

CONSTITUTION





CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - THE NAME, PURPOSE AND AFFILIATION

SECTION 1. NAME

The name of this church shall be the McLean Bible Church.

SECTION 2. AFFILIATION

This church shall not, and cannot, be affiliated with any denomination, but shall remain independent for the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

SECTION 3. PURPOSE

The purpose of this church shall be the assembling of ourselves and others together to worship and glorify God (John 4:23-24); to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as a means of reaching unbelievers (Matt. 18:18-20); to instruct and edify believers in Christian living by fellowship and the teaching of the Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Eph. 4:12-13; 1 John 1:3,7); and to win the lost to Christ through the propagation of the Gospel throughout the world as set forth by God's Word (Rom. 10:14; Mark 16:15-16).

ARTICLE II - STATEMENT OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE

SECTION 1. THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God," by which we understand the whole Bible is inspired in that holy men of God "were moved by the Holy Spirit" to write the very words of God. We believe that this divine inspiration extends equally to all parts of the writings as they appeared in the original manuscripts. We believe that all Scriptures center about the Lord Jesus Christ and that no portion, even of the Old Testament, is properly read, or understood, until it leads to Him. We believe that all Scriptures were designed for our practical instruction (Matt. 5:17-18; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

SECTION 2. THE GODHEAD

We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons--the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit--and that these three are one God; co-equal and co-existent (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Acts 5:3-4; Heb. 1:8).

SECTION 3. MAN

We believe that man was originally created in innocence and that he fell through sin, and, as a consequence of his sin, lost his spiritual life, becoming dead in trespasses and sins, and then he became subject to the power of the devil. We believe that this spiritual death, or total depravity of the human nature, has been transmitted to the entire human race; and hence that every child of Adam is born into this world with a nature which not only possesses no spark of divine life but is essentially and unchangeably lost apart from divine grace. (Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 3:6; Rom. 3:10-23; Eph 2:1-5).

SECTION 4. CHRIST'S ADVENT

We believe that the eternal Son of God came into this world that He might manifest God to men, fulfill prophecy, and become the redeemer of a lost world. To this end He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin, received a human body and a sinless human nature (Luke 1:30-35; John 1:1,17-18; Heb. 4:15).

We believe that He remained a perfect sinless man, yet retained His absolute deity, being at the same time very God and very man. We believe that He voluntarily accepted His Father's will and became the divinely provided sacrificial Lamb and took away the sin of the world, bearing the holy judgment against sin which the righteousness of God must impose. His death was, therefore, substitutionary and by His death He became the Savior of the lost (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 10:5-17; 1 Peter 3:18).

We believe that, according to the Word of God, He arose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, and that His resurrection body is the pattern of that body which all believers shall inherit (John 20:20; 1 Cor. 15:3-5; Phil. 3:20).

We believe that in then ascending He became the Head over all things to the Church which is His body, and in this ministry He ceases not to intercede and advocate for the saved (Eph. 1:22-23; Heb. 7:25; 1 John 2:1).

SECTION 5. SALVATION

We believe that, owing to death through sin, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless born again; and that no degree of works can otherwise provide the sinner with the new life that makes him a son of God. This redemption has been accomplished solely by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made to be sin, dying in our room and stead; and no repentance, no feeling, no faith, no ordinance of the Church, can add in the least degree to the value of the blood in the finished work wrought for us by Him who united us to Himself (John 3:5; Rom. 5:6-9; 1 Peter 1:18-19, 23).

We believe that the new birth of the believer is an act of God the Spirit and comes only through individual faith in Christ and no other act such as confession, baptism, prayer, or faithful service is to be added to believing as an added condition of salvation (John 1:12; Rom. 1:16; Gal. 3:24).

We believe that one exercising this faith is immediately out of spiritual death into spiritual life, and from the old creation into the new, having his place and portion as linked to Christ and one with Him forever. Though the saved one may have occasion to grow in the realization of his blessing, as soon as he is saved he is in possession of every spiritual blessing and is complete in Christ (Rom. 5:1; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 1:3).

SECTION 6. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the blessed Trinity, though omnipresent from all eternity, indwells every believer since the day of Pentecost, and by His baptism unites all Christ's own into one body. He is the source of all power and all acceptable worship and service. (Rom. 8:9).

The baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs immediately upon saving faith when we are placed into the body of Christ, the true Church; the filling of the Holy Spirit is as the occasion demands for service (1 Cor. 12:13). The Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance and seals us until the day of redemption.

We believe there are well-defined gifts of the Holy Spirit which are given out by His sovereign will and are not to be prayed for, nor sought after by any special prayer, but it is the believer's privilege to yield to the Spirit in order that He might use us in any capacity for His glory (Eph. 4:30).

SECTION 7. THE CHURCH

We believe that all who are united to the risen and ascended Son of God are members of the true Church which is the Body and Bride of Christ; which began at Pentecost and is completely distinct from Israel. We are placed into the Church by the baptism of the Holy Spirit and made one body, that is Christ's, whether Jews or Gentiles (Eph. 4:3-6).

We believe that God has ordained that through the local church the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to be spread and that it is the duty of every born-again one to seek out a local fellowship for the furtherance of the Gospel and his own edification (Eph. 1:20-23).

We believe that the local church has two ordinances only: water baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:41; 1 Cor. 11:26).

SECTION 8. THE RAPTURE

We believe that according to the Word of God, the next great event in the fulfillment of prophecy will be the coming of the Lord in the air to receive to Himself into Heaven both His own who are living and those who died in Him. We believe that the translation of the Church will be followed by the fulfillment of Israel's seventieth week--during which time the Church, the Body of Christ, will be in Heaven. This period is known as the tribulation (1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 3:10). We believe that the period of great tribulation in the earth will be climaxed by the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth as He went, and with power and great glory to introduce the millennial age, to bind Satan and place him in the abyss, restore Israel to her own land and to give her the realization of God's covenant promises (Matt. 25:31; Rev. 19:11ff)..

SECTION 9. SATAN

We believe that God created an innumerable company of sinless, spiritual beings, known as angels; that one, the highest ranking, sinned through pride, thereby becoming Satan (Isa. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:11-19; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6).

We believe that Satan is the originator of sin, and that, under the permission of God, he through subtlety led our first parents into transgression, thereby accomplishing their moral fall and subjected them and their posterity to his own power; that he is the enemy of God and the people of God (Gen 3:1ff; Heb. 2:14).

We believe that Satan was judged at the cross, though not then executed, and that he now rules as the “god of this world”; and that, at the second coming of Christ, Satan will be bound and cast into the abyss for a thousand years, and after the thousand years he will be loosed for a little season and then cast into the lake of fire (John 12:31; Eph. 2:2; Rev. 20:2).

SECTION 10. THE ETERNAL STATE

We believe that at death the spirits and souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation pass immediately into His presence and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the glorified body when Christ comes for His own, whereupon soul and body reunited shall be associated with Him forever in Glory; but the spirits and souls of the unbelieving remain after death conscious of condemnation and in misery until the final judgment of the Great White Throne at the close of the millennium, when soul and body reunited shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power (Luke 16:19-26; 2 Cor. 5:8; Rev. 20:11-15).

ARTICLE III - AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

SECTION 1.

Article I, Section 2; Article II; and Article III, Section 1, cannot be changed or amended in any way in this church.

SECTION 2.

If it does not infringe upon the doctrinal position of this church, as set forth in Article II above, this Constitution may be changed by amendment or revision at a duly announced business meeting of the congregation. Any active member may petition the elders to consider a change in the Constitution by submitting their proposed amendment(s) to them. Changes must be approved by the Board of Elders unanimously and by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the congregation present and voting at said meeting. The congregation shall be notified of the intent to amend or revise this Constitution (both the original wording and the proposed revision) at least three (3) Sundays prior to said meeting.

ARTICLE IV - MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY

The term “marriage” has only one meaning as revealed in Scripture and that marriage is an institution created by and sanctioned by God - preceding the state - which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. God, the creator and designer of sexual intimacy, intends that this privileged activity must, without exception, only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other, and that no sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. Any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, same-sex sexual activity, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one’s sex, or disagreement with one’s biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God. God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Active membership in McLean Bible Church shall be open to all persons twelve (12) years of age and older who confess Christ as Savior, who desire Him to be Lord of their lives, and who are in agreement with the doctrinal position of McLean Bible Church as stated in Article II herein.

SECTION 2. VOTING PRIVILEGES

Voting privileges are restricted to active members who have passed their sixteenth (16th) birthday.

