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# Rocky Mountains Bible Mission Constitution & Bylaws

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## Table of Contents

CONSTITUTION.....	2
Article I    Name .....	2
Article II   Statement of Belief.....	2
Article III  Purpose .....	3
Article IV  Membership.....	3
Article V   Officers .....	3
Article VI  Business Meetings.....	4
Article VII  Standing .....	4
Article VIII Amendments .....	4
Article IX  Provision for Bylaws .....	4
Article X   Property Rights .....	4
Constitutional Amendment .....	5
Amendment 1.....	5
Proposed Constitutional Amendments.....	6
BYLAWS.....	8
Article I    Missionary Membership.....	8
Article II   Church Membership.....	9
Article III  Executive Board .....	9
Article IV  Order of Business and Voting Procedures.....	10
Article V   A Covenant of Conduct .....	12
Article VI  Church Discipline of Missionaries.....	12
Article VII  Amendments .....	13
Amendment to the Bylaws.....	14
Amendment 1.....	14
Proposed Amendments to Bylaws.....	15

## ***CONSTITUTION***

### **Article I      Name**

The name of this Mission will be ROCKY MOUNTAINS BIBLE MISSION.

### **Article II      Statement of Belief**

1. We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and the divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.
2. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He rose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where at the right hand of the Majesty on high, He now is our High Priest and advocate.
4. We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer for godly living and service.
5. We believe that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
6. We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation of all who believe, and only such as receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are born of the Holy Spirit, and thus, become children of God.
7. We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church during the present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means of salvation.
8. We believe that the true Church is composed of all such persons who, through saving faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ of which He is the head.
9. We believe that only those who are thus members of the true Church will be eligible for membership in the Mission.
10. We believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this "blessed hope" has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer.

11. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead; of the believer to everlasting blessedness and the joy with the Lord, of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment.

### **Article III Purpose**

The purpose of the Mission will be: The preaching of the Word of God to the mutual edification, instruction and discipline of its members and other believers; the winning of unsaved to Christ; helping young Christians to develop in their spiritual lives; instruct children in the Word of God; and the furtherance of the Gospel work on mission fields at home and abroad.

### **Article IV Membership**

1. Missionaries. This Mission will receive as members those 21 years and older who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, being born again, and in their lives manifesting the fruits of a true faith in God.

2. Churches. This Mission will receive as members those congregations who agree to this Constitution, its Bylaws, and the biblical standards and administrative policies which may be established.

### **Article V Officers**

1. The elected officers of the Mission will be: president, vice president and two to four directors. These elected officers will appoint an executive director and these five to seven officers will constitute the Executive Board of the Mission.

2. Elected executive board members may serve two consecutive three-year terms to be followed by a mandatory one-year sabbatical recess. Serving another member's unfinished term does not constitute a member's elected term.

3. Selection of new board members, whether to replace an outgoing member, to finish an outgoing member's incomplete term, or in order to maintain a minimum of five members on the board, will be according to the following guidelines, listed in order of priority:

- a. Recommendation by the standing board or a Mission member or an advisory member(s) or former member(s) in good standing, to be approved by the general Mission by ballot.
- b. Recommendation to the executive board by a Mission member, to be approved by the general Mission by ballot.
- c. Nomination and vote by the general Mission at a quarterly or special meeting.

**Article VI Business Meetings**

1. The annual meetings will be held on the third Friday of each year when the election of officers will take place, as well as the transaction of such business as concerns the work for the year.
2. Quarterly meetings will be held on the third Friday of each quarter with the exception of the third quarter.
3. A special meeting may be announced at any time by the president in conjunction with the other officers according to the need.
4. In electing officers, voting will be done by closed ballot.

**Article VII Standing**

This Mission will remain free and independent and will not join itself to any denomination or synod. It will remain its own highest authority, save God, and conduct its business through its business sessions.

**Article VIII Amendments**

Amendments to this constitution may be made at any quarterly business meeting of the Mission by a two-third majority of votes cast, when said proposed amendments have been presented in written form and discussed at a business meeting at least three months prior to the time of its adoption.

**Article IX Provision for Bylaws**

A supplement to this constitution known as By-laws will embody the stated qualifications for officers and their duties, conditions for membership, method by which members are received, parliamentary rules and regulations for the activities of the Mission. Rules and regulations adopted at any officially called and announced business session will be written out in good form and added to the By-laws when so decided by a meeting.

**Article X Property Rights**

1. If division occurs in the Mission, those adhering to the constitution retain the name and all property.
2. If the Mission ceases to function and its organization is dissolved, the property will be handled in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation.

