

MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK



FAITH MISSIONARY **Baptist Church, Roebuck**

*9841 Red Mill Road
Birmingham, Alabama
205.730.1733*

Dr. Michael D. Matthews, Pastor

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Welcome!

We have been waiting for you! It is true, because we believe that every person who comes into the circle of this special fellowship was sent by God Himself. It is not by accident that we have the joy of meeting you. So, more than anything else we want to express Christ's love to you with genuine, heartfelt warmth. We are eager to know you, and we are excited to share with you the marvelous ways God is working in our church.

From The Pastor's Desk

A Church is a body of people who have believed on Jesus Christ unto their salvation, have been baptized into the fellowship of his death and resurrection and have been organized on the plan and for the purpose of a Christian Church as outlined by Jesus Christ and his apostles in the New Testament.

Opportunities To Serve

Hospitality Ministry

Men Of Faith Men's Ministry

Music Ministry

Women Of Faith Women's Ministry

Usher Board

Motivational Ministry

Deacon Ministry

Christian Education/Enrichment Ministry

Trustee Ministry

Youth Ministry

Food Pantry Ministry

Faith Ambassadors Ministry (*Outreach and Community Liaisons*)

A/V Website/Social Media Ministry

Benevolence Committee

Faith Missionary Roebuck Christian Enrichment Alumni

If you are interested in serving in any of our ministries, please reach out to the pastor so he can discuss with you your spiritual gift(s) and how you can get started. Depending on the ministry, you do not need to be a member to serve!

Church Leadership & Administration

Pastor:

Dr. Michael D. Matthews

Associate Ministers:

Mychael Eubanks, Jr.

DEACONS /DEACONESS

Jesse Greene, Jr. (Chairman)

Patricia Greene

Thurman Richardson

Mary Parham

Doris McCarroll

Frankie Holman

TRUSTEES

Alton Truelove (Chairman)

Frankie Holman

Janie Manley (Treasurer)

Hardell Henderson

Muchelle Dennis (Church Secretary)

James Manley

Minnie Williams

CHURCH HISTORY & ARCHIVES

Frankie Holman – Church Historian

Muchelle Dennis – Church Secretary/Membership Records/Church Directory

Thurman Richardson Videographer- Audio Visual Records

MINISTRIES

Deacon Ministry	Jesse Greene, Jr. (Chairman)
Deaconess Ministry	Patricia Greene
Benevolence Committee/Ministry	
Christian Education/Enrichment	Jesse Greene, Jr. (Director) <i>Rickie Williams</i>
Food Pantry Ministry	Patricia Greene
Music Ministry	Frankie Holman/Tara Williams/ Musician
Youth and Young Adult Ministry	Thurman Richardson Geraldine Jefferson <i>Regina Williams</i> Min. Mychael Eubanks, Jr.
Motivational Ministry	Sharon Giddens
Usher Board	Mary Parham
Hospitality Ministry	_____
Kitchen Committee	Minnie Williams _____ _____
Faith Ambassadors (Outreach)	_____
Men's Ministry	Tracy Williams Thurman Richardson <i>Rickie Williams</i>
Women's Ministry	Clara McCall Janie Manley
Audio Visual/Social Media Ministry	Thurman Richardson Tracy Williams Zachary Matthews
Faith Missionary Roebuck Christian Enrichment Alumni	Jesse Greene Jr.

GENERAL WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday	Christian Enrichment Classes	9:00 am
	Worship Service	11:00 am
	Youth and Young Adult Hour	11:00 am (2 nd and 3 rd)
Sunday (1 st)	Communion	
Sunday (2 nd)	Men's Choir	
Sunday (4 th)	Youth and Young Adult / Motivational Ministry	
Sundays (5 th)	Community Service Ministry Project	
	Number 3 District Quarterly Meeting	3:00 pm
Wednesday	Pastor's Bible Study	(as scheduled)
	Pastor's Christian Enrichment	(as scheduled)
Thursday	Discipleship and Enrichment Class (Online/Zoom)(as scheduled)	
Friday	Music Ministry	
Friday (3 rd Only)	Youth Music Ministry Practice	
Saturday	Food Pantry Ministry (Last Saturday Monthly)	
	Men's Ministry Breakfast (Quarterly)	
	Women's Ministry (Quarterly)	

