

Summary Of Amendments

These summary pages are a chronological brief description of the amendments that have been made to THE MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS. They are not a part of the constitution and by-laws.

- *Version 0* – This is an unaltered copy of the original constitution and by-laws adopted by the church in 1978 and printed in multiple paper copies. A soft copy, typed from this original paper copy, is contained in file: “MBC Constitution-Bylaws Ver 0.doc”
- *Version 1* – Amendment presented by Charles Logan on 10/12/1988 and signed by Marcia Endicott and Robert Comley, Jr. The amendment was approved on January 11, 1989. Added to Article VIII – COMMITTEES – STANDING COMMITTEES a statement stipulating that ex-officio members of any organization, department, or committee shall not have voting rights. A soft copy that displays the amended text in bold-underline is contained in file: “MBC Constitution-Bylaws Ver 1.doc”
- *Version 2* – Amendment presented by Don Dobson on July 13, 1994 and signed by Philip Dotson and Robert Comley, Jr. The amendment was approved in the October, 1994 business meeting. Added to Article VIII – COMMITTEES – STANDING COMMITTEES – subitem C, adding the Investment Management Committee. A soft copy that displays the amended text in bold-underline is contained in file: “MBC Constitution-Bylaws Ver 2.doc”
- *Version 3* – Amendment presented by Letha J. Tomes presented on 11/8/2000 and signed by D. W. Forman and E. J. Arnold. The amendment was approved in the February 2001 business meeting. It changes Article VI – CHURCH GOVERNMENT – Section II to change the regular business meeting from the second Wednesday of each month to the third Wednesday of each month. A soft copy that displays the amended text in bold-underline is contained in file: “MBC Constitution-Bylaws Ver 3.doc”
- *Version 4* – Amendment presented by Letha J. Tomes on 5/16/2001 and signed by Arthur Craig and Paul Simmons. The amendment was approved in the August business meeting. Article VII - Section C – Trustees was changed to alter the amount of money the Trustees are permitted to spend without advance approval in emergencies from \$300.00 to \$1,000.00. A soft copy that displays the amended text in bold-underline is contained in file: “MBC Constitution-Bylaws Ver 4.doc”
- *Version 5* – Amendment presented by Paul Simmons on 9/17/2003 and signed by Arthur Craig and Robert Comley, Jr. The amendment was approved on 12/17/2003. It alters Article VII – CHURCH OFFICERS – ELECTION AND DUTIES – B. Deacons so that deacons elected after January 1, 2004 shall serve a term of 3-years. It also defines “Active Deacon.” A soft copy that displays the amended text in bold-underline is contained in file: “MBC Constitution-Bylaws Ver 5.doc”
- *Version 6* – Amendment presented by Letha Tomes on 10/15/2003 and signed by Arthur Craig, Eddie Davis, Paul Simmons, and Dave Forman. The amendment was approved on

January 21, 2003. It alters Article VII – CHURCH OFFICERS – ELECTION AND DUTIES – B. Deacons so that the deacon election process is changed from a single day nomination/election to a separate nomination and election held two weeks apart. A soft copy that displays the amended text in bold-underline is contained in file: “MBC Constitution-Bylaws Ver 6.doc”

- *Version 7* – Amendment presented by Mike Taylor on 5/16/2007 and signed by Jamie Woods, Iraline Craig, Nathan Craig, Larry Craig, Vincent Price, and Art Craig. The amendment was approved on 8/15/2007. It alters Article VI – CHURCH GOVERNMENT – Section II to change the time of the business meeting from the third Wednesday of each month to simply require that the business meeting be held once each month (no specific time requirement). A soft copy that displays the amended text in bold-underline is contained in file: “MBC Constitution-Bylaws Ver 7.doc”
- *Version 8* – Amendment presented by Don Dobson on 9/21/2008 and signed by Iraline Craig and Tom Allen. The amendment was approved on 12/21/2008. It alters Article VIII – COMMITTEES – STANDING COMMITTEES – A. Nominating Committee to change the at-large members from 3 to 4, and to remove the WMU Director from Nominating Committee. It also changes the date of Nominating Committee appointment from June to April and the date of the first report from August to June. Other small grammatical changes are included. A soft copy that displays the amended text in bold-underline is contained in file: “MBC Constitution-Bylaws Ver 8.doc”
- *Version 9* – **FAILED** Amendment presented by Joy Arnold on 10/21/2009 and signed by Paul Simmons and Arthur Craig. The amendment was brought to a vote on 1/17/2010, but failed to pass. It would have restructured the by-laws section on Deacons to better integrate the three amendments that have been made to this section, clarified how to handle ballots with multiple votes for the same person, how to handle a tie vote, defined the limits on deacons from the same family, defined paid staff as ineligible to be deacons, addressed multiple services on deacon nomination/election day, defined a time limit for a deacon to be inactive, and other minor changes in sentence structure and punctuation. A soft copy that displays the proposed amended text in bold-underline is contained in file: “MBC Constitution-Bylaws Ver 9.doc”
- “MBC Constitution-Bylaws Current Ver.doc” is the current version of the constitution and by-laws and is the same as Version 8 (since version 9 was rejected by the church) except that the bold-underline highlighting the amendment has been removed.

THE MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Midway Baptist Church, being aware of our sacred purpose in the gospel, and desiring that this body may be governed in an orderly manner, declare and establish this constitution which will preserve the rights and liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in relation to other Baptist Churches.

ARTICLE I

THE NAME AND LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHURCH

The name of this church shall be known as the Midway Baptist Church, Midway, Kentucky. This church was incorporated September 1, 1978 by the State of Kentucky, County of Woodford and recorded by the clerk of the County Court of Woodford County the first day of September, 1978.

