

Molina Baptist Church
Bylaws
Adopted 10/25/15
Revised 12/13/15, Revised 3/14/21

Article I: Jesus is Lord

Regarding governance, "Jesus is Lord" is our primary confession. Jesus reigns over all creation, especially His people, the Church. In His sovereign rule, He has called sinners out of the world to be forgiven, renewed and set apart as the managers of His creation. Jesus' lordship is carried out in this delegation of authority. The presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of His people enables them to carry out His desired will and continue the Church movement until He returns. Local autonomous congregations comprise the universal Church. Molina Baptist Church is one of these congregations called to represent Christ in Plateau Valley and beyond.

Article II: Statement of Faith

- §1:** We believe in the Holy Scripture, accepting fully the writings of the Old and New Testaments as the very Word of God, verbally inspired in all parts, our infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice.
- §2:** We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- §3:** We believe in the Deity of Christ; His virgin birth, His shed blood for atonement; His bodily resurrection; His ascension into Heaven there to be our Intercessor.
- §4:** We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, makes believers children of God through the new birth, assuring them of Heaven, and by His indwelling enables Christians to live a godly life.
- §5:** We believe that all men are by nature and choice sinful and lost, and have within themselves no possible means of salvation.
- §6:** We believe in salvation by grace, not by any virtue of works of men, but received only by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that all true believers possess the gift of eternal life, a perfect righteousness, son-ship in the family of God, and the divine guarantee that they shall never perish.
- §7:** We believe in the existence of Satan, the deceiver and ruler of this present world that he was defeated and judged at the cross, and therefore his final doom is certain.
- §8:** We believe in the second coming of Christ; that His return from Heaven will be personal, visible, and glorious, the time being unrevealed but always imminent.

- §9:** We believe in the priesthood of all believers, that Christ is our Great High Priest and through Him every born-again person has the right and responsibility to personally study and interpret the scriptures, guided by the Holy Spirit.
- §10:** We believe that a New Testament Church is an organized body of born again baptized believers practicing scriptural ordinances and actively engaged in fulfilling the Great Commission.
- §11:** We believe the two scriptural ordinances given to the local church are baptism by immersion of believers only, and the Lord's Supper (Communion) to be partaken of by obedient Christians.

Article III: The Members

All authority and power for the governance of this congregation is vested in and to be managed by its membership.

§1: Recognition of Membership in Christ:

- A. Faith in Jesus as his/her personal Lord and Savior with accompanying conversion.
- B. Obedience to Christ in believer's baptism (As determined in the Policy Manual).
- C. Agreement with the statement of faith.
- D. Interested person(s) may be received into membership as outlined in Policy Manual.

§2: Authority and Responsibilities of the Membership:

- A. Meet annually to approve budget and elect Board Members.
 - i. Special meetings can be held at anytime with two weeks notice called by the Chair of the Church Board, the full Board, or upon the written request of five congregational members.
 - ii. The quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special business meeting shall consist of 20% of the Church's active membership. This rule shall prevail except in those instances which are covered by another article of these Bylaws. The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern when not in conflict with these Bylaws.
- B. To call a pastor.
- C. To serve in the organized work of the Church.
- D. To amend the Church Bylaws.

§3: Status of Members

- A. Active Members – Are those who actively and currently participate in accomplishing the mission of Molina Baptist Church. The Church Board will determine membership status prior to the annual business meeting according to the Policy Manual.
- B. Inactive Members – Are those members who are not currently active as determined in the Policy Manual.

§4: Dismissal of Members

Termination of membership may occur upon request of the member or by the congregation upon recommendation of the pastor and/or Church Board as outlined in the Policy Manual.

Article IV: The Church Board

Members delegate authority and responsibilities for those governance issues not reserved for the full membership to the Church Board.

§1: Election of the Church Board

- A. The Church Board will be elected by the church membership and must be active members of Molina Baptist Church.
- B. The Church Board should be comprised of no fewer than five. In the event that there is less than five, the effort should be made to fill the vacancy as quickly as possible.
- C. The church membership will nominate candidates prior to the annual meeting as determined in the Policy Manual.
- D. Elected Board Members will serve a three-year term and are eligible for reelection without limitation.
- E. The church membership may nominate and elect a new member to fill a vacancy on the Board at a business meeting.

§2: Authority and Responsibilities

- A. The Church Board will be responsible for carrying out the governance of the church as set in the Policy Manual.
- B. The Church Board will empower the pastor and keep him accountable to the corporate goals.
- C. Audit or oversee an audit of financial records periodically.

§3: Officers

The Church Board will elect a chair, vice chair(s) and secretary from among their membership.

