

Constitution

PREAMBLE

This Constitution and Bylaws are made to:

1. Preserve and secure the principles of our faith.
2. Preserve the liberties of each individual member of the church.
3. Ensure freedom of action of independence from any religious body or organization.
4. Provide for orderly conduct of internal affairs, in dealing with others, and or governing church members.

I. NAME

The name of this church shall be Victory Baptist Church Marion County TN. We will be an Independent, Premillennial, Missionary, Baptist Church.

II. LOCATION

The address of the church shall be 2420 Valley View Hwy, Jasper, TN 37347. The Mailing Address will be PO Box 1057 Jasper, TN 37374.

III. MISSION

Abiding in Christ, as a local body of believers, we desire to cultivate and sustain a climate of love and outreach where people are drawn and guided to respond in faith to the restoring and reconciling love of God in Christ Jesus, as evidenced by His Holy Word and His work in our lives.

IV. OBJECTIVES

To be a church that:

- Worships God as a fellowship of believers, in the power of the Holy Spirit, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- Ministers to each other, our community, and all the world.
- Leads the lost to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, both at home and around the world.
- Nurtures Christian growth through preaching, teaching, and fellowship.

V. ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God, without error, the all-sufficient authority in matters of faith, doctrine, and Christian living.
2. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, and that He is true God and man. He died on the cross for our sins. He rose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven where He sits at the right hand of the Father and is now our High Priest and Advocate.

4. We believe that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost. Only through the regeneration by the work of the Holy Spirit can man's salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
5. We believe that eternal salvation is the free gift of God, entirely apart from man's works, and is possessed by any and all who have faith in and receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.
6. We believe in a regenerated church membership: that is, persons old enough to understand their need for Jesus Christ and, of their own free will, have accepted Him as their personal Lord and Savior.
7. We believe that baptism is by immersion and the Lord's Supper is a memorial to His suffering and death on the cross. These are ordinances to be observed by the church in its present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as a means for man's salvation.
8. We believe in the personal, bodily, imminent, and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ and that His Second Coming inspires believers for dynamic and zealous life and service for Him while waiting for His return.
9. We believe in the autonomy of the local church. The church shall manage its own affairs and shall not be subject to any other religious body or organizations.

VI. CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour 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 in 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 our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of, intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

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 Saviour 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. ORDINANCE OF CONDUCT

All members of Victory Baptist Church Marion County TN are expected to maintain a lifestyle that is consistent with Biblical teaching. The Church reserves unto itself the right and responsibility to interpret the scripture, as led by the Holy Spirit, in all such matters. It is imperative that employees and members favorably represent Jesus Christ and Victory Baptist Church to the community at all times. Conduct which brings embarrassment or dishonor to the name of Jesus Christ or impedes the Church's credibility within the community and/or with other Churches, or conduct perceived by the Church to be inconsistent with the beliefs, faith or mission of the Church is unacceptable. Examples of unacceptable lifestyles include, but are not limited to, sale/use of alcohol, sale/use of illegal drugs, abuse of prescription drugs, pornography, pre-marital or extramarital sex, cohabitation apart from the marriage relationship, homosexuality, transgender, and polygamy lifestyles. In the case of a difference of opinion in the church, we will strive to avoid a contentious spirit, and if we cannot unanimously agree, we will cheerfully recognize the right of the majority to govern. Members exhibiting unacceptable behavior will be subject to Church Discipline as provided for in the Bylaws of this Church.

VIII. GOVERNMENT

The government of Victory Baptist Church Marion County TN is vested in its members. This is a sovereign and democratic Baptist Church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the right of exclusive self-government in all phases of its life and organization. The Victory Baptist Church Marion County TN membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this Church and conditions of membership.

IX. AMENDMENT

This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the members present at a regular or called business meeting provided the proposed action is presented at a business meeting not less than one month before the time of the vote and is either read from the pulpit on the next Sunday succeeding the proposal or written copies of the proposal are made available to the membership.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

GENERAL

Membership of Victory Baptist Church Marion County TN shall consist of people who have made a profession for their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and who, having been scripturally baptized by immersion, and are in agreement with the Articles of Faith, Church Covenant, and Ordinance of Conduct of the Church. The Church reserves the right to limit membership to those individuals whose conduct and behavior is consistent with the expectations of a Christian as determined solely by Victory Baptist Church Marion County TN.

