



**Constitution and By-Laws
New Hope Missionary Baptist Association, Inc.**

January 8, 2022 Ratified

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**THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE
NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, INC.
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

PREAMBLE

Guided, as we believe by the Holy Spirit, we the pastors and delegates of the Churches included in the New Hope Missionary Baptist Association, Inc. have organized ourselves so that we may strengthen and support each other in carrying out the mission given us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This Constitution sets forth the rules, articles and regulations that will provide guidance and order to our deliberations, procedures and programs. We agree to bind ourselves to be governed and directed by the letter and the spirit of this Constitution under the direction of the Holy Spirit. We further acknowledge that the Holy Bible is our final authority and guide to inspire the spirit of love, unity, cooperation and fellowship called for to be a Christian Association. This Association accepts the scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all sufficient rule of faith and practice and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts the Baptist Church Tenets of Faith as set out in the Appendix of this Constitution.

**ARTICLE I - SECTION A
NAME**

This organization shall be known as The New Hope Missionary Baptist Association, Incorporated.

**ARTICLE I - SECTION B
PURPOSE**

The purpose of this organization shall be to foster the Kingdom of Jesus Christ throughout the world and to support and strengthen our Association of Churches in the areas of Christian Education, Evangelism, Home and Foreign Missions. Also to engage in any Christian work that the Association may deem appropriate to fulfill its purpose and calling.

**ARTICLE I - SECTION C
AUXILIARIES AND MINISTRIES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The Auxiliaries of the Association shall be the Parent Body, Women's Auxiliary, Quarterly Union, Congress of Christian Education and Laymen's Movement. The Ministries of the Association shall be the Ushers, Nurses, and the Choral ministries. The Auxiliaries have multiple ministries in their department. These ministries are diverse in nature and address specific services. The Ministries of the Association - Ushers, Nurses and Choral - have a specific purpose that ministers to the entire Association.

The Auxiliaries of the Association coordinate the following ministries: Women's Auxiliary - Deaconess, YES/AIM and Field Workers. Chairs appointed by the Women's President. Laymen's Movement - Junior Laymen and Bible Bowl. Chairs appointed by Laymen's President. Congress of Christian Education - Youth Division and Oratorical. Chairs appointed by Congress President.

Ministries of the Association come under the auspices of the Moderator who appoints the Chairs - Ushers, Nurses and Choral Ministries.

The President of each Auxiliary is responsible for submitting a yearly report and budget for both administration and ministries. They are also responsible for developing a Standard Operating Procedures manual that is in accordance with the Association's policies and procedures. This manual should include administrative as well as programmatic responsibilities for their Auxiliary and ministries.

The Moderator shall also appoint and assign duties and responsibilities for the Director of Christian Education, Dean, Historian, Budget Chair and Parliamentarian.

The official positions in the Auxiliaries shall be President, First & Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Financial Secretary.

All Auxiliaries and Ministries shall submit written reports to the Association while in session and such reports shall be subject to approval by the members of the Association. Reports shall include any required financial transactions and program activities. All Auxiliaries and Ministries shall submit to the Association all monies received. **The Quarterly Union shall submit to the Association 10% of its net generated revenue.** All Auxiliaries and Ministries shall be responsible for submitting financial statements regarding their total operating revenues and expenses to the Association for purposes of financial controls, good budget management and expense oversight. All Auxiliary and Ministry operating expenses shall be managed by the Association. No Auxiliary or Ministry shall engage in any activities or create policies or practices that are contrary to the Letter or Spirit of the Association's Constitution and By-Laws. They shall not incur debts, engage in financial transactions that obligate the Association or otherwise enter into any legal and/or binding contracts without the knowledge and the written approval of the Budget Chair of the Association.

All Auxiliaries and Ministries shall be subject to the Constitution and By-Laws of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Association, Incorporated.

ARTICLE II - SECTION A MEMBERSHIP DEFINED

This Association shall be composed of Baptist Churches. Such Churches shall be represented in the Association by their Pastors and Delegates.

ARTICLE II - SECTION B
AFFILIATION WITH OTHER ECCLESIASTIC ORGANIZATIONS

The New Hope Missionary Baptist Association, Inc. shall maintain membership affiliations and networking relationships with:

1. General Baptist State Convention of New Jersey and its Affiliated Associations;
2. The National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.

From time to time, it may be expedient for this Association to establish partnerships with other organizations as agreed upon by the Association that are not identified in this Section.

ARTICLE II - SECTION C
CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP CHURCHES

All member churches shall be represented at the Annual and the Semi-Annual Sessions in one of the following classifications:

SIZE OF MEMBERSHIP		ANNUAL FEES	SEMI-ANNUAL FEES
		MESSENGERS	MESSENGERS
GROUP 1	100 PLUS	\$175.00 Pastor + 5	\$75.00 Pastor + 5
GROUP 2	1 - 100	\$150.00 Pastor + 5	\$75.00 Pastor + 5

Each member church may have up to three (3) additional messengers by paying a predetermined representative fee for each additional messenger. As a membership organization, all participating churches are required to register in both the Semi-Annual and Annual Sessions according to this classification in order to participate as a member of the Association.

ARTICLE II - SECTION D
ANNUAL AND SEMI-ANNUAL SESSIONS TIME AND PLACE OF MEETINGS

The New Hope Missionary Baptist Association, Inc. shall be in session twice (2 times) each year. The Semi-Annual Session will be held in the month of March convening the day following the second Sunday in March and remaining in session through the following Friday.

The Annual Session shall be held in the month of August convening the Saturday before the second Sunday of that month and remain in session through the following Thursday. The Annual and Semi-Annual will be conducted at a site as may be voted on or appropriately designated from year to year.

