

The Constitution

Of

Burem Missionary Baptist Church

Rogersville, TN

I. Preamble

- a. This organization was established as a place for the worship of our Heavenly Father and to advance His Kingdom by preaching and teaching the Gospel of His Son, Jesus Christ. The people who make up the membership of Burem Missionary Baptist Church establish this constitution to confirm and declare the principles of our faith according to the Holy Word of God. This constitution is brought forth to preserve the liberties and responsibilities of each member of this assembly of the Body of Christ.

II. Name

- a. This body of believers shall be known as Burem Missionary Baptist Church. Burem Missionary Baptist Church is a domestic religious nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Tennessee.

III. Principle Office and Registered Agent

- a. The principal office and the registered office of Burem Missionary Baptist Church shall be located at 1324 Burem Rd. Rogersville, TN 37857, and the name of the registered agent of Burem Missionary Baptist Church at such address is the current Lead Pastor, George "Fuzz" Bradley. Burem Missionary Baptist Church may change the location of the principal or registered office, or the designated registered agent, by resolution of the voting Church membership in accordance with the provisions of the Tennessee nonprofit corporation's law. Burem Missionary Baptist Church may also have offices at such other locations within and without the State of Tennessee as the Burem Church membership determines need requires.

IV. Mission

- a. The mission of Burem Missionary Baptist Church is to honor and glorify God by being committed in making disciples for Jesus Christ, who are led and empowered by the Holy Spirit of God with the purpose of reaching the lost through spreading the Gospel to all nations. (Matthew 28:19) We believe Christ established the Church as the authority and agency of missionary activity in the world. If we fail to send missionaries to make disciples of Jesus Christ and establish new churches, then we will have failed Christ's commission to us. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8)

V. Statement of Purpose

- a. Burem Missionary Baptist Church exists to support and equip Christ's followers, to reach the lost, to serve those in need, and to display the love of Christ to others, both individually and as a body of believers. Everything that Burem Missionary Baptist Church does is founded upon the Truth set forth in the Bible, which is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). Because these beliefs serve as the bedrock of our ministry (Matthew 7:24), everyone involved in our ministry is expected to act in a manner that promotes and supports these beliefs.

VI. Statement of Faith/Church Covenant

- a. Note: Burem Missionary Baptist Church is a non-profit religious organization composed of a community of believers who have joined together to meet the spiritual needs of the greater Burem community. Our organization promotes behavior consistent with the Holy Scriptures. Consequently, when you become a member, employee, leader, or representative of Burem Missionary Baptist Church, you freely and willingly agree to the Statement of Faith and Church Covenant outlined below. These statements included are not exhaustive; rather, they provide a guideline of beliefs and conduct we believe is in accordance with Biblical standards. As members, employees, leaders, or representatives of Burem Missionary Baptist Church, it is imperative that our actions are above reproach in all things. Consequently, the following Statements of Faith/Church Covenant shall apply to all members, employees, and leaders of Burem Missionary Baptist Church. Violations of the Statement of Faith/Church Covenant are regarded as a serious breach of integrity and could result in discipline, up to and including removal from Burem Missionary Baptist Church Ministry.
- b. Statement of Faith:
 - i. We, the people of Burem Missionary Baptist Church believe that the Holy Bible is the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God, and it is the basis for all statements of faith and practice. The King James Version is the only acceptable version to this Church Body. We subscribe to the doctrinal statement of “The Baptist Faith and Message”, as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963 and amended in 1998. We band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior to spread the good news of salvation to lost persons throughout Burem community and across the nations.
- c. Church Covenant:
 - i. 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 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 secret devotions; to Religiously educate our children; to seek the Salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the World; to be just in our dealings, faithful in engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of, destructive drugs or intoxicating

drinks as a beverage; to shun pornography; 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 rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other Church where we can carry out the Spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

VII. Ordinances

- a. The ordinances of Burem Missionary Baptist Church shall be Baptism by immersion which is a requirement before the privilege of Church membership is granted. The Holy ceremony of The Lord's Supper shall be conducted on a regular basis as deemed by the Lead Pastor.

VIII. Government

- a. The government of Burem Missionary Baptist Church is vested in the body of believers who compose the membership. The corporate and business affairs of Burem Missionary Baptist Church shall be managed by the regular standing Church membership.
- b. Regular business meetings of the Church shall be conducted on the first Sunday night of each month.
- c. Special business meetings may be called at times when the Lead Pastor and the Church feel they are necessary to further the progress of the Church.
- d. Annual business meeting shall occur at which time the election of officers will take place. This annual meeting shall take place on the first Sunday night of August. The failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time shall not affect the validity of any ministry action. Officers shall take office on the first (1st) day of the following month after completion of election.
- e. The location of all business meetings shall be the principal office of Burem Missionary Baptist Church in the state of Tennessee.
- f. A quorum is established by any number present of regular standing members at an appropriately called business meeting.
- g. Proxy votes are not permitted at any business meetings.
- h. This Church recognizes and sustains the mutual council and cooperation common among other Bible believing and practicing Churches but, is not subject to the control of any other ecclesiastical body.
- i. Discipline - Any person causing disruption among the fellowship, or known to be in bondage to a certain sin and unwilling to repent, will be contacted by the Lead Pastor and at least one other member of the Church to discuss the discord of fellowship or sin. If the problem cannot be resolved, the individual will be presented to the Church body for dismissal from the fellowship and as a member of the Church.