A. RECEPTION

Any person may offer himself as a candidate for membership in this Church. Following counseling by the pastor, all such candidates shall be presented to the Church at a regular church service. Membership in the church may be attained by voice vote of the church in any of its services and in one of the following manners:

1. By profession of faith in Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior and scriptural baptism by immersion.
2. By transfer of church letter from another Baptist church.
3. By a statement of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and having been scripturally baptized by immersion, those who have been members of Baptist churches which may no longer exist or for whom records have been lost may be accepted. Likewise those who have previously been a member of a Baptist Church, have gone to another denomination and wish to return may come on statement.
4. Those of other denominations may unite with this church by a statement of faith of their prior experience of conversion and scriptural baptism by immersion in another evangelical church of like faith and practice if their understanding of baptism is consistent with this church's symbolic understanding of baptism.
5. By restoration to the church membership after having been removed from the roll by disciplinary action of the church.

B. TERMINATION

1. Membership in this church shall be terminated when a member:
2. Requests a letter of transfer to join another Baptist church.
3. Is removed from the roll of membership when he or she joins a church of another denomination. (A letter of transfer is not necessary.)
4. Is deceased.
5. Is dismissed by a vote of the church due to immoral or unchristian conduct as described in the Ordinance of Conduct of these Bylaws and has become an offense to the church and its good name. Such action shall not be taken until faithful efforts have been made to bring such members to repentance and amendment. All requests for such termination of membership shall first be referred to the Pastor and the deacons who shall make recommendation to the church.

C. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

Every member of the Church:

1. Is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the Church in conference, provided a member is present.
 - When serious matters are before the church - such as issuing a call for Pastor or amending the Constitution and Bylaws - and a vote will be taken with only active members being able to vote.
2. Is eligible for consideration by the membership as candidates for elective offices in the church.
3. May participate in the ordinances of the Church as administered by the Church.
4. Should strive to attend regularly the services of this Church.

5. Should give cheerfully to the support and causes of the Church as God has prospered them.
6. Should discover, develop and deploy their spiritual gifts in the ministries of the Church.
7. Should become a student of the Word of God and prayer.
8. King James Version Bible will be used for all teaching, and scripture reading.

D. DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

It is expected that every member shall practice self-discipline with the aid of the Holy Spirit. It shall be the practice of this Church to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The pastor and deacons are available for counsel and guidance. Reconciliation rather than punishment should be the guideline that governs the attitude of one member toward another. Should some serious condition exist which would cause a member to become a liability to the general welfare of the church, every reasonable measure will be taken by the pastor and deacons to resolve the problem in accordance with Matthew 18:15-35, I Corinthians 5:1-13, II Corinthians 2:1-11.

E. MEMBER REVIEW

Victory Baptist Church Marion County TN will reserve the right to review membership status of every member at minimum once a year by Pastor and Deacons. Membership will be listed as Active, Inactive, Deceased or Transferred letter. These will be defined as:

- 1 **Active**- any member that is faithfully attending services.
- 2 **Inactive**-any member that is not faithfully attending services
 - a. Any member who has missed church for 30 calendar days will be considered an inactive member with special circumstances being reviewed (i.e. sickness, family issues, work not including voluntary overtime or work.)
 - b. A member can become active by showing faithful attendance for 90 calendar days. After the 90 calendar days they can ask the Pastor or Deacons to be moved back to active status.

ARTICLE II. CHURCH OFFICERS

All church officers must be members of the church in good standing. The officers of Victory Baptist Church Marion County TN shall be the Pastor, Annual Officers List, Trustees, Deacons, Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

A.PASTOR

The qualifications for pastor shall be consistent with those listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7. Additionally, the Pastor shall be a Christian man who has experienced a call from God to pastoral ministry. The Pastor is the leader of pastoral ministries of the Church. As such he works with the deacon body and the church:

- lead the church in performing its mission
- lead the church to engage in a fellowship of worship, witness, education, ministry, and application
- proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers
- care for the church's members and other persons in the community
- serve as moderator at church business meetings

The Pastor shall be elected at a meeting called for that purpose, with at least one week's public notice to the church body. Election shall be by majority vote being necessary to extend the call. Upon acceptance, the pastor shall be called for an indefinite period. The Pastor shall serve until the relationship is terminated by his request or the request of the church. He shall have the right to resign the care of the church by giving a 30 day written notice of his intention. The church shall also have the right to dissolve the relationship by giving a similar notice, after discussion and vote, with majority vote to terminate. The notice period may be reduced by mutual agreement.

B. ANNUAL OFFICERS LIST

The Church shall elect every September Officers and Teachers of Victory Baptist Church, This will include, Choir leaders, Sunday School Teachers, Ushers and other offices of the Victory Baptist Church.

1. The Annual Teachers List will be listed in the church 30 days prior to vote for active members for desired position.
2. The Pastor and Deacons will arrange the Annual Officers List and present in the monthly men's/business meetings.
3. If vacancy of a position opens up throughout the year the position may be filled by whomever the Pastor and Deacons seem fit.
4. If any member on the Annual Officers list does becomes inactive, steps down or fails to comply with our Ordinance of Conduct they can be removed from position at the request of the Pastor and Deacons.

