NEW ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

New Member Handbook

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# Table of Contents

- **Welcome** 4
- **History of New Zion** 5
- **Mission, Vision & Beliefs** 6
  - Mission Statement 6
  - Vision Statement 6
  - Beliefs 6
- **Articles of Faith** 7
- **Worship Opportunities & Order of Service** 11
  - Worship Opportunities 11
  - Order of Service 11
- **Leadership & Staff** 12
- **Ministries** 14
  - Brotherhood Ministry 14
  - Christian Education Ministry 14
  - Communion Ministry 14
  - Deacon Ministry 14
  - Deaconess Ministry 15
  - Evangelism Ministry 15
  - Finance Ministry 15
    - Benevolence Ministry 15
    - General Treasury 15
  - Health Ministry 15
  - Pulpit Ministry 15
  - Hospitality Ministry 16
    - Food/Cafeteria Ministry 16
    - Greeters' Ministry 16
    - Historical Ministry 16
    - Media Ministry 16
    - Newsletter Ministry 16
    - Publications Ministry 16
    - Website Ministry 16
  - Marriage Ministry 16
  - Mission Ministry 17
  - Music Ministry 17
  - Scholarship Ministry 17
  - Singles Ministry 17
  - Tape Ministry 18
  - Transportation Ministry 18
  - Trustee Ministry 18
  - Usher Ministry 18
  - Youth Ministry 18
    - Angels of Zion Praise Dance Ministry 19
    - Drill Team Ministry 19
- **What You Should Know About...** 20
  - Scheduling Transportation 20
  - Scheduling Use of the Church Van 20
  - Stewardship 20
  - Tithe Envelopes 20
- **Who to Contact about...** 21
  - Administrative Needs 21
  - Building/Facility Use 21
  - Communication/Media Needs 21
  - Pastoral Needs 21
  - Scholarship Needs 21
- **Church Calendar (2004)** 22
- **An Overview of the Baptist Church** 26
  - Church Membership 27
  - Baptist Church Covenant 27
    - Basis of the Covenant 28
    - Membership Privileges 29
    - Membership Opportunities 29
    - Basic Church Conduct 30
    - Church Etiquette 31
    - Member Profile Questionnaire 32
  - Notes 34
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Information About New Zion
WELCOME

We’ve been waiting for you! It’s true, because we believe that every person who comes into the circle of this special fellowship was sent by God Himself. It’s not by accident that we have the joy of meeting you. So, above all else we want to express Christ’s love to you with genuine, heartfelt warmth. We’re eager to know you, and we’re excited to share with you the marvelous ways God is working in our church.

It won’t take long to discover that this is a true family, rich in the relationships that matter most. Growing together, we worship, we serve, we laugh, we cry, we learn, we reach out to our world with life-transforming truth. We reach out to you as well. Our doors are open. Our hearts are open, too.

As Pastor of New Zion, I welcome you on behalf of all its members. I hope that your entrance into our family will result in Christian growth. May the challenges of the great Christian work ahead of us inspire a closer walk with God and with God’s glory, man.

If you’ve been thinking, praying, searching and hoping for a place to belong, we say again – Welcome to New Zion. . . We’re Glad You Came! Let this be your invitation to be up and doing God’s work.

Rev. Sylvester Smith, Jr.
Pastor
HISTORY OF NEW ZION

New Zion Missionary Baptist Church was organized in 1941 by the Rev. W.M. Fennell. Services were held under a tent on Henderson Street near his home in Bryan, Texas. Property at 1524 East Dansby Street was later purchased in hopes of building.

The first church building was erected by Rev. Fennell. After several years of service in this building and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, Rev. Fennell was blessed to be instrumental in constructing the second New Zion church building. There he toiled faithfully unto God until his death on June 8, 1951.

In 1945, Rev. A.C. White organized a congregation of believers under the name of Peaceful Rest Baptist Church, becoming the first branch off of New Zion. The year of 1953 added yet another branch to the New Zion family tree. In this year, Rev. Eugene Sims and a faithful few formed St. James Baptist Church.

For a time New Zion was without a pastor. However, Rev. N.C. Williams and Rev. H.L. Goods served as interim pastors until God sent Rev. T.L. Grays. Rev. Grays was a wonderful pastor and spiritual leader. He made considerable improvements to the church including the addition of a cafeteria, baptistery, and a completely remodeled sanctuary.

After the retirement of Rev. Grays, the Lord sent us yet another Spirit-filled young man to spread the Word of God. In 1984, Rev. F.G. Ford took the reigns as pastor of New Zion. In 1990, Rev. Ford's vision of a new church building became reality. The church body moved into a new building located at 1505 Dansby Street. Rev. Ford resigned his position as pastor in May 2002.

