



Miracle Life Family Church

Constitution & Statement of Faith

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ARTICLE ONE

Preamble

1.0 Preamble

Miracle Life Ministries (MLM) was started in 1994 and later, Miracle Life Family Church (MLFC) was established on May 17, 1997 with seventeen members at Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka. Pastor David and Cheryl Newberry were the founding Pastors. The vision of the founding Pastors which carries on today is that it should be an international church for all, a church of great influence that would impact society in an effective way, a Church that would be an example and inspiration to many churches.

The Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs through this Constitution, independent of any denominational control. Recognizing the benefits of cooperation with other churches in world missions, this Church may voluntarily affiliate with any churches or ministries of like precious faith.

ARTICLE TWO

Name of Organization

2.0 Name of the Organization

2.1 The name of the organization is **Miracle Life Family Church**.

2.1.1 The organization is recognized as and conducts business in the registered identity of Miracle Life Family Church, as well as the acronym MLFC.

2.1.2 **Registered Office:** The registered office of the organization shall be situated at Plot No. 256, Zambezi Road, Foxdale in the Lusaka Province of the Republic of Zambia. This physical location shall not limit the activities or interest of the organization.

ARTICLE THREE

Purpose / Vision / Mission

3.0 Purpose of Existence

- 3.1 **Purpose:** To use the miracle power of God in building strong Christian families and equipping the saints for works of ministry, because people matter.

Strategies

- 3.1.1 Spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the worship of God among its attendants and practice the Christian virtues inculcated in the Holy Scriptures by any and all means possible.
- 3.1.2 Ordaining, employing and discharging ordained ministers of the gospel, and others, to conduct and carry on divine services at the place of worship of the Church, and elsewhere, and to collect and disburse any and all necessary funds for the maintenance of said Church and the accomplishment of its purpose within the nation of Zambia and elsewhere.
- 3.1.3 Educating the body of Christ through any and all educational means deemed appropriate.
- 3.1.4 Providing adult training through skills development courses, using classroom instruction, utilizing any and all forms of media available and those yet to be developed i.e. radio, television, printed material and electronic and any other form of media that may be developed.

3.2 Vision:

- 3.2.1 We see a Church of thousands that is healthy, growing and full of love;
- 3.2.2 We see a Church that is radically intentional and effective to present each person mature in Christ;
- 3.2.3 We see a Church where large numbers of children and youth are presented with the gospel in a manner that they can understand;
- 3.2.4 We see a Church where believers are developed through a process into godly leaders who are mature in character, knowledge and skill;
- 3.2.5 We see a Church whose beautiful and green campus is a bustling hub of kingdom activity;
- 3.2.6 We see a Church that sets a new Biblical standard on the African continent;
- 3.2.7 We see a Church whose head is Jesus, whose help is the Holy Spirit and whose focus is the Great Commission.

3.3 Mission Statement

“Sharing Christ, Maturing Believers, Changing the World”

3.4 Values

3.4.1 Biblical Authority and Instruction

We value the Bible as the inspired, unalterable, unchangeable Word of God. Therefore, we will equip disciples with sound doctrine, always relying on the Bible as our first and final authority. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Timothy 4:2)

3.4.2 Excellence

As a Church, we believe that to show value for people is to perform and serve with excellence. Therefore, we will serve with punctuality, quality, sharpness, and accuracy. We also believe that excellence should be extended to an individual level, so as to set a standard and be an example of God’s kingdom to those around you. (Matthew 5:14-16, 1 Corinthians 10:31-33, 1 Corinthians 14:40)

3.4.3 Family

We believe that the nuclear family and the Church family are the foundational pillars of a good society. We reflect God’s love and value for people by welcoming them and ministering to them at every stage of their lives. We also have marriage conferences, men’s and women’s events, and Sunday morning sermons designed to build on God’s blueprint of family. (1 Timothy 5:8, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Acts 2:44, 46-47)

3.4.4 Worship

As a Church, we believe in New Testament worship that is not only in the form of singing but also in our giving of tithes and offering, prayer, and communion. For these reasons, we provide opportunities for members to take part in these activities as a family. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8, Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Corinthians 11:24-26)

