

## Church Constitution

### **ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of this church shall be the McGrath Road Baptist Church which is located in Fairbanks Alaska.

### **ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

*(AMENDED 1981)*

The McGrath Road Baptist Church is organized to fulfill these directives as set forth in the Word of God:

1. The maintenance of divine worship;
2. The study of the Word of God and the practice of its instructions;
3. The spiritual development and edification of its members;
4. The acceptance and full implementation of the great commission as expressed in Matthew 28:19, 20;
5. To earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints;  
Jude 3, 4; 6
6. The education of our youth.

This organization is exclusively dedicated to the achievement of religious, charitable, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### **ARTICLE III - CONFESSION OF FAITH**

*(AMENDED 2015)*

#### **SECTION 1 "Of the Scriptures"**

We believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Scriptures; that the Holy Bible, as originally written, was verbally inspired and the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore has truth without any mixture of error for its matter. We believe the Bible, with no additional revelation, to be the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried. *II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:19-21*

We further believe that God has preserved His inspired Word through the centuries so that we have a dependable and trustworthy version in the King James translation, and we will use it in our public services. *Matthew 5:18; 24:35; Psalm 12:7; Psalm 119:89*

## **SECTION 2 "Of the true God"**

We believe that there is only one living and true God, infinite in every excellence; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three personal distinctions--the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit--yet one in substance and equal in every divine perfection. *Exodus 20:2,3; Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 8:6; I John 5:7*

We believe in the absolute deity of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ; that He was divine as no other man can be, being very God of very God, existing from all eternity, coequal with the Father and the Spirit; that He never ceased to be God for one instant and that His humiliation did not consist in laying aside His deity; that as man He was miraculously begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. *John 1:1,2; I John 5:20; Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:26-30, 35; Galatians 4:4; Isaiah 7:14*

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, equal with the Father and the Son and of the same substance and nature; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement, bears witness to the truth, is the agent of the new birth; that He seals, guides, teaches, witnesses to, sanctifies, helps, and indwells every true child of God. We reject as being unscriptural the present movement of speaking in tongues as a sign of the infilling of the Holy Spirit. *John 14:16, 17; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Genesis 1:1-3; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5,6; Ephesians 1:13,14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Romans 8:9, 14, 16, 26, 27*

## **SECTION 3 "Of the Devil or Satan"**

We believe in the distinct personality of Satan; that he is the unholy god of this age, author of all the powers of darkness and sin; that he is destined to the judgement of an eternal justice in the Lake of Fire. *Matthew 4:1-3; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10*

## **SECTION 4 "Of Creation"**

We accept the Genesis account of creation in six twenty-four hour days and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution. *Genesis 1 and 2; Colossians 1:16, 17; John 1:3; Exodus 20:11; Hebrews 11:3*

## **SECTION 5 "Of the Fall of Man"**

We believe that man, in the person of Adam, was created in innocence, but by voluntary transgression fell into sin, thus plunging the whole race into condemnation and death, so that now all mankind are born in sin, shapen in iniquity, and become willful sinners with the first expression of personal choice and so are without excuse before God. *Genesis 3; Romans 3:10-13, 5:10-19*

## **SECTION 6 "Of the Redemption from Sin"**

We believe that the only escape from the condemnation of sin is through the redemption wrought by Jesus Christ when He voluntarily took upon Himself a human body and nature, yet without sin, and honored the divine law by His perfect obedience, and by His suffering, death, and bodily resurrection making full satisfaction to the justice of God for the sin of man; that the blessings of this salvation are given on the grounds of grace to all who repent, believe, and confess; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept these offers of grace and mercy. *John 1:1-3; 3:1-7; Hebrews 10:4-14; Acts 16:30-33; Romans 3:21-26; II Corinthians 5:21*

## **SECTION 7 "Of Salvation by Grace"**

We believe that faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation from sin and this salvation is wholly by the grace of God; that no works, however good, make the salvation more secure. *Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8,9; Titus 3:5,7; Romans 10:9-13*

We believe that all who take Christ as their Saviour are born from above, are made new creatures in Christ Jesus, and are eternally secure in Christ. *John 10:28,29; Romans 8:35-39; Philippians 1:6*