C. DEACONS

1. NUMBER AND TERM OF OFFICE

- a. The number of deacons serving the congregation shall be determined by Pastor. Deacons are added as the needs of the church may dictate. There is no rotation of deacons.
- b. In the event a deacon feels he can no longer fulfill his duties and requests to resign, he may do so by informing the Pastor. In the event that this deacon requests to become active again, being in good standing with the church, a simple majority vote of the active deacons would be needed to reinstate.
- c. If a deacon has conduct that is not becoming to that of the office of deacon, he may be dismissed from the duty upon recommendation of the pastor, deacons and a majority vote of the church membership in attendance at a business meeting called by the pastor solely for that purpose. He may not be reinstated or be eligible for re-election if dismissed by the church membership.

2. QUALIFICATIONS AND ELECTION

- a. Any candidate for the office of deacon must have been a Christian for at least 5 years prior to election. A man who is not already ordained must have been a member of Victory Baptist Church Marion County TN for at least three years prior to election. A man who has been previously ordained in the Baptist faith must have been a member of Victory Baptist Church Marion County TN for 1 year prior to election. All nominees must be males over 25 years of age and must be married. In honor of the sanctity of marriage

and in obedience to scripture this shall be a monogamous marriage between a man and a woman.

- b. Candidates for deacon will be nominated by the members of Victory Baptist Church Marion County TN. Nominees will be screened and interviewed by the Pastor and Deacon. Qualified candidates, willing to serve, will be presented to the Church for approval or disapproval after a minimum of 3 months but no longer than 12 month watch period. A majority vote of the church membership in attendance at a business meeting shall be required for election.
- c. The Victory Baptist Church Marion County TN adheres to the biblical qualifications for deacon found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Act 6:3. These qualifications are set against the qualifications of the pastor which are listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7. The similarities between the qualifications of pastors and deacons underscore the tremendous responsibility deacons have for service. Deacons, as with other leaders of the church, are held to a strict accountability by God and should also be held accountable by the local church. Based on these scripture passages, deacons of Victory Baptist Church Marion County TN shall be required to meet the following qualifications:
 - i. A deacon must have a good reputation. The phrase "of good reputation" is synonymous with the word "reverent." To be "reverent" is to be "honorable" and "devout." A deacon's reputation should be seen in his home and in his work outside the church.
 - ii. A deacon must be a man of his word. A deacon is a man who can be trusted. He must not say one thing and do another. This qualification is one of trust.
 - iii. A deacon must try to live above reproach. Realizing our sinful nature is present in all we do, we believe a deacon must strive to live a life that does not call into question his integrity and growing relationship with God.
 - iv. A deacon must be a faithful steward to his church. This is to say that a deacon financially should tithe at a minimum. However, his stewardship should be demonstrated in all facets of his life including time, energy, gifts and resources.
 - v. A deacon must have a good grip of God's word. This means that a deacon should be a student of God's word and be Spirit-fed.
 - vi. A deacon must be proven. This means that a deacon should be faithful to his family, to his church and in his personal walk with God.
 - vii. A deacon must be the "husband of one wife". Our church has set a high standard for deacons to be the husband of one wife (no divorced men), to maintain sexual purity, and to be committed and faithful to his wife. It is still our priority to uphold this standard based on our interpretation of 1 Timothy 3:12. Our church does recognize divorce as an unfortunate result of sin in the world, but understands the ability of God's grace to transform and renew those who have experienced it. Our church also recognizes that in the event of a biblically permitted divorce, as defined in Matthew 5:32, Matthew 19:9, and 1 Corinthians 7:15-17, men can overcome this weakness in spiritual leadership by demonstrating a long pattern of solid family leadership.
 - viii. A deacon must be the spiritual leader of his home. It is in the home that a deacon develops his spiritual leadership by setting the proper example, and showing love

to his wife and children, if any. He should lead and serve humbly, as well as teach the scripture in his home.

- d. The qualifications of a deacon's wife are found in 1 Timothy 3:11. They are:
- i. A deacon's wife should be reverent. This means that the wife will also put Christ first in her life and demonstrate her love and worship of Him.
 - ii. A deacon's wife should be responsible. A deacon's wife will be supportive of the husband's role and responsibility as a deacon. She should regard the entire ministry with care and confidentiality.
 - iii. A deacon's wife should be self-controlled. A deacon's wife will exercise self-control in every area of her life, and take seriously her role as the wife of a deacon.
 - iv. A deacon's wife should be faithful. The deacon's wife, like her husband, will be faithful in all things including her service, gifts, energy and tithing.

Any man who agrees to be considered for the office of deacon must know that he and his wife will be held accountable for these qualifications, and both must agree that with God's help they will strive to live up to each of the qualifications.