## ***Constitutional Amendment***

### **Amendment 1**

Article V Officers, paragraph 2, is amended to read,

Executive board members are elected to three year terms. Members may be re-elected. (Approved and adopted April 15, 2008.)



## ***Proposed Constitutional Amendments***

Following are proposed amendments to be voted up or down at the Mission’s annual meeting on Tuesday, April 17, 2012.

### **Proposed Amendment 1**

Article III, Purpose, is amended to read,

The Rocky Mountains Bible Mission (Mission) exists to glorify God by equipping rural churches and ministries to reach the lost and make disciples for Christ.

Comment: The board drafted and the Mission members reviewed this statement during the review of the Mission’s vision and direction (what some call the “sandbox process”). Its intention is to show the goal as a whole body – churches and missionaries.

### **Proposed Amendment 2**

Paragraph 1, Article IV, Membership is amended to read,

1. Missionaries. This Mission will receive as missionary members those 21 years and older who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, being born again, and in their lives manifesting the fruits of a true faith in God and who agree to this Constitution, its Bylaws, and the biblical standards and administrative policies which may be established.

Comment: This change adds adherence to the Mission’s governing documents as a requirement for missionary membership.

### **Proposed Amendment 3**

Article IV, Membership paragraph 2 is amended to read,

2. Churches. This Mission will receive as member churches those congregations who agree to this Constitution, its Bylaws, and the biblical standards and administrative policies which may be established.

Comment: The change adds adherence to the Mission’s governing documents as a requirement for church membership.

### **Proposed Amendment 4**

Paragraph 3c, Article V, Officers is amended to read,

c. Nomination and vote by the general Mission at an annual or special meeting.

Comment: It used to read “quarterly and special”; the quarterlies are no longer Mission-wide business meetings. (In April 2009, the Mission agreed to this change as a temporary provision with the regionalization.)

### **Proposed Amendment 5**

Article V, Officers is amended to add paragraph 4:

4. In order to facilitate coordinating resources, efforts, and the work of the various ministries, the Executive Director in consultation with the Executive Board may appoint regionally assigned coordinators for Mission ministries and personnel.

Comment: This addition establishes the regionalization permanently, the three-year trial ending. (In April 2009, the Mission agreed to this change as a temporary provision for regionalization.)

### **Proposed Amendment 6**

Paragraphs 1 and 2, Article VI, Business Meetings are amended to read,

1. The annual meetings will be held each year at a time and date determined by the Executive Director and announced at least three months in advance. At this meeting, the election of officers will take place and the Mission will conduct such business as concerns the work for the year.
2. Regional meetings will be held in January and October at a time and date determined by the various regional coordinators for their region.

Comment: These two paragraphs establish mandatory meetings under the regionalization versus the quarterly meetings of yore. (In April 2009, the Mission agreed to this change as a temporary provision with the regionalization.)

### **Proposed Amendment 7**

Article VIII, Amendments is amended to read,

Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any annual or special business meeting of the Mission by a two-third majority of votes cast, when said proposed amendments have been presented to the voters in written form by a specific mailing at least 45 days prior to the meeting.

Comment: This changes from “quarterly” to “annual or special” the time when amendments may be voted on and establishes a new notification procedure for the process. (In April 2009, the Mission agreed to this change as a temporary provision with the regionalization.)

## **BYLAWS**

### **Article I      Missionary Membership**

1. Missionaries are those individuals who are eligible to receive in whole or in part their financial support through contributions made to the Mission by other individuals and/or churches, meet the requirements of Article IV of the Constitution, agree to the statement of faith, agree to other constitutional tenants, agree to these by-laws, and agree to the written policies of the Mission.
2. The missionary devotes his time to his calling and ministry under the authority of the Executive Board. This may include preaching the Word of God, leading devotional services, doing visitation (particularly among the sick and destitute), instructing the children and young people in the Holy Scriptures, and watching over the spiritual life of people his ministry reaches. In addition,
  - a. Missionaries will attend each quarterly meeting and report at least annually as to the ministry and condition of his area of the Mission.
  - b. Missionaries will keep and submit such records as the Executive Board will require.
  - c. Missionaries will join a Rocky Mountain Bible Mission member-church in their area of ministry and place themselves under the authority of that church board.
3. Individuals become missionaries upon approval by the Executive Board following a written application process determined by the Board. Approval by the Board will be announced to the entire Mission expeditiously.
4. If any missionary is found to live or teach contrary to the Word of God and the statement of belief of this Mission, he shall be admonished in love. If there is no repentance, exclusion from the Mission shall follow according to Matthew 18:15-18, 1 Corinthians 5, 2 Corinthians 2:5-11, and Galatians 6:1-2.
5. Church Leadership by Missionaries. Because male leadership is scriptural, the Mission will ordain only men to serve in the capacity of pastor whose duties include, but are not limited to, preaching, officiating at weddings, funerals, baptisms, communion, etc.
6. Missionaries departing a ministry with the Mission who leave in good standing at their own request will be considered as inactive missionaries. Various privileges may be extended to such missionaries as from time to time the Executive Board determines appropriate and feasible.