3.4.5 Diversity

We believe that God sent His Son Jesus to die for each and every person in the world. Therefore, as an international Church, we open our doors to people of all races, nationalities, age groups, and social classes. (Romans 10:12-13, Revelation 7:9)

3.4.6 Evangelism and Miracles

We believe that God has commissioned each one of us to bring the Good News to the lost. As a Church we aspire to corporately win people to faith in Christ. Therefore, we will pursue and strategically plan for opportunities to witness for Him. We also believe that God moves in the lives of people with the evidence of signs and wonders, and that the Holy

Spirit has empowered each one of us to believe and to have what we believe for. (Mark 16:15-18)

3.4.7 Leadership and Team Development

We believe that God designed the Church so that members are empowered contributors, each one using his or her gifts and talents for the work of the ministry. We aspire to deliberately coach, teach, train, and mentor members to use their gifts in serving others. (2 Timothy 2:2, 1 Corinthians 12:12)

3.4.8 Personal Responsibility and Service

We believe that your relationship with Jesus is personal, and that God holds each one of us responsible for the part we play in our families, lives, jobs, and ministry. We also believe that mature Christians bear the fruit of service. We are to serve as Jesus modeled service to us. As a Church we aspire to have our members grow in Christ through teaching, so the fruits of their hearts make an impact on the lives of people around them. (Matthew 25:14-30, Matthew 20:26b-28)

3.5 Partnerships with Other Organizations:

3.5.1 The Church is amenable to any affiliation to religious, charitable and educational institutions with similar beliefs or sharing common objectives;

3.5.2 The Church may accept, hold, invest, reinvest and administer any gifts, legacies, bequests, devises, funds and property of any sort or nature, and to use, expend, or donate the income or principal thereof for, and to devote the same to, the foregoing purposes of the Church;

3.5.3 The Church may do any and all lawful acts and things which may be necessary, useful, suitable, or proper for the furtherance of, accomplishment of the purposes of this Church.

3.5.4 Long term partnerships shall require approved "Memoranda of Understanding" between the organizations. All activities and affiliations that are performed shall not violate the Laws of Zambia.

3.6 Limitations

The powers of the Church to promote the purposes set out above are limited and restricted in the following manner:

3.6.1 No part of the earnings of the Church shall accrue to the benefit of or be distributable to its trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the Church shall be authorized and empowered to make payments and distributions (including reasonable compensation for services rendered to or for the Church or reimbursement of expenditures) in furtherance of its purposes as set forth in these articles.

- 3.6.2 No part of the activities of the Church shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or interventions in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
- 3.6.3 The Church shall not accept any gift or grant containing conditions which would restrict or violate any of the Church's religious, charitable or educational purposes or if the gift or grant would require serving a private as opposed to a public interest.

ARTICLE FOUR

Membership

4.0 Membership

The Church shall have two classes of membership, full membership and associate membership.

4.1 Full Membership

Full membership shall consist of persons who have met and continue to comply with the full qualifications and are on the membership roll.

4.2 Associate Membership

Associate membership shall consist of persons who reside in the City of Lusaka for a period of time not exceeding 5 years, provided they have a recommendation letter from their home church in the case of those who will be coming from another church.

4.3 Functions of members

- 4.3.1 To actively participate in the activities of the Church;
- 4.3.2 To participate in the implementation of the Church vision and mission;
- 4.3.3 To give time, talents, tithes and other resources to the Church;
- 4.3.4 To conduct themselves in a Christ like manner inside and outside of the Church; and
- 4.3.5 To take responsibility for personal spiritual development.

4.4 Qualifications for Membership

The minimum qualifications for membership are as follows:

- 4.4.1 A personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation and a willingness to live a godly and sanctified lifestyle as described and agreed upon at the completion of the required membership classes. The purpose of membership classes is to provide plural expectations of the applicant and the Church family in areas of commitment and service that flow in both directions.
- 4.4.2 Applicants for membership should have attended church services at Miracle Life Family Church for at least three months consecutively. Each adult family member above the age of 18 years must make a written application for membership. Applicants from other churches may be required to submit letters of recommendation from their former churches.
- 4.4.3 Members are expected to regularly participate in the activities of the Church. Involvement in the activities of the Church shall be determined by the leadership of the Church as set up by the Pastoral Team.