New Zion continued in their faith in God, trusting God to send the Shepherd He prepared to lead His people. During the period without a pastor, God has used the ministers and the deacons of the congregation to lead and continue to feed His word to His people. God chose "a time such as this" to come in and shake His people and test their faith in Him. Truly by God's Hand New Zion has continued to grow spiritually, financially, and in fellowship and discipleship.

The membership remained in continued prayer that The Lord would send a true servant to stand as Pastor of the flock. On December 15, 2002 God answered his people's cry and blessed New Zion with her current Spiritual Leader, Rev. Sylvester Smith, Jr. Rev. Smith took the helm at a runner's pace; always looking to move forward and never taking a step backwards. His vision is to prosper spiritually, win souls and reach out to the community; yet remain humble in everything that's done.

New Zion is looking to the future with plans of renovation and expansion of the worship facility utilizing the 5 acres of land that the current facility sits on.
MISSION, VISION & BELIEFS

Mission Statement
We believe in missions based upon Mathew 28:19-20. Every Christian, in every legitimate way, all the time, everywhere, according to ability, ought to seek to spread knowledge of Jesus and the way of salvation.

No one can be a true believer who has not repented of sin, trusted Jesus, and him alone, for life and salvation, and seeks to know and do the will of his divine Lord.

Vision Statement
Our vision is to:

- “Equip the Saints for the work of Ministry”. (Eph 4:12, RSV) Leadership by education and training. “Integration without preparation equals frustration”.
- “Set at Liberty them that are Bound”. (Isaiah 61:1 & Luke 4:18) Liberation that secures jobs, housing, education, human rights and the breaking of all fetters”.
- “Serve the present age, my calling to fulfill…”. Flexibility to adopt to locations; the existential nature of decisions people must make.
- “Reveal the glory of the Lord that all flesh shall see it together”. (Isaiah 40:5) Challenging excellence at every level of participation.

Beliefs
We believe that every individual is important to the kingdom of God. It does not matter what side of the track you come from, it’s not the color of your skin, learned or unlearned, rich or poor. We believe Jesus died for all; therefore you are important to God and His family.
ARTICLES OF FAITH

Doctrines of the Scripture. We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction, that has God for its spiritual author, salvation for its ends, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creed, and opinions shall be tried (Peter 1:19-21; John 10:35).

The True God. We believe the scriptures teach that there is one, and only one, living and true God; an infinite, intelligent spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love, that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct, but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:21-22; John 17:3).

The Fall of Man. We believe the scriptures teach us that man was created in holiness, under the law of his maker; but by voluntary transgressions fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil, and therefore under the condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse (Genesis 1:26, 2:7; 3:1-19; 9:6; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Psalm 51:5, 58:3; Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:10-23, 5:12; 17-19; I Corinthians 15:21-22; James 3:9).

The Way of Salvation. We believe that the scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all sufficient Savior (John 3:1-8, 33; Romans 6:2; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 9:24-25, 10:19, 12:24; I Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 1:5).

Justification. We believe the scriptures teach that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures, such as believe in Him, is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sins and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer’s blood; by virtue of which faith, His perfect righteousness, is freely imputed to us by God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God,
and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity (Acts 13:3-9; II Corinthians 5:18-25; Romans 5:1, 8-11; Ephesians 1:17).

**The Freeness of Salvation.** We believe that the scriptures teach that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own determined depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation. (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 9:24-25; 10:19).

**Regeneration.** We believe the scriptures teach that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience and faith and newness of life (John 3:1-8, 33; Roman 6:23; II Corinthians 5:19; Ephesians 2:1-9; Colossians 2:13; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; I Peter 1:3).

**Repentance, Faith and Grace.** We believe the scriptures teach that repentance, faith and grace are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit or God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our prophet, priest and king, and relying on Him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior (Matthew 3:8, 3:11, 9:13; Mark 1:4; Romans 2:4; II Corinthians 7:10; Habakkuk 2:4; Matthew 6:30, 8:26, 9:22; Luke 7:9, 7:50, 17:5).

**God's Purpose of Grace.** We believe the scriptures teach that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of this free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence (Romans 9:11, 11:5; I Thessalonians 1:4; II Peter 1:10).

**Sanctification.** We believe the scriptures teach that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means especially
the Word of God self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer (Romans 8:29; I Corinthians 1:2; Hebrews 10:14; Ephesians 1:3-4; 4:11-13; I Thessalonians 5:23-24; Philippians 1:6, 3:21; I John 3:2; Jude 24).

Perseverance of Saints. We believe that all true believers will never totally or finally fall from grace; that their perseverance is in itself evidence of the reality of their profession; that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal and complete salvation (John 10:27-28; Romans 8:28-39; Ephesians 4:30; Philippians 1:6; II Timothy 1:12).

