

**Bylaws: Rules for Internal Operation of the Berean Fundamental  
Church of Mitchell, Nebraska (MBC).**

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## I. Name

The name of this organization is Berean Fundamental Church of Mitchell, Nebraska (hereafter referred to as Mitchell Berean Church/MBC). This name shall be reported to the Berean Fellowship of Churches via the Regional Fellowship.

## II. Affiliation

This church is affiliated with the Berean Fellowship of Churches (BFC).

This church is subject to the rules and regulations stipulated in the Berean Fellowship of Churches' Constitution and Bylaws.

## III. Doctrine and Purpose

### A. Doctrine

As an affiliate of the Berean Fellowship of Churches we hold to the following doctrinal statement as required by the BFC Constitution.

As an interdependent, collaborative group of churches, the BFC holds to the following statement of belief. We hold our beliefs regarding the nature and character of God, the person and work of Jesus Christ, the need for salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone, and the authority and reliability of Scripture as primary doctrine. Individual believers who love Jesus Christ and believe that the Bible is God's Word may differ on secondary matters. For the sake of unity and clarity of teaching, we believe it is important to state clearly where the BFC stands doctrinally.

Christians who share our commitment to Jesus and the Bible and wish to partner with the BFC in pursuit of Christ's mission may have reservations or differing personal views regarding secondary issues. We welcome these brothers and sisters in Christ into our fellowship with the understanding that doctrinal unity is critical to the mission of each local BFC church. We ask that all leaders and members of BFC churches submit to the following doctrinal statement of beliefs regardless of reservations or differences they may personally hold regarding secondary issues.

The following doctrinal statement will serve as the primary statement of doctrine for every local church in the Berean Fellowship. Individual BFC churches are free to adopt additional doctrinal distinctives which must be made publicly available and be consistent with and supplemental to this statement.

### BIBLE

We believe the Bible, consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testament Scriptures in their entirety, is the only divinely inspired, inerrant, objectively true, and authoritative written Word of God. It is the only infallible rule of faith and practice. The divine inspiration of Scripture extends to each word of the original manuscripts, but not to the various copies or translations of Scripture. The Bible should be interpreted literally, grammatically, contextually, and historically. (Deut. 29:29; Matt. 5:17; John 10:35; 1Cor. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Pet. 1:21, 3:16)

### GOD

We believe there is only one God, the Creator, who is infinite and personal. He exists eternally in three distinct persons, revealed to us in Scripture as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is holy. God is love. God is just. God is all powerful, all knowing and ever present. He is the source of all that is good and is the only rightful object of worship. (Gen. 1:1; Deut. 6:4; Job 42:1-2; Ps. 96:9, 115:3; Prov. 15:3; Isa. 6:3,43:10-11, 44:6, 45:22, 66:1; Matt. 28:19; John 1:1, 4:24, 5:26, 10:30; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 3:26, 1 Cor.3:16, 8:4; Heb. 4:13; 1 John 3:20, 4:8-10)

### JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ is God the Son who has neither beginning nor end. The Old Testament contains numerous prophecies of His coming. He was conceived in the flesh by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin named Mary, and is fully God and fully man. Jesus lived a sinless life that perfectly revealed God's love and truth. He died for our sins, was buried, and arose bodily from the dead on the third day. He ascended into heaven and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father as our only mediator, high priest, and advocate. (Gen. 3:15; Ps. 110:1-4; Isa. 9:1-7, 53:1-12; Mic. 5:2; Matt. 1:20-25; Luke 24:27; John 1:1, 17, 10:30, 14:3-6; Acts 1:11, 4:12; Rom. 8:34; 1 Cor. 15:3-5, 20; Col. 1:16-19; Phil. 2:5-11; 1Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 1:3, 4:14-15; 1 Pet. 2:22-24; Rev. 1:18)

## HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity. He is a person, not a force. The Holy Spirit's ministries include convicting all people of sin; calling, regenerating, indwelling, and baptizing believers into the Body of Christ at conversion; setting them apart to a holy life; and guiding, teaching, keeping, and empowering them day by day. The Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts to each believer according to His will for the building up of the church. We believe the primary evidence of the presence and filling of the Holy Spirit is the fruit of the Spirit rather than a miraculous sign. (John 3:5-8, 16:5-15; Acts 1:8, 5:3-4, 16:7-14; 1 Cor. 2:9-12, 3:16, 12:3-13, 13:8-11; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 1:13-14, 5:18; Heb.2:3-4)

## HUMAN RACE

We believe that both man (Adam) and woman (Eve) were created in the image of God to enjoy a personal relationship with Him. As a result of deliberate disobedience, they fell from their sinless state, and they and all their descendants became sinners. Consequently, no one can save himself or herself, and apart from the grace of God in Jesus Christ, all are condemned to eternal torment. All humans still bear the image of God and are therefore intrinsically valuable, but all humans are now broken image bearers, in need of the restoration found in Christ. God distinguishes between the sexes, equally valuing men and women, who both reflect His image. God ordained marriage to be between one man and one woman as part of his design that some roles within the family and the church be distinctly male or female. (Gen. 1:26-27, 2:18-25, 3:1-24; Matt. 19:3-9; John 3:16-18, 36; Rom. 2:12-16, 5:12-21, 6:23, 7:14-21; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 5:22-33; Col. 3:9-10; Jas. 3:9; Rev. 20:13-15)

## SALVATION

We believe we are saved solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ alone. This salvation was purchased through the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ who, by shedding his blood for sin, offers salvation as a free gift to every person without distinction. God is sovereign over salvation and yet each person is fully accountable for his or her response to the gospel. The person who has trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior is eternally secure and can enjoy the assurance of salvation as guaranteed by Christ's victorious resurrection. We believe that at death those who have trusted in Jesus enter eternal glory and those that have not enter eternal torment. (Matt. 25:46; John 1:12, 3:16, 10:27-28; Acts 16:31, 20:20-21; Rom. 3:21-28, 8:31-39, 10:9,12-15, 17; 1 Cor. 15:3-4, 17-22; Eph. 1:7, 2:4-9; Phil.1:6; Heb 2:14; 1 John 2:2)

## SANCTIFICATION

We believe that every believer has been set apart with a perfect standing before God. As believers yield themselves to the Holy Spirit, they will experience spiritual growth in holiness but not perfection in conduct in this life. Believers will battle the world, the flesh and the devil, but living by faith in Christ results in transformation of the heart and authentic righteous living. Future rewards are determined primarily by what motivates Christian behavior. Those whose behavior is an outflow of finding their identity in Christ will be rewarded. (John 15:1-8; Rom. 6:13-19, 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 3:8-15, 10:13; 2 Cor. 3:16-18; 5:10; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph 2:1-3; Phil. 1:6, 3:12; 1 Thess. 4:3; Heb. 10:10)

## CHURCH

We believe that Christ is the Head of the Church, which is His body, established to bring God glory. All who have trusted in Christ as Savior are members of this body. Christians should commit themselves to worship, prayer, instruction, fellowship, stewardship, and service in a local church. The church is responsible to represent Jesus Christ in the world through godly living and evangelism. All believers are commanded to participate in two church ordinances: believers' baptism, by immersion if possible, and the Lord's Supper; the bread and cup symbolizing Christ's body and blood. (Matt. 26:26-29, 28:18-20; Acts 1:8, 2:41-42, 8:35-39; Rom. 12:9-13; 1 Cor. 11:23-34, 12:12-13; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Eph. 3:6-11, 4:11-13; Col. 1:18; Heb. 10:23-25; 1 Pet. 2:9-10)

