

East Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
5702 Calhoun Road
Houston, Texas 77021
Rev. Ronald K. Mouton, Sr., Pastor

November 10, 2013

By-Laws

Article I.
Names and Privileges

Section 1. The Church shall be known as East Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.

Section 2. On all matters that come before the Church for actions, each Member present is entitled to vote.

Section 3. One person of the roll of the membership shall constitute a quorum, except that for election of officers, three percent (3%); and for call of a Pastor, ten percent (10%) shall be necessary.

Article II.
Organization and Meetings

Section 1. For worship and work of the Church provides for meetings and organizations as follows:

- A. For worship, preaching, instruction and evangelism, regular meetings for the entire body and all people each Lord's Day, morning and evening and each Wednesday evening; these to be under the direction of the Pastor and/or Deacons
- B. A Sunday School to be conducted each Lord's Day morning for all people; to be under the direction of a Superintendent and an assistant Superintendent.
- C. The regular morning and evening periods of worship each Lord's Day above provided for shall not be dispensed with nor said periods used by any person or organization for any other purpose than the regular and customary service for worship, unless permission has first been obtained by a majority vote at a regular service prior thereto. It is expected that the Deacons of the church shall enforce this section.

Section 2. The Lord's Supper shall be duly celebrated on the first Lord's Day of each month. The Pastor and / or Deacons of the Church shall announce any exception to this practice, in advance.

Section 3. The fourth Wednesday evening shall be the regular time for quarterly business meetings of the Church. The Pastor and/ or Deacons of the Church shall announce any exception to this practice, in advance.

Section 4. A called meeting of the Church for any specified purpose may be held on Wednesday evening if ordered by consensus of the Pastor and/ or Deacons at one of the regular service held on the Sunday previous. Called meeting=g may also be held any other regular meeting of the Church by unanimous consent of the members present. This Provision is for us for emergencies that may arise between quarterly business meetings.

Section 5. The annual business meeting of the Church shall be held on a Wednesday or Sunday in the month designated by the Pastor. The purpose of the meeting shall be to elect Church officers, give annual business reports, and to discuss Church changes or recommendations for the New Year.

Section 6. All questions shall be settled by majority of those present and voting, except where otherwise provided in the Bylaw.

Section 7. All questions of procedures not provided for the Bylaws shall be determined according to Roberts Rules of Order.

Section 8. The Pastor shall have the authority to remove any person not serving his or her duties without calling a church meeting and without waiting until an Annual Business meeting.

Article III

Church Officers, Program Leaders, and Committees

Section 1. Moderator – The Pastor shall be the moderator. In the absence of the Pastor, the Chairman of the Deacon Board shall serve as moderator. In the absence of both the Pastor and the Chairman of the Deacon Board, the Vice Chairman of the Deacon Board shall call the church to order and a moderator pro-term shall be elected by a majority of those present and voting.

Section 2. Church Clerk – The Clerk shall keep in a suitable book a record of all actions of the Church. He/She shall be custodian of such records and the Church's seal. A copy of Church records shall be kept in a safe place and shall be updated monthly.

Section 3. Chairman of the Trustee Board – There shall be one Chairperson for the Trustee Board, to be known as Chairperson of the Trustee Board of the East Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. The Chairperson shall meet with Pastor, Executive Board and other Trustees to implement the duties upon them by the Church's Charter.

Section 4. Superintendent of Sunday School – He/She shall have oversight of the entire school and shall administer it with the help of the Pastor.

Section 5. Assistant Superintendent of Sunday School – He/She shall assume, in the absence of the Superintendent, all of the duties of said Superintendent.

Section 6. Church Ministries – The Pastor shall approve Necessary Ministries of the Church and their duties for the work of the Church, except as provided in Article III and Article V. Committees shall be added or deleted by the Pastor and upon recommendation from Executive Board.

Section 7. Minutes of all Boards and Ministry meetings shall be submitted to the Pastor or his staff and the church clerk for permanent filing purposes.

THEIR TERMS SHALL BE:

Section 8. The Pastor shall serve indefinitely at the will of the Church.

