

This document supersedes all previously issued versions and amendments. Please refer to church application site for related reference content which will be denoted by the asterisk \* symbol.

Version	Date	Revision History	Version	Date	Revision History
4.0	2008	MEBC Constitution and Bylaws	1.1	10/2/2022	Revisions to Articles 3, 7, 8, and 9
1.0	7/10/2022	Reissue of MEBC Bylaws	5.0	3/29/2026	Reissue of MEBC Bylaws

### **Article 1 – Name**

This church shall be known as Metro East Baptist Church, hereafter referred to as “MEBC” located at 333 N. 143rd Street E., Wichita, KS 67230.

### **Article 2 – Purpose**

The purpose of MEBC is to glorify God by using the Old and New Testament to fulfill the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). This is done through worship and ministry in obedience to the teachings of the Holy Bible

### **Article 3 – Incorporation, Organization, and Distribution of Property**

- A. MEBC shall be operated exclusively for religious, charitable and educational purposes in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service and the laws of Kansas.
- B. MEBC is an autonomous, independent congregation, not subject to the governance or oversight of any hierarchical structure beyond the local church.
- C. Volunteer Ministries and Standing Committees shall be established to carry out the regular ministries of MEBC. *(Refer to Article 8)*
- D. The Corporate Officers noted below must be a member for at least one year, not be related through marriage or family,<sup>1</sup> and must retain their membership voting rights for as long as they serve.

Board of Elders<sup>2</sup>                      Treasurer<sup>3</sup>                      Secretary<sup>3</sup>                      Trustees<sup>3</sup>

- (1) Applies only to Officers on the Board of Elders and Trustees
- (2) Nominated for a 3 year term by voting members and confirmed by membership vote
- (3) Selected by the Nominating Committee, serve as long as they are able, and confirmed by membership vote

*(Refer to Article 6, item 3 for voting rights and to \* for Officer roles, responsibilities, and expectations)*

- E. In the event that the Board of Elders, in its entirety, is not able to perform their duties as outlined in the bylaws, the following protocol applies:
  - 1. It shall be the responsibility of the outgoing Board of Elders to approach three men who meet the eligibility qualifications outlined in Article 7.

March 29, 2026

- a. Upon nominee acceptance, a member of the outgoing Board of Elders will share the names of the nominees to MEBC membership and call a Special Business Meeting which is to be noted in regular worship services at least two weeks before the meeting date. (*Refer to Article 6 – Meetings, Voting Rights, and Membership*)
2. Should the outgoing Board of Elders not be able to make three nominations, the responsibility shall fall to the Office of Deacon board and then to the membership as a whole if the Office of Deacon body is unable to fulfill this duty.
- F. Should MEBC completely disband so that it no longer functions as a congregation its property shall be distributed as follows:
  1. All obligations shall be paid.
  2. Any assets requiring return shall be returned.
  3. No assets will be distributed to any church member, staff, or officer.
  4. Assets may be transferred to an organization engaged in similar activities (for example, another Southern Baptist Church) per section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or as revised in later iterations).
  5. Any remaining assets may be transferred to the Kansas Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists for disbursement at their discretion.

#### **Article 4 – Indemnification of Officers**

- A. MEBC will provide adequate D&O Liability Insurance to indemnify the expenses of any officer or employee or agent of MEBC against claims, liabilities, expenses incurred in connection with the settlement of any action in which he/she is a party by reason of having been affiliated with MEBC if:
  1. The conduct was in good faith.
  2. Believed to be in the best interest of MEBC.
  3. The activity was not known to be unlawful. However, such expenses will not be indemnified if the proceeding was brought, and he/she was judged liable or he/she received improper personal benefit.

#### **Article 5 – Statement of Faith and Final Authority**

- A. We affirm the Holy Bible in its entirety as the inspired Word of God and as the only basis for our beliefs. This Church accepts the statement adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, dated June 14, 2000, “The Baptist Faith and Message” affirmation of basic Christian beliefs as a general statement of our faith.
- B. For purposes of MEBC’s faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Board of Elders are the final interpretive authority on the Bible’s application.

#### **Article 6 – Meetings, Voting Rights, and Membership**

- A. Meetings
  1. An Annual Meeting shall be conducted in the fourth quarter of each calendar year. The Annual Meeting shall follow the requirements for due notice, quorum, and voting that apply to all Member Meetings as noted in the following lines within this section.

