafter, the combined Elder and Deacon Boards shall assess the progress made by the Ministry and Pastor of reaching predetermined goals.

The combined Elder and Deacon Boards may obtain input from the Church Membership for use in any assessment.

At the beginning of each year, the Pastor shall report to the membership the progress and accomplishments of the previous year. He shall also outline the goals established by the Pastor and the combined Elder and Deacon Boards for the coming year. The 'State of the Church' presentation is intended to keep all members informed of both our progress and areas of further concentration.

Section 5. Dismissal/Resignation of a Pastor

- A. Dismissal of a Pastor- A recommendation to dismiss or replace a Pastor may be made by the combined Deacon and Elder Boards upon a 2/3 positive vote of the combined Boards. Such a recommendation, and the reasons for the recommendation shall be presented to the Church membership in a meeting, following a two week notice of such a meeting, which includes the purpose of the meeting. A 2/3 positive vote of the Church membership in attendance at this meeting shall be sufficient to approve the recommendation.
- B. The church may relieve a dismissed Pastor of his responsibilities immediately, but shall provide salary and benefits for a period of at least 30 days following such dismissal.
- C. Should the Pastor desire to resign his office, a one-month notification period is deemed proper.

ARTICLE SIX
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Qualifications Membership in Mission Bible Fellowship is open to all persons (regardless of race, color, sex or national origin) upon their affirmation of such desire who meet the following qualifications:

- A. Believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and confess Him as their Lord and Savior,
- B. Have met with the Pastor of the Church and confessed their faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and affirmed to the Pastor that they will attempt, by God's grace, to live a life pleasing to the Lord,
- C. Are in doctrinal agreement with the doctrine of this church,
- D. Attend a membership class taught by the Pastor and upon the completion of this class, be recommended for membership by the Pastor.

Section 2. Responsibilities of Membership The general duties or responsibilities of members of Mission Bible Fellowship include:

- A. The acquisition of Scriptural knowledge, constant progress in Christian maturity, consistency in Christian conduct and the control of an unholy temper,
- B. To pray for the Pastor, manifesting a tender regard for his reputation,
- C. To pray for the work of the Church that many souls will be saved and that those saved might be rooted and built up in the faith,
- D. To cultivate and cherish brotherly love for other members and to demonstrate this love by using all scriptural measures to promote their spiritual benefit and prosperity,
- E. To contribute, as God prospers, toward the maintenance of the Church and its missionary program and in general assist in bearing the expenses of this ministry,
- F. To discover and exercise their proper function in the Church in accordance with the role given them by the Holy Spirit, thus contributing to the overall labor of the Church.

Section 3. Classification of Members There shall be two classifications of members: active, and inactive.

- A. Active members are those who have fulfilled the qualifications for membership as specified in section 1 of this bylaw and who continue to faithfully fulfill those qualifications.
- B. Inactive members are those persons who have fulfilled the qualifications for membership but who:
 1. Have absented themselves from the regular worship service of the Church for six (6) months or longer as determined by the Elder Board or,
 2. Have requested that they be classified as inactive because of extenuating circumstances (students away at school, extended travel, summer residents, etc), or,
 3. Have been disciplined in accordance with these bylaws and reclassified as an inactive member by the Elder Board for a period of six months. Inactive membership does not qualify the member to vote. Inactive members may request the Elder Board to restore them to active membership. Such restoration shall be effected by a majority vote of the Elder Board.

Section 4. Termination and Transfer Termination of membership shall be effective upon death, personal resignation,

or exclusion as determined by the Elder Board. Following the usual procedure for membership application may reinstate terminated members. Membership may not be transferred.

Section 5. Rights of Members. There shall be no capital stock. Every active member shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the membership of Mission Bible Fellowship and may vote in person or by proxy. The designated person casting a proxy vote shall present a signed and dated document giving the absent member's permission for such person to cast their vote. Cumulative voting shall be prohibited. Members shall have no individual property rights in the property of the Church.

