

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
of the  
GREEN MOUNTAIN GOSPEL CHAPEL**

Adopted the day of  
March 14, 1984

**PREAMBLE**

For the purpose of uniting born-again believers into a church body with the ultimate aim to build Christian character, and to prepare, instruct and cultivate in them a love and responsibility for the work of the Lord Jesus Christ, we do submit ourselves to be governed by the following constitution. We agree further that in the pursuit of these purposes, we will endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**CONSTITUTION**

ARTICLE 1. NAME

The name of this organization is Green Mountain Gospel Chapel.

ARTICLE 2. PREROGATIVES

*Section 1.* This church shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace . . . til we all come to unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the stature of the fullness of Christ. (Eph. 4:3,13)

*Section 2.* In the connection therewith, or incidental thereto, it shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes; all in accordance with its constitution and by-laws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

ARTICLE 3. AFFILIATION

While maintaining its inherent rights to its sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this church shall voluntarily enter into full co-operative fellowship with the churches of like precious faith.

#### ARTICLE 4. ORDINANCES

*Section 1.* The ordinance of Baptism by immersion in water (Matt.28:19) shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins and who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation. (Rom. 6:3-5,Col.2:12).

*Section 2.* The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined in the Scriptures (Luke 22:19,20, 1Cor. 11:23-26).

#### ARTICLE 5. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this church shall be eligible to all who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to the teachings of the Word of God, and who agree to be governed by its constitution and by-laws as herein. They shall be classified as follows:

*Section 1.* Active Membership- All those who meet Scriptural standards for membership and whose application is reviewed by the Official Board of Elders of the Church shall constitute the legal voting membership. Members 14-17 years of age may vote on all but legal matters; (all legal procedures must be determined by members 18 years of age or older). Active members must regularly attend and take part in church services and live consistent Christian lives which are in agreement with the Word of God.

*Section 2.* Inactive Membership- Enrolled members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the church for an extended period of time and who cease to contribute of their means to its support; who may be out of harmony with its teachings, or its ministries, or who shall be under charges of misconduct, or who may have fallen under condemnation shall lose their voting privileges until settled by the definite action of the church through its Board of Elders, and to be so notified by the Secretary of the Elders.

#### ARTICLE 6. ADMINISTRATION

*Section 1.* There shall be a governing official board, hereafter known as the Board of Elders, to whom, under the direction of the pastor, shall be committed to the spiritual management of the church (including the order of worship, educational programs, nomination of a pastor, discipline of any member, assistance of the pastorate, and any other spiritual matters as deemed appropriate by the Board of Elders). An Elder is appointed by the Board of Elders. The pastor is the first Elder, and if there are no other Elders, constitutes a Board of Elders by himself. Elders serve an indefinite term.

*Section 2.* There shall be a governing official board, hereafter known as the Board of Deacons, of not less than five members to whom, under the direction of the pastor, shall be committed to the temporal management of the church (including the administration of its finances and the custody and maintenance of its property). The Board of Deacons shall have a Secretary and a Treasurer who shall be full members of the Board of Deacons.

## ARTICLE 7. MEETINGS

*Section 1.* Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the pastor.

*Section 2.* Special business meetings of the church may be called when necessary after proper notice has been given by the Pastor or by the Secretary of the deacons, provided the meeting has been agreed upon by a majority of the Board of Deacons.

*Section 3.* Quorum: No record of any special or regular business meeting of the church shall be made unless one-half or more active members shall be present to constitute a quorum.

## ARTICLE 8. DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

The church shall hereby provide for the establishment of the Sunday School Department, Young People's Work, Benevolence Committees, Home and Foreign Missionary Committees, a Christian Private School or any other Departments or Committees as the needs of the work may require. All such departments shall be subordinate to the Church and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the church itself, under the general supervision of the Pastor.

## ARTICLE 9. FINANCES

All funds for the maintenance of the church shall be provided by the voluntary contributions, tithes, and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Offerings shall be accepted by the church at such times and such ways as agreed upon by the Pastor and the Board of Deacons itself.

## ARTICLE 10. PROPERTY

All property of the church shall be deeded to the church and held in its name. No property of the church shall be sold, leased or mortgaged or otherwise disposed of without authorization by a vote of at least two-thirds of the Board of Deacons and of the church membership. The pastor and the secretary of the deacons shall certify in such conveyance lease or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote of the congregation. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

## ARTICLE 11. AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended or changed by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the church who are in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made at all the services on at least two Sundays preceding the time of such meeting.

