

# **MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH**

## **CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

### **PREAMBLE**

**For the more certain preservation of the principles of faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner, and for the purpose of preserving freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other churches, to its own members and to the task of reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ, we do declare and establish this constitution.**

### **ARTICLE I – NAME**

**This church shall be known as Main Street Baptist Church, Georgetown, Texas.**

### **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

**This church, believing in the Bible as the inspired Word of God and as the authority for faith and service, and acknowledging its commitment to all the teachings of Jesus Christ, declares its purposes:**

**SECTION 1** - To worship God through Christ the Son of God, by the help of the Holy Spirit. To this end regular services of worship will be maintained, and private worship will be encouraged.

**SECTION 2** – To declare the whole gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world and to cooperate heartily with other Baptist churches of like faith and order in prayer, gifts and service to attain this objective.

**SECTION 3** – To promote systematic Bible study and training for Christian service, and to encourage the use of God’s gifts in God’s service.

**SECTION 4** –To cooperate with the Williamson Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Southern Baptist Convention, and the Baptist churches in Georgetown that share this fellowship in planning new churches in the Georgetown area.

**SECTION 5** – To become an active cooperating part of the Williamson Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Southern Baptist Convention in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with the whole world.

### **ARTICLE III – ARTICLE OF FAITH**

**We affirm our common faith in adopting the Baptist Faith and Message, a statement of Articles of Faith adopted by messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention May 9, 1963.**

## **BY-LAWS**

### **ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP**

#### **SECTION 1** – General

This is a sovereign and democratic Baptist church under the lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the exclusive right of self-government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this church. The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.

#### **SECTION 2** – Candidacy

Any person may offer himself as a candidate for membership in this church. All such candidates shall be presented to the church at any regular church service for membership in any of the following ways:

- (1) By profession of faith in Jesus Christ and by requesting believers' baptism according to the policies of this church.
- (2) By the transfer of membership from another Baptist church, having made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and having been baptized.
- (3) By restoration upon a statement of prior conversion experience and baptism in a Baptist church when no letter is obtainable.
- (4) By proxy, when the person(s) desiring membership cannot, for valid reasons, present themselves for membership, they may be presented by a member of their family or close friend.
- (5) By statement of prior conversion experience and baptism and membership in a congregation or denomination who understands the purpose of the church ordinances as Baptists do.

Should there be any dissent as to any candidate, such dissent shall be referred to the pastor and the deacons for investigation and the making or recommendation to the church within thirty (30) days. A three-fourths vote of those church members present and voting shall be required to accept such candidates for membership.

#### **SECTION 3** – Termination of Membership

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways:

- (1) death of member;
- (2) dismissal to another Baptist church
- (3) exclusion by action of this church; and
- (4) erasure upon request or proof of membership in another church or denomination. In no case will a letter of recommendation or dismissal be issued to another denomination. It is not the policy of this church to grant letters to individuals.

## **ARTICLE II – GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 1** – Standing Committees

Committees shall be formed as the church and pastor deem necessary and as elected by the church.

### **SECTION 2** – Officers

In addition to the pastor, the officers of this church shall be a clerk, a treasurer, and deacons, and other officers that are necessary to maintain the ministry of the church. The church shall elect all officers.

### **SECTION 3** – Pastor

The pastor shall conduct the public services of worship, and the general development of the church ministry shall be under his supervision.

### **SECTION 4** – Call of Pastor

A pastor shall be chosen and called by the church whenever a vacancy occurs. His election shall take place at a meeting of the church for the purpose of which at least one week's notice shall be given. A Pastor Search Committee consisting of five to eleven members of the church shall be elected by secret ballot. The committee members shall be chosen from a list of church members.

The Pastor Search Committee shall meet and select its own chairman.

The Pastor Search Committee shall recommend to the congregation one person whom they feel can serve well as pastor and, if he is not elected by the church, they shall recommend another. The election of the pastor shall be by secret ballot, and an affirmative vote of ninety percent of those members present and voting shall be necessary to election. The pastor shall be called for an indefinite period. He shall serve until the relationship is terminated by his request or at the church's request.

### **SECTION 5** – Deacons

The number of active deacons shall be determined by the church. The election of new deacons shall be by vote of the church from a list of members of the church. A deacon-screening committee, elected by the church, will screen the nominees receiving the majority of votes to determine if they want to serve and are qualified to serve and will bring to the church the list of those so qualified. The screening committee will be responsible for counting the ballots and announcing the results to the church. Deacons who join the church will become eligible to serve as active deacons after a six-month period and election by the church. The deacons will elect their own chairman and other deacon officers, as they deem necessary.

### **SECTION 6** – Moderator

The Moderator shall be the pastor or such other member as the church shall designate. The church shall be guided in parliamentary procedure by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

**SECTION 7** – Trustees

~~The deacons shall recommend to the church for election three persons who will serve the church as trustees.~~ The trustees shall be given power by the church to sign any legal documents in behalf of the church and to care for any legal problems or business that may come to their attention. They will serve at the convenience of the church.

**ARTICLE III – CHURCH MEETINGS**

**SECTION 1** – The church shall maintain Sunday services and Wednesday services and other worship services as deemed necessary by the church and pastor.

**SECTION 2** – Business Meeting

The church shall meet in regular business meetings as frequently as deemed necessary by the deacons and the pastor. Such day and time of meeting shall be set by the church.

**SECTION 3** – Called Business Meeting

The pastor, chairman of deacons, and church clerk can call for a business meeting. Such called business meetings must be announced in all Sunday services, stating the nature and purpose of the meeting, prior to the meeting.

**SECTION 4** – Quorum

The quorum consists of those who attend the business meeting, provided it is a stated meeting or one that has been properly called.

**ARTICLE IV – GENERAL**

**AMENDMENTS** – This constitution and by-laws may be amended by three-fourths vote of the members present at any two consecutive business meetings. One week prior to the first meeting at which a change in the constitution is to be considered, public notice must be given of the intent to make such change.

## AMENDMENTS

**MARRIAGE** – Marriage is a biblical institution established by God as described by Scripture. We believe biblical marriage can only occur between one man and one woman. This church recognizes that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment. Accordingly, this church’s pastors and staff will not officiate in same-sex unions or same-sex marriages, nor will its property or resources be used for such purposes.

(Approved by church vote on 7/12/15 and 7/26/15)

**TRUSTEES** – The deacons shall recommend to the church for election five persons who will serve the church as trustees.

(Approved by church vote on 4/24/16 and 5/15/16)

**DISSOLUTION** – Upon the dissolution of Main Street Baptist Church (MSBC), all assets shall be transferred or conveyed to one or more domestic or foreign corporations, societies, or organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Code), and are engaged in activities substantially similar to those of MSBC and are of like faith and order.

(Approved by church vote on 6/2/19 and 6/9/19)