## SATAN

We believe that Satan was created as an angelic being. Rebelling against God, he became the author of sin, our adversary and accuser, and the great deceiver of the nations. He was defeated by Christ's death and resurrection but continues to wield power in this world under God's sovereign control. In the end, he will be completely overcome by the Lord Jesus Christ and suffer eternal punishment in the lake of fire. (Gen. 3:1,15; Job 1:6-12; Matt. 4:3-11; John 8:44; 1 Cor. 15:24; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:1-2; Col. 2:13-15; 1 John 3:8, 5:19; Rev. 12:7-12, 20:10)

## FUTURE EVENTS

We believe in the imminent, bodily, personal return of Jesus Christ. On a day known only to God, Jesus will return for his Church. God will reunite all human souls with resurrected, imperishable bodies. This will be followed by the final judgment of the wicked into the lake of fire and eternal life for God's children in a new heaven and a new earth, restoring all creation to a joyful, God-honoring state. (Matt. 24:27-36; John 5:28-29; 14:3; Acts 1:7, 11; Rom. 8:1, 18-25; 1 Cor. 15:20-26, 35-57; 2Cor. 5:1-10; Col. 1:19-20; 1 Thess. 4:15-5:3; Rev. 11:15, 19:11-21:5)

### **B. Mission/Purpose Statement:**

We are a church on mission to raise up disciple makers who share the gospel where we live, work, and play.

## **IV. Participation in Church Life**

Mitchell Berean Church does not keep a list of official church members. Anyone who has trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation and submitted to His authority in their lives is part of the universal church. All such followers of Jesus are invited to participate fully in the mission and ministries of Mitchell Berean Church. Those who serve in an official capacity do so at the discretion of the Elder Board (hereafter referred to as Shepherding Team) and are expected to submit to the church doctrinal statement and live a life that is consistent with the ethical teachings of the Bible.

For the purposes of clarity, the term "family member" may be used in these by-laws to refer to people that consistently attend MBC, agree with the doctrinal statement, have received Jesus as Lord and Savior, and consider MBC their home church.

## **V. Church Discipline.**

The purpose of church discipline is restoration of the sinning family member to Christ and the church body.

### **A. Guidelines for Discipline of Church Family Members**

1. Biblically, each believer is responsible before God to examine his or her own obedience to Christ. (1 Cor. 11:31)
2. In disciplinary actions it is imperative that all parties be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading and follow scriptural guidelines.
3. Church discipline is for specific sins, not for differences of opinion. (1 Cor. 5: 1, 11-13; 1 Tim 5:19-21)

### **B. Process for Church Discipline (Matt. 18:15-20)**

1. The person who is aware of the offense is to be the first to prayerfully and privately confront the sinning family member.
2. If the sinning family member refuses to repent, the first person is to take one or two witnesses for a second attempt to confirm and clarify the facts.
3. If the matter remains unresolved, it is to be brought to the Shepherding Team.
4. If the sinning family member still refuses to repent, the Shepherding Team may bring the matter to the attention of the family members of the church.
5. When the sinning family member repents, he or she should be forgiven, restored to fellowship, and lovingly affirmed by those involved.
6. Restoration to ministry responsibilities shall be at the discretion of the Shepherding Team.
7. In the event that the sinning family member refuses to repent, he/she may be suspended from attending or participation at MBC until full repentance and restoration at the discretion of the Shepherding Team.

## **VI. Meetings of Participants**

### **A. Annual Meetings**

1. An annual church meeting will be held for the purpose of presenting information considered necessary by the Shepherding Team, casting vision for ministry in the coming year, and other necessary items of business.

2. Notice of the date of the annual meeting shall be publicized at least three Sundays prior to the meeting by public announcement from the pulpit or in written form, either physical or digital.

## B. Specially Called Meetings

1. The Shepherding Team may call a special meeting of the church. Notice of the date of the meeting, including its purpose shall, when practical, be publicized at least two Sundays prior to the meeting from the pulpit or in written form, either physical or digital. Extraordinary circumstances may prevent two weeks' notice, in which case, the date will be publicized as soon and often as possible and in a way most likely to put church members on notice of the meeting.