As is the practice of this Association certain Auxiliaries or Ministries shall be designated the responsibility for sponsoring and presenting the program on the date and time that is assigned them. Said programs will always follow the established protocol, principles and spirit of the Association.

If and when the place and time, or both, prove inappropriate or inconvenient to the carrying out of the work of the Association, either may be revoked or suspended by the Association upon the recommendation of the Moderator with the advice and consent of the Board of Managers. When such an occasion arises necessitating the suspension of a session, communication must be conveyed to all member churches in a timely manner and must state the reason for the change.

Any member church making application to host either a Semi-Annual or Annual Session of the Association must have been a registered church in the previous Semi-Annual or Annual Session. The following considerations will be used to evaluate the candidate churches:

- 1) Ability to provide adequate facilities and accommodations for all Auxiliaries and Ministries.
- 2) Adequate safe parking facilities near the meeting site.
- 3) A candidate church must have been registered as a member of the Association for a minimum of three (3) years.

If a candidate church plans to utilize the facility of another church or organization in order to fulfill the necessary requirement such an intention must be made known in writing at the time of the application for consideration.

Meetings - Annual Session:

Saturday: Laymen's Movement - afternoon session; Congress
(Youth) - evening session

Monday: Ushers / Nurses - evening session

Tuesday: Deaconess - afternoon session; Congress of Christian Education President's Annual Message - evening session

Wednesday: Women's Auxiliary all day with President's Message - afternoon session;
Choral Ministry in concert - evening session

Thursday: Association in session with Moderator's Annual Message - evening session

Meetings - Semi-Annual Session:

Monday: YES/ AIM (Youth Enriched to Serve & Adults in Mission)

Tuesday: Congress of Christian Education

Wednesday: Women's Auxiliary

Thursday: The Association's Body

Friday: Laymen's Movement

These dates and appointments are subject to change at the direction of the Moderator.

**ARTICLE III - SECTION A
REVENUE GENERATION AND CUSTODIAL CARE OF ALL MONIES**

Upon the adoption of the Constitution, By-Laws and any Amendments it is agreed by the members of the Association that it is appropriate and necessary that the Association create ways and means to generate revenue for the purpose of conducting Association business.

It will be the responsibility of the Moderator to develop and submit the Annual Revenue Generating and Budget plan to the Board of Managers for review and input prior to submission of the same to the Association for approval. Member church registration fees, revenues generated by activities carried out by the Association's Auxiliaries, Ministries and Standing Committees shall be included in the revenue generation and budget plan. This revenue generation and budget plan shall be voted on and adopted with the advice and consent of the Association. The assets of the Association are to be formally audited annually and the results presented annually to the pastors of the churches of the Association.

Custodial care of all monies shall be the responsibility of the following Association Officers:

Treasurer - Responsible for receiving and banking all monies belonging to the Association at a place designated by the Body. Responsible and accountable for disbursing all monies in the manner prescribed by the Association's policies and practices. Report to the Association at the will of the Body and shall keep records in order to facilitate the periodic audits and reports.

Financial Secretary - Working closely with the Treasurer it is the responsibility of the Financial Secretary to ensure accurate records are kept concerning all monies received and disbursed by the Association; make reports at a time established by the Association; sign all checks drawn on the treasury; keep current financial records for purposes of periodic audits and reports.

Budget Chair - Under the direction of the Moderator, the Budget Chair is responsible for monitoring the Budget of the Association, inclusive of Administration, Auxiliaries and Ministries. All monetary requests must be approved by the Budget Chair before checks can be written, as prescribed by the Association's policies and procedures. Auxiliaries and Ministries have the responsibility of submitting their yearly budget to the Budget Chair. The Budget Chair monitors revenues and expenses to conform to budget and recommends necessary changes and/or corrections in accordance with budget submission. In the preparation of annual revenue and cost projection, the Budget Chair works with the Treasurer and Financial Secretary and performs other duties as assigned by the Moderator.

ARTICLE III - SECTION B AUDITS

In an effort to ensure the integrity, proper oversight and appropriate financial controls are in place the Association's financial records and accounts will be audited by a Certified Public Accounting Firm at the time of transition of the current Moderator.

ARTICLE IV - SECTION A THE ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL POSITIONS

The official positions of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Association, Inc. shall be Moderator, First Vice-Moderator, Second Vice-Moderator, Moderator Emeritus, General Secretary, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Trustees.

ARTICLE IV - SECTION B DUTIES OF ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS

Moderator - The Moderator shall preside at all meetings of the Association and shall serve as the Executive Officer. The Moderator shall be responsible for protecting and governing the assets of the Association while out of Session. Represent the Association on all fronts be they Local, Co-Associational (District), State and National.

First Vice-Moderator - The First Vice-Moderator shall assume all duties assigned by the Moderator.

Second Vice-Moderator - The Second Vice-Moderator shall assume all duties assigned by the Moderator.

Moderator Emeritus - The Moderator Emeritus shall assume all duties assigned by the Moderator.

General Secretary - The General Secretary shall be responsible for the oversight of each Auxiliary and Ministry and areas of responsibility, while working closely with the Moderator to achieve operational and strategic goals. Ensuring meetings are effectively organized. Is sufficiently familiar with the New Hope Missionary Baptist Association's Constitution to note applicability during meetings. A quick thinker who can ensure the smooth day-to-day functions of the Association of considerable scope. Ensure that information is properly developed and analyzed to support fact-based decisions.

Recording Secretary - The Recording Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all business meetings of the Association. The Recording Secretary shall also compile an annual report and forward any meeting notes and reports to the Corresponding Secretary for distribution as required or determined to be appropriate. The Recording Secretary is the custodian of the Association seal.

Corresponding Secretary - The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence of the Association to include notification of all meetings, sessions and special services.