The Church. We believe the scriptures teach that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only scriptural officers are Bishops or Pastors, and Deacons whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus (Acts 2:38; 4:1-47; I Corinthians 11:17-34; Ephesians 1:1-2; 4:11-16).

The Law and Gospel. We believe the scriptures teach that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arise entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the Holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and the Means of Grace connected with the establishment of the visible church. (Mark 16:15; Ephesians 1:13; Colossians 1:5).

Ordinances. We believe that the New Testament enjoins two ordinances and only two: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Baptism. We believe that water baptism by immersion constitutes the public declaration of one's spiritual initiation into the body of Christ; that it symbolizes the believer's cleansing from sin through identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, which identification is accomplished by the spiritual baptism of the Holy Spirit, who incorporates the believer into the true spiritual church; and that its spiritual meaning requires prior regeneration and conversion of the one being baptized (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:38, 41; Romans 6:3; I Corinthians 1:13, 15).

Lord's Supper. We believe that the Lord's Supper, consisting of unleavened bread and drink from the fruit of the vine, symbolizes Christ's broken body and shed blood sacrificed on our behalf to deliver us from sin and death; that it looks forward to the day when we shall sup with Christ in His kingdom; and that it is open to all true believers in right standing with God (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:17-20; I Corinthians 11:23-34).
Christian Sabbath. We believe the scriptures teach that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor or when possible by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for the rest that remained for the people of God. (Exodus 20:8; Leviticus 23:3).

Civil Government. We believe the scriptures teach civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the Conscience, and the Prince of the Kings of the earth (Isaiah 9:6; 22:21; I Corinthians 12:28).

Rapture. We believe in the imminent bodily resurrection of deceased believers immediately followed by the catching away of living believers to meet the Lord Jesus in the air prior to the tribulation and the Millennium (Thessalonians 4:13-18; II Thessalonians 2:1; I Corinthians 15:51-54).

Millennium. We believe in a thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ during which Satan shall be bound and believers shall serve as administers of Christ's kingdom. We believe that Satan shall be loosed to mount a final unsuccessful rebellion against Christ and His people and shall be cast into the lake of fire, where the Man of Sin and the false prophet are, to burn forever (Revelation 20:1-10).

Judgment. We believe that Jesus Christ shall judge his people to reward them for their earthly works as to their sincere worth in furthering His kingdom; that He will not judge them for their sins, due to their having been judged in his own body on the cross, but that He will judge them for rewards or the loss of them (Romans 14:10; II Corinthians 5:10).

Great White Throne Judgment. We believe the unbelievers of all ages whose name are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life shall be sentenced by Christ to burn in torment forever in the lake of fire (Revelation 14:9-11; Revelation 20:11-15).

Eternal State. We believe that the redeemed of the ages, in glorified bodies, shall dwell with the triune God forever, to serve and to enjoy Him in perfect peace and happiness (Revelation 21-22).
WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES & ORDER OF SERVICE

Worship Opportunities
Sunday School ..................................................... 9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship................................. 11:00 am
Communion, 1st Sunday ...................................... 6:00 pm
Sunday Evening Worship (1st – 4th Sunday) ....... 6:00 pm
New Member Reception/Orientation (5th Sunday) .... 6:00 pm
Brotherhood Ministry, Tuesdays ...................... 7:00 pm
Mission Ministry, Tuesdays ............................ 7:00 pm
Teachers’ Meeting, Wednesdays ..................... 6:00 pm
Youth Ministry, Wednesdays .......................... 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study, Wednesdays ....... 7:00 pm

Order of Service (Sunday Morning Worship)
Call to Worship ........................................................ Minister
Devotional Praise .................................................. Deacons
** Responsive Scripture Reading. ............... Everyone Please Stand
Benevolence Offering ......................................... Minister
Announcements ............................................... Announcing Clerk
Greeting & Acknowledgement of Guests .......... Visitors Please Stand
Pastoral Remarks
Song of Praise ..................................................... Choir
** Altar Prayer .................................................. Minister
Tithes & Offerings ............................................. Minister
Song of Praise ..................................................... Choir
Message ...................................................... Pastor S. Smith, Jr. or Appointee
** Invitation to Christian Discipleship
** Benediction

**No Walking or Entry into the Sanctuary
LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Pastor
Rev. Sylvester Smith, Jr.