ANNUAL CALENDAR KEY EVENTS

January -	Church Annual Business Meeting
February-	
March –	Church Anniversary (3 rd Sun) Soul Food Sunday
April –	Resurrection Day (Breakfast)
May –	Graduation Day & Christian Enrichment Graduation (3 rd Sun)
June -	
July –	Mt. Pilgrim District/State Meetings
August –	Annual Youth Day
September –	Discipleship/CEC Orientation Begins
October -	Outreach Day (Coincide with October 31 st)
November-	Thanksgiving/SSPB Annual Meeting – Tennessee
December –	Christmas/Giving Sunday/Annual Musical Fellowship

CHURCH HISTORY

The Faith Missionary Baptist Church was organized at the home of Reverend Dr. James T. Crutcher and Dr. Addie B. Crutcher on February 3, 1995, with twenty-two members. Later, five more joined the group making the initial total twenty-seven. The divine inspiration of his vision for Faith was taken from Isaiah 61, and Luke 4:18-20.

On February 8, 1995, the first mid-week Bible service began in the home of Pastor Crutcher. One of the first challenges the members faced was to locate to a central place of worship, as the congregation had arisen to more than forty members. With God's guidance, we were led to the St. Paul United Methodist Church on Sunhill Road. We alternated our services with theirs and met each Sunday there at twelve o'clock noon.

Shortly thereafter, Pastor Crutcher suffered a stroke, underwent intensive therapy, and by the grace of God he recovered. During his recovery period, he asked Minister Patricia Collins of First Baptist Church Woodlawn, to help pilot the growth of the Church in his absence. She accepted and assisted the Church in its upward movement with God's help.

After many worship services at St. Paul, the Spirit led us to our present location here at 9841 Red Mill Road. On April 7, 1996, Easter Sunday, Faith Missionary Baptist Church marched into our present sanctuary where today we can still testify: "We have come this far by Faith, leaning on the Lord. Trusting in His Holy Word, He has never failed us yet."

In September 2004, Minister Collins became our second pastor, as our dear Pastor Crutcher announced his retirement. She served until July 2007. Thereafter, a search committee was formed and assigned the task of finding a new shepherd for Faith. Shortly, there afterwards, we lost our Pastor Emeritus, James T. Crutcher.

The search continued until April 2008 with services being led by our Pulpit Conductors Ministers Patrick Erby and Sharon House. On July 6, 2008, Minister Larry McCree was installed as Faith's third Pastor. Minister McCree served in the position until October 2013.

In late 2013, Pastor Erby was the sole minister remaining at Faith and took up the reigns once more as the acting Pastor until May 4, 2014, when he was installed as Faith's fourth and present Pastor. He was provided much needed encouragement to the officers and members by keeping Faith on its steady course.

From 2013 until 2014, the Church Officers led a campaign with the members of Faith to liquidate the mortgage on the Church. "A **Twelve-Tribes of Israel**" drive was initiated in 2013 but fell short of the goal set. With God's help, the members accomplished their goal, on May 10, 2014, a Mortgage-Burning Celebration was held at 6:00 in the evening at the Pritchett Event Center in East Lake.

With His continued guidance and blessings, we press on toward the mark of a higher calling through Christ Jesus. Amen.

CONSTITUTION:

Dr. Matthews Revision No. 2 Date: April 2024 (Ministry related changes only)

**FAITH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
ESTABLISHED FEBRUARY 3, 1995**

Article I

The Faith Missionary Baptist Church of Birmingham, Alabama first met and established on the 3rd day of February 1995 and incorporated on the 23rd day of September 1996, in the State of Alabama.

Article II

This church is a member of the Mt. Pilgrim District Baptist Association.