Section 6. Membership Rolls. The Administrative Assistant shall keep a membership book, card file, or computerized listing containing the name, address, birth date, and membership classification (active, inactive) of each member. In any case in which membership has been initiated, terminated or reclassified, notice of such reclassification and the date it was effected shall also be recorded in such membership file.

Section 7. Affiliating or Disaffiliating With Another Organization.

1. It shall be the duty and responsibility of the combined Boards of Elders and Deacons, upon prior approval of the Church membership, to carry out the appropriate steps to join or separate from an organization in an affiliation or membership capacity.
2. In the event MBF is to consider joining / affiliating or separating / disaffiliating from an organization, it shall be the responsibility of the combined Elder and Deacon Boards to establish a Committee comprised of Elders, Deacons, and of appropriate Church members, to assess any such joining or separation action. The Committee shall present its findings to the full combined Elder and Deacon Boards, who will discuss and act on the Committee's work. A 2/3 positive approval by the combined Boards shall be required to approve the affiliation or disaffiliation under consideration.
3. Upon approval of the affiliation / disaffiliation action by the combined Boards, a Church meeting of the membership will be scheduled to present the action for Church membership consideration and vote. The recommendation, and the reason(s) for it shall be presented to the Church membership, following a two week notice of such a meeting, and its purpose. A 2/3 positive vote by the Church members in attendance at the meeting shall be sufficient to approve the recommended action to affiliate or disaffiliate.

The Pastor, while employed by Mission Bible Fellowship, shall be an active member of the Church and, if he is married, his wife shall also be an active member of the Church.

ARTICLE SEVEN ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Place of meeting All annual and special meetings of members shall be held at the church facility maintained by the Church unless other meeting places are designated by the president or the secretary of the church in the notice of the meeting.

Section 2. Annual Meeting of members shall be held in January on a Sunday as the board directs. The annual meeting shall consist of approving a budget and the election of the elected members of the Board whose terms expire at each annual meeting of members. Discussing and making known to the Board the desires of the members with respect to the policies and future work of the Church and other further business as may come before the membership.

Section 3. Notice of Annual Meetings. Notice of the annual meeting shall be given by two of the following (1) oral announcement of either the Pastor or the chairman of the Elder Board or chairman of the Deacon Board, from the pulpit at Church services conducted by the Church for two consecutive Sundays prior to the date of the annual meeting. (2) Placing of a written notice of the place, date and time of meeting in the Church bulletin handed out at the above-stated Church services for two consecutive Sundays prior to the date of the annual meeting. (3) By mailing to each member a notice of such annual meeting, which notice shall state the place, day and hour of such meeting. When notice is given by mail, such notice shall be deposited in the United States Mail, with postage prepaid, addressed to the member as his address appears on the records of the Church. Such

notice shall be so mailed not less than five (5) days, or more than twenty (20) days, before the date of the meeting.

Section 4. Special Meetings Special meetings of members shall be called at any time by the president of the Board of Deacons. In addition, the secretary shall call special meetings of members, at any time, upon receipt of written request of seven or more active members of the Church.

Section 5. Notice of Special Meetings. Notice of special meetings shall be given by two of the following (1) oral announcement of either the Pastor or the chairman of the Elder Board, or the chairman of the Deacon Board from the pulpit at Church services conducted by the Church for two consecutive Sundays prior to the date of the special meeting. (2) Placing of a written notice of the place, date and time of meeting in the Church bulletin handed out at the above-stated Church services for two consecutive Sundays prior to the date of the special meeting. (3) By mailing to each member a notice of such special meeting, which notice shall state the place, day and hour of such meeting. When notice is given by mail, such notice shall be deposited in the United States Mail, with postage prepaid addressed to the member as his address appears on the records of the Church. Such notice shall be so mailed not less than five (5) days, not more than twenty (20) days, before the date of the meeting.

Section 6. Quorum and Number of Votes to Adopt Matter Voted upon - the number of voting members present at a duly called meeting shall be a minimum of 20 to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The voting members present at a duly called or held meeting at which a quorum is present may continue to do business until adjournment, notwithstanding withdrawal of enough voting members to leave less than a quorum. A majority of the votes entitled to be cast on a matter voted upon by the active, voting members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be necessary for the adoption of the matter voted upon.

