

Ninth Street Missionary Baptist Church
Constitution and By-Laws



NINTH STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
231 E NINTH STREET
COVINGTON, KENTUCKY 41011

Ninth Street Missionary Baptist Church

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CONSTITUTION

VISION -

NINTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH IS A LIVING CHURCH AS EVIDENCED BY THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF ITS TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AND THE FRUIT WE BEAR.

MISSION -

THE MISSION OF THE NINTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO DELIVER THE WORD OF GOD BY WITNESS IN WORD AND DEED.

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this church shall be Ninth Street Missionary Baptist Church of Covington, KY.

The name of this principle corporation is "Ninth Street Missionary Baptist Church, Inc." The corporation address is 231 East Ninth Street, Covington, KY, 41011. The corporation is organized pursuant to the KENTUCKY Nonprofit Corporation Code.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE, FOUNDATION, OBJECT AND PRIORITIES OF MINISTRY

This Corporation is a charitable non-profit public benefit corporation and is organized for charitable, community and educational purposes, more specifically being a congregational church of the Baptist faith. To this end, the corporation will at all times be operated exclusively for charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as now enacted hereafter amended. All funds, whether income or principal, and whether acquired by gift or contribution or otherwise, shall be devoted to said purposes.

1. The foundation of this Church is the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:11), and its code of guidance in all its affairs, the Word of God known as the Holy Bible, and this Church does here affirm its faith that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of Almighty God (Mark 13:31).

2. The object of this Church shall be to worship God according to the teaching of His Word, to practice the precepts and examples of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ as set forth in the New Testament, to sustain its ordinances and doctrines and to preach and propagate among all peoples the Gospel of Salvation which is by personal faith on Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

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3. The priorities of ministry of this church flow from the vision of God's glory revealed in Jesus Christ. We exist to savor this vision in worship (John 4:23), strengthen the vision in nurture and education (1 Corinthians 14:26; 2 Peter 3:18), and spread the vision in evangelism, missions, and loving deeds (1 Peter 2:9; 3:15; Matthew 28:18-20; 5:16).

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH – WHAT WE BELIEVE

I. THE WORD OF GOD

We believe and teach that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31,32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32

II. THE TRINITY

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. Genesis,26; John 1:1, 3; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19,20; Ephesians 4:5,6

III. GOD THE FATHER

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. Luke,22; Matthew 23:9; John 3:16;6:27; Romans 1:7; 1 Timothy 1:1, 2; 2:5, 6; 1 Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6

IV. JESUS CHRIST

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth. Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1; 20:28; Romans 9:5; 8:32; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:21-23; John 20:30, 31; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:4; Acts 1:11; Romans 5:6-8; 6:9, 10; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:28; 1 Timothy 3:16

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V. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide. John 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26, 27; John 16:9-14; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 5:22-26

VI. REGENERATION

We believe that man was created by God in His own image; male and female without any other variation; that he sinned and thereby incurred physical, spiritual and eternal death, which is separation from God; that as a consequence, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners by choice and therefore under condemnation. We believe that those who repent and forsake sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and become new creatures, delivered from condemnation and receive eternal life, to be consummated at the return of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Genesis 1:26; 5:2; Genesis 3; Genesis 2:17; 3:19; Ecclesiastes. 2:11; John 3:14; 5:24; John 5:30; 7:13; 8:12; 10:26; Romans 9:22; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 19:3, 20; 20:10, 14, 15; 21:18; Psalm 51:7; Jeremiah 17:9; James 1:14; Romans 3:19; 5:19; Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9; John 3:16; John 1:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:1

VII. THE CHURCH

We believe in the universal church; a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world. Ephesians 2:19-22; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:19-21; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:23-25

VIII. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of his fellow men; that his conduct should be blameless before the world; that he should be a faithful steward of his possessions; and that he should seek to realize for himself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. As such, we do not commend or condone the agenda of the "gay community" in any fashion. 1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 12:1-3; Hebrews 12:1-2; John 14:15, 23-24; 1 John 2:3-6; 2 Corinthians 9:6-9; 1 Corinthians 4:2; Colossians 1:9-10

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IX. THE ORDINANCES

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church, baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water into the name of the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death, to be a local church ordinance celebrated only by members of that congregation. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

X. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other. 1 Timothy 2:5; Romans 14:7-9, 12

XI. CHURCH COOPERATION

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether a regional or district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Acts 15:36,41; 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:1; Galatians 1:1-3; Revelation 1:4, 10, 11. This church is affiliated with the Consolidated Baptist District Association, The General Association of Baptist in Kentucky, the Northern Kentucky Baptist Association and the Kentucky Missionary Baptist Association and may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary independent basis. Participation in these and any other fellowship will be determined as it supports the work of discrimination the Word of God to all nations and offering assistance in Missionary efforts.