2. Regular and Special Member Meetings shall be scheduled to meet the needs of MEBC. Meetings that require a membership vote shall be called and noted during corporate worship services at least two weeks in advance of the meeting date.
  - a. When warranted, Special Member Meetings with a limited and stated agenda shall be called to transact urgent business.
3. Voting rights remain active to members who are not under church discipline and are granted only to Members who are 18 years of age or older. Pending Members, regardless of age, do not possess voting rights. *(Refer to item B. for Steps to become a Member, and item C, sub-item 2. for Removal of Membership).*
4. Quorum shall be the number of members who are present in any duly called and noted Regular or Special Member Meeting.
  - a. For a vote to carry, at least a 2/3rd majority of the members present at the meeting must affirm the vote. No voting by proxy will be allowed.
5. A membership vote is required for approval of the following matters:
  - a. The adoption an annual budget
  - b. Calling a Senior Pastor
  - c. The election of ordained Lay Ministry men to the Board of Elders and Office of Deacons
  - d. The election of Volunteer Ministry and Standing Committee Leaders
  - e. Adding or removing congregational members
  - f. The Election of ordained Pastoral Staff members
  - g. Moving, merger or dissolution of MEBC
  - h. Acquisition of real property and related indebtedness
  - i. Starting a building program and related indebtedness
  - j. Amending the By-Laws
  - k. Removal of Membership due to Church Disciplinary Action *(Refer to section C, item 1)*
  - l. Officers of MEBC *(Refer to Article 3, Section D)*
  - m. Membership Meeting Moderator
  - n. Establishment, removal or merging of Volunteer Ministry/Standing Committee

#### B. Steps to becoming a Member

1. Anyone who express a desire to join MEBC will be listed as a Pending Member on the MEBC membership roll until the qualifications and expectations noted below are met.
  - a. New members must have received believer's baptism by immersion.
  - b. New members must affirm the Baptist Faith and Message (2000).
  - c. New members must be affirmed by congregational vote at a Regular Members Meeting.
    - i. Prior to congregational vote, pending Members must be interviewed by at least two members from the Board of Elders. Any other details pertaining to the process of becoming a member will be recorded in the Church Policies and Procedures Document. *(Refer to \* for Policy and Procedures documentation pertaining to other process details)*

March 29, 2026

- ii. Once the qualifications and expectations are substantiated, the Pending Members may be affirmed by a 2/3rd majority vote at the next Regular Members Meeting. After receiving affirmation, MEBC membership roll will be changed from “Pending Member” to “Member.”

#### C. Removal of Membership

1. Members may only be removed from church membership by a Membership vote.
2. Reasons for removal from MEBC membership registry include:
  - a. Upon death
  - b. Transfer of membership to another church by letter.
  - c. Inactive attendance for more than 2 years (except home-bound or shut-in members).
  - d. Personal written request of the member
  - e. Church Discipline (*Refer to \* for Policy and Procedures for discipline process documentation*)

#### D. Restoration of Membership:

1. According to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:6-8, Members who have been dismissed may be restored to full membership privileges after meeting with the Board of Elders to determine that their repentance and conduct is in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17.
2. Once confirmed by the Board of Elders the dismissed member will be placed on MEBC roll as a Pending Member who will be presented for membership at the next scheduled Members Meeting.

### **Article 7 – Governance and Electing Members to the Board Elders and Office of Deacons**

#### A. Elders

1. Elders are ordained men who have served, or are currently serving, as pastor/elder/overseer. These elders co-labor in the teaching, prayer, and member care of the church.
2. Each of our elders are to remain mutually accountable to Jesus Christ, who is the head of The Church, and to the members of MEBC.
3. Elders must be Biblically principled men who, through their collective Spiritual giftings, education, and experiences, faithfully fulfill the pastoral care responsibilities of leading, feeding, knowing, and protecting MEBC members.
4. MEBC’s leadership and governance model is derived from pastoral care and shepherding principles that emerge from Scripture. (1 Timothy 5:17, Titus 1: 5-7, Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5 :1 -2, Colossians 1:16)

#### B. Governance and Leadership

1. The ministry of MEBC is led by the Board of Elders who are comprised of lay-appointed elders and the senior pastor who co-labor with the MEBC Pastors, Ministry staff, Office of Deacons, and Lay ministry/Committee Leaders.

