

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF CALVARY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

PREAMBLE

For the more certain preservation of, and the security of the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner, consistent with the accepted tenets of the Southern Baptist Denomination and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this Church and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith, we do declare and establish this constitution and by-laws.

I - NAME

This body shall be known as the Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Rising Sun, Maryland.

II - ARTICLES OF FAITH

This body accepts as "Articles of Faith" the Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention on June 14th, 2000.

III - CHURCH COVENANT

This body accepts as a Church Covenant the covenant commonly accepted by the Southern Baptist Churches as set forth in the Baptist Church Manuals common in use among Southern Baptist Churches, as follows:

Having been led as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant with one another, as one body in 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 and 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, back biting and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress, to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech, to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of our Savior 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.

IV – CHARACTER

Section 1: Policy - The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body or board of directors, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Southern Baptist Churches.

Section 2: Doctrine - This church receives the Scriptures as its sole authority in matters of faith and practice. The church encourages the use of the King James Version.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Qualifications. The membership of this church shall consist of such persons as confess Jesus Christ to be their Savior and Lord, and have been accepted by vote of the church and have been baptized by immersion, or if coming from other churches of like faith and order practicing biblical immersion, upon letter of transfer or satisfactory substitutes thereof.

Section 2: Duties. Members are expected to be faithful in all duties essential to the Christian life, to attend the services of this church, to give regularly to its support and causes, and to share in its organized work.

Section 3: Voting. Only such members as are in full and regular standing and do not hold letters of transfer may act and vote in the transactions of the church. A member will be considered active who has attended at least two Sunday or Wednesday meetings in the previous six months. If an inactive member returns to the church for at least two services, they will be permitted to vote at the second business meeting after fulfilling the attendance requirement. Elderly members or shut-ins will be considered on the active roll when they are unable for prolonged periods of time to attend regular services of the church.

Section 4: Quorum. Five percent of the resident roll of the membership shall constitute a quorum, except for the election of officers and for the call of a Pastor. For the election of officers, a ten percent shall be required, and for the election of a Pastor, a twenty-five percent.

Section 5: Termination. The continuance of membership shall be subject to the principles and usages of the Southern Baptist Churches, and especially as follows:

- a. Any member in good and regular standing who desires a letter of discussion and recommendation to any other church of like faith and order is entitled to receive same as upon request.
- b. The church may, after due notice and kindly effort to make such notice unnecessary, place on an inactive roll the membership of persons for the space of one year non-resident, or for the same space of time not habitually worshipping with the church.
- c. Should a member become an offense to the church and to her good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, or by persistent breach of his covenant vows, or by accepting and teaching doctrines contrary to our Articles of Faith, the Church may terminate his membership, but only after due notice and hearing, and after faithful efforts have been made to bring such a member to repentance and amendment.
- d. The membership of no person shall be terminated (except by letter) at the meeting when the recommendation for such action is made.
- e. Action for termination of membership the set forth in paragraphs b and c of this section shall first be considered by the Deacons who shall make recommendation to the Church.
- f. Any person whose membership has been terminated for any offense may be restored by vote of the church, upon evidence of his repentance and reformation or upon satisfactory explanations.

ARTICLE II - CHURCH OFFICERS

PASTOR

A Pastor shall be chosen and called by the church whenever a vacancy occurs. His election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least fifteen days notice shall be given. A pulpit committee shall be appointed by the Church to seek out a suitable Pastor, and their recommendation shall constitute a nomination. The committee shall bring to the consideration of the Church only one man at a time. The election shall be by ballot and a majority of seventy-five percent affirmative votes of those members present and voting shall be required for a choice. The Pastor so called is to be informed as to what majority he carried. He shall have charge of the welfare and oversight of the Church. He shall preside at all meetings except as hereinafter provided. The Pastor shall be the ex-officio head of all Church organizations.

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE II - PASTOR

Should the majority of faithful members become dissatisfied with the performance of the Pastor, and have valid reasons for such dissatisfaction, shall have the right of a vote by ballot. Proper notice of vote shall be given and Pastor must receive a majority of seventy-five percent affirmative votes to remain as Pastor. Less than seventy-five percent affirmative votes shall be considered as his termination.

