

BY-LAWS OF
MIDLAND BIBLE CHURCH
A Texas Non-Profit Corporation
Revised and Adopted August 2, 2002

ARTICLE 1

OFFICES

Name and Principal Office

1.01. The name of this non-profit corporation is Midland Bible Church. The principal office of Midland Bible Church (“this Local Body”) in the State of Texas is at 2800 North “A”, Midland, Midland County, Texas. This Local Body may have such other offices and locations either within or without the State of Texas, as the Council of Pastors may determine from time to time.

Registered Office and Registered Agent

1.02. This Local Body will have and continuously maintain in the State of Texas a registered office, as required by the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act. The registered office may be, but need not be, identical with the principal office of this Local Body in the State of Texas, and the address of the registered office may be changed from time to time by the Council of Pastors.

ARTICLE 2

CONSTITUTION

The constitution of Midland Bible Church is the Holy Scriptures (the Bible) as the unique and absolute authority for the conduct of its affairs. These By-Laws are, therefore, open for review so that they may be amended (i) when any of them is found to conflict with the Bible or (ii) when any of them appears to be hindering the fulfillment of God’s stated principles for this, His Local Body, or (iii) when any of them is no longer reflective of the questions of this Local body.

ARTICLE 3

PURPOSE OF THE LOCAL BODY AND DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Purpose

3.01. The purpose of Midland Bible Church is to participate in the fulfillment of the Great Commission (Mt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8) through the dual elements of evangelism and edification.

A. Evangelism is to be world-wide and may be accomplished by declaring God's good news about Christ to those who live near us and by sending missionaries under God's direction to do the same in other places across the world.

B. Edification, or the building up of one another toward Christ-like maturity (I Cor. 14:26; Eph 4:16), is accomplished through the instruction and study of the Bible, prayer, fellowship, and worshipful communion. The marks of this Christ-like maturity are a loving fellowship of maturing believers whose ministry, both gathered and scattered, is worshipful, God-honoring and service-oriented.

Doctrinal Statement

3.02. The Doctrinal Statement for this Local Body is attached to these By-Laws marked as Schedule "A" and incorporated by this reference.

ARTICLE 4

MEMBERS

Classes of Members

4.01. This Local Body will have no members as that term is used in the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act.

4.02. Anyone who has trusted in Christ for his or her salvation and who is a regular attender of this Local Body may be considered a member of this Local Body.

ARTICLE 5

COUNCIL OF PASTORS/TRUSTEES

General Powers

5.01. The affairs of this Local Body are to be managed by its Board of Trustees which is identical with the Council of Pastors, referred to throughout these By-Laws as the “Council of Pastors”. The Council of Pastors holds legal title to the real property and all other assets of this Local Body. This Local Body is led by a team of Pastors, so called to communicate the biblical concept of Elder. The biblical concept of Elder is that of a shepherd and leader who serves in a mutually accountable relationship with other qualified men. The combined terms “council” and “pastor”, therefore accurately reflect the biblical standard. The Council of Pastors has a pastoral ministry and is not a mere board whose primary purpose is to approve the decisions of the pastoral staff.

Number, Tenure and Qualifications

5.02. The number of Pastors comprising the Council of Pastors from time to time must be a function of the number of men within this Local Body who are recognized as being scripturally qualified as Pastors (Overseers, Bishops, Shepherds, Elders) according to I Tim 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. The duration of service of a Pastor on the Council of Pastors is to be for life, subject to the provisions of Section 5.04 of these By-Laws.

Selection

5.03. Any member of this Local Body who believes himself or another member to be qualified may submit his name at any time to the Council of Pastors that he may be taken under consideration for service as a Pastor. The Council of Pastors may also propose that a man or men be considered for Pastoral office. The Pastor candidate or candidates will be considered by the Council of Pastors and if found qualified, submitted to the congregation for its comments concerning the scriptural qualifications of the Pastor candidate or candidates. This consideration will occur prior to submission of the Pastor candidate to the congregation and will involve, among other items, service with the Council of Pastors as a Pastor in Training for no less than six (6) months. Upon submission of a Pastor candidate, the congregation will be given adequate time to present questions or scriptural disqualifications regarding the candidate to the Council of Pastors. Once the congregation has had time to present its comments, the candidate or candidates is or are determined to be scripturally qualified by the Council of Pastors, he or they will be appointed to the Council of Pastors.

Removal and Sabbatical

5.04. A. Removal. A Pastor may be removed from the Council of Pastors:

1. At his own request;
2. If by consensus of the remaining Pastors on the Council of Pastors, he no longer qualifies as a Pastor; or
3. If by consensus of the remaining Pastors on the Council of Pastors, he ceases to function as a Pastor.

B. Body may bring concerns. Any member of the Local Body may bring scriptural reasons for a Pastor's disqualification, or concern over an area of sin in a Pastor's life to the attention of the Council of Pastors. Any question concerning a Pastor's qualifications or sin, however, will only be received for consideration with the testimony of two or three witnesses (I Tim 5:19).

C. Sabbatical. A Pastor may take a leave of absence or sabbatical for a specified period of time from serving on the Council of Pastors if the leave of absence is approved by a consensus of the remaining Pastors on the Council of Pastors.

D. Pastor-at-Large. A Pastor may serve as a shepherd in an at-large position pursuant to the provisions in the attached resolution entitled: Elder/Pastor-at-Large.