Financial Secretary - The Financial Secretary is responsible for keeping an accurate accounting of all monies received and disbursed by the Association. Make reports at Semi-Annual and Annual Sessions of the Association. Should be visible and involved in the work carried out in the Finance Room at all Sessions.

Treasurer - The Treasurer shall be responsible for receiving and depositing into the appropriate banking account all monies belonging to the Association. Responsible for disbursing the Association's monies in a manner prescribed by the Association. Make reports to the Association at the will of the Body and shall maintain accurate and complete records of all transactions for purposes of periodic audits. Is visible and involved in the work carried out in the Finance Room at all Sessions. The Treasurer's position is an officially bonded position of the Association; responsible for maintaining the Association's 501c3 status and other official required documentation.

Assistant Treasurer - The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer as needed in carrying out their responsibilities and duties.

Trustees - The Moderator shall appoint NHMBA, Inc. Trustees annually and ensure these placements are in compliance with the laws of the State of New Jersey."

ARTICLE IV - SECTION C
QUALIFICATIONS AND GUIDELINES TO HOLD ASSOCIATION OFFICES

Except where otherwise allowed by practice or amendment all Parent Body Officers must be the Pastor of a Church in the New Hope Missionary Baptist Association, Inc. The church which he/she is pastoring must have been registered for 3 years preceding his/her nomination for the office for which they seek.

In addition, the following criteria will be considered:

- 1) Involvement and participation in the Association;
- 2) The active leadership of their church in the Association;
- 3) Active support of Association/ Auxiliary Programs and revenue generating efforts; and
- 4) Demonstrating great leadership and integrity, a sincere commitment to both his/her church and the Association, reflecting competence and love for the people of God.

ARTICLE IV - SECTION D
**QUALIFICATIONS AND GUIDELINES TO HOLD AUXILIARY
AND MINISTRY OFFICES**

Persons aspiring for positions of leadership in the Association's Auxiliaries and Ministries must show evidence of preparation through active participation, knowledge of and commitment to the success and aspirations sought within their respective Auxiliary or Ministry of interest.

It is the responsibility of the President of the Auxiliary and Chair of the Ministry to inform the membership of the specific qualification(s) required for each office.

ARTICLE V - SECTION A
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All Officers shall be elected annually at the Annual Session unless the Association votes to change said date.

Where reasonable and necessary to do, the election of officer positions will be staggered to ensure continuity of administration, program delivery and membership services.

ARTICLE V - SECTION B
TERM OF OFFICE

All Officers of the Association, Auxiliary or Ministry shall be limited to a term limit of four (4) years. The Moderator Emeritus position is excluded from this restriction.

***ARTICLE V - SECTION C
VOTING RIGHTS***

The qualification to vote resides in the registration of a member church at the time of the election process. Each member church in good standing at the time of the election shall be authorized the number of voting messengers as set out in Article II - Section C of this document. Designated church messengers will be issued special identification for voting purposes.

***ARTICLE V - SECTION D
THE NOMINATING COMMITTEES***

This Association shall have a Nominating Committee and a Committee chair that is appointed by the Moderator during the Semi-Annual Meeting. The Committee shall consist of representatives of the Association and representatives of the various Auxiliaries and Ministries. It is the Nominating Committee's responsibility to ensure that the persons nominated for a respective office are qualified, competent and committed. Ensure the nominee is in good standing with their church and that their church is in good standing with the Association.

General Secretary upon receipt of the possible slate of officers will ensure that all individuals that might be nominated to a position have completed a form that allows their pastor to appropriately acknowledge the nominees proper standing in the church. This information will then be supplied to the Chairperson of the Nomination Committee. Should the nomination committee nominate someone other than those on the possible slate, then they would assume the responsibility of ensuring that the form is signed off prior to the person being voted in office or request an exception from the Moderator.

***ARTICLE V - SECTION E
THE NOMINATING PROCESS***

The nominating committee and chairperson shall be appointed by the Moderator during the Semi-Annual Session. It is the responsibility of the chairperson to convene the committee prior to the Annual Session for the purpose of developing a slate of Officers.

On or before the first day the Association meets at the Annual Session, a slate of officers shall be presented to the chair of the nominating committee. At an appointed time during the course of the Annual Session, the nominating committee shall bring the slate before the Annual Session for a vote by the entire body. At the Moderator's discretion all elected Officers and Appointees will be duly and properly installed.

ARTICLE V - SECTION F
DEATH, INCAPACITY, RESIGNATION AND FILLING OF VACANCIES

In the event of the death, incapacity or resignation of an Association Officer or Auxiliary or Ministry Officer, said vacancies shall be filled with the advice and consent of the Moderator.

Any person resigning from an Association, Auxiliary or Ministry Office shall submit a letter of resignation to the appropriate Recording Secretary.

In the event the currently elected Moderator of the NHMBA cannot or chooses not to finish the term of his or her office, the First Vice-Moderator will assume the full duties and authority of the vacant Moderator's role.

The First Vice-Moderator will assume the full duties and authority of the vacated Moderator's role for the remaining balance of the previous Moderator's term.

The First Vice-Moderator will assume the full duties and authority of the vacated Moderator's role but will remain the First Vice-Moderator by title until the term (4 yrs.) of the separated Moderator is completed.

ARTICLE VI - SECTION A
THE BOARD OF MANAGERS, COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

The Board of Managers shall consist of all Pastors and Officers of the Association. The Board shall meet at a call of the Moderator.

ARTICLE VI - SECTION B
APPOINTMENT OF PERSON

The Moderator shall appoint as needed persons to discharge specific duties not applicable to elected officers of the Association. All appointed persons shall serve at the pleasure of the Moderator for a period conterminous with the appointing Moderator.