Ministers
Min. Leroy Conerway, Sr.
Min. Jack Cook
Min. Selma Cook
Min. Deloris Cooks
Min. Anita Dorsey
Min. Christian Dorsey
Min. Kenneth Hall, Sr.
Min. Rose Jefferson
Min. Beverley Lewis-Sims
Min. Henrietta Sims
Min. Elmer Smith

Deacons
Deacon Robert Dabney
Deacon Leonard Green
Deacon Edward Hall, Sr.
Deacon James Henry
Deacon Artis Lawson, Jr.
Deacon Roscoe Mason
Deacon Carlton Reed
Deacon Tyrone Rollins
Deacon Charles Swist

Trustees
Bro. Darren Cooks
Bro. Harold Eaton
Bro. Bobby Hickman
Bro. Marvin Kearney
Bro. Robert Reed
Bro. Tyrone Rollins
Bro. Clarence Shuler

Church Clerk
Sis. Cassie Dorsey

Church Secretary
Sis. Carolyn Green
Ministry Leaders
(2004)
Brotherhood Ministry, Deacon Robert Dabney
Christian Education Ministry
Communion Ministry, Sis. Inez Green
Deacon Ministry, Bro. Roscoe Mason
Deaconess Ministry
Evangelism Ministry, Mins. Jack & Selma Cook
Finance Ministry, Deacon Edward Hall, Sr.
Health Ministry, Sis. Sabrina Reed
Hospitality Ministry, Sis. Carolyn Green
Marriage Ministry, Deacon Roscoe & Lynda Mason
Mission Ministry, Sis. Tanisha Hall
Music Ministry, Sis. Janice Reed
Scholarship Ministry, Sis. Rochelle Patterson
Singles Ministry, Min. Beverley Lewis-Sims
Transportation Ministry, Deacon Charles Swist
Trustee Ministry, Bro. Robert Reed
Usher Ministry, Sis. Gloria Hall
Youth Ministry, Sis. Lynda Mason

New Zion’s Leadership
In order to serve in a position of leadership at New Zion, one must be willing to
grow spiritually, as well as be a Biblical tither to support the ministries of the
Church. New Zion believes in and teaches tithing as the Biblical method to
support God’s work. Evidence of one’s desire for growth can be seen through
attendance at Prayer Meeting, Bible Study, Sunday School, Youth Church, etc.
All leaders are required to adhere to the above leadership qualifications.
MINISTRIES

Brotherhood Ministry
The Brotherhood Ministry is geared to encourage men of all ages to serve the Lord and His people; and to instruct men to reach their God-given potential in Christ Jesus.

The Brotherhood Ministry meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm.

Christian Education Ministry
The Christian Education Ministry exists to combat biblical ignorance through the in-depth study of God’s Word and to assist each believer in his or her Christian growth. The following teaching ministries are available under the umbrella of the Christian Education Ministry: Bible Study, Sunday School, Teacher’s Meeting, Vacation Bible School and Youth Church.

II Timothy 2:15 says, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Communion Ministry
Members of the Communion Ministry prepare the ceremonial meal commemorating the "Last Supper" that Jesus took with his disciples. The ministry members come together to make serving trays of bread (representing the body of Christ) and wine (in representation of the blood that Christ shed). Then the supper is prayed over before setting up on the communion table in preparation to serve. The members are also responsible for the ordering, caring, and cleaning of supplies, trays, table coverings, etc. used during this service

This ministry works closely with the Deaconess and Health Ministries.

Deacon Ministry
The Deacons’ primary responsibility is the spiritual concerns of the church family. Deacons visit the sick and shut-in members and assist in preparing the male candidates for Baptism. They act as counselors and assistants to the Pastor. The authority of the Deacon is based on Acts 6:3 which reads, “Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and Wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.”

The Deacons meet every first Saturday of the month at 10:00 am.

Men to fill this office are prayerfully and carefully selected by the Pastor and then ratified by the Church Body.
**Deaconess Ministry**

The Deaconess’ responsibility is to be a Christ-like example for other Christian women. They are responsible for the setting and upkeep of the communion table for the Lord’s Supper; providing assistance to female candidates for baptism; and cooperating with the pastor and deacons in visiting the sick and shut-in members.

**Evangelism Ministry**

The Evangelism Ministry: Encourager Counselors exists to assist and encourage souls in their decision for Christ and to evangelize the community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The ministry’s mission is to be witnesses to the world and to the body of Christ while encouraging, comforting and exhorting all those whom God puts in our care.

The Evangelism Ministry meets every Saturday at 12:00 noon.

**Finance Ministry**

The Finance Ministry oversees the acceptance and disbursement of all funds. They administer the church’s financial matters, provide quarterly financial reports, record and maintain all individual gifts, and set policies and procedures to provide effective management of the church’s assets.

- **Benevolence Ministry**
  
  The Benevolence Ministry was established to provide limited assistance to New Zion members in their time of need. When able, the fund will assist extended family of church members, provide assistance with other needs such as fuel, utilities, rent, food, etc. The benevolence ministry functions first by order of Christ then by approved guidelines set forth by the Pastor and ministry leaders.

