

Memorandum of Agreement Between Belle View Baptist Church and the Belle View Baptist Church Hispanic Mission

Our vision at Belle View Baptist Church is to extend our faith in Jesus Christ to our community through a passionate commitment to meaningful worship, warm fellowship, caring outreach, and personal growth for the glory of God. We seek to nourish and strengthen one another to live the Gospel in such a way as to make Christ's Kingdom a visible reality in our congregation, within our families, and in our community.

This year, Baptists around the world celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Baptist movement. From the beginning, evangelism has been a vital part of Baptist life. Article XI of Baptist Faith and Message 1963 proclaims the duty of Baptist individuals and congregations to seek ways to live the Great Commission:

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Isa 6: 1-8

Mat 9: 37-38; Mat 22: 9-10; 24: 14; 28: 18-20; Luke 10: 1-9; 24: 46-53

John 14: 11-12; 15: 7-8; 20: 21

Acts 1: 8; Rom 10: 13-15; 1Th 1: 8; Rev 22: 17

Jesus, in his last words to the gathered disciples before he ascended to the Father, enjoined his fledgling church to witness to the Good News "in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Through our support of the Baptist General Association of Virginia's global and local outreach and our annual mission offerings, we participate in this Great Commission at state, national, and international levels. Realizing that our community is our "Jerusalem," we seek a more active role in promoting the Gospel to our neighbors.

To this end, Belle View Baptist Church will establish a Hispanic Mission. This Mission, will operate within the structure of Belle View Baptist Church, conforming to the Belle View Baptist Church, Alexandria, Virginia Constitution and Bylaws (Revised March 28, 1993, as amended November 10, 1993 and February 15, 2009). The purpose of this mission is fourfold: 1. to reach out to the Spanish speaking community to make disciples for Jesus Christ; 2. to train individuals to share the Gospel within the Spanish speaking community; 3. to train and equip lay individuals among the Spanish speaking community to assume leadership roles within the congregation; 4. to nourish and support the Belle View Hispanic Mission until such time as it is able to develop and adopt by vote of the majority of its members its own Constitution and Bylaws, call its own Pastor, and covenant to become an autonomous congregation within the historic Baptist tradition.

Pursuant to these goals, Belle View Baptist Church (hereafter referred to as Belle View) and the Belle View Hispanic Mission (hereafter referred to as the Mission) establish the following covenant.

1. Belle View recognizes the Mission as an organic part of the congregation whose members are admitted to the category of “watch-care” as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws, as amended February 15, 2009.
2. The Pastor, called by Belle View Baptist Church to minister to the whole church, will provide pastoral oversight to the Mission. The Pastor will be available for pastoral counseling and the pastoral care of all members of the congregation, including both Belle View and the Mission.
3. The Mission shall select from among its members individuals meeting the qualifications of Deacon as outlined in Article II, Section 2 of the Bylaws. The duties of Deacons are outlined in the Bylaws. Due to the nature and purpose of the Mission, the Mission shall determine among themselves the number of Deacons to be ordained, not to exceed three (3). Deacons shall be elected by the Mission as soon as is practicable following the adoption of these covenants, and shall be ordained in a joint service on the second Sunday following their election. Thereafter, the regular selection and ordination of Deacons shall follow the rules established in the Bylaws.
4. Mission Deacons may meet independently of the Belle View Deacons on a schedule determined by the Mission. The combined Board of Deacons, Belle View and Mission, shall meet together as a body no less that quarterly.
5. All other officers, Pastor, Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary shall be provided by Belle View until such time as Belle View and the Mission shall jointly determine the need to establish such offices within the Mission to further its growth and development towards autonomy.
6. The Mission will provide Spanish language worship, Sunday school, and Bible Study, as follows:
 - a. Sunday morning worship will be held in the sanctuary from 9:30 A.M until 10:30 A.M. each Sunday. The Mission will provide opportunities for the membership to lead Spanish language worship, and the Mission will arrange for local, ordained Hispanic ministers to participate in their worship services.
 - b. The Mission may use the piano and electronic keyboard as part of its regular worship. Use of the organ must be coordinated with the Belle View Minister of Music. In the event that other instruments are used in worship, e.g., amplified guitars and base guitars, drums, etc., such instruments and equipment must be completely removed prior to 10:45 A.M., each Sunday.
 - c. Due to the physical requirements of filling and heating the baptistery, notification must be given to the Pastor no later than the Wednesday prior to the planned usage.
 - d. Sunday school will be held from 11:00 A.M until 12:00 P.M. each Sunday morning.
 - e. The Mission is responsible for providing Spanish language teachers for Sunday morning activities.
 - f. In the event of schedule conflicts, Belle View retains the right to take precedence in the use of the sanctuary and other facilities.
 - g. As far as language permits, shared nursery and Sunday school for children may be provided during the concurrent 11:00 worship and Sunday school.
 - h. Mid-week services will be coordinated to meet the growing needs of both Belle View and the Mission.