ARTICLE VI - SECTION C
PROGRAM COMMITTEES

The Moderator shall appoint the Chairs of the Association's Scholarship and the Missions Committee. The Committees shall be responsible for initiating plans and programs designed to raise money to assist in their carrying out their specific charge.

ARTICLE VI - SECTION D
THE PERMANENT COUNCIL

There shall be a Board of Ministers who will act as the Association's Permanent Council, whose duties shall be to determine the qualifications of applicants for ordination to the Gospel Ministry and to ordain the same.

The Permanent Council shall also under the guidance of the Moderator act to evaluate candidate churches seeking membership in the Association. The Moderator shall appoint the Chair, Secretary and all Ministers to this Council. They are to be appointed annually and shall serve conterminously at the discretion of the appointing Moderator.

In addition to the above listed duties the Council may represent the Association whenever any member church pastor or the Chair of the Deacon Board and Chair of the Trustee Board in the absence of the pastor may request their counsel. Such counsel, in keeping with our policy, is only advisory.

ARTICLE VII - SECTION A
THE ASSOCIATION'S QUARTERLY UNION

The Quarterly Union is an Auxiliary of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Association, Inc. and is subject to the requirements as outlined in Article I - Section C. It is the mission of the Quarterly Union to act to enrich and build-up the spiritual welfare of member churches through programs that focus on highlighting church music, ministering, recognition of Auxiliaries and Ministries, preaching ministries, benevolent offerings and revenue generation for host churches and the Association.

The official positions of the Quarterly Union are as follows: President, First and Second Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Correspondence Secretary.

The Quarterly Union Sessions begin Monday before each fifth Sunday. The Sessions close out on the fifth Sunday at the host church.

ARTICLE VIII - SECTION A
THE PROCESS FOR ENTERING THE ASSOCIATION

Those churches desiring to become members of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Association, Inc. must follow the process provided below:

- 1) A written letter of request for membership signed by the Pastor and Church Leadership must be given to the Moderator expressing the desire of the church for membership. The letter must include:
 - a. Date of organization and copy of incorporation; and
 - b. A brief profile of the church (number of members, leadership structure, etc.)

ARTICLE VIII - SECTION B
EVALUATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS

Upon receipt of the letter of request for membership the Moderator will designate a Membership Committee drawn from the Permanent Council to ascertain necessary information for the Association and to provide guidance to the "Applicant".

The Membership Committee shall meet with the Pastor, leaders and/or members of the candidate church and help facilitate the application.

The Pastor must provide to the Moderator and Chairperson of the Permanent Council a copy of his/her Certificate of Ordination, which shall be verified. The Pastor must assist in expediting all verification of information, including his/her ordaining Pastor and Baptist Association.

The Pastor shall meet with the Moderator or designee and Chair of the Permanent Council to establish a rapport, spirit of understanding and receive a copy of the Association's Constitution.

Upon completing the above process in the proper manner, and upon the recommendation of the Moderator, the Applicant for Membership shall be received for approval at a time and place appropriate for Association business.

ARTICLE VIII - SECTION C
GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Any church that has withdrawn or lost its membership status in the Association and later desires to be reinstated may do so by submitting a letter to the Association. This letter should be signed by the pastor and official board members of the church requesting reinstatement. A church approved for reinstatement will not be responsible for any past assessments that came due during their period of absence.

Any church not current with Semi-Annual and Annual Fees for a period of one (1) year may waiver their Association membership and benefits.

ARTICLE IX - SECTION A
RULES OF ORDER AND AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

The Bible and Robert's Rules of Order shall be used as a guide in matters pertaining to Parliamentary procedure. The Bible and the New Hiscox Directory for Baptist Churches shall be used as a guide in matters pertaining to Baptist practices and policy.

**ARTICLE IX - SECTION B
RESOLVING PROCEDURAL DISPUTES**

In the course of carrying out the business of the Association should there be any disputes or conflicts regarding procedures or interpretation of Constitutional issues The Bible, the Constitution, Robert's Rules of Order and the New Hiscox Directory for Baptist Churches shall act as the Parliamentarian's Guide.

**ARTICLE IX - SECTION C
AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended and/or ratified in any regular meeting of the Association by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the registered churches of the Association. A notice of such proposed amendment(s) shall have been forwarded to the Correspondence Secretary of the Association in a timely manner that will allow for a full thirty (30) day notice to be sent out to all member churches by the Moderator.

When this Constitution shall be ratified by the Association, all other rules and regulations governing this Body shall become void.

Revised and Amended - February 1976
August 1979
August 1993
August 1998
August 2002
January 2012
January 2015
January 2022

APPENDIX
TENETS OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE

“Let all things be done decently and in order.” *Corinthians 14:40*

1. God: *We believe that there is one, and only one, true and living God; that He is absolute in nature, perfect in attribute, holy in character, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth, that he is infinite in wisdom, marvelous in power, and amazing in love, that He is holy, righteous, and true, worthy of all confidence and love, that He unites in Himself the infinite, the eternal, and the Almighty Three – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; that the three persons of the Godhead subsist in the same divine nature, essence and being; and that they are co-existent and co-equal in every divine attribute, each one distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. Gen 1:1; Deut. 4:39; Mark 12:29, Gen 17:1; Matt 5:48, Isa 6:3; 1 Chron. 29:11-12; Ps 103:19; Rom 11:33-34; Matt 19:26; Ps 19:9; Matt 28:19; 1 Pet 1:2-3; 1 Jn. 5:7; Ex 3:14; Gen 1:26; Titus 3:3-7*