Article III – Objective/Purpose

The objective/purpose of this church is:

- a) To preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ at home and abroad.
- b) To teach the Word of God with all authority and power.
- c) To provide a place of true spiritual worship where Christ is honored and glorified.
- d) To provide a center of training in Bible knowledge and doctrine for the whole family.
- e) To encourage a program of continuous witnessing under the direction of the Holy Spirit.
- f) To provide spiritual fellowship and encouragement to fellow believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- g) To provide missionary education and outreach.
- h) To give faithful commitment to all that is contained in our Church Covenant as outlined in this Constitution.
- i) To build a Holiness IMPACT Church by:
 - I Intercessory Prayer (2 Chron. &:14)
 - M Missions Evangelism (Matt. 8:19-20)
 - P Preaching/Teaching (Eph. 4:14, 11-13)
 - A All-Member Ministry (Eph. 3:14-21)
 - C Caring Fellowship (Eph. 3:14-24)
 - T True Worship (John 4:23-24)

Article IV – Statement of Faith and Church Covenant

A. Statement of Faith

1. We believe that the Bible is God's inspired Word, that it was written by men divinely and uniquely guided by the Holy Spirit; that it is absolutely, trustworthy and has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
2. We believe in God the Father, creator of the heavens, the earth, and all therein; perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power, and ever present as Spirit. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and second death all that come to Him through Jesus Christ.

3. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, wholly without sin, making atonement for the sin of the world by His death on the cross. We believe in His bodily resurrection, His post-resurrection appearances, and His visible ascension into heaven. We believe that Christ presently intercedes as our High Priest before the Father. We believe in His present, visible, pre-millennial return from heaven.
4. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who came forth from God to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and comfort those who would receive Jesus Christ as Savior.
5. We believe that all men by nature and by choice are sinners, but that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." We believe, therefore, that those who refuse to receive Christ as Savior will be judged to be guilty and will forever be separated from God.
6. We believe in the Church – a living spiritual body, of which all regenerated people are members. We believe that a visible church is a company of believers in Jesus Christ, buried with Him in baptism, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that to these visible churches were committed, for observance until He comes, the ordinances of baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. We also believe that God has laid upon these churches the task of persuading a lost world to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and to enthrone Him as Lord and Master.
7. We believe that each church should be independent and autonomous and must be free from interference from any ecclesiastical or political authority; that, therefore, Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from the dictation or patronage of the other. We believe, therefore, that every human being is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith, and not to external institutions.
8. **We believe marriage is between a man and a woman. We will only perform weddings between a man and a woman.**

B. Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into 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, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to faithfully educate our children in biblical truths; 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 shield our bodies (which are the temple of God) from all defilements; 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 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 commandments of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

Moreover, we engage in 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 V- Membership

The membership of this church shall consist of those who have been born again and who have openly confessed their faith in Jesus Christ, have been baptized by immersion, and who have acknowledged their agreement with the Statement of Faith, the objectives of the church, and the Church Covenant; and have been received into the membership by action of the church as outlined in the Bylaws.

Article VI – Organization

Section A: The government of this church is vested in its membership.

Section B: The officers of this church shall be the Pastor(s), Deacons, Deaconess, Trustees, and others as determined by the membership at a duly called business meeting, as stipulated in the Bylaws.

Article VII – Meetings

Meetings for worship, prayer, fellowship, business, and special purposes shall be held as set forth in the Bylaws.

Article VIII – Amendments

This Constitution may be amended at any regular business meeting of the church by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the active membership of this church, provided that notice of such meeting and the purpose of said changes shall have been published in a conspicuous place at least three (3) consecutive weeks prior to the meeting and announced publicly from the pulpit at least two (2) consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting.

BYLAWS

These Bylaws are established in order that the provisions of the Constitution and Articles of Incorporation shall be carried out and shall be effective only as far as they are not contrary to the Constitution.