XII. THE LAST THINGS

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous and the endless suffering of the wicked. Matthew 16:27; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:15; 2 Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15

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OUR CHURCH COVENANT

1. 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 Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ
2. We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Ghost to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of the church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrine; 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.
3. 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 and use of intoxicating drink as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.
4. We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and 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.
5. 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.

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ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this Church shall consist of persons who confess faith on the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, who give evidence of regeneration by living consistent with their profession and with the views of faith, doctrine and practice of this Church, who have been baptized by immersion and who have been received into its membership according to the By-Laws of this Church with the full commitment for following the rules and regulations of this church while divorcing themselves from any practices of a previous church relationship.

ARTICLE IV LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

1. Under the authority of Jesus Christ and the Word of God, the membership of the Church is the final authority within this local Church. This authority is normally exercised through the election of people from those members in good standing to hold an office to govern the Church.

2. The vote of the membership of this Church at a properly called meeting, as provided in the By-Laws, shall be required to affect the following actions:

- a. Accept members into the Church, give letters of transfer or recommendation to members, or drop members from the Church roll.
- b. Elect people to hold an office of the Church.
- c. Discipline members by dismissing them.
- d. Discipline officers by removing them from their office.
- e. Approve annual budgets of the Church, authorize any expenditure of the funds of the Church when such expenditure is not covered by an approved budget, and approve any transactions regarding real property.
- f. Accept, reject, or otherwise dispose of any matter submitted to the membership of the Church by the pastor, or raised by motion at a business meeting.
- g. Adopt, amend, or repeal the Constitution or By-Laws of this church.
- h. Approve the call and job description of those Pastors who receive compensation from the Church for fulfilling their pastoral responsibilities.

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3. The offices of the Church shall be Pastor and Deacon. The terms Pastor; Elder; Bishop; Overseer; Under shepherd, are all referring to the same position and are considered synonymous and will not be used to attempt elevating one leader over another. The term "minister" is used to identify a person leading a ministry that does not require a special service of ordination to set them apart yet does require some skill and ability that will be deemed worthy of special recognition. The terms Apostle or Prophet will not be used as a title for a leader as those are special Biblical recognitions that have met their purpose and no longer apply in the church. The purpose of the officers of the Church is to lovingly govern, care for, and equip the membership to do the work of the ministry. (Acts 20:17-27; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Eph 4:11-16; 1 Peter 5:1-3)

4. The leadership of the Church shall be vested in the Pastor who is responsible for governing the Church, teaching the Word and tending the flock of God in this Church.

5. Deacons shall assist the Pastor by performing services of advice, administration and implementation.

ARTICLE V THE CHURCH PROPERTY

1. In the event of a division of this Church, from which may God in His mercy save us, the property of this Church shall belong to that group of such division as represents the largest portion of the Church membership before recognizing a division therein provided such group is loyal to this constitution; otherwise it shall belong to the group remaining loyal to this constitution though it may not be the largest group in such division.

2. Should a condition arise at any time in the future when for any reason, the Church work cannot continue, the Church property shall be transferred to The First Baptist Church, #120 E. Ninth Street, Covington, KY., or its successor.

3. Should conditions arise where a consolidation with another church of the same denomination be advisable, the Pastor, Deacons and Trustees shall be authorized by the Church to negotiate the terms of such consolidation in so far as the property of this Church is concerned.

4. No sale or dispersal of property, REAL OR OTHER ASSETS, owned by this church may take place without full disclosure to the church body and full agreement of the church body as defined by membership in good standing, whereby all membership have been notified of this procedure in writing and participating in a properly advertised meeting.

