

**Victory Baptist Church Maple Grove
Minnesota 55311**

By-Laws

1/27/2010

**By-Laws
Of
Victory Baptist Church
Of
Maple Grove Minnesota
55311**

ARTICLE I – ORGANIZATION

1. Name – The name of this local church shall be: Victory Baptist Church of Maple Grove.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE This Church shall exist for the purpose of:

1. Proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to our community, state, nation and through the world with the goal of leading all individuals to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
2. To instruct each member of this local body in order that they might grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. The administration of the two ordinances given to the local church by Christ; which are baptism and the Lord 's Supper.
4. To seek to initiate Christian work for the purpose of establishing new churches wherever God directs.

ARTICLE III – GOVERNMENT

Section 1 – Policy

The government of this Church shall be vested in the body of members who compose it.

Section 2 – Responsibility and Rights

Every member of the Church is expected to attend its meetings, to work for its growth, to fittingly represent his Lord and Church in the community, and contribute regularly and according to his ability.

All active members shall have equal rights, except that those under 18 years of age shall be ineligible to vote. Members of this Church have no property rights and upon termination of membership shall be entitled to no interest in the assets.

Section 3 – Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of this Church shall begin on the first day of January and close on the last day of December.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

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Section 1 – Admission

Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, giving evidence of regeneration, and accepting the Statement of Faith held by this Church may upon baptism be received into its membership.

Members from other churches of the same faith and order may be received by letter of recommendation and dismissal from their respective churches.

Those who have been scripturally baptized and who accept the view of faith and practice as adopted by this Church may be received by testimony of their experience.

Excluded members may, by a majority vote, be restored to membership on confession of their error and by giving evidence of their repentance.

Where it is deemed expedient, the candidate shall appear before the Pastor and Deacons for advise and instructions before the name is presented for membership.

Section 2 – Membership Rules

Active Members: All those who show their interest in the welfare of the Church and the Kingdom of our Lord by regular attendance and financial support and those who because of sickness or infirmities are unable to attend services or contribute financial support to the work shall be classed as active members.

Inactive Members: All those who, without reasonable excuse, do not attend the regular services of the Church for a period of two months may be placed on an inactive list. Any member on the inactive list shall automatically become active members upon their resumption of regular attendance and financial support.

Section 3 – Duties of Members

All members should bring themselves to the realization that we are a part of the body of our Lord Jesus, that we are of the household of Faith, and that in God's sight we are brothers and sisters. It is, therefore, our duty to love each other as such and to love and pray for our Church as our earthly home. We are to strive to honor our Lord in all we do, say, act, bearing in mind that we are epistles of Christ, known and read by men.

Because our Church depends upon the tithes and offerings of our members, we assert our conviction that proportionate giving is a distinct and positive command in the scriptures (Malachi 3:8-11) and pledge ourselves to a systematic contribution for the support of the Church

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of such a portion of our income as we believe God requires of us according to the principle laid down in I Corinthians 16:2.

Section 4 – Withdrawal from Membership

Membership in this Church shall terminate as follows:

1. By granting letters of dismissal to sister Baptist churches.
2. By granting letters of standing of those members who desire to unite with other evangelical churches.
3. By erasure. Members who are known to be deceased, or who have joined some other church and those who request that their name be dropped from membership may be erased from the roll.
4. By expulsion for disorderly walk – by two thirds of the members present.

Dismissal by letter or by certificates of standing shall be subject to the following rules:

1. Requests must be made in writing or in person to the Church and the name of the church with which the members wish to unite must be designated.
2. Applications shall be acted upon by the Church, provided the member is in good standing. If any objections are raised, then the matter shall be referred to the Pastor and the Board of Deacons who shall present in writing a report upon the standing of the applicant, stating their recommendation in the matter.
3. All letters shall be sent by mail to the pastor or clerk of the church designated in the application. Membership shall terminate upon the granting of the letters or certificates.

ARTICLE V – ASSOCIATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

This Church is an autonomous Baptist Church under the leadership of Christ and the leadership of a God-given pastor. Affiliation shall be only with such organizations and associations which manifest both by statement and practice their agreement with the faith and practice set forth in the constitution. Upon announcement made at least two (2) successive Sundays prior to the date of voting and upon a majority vote of members present and voting, the Church may choose to affiliate or to disaffiliate with any local, state, or national association of churches, such affiliation shall be understood to affect in no way the rights, powers, privileges of the Church, either as relates to its property or the operation of its affairs. Withdrawal from any and all affiliations shall in no way jeopardize its property.

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ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

All officers of Victory Baptist Church must be members of Victory Baptist Church of Maple Grove.

Section 1 – Positions

1. Pastor
2. Deacons
3. Trustees
4. Treasurer
5. Financial Secretary
6. Church Clerk
7. Staff

Section 2 – Duties of Officers

1. Pastor – The Pastor shall have the spiritual oversight of the Church and shall perform all the Scriptural and necessary duties of his office and shall by virtue of his office be a member of all boards and committees. He or a person appointed by him shall preside at all Church meetings.

The Pastor shall be the moderator of the Church; he may call the Deacons or the Church together for special meetings to transact the business of the Church; he shall devote his time and energies to the welfare of the Church; He shall receive such compensation as the Church may decide (I Timothy 3:1 – 7).

2. Deacons – A Deacon shall assist the Pastor. They shall assist the Lord’s Supper service and baptism. They shall be ready at all times to work with the Pastor in carrying out scriptural duties of their office (I Timothy 3:8 – 13).