Article A – Membership

Section 1 – Reception of Members

- a) Any person professing in the Lord Jesus Christ and holding the views of faith and practice in conformity with those of this church, may be received into its membership by baptism (immersion), by letter, by Christian experience, by restoration, or by virtue of their “call” to this ministry.
- By Baptism (Immersion). Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, giving evidence of a change of heart and life, and accepting the views of faith and practice as adopted by this church may, upon immersion, be received into its membership. (Exception: If a candidate’s physical condition forbids immersion, that may be waived.)
 - By Letter. Members of other Baptist churches may be received by virtue of their letter, properly issued, certifying their baptism by immersion, duly granted by said churches.
 - By Christian Experience. Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, giving evidence of the same in his/her life, accepting the views of Faith Missionary Baptist Church and practice as adopted by this church, and having been previously baptized in obedience to the Scriptures, may be received into the membership of the church.
 - By Restoration. Persons who have been members of the church from whom the hand of fellowship has been withdrawn, or whose membership has lapsed due to dereliction on their part, may, upon evidence of repentance and confession before the Pastor and Deacons, and upon their recommendation to the church, be restored and received into membership of this church.
- b) All applicants for membership shall appear before the church membership and be received with the right hand of fellowship.

Section 2 – Duties of Members

It shall be the duty of each member of the church to keep the Covenant obligations as set forth in the Constitution of this church.

Section 3 – Active and Inactive Memberships

1. Active members shall be defined as those upholding through action those things as set forth in the Constitution of this church.
2. Inactive. A person's membership may be deemed "Inactive" when the Church Covenant is not carried out in spirit or in letter. In particular, if a member is physically absent from all services for a period of three (3) months (except due to illness, hospitalization, extended vacation) they shall be considered inactive, and as such, relinquish all voting rights in church business and in holding church offices (elected or appointed). The Deacons shall submit those names to the congregation at any business meeting for congregational approval for such action.
3. Re-activation. Inactive members may once again become active members, with all privileges restored, upon meeting with the Deacons and Pastor, and discussing the reasons for their inactivity, along with the evidence of active and regular participation having resumed on their part, and the Deacons and Pastor are satisfied with a vote among themselves and the Pastor announcing their decision to restore membership to the Church body.

Section 4 – Pastoral Watch Care Membership

1. Pastoral Watch Care. Those who are on their Christian Journey who find themselves a) "in-between churches" and without a pastor and choose through visitation in-person or online to be "in-fellowship with Faith Missionary Baptist Church" or b) In-fellowship with Faith Missionary Baptist Church due to convenience or circumstance but wish to maintain their "church of membership at another church".

Note: Those holding "pastoral watch care" membership shall not be eligible for annually elected offices.

Section 5 – Dismissal of Members

Members may be dismissed by:

1. Death. When a member of this church goes to be with the Lord, his/her name is automatically removed from the membership roll.
2. Transfer. Members, deemed by this church to be in good standing, and leaving this church to join another church of like doctrine and practice, shall be granted (at their request) a letter of transfer.
3. Exclusion. Membership may be severed by exclusion for unrepentant flagrant violation of the Christian Doctrine, upon recommendation of the Pastor and Deacons, and vote of the congregation.
4. Withdrawal. When members have withdrawn and have joined another church without requesting a letter of transfer, they shall automatically be removed from the church's membership roll upon confirmation of their action.

Section 6 – Discipline of Members

Discipline shall be exercised only after effort to restore an erring brother/sister has failed (Galatians 6:6). In case, the Pastor and Deacons will recommend to the members that his/her membership be withdrawn.

If there are differences between individuals or sins not generally known, the wronged party shall follow Matthew 18:15-17. A person bringing a matter into the public, or before the church, before following this scriptural procedure, shall be subject to rebuke.

Article B – Officers: Their Election/Duties

Section 1 – Pastor

1. Duties. The duties of the Pastor shall be to give general direction and leadership to the total ministry of the church and to perform the scriptural duties of his office such as preaching, teaching, counseling, and the training of members to fulfill their role as members of the body, as set forth in Ephesians 4:11-13. **The Pastor is expected to attend Sunday School and Bible study on a regular basis.**

We expect the pastor to notify the Chairman of Deacons within 48 hours if he will be absent from the pulpit on Sunday Morning and supply the name of a substitute in his absence.