4.5 Loss of Membership

Membership shall cease under the following reasons:

- 4.5.1 On the written request of the member;
- 4.5.2 On the transfer of membership to another church;
- 4.5.3 Upon death of the member;
- 4.5.4 Upon a member's failure to consistently attend Church for a continuous period of six (6) months;
- 4.5.5 Termination of membership by the Office of the Senior Pastor as a result of the member not responding to biblical restorative counsel and discipline. This termination would only be exercised as a last option and done in consultation with the Pastoral Team.

4.6 Restoration of Membership

Membership may be restored by re-application except for loss of membership under 4.5.1 and 4.5.2 above. Membership under 4.5.4 will be restored by special considerations of the Office of the Senior Pastor in consultation with the Pastoral Team.

ARTICLE FIVE

Governance

5.0 Offices

There shall be the following offices recognized at Miracle Life Family Church;
Senior Pastor
Pastoral Team
Board of Trustees
Board of Overseers

5.1 Congregation

The congregation shall consist of all members of MLFC. Any member of the congregation can be called upon to assist the Pastoral Team and Board of Trustees in fulfilling the objectives of the Church. The Church members shall contribute to the governance of the Church through consultations by the Office of the Senior Pastor and other leaders of the Church.

5.2 Confidentiality

All persons serving in the offices prescribed shall hold in confidence all information that comes to their attention by virtue of serving in these offices under MLFC.

5.3 Conflict Resolution

Members of MLFC shall at all times resolve any conflicts that may arise in line with Biblical teaching as contained in Matthew 18:15-17 and shall approach the affected person on a one on one basis and if this does not resolve the conflict, a witness may be called in before escalating the matter to the Church leadership.

5.4 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

MLFC shall hold an Annual General Meeting before the expiry of ninety days after the end of the financial year. Only members of MLFC shall be eligible to attend the AGM. The notice for the AGM shall be 21 days communicated by way of announcement in Church and on Church website.

5.5 Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EOGM)

The Board of Trustees may convene an Extra Ordinary General meeting for the members of MLFC at any time during the year. Only members of MLFC shall be eligible to attend the Extra Ordinary General Meeting. The notice for the EOGM shall be 7 days communicated by way of announcement in Church and on Church website.

5.6 Common Seal

The MLFC common seal shall be held in safe custody at the registered office of MLFC and shall be used only with the authority of the Board of Trustees.

5.7 Logo

The Miracle Life Family Church logo is a cross in front of the starburst. The star is white in a royal blue setting. This signifies the centrality of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ on the cross and the hope and light that His church brings to the world. There are three colors in the logo: The cross is yellow and the star is white in a royal blue setting.

ARTICLE SIX

Office of Senior Pastor

6.0 The Office of the Senior Pastor

The oversight of Miracle Life Family Church shall be with the Office of the Senior Pastor and will be assisted by the officers covered in articles 7, 8 and 9.

6.1 Purpose

- 6.1.1 The Office of the Senior Pastor shall be responsible for the spiritual life of the Church by providing leadership and direction that ensures the fulfillment of the vision, mission and values;
- 6.1.2 The Office of the Senior Pastor may be occupied by two people simultaneously with distinct roles as shall be set out in their job descriptions; and
- 6.1.3 Where the Office of the Senior Pastor is occupied by two persons, the Lead Senior Pastor role shall be determined administratively at the time of appointment.

6.2 Qualifications

- 6.2.1 The qualifications of the person or persons selected for these roles are the Biblically based descriptions of those aspiring for the office of Elders as stipulated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9

“An elder must be blameless, the husband of one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an elder is entrusted with God’s work, he must be blameless – not overbearing, not quick tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather, he must be hospitable; one who loves what is good, who is self controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he will encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.” (Titus 1:6-9)

- 6.2.2 A holder of a Bachelors Degree or equivalent from a recognized institution;
- 6.2.3 A holder of a Diploma or equivalent in Theology or Biblical studies from a recognized institution;
- 6.2.4 A visionary and strategic thinker;
- 6.2.5 A team builder and team player with excellent coaching skills so as to develop leaders and provide mentorship; and

6.2.6 Should demonstrate a genuine love for people through their conduct and observable commitment to serving others.

6.3 Selection

6.3.1 The Office of the Senior Pastor shall select their successor(s) after prayer and consultation with the Board of Trustees and the Board of Overseers. The goal is to select God's men or women to lead the Church into its future to achieve the vision and mission as defined in this Constitution; and

6.3.2 Where the Office of the Senior Pastor is unable or becomes ineligible to select their successor(s), the selection shall be done by the Board of Overseers as referred to under article 9.