## **BY-LAWS**

## ARTICLE I - LAWS AND DUTIES GOVERNING OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

*Section 1.* The Pastor shall be considered the spiritual overseer of the church, first elder, and lend direction in all activities. The Pastor shall be the president of the corporation. The Pastor shall be ex-officio member of all committees or departments.

The Pastor shall be nominated from the Board of Elders unless the prior pastor was removed for cause by a vote of the church membership, in which case nominations would be by the Board of Deacons. Final selection of a nominee is by a two-thirds majority vote of the church membership at a meeting called for that purpose at which there is a quorum. His term is for an indefinite time.

The Pastor shall provide for all the services of the church and shall arrange for all special meetings, conventions, or revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the church without the pastor's approval.

*Section 2.* New members of the Board of Elders shall be appointed by the current Pastor and/or Board of Elders to serve an indefinite term. Elders shall have authority over all spiritual matters of the church, and it is their responsibility to determine their jurisdiction. The Board of Elders 1. shall act in an advisory capacity to the pastor in all matters pertaining to the church in its spiritual life and in the ministry of its ordinances; 2. shall act in the examination of applications for membership and in the discipline of the church.

*Section 3.* The Board of Deacons shall be elected by a majority vote at the annual business meeting of the church to a term of three years. Only one member of a family may serve on the Board of Deacons at a time. Family is defined as husband, wife, son, daughter, aunt, uncle, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, father-in-law, or mother-in-law. The Board of Deacons shall be responsible for temporal matters of the church. The Board of Deacons: 1. shall control church spending 2. prepare an annual budget 3. manage the operation of church buildings and property 4. shall promote benevolences and missions.

Qualification for Deacons shall be: 1. acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal savior 2. baptism of the Holy Spirit or seeking same 3. a personal life that is in divine order 4. affiliation with the church for at least one year. No person may succeed himself on the Board of Deacons if they have served two or more years. There must be a period of at least one year before a person can be re-elected.

The Board of Deacons shall also consider pastoral standing (prerogatives, conduct, support, recommendation of removal, etc.) Matters of major importance pertaining to pastoral standing (e.g. support, removal, etc.) shall be referred to the general voting membership of the church for final consideration and decision. If a pastor is found unfit by the general voting membership at a meeting warned two weeks in advance by the chairman of the Board of Deacons, the Board of Elders shall be disbanded. The Board of Deacons shall then be responsible for selecting nominees for presentation to the church membership.

The Board of Deacons shall appoint from among its members a Chairperson at the first monthly meeting following the annual meeting. The Chairman shall be responsible for notifying other deacons of meeting schedules.

A majority present at any meeting of the Board of Deacons shall constitute a quorum provided all the members have been notified to be present. In the event that the church is temporarily without a pastor, the pastor is unable to be present or the Board meeting is for the purpose of considering the dismissal of the pastor, the chairperson of the board shall conduct the meeting.

*Section 4.* At the first monthly meeting following the annual meeting, the Board of Deacons shall appoint a Secretary from among the church membership. The Secretary shall keep minutes of the official meetings of the Board of Deacons and of the annual and special business meetings of the church. The Secretary shall keep a record of membership of the church and perform any clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of duties. The secretary shall be custodian of all legal documents and be in possession of the corporate seal (where the church is incorporated). The Secretary shall be a voting member of the Board of Deacons.

*Section 5.* At the first monthly meeting following the annual meeting, the Board of Deacons shall appoint a Treasurer from among the church membership. The Treasurer shall be entrusted with all the finances of the church which may be committed to him or her. The Treasurer shall deposit all funds in a responsible bank in the name of the church, and shall disburse the same by check as authorized by the Pastor and the Board of Deacons. The Treasurer shall keep an itemized report to the church semi-annually. Those accounts shall be audited under the direction of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons. The Treasurer shall be a voting member of the Board of Deacons

## ARTICLE II - ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

*Section 1.* All elections shall be by secret ballot at meetings of the church called with that purpose warned. A two-thirds majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election for Pastor, and a simple majority for the election of a Deacon.

*Section 2.* By a majority vote of the Board of Deacons any officer or member of the board may be suspended for any just cause. Any office may be declared vacant by an act of a majority of the Board of Deacons at any of its regular or special business meetings. Grounds for such action shall be: (1) Unscriptural conduct; (2) Doctrinal departure from the word of God; (3) Incompetency in office; (4) For any good and sufficient cause. Any incumbent under charges shall have the opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing of his or her case before the congregation if they so desire. Scriptural References: Matthew 18:15-17

*Section 3.* Vacancies: In the event there is a vacancy in the pastorate, the Board of Elders, acting in the capacity of a Pulpit Committee, after prayerful inquiry, giving full consideration to the leading of the Holy Spirit, shall select scripturally qualified ministers as nominees to the office of Pastor and present their names for the vote of the membership; unless the Pastor was removed for cause, in such cases, the Board of Deacons shall act as a Pulpit Committee.