Section 9. Terms of Office – All Church officers and ministry leaders will serve a two-year term at the discretion of the Pastor and the Pastor and by recommendation of the Executive Board, except as provided in Article III, Article V, and Article VII.

Article IV. Church Boards

Sections 1. Executive Board – The Executive Board shall consist of the Pastor, representatives from the Deacon Board, Trustee Board, Finance Committee, Ministerial Staff, Administration Staff, and one lay member from the congregation.

Section 2. Deacon Board – Members of this said board must be of good standing and active members of the Church. The current Leader of this board shall have oversight of the duties of the entire Board and shall administer it as provided in Article V. The duties for the work of the Deacon Board will be of those set forth in article V.

Section 3. Deaconess Board – The wife of the Pastor, Resident Ministers, and Deacon who are members of the Church shall constitute the Deaconess Board. The current Leader of this Board shall have oversight of the entire Board and shall administer it with the help of the Pastor.

Section 4. Trustee Board – Members of this said Board must be of good standing and active members of the Church. Chairman of this board shall oversight of the entire board and shall administer it with the help of the Deacon and the Pastor. The Trustees shall have the powers conferred and duties imposed upon them by the Charter.

Section 5. Youth Advisory Board – This Board's function will be to aid, assist, recommend and organize the youth of the Church to enhance their well-being and Spiritual growth. Members of this said Board must be good standing and active members of the Church. Members of this Board shall have oversight of the entire Youth Department and shall administer it with the help of the Executive Board, Deacons and the Pastor.

Section 6. Any board member who misses three (3) consecutive meeting without a valid excuse (as determine by the Pastor and Executive Board) shall be labeled inactive and suspended/ or removed. The Pastor and/or the Executive Board shall recommend a temporary replacement at the next Business Meeting.

Section 7. All Board members are required to attend teaching ministries (Sunday School, Bible Study, Mid-week Service, Regular scheduled Worship Service and Leadership classes) on a consistent basis.

Article V. Deacons

Section 1. In accordance with the meaning of the word and the practice of the New Testament the Deacons are to be the servants of the Church

Section 2. They are to be zealous to guard the unity of the spirit within the church in the bonds of peace.

Section 3. They shall serve as council of advice and conference with the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the welfare and the work of the Church. With the Pastor, they are to consider and formulate plans for the constant effort and progress of the Church in all things pertaining to the saving of souls, the development of Christians, and the extension and growth of the Kingdom of God.

Section 4. By Proper organization and method among themselves, they are to establish and maintain personal fraternal relations with, and inspiring oversight of, all the membership of the Church. They should seek to know the physical needs, moral and spiritual struggles of the brethren and sisters. They also should serve the whole Church in relieving, encouraging and developing all those that have a need.

Section 5. In counsel with the Pastor and by such methods as the Holy Spirit may direct in accordance with the New Testament teaching, they are to have oversight of the discipline of the Church in administering and be guided by the principles set forth in Thessalonians 5:12 – 14. The Deacons shall be free to call upon any member of the Church to aid in discipline.

Section 6. In the event of total incapacitation of the Pastor, the Deacons shall serve as Pulpit Supply Committee.

Section 7. In any period when the Church is without a Pastor, unless the Church shall otherwise provide, the Deacons will arrange for temporary ministry and take counsel with reference to securing a Pastor. It is not intended in any way to prejudge herein the method by which the Church shall proceed in securing a Pastor.

Section 8. Organization of the Deacon Board – The whole body of the Deacon Board shall organized as a unit for the consideration of all larger problem and general policies and shall regularly meet on Monday following the Lord's Supper Sunday. The Chairman of the Deacon Board shall meet with the Pastor for assignment of duties and shall be responsible for carrying out assigned duties with the help of the Deacon Board. They may organize themselves into committees as their wisdom may direct for efficiency of service.

Section 9. There shall be not more than sixty (60) Deacons. It shall be pertinent for the Church to promote honorary life membership to any Deacon, who by reason of age or infirmities shall after honorable service, be no longer able to render active service.