- i. The Mission may organize external Bible Study, home fellowship, and other activities as needed to meet the needs of the Hispanic community. Ordinarily such events should be scheduled on the master calendar kept in the church office. Such events will be publicized on the church's website.
7. As Watch-care members of Belle View Baptist Church, all members of the Mission are invited to participate in all activities of Belle View, including worship, prayer meetings, community ministry, and fellowship activities. Belle View members are likewise invited to participate in Mission activities.
8. The Mission may utilize the building for separate mission and fellowship activities; however, use of the building at times not herein specified must be scheduled in advance through the Property Committee in order to avoid conflicts in use.
9. The Mission shall provide the Pastor with the names of three (3) individuals, a primary and two secondary contacts, to be the liaisons between the Pastor and the Mission with regard to this Memorandum of Agreement and all issues regarding the building and property. These individuals will be provided with keys to the building. The Mission is responsible for ensuring that the building is locked and properly secured after any Mission activity.
10. As members of the congregation, the Mission is responsible for the care and cleanliness of all spaces used by Mission members. As such, the Mission shall ensure that the building is clean and that all furnishings are returned to their original positions following any Mission event.
11. Due to space concerns, no office space will be provided under this agreement.
12. Due to staffing constraints, the Mission is responsible for providing its own administrative support, including the preparation and printing of service bulletins. Copying of Spanish language bulletins may be made by Mission members during normal office hours: 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., Tuesday through Thursday.
13. The lower classroom spaces have been closed for several years. The Mission agrees to provide support to the congregation to return these spaces to usable condition. Belle View will provide paint and cleaning supplies; the Mission will provide labor. Belle View will provide chairs and other furnishings to the extent that they are available from the current property inventory and do not detract from the ongoing ministry of the church. The Mission is responsible for any Spanish language materials.
14. Tithes and offerings collected by the Mission will be deposited in the Belle View general fund and they shall be overseen by the Treasurer and recorded by the Belle View Financial Secretary. Numbered envelopes will be provided to each family so that accurate records may be maintained and year end statements provided for tax purposes.
15. Belle View and the Mission shall establish an annual budget for the Mission not to exceed the estimated receipts from individuals designated as Mission givers. Excess receipts above the budgeted amount will be credited to the general fund for use by Belle View to meet normal operating expenses. If receipts do not meet the budgeted amounts, spending will be adjusted to reflect the shortfall. This does not preclude requests from the Mission for support for items not in the budget. Such requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
16. Mission special offerings may be designated for specific programmatic or ministry initiatives, but these must be approved by and coordinated through the Belle View Treasurer. In considering these special requests, due weight will be given by the Treasurer

to the overall financial situation, i.e., the current budget versus expenditures of the Mission.

17. In order to facilitate the work of the Mission, Belle View will provide a minimum of two (2) web pages on the church website dedicated to the Spanish language ministries. Content for these pages will be provided to the Belle View Webmaster for inclusion on the website. Content will be subject to the approval of the Pastor. The Mission will be responsible for preparing all Spanish language website updates and submitting them to the Pastor for review and approval.
18. Belle View will provide two (2) email accounts to the Mission. The Mission will notify the webmaster promptly of any changes to the designated accounts so that web security can be maintained.
19. Because of the organic nature of this arrangement, activities will be scheduled on the master website calendar. HTML access links will be provided in Spanish for those wishing to access the calendar page.
20. Individuals are encouraged to worship together as one family of God. To this end, Belle View and the Mission will encourage the entire membership to make an effort to experience worship in both groups. Without establishing minimums or attempting to create a rigid schedule, both groups will make every effort to create opportunities for joint worship and fellowship several times per year.

Nothing in this document may be construed to grant any rights or responsibilities to the Mission beyond those ordinarily available to watch-care members of Belle View Baptist Church, nor does Belle View relinquish, devolve, or otherwise confer upon the Mission any legal authority to enter into contracts or purchases of any kind nor to obligate Belle View in any way, legally or financially.

As the parent congregation, Belle View undertakes the responsibility to nurture the Mission as outlined above. Belle View and the Mission shall hold joint, open congregational meetings twice per year to discuss the ongoing Mission work.

This document may be amended in writing at the request of either party; however, Belle View retains the right to amend the document unilaterally when it is deemed to be in the best interest of the congregation, as determined by a vote of the majority of those admitted to full membership as defined by the Constitution and Bylaws and present at a congregational meeting called for that purpose. Either party may choose to terminate this agreement with thirty (30) days notice.