



**Montgomery Chinese Baptist Church**  
12221 Veirs Mill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20906  
Office: 301-942-0497

## **CONSTITUTION of MCBC**

May 1, 1995

### **PREAMBLE**

We establish this constitution to preserve the principles of our faith and practice, to preserve the liberties of each church member, to govern the body in an orderly manner, and to ensure the freedom of action of this body in its relationship to other churches.

### **ARTICLE I. NAME**

This body shall be known as the Montgomery Chinese Baptist Church, located in Montgomery County, Maryland.

### **ARTICLE II. CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into the covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expense of the church, and the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealing, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to avoid the abuse of alcohol, drugs, and controlled substances, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.



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### **ARTICLE III. OBJECTIVES**

Recognizing Jesus as our Lord and Savior and obeying His Great Commission, our objectives are:

1. To love, praise, and magnify the Lord;
2. To share Jesus Christ by every means with as many people as possible in our church, community, and throughout the world;
3. To be worshipping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing His person, and responding in obedience to His leadership;
4. To be a community of faith whose members share in intimate, meaningful fellowship with God and with fellow believers and who share in the achieving of common goals and purposes for the glory of Jesus Christ;
5. To develop mature Christian disciples who strive to attain "to the measure of the stature to the fullness of Christ" (Eph.4:13) through prayer, Bible study, training, worship, and ministry;
6. To be a church whose members practice the biblical standard of stewardship which understands the whole of life as a sacred trust from God and requires the responsible use of life, time, talents, and substance -- personal and corporate-- in the service of Christ;
7. To provide a program of religious instruction that will deepen our faith through knowledge of the Bible and that will equip the membership to carry out the mission of Christ;
8. To be a church which ministers unselfishly .to all persons in the community and the world in Jesus' name.

### **ARTICLE IV. STATEMENT OF FAITH**

This church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of the Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in May 1963. Included in these beliefs are the following:

#### **1. The Bible**

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the complete and perfect record of God's revelation of Himself to man. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, the truth for its contents.

#### **2. God**

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



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### **3. Man**

The man was created by the special act of God, in His image, and is the crowning work of His creation. In the beginning, the man was innocent of sin and was endowed by His Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Only the grace of God can bring man into His Holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every man possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

### **4. Salvation**

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, sanctification, and glorification.

### **5. God's Purpose of Grace**

The election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace but shall persevere to the end.

### **6. The Church**

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the Gospel to the ends of the earth. This church is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

### **7. Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

Baptism and Lord's Supper are the two ordinances given by Christ to the church. Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. Baptism is a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby believers, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

### **8. The Lord's Day**

The first day of the week is Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion.

### **9. The Last Things**

God, in His own time and in His way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised, and



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Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

#### **10. Evangelism and Mission**

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations.

#### **11. Stewardship**

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Therefore, we are under obligation to serve Him with our time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to us to use for the glory of God and for helping others.

#### **12. Cooperation**

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner.

#### **13. The Christian and the Social Order**

Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in his own life and human society.

#### **14. Religious Liberty**

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separated.

### **ARTICLE V. GOVERNMENT AND OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIP**

The government of this church is vested in the membership. This church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body. Insofar as it practical, this church will maintain official relationships with and support the Montgomery Baptist Association, the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, and the Southern Baptist Convention.