  The mission of the Benevolence Ministry is to provide for those who are in need, widowed or abandoned. First meeting their spiritual need then not only meeting their physical need but educating them on how to obtain and maintain their physical needs.

- **General Treasury**

  **Health Ministry**

  The Health Ministry is composed of dedicated members who are compassionate, willing to do good and comfort others and are knowledgeable in providing health services. The services provided are first aide, nursing care during church services/activities with the exception of administering medicine. Also provided will be wellness education and screenings such as blood pressure. It is the goal of the Health Ministry to promote health and wellness within the congregation and community through prevention and education.

- **Pulpit Ministry**

  The Pulpit Ministry in conjunction with the Health Ministry is responsible for the supplying of water, juice, towels, or any other supplies that the Pastor or ministers are in want of while occupying the pulpit. This ministry is also responsible for the care of the Pastor and should be available to assist him upon request during any service.
Hospitality Ministry
The Hospitality Ministry is responsible for creating a welcoming atmosphere for both our members and guests of New Zion. They express the love of Christ to all who enters into fellowship with the body of Christ. The Hospitality Ministry meets every first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

The following ministries operate under the umbrella of the Hospitality Ministry: Food/Cafeteria Ministry, Greeters’ Ministry, Historical Ministry, Media Ministry, Newsletter Ministry, Publications Ministry and Website Ministry

- **Food/Cafeteria Ministry**
The Food/Cafeteria Ministry is responsible for assisting the auxiliaries of the church with dinner or refreshments when served in conjunction with a service held at the church, including funerals. It is the responsibility of this ministry to make sure that there is a full serving staff, and to clean up of the facility after each event. This group also makes certain that the church kitchen is fully stocked with supplies needed for the upkeep of the cafeteria area.

- **Greeters’ Ministry**
The Greeters are a vital first impression of the church membership. The greeter is usually the first person encountered upon visitation of New Zion. It is the greeter’s responsibility to welcome with a smile, present all visitors with a visitors’ packet, and try to make visitors feel good about joining in our worship services.

- **Historical Ministry**
The Historical Ministry is responsible for documenting and maintaining the history of New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, including keeping an updated record of church memberships, baptisms, licensing, marriages, and deaths.

- **Media Ministry**
The Media Ministry is responsible for contacting the media (i.e. radio, newspaper, television) for announcements regarding events and special services taking place at New Zion.

- **Newsletter Ministry**
The Newsletter Ministry strives to keep an open line of communication between its members. The newsletter consists of upcoming events, ministry updates and other valuable information. The Newsletter Ministry is comprised of reporters, editors, and photographers.

  *The New Zion’s Trumpet* newsletter is a monthly publication.

- **Publications Ministry**
The Publications Ministry is responsible for producing correspondences, church bulletins, programs for special services, certificates, business cards, etc.

- **Website Ministry**
The Website Ministry is responsible for developing, maintaining and updating the church’s website and administering member account information.

Marriage Ministry
The Marriage Ministry is open to all married couples who desire to strengthen their relationship. The ministry’s mission is to encourage couples to renew,
restore and revive their marriages by learning to follow biblical wisdom for a fulfilling marital relationship. The group gathers in an informal forum to discuss topics such as communication, finances and differences between men and women.

The Marriage Ministry meets every third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**Mission Ministry**
The Mission Ministry is an outreach Ministry designed to serve and meet the needs of those spiritually lost. The Mission's primary goal is to spread the word of God abroad while meeting both the spiritual and physical needs of our brothers and sisters. The main focus of this ministry is to continue working tirelessly in the community feeding the hungry, clothing those in need, but even more importantly feeding the word of God to all those we meet with love, patience and humility.

The Mission Ministry meets every Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**Music Ministry**
The Music Ministry provides praise through song and a variety of musical instruments. This provide and nurtures a personal relationship and musical offerings of the church, so that members and visitors in attendance may be instructed in the faith, uplifted through the music, strengthened through prayer, and guided by the scripture and the Holy Spirit in matters of daily living and spiritual growth.

The Music Ministry consists of the musicians and several choirs for both adults and children: The **Inspirational Choir** (sings the first and second Sunday), **Male Chorus** (sings the third Sunday), **Voices of Zion Youth Choir** (sings the fourth Sunday), and **Mission Choir** (sings the fifth Sunday).

**Scholarship Ministry**
The Scholarship Ministry exists to provide spiritual, financial and educational support to students pursuing their educational goals. This ministry is responsible for establishing and maintaining policies for the administration of the scholarship fund and other related activities, and for securing funds for the scholarships.