2. The Divine Trinity

a. **God the Father:** We believe that God the Father is the first person set forth in the Divine Trinity; that He is almighty, merciful, and just; that He is holy, righteous, and true; that He is eternally existent, glorious in nature, possessing the attributes of omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence; and that He, in harmony with His divine office, loves, provides, and protects, thus exercising providential watchcare over the sons of men, and especially a fatherly care over the children of God. **Matt 28:19; Gen 17:1, Matt 19:26; Ps 19:9, Isa 6:3; Ps 100:5; Prov. 15:3; Ps 139:1-6; 13-14; Ps 103:13; Matt 6:25-30; Matt 10:29-31; Matt 7:11**

b. **God the Son – Virgin Born:** We believe that God the Son is the second person set forth in the Divine Trinity; that He is Very God of Very God; that He is almighty, merciful, and just, that He is holy, righteous, and true, that He is eternally existent, glorious in nature, possessing the attributes of omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence, that God the Father, through the Holy Spirit, is actually and eternally His divine father, and Mary the Virgin is actually and innocently His human mother, and that He, in harmony with His divine office, mediates, seeks, and saves, thus exercising the mediatorial office of redemption. **Matt 28:19; Jn. 1:1-3; Isa 9:6; Matt 28:18; Titus 3:5-6; Jn. 8:15-16; II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 13:8; Phil 2:6; Jn. :24; Matt 28:20; Luke 1:35; Luke 2:714; 1 Tim 2:5-6; Luke 19:10; Jn. 3:16**

c. **God the Holy Spirit:** We believe that God the Holy Spirit is the third person set forth in the Divine Trinity; that He is almighty, merciful, and just; that He his holy, righteous, and true; that He is eternally existent, glorious in nature, possessing the attributes of omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence; that He restrains the world, the flesh and the devil; that He witnesses to the Truth, convicts the lost, extols the Christ, and testifies to the righteous judgments of God, that He, in harmony with His divine office, comforts, teaches, testifies, preaches, guides, regenerates, empowers, sanctifies, and anoint, thus exercising the quickening role in the works of saving the lost and the supervising role in the life of the saved. **Jn. 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-13; Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet 4:14; Isa. 40:12-15; 1 Cor. 2:10-12; Ps 139:7-12; 2 Thes. 2:6-7; Jn. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14; Acts 1:8; 1 Pet. 1:2; Isa. 61:1**

3. The Devil: We believe that Satan is an actual person, and not an imaginary influence; that he once enjoyed high heavenly honors and glorious heavenly privilege; that he, through pride, ambition, and self-will attempted to betray the Almighty and brought upon his head the judgment of God; that he operates today as the god of this world and the prince of the power of air; that he is a diabolical inventor, and arch-deceiver, and the father of all lies; that he is the greatest enemy, the mightiest tempter, and the most relentless accuser of the saints, that he shall one day be incarnated in the person of the Anti-Christ and in that role will finally meet the Christ in the battle of Armageddon, that there "The seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head;" and that he shall eventually be cast into the lake of fire, the eternal place of punishment, prepared for the devil and his angels. **Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7; Ezek. 28:12-19; Isa. 14:12-27; Gen. 3:14; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; Matt. 2:4-11; 2 Thes. 2:7-11; Jn. 8:44; 1 Pet. 5:8; Gen. 3:1-6; Rev. 12:10; Dan. 7:8; Rev. 19:20; Gen. 3:15; 2 Cor. 11:13-15, Jn. 14:30**

4. The Holy Bible: We believe that the Holy Bible is a supernatural Book; that it is the very God-breathed Word; that it is the full, the final, and the complete revelation of God's will to man; that it had God the Holy Spirit for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any admixture of error for its matter; that it was written by holy men of old as they were moved by the Holy Spirit; that it is verbally inspired and a perfect treasure of holy instruction; and that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and is therefore, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried. We believe the Authorized King James Version of 1611 to be the preserved Word of God for the English speaking people, faithful and true to the original autographs; that other versions are totally unnecessary, as the King James is not only faithful, but an absolute effective conveyance of God's message to mankind. **Ps. 119:89; 2 Tim 3:16-17; Rev 22-18-19, Jn. 17:17; Jn. 3:32-34; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; 1 Pet. 1:10-12; Zeph. 1:1; Ps. 19:7-11; Ex. 20:3-17; Ps. 1:2; Jn. 12:48**

5. Creation: We believe that the Genesis record of creation is literal, and not allegorical or figurative; that God personally created the heaven and the earth in six literal days; that He miraculously brought forth all original matter out of nothing; that He actually fashioned all organic forms as specific creations subject to limited changes within the specie; the He definitely ordained each specie to bring forth after its kind; that He finally formed man out of the dust of the ground, not by any process of evolution but by instant action, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became immediately a living soul; that He created man in the image and likeness of God; that His every creative act was complete and perfect in itself; and that not one of His creations was conditioned upon antecedent changes naturally wrought during interminable periods of time. **Gen. 1:1; Jn. 1:1-3, 14; Heb. 11:3; Gen 1:21, 24:27; Gen. 2:7; Col. 1:16**

6. The Fall of Man: We believe that man, originally created in holiness and actually associated with God in innocence under His law, did, by voluntary transgression of the Lord's command, fall from the high and happy state in which he was created, and as a consequence, became a sinner alienated from God and brought upon himself and all mankind just condemnation; and that he is now, by virtue of his fallen nature, utterly

devoid of holiness, positively inclined to evil, and actually condemned to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse. **Gen. 1:26-27; Ecc. 7:29; Gen. 3:6, 23-24; Ezek. 18:4; Rom 5:12, 1:21-23, 3:10-18; Rev. 21:8**