ARTICLE II

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

The purpose of Midway Baptist Church shall be to maintain public services for the worship of God, to proclaim the Gospel, to educate, to minister to the needs of the community, and to promote the interest of the Kingdom to all mankind according to the teachings of Christ.

ARTICLE III

COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, and His assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body of Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of, intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Saviour to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this Covenant and the principles of God's Word.

ARTICLE IV

ARTICLES OF FAITH

THE SCRIPTURES

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a record of God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. It reveals the principles by which God judges us; and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ.

Ex. 24:4; Deut. 4:1-2; 17:19; Josh. 8:34; Psalm 19:7-10; 119:11, 89, 105, 140; Isa. 34:16; 40:8; Jer. 15:16;36; Matt. 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 34:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff; 17:11; Rom. 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Heb. 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:18-21.

GOD

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in Holiness and all other perfections. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Gen. 1:1; 2:7; Ex. 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff; 20:1ff; Lev. 22:2; Deut. 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chron. 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isa. 43:3; 15; 64:8; Jer. 10:10; 17:13; Matt. 6:9ff; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:8-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Rom. 8:14-15; 1 Cor. 8:6; Gal. 4:6; Eph. 4:6; Col. 1:15; 1 Tim. 1:17; Heb. 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ he was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself the demands and necessities of human nature and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, partaking of the nature of God and of man, and in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

Gen 18:1ff; Psalm 2:7ff; 110:1ff; Isa. 7:14; 53; Matt. 1:18-2v; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16; 27; 28:1-6; 19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18, 29; 10:30, 38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16, 28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20, 28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5, 20; Rom. 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3, 34; 10:4; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8, 24-28; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal 4:4-5; Eph. 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thess. 4:14-18; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Heb. 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15, 24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Rev. 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:18; 19:16.

C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy spirit is the Spirit of God. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour and effects regeneration. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the assurance of God to bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Gen. 1:2; Judg. 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalm 51:11; 139:7ff; Isa. 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matt. 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10, 12; Luke 1:35; 4:1, 18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17, 39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Rom. 8:9-11, 14-16, 26-27; 1 Cor. 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11; Gal. 4:6; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thess. 5:19; 1 Tim. 3:16; 4:1; 2 Tim. 1:14; 3:16; Heb. 9:8, 14; 2 Peter 1-21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Rev. 1:10; 22:17.

MAN

Man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of His creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by His Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence; whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin, and as soon as they are capable of moral action become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to

fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore every man possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Gen. 1:26-30; 2:5, 7, 18-22; 3; 9:6 Psalm 1; 8: 3-6; 32: 1-5; 51:5; Isa. 6:5; Jer. 17:5; Matt. 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Rom. 1:19-32; 3:19-18; 23; 5:6, 12, 19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18, 29; 1 Cor. 1:21-31; 15:19, 21-22; Eph. 2:1-22; Col. 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

SALVATION

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, sanctification, and glorification.

Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction in sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality of Him as Lord and Saviour. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer into a relationship of peace and favor with God.

Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual perfection through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Gen. 3:15; Ex. 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matt. 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22 to 28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; 1 John 1:11-14, 29; 3:3-21, 36; 5:24; 10:9. 28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Rom. 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3 ff., 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18, 29-39; 10:9-10, 13; 13:11-14; 1 Cor. 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Cor. 5:17-20; Gal. 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Phil. 2:12-13; Col. 1:9-22; 3:1 ff.; 1 Thess. 5:23-24; 2 Tim. 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Heb. 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8, 14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6 to 2:11; Rev. 3:20; 21:1 to 22:5.

GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is a glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the spirit,

impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the cause of Christ, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Gen. 12:1-3; Ex. 19:5-8; 1 Sam. 8:4-7, 19-22; Isa. 5:1-7; Jer. 31:31 ff.: Matt. 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22, 31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45, 65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6, 12, 17-18; Acts 20:32; Rom. 5:9-10; 8:28-39 10:12-15; 11:5-7, 26-36; 1 Cor. 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Eph. 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Col. 1:12-14; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; 2 Tim. 1:12; 2:10, 19; Heb. 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 1:2-5, 13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1: 7-9; 2:19, 3:2.

THE CHURCH

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Work, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.

This church is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In such a congregation members are equally responsible. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ, which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages.

Matt. 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42, 47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:28, 27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11, 21; 5:22-32; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 3:1-15; 4:14; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Rev. 2-3; 21:2-3.

BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby Christians, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Matt. 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; Acts 20:7; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 10:16, 21; 11:23-29; Col. 2:12.

THE LORD'S DAY

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private, and by refraining from worldly amusements, and resting from secular employments, work of necessity and mercy only being excepted.

Ex. 20:8-11; Matt. 12:1-12; 28:1 ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3, 33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1, 19-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Col. 2:16; 3:16; Rev. 1:10.

THE KINGDOM

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

Gen. 1:1; Isa. 9:6-7; Jer. 2:5-6; Matt. 3:2; 4:8-10, 23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Rom. 5:17; 8:19; 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Col. 1:13; Heb. 11:10, 16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Rev. 1:6, 6; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

LAST THINGS

God, in His own time and in His own way will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

Isa. 2:4; 11:9; Matt. 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24-27, 30, 36, 44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40; 48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 4:5; 15:24-28, 35-58; 2 Cor. 5:10; Phil. 3:20-21; Col. 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thess. 4:14-18; 5:1 ff.; 2 Thess. 1:7 ff.; 2; 1 Tim. 6:14; 2 Tim. 4:1, 8; Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7 ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Judge 14; Rev. 1:18; 3:11; 20:1 to 22:13.

EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary efforts on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Gen. 12:1-3; Ex. 19:5-6; Isa. 6:1-8; Matt. 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13; 18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8, 16, 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Rom. 10:13-15; Eph. 3:1-11; 1 Thess. 1:8; 2 Tim. 4:5; Heb. 2:1-3; 11:39 to 12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Rev. 22:17.