We further believe that all who are born of God will strive to evidence this by a separated life of holiness to the Lord; as to their associations with the world, they will seek to "be not conformed to this world". *Romans 12:1,2*

## **SECTION 8 "Of the Church"**

We believe that the Church universal is a New Testament institution, unknown to the Old Testament prophets, established by Jesus Christ who is its sole Head, revealed through His holy apostles, and empowered and perpetuated by the Holy Spirit; that it began with the New Testament saints on the Day of Pentecost and will be consummated at the coming of Christ in the Rapture. *Matthew 16:18; Acts 1:8; 2:1-13; 2:41-47; Romans 16:26; I Corinthians 12:12-20; Ephesians 1:22,23; 3:21; 5:23-33; I Thessalonians 4:13-18*

We believe that the Church universal is manifested through the local church which is a congregation of immersed believers: organized and associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in it by His Word; that its officers are bishops (i.e. pastors) and deacons; that it has the absolute right of self-government directed by the Holy Spirit; that it is answerable only to Christ; that in all matters of membership, policy, government, discipline, and benevolence the will of the membership is final. *Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 1:2; 6:4,5; 7:17; 11:16; I Timothy 3:1-15*

## **SECTION 9 "Of the Ordinances"**

We believe that there are two church ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper; that baptism is the immersion of a believer in water and is properly called "Believer's Baptism";

that it sets forth in a solemn and beautiful way our faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that baptism is a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership. *Acts 8:26-39; John 3:23; Romans 6:3-5; Matthew 3:16; Colossians 2:12*

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration by believers of our Lord's death, until He comes, and is our continual fellowship with Him and should be preceded always by solemn self examination. *Matthew 26:26-30; Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 11:23-32;*

### **SECTION 10 "Of the Righteous and the Wicked"**

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only such as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Spirit of God are truly righteous in God's esteem, while all such who continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse; that this distinction holds among men, both during life and after death, in the everlasting conscious happiness of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. *Malachi 3:18; Romans 6:17-23; Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 6:25; John 8:21*

### **SECTION 11 "Of Civil Government"**

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except (as revealed in the Scriptures) in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming Prince of the Kings of the earth. We believe in the separation of church and state. *Romans 13:1-7; II Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21,22; Matthew 22:21; Acts 4:19-20, 5:20, 23:5; Daniel 3:17,18*

### **SECTION 12 "Of the Return of Christ"**

We believe in the bodily, personal, premillennial return of Jesus Christ; that He will come before the seven-year tribulation period to catch away His Church - coming only into the air; that He will come with His Church at the close of the Tribulation to judge the living nations and to set up His kingdom on earth. *I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 19:11-21; Acts 1:11*

### **SECTION 13 "Of the Resurrection"**

We believe in the resurrection of the bodies of the dead; that believers who sleep in Jesus will be raised at the coming of Christ for His Church and united with the transformed living saints to meet the Lord in the air. We further believe that the tribulation saints will be resurrected, and the wicked dead will be raised at the close of the millennial kingdom and stand in their bodies at the Great White Throne Judgement to receive their final doom. *Daniel 12:2; John 5:21-30; I Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 7:9,17; 20:4,11-15*

### **SECTION 14 "Of the 'Soul Liberty'"**

We believe in the "soul liberty" of every individual, which is the implementation of the truth

that "we must obey God rather than men". We believe that every person must give an answer to God individually, and therefore no other man or no church can act as his or her conscience now; that he or she has the right to interpret the Scripture for his or herself and the responsibility to answer to God for the way in which they do so; that each individual, as a believer, has the Holy Spirit to guide and enable him or her apart from any other ministry of man or church. *I John 2:27; Romans 14:5; II Timothy 2:15; I Corinthians 2:9-14*

## **SECTION 15 "Priesthood of the Believer"**

We believe in the priesthood of all believers; that all believers have immediate access into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus; that they need no human agency to intercede for them before the throne of grace; that Jesus Christ is their only mediator before God. *Hebrews 10:19; I Peter 2:110; Hebrews 13:15; I Timothy 2:5*

## **SECTION 16: "Human Sexuality"**

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1: 26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)

## **SECTION 17: "Family Relationships"**

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)

We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are an heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4, Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7)

## **SECTION 18: "Abortion"**

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life.

Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well being of the mother are acceptable. (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)

## **SECTION 19: "Euthanasia"**

We believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death. Discontinuing medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be a legitimate refusal of over-zealous treatment. (Ex. 20:13, 23:7; Matt. 5:21; Acts 17:28)

## **ARTICLE III, SUBSECTION 1**

*(AMENDED 2015)*

### **Authority Of Statement of Faith**

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teachings of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members. All literature, whether print or electronic, used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith.

## **ARTICLE IV - CONSTITUTION**

### **SECTION 1 "Government"**

This church is an independent Baptist organization, democratic and congregational in government, and shall be in respect to all its affairs completely self-governing and accountable only to its Head, Jesus Christ. This applies to all minor matters as well as to all handling of property, calling of pastor, support of missions, and affiliation with all other groups either by way of connection or segregation.

### **SECTION 2 "Reception of Members"**

Any person, professing faith in Christ, giving evidence of a change of heart, adopting the view of faith and practice expressed by this church, and having been baptized by immersion, may upon recommendation of the deacons be received into the membership of the Church by 3/4 majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting or at any business meeting of the church.

Reception of members shall be by one of three procedures:

1. By letter from a church of like precious faith;
2. By Christian testimony and immersion, or evidence thereof;
3. By restoration to the Lord and fellowship with the believers.

### **SECTION 3 "Associate Membership"**

Any missionary, college student, military personnel or any other person whose permanent home is outside of the Fairbanks area and who is a member of an independent Baptist Church may apply for "Associate Membership". Each candidate must appear before the Board of Deacons and give a clear testimony concerning his or her salvation, and having been baptised by immersion. Also he or she must subscribe to the McGrath Road Baptist Church's "Covenant", "Confession of Faith", and "Constitution". After a satisfactory examination, he or she shall be recommended to the congregation by the Board of Deacons for "Associate Membership" by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote of members present at any regular meeting or at any business meeting of the church.

They shall not have the right to vote, but shall be eligible to serve in areas of Sunday Bible School, youth programs, the music program, and visitation, on approval by the Board of Deacons.

Notification of their entrance into our "Associate Membership" shall be made to their home church.

### **SECTION 4 "Duties of Members"**

The duties of the members are set forth in general terms in the Church Covenant.

### **SECTION 5 "Dismissal of Members"**

*(AMENDED FEBRUARY 2, 1986)*

a) A letter of commendation and transfer may be granted at any regular service or business meeting of the church by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote of members present to any member in good and regular standing. Such letters must be addressed and sent to some particular church of the same like precious faith and practice.

b) Letters of transfer will not be granted to persons for the purpose of uniting with churches which are not of like faith.

c) Any member of this church moving from this vicinity and not uniting with some other church shall communicate with the church at least once every six (6) months, and if not heard from for six (6) months shall by the recommendation of the Pastor and Deacons be dropped from the church membership rolls.

### **SECTION 6 "Discipline"**

The Deacons and the Pastor shall constitute the committee on church discipline. Any member found walking disorderly as judged by the Scripture and this Constitution and Covenant shall be disciplined by the church according to the Scriptural presentation of discipline given in Matthew 18:15-19. A member who is under discipline is not permitted to participate in the business meetings or communion services of the church until his or her case is favorably adjusted. Impenitence shall be cause for expulsion from fellowship by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote of members present.

## **ARTICLE V - ASSOCIATION**

As an independent Baptist Church, this organization is never to be controlled or governed by any convention or association but maintains the right to fellowship with or associate with those of like precious faith and practice as it shall determine and decide for itself by  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote of at least 60% of voting members.