2. Qualifications. The qualifications of the Pastor are those given in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. The spouse (if married) must also ascribe to the Constitution of this church. He shall be considered the spiritual leader of the church and must command the respect of the members of the congregation.
3. Service. He shall be a voting member of all boards and committees by virtue of his office. He shall serve for the duration of his pastoral ministry.
4. Calling a Pastor. The church shall elect a pulpit committee of no less than seven (7) members, three (3) Deacons, two (2) Trustees, and two (2) Members, one of which should be a youth member (19-25), who shall search out appropriate candidates, who in turn will be presented to the congregation for a vote after three months of active service and evaluations as acting interim Pastor. Candidates from within the membership will be given first consideration before any aggressive outside search is made. The pulpit committee shall meet regularly for prayer and spiritual guidance during the search period. The committee shall determine timelines in which to open and close the search and choose the final candidate.
5. Candidates. The chosen candidate shall be required to serve as interim Pastor for three (3) months or 90 days as part of a final evaluation for the position. The candidate shall also meet with the Deacons, Pulpit Committee, or whatever gatherings the Pulpit Committee deems profitable or needful.

Only one (1) candidate shall be considered and voted upon at a time. At that meeting to vote on the calling of a Pastor, seventy-five percent (75%) of the membership in attendance at the time of vote must vote affirmatively to call that candidate. Such meeting shall be announced in church services for two (2) Sundays prior to the business meeting. Voting shall be by secret ballot.

6. **The Pastor is considered a Hired Employee of the Church. The Deacons and Trustees have the authority and duty to take appropriate action if the Pastor does not comply with the aforementioned duties assigned to him. The Deacons and Trustees are empowered to discipline, put**

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on probation and or declare the pulpit vacant if deemed appropriate or necessary without a majority vote of the church active membership.

Section 2 – Ministry Staff

1. Pastoral Staff. Pastoral Staff refers to any part-time or full-time minister of God in a capacity that the church acknowledges and calls him/her to lead the church in a particular sacred ministry (e.g., Minister of Youth, Christian Education, Music, and Worship). He/she may be called by the church in the same manner as outlined in Section 1 exception: (Someone not involved in a preaching or teaching ministry should “candidate” in the field of their calling).
2. Support Staff. Support Staff should be those who support the on-going ministry in a non-pastoral capacity. They may be voluntary or paid positions. Paid staff must be approved by the Deacons and Pastor(s) and voted on by the congregation at any business meeting. Non-paid voluntary staff may be added by Deacon or Pastoral approval. (Support staff might include custodian, groundskeeper, secretary.) Support staff may be released from duties and service by joint decision of the Deacons and Pastor(s), or by request of the congregation, but such reason must be verbalized at the next business meeting. Volunteers reserve the right to relinquish their position for personal reasons.

Section 3 – Official Boards/Terms of Office

1. Deacons. The Deacons shall assist the Pastor(s) in the general oversight of the spiritual and business affairs of the church. They shall also assist the Pastor(s) in the administration of the ordinances, examinations of candidates for church membership, and in jealously guarding and fostering the spiritual life of the church. They shall acquaint themselves with civil laws pertaining to the church and shall see that such laws are obeyed. They shall be responsible for the safekeeping of legal documents. The Deacons shall be responsible for the details of all church services and ministry issues. The Deacon Board shall consist of spiritually qualified, active members (I Tim. 3). **The Deacons are responsible for monitoring the performance of the Pastor and taking appropriate action to ensure the Pastor is performing as expected by God and the Church. Such should be pursued after the Deacons have in loving and forthright way tried to support the Pastor in a good faith manner as far as possible. There is a thing called good stewardship.**
2. Deaconess. It shall be the duty of the Deaconess to cooperate and assist the Pastor(s) and Deacons in their duties. The primary focus shall be on service within the sanctuary and to the congregation such as the Lord’s supper, visitation of members (for which they may enlist others of the membership to assist), to prepare and present female children for the service of baptism, care of the sanctuary during regular and special holiday services.
3. Trustees. The Trustees shall act as the advisors of the church in legal and financial matters. The Trustees shall make recommendations concerning financial and legal matters to the Board of Deacons for expenditures that exceed \$600.00 per month. The Trustees shall be authorized to represent the church in matters of buying, selling, acquiring, disposing, conveying, or mortgaging any real property when such approval has been granted by the Deacons and congregation. The Trustees shall also oversee all matters of maintenance, refurbishing, etc. of the church’s physical buildings, grounds, vehicles, and possessions. The Trustee Board should consist of a minimum of four (4) active members. **The Trustees are also responsible for assisting the Deacons in monitoring the performance of the Pastor and taking necessary actions as suggested by the Deacons. Such should be pursued**