The Scholarship Ministry meets every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

**Singles Ministry**
The Singles Ministry, “Single & Satisfied”, is for males and females, ages 18 and older that are single, divorced, unmarried and widowed. The group gathers at New Zion or other designated places to come to gather and study the Word of God as it applies to singleness. The ministry's mission is to “get the most out of singleness while studying the Word of God”

The Singles Ministry meets every Saturday at 4:00 p.m.
Tape Ministry
The Tape Ministry is responsible for recording and duplicating audio cassette tapes and video tapes of the Sunday Morning Worship & Sunday Evening Worship services and other special services.

Transportation Ministry
The Transportation Ministry provides needed transportation for members as well as for other individuals in our community who desire to worship and fellowship with us during mid-week and Sunday services. Transportation is provided to and from the church services or any church related activity in which there is a designated need. Drivers transport passengers to the church for mid-week and Sunday services and return them to their perspective homes after the services. (See Scheduling Transportation for more information)

Trustee Ministry
The Trustees serve as legal agents to all property belonging to the church. The mission of the Trustee Ministry is to aid the pastor and deacons with the care, upkeep, operation and repairs of the church facilities and grounds.

The Trustees meet every first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm.

Men to fill this office are prayerfully and carefully selected by the Pastor and then ratified by the Church Body.

Usher Ministry
The ushers prepare the sanctuary for worship and welcome and seat worshippers. They assist in the prevention of interruptions and distractions, and with the collection of tithes and offerings during the services.

The ushers are responsible for the general clean up of the sanctuary immediately following services. Ushers are a vital part to every worship service including funerals or memorial services.

The goal of this Usher Ministry is to have its members understand and help teach the etiquette of the church organization and aid in spiritual growth through the knowledge of God’s Word.

The Usher Ministry meets every third Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Youth Ministry
The Youth Ministry serves all youth ages three to nineteen. The Youth Ministry exists to help our youth serve the Lord through Godly living while providing a fun and encouraging environment to aid in their spiritual growth. The ministry’s mission is to have our youth grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Jesus Christ while creating a fellowship environment where they can have fun, be known, be nurtured and be encouraged.
The Youth Ministry meets every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

The following ministries operate under the umbrella of the Youth Ministry: **The Angels of Zion Praise Dance Ministry and the Drill Team Ministry.**

- **Angels of Zion Praise Dance Ministry**
  The mission of The Angels of Zion is to bring dance back into the church where it started. We believe that our main purpose in life is to worship God. Since we worship God with our whole lives everything we do should bring glory to God. Through dance, we seek to communicate in a unique way the message of the Gospel to the people of God and to those who do not know Christ.

  According to the word of God, we should be on one accord and everything that hath breath should praise the Lord. We should praise him with the Harp, the Trumpet, and Tumbrels, the Organ, Stringed Instruments and with loud Cymbals.

  The Angels of Zion rehearses on Fridays at 6:00 pm

- **Drill Team Ministry**
  The mission of the Drill Team Ministry is to ignite and excite young men to live for God through the art of stepping, marching, and cadence according to the Word of God.

  This ministry is for young men ages 12 and up.

  The Drill Team Ministry meets every first and third Saturday of the month at 12:00 pm.
**WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT . . .**

### Scheduling Transportation

To schedule transportation to service on Sundays, call Deacon Charles Swist at 979.778.8957. If there’s no answer, leave your name, address, telephone number and the service you wish to attend. The transportation ministry will call and verify that pick up has been scheduled.

Pick-up Schedule: Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sundays, 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. **Please call by Saturday at 8:00 pm.**

### Scheduling Use of the Church Van

To schedule the use of the church van, a Van Request Form must be completed. You may obtain forms from the church office. Completed forms should be submitted to the Transportation Ministry Chairperson. A designated driver will be assigned by the chairperson of the Transportation Ministry.

**Please do not arrange your own driver.** If possible, please allow two weeks advance notice.

### Stewardship

New Zion’s budget is developed and approved annually in January. The annual pledges of tithes and offerings of the membership serve as a guideline for the development of the budgeted revenue for the upcoming year. The pledge is merely a statement of what New Zion can expect in tithes and offerings (including mortgage pledges) from a member. It is not a contract and can be changed as needed when individual situations change.

### Tithe Envelopes

To assist the church in accurate record keeping of tithes and offerings and other donations, New Zion provides tithe envelopes for your contributions. Please use the envelopes to receive proper credit for tax purposes at the end of the year. Please complete all information on the envelope, including the amount enclosed.
WHO TO CONTACT ABOUT . . .