Section 7. Adjournment: Any meeting of the members, annual or special, whether or not a quorum is present, may be adjourned from time to time by the vote of a majority of the members present and qualified to vote. When any meeting of the members, either annual or special, is adjourned for thirty (30) days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of an original meeting.

Section 8. Informal Action by Members Any action required to be taken at a meeting of the members, or any other action which may be taken at a meeting of the members, may be taken without a meeting if consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken shall be signed by all of the members entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof. Such consent shall have the same effect as a unanimous vote and may be so stated in any certificates of minutes or in any articles or documents filed with the Secretary of State or delivered to any other persons, entity or governmental agencies.

ARTICLE EIGHT CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Section 1. Applicability

Recognizing that no Christian will be perfect until he or she sees the Lord face to face, the Church acknowledges that this discipline process is not intended for use in cases of the infrequent sins that all Christians commit. Rather, it is intended for use in such cases wherein a sin is of such magnitude and regularity that the testimony and spiritual health of the Church are threatened.

Section 2. Spirit

Church discipline shall be practiced with a spirit of gentleness and brotherly love (Gal 6: 1; 2 Thes 3:15).

Section 3. Responsibility

The responsibility for matters of Church discipline, which cannot be resolved on an individual level, shall be that of the Pastor and Elder(s) or, in the absence of Elder(s), the Pastor and such additional persons appointed

by the Deacon Board

Section 4. Procedure

The procedure to be followed in church discipline shall be that which is taught in Scripture. (Applicable verses include Matt 18:15-17; 1 Cor 5 :2; Thes 3:6-15; Titus 3:10-11; Eph 4:3; Rom 16:17; 1 Tim 5:19-20).

The Elder Board by a unanimous vote of its members may suspend or expel a member for cause after appropriate action has been taken. A member may be terminated when the member is the subject of church discipline and fails to respond to such discipline in repentance and turning away from sin.

ARTICLE NINE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Section 1. Philosophy and Goal

Scripture teaches and we agree that God's people are to participate in the calling of fulfilling the task of pressing on to maturity, to attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Although it is understood that until we see Jesus face to face we shall never be truly like Him (I John 3:2). Nevertheless the lifestyle and statutes taught by the Bible are designed that God's people would progressively become more like Christ. (Rm 8:29, 2Cor 3:18b, Lk 6:40, Col 3:9-10).

The Christian Education ministry of Mission Bible Fellowship has as its goal the promotion of Christian maturity in the people of the Church. The primary method of ministry will be the systematic teaching of the Scriptures (2 Tim 3:15-17; 1 Pet 2:2).

Section 2. The Sunday School

There shall be a Sunday school provided for all age groups whenever possible (in accordance with the current MBF Child abuse policy).

Section 3. Director of Christian Education

The Board of Elders shall appoint or elect one of its own members to serve as the Director of Christian Education (DCE), preferably an elder with teaching experience and who is reasonably available to the Christian Education workers. It shall be the duty of the DCE to ensure that the following tasks are accomplished:

- Overseeing the Sunday school teachers
- Student discipline
- Liaison to the Board regarding Christian Education issues
- Teacher recruitment, training, encouragement
- Selection of curriculum (must be in agreement with the Church's doctrine and is subject to approval by the Board of Elders)
- Record keeping (attendance, offering)
- Overseeing school opening exercise
- Equipment / Supply purchasing
- The DCE may appoint an assistant to serve in the DCE's absence.
- Should an elder not be available for the position of DCE, then either a deacon or deaconess may fill this position.