- A. Chair of the Church Board
 - i. Shall be elected annually from among the Church Board members.
 - ii. Shall act as the Chief Governing Officer of the Board and the Membership presiding over all meetings.
- B. Vice-Chair
 - i. Shall be elected annually from among the Church Board members.
 - ii. Shall fulfill the responsibilities of the chair in his/her absence.
- C. Secretary
 - i. Shall be elected annually from the Church Board members.
 - ii. Shall keep minutes and keep church membership rolls.

The Policy Manual will list all additional responsibilities of the officers.

§4: Dismissal from the Church Board

- A. A member of the board may be dismissed by majority vote of the church membership at a business meeting with proper notification.

Article V: The Pastor

The pastor of the congregation is the chief shepherd of the ministry. The Church Board empowers the pastor by setting the course of the ministry.

§1: Selection

- A. At the times Molina Baptist Church is without a pastor, the Church Board will form a pastoral search committee made up of congregational members. The search committee will present the Church Board with qualified candidates.
- B. The Church Board will decide on one candidate to present to the church membership.
- C. The Church Board will call a business meeting to vote concerning whether a call should be extended to the candidate.
- D. Only active members 18 years or older may vote.
- E. A $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of those voting is required to call a pastor.
- F. The Church Board will prepare an employment contract to be approved by the church membership and offered to the pastoral candidate.

§2: Authority and Responsibilities

- A. Shall communicate to the congregation through preaching, teaching, and vision casting.
- B. Shall train and equip the congregation for ministry.
- C. Shall evaluate the effectiveness of ministries and be directly accountable to the Church Board.
- D. Shall conduct pastoral care of the congregation.
- E. Shall lead community outreach in the valley.
- F. Shall be a non-voting *ex officio* member of the Church Board.

§3: Dismissal

- A. A pastor may resign at any time but must provide a 30-day notice or such time as may be mutually agreed upon by the pastor and the Church Board.
- B. A 2/3 majority vote of no-confidence from the active church membership of those 18 years or older is sufficient to dismiss the pastor at a meeting set for this expressed purpose.

Article VI: The Treasurer

The Treasurer will manage financial matters as directed by the church.

§1: Qualifications

- A. Demonstrates strong financial management skills.
- B. Able to understand and communicate financial matters orderly and clearly to the pastor, Church Board and congregation.

§2: Selection

The Church Board shall appoint the treasurer.

§3: Authority and Responsibilities

- A. Shall manage the accounts of Molina Baptist Church.
- B. Shall serve as a member of the finance team or otherwise organized equivalent.
- C. Shall evaluate the financial health of the ministry and be directly accountable to the Church Board.
- D. Shall be a non-voting *ex officio* member of the Church Board unless already elected as a regular member of the Church Board by the church membership.

§4: Dismissal of the Treasurer

- A. A treasurer may resign at any time but should provide a 30-day notice or such time as may be mutually agreed upon by the treasurer and the Church Board.
- B. A treasurer may be dismissed by majority vote of the Church Board.

Article VII: The Ministry Teams

Ministry Teams are the essential volunteers in the ministry. All Ministry Teams are directly accountable to the Church Board. Members of the Church Board may also serve on Ministry Teams.

§1: Qualifications

- A. Ministry Team members should strive to demonstrate the virtues of the Spirit and the character of Christ.
- B. Shall work to accomplish the mission of Molina Baptist Church.

§2: Selection

- A. The Church Board will select or approve Ministry Team volunteers based on spiritual gifts, passions, abilities and experience.
- B. Numbers of team members will depend on availability of gifted members and the demands of the responsibilities for the current ministry needs.

§3: Authority and Responsibilities

- A. The Church Board and the Policy Manual shall delegate authority and responsibilities for the teams.
- B. Ministry Teams will be formed based on the needs of the ministry.
- C. Ministry Teams may consist of but not be limited to the following:
 - i. Servant Team
 - ii. Outreach Team
 - iii. Worship Environments Team
 - iv. Hospitality Team
 - v. Discipleship Team
 - vi. Stewardship Team
 - vii. Financial Team

§4: Dismissal from Ministry Teams

- A. The Church Board can dismiss team members when necessary by majority vote of the Church Board.

Article VIII: The Process for Amending the Bylaws

These Bylaws may be amended, modified, or rescinded, or new Bylaws may be adopted at any business meeting of the membership, provided that due notice is given that such an action is to be introduced at such meeting. For the purpose of this Article, due notice may consist either of a written notice mailed to the membership approximately thirty (30) days prior to the date of such a meeting, or by public announcement at each regular worship service on not less than three successive Sundays immediately prior to the date of said meeting. On matters pertaining to the amendment, modification, rescinding, or adoption of new Bylaws, such action shall require the approval of a two-thirds majority of active members 18 years or older of those voting.

Article IX: The Dissolution Plan

Upon the dissolution of Molina Baptist Church, assets shall be distributed to one or more organizations pursuing a similar mission and exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code. Any Such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the court of competent jurisdiction in Mesa County exclusively for such purposes or to such organization(s) as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.