SECTION 3. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Application for membership may be filed by any person with the Board of Elders after having completed membership procedures (e.g. membership classes). Applicants shall each then testify publicly before the Board of Elders or some part thereof of their conversion experience and the present status of their life in Christ. The elders shall by unanimity approve applicants for membership and submit them to the congregation where they must be approved by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the active members present at any congregational meeting.

SECTION 4. INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Those members who have absented themselves from the worship services of McLean Bible Church for a period of eight (8) consecutive weeks without reasonable excuse for their absence shall be declared inactive by the Board of Elders. Efforts shall be made by the Board of Elders to restore inactive members, but those not restored within one (1) year shall be removed from the church roll. Inactive members shall have no vote in congregational meetings, nor shall they hold any church office.

SECTION 5. NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS

Non-resident membership shall be granted to those members such as missionaries, students, armed forces personnel, transferred government workers, etc., who find it necessary to be absent from the church over a period of time but indicate a desire to retain their membership. A non-resident member may be converted to active status upon return to the area and may vote after being in residence at least thirty (30) days.

SECTION 6. DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

Purity of doctrine and conduct is the Lord's positive expectation of His Church, and lack of it defiles and weakens any church. Therefore, members of this Church who shall endorse doctrinal positions in disagreement with the doctrinal statement of McLean Bible Church (Article II), or shall engage in conduct that is a reproach to Christ and a derogatory reflection upon the reputation of His Church, shall be publicly dismissed from the Church fellowship (Matthew 18:15-18). Upon repentance and demonstration of the fruit of repentance (Luke 3:8a), an erring member shall be joyfully restored to fellowship (2 Corinthians 2:5-11). The church shall be responsible for the discipline of regular attendees as well as formal members.

ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF ELDERS

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY AND TERM OF OFFICE

The ruling body of this church shall be known as the Board of Elders and it shall be the church's sole authoritative interpreter of the Scripture and the final authority on its application to practices, policies, and discipline. It shall consist of a minimum of six (6) elected elders, plus the pastor-teacher. It shall consist of a maximum of one (1) elder per ten (10) members. Associate pastoral staff members may be elected as elders, but may not comprise more than one-third (1/3) of the Board of Elders. These men shall be chosen by the congregation at the June Congregational Meeting to serve for a term of three (3) years. One-third (1/3) of the Board of Elders shall be chosen each year.

SECTION 2. QUALIFICATIONS

Each member of the Board of Elders must be an active member of this church and possess the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9, 1 Peter 5:1-7 and Acts 20:28.

SECTION 3. NOMINATION OF ELDERS

Candidates for elders shall be nominated by any member of the congregation each year in April. Those nominated shall be carefully and prayerfully considered by a nominating committee, appointed by the Board of Elders, consisting of six (6) members, three (3) or more of whom shall be church members at large. The Board of Elders will then evaluate the men approved by the nominating committee as to their conformance with the qualifications stated above. The Board of Elders shall then submit to the congregation a list of men qualified to serve as elders. This list of prospective elders shall be posted for at least two (2) weeks in advance of the June Congregational Meeting and the congregation shall be notified of such posting.

SECTION 4. ELECTION OF ELDERS

Any nominee receiving seventy-five percent (75%) or more affirmative vote of the votes cast by the members of the congregation shall be approved for service as an elder. If as a result of the election, the Board of Elders fails to consist of a minimum of six (6) elected elders, in addition to the pastor-teacher, the elders shall submit additional nominations to the congregation for approval within ninety (90) days after the June Congregational Meeting. In the interim, the duly elected elders shall function with full Constitutional authority.

SECTION 5. DUTIES

The elders are responsible for ruling and shepherding the flock (1 Peter 5:1-3; Acts 20:28), and guarding the reputation and doctrinal integrity of the Church. Among the duties of the Board of Elders are:

- A. Exercising shepherding care over a portion of the flock allotted to their charge;
- B. Establishing governing principles and determining practices for the Church;
- C. Exercising oversight of Church financial, business and property matters;
- D. Hearing and considering all reports and recommendations submitted by pastors, councils, committees and staff;