March 29, 2026

2. The Board of Elders, as entrusted by MEBC members, will:
    - a. Lead the congregation in worship, ministry, and spiritual direction
    - b. Oversee the administrative affairs of the church, including stewardship of MEBC's assets and resources
    - c. Empower and equip the staff and congregation for service
    - d. Advocate for the church's autonomy and religious freedom
- C. Election and Qualifications for the Board of Elders and Office of Deacons
1. Article VI of the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 states, "Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes." As such, MEBC lay ministry members of the Board of Elders and Office of Deacons will be affirmed by the congregation at the Annual Membership Meeting.
  2. Biblical qualifications for members of the Board of Elders and Office of Deacons are prescribed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 Timothy 3:8-12 and Titus 1:6-8 which are summarized, but not limited to, the following: (*Refer to \* for Policy & Procedures for qualification statements* )
    - a. Tested and a proven record of faithful service.
    - b. Respectful to others and above reproach in his life.
    - c. Sober-minded and self-controlled.
    - d. Not prone to violent actions or outbursts and is not quarrelsome in his actions with others.
    - e. A good leader of his household
    - f. Man of one wife
  3. To be a member of the Board of Elders or Office of Deacons, the nominees must be a member of MEBC for at least one year and an ordained male whose life and character reflect the biblical requirements of these offices.
  4. The number of members for the Board of Elders and Office of Deacons shall be based on the needs of MEBC and the availability of qualified candidates.
  5. Members of the Board of Elders and Office of Deacons may serve a term of three years and will choose a chairman and co-chairman from within their own groups.
    - a. Upon completion of a three-year term, Elders shall rotate off active service from these ministry boards for a minimum of one year.
    - b. Any exception leading to an extension beyond the three year limit is subject to MEBC needs and the availability of nominees.
- D. Nomination of members to the Board of Elders and Office of Deacons
1. Any voting member may nominate a man for the Office of Deacon or Board of Elders by submitting the name(s) to a member of the Board of Elders.

March 29, 2026

2. The Board of Elders will verify the nominee's eligibility and, upon substantiation of eligibility, notify the candidate of the nomination.
  - a. If a nominee does not meet the Biblical qualifications of the office, the Board of Elders reserve the right to maintain confidentiality with the nominee and with the nominating member.
3. The Board of Elders will select which of the eligible men will be brought before the congregation for affirmation and service.
4. A proposed candidate who is intended to fill the role of Senior Pastor must be an ordained male whose life and character reflects the biblical requirements for the office and shall be recommended by a Pastor Search Committee, approved by the Board of Elders, and affirmed by a 2/3rd majority membership vote.

### **Article 8 – Church Staff, Volunteer Ministries/Committee Leaders, and Contractors**

#### **A. Church Staff**

1. Church Staff are members of MEBC who are paid for ministry roles they fulfill within MEBC.
2. Ordained Pastoral Staff positions may be added by MEBC vote. Candidates for ordained pastoral staff positions will be recommended to the congregation by the Elders.
3. With counsel and recommendations from the Board of Elders and Finance Committee, The Personnel Committee may hire non-pastoral staff positions to meet the ministry needs of MEBC.
4. The Personnel Committee and Board of Elders shall avoid creating or maintaining circumstances of favoritism or nepotism when choosing individuals for staff member positions.

#### **B. Volunteer Ministries and Committee Leaders (*Refer to \* for Committee/Ministry documentation*)**

1. Volunteers are those that undertake a Ministry or service to MEBC without being paid.
2. Ministry Leaders and all Standing Committee members must be Members of MEBC.
  - a. Volunteers under their leadership are not required to be members of MEBC.
3. Establishing a Volunteer Ministry/Committee is done through coordination with the Board of Elders and a 2/3rds majority vote at a regular membership meeting.
  - a. Ad hoc committees may be established to meet a temporary need (e.g., By-Laws Amendments, Pastor Search, etc.) without a 2/3rds majority vote at a regular membership meeting.
1. Contractors are not required to be members, but are paid for the services they provide for MEBC.
2. Working with the appropriate Staff member or Elder liaison, Staff members and Ministry/Committee Leaders may temporarily utilize the services of a contractor or vendor.

### **Article 9 - Amendment of the Bylaws**

March 29, 2026

Proposed corrections, amendments, or repeals of these bylaws must be announced and published at least two weeks prior to a Regular or Special Members meeting. At that meeting, the proposed changes require an affirmative vote of 2/3 majority of present members for approval.