Administrative Needs
Budget Inquire about the status of a budget item – Ed Hall, Sr.
Calendar Place an event on the church calendar – Carolyn Green
Change Change your name, address, phone, etc. – Carolyn Green
Check Request a check – Ed Hall, Sr.
Church Van/Transportation Reserve the church van or request transportation to church services – Charles Swist
Contributions Correct or inquire about your contributions – Ed Hall, Sr.
Food Arrange for food – Cora McMurray
Membership Get membership information – Barbara Shuler
Purchase Purchase something for the church – Robert Reed
Repair Needs Report a building/grounds repair need – Robert Reed
Supplies/Equipment Request supplies or equipment – Robert Reed

Building/Facility Use
Funeral Schedule a funeral – Robert Reed
Program Schedule a program – Robert Reed
Wedding Schedule a wedding – Robert Reed

Communication/Media Needs
Audio Cassette Inquire about recorded sermons and special programs – Michael Reed
Flyer or Brochure Request design of a promotional flyer or brochure – Carolyn Green
Program Request design of a church program – Carolyn Green
Newsletter Submit news and articles for New Zion’s Trumpet – Eunice McCain
Video Inquire about recorded sermons and special programs – Darryel Kelly
Website Questions about our web site – Rochelle Patterson

Pastoral Needs
Hospital Find out or report who is in the hospital – Shirley Eaton
Pastor Make an appointment with the pastor – Carolyn Green

Scholarship Needs
Application – Inquire about the application process – Rochelle Patterson
CHURCH CALENDAR (2004)

January
No Events Scheduled ..........................................................

February
25 – Black History Panel ............................................... 6:00 pm

March
14 – Men’s Day Program ............................................... 3:00 pm
28 – Ladies in Red Program ............................................... 3:00 pm

April
3 – Church Yard Sale .................................................. 6:00 pm
4 – Easter Program ............................................................. 6:00 pm

May
22 – “Celebrating Excellence” Awards/Dinner Banquet ......... 5:00 pm
5/31-6/4 – Vacation Bible School ........................................ 3:00 pm

June
6/28-7/1 – Prayer Week .................................................. 3:00 pm

July
5-9 – Revival Week .......................................................... 3:00 pm
25 – Annual Ushers Day .................................................... 3:00 pm

August
13-14 – Mission Retreat ............................................... 3:00 pm
22 – Annual Youth Day .................................................... 3:00 pm

September
11 – Rainbow Tea .......................................................... 3:00 pm
26 – Pastor’s Aid Annual Day (Hempstead, TX) ................. 3:00 pm

October
10 – Annual Choir Day .................................................. 3:00 pm
16 – Mission Workshop .................................................... 12:00 pm

November
8 – Family & Friends Day (North Bryan New Birth) .......... 3:00 pm
December
5 – Christmas Program ............................................. 5:00 pm
11 – Christmas Musical ............................................. 7:00 pm
12 – Pastor’s Appreciation Service .............................. 3:00 pm
31 – Watch Night Service .......................................... 10:00 pm

All dates and events are subject to change without notice. Please log on to the church website at http://www.newziononline.org for an updated list of events.
General Church Information
AN OVERVIEW OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Baptist Church is the most democratic of Protestant Churches in that it is governed by the congregation, with the people choosing their own minister and leader. Each Baptist Church is an entity in and of itself, having no council or ecclesiastical body to ask of or answer to. We encourage each person to rely on their conscience and listen as God speaks to them. We oppose the baptism of infants and insist that baptism be restricted to believers who are old enough to make their own declaration of faith. We insist upon baptism by immersion rather than by pouring on or sprinkling of water. Persons are received into the fellowship and membership of the Baptist Church by baptism, Christian experience, letter, restoration or watch care.

The first Baptist congregation was started by John Smith and 36 exiled Englishmen who later became the Pilgrims of New England. Roger Williams, an Englishman, has been called the father of the American Baptist Church because of his formation of the first Baptist Church on American soil in Providence, Rhode Island in 1639.

The religious experience for Africans was, is, and forever shall be the source of all life and its meaning. All of life is sacred in African thought, and such deep religious feelings and practices were brought to America by our African ancestors.

The North American slaveholders suppressed African culture and forced slaves to imitate the worship of their White masters. The Black preacher is a unique mixture of the African tribal past and American Christianity. Two things that assisted the Black preacher in his/her attempts to preach the Gospel were his/her ability to dramatize and sing. Since these forms of expressions were prevalent in the Baptist Church, African slaves became most attracted to it.

Although Black people had churches other than Baptist, historically speaking, the Baptist Church seemed to flourish more than any other. The Methodist, at one time, ranked as the largest Protestant denomination in America. Baptists now form the largest Protestant group in the United States.

Approximately half of the Baptists in the United States are affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. The five Black National Baptist groups form another large segment. A third major group, the American Baptist Churches, is an active and large Baptist group.

