

# CALIFORNIA MISSION DEVELOPMENT

## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE 1 – NAME

This association, known as “California Mission Development” or “CMD”, shall be an auxiliary unit of the First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Visalia.

### ARTICLE 2 – PURPOSE

The purpose of this association shall be to provide an agency through which its members can fellowship together in the financial assistance of church-endorsed projects. Our purpose is as follows:

1. To assist financially in the purchase and improvement of lands where church buildings may be constructed and services held.
2. To assist financially in erecting a new church building for worship.
3. To assist financially in the remodeling of existing buildings for the purpose of worship.
4. To assist churches in maintaining other owned structures such as parsonages.

### ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERSHIP

1. Association in this fellowship shall be only with New Testament Churches as defined in Cobb’s Church Manual.
2. All participation in the California Mission Development program shall be voluntary.
3. All participating churches will vote by mail, or electronic equivalent, for the second, third and fourth quarter funds.
4. An annual CMD meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual messenger meeting of the California Cooperative Association. Each participating church shall be allowed only two (2) messengers. This meeting of messengers will act as an Advisory Council.
5. A church shall be considered a participating church if funds have been given for four (4) quarters of the last six (6) quarters.

### ARTICLE 4 – OFFICERS

1. The Secretary/Treasurer will be selected by the Sponsoring Church.
2. Pastor of the Sponsoring Church shall act as the moderator of the Advisory Council. In the event he is absent, the Pastor of the host church shall act as moderator for that Advisory Council meeting.
3. The Advisory Council may select officers which it feels necessary; however, the selection of officers must be approved by the Sponsoring Church.

### ARTICLE 5 – COMMITTEES

1. A research committee may be sent out upon request of the Advisory Council.
2. All committees shall be subject to the approval of the Sponsoring Church.

## ARTICLE 6 – MEETINGS

1. Voting on petitions received for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter shall be done by the Advisory Council at the annual CMD Meeting. Voting on petitions received for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters, shall be completed by mail or electronic equivalent.
2. The Advisory Council is only a recommending body; the vote of the Sponsoring Church is final.
3. A special meeting can be called by the Sponsoring Church if an urgent need exists.

## ARTICLE 7 – PETITIONS

1. Petitions shall be presented to the First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Visalia at least thirty days prior to quarterly voting.
2. It is the responsibility of each petitioning church to send copies of the petitions to all participating churches at least 30 days prior to the voting deadline. A current mailing list will be available on the website of First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Visalia.
3. A mission must have their Sponsoring Church petition on their behalf.
4. Each church must be in fellowship with the churches of the California Cooperative Association.
5. A petitioning church must be a participating church as defined in Article 3, Item 4.
6. Each petition shall be heard or read and shall stand or fail on its own merit.
7. Each petition must have a detailed cost breakdown, including permits and other fees.
8. Funds can only be used as stated in petition request.
9. If a church or a mission disbands or departs from the faith as defined in the doctrinal statement of the California Cooperative Association minute book, all CMD funds will be returned to CMD. Each petitioner must comply with this ground rule in writing before receiving CMD funds.
10. Participating churches may vote to hold, or vote to distribute quarterly funds to one or more petitions as desired. Any exceptions must be approved by the Advisory Council and Sponsoring Church.
11. A participating church can petition for a mission work outside the State of California providing the participating church is in fellowship with the churches of the California Cooperative Association. Likewise, a scriptural New Testament Church outside the State that sponsors a mission in the State of California may petition on behalf of the mission if they are in fellowship with the churches of the California Cooperative Association.

## ARTICLE 8 – VOTING

1. Ballots will be distributed to participating churches for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters by mail or electronic equivalent. Each ballot will list all petitions received for the quarter, along with options to Split the Funds (if more than one petition is received) and Hold Funds.
2. Only 1<sup>st</sup> quarter votes will be by show of hand of the Advisory Council at the annual CMD meeting.
3. That petition with the highest number of votes will receive quarterly funds.
4. Any change in the Constitution and By Laws will be made by two-thirds majority of the Advisory Council and a majority vote of the Sponsoring Church.
5. Requirement for a quorum of participating churches can be rescinded by recommendation of the messengers.

ARTICLE 9 – RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

1. Contributions by individuals, churches or missions, will be totaled by the calendar quarter. The amounts received during the calendar quarter will be disbursed within 30 days of the end of each quarter.
2. The quarterly disbursement will be made in accordance with the votes received for the indicated quarter and upon vote of the Sponsoring Church. If no petitions are received for a quarter, or if the vote is to hold the funds, no disbursement will be made and the funds will be held in the CMD fund.
3. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep a permanent file of all funds and disbursements. This file will be available to inspect or audit by any participating church or authorized auditor when requested by the Advisory Council.
4. Quarterly reports will be available on the website of the First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Visalia, or will be provided upon request.
5. Each church or mission receiving quarterly funds is requested to update the Sponsoring Church with progress of their project, including photos. The Sponsoring Church will include these updates with the quarterly reports.

ARTICLE 10 – MISCELLANEOUS

1. The duration of CMD shall be perpetual, or may be dissolved only upon recommendation of the Advisory Council and vote of the Sponsoring Church.
2. Upon dissolution or forfeiture of this association, all tangible properties shall be disbursed as directed by the Advisory Council and Sponsoring Church.
3. This association, an agency of the First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Visalia, shall always be subject to the Sponsoring Church.

QUARTERLY SCHEDULE:

QUARTER:	PETITIONS DUE BY:	BALLOTS SENT BY:	VOTING DUE BY:	FUND DISPERSED BY:
FIRST	JAN 31 <sup>ST</sup>	NO BALLOTS SENT FOR 1 <sup>ST</sup> QUARTER	AT ANNUAL CMD MEETING	APR 30 <sup>TH</sup>
SECOND	APR 30 <sup>TH</sup>	MAY 31 <sup>ST</sup>	JUN 30 <sup>TH</sup>	JUL 31 <sup>ST</sup>
THIRD	JUL 31 <sup>ST</sup>	AUG 31 <sup>ST</sup>	SEP 30 <sup>TH</sup>	OCT 31 <sup>ST</sup>
FOURTH	OCT 31 <sup>ST</sup>	NOV 30 <sup>TH</sup>	DEC 31 <sup>ST</sup>	JAN 31 <sup>ST</sup>