This church will not cooperate with liberalism, the charismatic movement or ecumenicalism. *I Corinthians 12:12-14*

## **ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS**

### **SECTION 1**

This church shall meet every Lord's Day morning and evening, as well as in midweek, for the worship of God, prayer, and the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **SECTION 2 "Business Meetings"**

- a) The fiscal year of the church shall close on the thirty-first day of December each year and the annual meeting shall be held on the third Wednesday evening in January, unless otherwise ordered by the Church.
- b) The church shall hold regular business meetings throughout the year for the purpose of discussing and caring for the temporal and spiritual needs of the body. These meetings shall include reports, plans, and all regular business.
- c) Special business meetings may be called by the Pastor, the Board of Deacons, or by written request of any ten voting members of the church. The purpose of the meeting shall be announced from the pulpit one week in advance in a regular service, published in the bulletin, and posted on the bulletin board, excepting that emergency meetings may be called by a majority of the Deacon Board and announced from the pulpit one regular service in advance. A business meeting to amend the articles of incorporation or to change the name of the corporation must meet all legal requirements of the State of Alaska.
- d) Church business meetings shall be conducted according to the general guidelines of Robert's Rules of Order without being bound by any provision thereof.
- e) Except where otherwise stated, all business shall be decided by simple majority vote.
- f) All members in good and regular standing, seventeen (17) years of age and older, shall be qualified to vote.
- g) Any member must be physically present to vote at any meeting. Votes will not be accepted by proxy or absentee ballot.



## **ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 1**

The officers of this church shall consist of Pastor(s), Deacons, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Clerk, Christian Education Director, Purchasing Agent and others as the church shall deem necessary.

### **SECTION 2 "Pastor"**

The Pastor shall be elected by ballot at a special meeting called for that purpose. Notice of such meeting shall be announced from the pulpit at both Lord's Day services at least one week in advance. Notice shall also be sent in writing to each member in good and regular standing seven days in advance of such meeting.

Election shall be upon recommendation of the pulpit committee, having been guided by the qualifications set forth in I Timothy 3:17, and Titus 1:69, and shall require  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote by ballot of at least 60% of voting members.

The Pastor shall be the recognized leader of the church in all matters and an ex officio member of the Board of Deacons and all committees. He shall preside at the regular church meetings.

Termination of office by resignation: The Pastor may resign at any time and his duties be terminated 30 days from the date of his resignation or at another time mutually agreeable to both the Pastor and the church.

Termination of office by church action: Any difficulty arising from unsatisfactory service, immorality, or a departure from the fundamentals of the faith as contained in this constitution shall be investigated by the Board of Deacons. If it is considered by the Deacons to be necessary, a special business meeting (Article VI, Section 2c) shall be called. The church shall consider their findings and decide regarding the dismissal of the Pastor. A  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote by ballot of at least 60% of voting members is necessary to dismiss a Pastor. In such cases his pastoral duties shall terminate immediately, and his salary shall cease 30 days from the date of the dismissal.

### **SECTION 3 "Assistant Pastor"**

An Assistant Pastor(s) may be hired, as the church deems necessary.

An Assistant Pastor(s) of the McGrath Road Baptist Church will be selected by and dismissed upon recommendation of the Senior Pastor after consultation with the Board of Deacons upon a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote of the church at a special business meeting (Art. VI, Section 2.c.). He will be accountable to the Senior Pastor. An Assistant Pastor(s) should meet the qualifications which are listed in 1 Timothy 3:17 and Titus 1:69.

An Assistant Pastor(s) may be dismissed for reasons in the constitution as it relates to the Senior Pastor. He also may be dismissed for reasons which can include not working together

in a healthy ministerial relationship. In regard to resignation, an Assistant Pastor may resign and his duties be terminated 30 days from the date of his resignation or at another time mutually agreeable to both the Senior Pastor and the Church.

An Assistant Pastor's duties shall be to assist the Senior Pastor in the ministry of the church, including involvement in the Board of Deacons.

An Assistant Pastor will be the temporary ex officio member of the Board of Deacons and all committees during the absence of the Senior Pastor.

Upon vacancy of the Senior Pastor, an Assistant Pastor will serve as Interim Pastor, by church action, for a specified period of time.

#### **SECTION 4 "Deacons"**

*(AMENDED FEBRUARY 2, 1986)*

Providing there are scripturally qualified men, the church shall have not less than two deacons or as many as the needs of the church require. They shall be elected from among the members at the annual meeting on the basis of qualifications set forth in the New Testament (Acts 6:3; I Timothy 3:8-13), and must have been a member in good and regular standing for at least one year.

Due to some difference of opinion as to the meaning of I Timothy 3:12, "Let the deacons be the husband of one wife..."; and the declining view of marriage vows, we as a church do not believe a person that is divorced or married to a divorcee is Scripturally qualified for the position of a deacon.