## **Article II Church Membership**

1. Member churches are those congregations voluntarily affiliating with the Mission, agree to the statement of faith, agree to other constitutional tenants, agree to these by-laws, and agree to the written policies of the Mission.

2. A church makes the following commitments:

- a. Financially support the missionary or missionaries serving their congregation;
- b. Appoint or elect a Church Representative who becomes a voting member of the mission (see Constitution, Article IV); and
- c. Commit to support the Mission's ministries and general fund in whatever way it is able.

3. Congregations become a member following written application to the Mission, one or more meetings/interviews between congregational representatives and the Mission's Executive Board and approval by the Board. Approval will be announced to the entire Mission expeditiously.

4. All churches not served by a member-missionary of the Mission, are considered an associate church with the full rights, privileges and responsibilities of these membership policies.

5. Churches may voluntarily withdraw from the Mission at any time. Written notification should be provided to the Mission board. Churches acting outside the precepts of God's Word or in discord with these membership policies may be precluded from membership by the Mission's Executive Board. In addition, the congregation must maintain current incorporation as prescribed by the laws of the state in which they meet.

## **Article III Executive Board**

1. The Executive Board functions according to the authority and responsibility given it by the total Mission, including:

- a. Appoints and supervises directors, ministry boards, managers and committees, and delegates responsibilities to the same.
- b. Maintains official communication with all missionaries, churches and ministries, and oversees and assumes responsibility for the overall spiritual and material health of the Mission.
- c. Although not necessarily a missionary, all members of the Executive Board must be of irreproachable character, having a "good report" (I Timothy 3:1-13). If any member of the Executive Board is found to live or teach contrary to the Word of God and the statement of belief of this Mission, he shall be admon-

ished in love. If there is no repentance, exclusion from the Mission shall follow according to Matthew 18:15-18, I Corinthians 5, II Corinthians 2:5-11, and Galatians 6:1-2.

2. The President will preside at all business meetings of the Mission and the Executive Board.

a. He has authority to call meetings of the board; also, to call special meetings of the Mission after consultation with the Board, and in due time, properly announce such meetings.

b. In the absence of the president, the vice-president will perform the duties of the president.

3. The Executive Director:

a. Keeps an accurate record of procedures and decisions of all business of the Mission, as well as of the board meetings.

b. Attends to correspondence of the Mission and preserves all records of the Mission.

c. Receives all funds, keeps accurate accounts, gives complete reports at business meetings of all funds handled, and is ready to report to the Board the financial status of the Mission at any time requested.

d. Makes all disbursements and pays all bills, after the Executive Board has decided on them.

e. Supervises missionaries and missionary activity.

#### **Article IV Order of Business and Voting Procedures**

1. All ordinary business will be transacted at the quarterly and other business sessions of the Mission.

2. All regular and extra business sessions will be conducted in the following order:

a. Worship, Scripture reading, a sermon by the Executive Director or his representative and prayer

b. Minutes of the preceding business meeting read

c. Reports

d. Tabled questions

e. New business

3. Voting members include all missionaries, church representatives and members of the Executive Board. All members have the right to vote in all matters coming before the meeting.

4. Election and calling of officers may take place at annual or special business meetings; either by nomination of several candidates, or by voting affirmative or negative on one candidate; but the final vote must be taken by closed ballot, and a two-thirds majority must be had. Likewise, a two-thirds majority must be had to retain the missionary when that issue is before the session. He will be called for indefinite time with one-month notice by him or by the Mission in case of resignation or dismissal.

5. Election of all officers of the Board takes place at the annual meeting by nomination, then elected by closed ballots and majority of votes cast. They will serve for the term of three years in such a way that there is a re-election each year.

6. All matters will be determined by majority vote except when otherwise specified in these Bylaws, or by the decision of the session.

7. Committees may be elected or appointed at any business session as the need arises.

#### 8. Special Meetings

a. Special/called meetings of the mission must be announced to the mission voting members a minimum of fifteen days before the meeting date.

b. Such notification will be made by registered US mail or personal telephone calls to members, in which case a log will be maintained of each conversation.

c. Each notice will contain specific information as to the meeting's purpose (with consideration given to personal and confidential data), date, time, and location.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIBLE MISSION

#### 9. Quorum

a. A quorum is necessary in order to conduct any business at special and regularly scheduled meetings.

b. A quorum is established at all business meetings with the physical presence in excess of fifty percent of the member missionaries.

c. Although invited to vote at any meeting they attend, it is not necessary to have church representatives present for a quorum at business meetings.