# VII. Church Leadership

## A. Shepherding Elders Team

1. The Official Shepherding Elder Team (referred to hereinafter as the Shepherding Team) shall be the Board of Directors for this corporation and will provide accountability for all organizations, committees, employees and ministries of the church.
2. The Shepherding Team will consist of Biblically qualified male Elders, individually referred to as a Shepherding Elder.
3. The Shepherding Team will interview men that desire to join the Shepherding Team in order to determine if they are Biblically qualified elders. The Shepherding Team will diligently consider the qualifications of the applicant. If the applicant is Biblically qualified and approved by the Shepherding Team, he will be presented to the congregation for consideration. Church family members will be given two weeks to raise concerns regarding the proposed Shepherding Elder's Biblical qualifications. At the end of the two weeks the Shepherding Team will vote on bringing the applicant onto the team (after considering any concerns from the congregation). The Shepherding Team must unanimously agree to make the applicant a member of the Shepherding Team.

New members will be on the Shepherding Team for a term of five years. At the end of each term, a Shepherding Elder will step away from serving on the Shepherding Team for a minimum of two years. A term may be extended under extraordinary circumstances if approved by a majority of the Shepherding Team. Qualified men (see VII. B-3 below) remain Elders in perpetuity regardless of whether they are actively serving on the Team (see B-4).

4. The Shepherding Team will meet regularly to conduct the affairs of the church.
5. When the number of Shepherding Team members becomes fewer than three (at least 2 must be non-paid Shepherding Team members) a Provisional Leadership Team will be formed according to article II. H-5 of the Berean Fellowship of Church's Constitution. This team along with the remaining Shepherding Team members from the local church will serve as the Official Board of church until an autonomous local Shepherding Team can be reestablished (consisting of 3 members of which at least 2 must be non-paid Shepherding Team members).
6. All Shepherding Elders must agree and sign Shepherding Team Covenant. (see VII.B.5)

## B. Shepherding Elders:

1. An Elder serves as a shepherd, leader, and teacher in the local church. Elders at MBC are considered equal in authority; each elder serving the church in specific areas with the gifts God has given him. One Shepherding Elder, the First Among Equals, will be called and identified by the Team to be the primary leader of church staff, the main communicator to the community, and most responsible for the day to day affairs of the church. The Shepherding Team is jointly responsible for church vision while the Paid Shepherding Elders (PSE) are most responsible for implementing the vision.

PSE's are voting members of the Shepherding Team, but in order to do official business requiring a vote of the Shepherding Team, a quorum of unpaid Shepherding Elders must be present.

2. A man is qualified to serve as an Elder when his life consistently displays the characteristics described in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, Hebrews 13, and 1 Peter 5. He will be selected for his Christ-like character, giftedness and his sense of personal call to the role.
3. Elders of this church are responsible to the Lord Jesus and accountable to the Shepherding Team to shepherd, lead, and teach the church as Jesus would. He shall be identified as a Elder as long as he shares in the responsibilities of shepherding the flock until he is prevented from doing so by his death, resignation, or removal by other Shepherding Team members in the event of heresy, immorality, misconduct, incompetence, or failure to maintain a good testimony. Before a member of the Shepherding Team can be removed, the Shepherding Team shall follow the procedure set forth in Matthew 18:16-17 and consider all other Scripture addressing the cause for removal.
4. Shepherding Elders that are no longer active voting members shall continue to be a nonvoting Elder of MBC as long as they meet the qualifications of an Elder as previously set forth in these By-laws.
5. All Shepherding Elders (paid and unpaid) will sign and agree to the following covenant:

*I, (name), ask God for His grace and strength to help me shepherd Mitchell Berean Church with a Christ-like heart during my calling and assignment on the Shepherd Team.*

*I commit to the biblical role of shepherding by actively teaching, protecting, leading and caring for the flock gathered at MBC.*

*I recognize that I will give an account to the living God for my time at this church, so I ask for His help to grow in my love for Him and grow in a committed love for the flock and community.*