Section 4. Christian Education Workers

Because the Church recognizes the importance of its God-given task of Christian Education, every effort will be made to staff education programs with qualified teachers and workers. The basic qualifications for

Christian Education's staff are:

- Be a born-again Christian
- Demonstrate a significant level of commitment to Mission Bible Fellowship (for example, regular church attendance)
- Display Christian maturity, maintaining a life that is an example of Christ likeness to students.
- Be a member of Mission Bible Fellowship (exception in the case of substitute teachers / workers, subject to the approval of the Director of Christian Education)
- Agree to support the doctrines of the Church

Christian Education teachers are required to:

- Devote adequate preparation time to the lesson
- Attend any scheduled Christian Education meetings when reasonably possible Adhere to the approved curriculum
- Arrive prior to the opening assembly of Sunday school
- Maintain regular contact (cards, phone, etc) with their students
- Schedule a substitute in the event they are absent (Substitutes are subject to the approval of the DCE)
- Complete a criminal background check

Section 5. Christian Education Discipline Policy

ALL Christian Education teachers and workers will adhere to the following approved discipline procedure:

- A. The mildest form of discipline, which will correct errant behavior, is to be used.
- B. Acceptable discipline forms include verbal reprimand, parental contact, and / or isolation from the group. If these forms are not successful, the DCE or his assistant will be contacted.
- C. Corporal punishment (spanking, slapping, etc) will not be used.

ARTICLE TEN THE ORDINANCES

We believe that our Lord instructed the church to establish and observe the ordinances of Baptism and The Lord's Supper, both ordinances being symbolic in nature.

Section 1. Baptism

Jesus commanded His disciples to baptize new Christians in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matt 28:19). In addition, it was the practice of the early church to baptize new Christians in water (Acts 2:38). Therefore, it shall be the practice of Mission Bible Fellowship to, at least once each year, observe a baptismal service. The mode of baptism shall be by immersion whenever physically possible, sprinkling or pouring being permissible at such times when circumstances preclude immersion.

Every Christian is baptized by the Holy Spirit at the moment of the new birth (I Cor 12:13). This supernatural work of the Spirit serves to unite the believer with the body of Christ (I Cor 12:12, 18). So perfect is this identification that Jesus' death on the cross becomes the believer's death, His burial becomes the believer's burial, and His resurrection shall become the believer's resurrection. Water baptism is a symbolic, visual ceremony wherein the Christian makes public declaration of what has occurred to him spiritually, also providing him with an opportunity to publicly profess his faith in Christ as Savior (Matt 10:32-33).

In itself, water baptism has no spiritual merit since it is faith alone which saves us from sin (Luke 23:39-43; Eph 2:8); however, it is an act of obedience to our Lord's command (Matt 28:19).

The Pastor shall announce the date of any baptismal service to the congregation well in advance of such

service. All persons who have been born again through faith in Christ shall be eligible for baptism. Baptismal candidates shall express their desire to obey the Lord's command regarding baptism to the Pastor. In addition, candidates shall make a profession of their faith in Christ to the Pastor and / or elders of the church and shall complete an instructional class taught by the Pastor and / or elders. Such class shall instruct the candidate in the Scriptural teachings on baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Because Mission Bible Fellowship practices baptism of believers only, parents shall be encouraged to publicly dedicate their new child to the Lord at a child-dedication service. The Pastor shall conduct such services as necessary.

Section 2. The Lord's Supper

The Apostle Paul tells us (I Cor 11:23-34) that the Lord commanded the church to observe the ordinance of the Lord's Supper until He returns again. In addition, it was the custom of the early church to regularly participate in the Lord's Supper. Therefore, it shall be the practice of Mission Bible Fellowship to observe this ordinance at least once each month.

We believe that the purpose of the Lord's Supper is twofold:

- A. Remembrance of Jesus' death for our sins (I Cor 1 1:24-25),
- B. Proclamation of the Lord's death to the world (I Cor 11:26).

Furthermore, we believe that the elements of the Lord's Supper are symbolic only - the bread representing the body of Jesus and the cup representing His blood. Observance of the Lord's Supper, therefore, is not a repeated sacrifice of Jesus for our sins and does not function to secure our salvation. It is, rather, a command to be obeyed and an act of worship.

Observance of the Lord's Supper is to be preceded by a challenge by the Pastor to the congregation for individual solemn self-examination (I Cor 11:27-30).