E. Approving, at the discretion of the elders, those who serve in Church leadership positions;

F. Assisting the pastor-teacher in the administration of Church ordinances and ministries;

G. Appointing and removing all associate pastors and staff as may be deemed appropriate by the elders;

H. Providing for the discipline of erring members and their reconciliation upon repentance;

I. Convening an ordination council and upon their unanimous recommendation, the church shall ordain men whom God has called to the ministry;

J. Disciplining any minister ordained/licensed by McLean Bible Church, including, if necessary, revocation of their ordination/licensing credentials;
Providing spiritual leadership for the Church when it is without a pastor-teacher;

K. Ensuring that the missionaries supported by McLean Bible Church are in agreement with the Church's doctrinal statement (Article II) and that their behavior is above reproach according to Article IV, Section 6.

L. Licensing to the Gospel ministry men from the membership of McLean Bible Church who (1) have a clear call to the ministry; (2) are preparing for vocational ministry; (3) are seeking future ordination; and (4) have clearly demonstrated a godly character and ministry gifts at McLean Bible Church. Licensing shall be for a maximum of two years unless specifically extended or renewed by the elders.

SECTION 6. OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF ELDERS

A. CHAIRMAN. The chairman shall preside at all board meetings. The chairman shall, in the absence of the pastor, be responsible for assuring that the Board provides for the spiritual oversight of the Church.

B. VICE CHAIRMAN. The vice chairman shall assume all of the above enumerated duties of the chairman in the absence of the latter.

C. SECRETARY. The secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Board. He shall also serve as clerk of the congregation and shall keep minutes of all congregational meetings and shall oversee the Church roll of members. He shall be charged with the duty of giving proper notice to the congregation of all congregational meetings.

D. TREASURER. The treasurer may be either an elder or a deacon of McLean Bible Church. The treasurer shall be responsible for all monies collected and distributed by the Church and shall make financial reports to the Board. He shall ensure that the congregation receives a financial report at each of the four regularly scheduled congregational meetings and that the congregation is informed on a monthly basis of the status of the church finances. Proper records and books concerning incoming and outgoing funds shall be kept and such records and books shall be available for auditing or inspection.

SECTION 7. MEETING AND QUORUM

The Board of Elders shall conduct regular meetings on a monthly basis and special meetings at other times as called for by the chairman of the Board or the pastor-teacher. These meetings shall be conducted according to scriptural principles as set forth in Philippians 2:2-8, and are to be conducted in good order. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the total membership of the Board, with the following exception: Whenever the business of the Board of Elders concerns the calling or dismissing of a member of the pastoral staff or a member of the Board of Elders, a quorum shall consist of not less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the members of the Board, and all members shall have been contacted in person as to the nature and purpose of the meeting seven (7) days in advance.

SECTION 8. DECISIONS OF THE BOARD OF ELDERS

A. The elders shall strive for unanimity in all decisions. If unanimity is not able to be reached on an issue, a decision shall be reached by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those present and voting, except in those cases where this constitution requires a different minimum percentage of the vote for elder action. Decisions shall be reached after prayerful consideration in a spirit of humility, with each elder regarding one another before himself.

B. Any person receiving compensation directly or indirectly from McLean Bible Church shall not vote on any matters that pertain to the nature of amount of said compensation. Any member of the Board who has a relative receiving compensation from McLean Bible Church shall also not vote on any matters that affect said compensation for his relative.

C. No pastoral staff member serving on the Board of Elders shall have a vote in the issue of dismissing or disciplining another member of the pastoral staff.

SECTION 9. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Any elder may be removed from office by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Board. Cause for such dismissal shall include disagreement with doctrinal statement, personal spiritual misconduct (e.g., lying, cheating, stealing, immorality, etc.), or organizational misconduct (e.g., unsubmitive spirit to the Board of Elders, unwillingness to fulfill his assigned duties, etc.). The elder in question shall cast no vote in such deliberations

SECTION 10. INTERIM VACANCIES

In the event that an elder resigns or is removed from office before his three-year term is completed, the Board of Elders shall have the authority to fill such vacancies for the unexpired term. Vacancies shall be filled at the Board of Elders' discretion, except that the Board of Elders shall always consist of at least six (6) elders in addition to the pastor-teacher. Any resignation that reduces the Board of Elders below this level shall be filled within ninety (90) days by the Board of Elders. In the interim, the duly elected elders shall function with full Constitutional authority. Any filled vacancies will require affirmation by the membership at the next June Congregational Meeting to serve out the remainder of the term being filled.