The deacons shall be elected to serve terms of no more than three years with at least  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the members' terms to terminate each year. The length of terms of the deacons to be elected at each annual meeting shall be decided by the Deacon Board prior to the selection of candidates by the nominating committee. Any deacon serving his first term may be elected for one year only and no deacon shall serve more than six (6) consecutive years without at least one year absence from the board.

The Deacons shall elect from their number a chairman who shall preside at their meetings and, in the absence of a Pastor, shall conduct the regular midweek meeting and take charge of the Lord's Day services, introducing any visiting speakers.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Deacons to act in the capacity of a pulpit committee during any period in which the church is without a Pastor, providing suitable supplies for the pulpit.

It shall be the duty of the Deacons to engage actively in the work of the church, to seek out such members who need assistance, to visit the sick, to prepare and distribute the elements of the Lord's Supper, to aid the Pastor in administering baptism, and to aid in all matters relating to the spiritual welfare of the church.

It shall be the further duty of the Deacons to act as Trustees in caring for the property of the

church: to hold, repair, invest, and preserve the same, including hiring and supervising the janitor, and to perform such business concerns of the church as from time to time shall be assigned to them by the church. They shall at all times be servants of the church and subject to its corporate action.

#### **SECTION 5 "Treasurer"**

The Treasurer shall be elected from the membership at each annual meeting for a term of one year. It shall be the Treasurer's duty to receive, deposit in a bank, and disperse by check all monies or things of value received by the church and to keep at all times an itemized account of receipts and disbursements, rendering regular account to the church to be preserved by the Clerk. It is important that the Treasurer maintain a confidential record of each member's giving and issue a statement for tax purposes upon request by an individual. The Treasurer's books shall be audited as directed by the Deacon Board, and all books and records kept by him or her shall be considered the property of the church.

#### **SECTION 6 "Financial Secretary"**

The Financial Secretary shall be elected from the membership at each annual meeting for a term of one year. It shall be the duty of the Financial Secretary to count the offerings, with the assistance of a Deacon, and maintain a confidential record of all monies.

#### **SECTION 7 "Clerk"**

A Clerk shall be elected from the membership at each annual meeting for a term of one year. It shall be the duty of the Church Clerk to attend or to be represented at all church business meetings; to keep an accurate record of all church business transactions, past financial statements and meetings; and also to notify all officers and members of committees of their election or appointment. The Clerk shall send for church letters for those who join our membership by letter and shall issue letters of dismissal. A duplicate copy of all membership records shall be kept in the church file at all times. Upon termination of the office, the Clerk shall release all church records and property in possession to the McGrath Road Baptist Church.

#### **SECTION 8 "Christian Education Director"**

A Christian Education Director shall be elected from the membership at each annual meeting for the term of one year. He shall be in charge of the administration and promotion of the church Sunday School. He shall work in close cooperation with the Pastor. The administration policies, teaching material, and appointment of the Sunday School teachers shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Deacons.

#### **SECTION 9 "Purchasing Agent"**

The Purchasing Agent shall be elected from the membership at each annual meeting for a term of one year. It shall be the duty of the Purchasing Agent to check a posted "shopping list" weekly to see what items are needed by the membership in order for them to carry out their duties, purchase the items and have the items available at the church in a timely

manner.

## **SECTION 10 "Resignation or Dismissal"**

Any officer, other than Pastor(s), may be dismissed because of unsatisfactory service or failure to conform to the Church Covenant by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  affirmative vote of voting members present at a special business meeting (Art. VI, Section 2.c.). An officer, other than Pastor(s), may resign and his or her resignation be accepted by the Board of Deacons. The Deacon Board shall as soon as possible appoint someone else to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting.

## **SECTION 11 "Election"**

Officers, other than Pastor(s), shall be elected from a list of members previously agreed upon by the nominating committee appointed by the Board of Deacons. They shall assume their duties one week after their election. All officers and teachers shall be spiritually mature, of unquestionable Christian character in personal and home life, loyal to the Word of God, and dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the spiritual and material welfare of this Church.

## **ARTICLE VIII - COMMITTEES**

Special Committees such as: Missionary Committee, Nominating Committee, Audit Committee, etc., may be appointed at any regular called business meeting of the Church as necessity demands for terms not to exceed one year.