Participation in this ordinance is open to all that have been born again through faith in Christ as Savior. Parents are soberly reminded to consider the admonition of I Cor 1 1:27-32 before permitting their children to participate in this ordinance.

Section 3. Administration of the Ordinances

The Pastor and Elders of the Church shall administer the ordinance of baptism. The Pastor, Elders, Deacons, and others if deemed necessary, shall administer the ordinance of the Lord's Supper.

ARTICLE ELEVEN GRIEVANCES

Section 1, Purpose

As in any family, grievances and complaints will most certainly arise in the church family. Since Scripture admonishes us to be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, it is imperative that grievances be satisfactorily and properly resolved.

Section 2. Personal Grievances

Should a person who is in regular fellowship with Mission Bible Fellowship have a personal grievance against another person in fellowship with the Church. The individual with the grievance should go directly to the person they feel is in the wrong and attempt to resolve the problem on a one-to-one, private basis in accordance with Matt 18:15ff. Persons with grievances who are uncertain about the instruction of Scripture

regarding their situation are encouraged to contact the Pastor for guidance. Similarly, should a one-to-one meeting fail to resolve the problem, the individuals involved should contact the Pastor.

Section 3. Non personal Grievances

In the event a person has a grievance regarding church policy or teaching, he or she is encouraged to contact the Elder or Deacon Board member concerned. If the grievance is not resolved in this manner, it should be taken to the appropriate Board.

Section 4. Unresolved Grievances and Membership

Members classified as inactive as a result of ceasing fellowship due to an unresolved grievance are required to meet with the Elder Board to resolve the grievance before being eligible for restoration to active membership.

ARTICLE TWELVE MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS

Section 1. Weddings

A. Scriptural Teaching

Christian marriage is a holy covenant between a man and woman made before God in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Mediator between God and man. God is its Creator (Gen 2:18-25) and Effector (Matt 19:4-6). The marriage covenant is a lifetime one (Matt 19:5-6) which can be honorably severed only by death (Rom 7:2-3). Additional biblical references related to divorce and/or remarriage are Mal 2, 1Cor 7, Mk 10, Mat 5, Mat 19: 1-12 and Lk 16: 18.

B. Policy

1. Weddings shall be conducted in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in a manner that is honoring and glorifying to Him. Marriage vows shall be Biblical in content and concept.
2. Because the Scriptures teach us (I Cor 7:39, 2 Cor 6:14-18) that a Christian is not to marry a non-Christian, such "mixed marriages" shall not be performed by the Pastor. It shall be the prerogative of the Pastor whether or not he performs marriages between two non-Christians.
3. Both bride and groom will be required to satisfactorily (as determined by the Pastor) complete pre-marriage counseling, during which both shall demonstrate commitment to the Scriptural principles of marriage.
4. The Pastor shall, to the best of his ability, determine if either the bride or groom has been married previously. If so, the Scriptural principles above regarding remarriage are to be followed.
5. There shall be a minimum \$25.00 cleaning fee for a wedding. Should the bride and groom desire to compensate the Pastor for his service, they may do so.

Section 2. Funerals

The Pastor shall, upon request and when reasonably possible, conduct funeral services for both members and nonmembers of Mission Bible Fellowship.

Such service shall be conducted in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and shall be honoring and glorifying to Him. The good news of salvation through faith in Christ shall be presented to the congregation, regardless of whether the deceased was a Christian or not.

There shall be no required fee. Should the family wish to compensate the Pastor or make a memorial donation to the church, they may do so. It shall be the policy of the Deacon board of Mission Bible Fellowship to make inquiry of the donor of memorials in order to determine the best use of such gift.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN MISCELLANEOUS BYLAWS

Section 1. Matters of Conscience

It is not the mission of the church to dictate to individuals regarding matters of conscience, i.e. political beliefs, education philosophies, etc. An individual, for example, who has determined in their own conscience that watching television is a sin for them, is not to regard with contempt (Rom 14: 10) those who feel free to do so. In like manner, those who have freedom in such areas are not to judge those who do not (Rom 14:3).

Any person, who insists on promoting a matter of conscience as an issue, thereby threatening the unity of the church, will be dealt with in accordance with the discipline set forth in these bylaws.