IX. Church Membership

- a. Members of Burem Missionary Baptist Church shall consist of those who have confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and accepted Him as Savior, made a public profession of faith and been baptized by immersion.
- b. Any person may present him or herself as a candidate for membership in this Church in any of the following ways:
 - i. By profession of faith in Jesus Christ and baptism by immersion.
 - ii. By promise of letter of recommendation from another Bible believing Church of like faith and practice.
 - iii. By statement of prior conversion experience and baptism by immersion in a Church of like faith and practice.
- c. All membership candidates shall be counseled by the Lead Pastor, Chairman of Deacons, or Lead Pastor appointee to insure that everyone understands the doctrine, principles, and vision of Burem Missionary Baptist Church.
- d. Regular standing Church Membership is defined as a member who attends a Sunday service at least two (2) times per month.

X. Church Officers

- a. Church officers are required to be members in regular standing with the Church, that faithfully attends business meetings, Sunday School, and regularly scheduled services.
- b. The officers of Burem Missionary Baptist Church shall be appointed annually by the voting regular standing membership present at the annual business meeting. If the appointment of officers shall not be held at such meeting, such appointment shall be held as soon thereafter as possible.
- c. Each officer shall hold office until the officer's successor shall have been duly appointed and shall have qualified or until the officer's death or until the officer shall resign or shall have been removed in the manner hereinafter provided.
- d. Any officer may be removed by a three-fourths (3/4) vote by the regular standing voting members present in business meeting whenever in its judgment the best interests of Burem Missionary Baptist Church will be served thereby. Appointment of an officer or agent shall not create contract rights.
- e. *Lead Pastor:* (The Lead Pastor will be referred to as "Lead Pastor" or "Pastor" throughout this document)
 - i. To proclaim the whole Gospel, superintend the work of the Church, to be shepherd of the flock and to serve the people for Jesus sake. He shall have general oversight of the Church in all departments of its work and be moderator for all meetings of the Church and be ex-officio member of all committees.
 - ii. It shall be the duty of the members to honor, esteem and love their pastor, to pray for him constantly, and to manifest a tender regard for his reputation.
 - iii. The Lead Pastor shall be called for an indefinite period of time and he may resign the care of the Church upon a thirty (30) day notice of his intention to do so, and the Church shall have the right to dispense with his services upon giving a similar notice. The Lead Pastor shall receive such compensation for his service, as the Church shall determine.

- f. *Associate Pastor(s)*: (The Associate Pastor will be referred to as “Associate Pastor” specifically throughout this Constitution but is understood that he will at times in absence of or under direction of the Lead Pastor fill duties stated as “Pastor”)
 - i. To proclaim the whole Gospel and to serve the Church for Jesus sake in the absence of, or direction of, the Lead Pastor.
 - ii. The Associate Pastor shall be appointed through a three fourths (3/4) vote by the Church.
 - iii. The Associate Pastor position(s) shall be staffed as the Church determines need.
 - iv. The Associate Pastor may resign the position upon a thirty (30) day notice of his intention to do so, and the Church shall have the right to dispense with his services upon giving a similar notice. The Associate Pastor shall receive such compensation for his service, as the Church shall determine.
- g. *Clerk*:
 - i. The Church shall elect a clerk to keep a suitable record of all actions of the Church and an accurate record of the membership of the Church. This election shall be conducted on an annual basis.
- h. *Secretary*:
 - i. The Church shall elect a secretary to assist the clerk, treasurer, and other officers of the Church as needed. The secretary is to work closely with the treasurer and trustees in establishing and overseeing a proposed budget for all departments. This election shall be conducted on an annual basis.
- i. *Treasurer*:
 - i. The Church shall elect a treasurer to receive, preserve and pay out all moneys given to the Church, according to the actions of the Church. The treasurer shall provide a monthly statement accounting for all moneys received and dispersed each month. This election shall be conducted on an annual basis.
- j. *Trustees*:
 - i. The Church shall elect three (3) Trustees to hold in trust the Church property and sign, on behalf of the Church, all legal documents held by the Church. A Trustee is to be replaced only if a current Trustee leaves the fellowship of the Church for any reason or if a current Trustee desires to resign the position. This position shall be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure the elected Trustees are in regular standing with the Church and desire to continue this service.
- k. *Moderator*:
 - i. The Moderator shall conduct and oversee all Church business and special meetings.
 - ii. The Church shall elect a moderator to conduct and oversee meetings of the Church in the absence of the Lead Pastor and Chairman of Deacons.
- l. *Deacon*:
 - i. The task of the Deacons is to be servants of the Church and shall aid the Pastor(s) in his duties, assist with the administration of the ordinances, and to ascertain and provide relief through the Church, as they need for assistance to Church members or others in the community. The assistance shall include but

not be limited to, the needs of widows, single mothers, needy families, and elderly people.

- ii. The Deacons are to actively visit the homes within the community to verify the needs of each home and to encourage fellowship with God's disciples.
- iii. The Deacons are to devote themselves to the Spiritual and general welfare of the Church, in serving with the Pastor(s) and other officers in leading the Church in the achievement of its mission, and of proclaiming the Gospel to believers and unbelievers.
- iv. For qualifications and election procedures for Deacons, please see the By-Laws.

XI. Governing Law

- a. This Constitution shall be construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee.

XII. Amendments

- a. This constitution may be amended in a business meeting by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of those present, provided the amendment was announced in a previous session to the church body.

Amended and Recorded Date: 7/2/2023