7. The Blood Atonement: We believe that the lost sinner is guilty and already under just condemnation; that he is by nature alien to God and because of sin condemned to die; that atonement for sin was effected through the mediatorial office of the Son who by divine appointment, freely took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin; that He, through obedience during His earthly walk, personally honored the divine Law by keeping it, and, through His death on the cross, actually satisfied the penalty of the offended Law by suffering in the sinner's stead; that He, through His obedience and sacrificial death, made full and vicarious atonement for all sin; that He died, the just for the unjust, bearing our sins in His body on the tree; and that His

blood shed on the cross of Calvary provides for eternal cleansing, for pardon, for peace and rest. **Isa. 53:6; Rom. 6:7, 8:23; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 2:17; 2 Cor. 5:21; Matt. 5:17-18; 1 Pet. 2:24; Heb. 10:10-12; 1 Pet. 3:18; Rev. 1:5; Isa. 55:7; Jn. 14:27; Matt. 11:28; 1 Jn. 1:7; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 9:22**

8. Repentance and Faith: We believe that repentance and faith are solemn and inseparable prerequisites of salvation; that they are inseparable graces wrought in the heart by the quickening Holy Spirit; that the alien sinner, being deeply convicted of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment to come by the personal ministry of the Holy Spirit, and by Him having his understanding enlightened so that he can see the way of salvation through Christ, does actually repent, turning to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication, and does actually believe, surrendering himself wholeheartedly to the Lord Jesus, immediately receiving Him as personal and all-sufficient Saviour and openly confessing Him before all men. **Acts 20:21-22; Mark 1:15; Acts 11:18; Eph. 2:8; Jn. 6:44; Jn. 16:8-11; Matt. 3:1-2, 8; Acts 3:19; Luke 13:3; 18:9-14; Acts 9:6; Rom. 10:10**

9. Salvation by Grace: We believe that grace is elective and saving; that it embraces the personal triune and redemptive ministry of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; that it comprehends all of the labors put forth by the Almighty in the interest of perfect righteousness and the salvation of the lost soul; that it and it alone, saves even unto the uttermost all who repent toward God and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that salvation thus wrought is wholly by grace, "The free gift of God" requiring neither culture nor works in any form to secure it or to keep it; that it is God's plan that those who are saved be "Holy and without blame before him in love," that **ALL** who believe will receive the adoption, which is related to the redemption of the body (CF. Rom. 8:22-23) , when all our inheritance based upon sonship is received, that predestination pertains to God's plan that we be conformed to the image of Christ, that we are to begin that process in this life, but God's sovereign purpose will be performed in perfection when all who have been saved are changed and are in the presence of Christ. **2 Tim 1:8-9; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:3-7; 1 Pet. 1:2-5; Matt 23:37; Rom 8:28-30; Heb. 7:25; Acts 20:20-21; Rom 6:23, 11:6, 5:20; Isa. 1:18, 55:1**

10. Regeneration: We believe that in order to be saved lost sinners must be regenerated, or born again, that regeneration is a recreative act, far beyond comprehension, wrought in

the believer's heart by the direct personal ministry of the Holy Spirit, that it is instantaneous, miraculous, and not evolutionary or cultural, that it embraces the divine acts of cleansing the heart from all inward sins and of pardoning the soul of all outward guilt, in connection with the work, of begetting a new creature in Christ Jesus, that the dead sinner is made to live through the new birth, becoming thereby a regenerated spirit, possessing eternal life, the gift of God, that the new birth comes after the Holy Spirit secures voluntary repentance and belief in the gospel, that it is the actual impartation of the divine life, not a mere transformation of the human life, and that the proper evidence of regeneration appears in the holy fruits of obedient followers of the Lord Jesus. **Jn. 3:3-5, 7; 2 Cor. 5:17; Jn. 3:8, 16, 1:12-13; Isa 1:18; Titus 3:5-7; Eph. 2:1, 5; Rom. 6:23; Jn. 16-8-11; Matt 7:16-18; James 2:17-20**

11. **Justification:** We believe that justification is one of the great gospel blessings secured through Christ for all who trust Him; that it is a legal and divine decree, declaring the believing sinner just, that it is thus a state of being free from condemnation, including forgiveness for inward sins and pardon from outward sins, that it secures through faith freedom from legal bondage, exemption from the wrath of God, and possession of peace which passes all understanding; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely upon the evidence of faith in God and the Redeemer's blood; and that it brings us into a state of unchanging peace and favor with God and secures every other blessing needful for time and for eternity. **Rom. 3:24-25, 28; 8:33, 8:1; Jn. 5:24; Rom 4:3-8, 6:6, 5:9, 5:1; Phil. 4:7; Rom 3:31-33, Gen. 15:6; Heb. 2:4**

12. **Security of the Believer:** We believe that salvation wrought by grace is everlasting; that the saved soul journeying through the valley of the shadow of death need fear no evil; that the Holy Spirit-begotten and born are kept by the power of God, that the believer in Christ Jesus shall not be brought into judgment; that no one can lay anything to the charge of God's elect; that they are securely held in both the hand of the Father and the Son, and the age-old Baptist doctrine, "Once saved, always saved," is heavenly and gloriously true. **Jn. 3:16, 36, 5:24, 6:35, 44; Ps. 23:4; Isa. 37:23-24; Phil. 1:6; 1 Pet. 3:5, Jn. 5:24; Rom. 8:1; Jn. 10:27-29; Rom. 8:35-39; 2 Tim. 1:12**

13. **Sanctification:** We believe that sanctification is a divine work of grace; that it is not a state of sinless perfection attained through a "second blessing" or through a special "Baptism of the Holy Ghost," that it is an act of grace by which the believer is separated unto God and dedicated unto His righteous purpose; that by it we enter into divinely appointed privileges and thus become larger partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work, begun in regeneration, and carried on in the life of every believer by the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, and that it is matured only by heaven's appointed means, especially by the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and the saved through his self-examination, obedience, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer. **1 Thes. 4:3, 5:23; Rom. 15:16; Jer. 1:5; Prov. 4:18; Jn. 17:17; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Jn. 2:29; Rom 8:5; 1 Tim. 4:5; Luke 9:23, Matt. 24:42, 7:7-11**