Section 2. Contracts

The Deacon Board may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, of the Church, in addition to the officers so authorized by these bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and behalf of the Church. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

No deed to real property, no contract to purchase or to sell real or personal property in excess of the one thousand dollars (\$ 1,000.00), no promissory note, no mortgage, and no security agreement shall be given, entered into or executed by the Deacon Board or any officer of the Church except upon approval of the membership of the Church at a duly called meeting of members.

Section 3. Political Announcements

While Mission Bible Fellowship encourages its membership to exercise their rights as citizens to become involved in political processes, the promotion of a political cause or candidate will not be permitted on the Church property.

Section 4. Fund Raisers

Any person wishing to engage in a fund raising activity (raffle, bake sale, etc.) on church property must first receive permission from the Deacon Board. Funds generated from any authorized fundraiser will be used for Christian outreach, evangelism, witnessing, education, etc.

Section 5. Contractor Contributions

While every church is dependent on donations and contributions the Deacon Board must protect itself from liability and conflict of interest problems in the case of large "contractor" contributions. All contributions of this nature shall require Deacon Board approval.

A project, which would normally exceed \$500, should be bid by the "contractor" and should be billed to the Church at full cost, less donated labor and/or materials. This provides the church with proper records for valuation purposes and the contractor with proper accountability for tax and financial statement reporting.

Section 6. Bulletin Board

Mission Bible Fellowship encourages the use of its bulletin boards. Materials posted must be in adherence with doctrine, policy, bylaws, and mission. Any questionable material needs to be cleared with the Pastor or Elder Board before posting.

Section 7. Facility Rent

Normally, Church building use will be limited to Church sponsored activities. Any person wishing to use the building for a non-church sponsored activity will be required to obtain the approval of the Deacon Board.

Section 8. Checks. Drafts, etc:

All checks, drafts or other orders for payment of money, notes or other evidence of indebtedness, issued in the name of or payable to the Church shall be signed or endorsed by such person or persons and in such manner as from time to time shall be determined by resolution of the Deacon Board.

Section 9. Bylaw Amendments

Subsection 1: Power of Members. New bylaws may be adopted, or these bylaws may be amended or repealed by the vote representing two thirds of the members of the Church, qualified to vote, present at a meeting of the members of the Church duly called pursuant to these bylaws.

Subsection 2: Power of the Board. Subject to the right of the members as herein above stated, these bylaws may be amended, altered, or repealed and new bylaws may be adopted by the Boards at any annual, regular, or special meeting of the membership, provided that notice of the proposed amendment be given in writing to all members at least three days before the meeting.

Section 10. Rules and Regulations

The Boards may from time to time adopt such rules and regulations, as it may deem advisable, not inconsistent with these bylaws or the Articles of Incorporation.

Section 11. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Church shall be the calendar year.

Section 12. Waiver of Notice

Whenever any notice is required to be given under the provisions of the Montana Nonprofit Corporation Act or under the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or the bylaws of the Church, a waiver thereof in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN DEACON'S FUND

Section 1. Definition and Purpose

The Deacon's Fund of Mission Bible Fellowship is a ministry designed to assist the needy. Normally, funds for this ministry will be taken from the general fund, then reimbursed via a special offering.

Section 2. Administration

The Elder Board shall ensure that one member of the Deacon Board is designated as the administrator of the Deacon's Fund. All requests for assistance shall be channeled through this administrator who will then evaluate the need based upon the guidelines of Scripture (Gal 6:10; James 2:15-16; 2 Thee 3:10; 1 Tim 5:3-16). Unless the Elder Board moves otherwise, the decision of the administrator shall be final.

Normally, assistance rendered through this fund shall not be in the form of cash delivered directly to the individual assisted.

KNOW ALL MEN THESE PRESENTS that the undersigned president of Mission Bible Fellowship, Inc. does hereby certify that the above and foregoing bylaws were duly adopted by the Board of the corporation in the 10th day of June 2012 and the same now constitute the bylaws of this corporation.