The Deacons form an advisory board. The board has no authority whatsoever. These men shall prayerfully seek out plans for the future of Victory Baptist Church. They shall consider the buying of property, the building of buildings, the formation of a budget, and the planning of the Churches future.

These men seek what they feel are the best plans for Victory Baptist Church. They will then come before the Church body and recommend to the Church body what they think should be done. The final authority rests, not with the Pastor, not with the Deacons, but with the Church. Therefore, these men cannot disperse any Church funds on their own, they cannot make any decisions on their own, the decisions are made with the approval of the Church body.

Our Deacons are the Pastor’s helpers. Acts 6:1 -3.

Our Deacons count all funds received in the offerings.

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Our Deacons oversee the entire program of the Church only as a board of recommendation or a board of advisory. The main relationship of a Deacon is to an encouragement to their Pastor and servant to our Lord.

3. Trustees – The trustees shall acquaint themselves with the laws of the state, the ordinances of the county and the city that pertain to the Church; seeing that such laws are obeyed so long as they do not conflict with religious freedom. Matters regarding the physical properties and finances of the Church shall be discussed by the entire board and their recommendations voted on by the Church in a business meeting.

4. Treasurer – It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive all monies. The treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all such monies received. The treasurer shall give a report of the Treasury at the regular business meetings of the Church, all of which shall be kept on file. No designated funds shall be diverted from their purpose, except by vote of the Church.

5. Financial Secretary – The financial Secretary shall keep an accurate accounting of all funds. Such records will be made available upon request and kept in the Church office.

6. Church Clerk – The Clerk shall keep a complete record of all the official acts of the Church. The Clerk shall certify all documents upon the order of the Church. The Clerk shall keep a complete and accurate registry of the active, inactive, and erased membership.

7. Staff – All Church staff members shall be under the direct supervision of the Pastor.

Note: There shall be no standing committees. A committee may be appointed to do a specific job, and when the job is completed the committee is automatically disbanded.

ARTICLE VII – TERM OF OFFICE

The Pastor shall be elected for an indefinite term which shall terminate upon 30 days written notice by either the Pastor or the Church. The pastorate shall terminate immediately upon the Pastors refusal to affirm the constitution.

Members of the Board of Deacons shall serve a regular term of two years.

All officers shall serve a regular term of one year.

All terms of office, except the pastorate, shall terminate January 1.

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Section 1 – Meetings

1. Sunday Meetings – The Church shall meet regularly every Lord’s Day for public worship of Almighty God.
2. Prayer Meetings – The Church shall meet at least once during each week for prayer and thanksgiving.
3. Lord’s Supper Service – The Church shall observe the ordinance of our Lord’s Supper when Pastor and Deacons feel appropriate.
4. Quarterly Business Meetings – A regular business meeting shall be held by the Church each quarter.
5. Special Meetings – Special meetings may be called by the moderator. Notice of such special meeting shall be given from the pulpit on the preceding Lord’s Day.
6. The Church shall be given proper notice at least two Sundays before action can be taken on any project which involves the expenditure of more than \$100.00, whenever such expenditure is not clearly provided for in the Estimate of Expenditures. Each project must be treated in its entirety at one and the same time.
7. Such notice as outlined above shall be given by the Deacons before the election or dismissal of a Pastor.

Section 2 – Quorum

To transact business at any meeting, a quorum (5% of last known membership) shall be had.

Section 3 – Voting

1. Only active members of the Church are eligible to vote on any Church matter.
2. A voice, rising, or show-of-hands vote is binding, except where otherwise provided for, whenever it is apparent that two-thirds of the members present are voting; if more than one-third of the members present do not signify their vote, then a ballot vote shall be taken. A majority vote shall decide all matters except the expulsion of members (as outlined in Article IV, Section 4), the election of a Pastor (which shall be decided by a three-fourths ballot vote of the members present), and the vote to amend the constitution (which shall be as outlined under Article X).

Section 4 – Elections

1. The annual election of officers and Deacons shall be held at the annual meeting. Only active members of this Church are eligible to vote. The election shall be by ballot and those receiving the highest number

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of votes shall be declared elected. In case of a tie, the Deacons shall immediately order a new election by ballot for the office in which the tie shall have occurred.

2. The Pastor shall be elected as provided for in Article VII. Upon removal of a Pastor, the Deacons shall without any unnecessary delay confer with possible candidates for the office, and from the candidates so conferred with, the Deacons shall make their recommendations to the Church. No election or dismissal of a Pastor shall take place except at a meeting called for that purpose of which public notice has been given by the Board of Deacons at least two previous Sundays. A three-fourths vote by ballot of the members present shall be necessary to an election of a Pastor and a majority vote of the members present for his removal, due notice having been given on two previous Sundays.

ARTICLE IX – ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1

The Pastor of the Church or, in his absence, the Chairman of the Board of Deacons shall act as moderator in all meetings for the transaction of business.

Section 2

It shall be the duty of the moderator to keep order, state and explain propositions.

Section 3

He shall cause the meeting to be opened and closed with prayer.

Section 4

He shall call for the business of the Church in the following order:

1. Read the minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Present candidates for membership.
3. Receive letters of dismissal from sister churches.
4. Grant letters of dismissal of standing to those requesting them.
5. Hear recommendations of Deacons and unfinished business.
6. New Business.

Section 5

All business proceedings of the Church shall be governed by “Roberts’ Rules of Order”.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

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These By-Laws may be amended at any regular business meeting by a two-thirds vote, provided four weeks notice, except the Constitution Faith which shall be irrevocable.