If upon reviewing the qualifications listed for a deacon of the church, the nominee does not feel he fulfills these qualifications, he may remove his name.

Because the deacons of Victory Baptist Church Marion County TN serve alongside the pastor, they must be held to a high standard and level of accountability. His personal character, family life and devotion to Christ must come under the serious scrutiny of God's word. A deacon must be worthy of his calling.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. As an ordained man led by the Holy Spirit, a deacon is charged with the duty of being a servant to the church and providing advisement and recommendations that promote harmony and unity of church function. Recommendations are subject to the approval of the church membership.
- b. A deacon is a spiritual leader and is expected to assist the pastor in overall spiritual growth of the church, the observance of the Lord's Supper, baptisms, and care of the church congregation in a spiritual manner with emphasis on its widows, widowers, orphans, the sick and needy.
- c. Deacons should lead in providing prayer for the worship services. That should include prayer for the music ministry and prayer for the pastor delivering the message. Deacons may elect to pray with the Pastor and or worship pastor/choir before each service.
- d. The deacons and Pastor should work together as a team for the needs of the church. If any conflict should arise it should be resolved quickly in a Biblical manner as stated in Matthew 18:15-20. No deacon or pastor should let a conflict become larger than the focus of the worship of our Lord Jesus Christ and the proclamation of His Gospel.
- e. Each deacon is responsible for promoting harmony and unity in the church. Each deacon should encourage each member to be respectful of each other's opinion and find common Biblical ground so that each member remains focused on the will of our Lord Jesus Christ and not their own.

- f. Each deacon should be faithful in attendance and giving and keeping up with their list of members
- g. In the event that Victory Baptist Church is without a Pastor the Pastoral Authority will fall upon the Deacons.

D. CLERK

1. The church clerk shall be elected and will be responsible for keeping an accurate record of all business meeting transactions of the church, preparing and presenting the minutes of such meetings, and preparing the annual report to the congregation.
2. He or she shall keep a register of the names and addresses of the church members, with dates of admission, dismissal, and deaths of members of the church family.
3. He or she shall be responsible for requesting letters of transfer for membership from another church for a person requesting transfer to another church.

E. TREASURER/ASSISTANT TREASURER

1. The treasurer/assistant treasurer shall have been a member in good standing of the church for at least five years and shall be elected by a majority vote of the church membership in attendance at a business meeting called for that purpose.
2. The treasurer/assistant treasurer shall serve for life but may resign at any time.
3. The treasurer/assistant treasurer shall have knowledge of current accounting software and practices.
4. In the event that circumstances arise that show dishonesty, gross mishandling of church funds, or behavior unbecoming that of a church office, the treasurer/assistant treasurer may be dismissed from duty by request from Pastor and Deacons. .
5. The treasurer/assistant treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of all church monies which will include regular monetary gifts, tithes and offerings, love offerings, designated monetary gifts, and memorial funds.
6. The treasurer/assistant treasurer shall be responsible for the prompt payment of all approved expenses upon receipt of an invoice from the provider. The treasurer shall keep, at all times, an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements and shall render a monthly written report of this account to the church.
7. The treasurer shall be responsible for filing quarterly 941 payroll reports, file IRS W-2's, and other required IRS documents and shall provide financial information to the insurance carrier for workman's compensation.
8. The treasurer shall prepare a monthly financial report to be presented to the church at each business meeting and an annual financial report to be given the first of the fiscal year.
9. All books, records, and accounts kept by the treasurer shall be considered property of the church and shall be open to inspection at all times.

ARTICLE III. CHURCH COMMITTEES

A. SEARCH COMMITTEE

When the office of Pastor is vacant, a Search Committee of the deacons and a maximum of 4 members whom the deacons seem fit for the specific purpose of filling the vacancy. When their task is accomplished, the committee will cease to exist. The Search Committee shall:

1. Arrange pulpit supply until an interim is selected.
2. Contact all references of potential candidates and request background checks as needed.
3. Arrange for the potential candidate to preach a trial sermon, lead in worship or other activity as appropriate to enable both the candidate and the Church to be formally introduced and for the Church to hear the candidate's testimony
4. When the committee has found a potential candidate or candidates they will contact the candidate for position and if interested they will present the candidate /candidates to the church in a special called business meeting.

ARTICLE IV. LICENSED PREACHERS AND PASTORS

Victory Baptist Church Marion County TN believes that the sanctity of marriage is holy and ordained of God between Man and Wife as defined by the Bible. No licensed or ordained Preacher or Pastor by Victory Baptist Church Marion County TN shall perform a marriage ceremony for a couple that participates in Homosexual, Transgender, or Polygamy lifestyles nor the use of Properties owned by Victory Baptist Church Marion County TN.