14. **The Resurrection:** We believe that Jesus Christ rose bodily from the grave on the first day of the week, which day we now observe as the Lord's Day, a day of worship; that His miraculous emergence from the tomb forecasted a like bodily resurrection for every

member of the Adamic race; that the dead in Christ, those of the first resurrection, shall be raised, and we which are alive and remain shall be changed and taken out of this world preceding the seven years of tribulation; that those who are of the Bride of Christ will be united to the Bridegroom at the marriage to be witnessed by the friends of the Bridegroom (Jn. 3:29, Rev. 19:9) who will share in the marriage supper of the Lamb after being rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ, and await completion of the first resurrection as the dead Tribulation saints are rewarded at the close of the seven years; that all the saved will then rule and reign with Christ in His Millennial Kingdom; that the Bride of Christ is the local Baptist church; that those who are saved and not members of a local Baptist Church will be present as "Friends of the Bridegroom;" that the dead in trespasses and sins, or the dead out of Christ, shall rise at the close of the Millennium; and that they shall be brought before the Great White Throne Judgment and there face the Judge of the quick and the dead. **Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:1-12; 1 Cor. 15:12-22; 1 Thes. 4:13-18; Rev 20:5-6, 11:15; Dan. 12:3; 1 Sam. 2:6; Isa. 26:19; Hosea 13:14; Isa. 25:6-8**

15. **The Lord's Return:** We believe that Jesus Christ is coming back again, that His return shall be personal, audible, visible, and bodily and that the saved shall be caught up together with Him in the clouds; this this return shall precede the tribulation and millennium, that He shall return to earth at the end of the tribulation; and He shall at that time turn the tables on Satan, take up the throne of David, put down all His enemies, rule with a rod of iron, triumph over sin, and give the world an example of righteous government during His thousand years of personal reign on earth. **Job 18:25-26; Isa. 9:6-7; Zech. 14:4; Mal. 4:2; Luke 1:31-33; Matt. 25:31-34; Rev 19:11:21; Acts 1:11; 1 Thes. 4:16-17; Rev. 1:7, 2 Pet. 3:10; Rev 20:4-6, 19:20, 20:1-3, 10; Isa. 9:7; 1 Cor. 15:25-27; Ps. 2:9; Rev 12:5, 19:15; 1 Jn. 3:8; Ps 72:1-20**

16. **The Righteous and the Wicked:** We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked. We believe the righteous are they who believe in Christ Jesus, are justified by faith, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit and the Word; that the righteous are heirs of God and joint-heirs with the Lord Jesus Christ, and that eternal life, the gift of God, is the matchless possession of the just. We believe that the wicked are they who do not believe in Christ Jesus, condemned because of unbelief and corrupted by the god of this world, that the unjust spurn the privileges of God's grace, choosing the life of sin and rebellion; and that eternal damnation is the inescapable portion of the unjust. **Mal. 3:16-18; Jn. 3:6; Rom 3:22, 24, 4:3, 1:17, 8:1-17; Acts 20:32; Jn. 15:3; Rom 8:17, 6:23; 2 Cor. 4:4; Rev 21:8; Matt 23:37; Prov. 29:1; Matt 25:41**

17. **The Local Church:** We believe that a Baptist Church, according to divine purpose and plan, is a visible, local, organized body; that it is comprised of baptized believers associated together by a covenant of faith and fellowship in the Gospel; that New Testament validity flows from strict obedience to essential principles of New Testament Law; that it is a sovereign, independent, democratic, and militant body; that its ministry is gloriously blessed with the presence and leadership of the Holy Spirit and the light and revelation of the written Word; that its work should ever be from within to without and never from without to within, that it is a self-governing body and is the sole judge, under the limitations of the Scriptures, of the measure and method of co-operation; that it is the only

ecclesiastical tribunal the Lord has on earth; that its judgment concerning membership, missions, benevolence, and support is final; that it was personally found by Christ Jesus during His ministry on earth; that it is the only organization with authority to administer the Lord's Supper and Baptism; that it is subject to His laws and is the custodian of His ordinances; that the perpetuity of our faith, our doctrines and practices, ordinances and ordinations, has been effected through the Holy Spirit personally planting and preserving local Baptist Churches of like faith and order down through the centuries even until now; that the local Church is the only body with authority to carry out the Lord's work upon the earth in this age, and as such, all authority over membership affairs, and missions is autonomous to the local Church; that the only organization authorized to do mission work is the local Church, and that the pattern of Acts 13 is the only one sanctioned and permitted by God, that the authority to send out missionaries is not in name or formality only, but is a matter of the practical aspects of sending, supervising, and authorizing missionaries to win souls, baptize, and teach, with the goal of establishing a New testament Baptist church; that no place in Scripture allows for mission boards, fellowships, or conventions to do this work; that a sponsoring church is responsible for the activities and doctrine of missionaries authorized by her, and is responsible to the missionary for his needs and well-being; that the Local church cannot surrender this authority and responsibility to any organization and remain faithful to the Scripture. We believe that the Bride of Christ is comprised of only, and all the members who have been scripturally baptized into a New Testament Baptist Church, and that Christ will present this Bride to Himself at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. We totally reject the false doctrine of the universal invisible church. **Matt 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 1:1-3; Acts 2:41-42; 2 Cor. 8:5; Matt 16:19, 18:15-17; Jn. 14:16-17, 26; Acts 1:8, 13:1-4; Matt 18:17-18, 26:19-20; 1 Tim. 3:15; Mark 3:13-14; Luke 6:12-13; cf Eph 5:27 & Rev. 19:21 & Rev 21:9**