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ARTICLE VI

REVISIONS, ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS

1. Revisions, additions or amendments of this constitution may be made only in the following manner:

- a. at the annual meeting; and
- b. by a majority vote of the membership, or a two-thirds majority of those members present and voting at such meeting, provided at least sixty percent (60%) of the resident membership of the Church is present at such meeting; and
- c. after presentation by written motion at a semi-annual or special business meeting held at least three months before the annual meeting; and
- d. if notice of the proposed change or addition has been given, in writing and from the pulpit on at least two weekends in the interim period between said meetings.

2. Article II (1) and VI (2) of this constitution shall not be repealed, amended nor revised.

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BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 PROCEDURE

All actions regarding membership, either of admission or dismissal, shall be by vote of the Church upon recommendation of the Pastor. At any of the regular meetings for worship, the Church may, without special notice, receive new members.

Section 2 INSTRUCTION TO NEW MEMBERS

All persons uniting with this Church shall previously be made acquainted with the Church Covenant and the Membership Orientation manual. New members shall pledge themselves to fulfill their stewardship obligations to regularly attend worship in accordance with the Membership policies (part of this document) and participate in a ministry and giving, when they make public profession of faith and join the Church.

Section 3 REMOVAL OF MEMBERS

- a. Members may be removed from membership upon recommendation by the Pastor and a majority vote of the members present at any business meeting.
- b. Members in good standing may request a letter of recommendation to present to a different church. Members who unite with another Church will be removed from the membership roll.
- c. Members who are found to be inactive in the worship, fellowship and ministry of the Church will be removed from the membership roll. It is the responsibility of the Pastor to remind members of their duties in this respect.
- d. Members whose conduct consistently or grievously contradicts the commitments outlined in the Church Covenant and Membership Policies may be subject to Church discipline under the leadership of the Pastor.

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ARTICLE II CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Section 1 OFFICES OF THE CHURCH

The Biblical offices of the Church are Pastor and Deacons. The Pastor is the legal director of the Church. Pastor and Deacons shall be called to office by vote of the membership of the Church as described in Article II, Sections 2–3 of these Bylaws. The Pastor and Deacons of the Church shall be members in good and regular standing. The Church also recognizes the administrative positions of Trustees, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Financial Secretary and may employ additional personnel as described in Article III of these Bylaws.

Section 2 Pastor

a. Qualifications

Pastor and nominees for Pastor shall be men of demonstrable Godly character, above reproach in public and private, and committed to shepherding the flock of God and to teaching and guarding sound doctrine, as expressed in the Ninth Street Missionary Baptist Church Pastor Affirmation of Faith. Pastors and nominees will exemplify the Biblical characteristics of elder-overseers in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Peter 5:1-4 and will agree with the Ninth Street Missionary Baptist Church Pastor Affirmation of Faith and commit to the Church Covenant.

b. Responsibilities

The fundamental responsibility of the Pastor is to devote himself to prayer and the Word. The Pastor is responsible for governing the Church as a Godly servant leader. He must teach the Word and tend the flock of God in this Church. The responsibilities of the Pastor shall include: examining prospective members and candidates for baptism and acquainting them with the Membership policies and Church Covenant, overseeing the process of Church discipline, examining prospective candidates for office, scheduling and providing a moderator for business meetings, providing for reporting and recording of official Church business, overseeing the work of the Deacons and appointed Church agents and committees, conducting worship services, administering the ordinances of the Gospel, equipping the membership of the Church for the work of the ministry, teaching the whole counsel of God both formally and informally, correcting error, overseeing, coordinating and promoting the ministries of the Church, and mobilizing the Church for world mission.

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c. Composition

The Pastor is a man who receives financial compensation from the Church as he fulfills God's call to the specific ministries of the Word, prayer and shepherding the flock. In addition to the duties of his office as described in Section 'b' above, the Pastor shall perform the duties approved by the congregation. The duties shall be in writing at the time of his call and substantial changes shall be approved by the Church.

Associate ministers are men acknowledging their call to ministry and licensed by the church to fulfill their calling. They serve voluntarily without financial support from the Church as they fulfill God's call to the specific ministries of the Word, prayer and shepherding the flock. They remain under the authority of the Pastor and may bring the preached word at the discretion of the Pastor. They may also fulfill other roles that will support their calling; teach Sunday School, Bible Study, Men's ministry and community outreach. Where a man has been licensed by the church, the license belongs to the church and can be revoked by call of the Pastor should the minister fail to maintain decorum in accordance with the church polity.