### **SECTION 1 "Nominating Committee"**

- a) The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members in good and regular standing, one of which must be a Deacon.
- b) The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Deacons at least one month prior to the Church annual meeting. The Committee Chairman shall be appointed by the Board of Deacons.
- c) Wherever possible, the Nominating Committee shall place in nomination two individuals for each elective position.
- d) The names placed in nomination shall be posted at least two weeks prior to the Church annual meeting.

## **ARTICLE IX - AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS**

### **SECTION 1 "Organizations"**

All auxiliary organizations shall be considered ministries of and a part of the church and not a separate Organization. These organizations shall be self governing, but always amenable to the church. All programs and activities must be for the general welfare of the church and

in harmony with the principles of God's Word and this Constitution.

## **SECTION 2 "Officers"**

The regular officers of all auxiliary organizations and all regular teachers shall be members of the Church in good and regular standing or on the associate membership roll.

## **ARTICLE X - FINANCES**

A systematic giving of money for the support of the work of the Lord is worship as well as duty. All members are expected to give regular financial support to the church. In determining the Lord's portion, we believe and affirm that the tithe of 10% is the basis of Scriptural giving and recommend it as the minimum for our giving. No monies shall at any time be raised for the church except by free will giving. *Malachi 3:10; I Corinthians 16:1,2*

## **ARTICLE XI - MISSIONS**

*(AMENDED FEBRUARY 2, 1986)*

It shall be the policy of this church to support only missions, missionaries, and organizations who are known to be in agreement with our confession of faith both in doctrine and practice. We further believe that local responsibilities refer to ministries covered by the general Fund of the Church, including radio programs, Christian day schools, Christian colleges, camps, social agencies, and other similar ministries. New Testament missions refer to the pattern set forth in the book of Acts whereby a local church sends its missionaries to other peoples in other places to win souls and to establish local churches of like precious faith. The Church does not consider itself under any obligation to support even its own members nor the relatives of members who align themselves with organizations out of harmony with the above stated requirement.

## **ARTICLE XII - DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS**

*(AMENDED 1981)*

Upon the dissolution of this organization, the McGrath Road Baptist Church, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the organization, shall distribute the remaining assets to Baptist Mid-Missions, a non-profit organization which has established its tax exempt status under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. However, if the above named recipient is not then in existence, or is no longer exempt from Federal income tax, or is unwilling or unable to accept distribution, then the assets shall be distributed to one or more organizations of like faith and practice which has established its tax-exempt status under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. No part of the net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

## **ARTICLE XIII - USE OF FACILITIES**

Church facilities may be used for special events upon approval of the Board of Deacons.

All weddings and funerals shall be performed by the Pastor of this church. Any exception must be church approved.

No secret societies shall be permitted to hold services or to use the church facilities for any purpose.

While using the facilities no individual or group will be allowed use of this church if the behavior and/or conduct of the individual/individuals violates our church covenant.

#### **ARTICLE XIV - AMENDMENTS AND ADOPTION**

This Constitution shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when two-thirds of the members present at the business meeting at which vote is taken shall vote in favor of same. This Constitution may be amended by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority of at least 60% of voting members voting in a regular business meeting, provided that such amendment shall be given to the Clerk in writing and the proposed amendment presented publicly to the church twice and posted on the church bulletin board at least one month prior to the time the vote is to be taken. It is understood, however, that there shall be no alterations to those provisions of the Constitution having to do with doctrine or the ownership, control, or disposition of the physical properties of McGrath Road Baptist Church.

## 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 of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, 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 be faithful in attendance at the regular services; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; and 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 endeavor to maintain family and private devotions; to teach the Bible to our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid unkind words, backbiting, unrighteous anger, all appearance of evil, and any defilement of the believer's body, which is the temple of God; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the cause of our Savior; and to make Christ first in all things both spiritual and temporal.

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 the rules of our Saviour, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we move 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.

[Adopted by the Church February 15, 1981. Amended February 1986. Edited January 1995. Amended July 30, 2006. Amended June 21, 2015. Confession of Faith, Constitution, and Church Covenant of McGrath Road Baptist Church of Fairbanks, Alaska.]

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