after the Trustees have in a loving and forthright way tried to support the Pastor in a good faith manner as possible.

4. Terms of Office. Office within the Deacons, Deaconesses, and Trustees board shall serve for a period of two (2) years. After serving a regular term of office, they can be eligible for re-election to the same office by vote. Moreover, no board member may serve simultaneously on more than one (1) elected board.

Section 4 – Other Officers

1. Moderator. Shall be the Pastor, Assistant Pastor or Chairman of the Deacon board who shall preside at all business meetings of the church.
2. Church Clerk. The Church Clerk shall keep an accurate record of all business meetings, draw up all church documents and statistical reports, keep an accurate record of the church membership and report annually on same, and maintain an up-to-date directory. He/she shall be responsible for all transfers of letters, requests for membership changes, and also keep a chronological historical sketch of the church and its growth.
3. Church Treasurer. A Church Treasurer shall maintain a current fund, building fund, missions fund and miscellaneous accounts, and shall disburse monies only by check in accordance with a church approved budget, or by vote of the church. He/she shall prepare written monthly and annual reports. (See Attachment)
4. Financial Secretary. A Financial Secretary shall keep a record of all monies received and turn the funds over to the Treasurer or make deposits in the bank. He/she shall issue annual statements to all contributors.
5. Christian Education Director. He/she will have jurisdiction over the complete Sunday School ministries or other Christian Enrichment Classes, i.e. Discipleship. Ordering of materials and staffing of the ministries shall also be within this jurisdiction. The Christian Education Director will work under the auspices of the Pastor and Deacons and shall work closely with them in the decision-making processes.
6. Assistants. Assistants to any and all the above listed officers will be elected or may be appointed to serve in the event those elected are unable to function either due to illness or an extended absence from the church.
7. Terms of Office. All officers listed in this section shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting from among the active membership for a term of one (1) year.

Section 5 – Committees

Committees may be elected by the church or appointed by the Pastor and/or Deacons as may be necessary from time to time to carry out the work of the church.

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Article C – Meetings and Elections

Section 1 – Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the church shall be held on the first Sunday in November unless otherwise authorized by the church. The church year shall end on December 31. End of the year financial reports shall be presented on the last Sunday in January.

Section 2 – Quarterly Meeting

Quarterly Business Meetings of the church shall be held on the last Sunday of the months of March, June, and September.

Section 3 – Special Business Meetings

The Special Business Meetings of the church may be called at any time by order of the Pastor or the Deacons, provided notice has been given two (2) consecutive Sundays preceding such meetings.

Section 4 – Quorum

Five percent (5%) of the active membership shall be considered a quorum. (A quorum is the minimum number of active members who must be present to conduct business)

Section 5 – Voting

Members must be at least 16 years of age to be entitled to vote and be considered in good-standing.

Section 6 – Guide

Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail in all disputes.

Section 7 – Vacancies

In the event vacancies occur during the course of the church year, the Pastor and Deacons will suggest to the congregation the names of those who are qualified to fill the vacancies.