6.4 Functions

6.4.1 Oversee and coordinate the day to day ministry of the congregation and operations of the Church with the help of the Pastoral Team and administrative staff;

6.4.2 Appoint a Board of Overseers pursuant to article 9;

6.4.3 Select Trustees pursuant to article 8 who will exercise oversight of the business of the Church;

6.4.4 Preach and teach God's word, counsel, mentor and provide general pastoral care and support to the congregation;

6.4.5 Oversee budgeting, hiring staff, projects, ministry and specialized ministries;

6.4.6 Ensure that all orders and resolutions of the Board of Trustees are implemented;

6.4.7 Authorize the purpose, structure, and content of all services. No person shall be invited to speak, teach or minister at a service held under MLFC without the approval of the Office of the Senior Pastor;

6.4.8 Provide a Biblical vision and strategic direction for the Church;

6.4.9 Be ex-officio members of all standing and adhoc committees; and

6.4.10 Exercise general powers and duties of supervision and management vested in the Office of the Senior Pastor.

6.5 Removal

A Senior Pastor may be removed from their position by the Board of Overseers for the following reasons pursuant to article 9.

6.5.1 Questionable moral conduct such as illicit sexual activities;

- 6.5.2 Questionable practices such as theft, fraud, or tax evasion;
- 6.5.3 Departure from fundamental teachings of scriptures and tenets of faith of MLFC;
- 6.5.4 Mental or physical incapacity to discharge the functions of the office on recommendations of a Medical Board;
- 6.5.5 Breach of the pastoral code of conduct; and
- 6.5.6 Any conduct, criminal or otherwise, that may bring the integrity of the Church into disrepute.

6.6 Transition and Succession

- 6.6.1 If a Senior Pastor in good standing with the Church is removing themselves because of resignation, retirement or relocation, the Office of the Senior Pastor shall appoint their successors.
- 6.6.2 If a Senior Pastor is removed by the Board of Overseers, they shall not participate in the selection process of the new Senior Pastor. The Board of Overseers shall appoint the new Senior Pastor.

ARTICLE SEVEN

Pastoral Team

7.0 Pastoral Team

7.1 Purpose

The Pastoral Team shall be made up of men and women called by God and appointed by the Senior Pastors as those who help carry the ministerial responsibilities for MLFC. The Pastoral Team shall be responsible for coordinating and implementing the ministry programs of the Church.

7.2 Qualifications

7.2.1 The qualifications of persons selected for these roles are the Biblically based descriptions of those aspiring for the office of Elders as stipulated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9

“An elder must be blameless, the husband of one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an elder is entrusted with God’s work, he must be blameless – not overbearing, not quick tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather, he must be hospitable; one who loves what is good, who is self controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he will encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.” (Titus 1:6-9)

7.2.2 Demonstrate the skill sets that are concurrent with the responsibilities of the specific area of ministry required for their function; and

7.2.3 The Pastoral Team shall be responsible for the smooth running of the Church and implementation of policies as formulated by the Office of the Senior Pastor and Board of Trustees.

7.3 Selection

Members of the Pastoral Team shall be recruited by the Office of the Senior Pastor.

7.4 Functions

The Pastoral Team shall be responsible to the Office of the Senior Pastor and assigned with the oversight of the spiritual life of the Church by providing leadership and direction that ensures the fulfillment of the vision, mission and values.

7.5 Removal

Any member of the Pastoral Team may be removed from the team and dismissed from employment under the following circumstances:

- 7.5.1 When they along with the Senior Pastors determine God is calling them to transition to another area of ministry;
- 7.5.2 Not performing to the requirements of their contracted responsibilities;
- 7.5.3 Questionable moral conduct such as illicit sexual activities;
- 7.5.4 Questionable practices such as theft, fraud or tax evasion;
- 7.5.5 Departure from fundamental teachings of scriptures and tenets of faith of MLFC;
- 7.5.6 Mental or physical incapacity to discharge the functions of the office on recommendations of a Medical Board;
- 7.5.7 Breach of the Pastoral code of conduct; and
- 7.5.8 Any conduct, criminal or otherwise, that may bring the integrity of the Church into disrepute.