#### 10. Absentee Voting

a. Missionary members may vote by written absentee ballot in extremely urgent or emergency situations when the Executive Board grants approval on a case-by-case basis.

b. Absentee ballots must contain information as to the specific business matter being acted upon, a clear "yes/no" or "for/against," and the printed name, date, and signature of the voter.

**Article V     A Covenant of Conduct**

1. The fundamental principles of this Mission are based upon the Word of God; therefore, every member of the Mission is expected to live according to its teachings and avoid and refrain from that which is destructive to the Christian life and dishonorable to God. Every member is earnestly admonished to refrain from slander and evil speaking of one another, to pray constantly for the Mission, its members, and its ministry; to support materially the Mission according to ability and necessity; to attend services as far as possible; and to live a holy and godly life in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.
2. The members of this Mission are Christians and believe that the Bible commands them to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian church (see Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8). Failing to reach personal reconciliation, the parties agree that any claim or dispute arising from or related to membership or between members shall be settled by biblically based mediation. If necessary, legally binding arbitration will occur in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute for Christian Conciliation, a division of Peacemaker® Ministries (complete text of the Rules is available at [www.hispeace.org](http://www.hispeace.org)). Judgment upon an arbitration decision may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction. All members understand that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising during membership and expressly waive their right to file a lawsuit in any civil court against one another for such disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision.

**Article VI     Church Discipline of Missionaries**

1. Any missionary placed under discipline by the RMBM board, or a local church board, will not serve in a capacity of public spiritual leadership until both boards are satisfied with the resolution of the point in question.
2. Where the action of the local church board involves the dismissal of an RMBM missionary, the RMBM Executive Board will be represented.
3. For any disciplinary action of the local church board to be recognized by the Mission, the Executive Board will be represented in the proceedings.
4. Where the action of the RMBM Executive Board involves the dismissal of an RMBM missionary, the local church board will be represented at meetings.
5. For any disciplinary action of the RMBM Executive Board to be recognized by the local church, that church's board will be represented in the proceedings.

**Article VII Amendments**

1. These Bylaws may be amended at any regular quarterly or properly called special meeting of the entire Mission.
2. A written ballot vote will be conducted and the amendment will need approval of two-thirds of the voters for adoption.



## ***Amendment to the Bylaws***

### **Amendment 1**

Paragraph 9b, Quorum, Article IV, Order of Business and Voting Procedures is amended to read:

b. A quorum is established at all business meetings with the physical presence in excess of fifty percent of the missionary membership units. (A membership unit is either a single—unmarried—missionary or one representative of a married couple. Whether one or both married persons are present, only one unit is present.)

(Approved and adopted October 10, 2008)

### **Amendment 2**

Article II, Church Membership, paragraph 4, is repealed in its entirety.

(Approved and adopted April 21, 2009)



## ***Proposed Amendments to Bylaws***

### **Proposed Amendment 1**

Paragraph 2a, Article I, Missionary Membership is amended to read:

- a. Missionaries will attend each annual and regional meeting and report orally to the body gathered at least once annually at his regional meeting as to the ministry and condition of his area of the Mission.

Comment: Formerly each missionary was required to give an oral report at least once during one of the three quarterly meetings. (In April 2009, the Mission agreed to this change as a temporary provision with the regionalization.)

### **Proposed Amendment 2**

Paragraph 2c, Article II, Church Membership is amended to read:

- c. Commit to support the Mission's ministries and general fund in whatever way it is able.

Comment: This adds a reminder for the congregations to seriously consider supporting the general funding needs of the Mission.

### **Proposed Amendment 3**

Paragraph 3, Article IV, Order of Business and Voting Procedures is amended to read:

3. Voting members are all active missionaries, church representatives, a representative of each camp board, non-member pastors of Mission churches, and lay members of the Executive Board. All members have the right to vote in all matters coming before the meeting.

Comment: This adds two voting categories – a representative of each camp board and non-member pastors of Mission churches.

### **Proposed Amendment 4**

Paragraph 6, Article IV, Order of Business and Voting Procedures is amended to read:

6. All matters will be determined by majority vote except when otherwise specified in the Constitution or these Bylaws, or by the decision of the session.

Comment: Previously the paragraph did not include the authority of the Constitution, which also specifies some voting requirements.

**Proposed Amendment 5**

Paragraph 9c, Quorum, Article IV, Order of Business and Voting Procedures is amended to read:

- c. Although invited to vote at any meeting they attend, it is not necessary to have camp or church representatives present for a quorum at business meetings.

Comment: This change adds camp representatives as voting members.