DEACONS

Section I: Number, election and term of service.

- A. Number and procedure of election to be determined by the Church. Those elected by the Church shall serve for a term of three years, at which time they will rotate off as an active Deacon for the period of at least one year. In case of death, or the removal, or incapacity to serve, or the termination of service by the Church, the Church may elect to fill the place left vacant. It shall be pertinent for the Church to promote to honorary life membership any Deacon who by reason of age or infirmities shall, after honorable service, be no longer able to render active service. There is no obligation to constitute as a Deacon a brother who comes to the Church from another church where he has served as a Deacon.
- B. Following the election of an unordained man to the office of Deacon, the Church shall call for his ordination at the earliest possible time.
- C. No Deacon shall be ordained by this church who does not practice tithing.
- D. A man who has been divorced or whose wife has been divorced cannot, under our church's interpretation of the scriptures, serve as a Deacon. He can serve in the capacity of a yokefellow to a Deacon.

Section 2: Duties.

- A. The Deacons shall be zealous to guard the unity of the Spirit the bonds of peace.
- B. They shall serve as a council of advice and conference with the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the welfare and work of the Church.
- C. They are to establish and maintain personal fraternal relations with all the members of the Church. This does not delegate to the Deacons the right of authority over members of the Church, but is to be advisory in nature only.
- D. In counsel with the Pastor, and by such methods as the Holy Spirit may direct in accordance with the New Testament teaching, they are to have the responsibility of the discipline of the Church, in administering such, as they are to be guided always by the principles set forth in Matthew 18:15-17; I Cor.5:9-13; and I Thes. 5:12-14.
- E. The Deacons shall serve as a general pulpit committee unless a separate pulpit committee be appointed by the church. In cases of absence or inability of the Pastor, subject to advice from and conference with him, they shall provide for pulpit supply. In any period when the Church is without a Pastor, the Deacons will arrange the temporary ministry and take with reference to securing a Pastor. At no time shall a person occupy the pulpit of this Church who is not in complete sympathy with our Missionary Baptist work and who has not been recommended by the Pastor, Deacons or Pulpit Committee.

Section 3: Methods of Procedure.

The whole body of Deacons shall be organized as a unit and shall meet once a month, if possible, at any time to be agreed upon by themselves. Each Deacon shall freely confer with the Pastor about all matters and cases of discipline which, in his judgment, would be more wisely and spiritually handled in private.

MODERATOR

The Church shall, at the beginning of each new church year, elect a Moderator from the active membership of the Church. In the absence of the Moderator, the Chairman of the Deacons shall preside; or in the absence of both, the Clerk shall call the Church to order and a Moderator pro-tem shall be elected. In the absence of the three above-named officers, any member of the Church in good standing may call the Church to order and proceed with the election of a Moderator pro-tem.

CLERK

The Clerk shall keep in a suitable book a record of all the actions of the Church, except as otherwise provided. He shall keep a register of the names of the members, with the dates of admission, transfer, or death, together with a record of baptisms. He shall issue letters of transfer voted by the Church and shall preserve on file all communications and written official reports. All such records are to be considered the property of the Church.

TREASURER

The Treasurer shall receive, preserve, and pay out upon approval of the Church all money or things of value paid or given to the Church, keeping always an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. All funds received for denominational or other causes shall be paid at least once a month. A monthly report shall be presented to the Church at its regular business meetings. All books, records, and accounts kept by the treasurer shall be considered the property of the Church. The books shall be open to inspection at all times by any member in good standing. When a successor is elected, the Treasurer shall promptly deliver to the active Treasurer all books, records, and accounts in his hands pertaining to the office. He shall consider it a part of his duties to promote in every way scriptural giving (with the tithe as the basic minimum) on the part of himself and entire membership.

OFFICERS OF CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

All organizations of the Church shall be under church control, with all officers being elected by the Church and reporting regularly to the Church. The Pastor is ex-officio head of all the organizations named and his leadership is to be recognized in them all.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS

These officers and teachers shall be those members who are elected annually by the Church on nomination of Nominating Committee. No member shall be elected to any office who is not reasonably regular in Church attendance.