18. The Ordinances: We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances personally set in the church of the living God by the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that Baptism is the burial of a believer in water by the authority and instruction of the local Baptist church; that it symbolizes the death and the burial and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ; that it also typifies the believer's death to sin, the burial of his old nature, and his resurrection unto a new life, and that it is administered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; that Baptism places a believer into the membership of a New Testament Baptist Church. We believe the Lord's Supper is a memorial spread and administered by the authority and instruction of the local Baptist church; that participation in the observance of the Lord's supper is restricted to a closed communion within the membership of our local Baptist church, that it symbolizes the broken body and shed blood of the Son of God, that its observance points backward to the crucified Lord on Calvary and forward to the returning Lord in glory; that the elements of the Lord's Supper are unleavened bread and grape juice, referred to as the "The cup" and "The fruit of the vine." We believe that these ordinances are not sacraments, but are sacred symbols, pointing to the world's only Saviour, and bidding the sons of men to look unto the everlasting fellowship with the King of kings and Lord of lords when He shall return to take over the reins of all government. **Matt 26:26-29, 28:19; Rom 6:3-5; Matt 16:19; Acts 10:47; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; Prov. 20:1; Isa. 28:7; Lev. 10:9-10**

19. **Church Administration:** We believe that the local Baptist church and the State should be kept completely separate; that civil officers should be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; that diligence should be had in seeking the will of God in all church matters; that missionary endeavor should ever be executed from within the local church to without; that pastors and deacons are the only divinely appointed church officers; that the Lord's Day, the first day of the week, should be honored by the saints, that the Bible teachings should be constantly and consistently fostered by local Baptist churches, that members should be voted into the fellowship of the local body by the local body; that unruly church members should be prayerfully and Scripturally disciplined by the local Baptist church and that letters of membership should be granted to sister local Baptist churches of the same faith and practice. **Acts 1:8, 13:1-35; Rom. 13:1-7, Acts 1:1-23, 6:1-6, 2:42; Rev. 1:10, Matt. 16:19; Acts 10:47; Matt 18:15-17; Acts 15:19-27, 18:27; Rom 16:1-2; Matt 28:19-20**

20. **Church Co-operation:** We believe that it is a privilege and the right of local Baptist churches to co-operate with each other in carrying out the commission of the Lord; that such co-operation is righteously effected only when the principles of Christ are preserved in the work fostered, and that all associated endeavors of local Baptist Churches should be carried on in such a way as to preserve the sovereign integrity of each local Baptist Church in all matters of faith and practice. **2 Cor. 8:1-6, 16-24; 2 Jn. 1-4; Matt. 16:18-19, Acts 15:19-27**

21. **Civil Government and Religious Liberty:** We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; and that all civil authorities are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed by the Word of God which reveals the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of kings of the earth. That church and state should be separate, the state owing the church protection and full freedom. No ecclesiastical group or denomination should be preferred above another by the state. The state should not impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal.

22. **Heresy and Apostasy:** We believe in total and complete separation as taught in the Word of God, from all heresy and ecclesiastical apostasy. We believe that Scripture teaches that we are to: "Try them," (1 John 4:1) "Mark them," (Rom 16:17) "Rebuke them," (Titus 1:13) "Have no fellowship," (Eph. 5:11) "Withdraw ourselves," (2 Thes 3:6) "Receive them not," (2 John 10:11) "Have no company with them," (2 Thes. 3:14) "Reject them," (Titus 3:10) and "Separate ourselves." (2 Cor. 6:17)

23. **Missions:** The command to give the gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this Commission was given to the churches, not individuals. **Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Jn. 20:21; Rom 10:13-15**

24. **Giving:** Scriptural giving is one of the doctrines of the faith. (2 Cor. 8:7) We are commanded to bring our gifts into the storehouse (common treasury of the church) upon the first day of the week. (1 Cor. 16:2) We are commanded to bring the tithe into the common treasury of the church. Jesus said concerning the tithe "these ye ought to have

done." (Matt. 23:23) "Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils" (Heb. 7:2-4), this was four hundred years before the law. "The tithe ... is the Lord's" (Lev. 27:30) "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it." (Mal. 3:10)

Constitution Revision Committee

The New Hope Missionary Baptist Association, Inc. Constitution Revision Committee was appointed August 2019 by Moderator Jeffrey Bryan with the assigned task of revising the Constitution and By-Laws as deemed appropriate or necessary.

Rev. Paul M. Graves, Pastor of Clear Way Missionary Baptist Church, Newark, New Jersey, served as Chairman of the Constitution Revision Committee. The following persons served on the Constitution Revision Committee:

- Rev. Dr. George A. Blackwell, III, Past Moderator New Hope Missionary Baptist Association, Inc. & Pastor, Good Neighbor Baptist Church, Newark, New Jersey
- Rev. Sean Evans, Pastor, New Light Baptist Church, Newark, New Jersey
- Rev. Kevin White, Pastor, New Zion Baptist Church, Elizabeth, New Jersey
- Rev. Alfonzo Williams, Past Moderator New Hope Missionary Baptist Association, Inc., Pastor, Aenon Baptist Church, Union, New Jersey

The recommended revisions to NHMBA's Constitution and By-Laws were presented to the Board of Managers for their review approval. The first reading was completed on January 4, 2020. The second reading was completed on February 8, 2020. Revisions voted and ratified on January 8, 2022.

Rev. Paul M. Graves, Constitution Revision Committee Chair

Rev. Jeffrey Bryan, Moderator, New Hope Missionary Baptist Association, Inc.

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