ARTICLE EIGHT

Board of Trustees

8.0 Board of Trustees

8.1 Purpose

There shall be a Board of Trustees with a fiduciary obligation to the Church.

8.2 Qualifications of Trustees

- 8.2.1 Must be an active member of MLFC who consistently participates, serves and tithes;
- 8.2.2 Must be above reproach, husband of one wife, temperate, self controlled, respectable, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money, must manage his family well and his children must obey him with proper respect;
- 8.2.3 The Trustees shall be selected based on their experience and skills set that will help guide the Church into the future;
- 8.2.4 A person appointed Trustee shall be a person who has the capacity to create, to hold and dispose of any equitable estate or interest in property;
- 8.2.5 The Office of the Senior Pastor, shall not appoint two immediate family members to serve as trustees at any one time. Immediate family member shall be defined as spouse, father, mother, son, son in law, daughter, daughter in law, grandchild, brother, sister, brother in law, sister in law;
- 8.2.6 Except for the Office of the Senior Pastor, no member of MLFC who has a spouse, father, mother, son, son in law, daughter, daughter in law, grandchild, brother, brother in law, sister or sister in law serving as a full time member of staff under MLFC shall be eligible for appointment to the Board of Trustees.

8.3 Selection Criteria

- 8.3.1 The Board of Trustees shall consist of nine persons including members of Office of the Senior Pastor;
- 8.3.2 Where the Office of the Senior Pastor is occupied by two Senior Pastors, the Office of the Senior Pastor shall appoint seven Trustees;
- 8.3.3 Where the Office of the Senior Pastor is occupied by one Senior Pastor, the Senior Pastor shall appoint eight Trustees in accordance with the qualifications stipulated under article 8.2; and
- 8.3.4 The Board of Trustees shall ratify the appointments after thorough consultation with mature believers that understand the qualifications and requirements for the selection of a Trustee;

8.3.5 The Trustees shall elect a Chairperson from among themselves and any person or persons occupying the Office of Senior Pastor shall not be eligible for election as Chairperson of the Board of Trustees.

8.4 Functions

8.4.1 The Board of Trustees shall have powers to buy and sell real estate, borrow money or secure real estate leases on behalf of the Church;

8.4.2 The Board of Trustees shall be empowered to set up Adhoc Committees to assist in carrying out its functions;

8.4.3 Oversee the provision of the physical facilities needed by the Church including coordination of construction projects;

8.4.5 The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for ensuring that an annual audit is carried out by an independent public accounting firm;

8.4.6 The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for ensuring that title of land, buildings and property are registered in the name of the Church as provided for under the Land (Perpetuity and Succession) Act, Chapter 186 of the Laws of Zambia;

8.4.7 The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for the protection and the security of the property of the Church;

8.4.8 Setting compensation for the Senior Pastors to be reviewed annually as part of the annual budget process;

8.4.9 To ensure policy formulation and adherence on matters related to the Management of the Church including but not limited to financial management, Human resource management, risk management and procurement;

8.4.10 To approve and monitor the implementation of the budget with provision for regularly scheduled reviews; and

8.4.11 To contact the Board of Overseers in a matter involving the misconduct of the Senior Pastors pursuant to article 6.5 after a resolution has been passed by a two thirds majority of those present.

8.5 Tenure

8.5.1 The term of office for each Trustee shall be three years mutually renewable for an additional two terms according to ministry needs;

8.5.2 A Trustee who has served three consecutive terms may be eligible for future terms after taking a year's break.

8.6 Removal

- 8.6.1 The Office of the Senior Pastor may remove a Trustee if circumstances so warrant in consultation with the Board of Trustees;
- 8.6.2 Questionable moral conduct such as illicit sexual activities;
- 8.6.3 Questionable practices such as theft, fraud, or tax evasion;
- 8.6.4 A Trustee who is removed or resigns shall make good and proper handover to the Board of Trustees and render true and detailed financial accounts of their stewardship;
- 8.6.5 If they no longer meet the qualifications in article 8.2;
- 8.6.6 Mental or physical incapacity to discharge the functions of the office on recommendations of a Medical Board;
- 8.6.7 A Trustee ceases to hold office if they resign from office; and
- 8.6.8 Any conduct, criminal or otherwise, that may bring the integrity of the Church into disrepute.