*I commit to seek the Holy Spirit in setting an example in godliness, integrity, and repentance, relying on God's grace and Spirit to live out the character qualities of 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, Hebrews 13 and 1 Peter 5.*

*I commit to maintaining a soft heart before God by spending time daily in His Word for personal growth and correction, intentionally living a life that reflects my commitment to Jesus, keeping my eyes on Him, the Chief Shepherd.*

*I commit to cooperate with the Berean Fellowship of Churches, using my influence to further the interdependent mission of the Berean Fellowship.*

*I commit to be accountable to a Christian brother with whom I can share my joys, struggles and concerns in confidence. To this individual I give permission to admonish and correct me in Biblical, loving care for the sharpening of my mind and soul to better my stewardship within this church family.*

*I commit to being sensitive to God's leading regarding the completion of my current ministry assignment and will graciously resign when God leads. If at any time I am unable to submit to the majority of this church's Shepherd Team, I ask for my brothers on the Shepherd Team to call it to my attention. If I fail to be reconciled, I will resign immediately and will quickly and quietly step down from the position, causing no trouble which would damage this church family.*

6. A Shepherding Elder is appointed to a term of 5 years. If such an Elder desires to resign early, in good standing, he will continue as a nonvoting Elder (see 4). A resignation under protest or for any other reason than good standing will result in no longer being considered an Elder and will be expected to comply with the Shepherding Covenant.

### C. Paid Shepherding Elders (PSE)

1. A PSE is an Elder of the church and shall be accountable to the Shepherding Team for the performance of his duties. He serves on the official Shepherding Team as a Shepherding Elder. He will not be subject to term limits.

2. At least one PSE shall participate in the BFC Regional Fellowship and the annual BFC General Council meetings.
3. The practice of this church will be to grant our PSE a multiple-month, paid sabbatical every seventh year. (A suggested sabbatical policy is available from the Berean Fellowship of Churches upon request).
4. Calling: Paid Shepherding Elders

There are many possible ways the Lord might call a person to a Paid Shepherding Elder position here at MBC; MBC will not attempt to limit those options.

When the Shepherding Team has identified a candidate that the Shepherding Team believes is called and qualified to be a PSE at MBC the Shepherding Team may seek the assistance of the Regional Fellowship. If after reviewing a PSE candidate the representatives of the Regional Fellowship do not recommend the candidate as a PSE, the Shepherding Team will consider the specific reasons therefore. The Shepherding Team may continue to pursue the candidate or end pursuit of the candidate. However, after considering input from the Regional Fellowship (positive or negative), if the Shepherding Team is still interested in the candidate it may choose to extend an invitation to the prospective candidate to visit the church, to meet with the PSE, interview him and ask him to preach.

The Lord may choose to raise up a PSE from among the current members of MBC. He works in ways that are above our ways and past our understanding. These bylaws are not meant, in any way, to limit or presume how the Lord will lead His servants to MBC.

Upon an unanimous affirmative vote of the Shepherding Team, the candidate shall be presented to the congregation for consideration of Biblical Eldership qualifications (see process for new elders in section VII A).

5. A PSE shall serve as long as mutually agreeable between him and the Shepherding Team, provided that he continues to affirm and comply with the Shepherding Covenant.

#### D. Paid Shepherding Elder:

1. Any PSE not previously ordained shall be licensed for ministry, as set forth in the BFC Constitution. If he was previously ordained, his ordination may be formally recognized and endorsed by the church and reported to the BFC.
2. An Interim PSE has the same duties and covenant as a PSE and must be chosen by a vote of the Shepherding Team.

#### E. Deacons

1. Deacons will be identified and appointed by the Shepherding Team to serve according to policies determined by the local church. Deacons shall meet the qualifications of scripture set out in 1 Timothy 3: Respectable, sincere, sober, honest, hold fast the truths of the faith with a clear conscience, tested, not malicious talkers, temperate, trustworthy, faithful to their spouse, manages children & household well.
2. Role: Deacon Teams serve as assistants to the Shepherding Team, in order to let them focus on matters of doctrinal importance, teaching, leading, protecting and caring for the members of Mitchell Berean. They may make and execute upon decisions within the scope of authority delegated to them by the Shepherding Team.