Article D – Amendments

This set of Bylaws may be amended, or changed, at any regular business meeting of the church by a majority vote of the active members present, provided that notice of such meeting and the purpose of said changes shall have been published in a conspicuous place at least three (3) consecutive weeks prior to the meeting; and shall have been announced publicly from the pulpit at least two (2) consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting.

Dissolution

In the event of dissolution of this church corporation, any assets of the corporation must be distributed to one or more organizations recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as one organized for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes.

DECLARATION OF FAITH

We believe in

1. The divine and full inspiration and authority of the Bible as the necessary and sufficient rule of faith and conduct and, we firmly hold that each member/Christian must search the Scriptures for him/herself and seek the illumination of the Holy Spirit to interpret them,
2. One Eternal God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
3. The fall and sinful state of all mankind,
4. In the incarnation and atoning death of our Lord Jesus Christ, His resurrection, ascension and personal return to glory,
5. The justification of the sinner by personal faith in our Lord Jesus, the only Savior, a faith which is active in love and holy living,
6. The regenerating, sanctifying, and enabling works of the Holy Spirit in the individual believer and in the Church.
7. Marriage is between a man and a woman. Only weddings between a man and a woman will be administered.
8. The resurrection of the dead, brining eternal blessing to all who have received Christ and condemnation to all who have rejected Him,
9. The Church universal as the holy society of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, which He founded, of which He is the only head and in which He dwells by His Spirit; and that it is in the membership of a local church that the fellowship of the one Church universal becomes significant.

CHURCH RULES – Contents

1. NAME OF THE CHURCH
The Church shall be known as Faith Missionary Baptist Church (hereinafter referred to as “the Church”).
2. MEMBERSHIP Contents
 - 2.1 The membership shall consist of and be open to all who:
 - 1.1.1. Profess repentance toward God,

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- 1.1.2. Hold the true Deity and the true humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ,
- 1.1.3. Have made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ,
- 1.1.4. Believe in the sole authority of the Holy Scriptures and their evangelical interpretation (Trust Deed).
- 2.2. Those desiring Church Membership shall present themselves to the congregation and receive the right hand of fellowship.
- 2.3. Applicants for membership shall:
 - 2.3.1 After being introduced to the church through the new members class held during Sunday school hours having been acquainted with and assented to the Declaration of Faith and the Church rules, be recommended to the membership by receiving the right hand of fellowship at the first convenient observance of the Lord's Supper,
 - 2.3.2 If not already baptized by immersion, be asked to consider earnestly the New Testament teaching on Baptism and be encouraged to follow our Lord's command and example (see 3.3). The Church may nevertheless, at its direction, welcome into full membership any who at the time of application are unable to accept such baptism but who conscientiously follow and profess their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 2.3.3 Be received from other Christian Churches either by letter or transfer or commendation in accordance with 2.3.1 and 2.3.2.
 - 2.3.4 Be given a copy of the Rules of the Church during the new members class.
- 2.4. Applications for transfer from the Church shall be notified to the Church Meeting and a letter of transfer or commendation shall be sent by the Church Secretary.
- 2.5. The membership register shall be maintained by the Registrar or Church Secretary. The roll of members shall be reviewed annually. The said review should occur no later than 30 days before the annual meeting of the Church. Also, all membership records, as well as all Church "business records" should be maintained in written form (2 copies) and stored in two different sites, in case of fire, tornado, etc.
 - 2.5.1. Should the conduct of any Church Member: (a) be at serious variance with the teaching and/or the rules of the Church or, (b) prevent the work or witness of the Church being continued in love, order and fellowship, the Church Meeting shall have the power to revoke that person's membership, suspend that person's membership and in doing so, the Church shall follow due process.