SECTION 11. VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

The Board of Elders shall be required to convene a congregational meeting and request a vote of confidence from the congregation under the following circumstances:

A. If the annual election process fails to produce a minimum of six (6) elected elders as per Article V, Section 1 (i.e., within ninety (90) days after the elder election in June).

B. If the Board of Elders is unable to fill a vacancy to bring the number of elected elders to the required minimum of six (6) as per article V, Section 10.

This vote of confidence shall be announced two weeks in advance to the congregation. A 75% affirmative vote of the votes cast by members of the congregation present and voting is required for the board to pass this vote. Upon receiving such an affirmative vote, the presently-serving board (even though not meeting the minimum of six) shall be allowed to continue leading the church as per this constitution until the next annual election in June. If a vacancy occurs during this time that further reduces the number of elected elders, another vote of confidence shall be required for the continuation of the board.

If the board fails to receive the 75% vote, a nominating committee shall be chosen by the congregation consisting of six (6) people. They shall nominate a new slate of elders and submit them directly to the congregation for approval. This shall take place within ninety (90) days and the congregation shall appoint a temporary six (6) man governing board for this interim. When a new board has been duly elected, the ruling authority of the church shall be restored to them as per Article V, Section 1 of this constitution.

The Board of Elders shall have the authority to call for a vote of confidence at any time that they feel that their ability to continue governing the church is in question.

ARTICLE VII - OTHER CHURCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. DEACONS

The deacons shall consist of active members of McLean Bible Church possessing the qualifications as described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. The Board of Elders will evaluate those men recommended as per Article V, Section 5.e. as to their conformity with the qualifications stated above, and appoint those approved as deacons for a term of one (1) year, commencing April 1. Deacons also may be appointed by the Board of Elders during the year as the need may arise for a part-year term expiring March 31. The deacons shall assist the elders in serving the body and carrying out the daily ministrations of the Church (Acts 6:1). Deacons may be removed from office according to the same procedures stated in Article V, Section 9.

SECTION 2. DEACONESSES

The deaconesses shall consist of active members of this Church possessing the qualities of 1 Timothy 3:11. They shall be appointed and removed by the same procedure stated in Article VI, Section 1. They shall assist the Board of Elders in ministering to the body, particularly in those areas where a woman's service would be more practical or more appropriate. Additional deaconesses may be appointed by the Board of Elders during the year as the need may arise for a part-year term expiring March 31.

SECTION 3. COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

To enable efficient handling of Board matters, the Board may appoint various councils and committees from within its membership or from the Church at large. These councils and committees shall perform tasks in accordance with the duties and powers delegated to them by the Board. All councils and committees shall exist for the period specified by the Board. All councils and committees shall be directly responsible to the Board of Elders and may be chaired by an elder if the Board deems fit.

SECTION 4. CUSTODIAL TRUSTEES

The Board of Elders shall appoint from among the formal membership of the congregation three men as "Custodial Trustees" to hold title to Church property in the name of the Church, in keeping with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The said trustees shall not convey, sell, buy or receive property, or obligate the congregation except as authorized by congregational action at a constitutionally called congregational meeting. Although appointed for an indefinite period, their availability and suitability shall be reviewed annually.

ARTICLE VIII - CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

SECTION 1. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting of the church shall be held during the month of December each year. Notice of the time and place of the meeting as determined by the Board of Elders shall be given during weekend services and published in the church bulletin at least two weeks prior to the meeting. A copy of the proposed church budget shall be distributed to the active membership two (2) weeks in advance of the annual business meeting. At this meeting the congregation shall approve the church budget for the ensuing year.

SECTION 2. QUORUM

A quorum of the congregation for the purpose of congregational meetings shall consist of a minimum of ten percent (10%) of the voting membership of the church. Unless otherwise specified in this Constitution, all decisions of the congregation shall be made by majority vote of those members present and voting.

SECTION 3. OTHER CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

A. Congregational meetings shall be held during the months of March, June and September for the Board to update the congregation on the status and direction of the Church ministries. Notice of these meetings shall be given in accordance with Article VII, Section 1.