8.7 Meetings

The Trustees shall hold at least four pre-scheduled meetings in the year. The Office of the Senior Pastor or the Chairperson may call a meeting at any time subject to attainment of a quorum. Any Trustee can propose a meeting through the Chairperson or Office of the Senior Pastor.

8.8 Location of Meetings

Meetings of the Trustees may be held at such a place or places as shall from time to time be determined by the Trustees or fixed by the Office of the Senior Pastor and designated in the notice of the meeting, provided that the annual general meeting shall be held at the registered office of the Church.

8.9 Teleconferencing

At any meeting of the Board of Trustees, any Trustee may participate in the meeting by telephone provided all members of the Trustees present at the meeting or by telephone can hear and speak to each other. Participation by telephone shall be equivalent to attending the meeting in person.

8.10 Quorum

Five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Trustees. Failure to constitute a quorum shall lead to adjournment of the meeting until a quorum is established or to such date as shall be proposed. A resolution shall be passed by a simple majority.

8.11 Remuneration

Trustees shall not receive any salaries or allowances or compensation for their services unless the Trustee is also an employee of the Church. However, Trustees may claim reimbursements of expenses incurred in carrying out official Church functions.

ARTICLE NINE

Board of Overseers

9.0 Board of Overseers

The Board of Overseers, who shall be ex officio members of MLFC, shall be selected from within Zambia and elsewhere so as not to have vested interest in the operations of the Church. This will guarantee objectivity in the handling of issues.

9.1 Purpose

There shall be a Board of Overseers consisting of five Senior Clergy whose primary role shall be to select Senior Pastors where the incumbent Pastor is unable to select their successor due to removal or death.

9.2 Qualifications

The members of the Board of Overseers must be active Senior Clergy of respected congregations who know and love MLFC and its Senior Pastors or be ministers known for their Godly wisdom and authority. They must agree to make themselves available to MLFC whenever called upon by the Board of Trustees.

9.3 Selection Criteria

A Board of Overseers shall be appointed by the Office of the Senior Pastor and ratified by the Board of Trustees after consultations with their peers and those in authority over them.

9.4 Removal of Overseers

The Overseers shall be removed under the following circumstances:

9.4.1 Questionable moral conduct such as illicit sexual activities;

9.4.2 Questionable practices such as theft, fraud, or tax evasion;

9.4.3 Mental or physical incapacity to discharge the functions of the office on recommendations of a Medical Board;

9.4.4 Death;

9.4.5 Resignation; and

9.4.6 Departure from the fundamental teachings of scriptures and tenets of faith.

9.5 Functions /Roles

- 9.5.1 The main function of the Board of Overseers shall be to select Senior Pastors when the incumbent is unable to appoint their successor;
- 9.5.2 They shall be called upon by the Board of Trustees at a time when it becomes necessary to replace the Senior Pastors for alleged misconduct;
- 9.5.3 The Board of Overseers shall remove a Senior Pastor based on the reasons stipulated under article 6.5;
- 9.5.4 Should the Board of Overseers be asked to investigate alleged pastoral misconduct, a consensus of three of the five Overseers shall be required to take disciplinary action. With such a consensus, the Overseers shall assume complete authority over the Senior Pastors; they may decide to remove them from their position or to discipline them in any way they deem necessary; and
- 9.5.5 The Overseers have no authority in MLFC unless contacted by the Board of Trustees and then only in so far as permitted by this Constitution. The Overseers shall only respond to a request that is made by a motion supported by two-thirds of the Trustees present.

ARTICLE TEN

Amendment to the Constitution

10.0 Amendment to the Constitution

- 10.1 The Board of Trustees shall, at any meeting, amend this Constitution by two-thirds majority votes of Trustees with the exception of the Statement of Faith.
- 10.2 The meeting referred to in article 10.1 shall be valid upon giving the Trustees 21 days written notice of the meeting together with proposed amendments and explanations to the proposed amendments.
- 10.3 At the determination of the Board with specific guidelines, a select multidisciplinary team of eminent church members shall be appointed to deliberate and recommend to the Board, the repealing and replacement of the Constitution for enactment.