ARTICLE III - COMMITTEES

TRUSTEES: The committee of the Trustees elected by the Church, will hold in trust the property of the Church. They shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property of the Church without a specific vote of the Church authorizing such an action. The number of Trustees and terms of this office are stated in Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE IV - CHURCH FINANCE

Section 1: This Church recognizes and adopts the scriptural methods of Tithes and Offerings as its only plan of finance. Individuals may always be permitted to designate the manner in which their gifts are to be distributed.

Section 2: All funds shall pass through the hands of the Treasurer and shall be properly recorded, unless the Church shall indicate otherwise.

Section 3: It is understood that membership in this Church involves financial obligation to support the Church and its causes. Each member shall be encouraged to tithe.

ARTICLE V - CHURCH MEETINGS

SECTION 1:

- a. Public service shall be held stately on the Lord's Day and on some regular week day evening each week, preferably Wednesday.
- b. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at such times as the Church may direct.
- c. Occasional religious meetings may be appointed by the Pastor at his discretion, or by vote of the Church.
- d. The Church shall endeavor to conduct at least two Revival Meetings each year, or as they feel the Lord may lead.

SECTION 2:

- a. At any regular meeting for worship, the Church may act upon the reception of members or upon the dismissal of members to other churches, and upon the appointment of messengers to the Association, but not upon other business unless the Church declares an emergency.
- b. The Pastor may, and shall when he deems necessary, or when requested by the Deacons and or Trustees, call from the Pulpit special business meetings, the particular object of which is clearly stated in the notice. Special business meetings of the Church may also be called by the Clerk upon written application of five adult members, specifying the object thereof, which notice shall be read at the service on the Lord's Day preceding the day fixed for such a meeting.
- c. The monthly business meeting of the Church shall be held on the second Sunday evening of each month. In the event of a schedule conflict such as Vacation Bible School, the business meeting will be moved ahead one week to the third Sunday evening with due notice being given to the church body through announcements from the pulpit and in the printed bulletin.
- d. Rule of order, as follows, shall govern all business session of the Church:
 - 1. Every session shall be opened and closed by prayer.
 - 2. When the Moderator calls the house to order, every member shall at once take his seat.
 - 3. When a member wishes to speak, he shall rise and address the Moderator, and not proceed until he is recognized.
 - 4. No member shall speak more than twice on any subject except by permission of the body.
 - 5. It shall be counted disorder for any member to stand up, leave the house, or hold private conversation while any person is speaking.

ARTICLE VI - DISCIPLINE

Section 1: Should any unhappy differences arise between members; the aggrieved member shall follow, in

a tender spirit, the rules given by our Lord in the 18th chapter of Matthew.

Section 2: Should any gross breach of covenant, or of public scandal occur, the Deacons shall endeavor to remove the offense; and if such effort fail, shall report the case to the Church.

Section 3: If the Church votes to entertain a complaint, such must be made in writing; it shall appoint a reasonable time and place of hearing and shall notify the person in question thereof, furnishing him a copy of the charges.

Section 4: At such a hearing the accused member may call to his aid any member of the Church as counsel. If he shall not be present himself at the appointed time, or give satisfactory evidence or reason for his neglect to do so, the Church may proceed in his absence.

Section 5: All such proceedings shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance, and should an adverse decision be reached, the Church may proceed to admonish or declare the offender to be no longer in the membership of the Church.

Section 6: In case of grave difficulty, the Church will be ready, if requested, to ask the advice of an acceptable council from neighboring Church of like faith and order.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended, revised or changed by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any meeting specially called for the purpose, due notice having been previously given. No change shall be made in the Articles of Faith and Covenant except by a two-thirds vote of all the members present entitled to vote, said purposed change having been laid before the Church in writing at a business meeting not less than one month before the time of the proposed action, and read from the pulpit on the Lord's Day next succeeding such proposal.

Originally adopted by vote on the Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in business meeting November 11, 1964.