

Mountain Vista Baptist Church Constitution

Article 1: Name

The name of the body shall be Mountain Vista Baptist Church (MVBC) of Carson City, Nevada.

Article 2: Purpose

Our purpose is to gather together as believers in Christ and to reach people with the Gospel of Christ.

MVBC Discipleship Process

Our Purpose: Our desire at MVBC is to be centered around the Great Commission of Matt 28:19-20 – Making Disciples! We believe discipleship is the call of all who follow Jesus, and it is accomplished through the Holy Spirit working in us as we seek to live Christ's commands. With this drive we achieve the goal of discipleship through a three-step process.

Gather – We gather together corporately as believers in our Sunday morning services. This time is focused on fellowship, singing, prayer, and hearing the Word of God taught (Heb 10:24, Acts 2:1, 20:7, I Cor 16:1-2). This is step one in the discipleship process (**We Gather**), **meeting together**.

Grow – We grow together corporately as believers in our Sunday school classes and Bible studies. This time is focused on smaller group prayer, teaching, and application of Scripture through books of the Bible and through topical studies (II Pet 3:18, Col 1:9-10, 2:6-7, II Pet 1:5-8, Eph 4:13-16). This is step two in the discipleship process (**We Grow**), **growing together**.

Go – We go corporately and individually serving both believers and our community. The Holy Spirit has given us gifts that are to be used for the building up of the Body of Christ (Eph 4, I Cor 12, Rom 12), and we are called to be salt and light in the community (Gal 6:9-10, Matt 25:31-46, Romans 12:20-21). This is step three in the discipleship process (**We Go**), **serving others through the gifts of the Spirit**.

Article 3: Articles of Faith

Mountain Vista Baptist Church holds the Bible itself, as the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, it is the sole source of all that we believe. For purposes of Mountain Vista Baptist Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our pastor and the elders are the church's interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

Article 4: Affiliation

MVBC shall voluntarily cooperate with churches, organizations, and denominations of like faith and order as it chooses. Messengers for local and state cooperative affiliation meetings and national convention meetings will be appointed by the Elders.

Article 5: Government

The government of MVBC shall be vested in the body of believers who comprise its membership, as specifically outlined in the By-laws. This body of believers is subject to no other ecclesiastical body. Any voluntary associations with other bodies, shall not infringe on the rights of Mountain Vista Baptist Church. MVBC acknowledges Jesus Christ as its only Lord and Savior and receives the Holy Bible as its supreme guide in matters of faith, order, practice, and discipline. Mountain Vista Baptist Church is an elder-led, congregationally-governed church.

Article 6: Membership

The membership of Mountain Vista Baptist Church shall be composed of individuals who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and affirm the tenets of the Church Constitution and By-laws; who offer evidence, by their confession and their conduct, that they are living in accord with their affirmations and this Constitution and By-laws; and are actively pursuing and continuing in a vital fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The pastor and/or the elders shall interview and present candidates for membership.

When the elders are satisfied that a candidate gives a credible profession of faith and meets the requirements for membership, which may include attending a new member's training class, the candidate will be brought before the congregation for a vote. Membership shall be granted upon a majority vote of the congregation.

Members must:

1. believe in Christ's atoning work for salvation.
2. be living a Christ-centered life.
3. be baptized by immersion, either in this church or a church of like faith.

Termination of membership shall be as follows: *

1. Death of the member
2. Transfer to another church
3. Upon written request for withdrawal
4. Non-involvement for over 90 days and with the recommendation of the pastor or elders
5. Exclusion by disciplinary action of the church in accordance with Matthew 18:15-20

*A member may not terminate membership while undergoing discipline as outlined in the By-laws.

Rights and Duties of Members

- Active members 18 years of age or older may act upon and vote in all transactions of MVBC.
- Final authority on all matters of church life rests with the membership – the congregation – of MVBC. Accordingly, the congregation votes on its leadership, admits and dismisses members, and stands accountable to God for its teaching and preaching. This commitment, therefore, should not be taken lightly.