If a Deacon is unable to complete his/her three year term, a new Deacon is appointed by the Board of Deacons to complete the term. It is up to the discretion of the Board of Deacons to set the timing for election of a replacement.

No person can be a Deacon while serving as an Elder.

### ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

*Section 1.* The standard of membership of this church shall be: (a) Evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration (the New Birth) John 1:12,13; John 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:18-25; (b) Evidence of consistent life - Romans 6:4; Romans 8:1-4; Romans 13:13,14; Eph 4:17-32; Eph 5:1,2,15; 1 John 1:6,7. (c) Full subscription to the Word of God as set forth in the Constitution rules of order adopted by the church as in Article 5, Constitution. (d) Willingness to contribute regularly to the support of the church according to his or her ability.

*Section 2.* Discipline: (a) Any member of the church who shall willingly absent himself from the regular services for an extended period of time or who shall be under charges, shall be temporarily suspended from active membership pending investigation and final decision of the case. (b) Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the basic teachings from the Word of God held by this church shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member. (Matt. 18:15-18; Rom. 16:17,18; 1Cor. 5:11; Gal. 1:8,9; Titus 3:1-15).

*Section 3.* Members in good standing who may wish to sever their relationship with the church, or who may desire to be transferred to some other congregation, may apply to the secretary of the Elders for a letter of transfer or release, which shall be granted on the approval of the Pastor. Said letter to be signed by the Pastor himself.

*Section 4.* The Pastor and the Board of Elders, shall be authorized to revise the membership roll of the church as often as deemed necessary, and to remove from the list of active members all names of those who may have become deceased during the year, together with the names of those who may have withdrawn from the fellowship, or may have fallen into sin and whose lives have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of the church. If a name is removed for cause, the one whose name is removed shall be notified of the action of the Pastor and the Board of Elders through the Secretary of the Elders. If appeal is made to the Board of Elders for reconsideration of their action and reinstatement is not granted, the dismissed member may appeal to the congregation through the Board of Deacons. The action of the church, by a majority vote, shall be considered final. (Matt.18:15-18; Rom. 1:17,18; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; 2Thes. 3:6-15).

### ARTICLE IV - SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Superintendent of the Sunday School shall be appointed by the Pastor from among the members of the church. The Pastor and Sunday School Superintendent shall have the right to appoint all officers, teachers, and other workers of the Sunday School, and in consultation with the workers of the Sunday School, determine all policies and programs of the School itself.

### ARTICLE V - YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP

Should a young people's group be created, it shall be under the general supervision of the Pastor. It shall be conducted as a branch of the activities of the church and shall have the right to elect its own officers.

#### ARTICLE VI - PROPERTY RIGHTS

*Section 1.* All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the corporate name of the church.

*Section 2.* No rent or chattel property shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without authorization by two-thirds majority vote of the church membership.

*Section 3.* The Pastor and the Deacon Secretary shall certify in such conveyance lease or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized by a vote of the membership. Such certificates shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

*Section 4.* In the event that the church herein ceases to function as a church body, the said property, rent or chattel shall be sold and the money placed in escrow in the Randolph National Bank. By a majority vote of the remaining membership this money shall be dispersed to Home and or Foreign Missions for the work of God, after all debt is paid.

#### ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

The By-Laws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the church by a majority vote of the membership present, providing the proposed amendment has been announced publicly on the two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting; announcement to be made by the Pastor or the Deacon Secretary.

#### ARTICLE VIII - AFFILIATION

By a majority vote of the church membership, this church shall have the right to affiliate with any Pentecostal denomination of its choice.

#### \*ARTICLE IX - JUSTIN MORGAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

*Section 1.* The Justin Morgan Christian School is a ministry of the Green Mountain Gospel Chapel. It is to be treated as any other department of the church. However, because it requires so much special management, it is to be governed by a separate Committee.

*Section 2.* The School Committee shall be comprised of the following persons: (1.) the school administrator (2.) one representative from the school supervisors (3.) four members appointed by the Board of Deacons whose term shall be for three years commencing on July 1 and ending on June 30 so as to coincide with the school calendar.

*Section 3.* The School Committee shall in turn elect a Chairman and a Treasurer from the four non-school members. The Treasurer can not be a parent of a child in the school.

\*amended November 1991

\*amended February 2013

\*amended February 2015