EDUCATION

The cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the

churches. An adequate system of Christian schools is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the preeminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

Deut. 4:1, 5, 9, 14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Neh. 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalm 19:7 ff.; 119:11; Prov. 3:13 ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7; 11; 15:14; Eccl. 7:19; Matt. 5:2; 7:24 ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; Cor. 1:18-31; Eph. 4:11-16; Phil. 4:8; Col. 2:3, 8-9; 1 Tim. 1:3-7; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:14-17; Heb. 5:12 to 6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.

STEWARDSHIP

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Gen. 14:20; Lev. 27:30-32; Deut. 8:18; Mal. 3:8-12; Matt. 6:1-4, 19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21, 42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Rom. 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8-9; 12:15; Phil. 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

COOPERATION

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between, the various Christian denominations when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

Ex. 17:12; 18:17 ff.; Judge 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Neh. 4; 8:1-5; Matt. 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1 ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1 ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Cor. 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Cor. 8-9; Gal. 1:6-10; Eph. 4:1-16; Phil. 1:15-18.

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE SOCIAL ORDER

Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in his own life and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the

establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Christ Jesus. The Christian should oppose in the spirit of Christ every form of greed, selfishness, and vice. He should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, and the aged, the helpless, and the sick. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

Ex. 20:3-17; Lev. 6:2-5; Deut. 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Mic. 6:8; Zech. 8:16; Matt. 5:13-16; 43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3 ff; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Rom. 12-14; 1 Cor. 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23 to 11:1; Gal. 3:26-28; Tph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:12-17; 1 Thess. 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.

PEACE AND WAR

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love.

Isa. 2:4; Matt. 5:9; 38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36, 38; Rom. 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Heb. 12:14; James 4:1-2.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

God alone is Lord of the conscience and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom, in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

Gen. 1:27; 2:7; Matt. 6:6-7, 24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36 /acts 4:19-20; Rom. 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Gal. 5:1, 13; Phil. 3:20; 1 Tim. 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP

Section I. The membership of this church shall be composed of persons who have made a public confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who have been baptized by immersion, who have been asked to study the church covenant and constitution of this church, and who have been received by vote of the church.

Section II. A member of another Baptist church of like faith and order may be received by vote of the church upon letter of recommendation from that church.

Section III. Anyone who has once been a member of a Baptist church and in consequence of peculiar circumstances has no letter of recommendation may be received into our fellowship upon a personal statement satisfactory to the church.

Section IV. Persons coming for membership in our church from any other church will be accepted upon statement of their profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ having undergone believer's baptism (baptism by immersion upon profession of faith symbolizing their death, burial, and resurrection in Christ).

Section V. Members are expected to be faithful in all of the duties essential to the Christian life; to attend faithfully the services of the church; to give regularly for its support and its causes; to share in its organized work; and to extend a cordial welcome to all visitors at all times.

Section VI. All members are equal in rank and privilege and may act and vote in the transaction of the church.

Section VII. Letters of dismissal may be granted to any church of like faith and order for members of good standing. No letter of dismissal shall be granted to an individual, only to another church of like faith and order. When such letters are granted, membership in this church shall terminate.

Section VIII. When a member of this church joins a church of different faith and order, membership in this church shall terminate.

Section IX. The church may terminate the membership of members who become an offense to the Church and its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, but only after faithful effort has been made to bring such member to repentance and amendment.

Section XI. Student membership in our church is offered to all Christians who are students at one of the colleges in the surrounding area and who are regular members of any other "Christian" church. Student members still maintain membership in their home church, but they come under the "watch-care" of our church while they are pursuing their college education. All privileges and responsibilities of regular church members are afforded to student members with the exception of voting on any church transaction.

Upon the request of a qualified candidate, student membership is to be granted upon a majority vote of the church members present at the church service when the request is made. Student membership will be maintained until a student moves from the community or until the person's college education is completed.

ARTICLE VI

CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Section I. This church shall hold regular meetings for worship, teaching, training and fellowship.

Section II. This church shall hold regular business meetings at which time the material and spiritual conditions of the church will be discussed and plans projected for progress in Kingdom endeavors. At any business meeting, the members attending such meeting and numbering seven (7) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business. The regular business meeting shall be held each month with all the matters of business being taken care of at that time, except in necessary, emergency situations.

Section III. The moderator shall preside at all business meetings and in his absence the assistant moderator and in his absence the Chairman of the Deacons. The business meeting shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order insofar as they are applicable and are not inconsistent with this Constitution and By-Laws.

Section IV. The church may conduct called Special Business Meetings to consider matters of special nature and significance. A one week notice must be given for the specially called business meeting unless extreme emergency renders such notice impractical. The notice shall include the subject, the date, and the time and place; and it must be given in such a manner that all resident members have opportunity to know of the meetings. Only the item for which the meeting was called will be discussed and acted on.

Section V. The regular worship services of the church shall be held on Sunday morning, Sunday evenings, and Wednesday evenings. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at least once a quarter.

ARTICLE VII

CHURCH OFFICERS

OFFICERS

The officers of this church shall be a pastor, and other vocational leadership as needed, deacons, trustees, clerk, treasurer, moderator, and such other officers as shall be required for the work of the church in any of its departments of organization. All of these shall be elected by the church.

ELECTION AND DUTIES

A. Pastor – Whenever a vacancy occurs, a pastor shall be called by the church to serve until the relationship is dissolved at the request of either the pastor or the church. In either case, at least two weeks notice shall be given of termination of the relationship, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon, with both the pastor and the church seeking to follow the will of God and the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

The call of a pastor shall take place at a meeting especially set for that purpose of which at least one week's notice has been given the membership. The election shall be upon the recommendation of a special pulpit committee elected by the church to seek out and nominate as

pastor a minister of the Gospel whose Christian character and qualifications fit him for the office of pastor of this church, and no nomination shall be made except that of the committee. Election shall be by secret ballot as voted by the church at the time of meeting with an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4ths) of those present and voting necessary for a call. Should the one recommended by the committee fail to receive the three-fourths vote, the committee will be instructed to seek out another minister and the meeting shall be adjourned without debate.