Section 10. The Pastor and current Deacon Board shall constitute the nominating committee and can offer to the Church at any business meeting, recommendations for the Deacon Board.

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Deacons to be placed on trial. The trial period should not be less than one (1) year. The Pastor and current Deacon Board shall seek out and investigate persons prior to the selection for Deaconship using the following guidelines:

- 1.0 Must be born again Believer of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and active witness for Jesus according to 1 Timothy 3:8 – 13 and Acts 6:1-9.
- 2.0 Must be faithful in attending services of the Church
- 3.0 Must have deep commitment to undergird harmoniously the multiple ministries as adopted by the majority of the Church.
- 4.0 Must be desirous of cooperation and support in uplifting the Pastor, staff, and all elected leadership to the glory of God.
- 5.0 Must be willing to bring their tithes and offering into the Church budget
- 6.0 Must set example of leadership in the abstinence of the use of alcoholic beverages

Section 11. Deacons – The Chairman of the Deacon Board, as well as the secretary for the Deacon Board shall be assigned by the Pastor

Section 12. The Pastor has the Sole Authority to dismiss any Deacon who is not living up to his duties or responsibilities as provided in Article #5

Article VI. Church Membership

Persons will be received into Membership of the East Bethel Missionary Church by:

- 1.0 Public confession of Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Personal Savior and following Baptism (immersion) into the Full Fellowship.
- 2.0 Transfer of Membership from another Baptist Church.
- 3.0 The Statement that he/she has trusted Christ as his Personal Savior and was baptized into a Baptist Church and the record of his Membership is not available.

4.0 Testimony of Baptist Believers – Having been immersed as a Believer, by a Christian Evangelical Church.

5.0 Any Member absent consecutively from Church for one (1) month, without excuse, must be reinstated.

Article VII. Baptism and Elections

Section 1. Baptism shall be administered by Pastor or by some other person designated by him or a person authorized by the Church at such times as may be designated but the Pastor or the Church.

Section 2. Deacons of the Church shall be elected as needed except as provided in **Article V, Section 9 and Section 11.**

Section 3. Trustee Board – There shall be as many as 15 Trustees of this church who shall be elected in accordance with the provision of the Charter.

Article VIII. Letter of Dismissal

Letters to other Churches may be granted at any Business Meeting discussing Members to unite with the designated Church.

Article IX. Offerings

Opportunity shall be given in suitable ways for the Members and Congregation to give Tithes and Offerings to the budget of the Church.

Article X. Cooperation

Unless unfortunately hindered, the Church shall send leaders to meetings, conferences and training on the local, state, and national levels.

Article XI. Change in the Bylaws

The bylaws may be amended by majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular scheduled meetings with explanations of the proposed change having been given prior to the vote.

**East Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
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Rev. Ronald K. Mouton, Sr.**

November 10, 2013

Change in By-Laws

Amended:

Article 5 Section 12

The Pastor has the Sole Authority to dismiss any Deacon who is not living up to his duties or responsibilities as provided in Article #5

Article 12

Based on our Belief and the Doctrine of Jesus Christ, and according to Genesis 2:18-25, we the members of the East Bethel Missionary Baptist Church along with the Pastor will not engage nor participate in the marrying of same sex couples.

Article XII.

Based on our Belief and the Doctrine of Jesus Christ, and according to Genesis 2:18-25, we the members of the East Bethel Missionary Baptist Church along with the Pastor will not engage nor participate in the marrying of same sex couples.

Amendments:

Amended: Business Meeting, December 15th, 1992

Amended: Business Meeting, December 12th, 1993

Amended: Business Meeting, February 21st, 1995

Amended: Business Meeting, March 17th, 1996

Amended: Annual Business Meeting, December 4th, 1996

Amended: Annual Business Meeting, November 7th, 1999

Amended: Annual Business Meeting, November 15th, 2000

Amended: Annual Business Meeting, November 13th, 2005

Amended: 2nd Quarterly Meeting, May 10th, 2006

Amended: Annual Business Meeting, November 12th, 2008

Amended: Annual Business Meeting, November 10th, 2013