Article 7: Officers

The officers of MVBC serve multiple purposes but their primary responsibility is that of corporate officers of the 501(c)(3) as filed with the Nevada Secretary of State. The officers are also the legal agents for MVBC and they lead the congregation in business matters.

Officers of MVBC shall be president, secretary, treasurer, and director. The president and director must each be an elder and those positions are chosen by the elders. The treasurer is not required to be an elder but must be the chairman of the finance committee. The secretary is not required to be an elder but must be a member of MVBC, elected by the congregation after being nominated by the elders.

In the event of a protracted absence of the director, the elders shall appoint one of the other positions to function in a dual capacity, e.g., secretary/director. At least one of these officers must be present at any meeting in which business affecting MVBC is conducted.

All officers serve as further noted in this constitution and the By-laws of MVBC.

Article 8: Services

Mountain Vista Baptist Church shall hold regularly scheduled meetings for public worship, preaching, teaching, ministry, fellowship, prayer, and evangelism.

Article 9: Business Meetings

Business meetings shall be scheduled semi-annually and annually the last Wednesday of January and the last Wednesday of July. MVBC's office manager shall function as the secretary and shall take minutes of the discussion at all meetings. In the event the office manager cannot be present, the elders shall appoint a member to take the minutes. The chairman, or his/her designee, of each standing or ad hoc committee shall prepare a written report of the committee's activities since the last submitted report. That report shall be forwarded to the office manager for inclusion with all committee reports, which will be made available to the congregation prior to the scheduled meeting. The elders may change the date if a conflict should arise. See Article 10 for quorum.

Special business meetings may be called by the elders or by active members.

1. Members desiring to call a special business meeting must do so by contacting an elder and detailing their concerns for the need of the meeting. If the concern is not resolved by the elders, the member may act corporately to call a meeting if ten or more members are united in a concern that they feel needs to be brought to the attention of the entire congregation. Notice of the time, place, and purpose of such meeting shall be given at least fourteen days prior to the meeting. The notice must be given at all regular worship services for two weeks.
2. Elders desiring to call a special business meeting must announce said meeting for a minimum of two weeks including two consecutive Sundays. Notice of the time, place, and purpose of such meeting shall be given at least fourteen days prior to the meeting. The notice must be given at all regular worship services for two weeks.

Emergency business meetings may be called by an elder. Members will be notified in writing or by electronic notification of such special meetings in a timeframe deemed acceptable by the elders to address emergency issues. The notice of an emergency business meeting shall state the business to be considered at such meeting, and no other business other than that stated shall be discussed at said meeting.

Article 10: Quorum

A quorum for regular business meetings consists of those members in attendance. A majority vote of the quorum shall determine any matter of business except where otherwise stated in the Constitution and By-laws. For amendments to the Constitution and By-laws, a 66% vote is required. For the calling of an Associate Pastor/Elder a 66% vote is required. For the calling of the senior pastor, 25% of voting members must be present with an 85% vote required for hiring.

Article 11: Voting

In all matters of church voting and business, we support and encourage discussion. Mountain Vista Baptist Church desires unity in the body, and thus seeks consensus, recognizing that unity does not mean everyone agrees or thinks the same things. Realizing the difficulty in absolute consensus and seeing the brief Biblical example of a majority result in II Cor 2:6-7, ultimate decisions are made by a vote of the eligible membership requiring a majority vote (see article 10) to pass once discussion has concluded, unless otherwise noted.

Article 12: Amendments

Any amendments to this Constitution and By-laws must be presented at a business meeting for discussion and modification. The proposed amendment will then be voted on, provided notice of the time, place, and purpose of such meeting has been properly given as stipulated in this Constitution and By-laws; the proposed amendment must pass by a 66% majority vote (see article 10 for quorum).

Article 13: Dissolution

In the case of dissolution, the church shall adopt a formal plan setting forth the steps to be taken by designated officers to dissolve the corporation. After all expenses are paid, a trust fund shall be established to pay premiums on any insurance policies necessary to maintain insurance and to settle or fund any outstanding risk or obligations of the church, including the obligation to indemnify leaders. The remainder of the property of the church shall be deeded, liquidated, transferred, or given to another church of like faith and order that the active members select by majority vote.