The pastor shall have in his charge the welfare and oversight of the church. He shall be ex-officio member of all organizations, departments and committees. He may call a special meeting of the deacons or any committee according to procedures which may be set forth in the By-Laws. He shall conduct religious services on stated and special occasions, administer the ordinances, minister to members of the church and community, and perform other duties that usually pertain to that office. He shall have special charge of the pulpit ministry of the church and shall arrange for workers to assist in revivals and other special services.

B. Deacons —There shall be at least one (1) deacon for every thirty-five (35) resident members. When the number of deacons falls below this ratio, the deacon body shall notify the church and an election shall be held. No ordained preacher shall serve as a deacon of this church. The deacons shall elect annually their own chairman. The Chairman of the Deacons shall be responsible to make full and accurate reports to the church at the regular business meetings.

Deacons shall at all times consider themselves as servants of the church. With the pastor and as the Holy Spirit directs, they are to consider and make recommendations to the church in all matters pertaining to its work and progress including: oversight of the discipline of the church, benevolent work, assisting the pastor in the observance of the ordinances, use of the church property, and aiding in the financial program of the church. They shall arrange for regular meetings and such committees as are necessary to the discharge of their duties. The pastor or the chairman of the deacons may call the deacons into special meeting or session whenever the need for such arises.

There shall be no obligation to constitute as an assigned deacon one who has been a deacon in another church; but in such instances as one might be chosen by this church for assignment as a deacon, his previous ordination by another church of like faith and order shall suffice for this church

There shall be four weeks notice given before the election process begins for deacons. After at least four (4) weeks notice, Deacon nominations will be conducted at the close of a Sunday morning worship service. Church members must be present at this designated service in order to nominate. Each church member who is present will be asked to nominate the exact number of deacons to be elected. Nominating will be done by secret ballot. Any ballot containing more names than the exact number of deacons to be nominated will not be tabulated. The ballots will be reviewed by the Pastor, Chairman of Deacons, and Assistant Chairman of the Deacons to determine eligibility as defined in this constitution and by-laws and to design an election ballot. The individuals who are eligible and who agree to serve will have their names placed on an election ballot.

On the second Sunday after the Nominating Sunday, the final election will be held at the close of a Sunday morning worship service. Church members must be present at this designated service in order to vote. Each church member who is present will be asked to vote for the exact number of Deacons to be elected. Any ballot containing more votes than the exact number of deacons to be elected will not be tabulated. The ballots will be counted by the Pastor, Chairman of Deacons, and Assistant Chairman of the Deacon. The individuals receiving the most votes (depending upon the number of deacons to be elected) will be notified and asked to serve as deacons).

For all deacons elected after January 1, 2004 the term of office shall be three years, beginning March 1 at the end of which, one year must elapse before the deacon will be eligible for re-election. The annual election will take place during the months of January and February as outlined above.

Several scriptures are pertinent for the election of a deacon. These scriptures include: Phil. 1:1, 1 Timothy 3:8-13, Romans 16:1, and Matt. 28:19-20. These scriptures can be interpreted in different ways. Each church member is asked to study these scriptures and to seek divine guidance before voting for new deacons. A deacon should be a dedicated Christian who possesses spiritual maturity. To be eligible to serve as a deacon in our church, a person must have been a member of our church for at least two (2) consecutive years unless the person has previously served as a deacon in another church in which case the person must have been a member of our church for at least one full year before being eligible to serve as a deacon.

(1) *Active deacons* are those serving an elected term.

(2) *Deacon inactive status.* If a deacon requests to be temporarily relieved of his duties, the matter shall be brought before the church at the next regular business meeting by a spokesman from the deacon body for disposition.

(3) *Deacon Emeritus.* When a deacon has faithfully served this church for a period of time and when because of age or illness or other reasons can no longer continue to serve effectively as a deacon, this deacon may ask the deacon body to be relieved of active duty as a deacon. The deacon body may recommend to the church that such an individual be elected Deacon Emeritus. If the church concurs with this recommendation, then this deacon will be given the title of Deacon Emeritus whereby this person may continue to aid the active deacons by functioning in an advisory capacity.

C. *Trustees* — The church shall elect three members to serve as trustees. Their term of office shall be for two (2) years. They shall be nominated to the church by the nominating committee. Vacancies may be filled at any time with one so elected serving out the unexpired term of the one whose vacancy is being filled. Trustees may be elected to succeed themselves.

The trustees shall, as provided by law and by action of the church, hold in trust all titles to all properties of the church and shall represent the church in all matter of legal responsibility regarding the purchase, improvement, and disposal of church property. They shall execute all legal papers relating to the church and to church property as the church may direct.

They shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property of the church without a vote of the church authorizing such action; neither shall they have any control over the use of the property except by vote of the church. (Refer to Art. IX, Sect. 5).

The trustees have authority to spend up to \$1,000.00 for each emergency situation without prior church approval.

D. Clerk — The church shall elect one member to serve as clerk. The term of office shall be for two (2) years. The candidate shall be nominated to the church by the nominating committee. A vacancy may be filled at any time with one so elected serving out the unexpired term. The clerk may be elected to successive terms.

It shall be his or her duty to attend, or be represented at all church business meetings, to keep an accurate record of all business transactions, to prepare the annual association letter and to notify all officers, members of committees and messengers of their elections or appointment. He shall issue letters of dismissal as authorized by the church. It shall be the duty of the clerk to see that an accurate roll of the church membership is kept with dates and methods of admission and dismissal, change in name, correct mailing addresses and other pertinent information.