ARTICLE ELEVEN

Statement of Faith

THE SCRIPTURES - The Bible is the inspired Word of God, the product of holy men of old who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. The New Covenant, as recorded in the New Testament, we accept as our infallible guide in matters pertaining to conduct and doctrine (2 Tim. 3:16; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

THE TRINITY - The Son is the Word flesh-covered, the One Begotten, and has existed with the Father from the beginning (John 1:1; John 1:18; John 1:14). The Holy Spirit proceeds forth from both the Father and the Son and is eternal (John 14:16; John 15:26).

MAN, HIS FALL AND REDEMPTION - Man is a created being, made in the likeness and image of God, but through Adam's transgression and fall, sin came into the world. The Bible says "...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God," and "...There is none righteous, no, not one." (Rom. 3:10; 3:23). Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, was crucified and buried, rose again and ascended to the Father. Jesus Christ was manifested to undo the works of the devil and gave His life and shed His blood to redeem and restore man back to God (Rom. 5:14; 1 John 3:8).

Salvation is the gift of God to man, separate from works and the Law, and is made operative by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, producing works acceptable to God (Eph. 2:8-10).

ETERNAL LIFE AND THE NEW BIRTH - The new birth is necessary to all men, and when experienced, produces eternal life (2 Cor. 7:10; John 3:3-5; 1 John 5:12).

WATER BAPTISM - Baptism in water is by immersion, is a direct commandment of our Lord, and is for believers only. The ordinance is a symbol of the Christian's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; Acts 8:36-39).

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY GHOST - The Baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire is a gift from God as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to all believers in this dispensation and is received subsequent to the new birth. This experience is accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit Himself gives utterance and by the subsequent manifestation of spiritual power in public service (Matt. 3:11; John 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:38,39; Acts 19:1-7; Acts 2:1-4).

SANCTIFICATION - We believe in the Doctrine of Sanctification as a definite, yet progressive work of grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation at Christ's return. The Holy Spirit enables the believer to live a life of holiness and obedience. (Hebrews 12:14; 1 Thess 5:23; 2 Peter 3:18; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Phil. 3:12-14; 1 Cor. 1:30).

DIVINE HEALING - Healing is for the physical ills of the human body and is wrought by the power of God through the prayer of faith, and by the laying on of hands. It is provided for in the atonement of Christ, and is the privilege of every member of the Church today (James 5:14, 15; Mark 16:18; Isaiah. 53:4,5; Matt. 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24).

RESURRECTION OF THE JUST AND THE RETURN OF OUR LORD - The angels said to Jesus' disciples, "...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." His coming is imminent. When He comes, "...the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air..." (Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 4:16, 17).

Following the Tribulation, He shall return to earth as King of kings, and Lord of lords, and together with His saints, who shall be kings and priests; He shall reign a thousand years (Rev. 5:10; 20:6).

HELL AND ETERNAL RETRIBUTION - The one who physically dies in his sins without accepting Christ is hopelessly and eternally lost in the lake of fire and, therefore, has no further opportunity of hearing the Gospel or repenting. The lake of fire is literal. The terms "eternal" and "everlasting," used in describing the duration of the punishment of the damned in the lake of fire, carry the same thought and meaning of endless existence as used in denoting the duration of joy and ecstasy of saints in the Presence of God (Heb. 9:27; Rev. 19:20).

ARTICLE TWELVE

Dissolution

12.0 Dissolution

- 12.1 Dissolution may arise voluntarily or as a result of court action. Voluntary dissolution will involve the congregation making submissions and only after a two-thirds majority of the members of the Church voting for the dissolution.
- 12.2 Upon dissolution or winding up of the Church, the Board of Trustees shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the Church, distribute all the remaining assets of the Church to any organization/organizations of like faith and which is exempt from taxes under the registrar of societies.
- 12.3 In the event that the dissolution is necessitated by court action, the court may determine how the liabilities shall be paid and how the assets shall be disposed of.