B. Special congregational meetings may be called by the Board of Elders at any time during the year when they believe that the need to do so exists. Except as noted elsewhere in this Constitution, notice of these meetings shall be given during weekend services and published in the regular Church bulletin at least one week prior to the meeting. The notice shall specify the date, time, place and general nature of the business to be conducted.

ARTICLE IX - PASTORAL STAFF

SECTION 1. PASTOR-TEACHER

A. DUTIES. The pastor-teacher shall be an ex-officio member of all councils and committees and shall serve as an elder with full voting privileges. The pastor-teacher shall be responsible for all regular services of the church and for the general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the body. His primary duty shall be to preach and teach the Word of God. He shall be directly responsible to the Board of Elders.

B. SELECTION. The pastor-teacher shall be selected by unanimous vote of the Board of Elders after the preliminary procedures that they deem necessary have been fulfilled (e.g., interview by search committee, preaching one or more times before the congregation, personal interviews by the Board, etc.). The elders' selection shall be confirmed by the congregation at a regular or special congregational meeting by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of the votes cast. Notice of the time and place of the meeting as determined by the Board of Elders shall be given from the pulpit for two (2) successive Sundays prior to the meeting, and shall also be published in the Church bulletin. He shall remain in office for an indefinite period of time.

C. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE. The Board of Elders has the right to dismiss the pastor-teacher by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Board at a meeting called for this purpose. Dismissal may be on the grounds of endorsing a doctrinal position in disagreement with that of McLean Bible Church (Article II), personal spiritual misconduct (e.g., lying, cheating, stealing, immorality, etc.), or organizational misconduct (e.g., unsubmitive spirit to the Board of Elders, unwillingness to fulfill his assigned duties, etc.). The pastor-teacher shall cast no vote in such deliberations.

D. RESIGNATION. If the pastor-teacher voluntarily desires to resign, he shall submit written notice to the Board of Elders at least sixty (60) days prior to the effective date. The Board of Elders shall decide upon the appropriate details of his departure.

SECTION 2. ASSOCIATE PASTORS

Associate pastoral staff positions may be established by the Board of Elders when the positions are determined to be necessary. Such positions may be discontinued or their duties changed at the discretion of the Board of elders. Pastoral staff members shall be appointed by the Board of Elders to an indefinite term by unanimous vote, with their duties defined by the pastor-teacher and the Board of Elders. The supervision of associate pastors shall be provided by the pastor-teacher or as directed by the Board of Elders. Associate pastors may be terminated for the same reasons as stated above for the pastor-teacher, and according to the same procedures. Associate pastors may voluntarily resign by giving one (1) month written notice to the Board of Elders.

SECTION 3. MEMBERSHIP

All pastoral staff will automatically become active members of McLean Bible Church upon the commencement of their employment. Their membership will be terminated upon their leaving the employment of the church, unless they request otherwise and their request is approved unanimously by the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE X - EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEER LEADERS

In order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to church members and the community, all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteer leaders, shall abide by and agree to the Statement of Faith and Doctrine described in this Constitution, including but not limited to Articles II and IV.

ARTICLE XI - PROPERTY RIGHTS

SECTION 1.

The title to all real property of the church shall be in the name of the church and no member or group of members shall have any individual property rights in the assets of the church.

SECTION 2.

In the event that the church is dissolved, it will be done in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, provided that the assets of the church, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the church's liabilities, will be distributed exclusively for the religious purposes of the church. Such remaining assets shall be divided among the missions organizations supported by the McLean Bible Church and those represented by the missionaries receiving support from the church, proportioned on the basis of current support, provided that such missions at the time of the church's dissolution qualify as religious organizations described in section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

ARTICLE XII - ORDINANCES

The Church recognizes two ordinances to be administered as follows:

SECTION 1. BAPTISM

Baptism shall be administered to those who have been found by examination by pastoral staff to be true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who have expressed desire to obey the Lord in baptism. The mode shall be by immersion. Water baptism shall be encouraged for all believers, but it shall not be a requirement for membership in the church (Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:41).

SECTION 2. THE LORD'S TABLE

The Lord's Table is a remembrance by believers of the atoning death of our Lord Jesus Christ. It shall normally be administered on the first Sunday of the month, or such other times as the pastor-teacher and the Board of Elders shall determine. Parental or guardian guidance shall be given to children under age for church membership who desire to participate in the Lord's Table (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor.11:23-29).



McLean Bible Church



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