E. Treasurer — The church shall elect one member to serve as treasurer. The term of office shall be for two (2) years. The candidate shall be nominated to the church by the nominating committee. A vacancy may be filled at any time with one so elected to serve out the unexpired term. The treasurer may be elected to successive terms.

It shall be the duty of the treasurer to keep in a bank and disburse by check upon authority all moneys or things of value that are given to the church, and keep at all times an account of all receipts and an itemized account of all disbursements; rendering regular accounts to the church to be preserved by the church clerk. The treasurer's books shall be audited as arranged by the church, and all books, records, and accounts kept by him shall be considered the property of the church. The treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the finance committee.

The treasurer shall upon election of a successor, submit his records for audit as directed by the church, and shall promptly deliver to his successor all books, records and accounts in his hands pertaining or relating, in any manner, to the office that he is relinquishing.

F. Financial Secretary — The church shall elect one member to serve as financial secretary. The term of office shall be for two (2) years. The candidate shall be nominated to the church by the nominating committee. A vacancy may be filled at any time with one so elected to serve out the unexpired term. The financial secretary may be elected to successive terms.

The financial secretary shall collect and deposit all money taken into the church. He shall give each contributor individual credit and keep records of the receipts from the envelopes, and miscellaneous or special offerings. The financial secretary shall be responsible for preparing and mailing regular statements to all contributing members as the church directs. The financial secretary shall be an ex-officio member of the finance committee.

G. Sunday School Director — The Director of the Sunday School shall be elected for a two (2) year term not to succeed himself. He shall have general oversight of the entire Sunday

School, and shall administer its affairs in cooperation with, and according to, the plans and methods of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, subject to the approval of the local church. He shall acquaint himself with the best methods of religious education and endeavor to adopt them in his school. It shall be his duty to council weekly, or monthly, his teachers and officers through officer and teachers meetings, in the work of the Sunday School, giving advice and receiving suggestions from his co-workers. He shall see that a full and accurate report is made of the work of the Sunday School in regular business meetings of the church.

H. Assistant Sunday School Director — The Assistant Sunday School Director shall be elected for a single two (2) year term and he shall be expected to succeed the Sunday School Director for the next term of office as Sunday School Director should he be asked to do so by the church nominating committee. He shall have the same general duties and responsibilities as the Sunday School Director, and shall act in his absence. He shall assist the Sunday School Director.

I. Church Training Director — The Church Training Director shall be elected for a two (2) year term and shall have charge of the activities of church training. He shall acquaint himself with the programs and methods outlined by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention for its organization and shall endeavor to adopt such programs in the church, subject to the approval of the church. He shall see that a full and accurate report is given at the regular business meetings of the church.

J. Assistant Church Training Director — The Assistant Church Training Director shall be elected for a two (2) year term of office and shall assist the Church Training Director. He shall have the same general duties and responsibilities as the Church Training Director, and shall act in his absence.

K. Brotherhood Director — The Brotherhood Director shall be elected for a two (2) year term. He shall promote the work of the Brotherhood as outlined by the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, subject to the approval of the church. He shall seek to enlist the men of the church in an active program for Christ. He shall see that a full and accurate report is given at the regular business meetings of the church.

L. Director of the Woman's Missionary Union — The Director of the Woman's Missionary Union shall be elected for a two (2) year term. The Director shall seek to enlist all women and young people of the church in a program of missions, training, giving, and activity according to plans promoted by the Woman's Missionary Union Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention. She shall see that a full and accurate report is given at the regular business meetings of the church.

M. Minister of Music — The Minister of Music shall be responsible for providing worshipful music at all services. He is to direct the choir or choirs in practice and is to cooperate with the Pastor and other leaders in the selection of suitable music. He shall devise appropriate musical programs for all occasions where such services are needed. He shall be responsible for filling his position in his absence.

N. Pianist - Organist — The Pianist and Organist shall play for all public services and shall assist the Minister of Music in a suitable program of music for the church. The Pianist and Organist shall be responsible for filling their positions in their absence.

O. Minister of Youth — The Minister of Youth shall be responsible for planning and coordinating a well-rounded youth program for the youth (seventh graders through college age) of the church. The format of this program may be flexible depending upon the young people involved, but it should include regular Bible study and an emphasis on Christian service as well as various social activities. The Minister of Youth will also be responsible for seeking to involve as many of the youth of the church as possible in the youth program. Before implementing changes or new phases into the youth ministry, the Minister of Youth should consult with the Pastor.

ARTICLE VIII

COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEES

The Church shall elect such standing committees as may be deemed necessary to carry on the various phases of the programs of the church efficiently and effectively. In any event, the church shall at all times have the following standing committees: the Nominating Committee and the Finance Committee.

No ex-officio member of any organization, department, or committee shall have any voting rights in that organization, department, of committee.

A. Nominating Committee — The members of the Nominating Committee shall serve a two (2) year term. The first four members of the Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the moderator of the church no later than the April business meeting subject to the approval of the church. The first report of the Nominating Committee shall be no later than the June business meeting and shall consist of a nomination for Sunday School Director. When the Sunday School Director is approved by the church, he/she shall then become a part of the Nominating Committee.

Throughout the term of the office, this committee shall have the responsibility of nominating persons to the church to serve in the various capacities and positions of the church and its organizations. This committee shall nominate persons to fill offices vacated by reason of removal, death, expiration of office term, resignation, or failure to function. The report of the committee shall be suggestive to the church and any member of the church shall have the privilege of a nomination from the floor at the time their report is presented.

This committee shall not nominate the Pulpit Committee or nominees for the office of Deacon.