Should the ministry of the church grow to be more than one Pastor can handle, the church can call other individuals who will serve as specific ministers over specific ministries and always under the leadership of the Senior Pastor. This person will be compensated and have other benefits as deemed commensurate with their service.

d. Call by the Church

The members shall call the Pastor (1) by ballot upon recommendation of the Succession committee and Deacons and (2) by at least a two-thirds majority of those members voting at the meeting with at least sixty percent (60%) of the membership of the Church present at an All-Church meeting. Oral notice of any such meeting, stating its objective, shall be given from the pulpit on the two successive weekends preceding the meeting. Notice shall also be given by mail (electronic or otherwise) to the resident membership at least one week before the meeting. The Pastor shall stand for reaffirmation not later than the third annual meeting following their call or previous reaffirmation. Reaffirmation of Pastor shall be by two-thirds vote of those members present and voting at the meeting.

e. Organization

Leadership meetings shall take place monthly to review church objectives and gain support from each church auxiliary and membership. The Leadership shall consist of all auxiliary leaders (presidents or chairpersons) Deacons, Trustees, Church clerk, Church Secretary and Church financial personnel.

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Section 3

DEACONS

a. Qualifications

Deacons and nominees for Deacon shall be men who are members in good standing and demonstrate godly character and possess particular gifts of service. Deacons will exemplify the Godly characteristics set forth in 1 Timothy 3:8-12; Acts 6: 3.

b. Responsibilities

The Deacons shall advise and be ready to assist the Pastor in any service that shall support and promote the ministry of the Word, new and existing ministries of the Church, and the care for the members of the congregation. Their responsibilities may include administering a fund to assist the poor and needy and otherwise providing aid in times of crisis or distress; the greeting and welcoming ministries of the Church; assisting in administering the ordinances of the Gospel; assisting at fellowship gatherings of the Church; caring for and maintaining the Church properties; administering the business affairs of the Church that pertain to its material assets.

c. Composition

The Deacons will be men. Deacons are not employed by the Church but fulfill a ministry. The number of Deacons shall be determined by the needs of the ministry and by the call and qualification of men in the Church.

d. Call by the Church

The church members shall select Deacons (1) by ballot upon recommendation of the Pastor and (2) by at least a two-thirds majority of those members voting at the meeting with at least fifty percent (50%) of the membership of the Church present at an All-Church meeting. Oral notice of any such meeting, stating its purpose, shall be given from the pulpit on the next two successive weekends preceding the meeting. Deacons shall stand for reaffirmation not later than the third annual meeting following their call or previous reaffirmation. Reaffirmation of Deacons shall be by two-thirds vote of those members present and voting at the meeting.

e. Organization

Under the direction of the Pastor, the Deacons shall organize themselves however they determine to be best to achieve the mission of the Church. The Pastor or the Deacons may designate any specific Deacon or group of Deacons to specialize in some particular diaconal function. Meetings of the Deacons, or subcommittees thereof, shall be held as needed to best fulfill the responsibilities of the Deacons. Deacons shall participate in the monthly leadership meetings with other church leaders.

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Section 4

REMOVAL

- a. By resignation. Pastor or Deacons may resign their office at any time if they find they are no longer able to discharge the duties of the office.
- b. Grievance. Where a grievance exists against the Pastor or Deacon due to teaching contrary to the beliefs of the Church as set forth in Article II of its Constitution or to alleged conduct on their part unfitting the Pastor or Deacon, such grievance may be brought before the church by any two members in good standing. If the church, after thorough investigation and consideration, believes the grievance to be true and substantial, then the call of the Pastor or Deacon may be terminated at any business meeting upon the recommendation of the church when supported by closed ballot of a majority of those members of the Church present and voting with at least sixty percent (60%) of the membership of the Church present at such meeting. Oral notice of any such meeting, stating its purpose, shall be given from the pulpit on the two successive weekends preceding the meeting. Notice shall also be given by mail (electronic or otherwise) to the resident membership at least one week before the meeting.
- c. Lack of Reaffirmation. If the Pastor or Deacon fails to be reaffirmed to their office, a special business meeting shall be called to consider the question of terminating the call of that Pastor or Deacon. The call shall be terminated only if supported by closed ballot of a majority of those members of the Church present and voting with at least sixty percent (60 %) of the membership of the Church present. Public notice of any such meeting, stating its purpose, shall be given on the two successive weekends preceding the meeting. Notice shall also be given by mail (electronic or otherwise) to the membership at least one week before the meeting.