An annual budget must be presented by the Deacon Team that will be reviewed and approved by the Shepherding Team.

Spending limits for each Deacon-overseen area will be established, and purchases exceeding this limit must be approved by the President or Treasurer of the Shepherding Team.

3. Scope of Authority: Deacons should strive to execute the heart of the mission, vision, values and principles as set by the Shepherding Team.

Decisions that fall within the approved budget and other written expectations set forth for the specific Deacon Team may be made autonomously without Shepherding Team input.

The Shepherding Team values the Spirit-guided expertise and calling of Deacons. With this in mind, recommendations for improvements or changes are welcomed. Proposals should be given to a Shepherding Team member in written form or a request can be made to be placed on a meeting agenda.

4. Accountability: Reporting at a frequency to be clarified at the onset of acceptance to the position is required with optional interim reports as needed.

Reports may be requested in-person or in writing.

Deacons function in submission to the Shepherding Team who may install or remove Deacons by majority vote.

5. All Deacons will sign and agree to the following covenant:

*I, (name), ask God for His grace and strength to help me serve Mitchell Berean Church with a Christ-like heart during my calling and assignment on the Deacon Team.*

*I commit to the biblical role of Deacon by actively serving the flock gathered at MBC.*

*I recognize that I will give an account to the living God for my time at this church, so I ask for His help to grow in my love for Him and grow in a committed love for the flock and community.*

*I commit to seek the Holy Spirit in setting an example in godliness, integrity, and repentance, relying on God's grace and Spirit to live out the character qualities of 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, Hebrews 13 and 1 Peter 5.*

*I commit to maintaining a soft heart before God by spending time daily in His Word for personal growth and correction, intentionally living a life that reflects my commitment to Jesus, keeping my eyes on Him, the Chief Shepherd.*

*I commit to cooperate with the Berean Fellowship of Churches, using my influence to further the interdependent mission of the Berean Fellowship.*

*I commit to be accountable to a Christian brother with whom I can share my joys, struggles and concerns in confidence. To this individual I give permission to admonish and correct me in Biblical, loving care for the sharpening of my mind and soul to better my stewardship within this church family.*

*I commit to being sensitive to God's leading regarding the completion of my current ministry assignment and will graciously resign when God leads. If at any time I am unable to submit to the majority of this church's Shepherding Team, I ask for my brothers on the Shepherding Team to call it to my attention. If I fail to be reconciled I will resign immediately and will quickly and quietly step down from the position, causing no trouble which would damage this church family.*

## F. Additional Ministry Staff

The Shepherding Team may hire/appoint additional staff, whether full-time, part-time or volunteer. These staff members shall be directly accountable to the Shepherding Team, which may delegate its authority to lead the staff members spiritually and practically to any PSE. All ministry staff shall abide by these bylaws and will quietly resign if he/she is unwilling to submit to the authority of the Shepherding Team.



## VIII. Officers of the Church Corporation

1. Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary will be appointed annually by the Shepherding Team from its membership, also filling the roles of President, Vice-President and Secretary of the Corporation. These officers will be granted the authority and responsibilities generally accorded these positions to act on behalf of the Corporation.
2. The Secretary shall also serve as the church clerk. He shall keep a record of all church business and minutes of any church meetings. He shall be responsible for any correspondence associated with his office.
3. The Treasurer shall be appointed annually by the Shepherding Team to oversee receipt and disbursement of funds for church finances.  
The Treasurer will provide financial reports, as required by the Shepherding Team and prepare for an audit or financial review at the request of the Shepherding Team.
4. In the event of a vacancy in any office, the Shepherding Team will appoint a replacement to complete the remainder of the term for that year.