B. Finance Committee — The Budget and Finance Committee shall be elected to serve a two (2) year term. The church Nominating Committee shall nominate a Budget and Finance Committee to be voted on by the church at the September business meeting along with the

treasurer, financial secretary, and pastor serving as ex-officio members. There shall be five (5) voting members on the finance committee.

This committee will have the responsibility of drawing up a proposed church budget for the coming year. This proposed budget will be presented to the church at the November business meeting and voted upon at the December business meeting to become effective January 1.

C. Investment Management Committee – There shall be a committee called the “Investment Management Committee.” It shall hereafter in this document be referred to as the “IMC.” It shall serve the church by providing management of the following funds:

1. The MBC Investment Fund (There is only one MBC Investment Fund)
2. Special Funds (There can be multiple Special Funds of either type)
 - a) Type 1 – A fund(s) created from an unusual and isolated designated gift to the church that stipulates how the money must be used.
 - b) Type 2 – A fund(s) established by the church for a specific purpose and for which the IMC is charged with providing financial management.

Section I -- Formation and Election of The Investment Management Committee: The members of the Investment Management Committee (IMC) shall number seven (7). They shall be nominated by the church Nominating Committee and shall serve staggered 6 year terms. Beginning at the time of initial election to the IMC, the term of the first 2 members shall end after two years; the term of the second two members shall end after the fourth year; the term of the final three members shall end after 6 years. Relative to this definition, any partial year (of more than 3 months) from the time of election to the IMC to the beginning of the next regular church calendar year (October 1) shall count as one full year. None of the above language is to be construed as prohibiting the serving of successive terms.

The Nominating Committee shall nominate candidates to the IMC to be voted on by the church at the September business meeting. Nominees shall be active, informed, and participating members of the church. This shall mean that nominated candidates are active participants in a reasonable level of activities in addition to Sunday morning services. The Nominating Committee may seek the advice of the Finance Committee, the Deacons, the Pastor, The Trustees, the Moderator, or any other informed individual member of the church to help identify candidates for nomination.

Section II – MBC Investment Fund Definition: The MBC Investment Fund is intended to provide an avenue for members or friends of Midway Baptist Church to make a gift(s) to the church that will have a long lasting effect. This is a long range fund that will primarily disperse funds from investment income, preserving the majority of the donated capital in perpetuity. Typical gifts are expected to be made from estates and, in some cases, may represent a significant amount of money or real estate. This fund can also be used as a repository for memorial gifts such as a gift to the church in lieu of flowers. Any person, at any time can choose to make a gift to this fund in any amount, as long as there are no stipulations directing the way the money shall be used. All money/property donated to the MBC Investment Fund will be used per the fund guidelines and to promote the objectives of the fund as defined later in these bylaws. To provide a method of checks and balances and thereby assure that all resources given to the MBC Investment Fund are used in keeping with the guidelines and objectives defined for the

fund, the IMC is given a level of authority and associated responsibility above that typically given to most other committees. A definition of this authority and responsibility (the checks and balances process) is provided later in these bylaws.

Section III – Special Fund Type 1 Definition: A Special Fund, Type 1 results when a donor makes a donation and specifies the purpose for which the gift is to be used. Before accepting the gift, the IMC must make a determination that the stipulations attached to the gift are in keeping with the objectives and general principles followed by the church. If the attached stipulations are acceptable, the church shall accept the gift, and establish a special fund to track the resource to assure that the wishes of the donor are honored. An example of a gift of this type would be money given for the explicit purpose of “replacing the pews in the sanctuary.: First the church (through the actions of the IMC, which may or may not involve consultation with the church body) must determine if replacing the pews is an appropriate action. If it is not, the gift would be declined. If the replacement is deemed to be appropriate, the gift would be accepted and expended in keeping with the directions of the donor. Note that after the project is completed, the fund will generally cease to exist. To assure that the funds from the donation are used in keeping with the intent of the donor, the IMC is given a level of authority and associated responsibility above that typically given to most other committees relative to disbursements from a Special Fund, Type 1.

Section IV – Special Fund Type 2 Definition: A Special Fund, Type 2 is established by the church generally for a specific purpose and with a defined ending date. An example of this type of fund would be a Building Fund that would remain in effect during the fund raising period. After the project is completed, the fund would generally cease to exist. In this case, the IMC has no authority or responsibility other than to responsibly maximize the investment yield from the special fund in keeping with the defined guidelines and objectives established by the church for that specific special fund. The church has complete control (via a simple majority vote) over the establishment of and dispersal of funds from a Special fund, Type 2.

Section V – Responsibilities Of/Guidelines For The Investment Management Committee: The IMC is responsible to represent the church in activities associated with unusual gifts of money or other items of significant value. The IMC shall have the responsibility of assuring that any stipulations associated with any donation to the MBC Investment Fund or a Special Fund, Type 1 be in keeping with the general guidelines and objectives set forth by the church. (Note that a gift given with a stipulation defining the way the money can be used cannot be placed in the MBC Investment Fund—this must go into a Special Fund, Type 1). In the event of a problem with the stipulations, the IMC shall have the primary responsibility of resolving the problem through negotiations with the donor. The IMC is empowered to accept donations on behalf of the church.

The IMC shall keep the church informed of any donations that have been accepted into any fund by reporting the gift at the next available regular monthly business meeting. In addition, the IMC shall report any open and still pending instance in which the donor and the IMC have not been able to reach agreement on stipulations associated with the proposed gift. In that case, the IMC has the responsibility to make a recommendation to the church of an appropriate action. A 2/3 majority of those present and voting shall be required to accept the gift if the IMC has recommended that this gift be declined. Conversely, a simple majority of the

church is required to decline the gift if the IMC has recommended that it be accepted. In either case, if the church votes to overrule a recommendation of the IMC at a business meeting for which notice of the vote taken has not been made to the church at a Sunday morning service at least three days prior, then action on the motion shall automatically be tabled to be reconsidered at the next regular or special called business meeting. Prior to the vote of reconsideration it is further stipulated that the intent to hold a vote to overrule a recommendation of the IMC shall have been announced in at least one Sunday morning service at least three days prior to the business meeting scheduled date.