Section 5

LICENSING AND ORDINATION

In the matter of licensing and ordaining any male from this congregation to the Gospel Ministry, the Church shall follow the procedure approved by the Pastor. However, this is the most sacred of events and shall be handled in a very respectful manner.

The basic outline for this event shall be as follows:

1. The individual being set aside for the position of Minister of the Gospel shall have made their first indication of this move with the Pastor prior to being presented to the church. Sincere prayer and conversation shall determine the validity of the call. The Pastor is to make confirmation of the call by Spiritual examination.
2. At a set time and date as agreed with the Pastor, the person shall be presented to the church to acknowledging their call.

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3. The Pastor shall make the assignment for the date of initial delivery of the message.
4. On delivering that initial message, the church, after prayer soliciting God's Spirit for confirmation, shall vote to acknowledge or deny the calling of God on that person
5. If there is a denial of God's Spirit in the person, the person shall be informed immediately to go in prayer to seek God's direction and further conversation with the Pastor. It is the Pastor's task to remedy any issue raised by the church.
6. Should the church agree with the call of God on the person, that person shall be licensed by the church authorizing the person to preach the Gospel at any opportunity, receiving permission by the Pastor.
7. The licensed person shall seek further formal education as needed being led by the Pastor and assisted financially where possible by the church to acquire that education.
8. Should there be evidence that the licensed person is not able to maintain the high standard of service to God and the Kingdom, the license may be removed after full investigation and determination of the Pastor. Having given valid evidence of the person not maintaining the high standard needed for preaching, the church is to be notified and the removal of the license shall take place after a vote of the church in a full church business meeting where sixty percent (60 %) of those present shall determine this action is necessary.

ARTICLE III CHURCH EMPLOYEES

In addition to Pastor, the Church may employ additional personnel. The funds for such personnel must be approved by the congregation at a properly called business meeting. The Pastor or their designees (personnel committee) will be responsible for determining the duties of, hiring and if necessary, terminating, such personnel.

ARTICLE IV CHURCH FINANCES

Section 1 IN GENERAL

No method of raising funds shall be entertained which is in conflict with the Scriptural ideals of the Church.

All funds donated for missions by the societies and organizations of the Church shall pass through the Church Treasurer in order that due record may be made, and credit given to the Church. The Deacons shall provide assistance for the Church Treasurer in accounting for funds donated.

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Section 2

CONTRIBUTIONS

It is understood that membership in this church involves financial obligations to support the Church and its causes with regular and proportionate giving. Each member shall be encouraged in Scriptural giving, with tithing as the ideal minimum. Special offerings may be sought by the Church, or by any of its organizations, with the approval of the Pastor. This shall not preclude individuals from making special offerings or designated gifts at any time as the Spirit of God may move them.

Section 3

FINANCIAL PLANNING

The financial planning of the Church shall be carried out through the medium of annual budgets for carrying out of the various programs of its work. Annual budgets shall be adopted by the Church upon recommendation of the Pastor, the Deacons or other committee. Matters involving staff compensation shall be the responsibility of the finance leaders of the church. The church will be informed of proposed changes in the annual meeting of the church via the proposed budget showing clearly any compensation to be made and if adjustments are proposed, a full explanation of that change shall be given to the church.

Section 4

ACCOUNTS

Financial receipts from all sources shall be accounted for by the Church Treasurer according to the purposes for which contributions are designated. The Treasurer of the Church shall disburse these funds promptly according to the financial program of the Church as detailed in the Budgets or other authorized designations. All moneys for missions shall be remitted in accordance with the Mission Budget of the Church or otherwise designated, preferably each month and not less than each quarter.

Section 5

INDEBTEDNESS

No note or contract exceeding 1% of the total annual budget whereby the credit of the Church is pledged shall be made except by recommendation of the church Treasurer and approved by the Church.