ORDINANCES

- 3.1. The Lord's Supper shall normally be observed on the first Sunday of each month. To this service all Believers are invited.
 - 3.2. Believers' Baptism by immersion shall be administered to all desiring such Baptism in obedience to the Command and example of the Lord Jesus Christ, and after being satisfactorily interviewed and accepting the teaching and authority of Scripture, may receive this Ordinance.
 - 3.2.1. This Ordinance may be administered, at the discretion of the Minister, and Deacons, to any desirous of
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Baptism by immersion not entering membership of the Church. However, any who are or will be regular worshippers and who will remain in fellowship with this Church, shall be encouraged to become members. (2.2 and 2.3).

SPIRITUAL LEADSHIP Contents

The leadership of the Church may consist of Minister, Associate Ministers, and Deacons/Deaconess.

4.1. The Minister of the Church shall:

- 4.1.1. Hold the true Deity and the true humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ,
- 4.1.2. Believe in the sole authority of the Holy Scriptures and the interpretation usually called Evangelical,
- 4.1.3. Have been baptized by immersion on a confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ,
- 4.1.4. Maintain the doctrine and practice the rite of the Immersion of Believers and no other Baptism.
(4.1.1-4.1.4 Trust Deed)
- 4.1.5 Be invited to the ministry after election at a Special Church Meeting on the recommendation of the Deacons and Associate Ministers. The ministry will be concluded in accordance with the terms of employment.

4.2. The Associate Ministers:

- 4.2.1. Their function shall be to assist and share with the Minister in leadership, ministry, pastoral work, spiritual oversight, care, teaching, and Church discipline.

4.3 The Deacons:

- 4.3.1 The Deacons together with the Minister and Associate Ministers shall be responsible for the spiritual leadership, oversight, and administration of the Church.
- 4.3.2 Any Church Member may be proposed for the office of Deacon who:
 - Is above the age of 21 years
 - Has been a Church Member for not less than six months
 - Has given his/her consent
 - Has been baptized by immersion as a believer.

However, on the recommendation of the Minister, Associate Ministers and Deacons, a Church Member who has not be baptized by immersion as a believer, but nevertheless upholds the principle of believer's baptism, may, in exceptional circumstances, be proposed for election to the office of Deacon.

The Church shall be informed of the exceptional circumstances pertaining to this recommendation.

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4.3.3 The selection of Deacons is by recommendation from members of the church body.

4.4 Executive Officers:

4.4.1 The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected annually, from among the Deacons, at the Annual General Meeting.

4.4.2 In the event of anyone of these officers being unable to continue in office, the Church shall proceed to elect another person upon the recommendation of the Pastor, Associate Ministers and Deacon Board for for the unexpired portion of the term. He/she shall automatically be eligible for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting.

4.5 Other Appointments:

4.5.1 Leaders of organizations and auxiliaries, must be Church Members, will be appointed or re-appointed annually at the Special Church Meeting in November.

4.5.2 All who hold office involving teaching or spiritual leadership shall be Church Members. In exceptional Circumstances, other believers who fully assent to the Church's Declaration of Faith but are not at the time Church Members, may serve but only with permission of the Minister, Associate Ministers, and Deacons.

GENERAL Contents

8.1. Any activity carried out on a regular or continuous basis by Church Members or those in association with the Church and using the name or premises of the Church or organized through the Church shall be deemed a Church organization or society.

9.2. The Minister shall be ex-officio president of all societies and ordinarily, if present, shall preside at all meetings, both of the Church and its constituent societies. If the Minister is not present, the Secretary of the society or organization holding the meeting shall give him within one week a written report of the business carried out.

9.3. The Associate Ministers and Deacons shall be ex-officio members of all societies of the Church.

9.4. Applications for use of the Church premises, furniture or equipment shall be made through the Church Secretary. All functions held on the Church premises shall be with the permission of the Pastor and upon such conditions as they may decide.

9.5. Every Church organization shall submit rules defining its purpose and governing procedure, such rules to be operative only after approval by the Minister, Associate Ministers, and Deacons and to be changed only with their consent.

9.6. We believe that the church is to be supported with tithes and offerings. Special projects and fund raisers are to be approved by the Leadership or Pastor.

If after reviewing this booklet and you still have questions, please reach out to the Pastor or the Deacon Ministry as available.