The IMC has the responsibility to provide investment management of all funds under its watch care. Investment decision should be made considering risk, and the expected period for which the money will be available for investment. The objective should be made to maximize return on the investment using conservative and disciplined investment practices.

The IMC shall have full authority to accept any contributions offered with or without stipulations as to use. If a donation is offered with condition, the IMC shall negotiate the terms of acceptance with the contributor or his/her representative. The IMC shall not bind nor have the authority to bind the MBC to any agreement that does not, at the time of the offer, coincide with established practice of the church. Neither shall donations be accepted that do not match the short term and long term plans that the church has established. Further the IMC is charged with the responsibility to know and implement the short term and long term church plans. While the desires and wishes of the donor shall be taken into account, and shall be implemented by the church to the extent reasonable and practical, the church shall not be obligated to follow the stipulations of the donor should unforeseen conditions make it impossible or impractical to do so.

The IMC shall have the authority to make all decisions relative to the acceptance, investment, and dispersal of all funds included in the MBC Investment Fund or Special Fund(s), Type 1. Notwithstanding, this or any other decision, of the IMC can be overruled by the church body by a 2/3 majority vote of those present and voting at a business meeting. (The only exceptions to the 2/3 majority requirement are a simple majority requirement to decline an offer of a gift or reject the recommendation of the IMC to fund a project.) However, if the church votes to overrule a recommendation of the IMC at a business meeting for which notice of the vote to be taken has not been made to the church at a Sunday morning service at least three days prior, then action on the motion shall be automatically be tabled to be reconsidered at the next regular or special called business meeting. Prior to the vote of reconsideration it is further stipulated that the intent to hold a vote to overrule a recommendation of the IMC shall have been announced in at least one Sunday morning service at least three days prior to the business meeting scheduled date.

The IMC may accept requests for the dispersal of MBC Investment Fund funds from any bonafide entity of MBC. No funds may be dispersed to cover normal budgeted expenses—the one and only exception being to prohibit the closing down of the church due to a shortage of operational resources. Before withdrawal of funds for this emergency reason, a plan for putting the MBC back on a stable operational budget must be presented to and approved by the church and submitted to the IMC.

The church shall not accept funds into nor disperse funds from the MBC Investment Fund or a Special Fund, Type 1 without first hearing and considering the recommendation of the IMC. This requirement does not exist for the establishment of or disbursement from a Special Fund, Type 2.

Further the IMC is responsible to:

1. Assist, advise or inform any individual, group of individuals, family, or organization who may have an interest in or seek advice concerning the making of a donation to any one of the funds managed by the IMC.
2. Take charge (in behalf of the church) of all things of value that are given to any one of the funds managed by the IMC. If the gift is real estate, then after the IMC accepts the gift, the trustees will take charge and care for it as a part of the church property.
3. Accept, analyze, prioritize, oversee and act upon all requests for disbursement from the MBC Investment Fund.
4. Regulate the receipt of and spending of all gifts entrusted to its oversight (except for a Special Fund, Type 2).

The IMC has no responsibility and shall not become involved in the management or dispersal of the routine designated fund items represented in the church financial report.

Section VI – Purposes And Disbursements From The MBC Investment Fund: The MBC Investment Fund shall have the following characteristics:

1. The MBC Investment Fund shall, in general, be used for long term (usually ongoing) projects that extend the ministry of Midway Baptist Church.
2. Disbursement from the MBC Investment Fund shall be used for purposes that further the ministry of the Church. Disbursements shall be made from this fund to support projects sponsored by organizations or individuals of the church, or by the church body as a whole. Projects shall be approved by the IMC and by the church. The IMC, itself, is not empowered to sponsor a project that uses disbursements from the MBC Investment Fund.
3. Supported projects shall be in keeping with and consistent with the ministry of MBC. The IMC shall never approve that more than 60% of the total cost of a project be funded from the MBC Investment Fund.
4. Funds invested in the MBC Investment Fund shall not be depleted to less than 70% of the total cumulative donations to the fund from its inception. Funds from the MBC Investment Fund may be used only for religious education, to enhance worship, to expand or improve facilities, to acquire new facilities, to support or broaden community services and ministries, to promote mission activities locally and/or world wide. Proceeds from this fund may not be used to pay for or supplement payment of normal

recurring church operating expenses.

5. An example of a valid objective for the MBC Investment Fund is: “A proposal sponsored by the WMU that the MBC Investment Fund provide 60% of the cost of establishing and operating a training class to assist local mothers who do not have a HS diploma and want to improve their basic educational and social skills.”

Section VI – Internal Guidelines Of The Investment Management Committee: The IMC shall have the prerogative to invest in stocks, bonds, or other financial instruments that are conservative and non-speculative in nature. Investments shall not be made in the securities of any company whose primary business is contrary to the ethical principles taught by the church.

Unless the IMC has at least one qualified and bonafide investment broker as a member, it is encouraged to consult with and effectively consider the (judgment-advice) of a consultant broker in making investment decisions. Further, the IMC shall consider counsel from the Finance Committee when accepting (or dispensing) funds.

All decisions made by the IMC regarding the acceptance of donations, method of investment, or approval to disperse funds shall be made and approved by at least 5 members of the committee at a meeting with at least 5 members present and voting. In a situation in which the IMC approves a recommendation to disperse funds from the MBC Investment Fund or a Special Fund, Type 1 and there is a dissenting vote within the IMC, the dissenting member(s) is obligated to present a minority report to the church at the business meeting at which the church acts on the recommendation. Further, the disbursement of funds must be approved by the church by a simple majority vote of the church.