Section 6

AUTHORITY TO BIND THE CHURCH

Any contract that requires church obligations shall be presented to the church in a formal church business meeting to receive a formal vote from the church body before signatures shall be applied. The church trustees are the only committee authorized to apply a signature for the benefit of the church and to execute legal documents relating to real estate, church property, and church finances. Such authorization shall be

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attained by sixty percent (60%) of the voting body present at the church business meeting. Public notice of any such meeting, stating its purpose, shall be given on the two successive weekends preceding the meeting. Notice shall also be given by mail (electronic or otherwise) to the membership at least one week before the meeting.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS

Section 1 FOR WORSHIP

Public services shall be held on the Lord's Day. The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated on the third Sunday of each month or at such other times as the Pastor and Deacons may determine. Other religious services may be scheduled as the advancement of the work of the Church may require.

Section 2 FOR BUSINESS

a. Meeting Designation. Meetings shall be designated "All Church." All-Church meetings are those in which the entirety of the membership of the Ninth Street Missionary Baptist Church is invited and encouraged to participate. All members of the church in good and regular standing may participate in All-Church meetings.

b. The Annual Meeting. The annual meeting shall be held the first Saturday of December to conclude the fiscal year of the Church for the purpose of calling and reaffirming the officers, reviewing proposed budgets and other business. Officers called at the annual meeting shall assume their duties at the beginning of the new fiscal year.

c. Monthly Meetings. Monthly meetings of the Church leadership shall be held the first Saturday of each month at noon. All auxiliary and committee leaders are expected to attend and give account of their ministry and plans for the next calendar month.

d. Special Meetings. The Pastor, Deacons or 5% of the members of the Church in good standing, may call for a special meeting. Notice of the meeting shall be given from the pulpit or by other notification, the particular purpose of such meeting being clearly stated in the notice. In the calling of special meetings for purposes where an interval after advance notice is required by provision in these By-Laws or according to law, such provisions shall be observed. Notice shall be given at least one week in advance for meetings on especially important matters not otherwise provided for. No special meeting shall be convened without Pastor approval, even if it involves grievance against the Pastor. However, the Pastor cannot deny the church from having such meetings.

e. Quorum. Any number of members shall constitute a quorum at any ordinary meeting of the Church. At meetings dealing with particular matters stipulated in these By-Laws, the quorums prescribed shall apply, usually requiring a minimum of sixty percent (60%) of the church body of members in good standing.

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f. Rules Governing Business Meetings. Robert's Rules of Order shall be recognized as the general pattern for the conduct of the business meetings of the Church. Seeking the Lord's wisdom and blessing through thankful prayer shall be a part of every meeting.

g. Notice Provisions. Unless specifically defined in other sections of these By-Laws or the Constitution, "resident membership" means those members who reside within 25 miles driving distance from the church building, "notice . . . in writing" means a written announcement sent by regular U.S. mail or other electronic means, and "notice . . . from the pulpit" means an oral announcement at each of the weekend worship services. "Member in good standing," shall be defined as a person who has followed the required steps for being a member of this church and is currently regularly participating in church attendance having been present seventy-five percent (75%) of services in the last six months, financially supported the ministry, participated in the educational element of the church in Equipping Hour and Bible Study, supported the missionary ministry by participation and materially. (See Membership Policy Statement – attached)

h. Electronic Meeting. When approved by the Pastor, any member business meeting may be conducted as an electronic meeting by remote communication using guidelines established by the Pastor and Deacons. All members whose remote participation in a meeting complies with such guidelines are considered to be "present" for all purposes under these By-Laws and Robert's Rules of Order. All members "present" by any of these means have the same rights as members. The Pastor is not required to offer remote communication for a meeting, and no member has a right to demand participation by remote communication for any meeting for which the Pastor and Deacons has not approved it.

ARTICLE VI ORGANIZATION OF MEMBERS FOR MINISTRY

Members of this church shall have the liberty to participate in and organize themselves for ministry, provided that such participation and organization does not conflict with Article II of the Constitution. Any such organization may seek church sanction from the Pastor as an official ministry of the Ninth Street Missionary Baptist Church. Such sanction shall be granted provided that 1) the object, purpose, belief and conduct of the organization and its members is consistent with Article II of the Constitution, and 2) the primary officers of the organization are: members of the church, or other regular attenders of the church who have been approved under guidelines established by the Pastor and Deacons. Sanction by the Pastor does not necessarily imply support of the organization by the church with personnel, finances, or facilities. Such support may be requested as provided by the leadership of the church.