## IX. Church Property

1. Titles: This locally incorporated church shall hold titles to all church property, real or personal.
2. Use: Property held by this locally incorporated church shall be for the use of church ministry consistent with the doctrine, practice, and ministry contained within these bylaws.
3. Division: In the case of an organizational division of the church, the group of members that abides by the BFC National Constitution and these bylaws shall retain all church property. Should controversy arise as to which group that is, the question shall be submitted to the BFC Board of Directors or its successor, and their decision shall be final. Upon determination by the BFC Board of Directors, all titles for church property shall be conveyed to the group of members retaining ownership.
4. Dissolution: If at any time there are insufficient members to continue a viable church work and a decision is made to close the church, the ownership and title of all church property, real and personal, shall be transferred in accordance with the articles of incorporation of MBC.
5. Disaffiliation: This church may vote to disaffiliate from the BFC, as provided in Article V, D of the BFC constitution.

## X. Rules of Order

1. General Powers: This organization shall receive gifts, bequests and legacies, acquire, buy, hold, improve, rent, lease, mortgage, sell and convey, and otherwise deal in real and personal property as may be necessary to conduct the business of this church and fulfill its stated mission. Appeals for funds may be made as deemed advisable by the Board.
2. Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of this church is January 1 through December 31.
3. Parliamentary Guide: In order that "...all things be done decently and in order," Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (or the most recent edition) shall be followed in cases to which they are practical, and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws of this church.

## XI. Limitation of Liability

1. No member of the Shepherding Team of MBC shall be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of MBC. To the extent that a person who is, or was, an officer, employee, volunteer, or other agent of this organization has been successful on the merits in defense of any civil, criminal, administrative or investigative proceeding brought to procure a judgment against such person by reason of the fact that he or she is, or was, an agent of MBC, or has been successful in defense of any claim, issue or matter, therein, such person shall be

indemnified against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with such proceeding. Payment to be in a manner determined by the Shepherding Team.

2. Should any director, officer, leader, employee, committee member or volunteer of MBC incur any liability as a result of their affiliation with or service to MBC that is not covered by MBC's insurance policy, and should such liability result in any out-of-pocket cost to such individual, then such individual may request indemnification from MBC.
3. In relation to any indemnification request that is made pursuant to sections A and B herein, if such request is made by an individual who is not currently serving on the Shepherding Team of MBC, then the indemnification decision (whether to indemnify the requesting individual, and the dollar amount of such indemnification), will be made by the Shepherding Team. Such a decision of the Shepherding Team will be final. If the indemnification request is being made by a person who is currently serving on the Shepherding Team, then the indemnification decision (whether to indemnify the requesting party, and the dollar amount of such indemnification), will be made by the remaining disinterested members of the Shepherding Team. A decision on the indemnification request by a majority of disinterested Shepherding Team will be final.
4. The Shepherding Team of MBC may adopt a policy authorizing the purchase and maintenance of insurance on behalf of any agent of the organization against any liability other than for violating provisions of law relating to self-dealing asserted against or incurred by the agent in such capacity or arising out of the agent's status as such, whether or not MBC would have the power to indemnify the agent against such liability under the provisions of state law.

## **XII. Interpretation and Amendments**

1. These bylaws may be amended upon an affirmative majority vote of family members in attendance at an annual meeting or specially called meeting by the Shepherding Team, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment has been distributed, either physically or electronically, to the church body at least thirty days prior to the meeting at which the amendment is to be considered. (Family Members are defined in accordance with section IV above.)
2. The counsel of the Regional Fellowship of the BFC may be sought before considering the revision or amendment of these bylaws.
3. Upon adoption of an amendment to these bylaws, a current copy will be provided to the Board of Directors of the BFC.
4. Matters of clarification and interpretation of these bylaws may be referred to the Regional Fellowship of the BFC.
5. These bylaws of (MBC) supersede and replace all prior bylaws.

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFY that the above bylaws have been approved by the Shepherding Team of this church and affirmed by the church body, at a duly called meeting of the MBC family members, on February 23, 2025 and are adopted for the Corporation.

Corporation President, Dean Keener

Corporation Secretary, James Worden