Section VII – Other Requirements: Since the rules governing the IMC and these associated funds have been approved as an amendment to the MBC Constitution and Bylaws, they can only be changed by further amendment of the bylaws.

Any gifts given to the church without designation as to use shall be placed in the General Fund. This shall not preclude the church, by simple majority vote, from transferring money from the General Fund to the MBC Investment Fund, a Special Fund Type 1, or a Special Fund Type 2.

If, at some time in the future, a difference of philosophy shall develop between differing factions of the congregation from which split of the church and contention for control of the funds in the MBC Investment Fund or one or more Special Funds, Type 1 shall develop, then the rightful owner shall be defined as that group holding closest to the historical Baptist doctrine as defined by the MBC Baptist Church Constitution and Bylaws and the 1963 “Baptist Faith and Message.”

If, in the future, Midway Baptist Church shall take steps to dissolve as a functioning Baptist Church, the IMC shall be charged with the responsibility of determining an organization that practices beliefs and philosophies as defined by the MBC Constitution and Bylaws, Article IV. At the dissolution of the church, all funds in the MBC Investment Fund and all Special Funds, Type 1 shall be given to said organization.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The moderator shall appoint special committees to carry out specific obligations unless the church directs their appointment in a different manner.

PULPIT COMMITTEE

When the pulpit is declared vacant due either to the resignation of the pastor or upon the request of his resignation by a majority of the church members voting at such a meeting the church moderator shall call for a business meeting of the church either regular or special within two (2) weeks for the purpose of electing a pulpit committee. The committee shall consist of five (5) members of the church. The deacons of the church shall present to the church at this business meeting a list of at least five (5) or more nominations of persons to be elected to the pulpit committee. The list shall consist of two (2) deacons, two (2) women, and one (1) person at large. This list of nominations must be by a majority vote of the deacons present at the meeting held for this purpose.

After the chairman of the deacons' presents the deacons' nominations to the church, then the floor of the business meeting shall be opened up for further nominations. At this same meeting the Pulpit Committee shall be elected by secret ballot.

When the Pulpit Committee is elected, they shall proceed to choose a candidate for pastor of the church with deliberate speed. The Pulpit Committee shall select its own chairman.

The Pulpit Committee shall have the sole responsibility to provide a supply for the pulpit until the time a pastor is elected by the church.

(For election procedure, refer to Article VII, Section 2A.)

ARTICLE IX

GENERAL MATTERS

LICENSE TO PREACH

When a member announces to the church that he feels the call to the ministry, the church, by majority vote, may license him as acknowledgment of his call to the ministry and encouragement to make preparation for it. The clerk of the church may furnish the member with a copy of the minutes or a certificate of license as his credentials. It is understood that the performance of civil duties by the member shall be governed by the law of the state.

ORDINATION

In the event this church has been requested to ordain a member, the following procedure shall be followed: The church will express its approval by a vote of a majority of the members present at any regularly arranged business meeting of the church. Then the church shall invite the Association Council on Ordination to examine the candidate concerning his fitness for the ministry. In the event the Association has no such Council the church shall invite representatives of neighboring churches to examine the candidate and report to the church. Then in the event the report of the committee is favorable the church shall proceed with the ordination.

AFFILIATION WITH ASSOCIATIONS AND CONVENTIONS

We recognize the mutual helpfulness in the Association of Churches who are in agreement in faith and practice.

Believing that Elkhorn Association, Kentucky Baptist Convention, and Southern Baptist Convention are organizations which have as their purpose the promotion and support of missions, education and benevolence in keeping with the Articles of Faith of this church, we therefore agree to participate in these organizations through duly elected messengers and through our support of the causes which these organization represent.

PROPERTY HOLDING

It is agreed that the securing and the maintaining of real property, buildings, and equipment by this church shall be for the purpose of providing facilities for public worship, church related activities, and future expansion. Any use of such property shall be in the character and in the spirit of the Constitution and Articles of Faith of this congregation.

If at any time in the future it shall be proposed to alter the quality of beliefs and practices of this church described in the Constitution and in the Articles of Faith of this church, such alteration can be effected and accomplished only by a vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the Resident membership of this church. Any person or persons proposing any such alterations shall file the same in writing with the clerk of the church at least thirty (30) days before any vote is taken thereon. It is understood that the rights of the property of the church shall inhere in the part of the congregation which shall agree to continue the use of this church for the purpose for which it was acquired and has been to that time maintained.

This church may withdraw from affiliation with the association and conventions by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the resident church membership provided that in all matters relating to its internal affairs the church remains and shall be an autonomous body.

DISPOSAL OF REAL ESTATE

There shall be no sale or disposal of any Church real estate property without first bringing it before the church business meeting. This matter shall be acted upon not less than thirty (30) days from the time it is first presented to the church.

ARTICLE X

DISMISSAL OF STAFF MEMBERS

No member of the staff can be relieved of his duties until such recommendations be made in writing at one business meeting, with reasons presented for such request and verified. The request may then be voted upon at the next business meeting but not less that thirty (30) days hence.

ARTICLE XI

ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

Any rules in this Constitution and By-Laws, except as specified in Article IX, (Property Holding) may be amended, altered, or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at any regular business meeting of the church; provided, however, that three months prior to such business meeting, notice and proposal of such amendment, alteration, repeal must be given in writing and signed by at least two other not-related church members.

ARTICLE XII

ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION

The adoption of this Constitution shall effect a repeal of all previous rules in conflict herewith.

A copy of this Constitution shall at all times be kept by the clerk among his records and another copy shall be kept in the church office, and all amendments to or revisions thereof, shall after passage by the church, be prepared by the Clerk and pasted in the copies of the Constitution, and made available to the church members generally upon request.