ARTICLE VII DISCIPLINE

Church discipline shall be carried out by the Pastor and Deacons in accord with the Constitution and By-Laws and as explained in our Membership Policy and approved and consented to by the church members. Matthew 18:15 through 21 shall govern the actions and spirit of the occurrence.

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ARTICLE VIII RELATIONAL COMMITMENTS

Relationships in the church will be guided and governed by the biblical principles set forth in a document entitled "Relational Commitments," (see attached) which is incorporated into these Bylaws by reference. This document establishes our commitments related to peacemaking and reconciliation, accountability and church discipline, preserving marriages, biblical counseling and confidentiality, and the protection of our children. These Commitments shall apply to members of our church and may be amended from time to time in the same way that these Bylaws may be amended.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

General

Amendments to these By-Laws may be introduced through written motion at any quarterly meeting, with the exception of Article II(4)(b) regarding amending the Affirmation of Faith which as previously stated may only be amended by a recommendation of the Pastor and Deacons to the church. Amendments shall not be acted on until the following annual meeting, at which time an affirmative vote of the majority of the membership of the Church, or a two-thirds majority of those members present at the meeting and voting shall be required for acceptance; provided, however, that at least sixty percent (60%) of the members in good standing of the Church be present at such meeting, and that notice of the proposed change or amendment be given from the pulpit on at least two weekends and in writing to the resident membership in the interim period between the meetings.

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ARTICLE X POLICY STATEMENTS

1. MEMEBRSHIP – EXPECTATIONS

Ninth Street Baptist Church
231 East Ninth Street
Covington, Kentucky 41011

Church Policy on Membership

This statement of policy concerning Membership with the body of Christ that congregates at this location was adopted, April 1, 1995, by majority vote of those present in a church meeting held on that date.

Policy Statement

- Membership (Active, Inactive and Removal)

1. Membership is defined as a baptized confessed believer in Jesus Christ as dead, buried and resurrected Lord and Savior of their lives and the One they are willing to obey as prescribed in the Bible, the Word of God; and who is willing to prioritize their participation in the ministries of this congregation on a regular and consistent basis, with their time, talent and financial support.

2. The church has the authority to accept, reject and correct persons as members of the visible body. See 1 Corinthians 5:1- 6, Titus 3:10-11, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-7, 2 John 10.

3. A regular behavior inconsistent with the character of Godly living as presented in the Bible is to be dealt with as described by the words of Jesus in Matthew 18:15-18. This is the only method to be considered as a means of having an individual removed from the church roll.

4. Any individual who is not supportive of the ministries of this congregation for a period of 6 months will be placed on the inactive membership list.

5. Any person who does not restore their relationship to the congregation by coming before the body and stating their desire between the 6 months mentioned in item 4 (above) and the conclusion of a second 6 months, will be notified of their being removed from the church roll for non-participation.

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6. Removal from the church roll would involve:
 - A. a series of 3 letters, one month apart.
 - B. phone conversation (or the attempt at the same) by a representative of the congregation who either volunteers to restore the individual or one designated by the pastor.

7. Re-instatement to active status after being removed from the church roll would require the following:
 - A. a coming before the body and making a statement of that desire
 - B. Confirmation that the person has not joined a church of a different faith
 - C. 3-month continuous attendance in Sunday School and Morning Worship
 - D. 3 sessions with the pastor developing a plan for their ministry with the body

8. All individuals who desire a letter to move their membership to another congregation will receive the same, regardless of the length of time since their last participation or current membership status.
9. Membership into this congregation will be attained in one of 3 ways as described:
 - A. Baptism after confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior or
 - B. Letter from a currently active Baptist Church or
 - C. Christian Experience as indicated by their presentation of a baptismal certificate from a Baptist Church and an affidavit that the current or most recent church to which they belong, is no longer in existence or capable of presenting a letter. Further evidence of Christian experience will be indicated by the individual's active participation in the Sunday School, morning worship, Bible Study, BTU, Body Building sessions and overall willingness to support the ministries of this congregation, exclusively.
 - D. Anyone coming from a faith other than Baptist will be required to receive Baptism.
 - E. Anyone not having proof of Baptism will be asked to receive baptism with us.

10. Removal of membership is attained in one of 3 ways:
 - A. Death
 - B. Letter
 - C. Exclusion (see 1 through 6, above)

11. It is preferred the tradition called "Watch Care" will not be practiced by this congregation in lieu of active membership for whatever length of time the person is to be in the area.