Special Meetings

5.05. Special meetings of the Council of Pastors may be called by or at the request of the Moderator or by consensus of the Council of Pastors, at which time the place and time of the meeting must be specified.

ARTICLE 6

OFFICERS

Election and Term of Office

6.01. The officers of the Local Body will from time to time be elected by the Council of Pastors. The duration of the terms of the officers as may be elected by the Council of Pastors will be as the Council of Pastors may determine. The Council of Pastors may fill any vacancy in the offices of this Local Body as soon as possible after the vacancy occurs. The offices set forth in this Article 6 are those that the Council of Pastors may fill as qualified leaders in this Local Body are available to fill them.

Removal

6.02. Any officer elected or appointed by the council of Pastors may be removed by the Council of Pastors whenever in its collective judgment the best interests of the Local Body would be served thereby.

Moderator

6.03. The Moderator must be a Pastor and is the principal executive officer of the Local Body and shall in general administratively supervise all of the business of this Local Body. He shall reside at all meetings of the Council of Pastors. He may sign, with the Vice Moderator or any other proper officer of the Local Body authorized by the Council of Pastors, any deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, or other instruments which the Council of Pastors have authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof is expressly delegated by The Council of Pastors or by these By-Laws or by statute to some other officer or agent of this Local Body; and in general he shall perform all duties incident to the office of the Moderator and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Council of Pastors from time to time. It is contemplated that the office may be passed from time to time to various, administratively gifted men serving on the Council of Pastors.

Vice-Moderator

6.04. In the absence of the Moderator or in the event of his inability or refusal to act, the Vice-Moderator is to perform the duties of the Moderator and when so acting has all the powers of and is subject to all the restrictions upon the Moderator. The Vice-Moderator will perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the Moderator or Council of Pastors. The Vice-Moderator must be a Pastor.

Treasurer

6.05. The Treasurer need not give a bond for the faithful discharge of his duties. He need not be a Pastor. He will have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of this Local Body, receive and give receipts for moneys due and payable to this Local Body from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such moneys in the name of this Local Body in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as may be selected by the Council of Deacons and in general perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the Council of Pastors.

Secretary

6.06 The Secretary will keep, or cause to be kept, the minutes of the meetings of the Council of Pastors, give all notices in accordance with the provisions of these by-laws or as required by law, be custodian of the records of the Local Body, keep a register of the post office address of each Pastor which shall be furnished to the Secretary by each Pastor, and, in general, perform all duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the Council of Pastors. The Secretary must be a Pastor. The Secretary is entitled to delegate those of his duties as may be practical for delegation to the staff secretary.

Assistant Treasurers and Assistant Secretaries

6.07 The Assistant Treasurers and Assistant Secretaries, if any, in general shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the Treasurer or the Secretary or by the Council of Pastors.

ARTICLE 7

DEACONS AND COUNCIL OF DEACONS

Selection

7.01 Candidates for the office of Deacon will be recommended to the Council of Pastors by the congregation of this Local Body upon the request of the Council of Pastors as was done in Acts 6:1-5. The Deacon candidates must be considered by the Council of Pastors and the Council of Deacons according to the criteria set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13 and will involve, among other items, service with the Council of Deacons as a Deacon in Training for no less than six (6) months. Those candidates who are available and scripturally qualified may be appointed Deacons by the Council of Pastors.

Term of Office

7.02 All Deacons are to serve at the convenience of the Council of Pastors.

Removal

7.03 Any Deacon may be removed from office by action of the Council of Pastors whenever, in its collective judgment, the best interests of this Local Body or the individual Deacon are served by such removal.

Council of Deacons

7.04. The Deacons are to serve together as a Council of Deacons with the scripturally described important leadership role and ministry in the Local Body.

ARTICLE 8

CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSIT AND FUNDS

Contracts

8.01. The Council of Pastors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of this Local Body, in addition to the officers so authorized by these By-Laws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of this Local Body. This authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Checks and Drafts

8.02. All checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of this Local Body must be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of this Local Body and in such manner as may from time to time be determined by the Council of Pastors. In the absence of such determination by the Council of Pastors, such instruments may be signed by the Treasurer or an Assistant Treasurer.

Deposits

8.03. All funds of this Local Body, after they are counted by at least two individuals approved by the Council of Deacons, must be deposited from time to time to the credit of this Local Body in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Council of Deacons, in consultation with the Council of Pastors, may select.

Gifts

8.04. The Council of Pastors may, but need not, accept on behalf of this Local Body any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for general purposes or for any special purpose of this Local Body.

ARTICLE 9

BOOKS AND RECORDS

This Local Body must keep correct and complete books and records and must also keep minutes of the proceedings of its Council of Pastors, its Council of Deacons and committees possessing any delegated authority over this Local Body, and shall keep at the registered or principal office a record giving the names and addresses of the Pastors. All books and records of this Local Body may be inspected by any Pastor for any proper purpose at any reasonable time.

ARTICLE 10

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of this Local Body shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day in December in each year.

ARTICLE 11

WAIVER OF NOTICE

Whenever any notice is required to be given under the provisions of the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act or any other law or under the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or the By-Laws of this Local Body, a waiver of the notice in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated in the notice will be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

ARTICLE 12

AMENDMENT

Theses By-Laws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new by-laws may be adopted for the reasons set forth in Article 2 of these By-Laws, by unanimous agreement of the Council of Pastors of Midland Bible Church. In any event, the By-Laws may not be amended, etc., without written notification being made to each Pastor at least two weeks before a vote to amend is taken.