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2. NEW MEMBERS

Ninth Street Baptist Church
231 East Ninth Street
Covington, Kentucky 41011

Church Policy on New Membership

This statement of policy concerning membership with the body of Christ that congregates at this location was adopted, April 1, 1995, by majority vote of those present in a church meeting held on that date.

Policy Statement

- New Members

Requirements:

1. Acknowledgement of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior as indicated in Romans 10:8-11
2. Statement of willingness to participate in the ministries of this congregation.
3. **Evidenced interest in the understanding of the functioning of this congregation via attendance in all 15 Sunday lessons of the New Membership Classes as prescribed in Matthew 28:20, 1 Tim. 2:15.**
4. Receiving baptism as prescribed by the Word of God in Romans 6:1-11, Matt. 28:19-20, and Acts 2:38, or indicating having been baptized by a baptismal certificate or joining by letter from another Baptist Church who will affirm your being baptized.
5. **Attendance and participation in further ministries of this church requires a certification of completion of the New membership classes signed by the pastor.**
6. New Membership requirements may become better defined by the Pastor and ministerial staff of the church for future use.
7. Ministerial Staff will consist of current Pastor, Associate Ministers, Deacons and current Presidents of auxiliaries.
8. Requirements will be presented to the church body at the annual meeting and become effective with the first Sunday of the ensuing year.

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9. Modification of the requirements will take place via two successive monthly meetings of the Ministerial staff and a 2/3 vote of agreement of this group at the second meeting.
10. Modifications can take place once in a calendar year.
11. Modifications will be accepted from the body only through their representative in the ministerial staff. This requires all persons in the congregation to belong to at least one functioning ministry of the congregation.

3. TREASURER/ASSISTANT TREASURER/FINANCIAL SECRETARY DUTIES

Ninth Street Baptist Church **Church Treasurer/ Assistant Treasurer/ Financial Secretary**

Duties

The **Treasurer** will have responsibility for the finances of the church, governed by the budget for the current year. His/her activities will be to oversee the expenditures of the church and the accounting of all accounts. As such, the treasurer will:

- Have signing responsibility on all checks
- Review all checks for appropriateness against the budget
- Confirm all bills being paid in a timely manner
- Monthly reconcile the cancelled checks against the check book
- Monthly reconcile the bank report against all deposits
- Have approval responsibility of all expense reports against the budget
- Participate in budget development
- Assist in the counting of all receipts (offerings, tape sales, etc.)
- Oversee all envelope handling when money is counted
- Acquire signatures cards from the bank for new signatories
- Make deposit of receipts in a timely manner
- Provide the financial report to be presented to the church for agreement at the annual meeting
- Keep a record of all account activities of each account
- Provide an account review for the church at least once per year at the annual meeting

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The **Assistant Treasurer** will have equal responsibility in the absence of the Treasurer and have delegated responsibility in the presence of the Treasurer if the Treasurer so desires.

In all cases, the **Budget** is a controlling document. Anything not provided for in the budget will need special attention for cases of reimbursement. Purchases not provided for in the budget will not automatically be reimbursed until approved by the full meeting of the Deacons and Trustees. If the purchase exceeds the \$5,000.00 limit set by the church, it will be presented to the church for approval before reimbursement is provided.

The **Financial Secretary** is to pay all bills in a timely manner under the authority of the Treasurer. Expense reports are to be paid after approval by the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer in the absence of the Treasurer. The Financial Secretary will provide data entry of all financial information including receipts and expenses to develop a financial report upon request from the Treasurer, with appropriate prior notice. The Financial Secretary will also provide:

- Submission of necessary 990 IRS tax payments
- Maintenance of employee W-4 forms
- Maintenance of each year's W-2 forms (church copies)
- Submission of W-2 forms to employees prior to the end of January each year.
- Reimbursement of IRS penalties that occur after 2003 unless proven not at fault
- Maintain account information of all church accounts
- Effort to rectify any IRS discrepancies and notices

Noting the above roles, all persons are to be computer literate and knowledgeable of EXCEL, WORD, QUICKEN, QUICKBOOKS, MEMBERSHIP, and other such programs as deemed necessary by the Deacons and trustees.

Adopted Date: June 1, 2024