The size of the Black Baptist Church ranges from a handful to thousands. In methods of worship, we range from highly emotional to the most sophisticated. Black Baptist Churches are not confined to four walls. Active outreach programs are carried on extending into the community, nation, and even foreign countries. Black Baptists look to the church for social, economic, and political guidance as well as religious leadership.
**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

“I’m a member of New Zion Missionary Baptist Church!” Lots of new members utter these words with an inexpressible joy in their hearts. They’ve found Christ as their Savior, their sins have been forgiven and there is peace in their souls. As Christians, they have obeyed the Lord’s command to follow Him in baptism and unite with His church.

Many, however, who speak these words, fail to comprehend their significance. Sometimes they live for many years without ever knowing the real meaning of church membership. This shouldn’t be. Every member should know the seriousness and sacredness of his or her commitment. Lots of individuals hold membership at local churches, but they fail to accept their obligations, or just don’t realize their privileges and opportunities. Surely this is not intentional - they have never been brought face-to-face with the real meaning of church membership. Here, we will seek to set forth some of these things.

**BAPTIST 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 of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into 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 spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion, 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 dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, 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 to take offence, 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.
BASIS OF THE COVENANT

The obligations of church membership outlined in the covenant are all scriptural, as may be seen from the following study:

**Salvation and Baptism**
(John 1:11-12; Matthew 28:19-20).

**Duties to the Church**
To walk together in Christian love (John 13:34-35)

To strive for the advancement of the church and promote its prosperity and spirituality (Philippians 1:27; II Timothy 2:15; I Corinthians 7:1; II Peter 3:11).

To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrine
(Heb. 10:25; Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 11:23-26; Jude 3)

To give it pre-eminence in my life (Matthew 6:33)

To contribute cheerfully and regularly (I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 8:6-7).

To carry my membership when I move and become active in church work wherever I live (Acts 11:19-21; 18:24-28)

**Duties in Personal Christian Living**
To maintain family and secret devotions (Acts 17:11).

To religiously educate the children (II Deuteronomy. 6:4-7)

To seek the salvation of the lost (Matthew 4:19; Psalms126: 5-6; Proverbs 11:30).

To walk circumspectly in the world, and to be in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, exemplary in our deportment (Ephesians 5:15; Philippians 2:15; I Peter 2:11-12).

To avoid gossip and excessive anger (Ephesians 4:31; I Peter 2:21; Colossians 3:8; James 3:1-2).

To abstain from sale or use of liquors (Ephesians 2:15)

To be zealous in our efforts for Christ (I Corinthians 14:12)
Duties to Fellow Members
To watch over one another in love (I Peter 1:22)

To pray for one another (James 5:16)

To aid in sickness and distress (Galatians 6:2; James 2:14-17)

To cultivate sympathy and courtesy (I Peter 3:8)

To be slow to take offense, always ready for reconciliation (Ephesians 4:30, 32)

Membership Privileges
Established church home

Participate in church ministries

Vote in church elections

Membership Opportunities
Fellowship in the greatest institution that can be found

Christian growth and development through the church

Christian service through the work of the church
**Basic Church Conduct**

**Definition:** Defined conduct is simply the way we act; the direction or guidance of our actions in a certain way.

**Characteristic of Christian Conduct:** Our Christian conduct should be patterned after Christ Jesus. 1 John 2:6. Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did (NIV).

(Rom. 6:4) "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: That like as Christ is raised up from the dead by the Glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." I Timothy 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. (II Corinthians 5:20).

We’re to be Ambassadors for Christ or representatives and therefore examples of him in our conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith and in purity.

**Conversation:** Should not be corrupt, but good, that it may edify or help some come to know Jesus (Ephesians 4:29) God should be glorified in our conversation. (Others should not be able to find fault in our conversation) Our conversation should be sound and not corrupt, that cannot be condemned; that those that hear who are not saved, hearing our conversation may be put to shame and drawn to Christ (Titus 2:8).

**Charity (Love):** Christian behavior must reflect love; Jesus was the greatest example of love that this world will ever know. (John 3:16; 13:34-35)

**Faith:** Our Christian behavior should reflect a genuine faith in God and Jesus Christ... for we walk by Faith (Mark 11:22) not by sight (II Corinthians 5:7)

**Joy:** We should manifest joy in our lives. We should be cheerful. Rejoice in the Lord always (Philippians 4:4). “…for the joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10)

**Meek:** Submission to the will of God through the Holy Spirit.

**Humble:** Not puffed up with pride, patient and long-suffering not easily provoked to anger.

**Peaceful and Friendly:** Not loud and disorderly; love thy neighbor as thyself.

**In Everything We Should Demonstrate Good Works.** The principles we live by should be incorruptible and sincere (not for show, form, fad, or fashion). Jesus said that we should "let our lights so shine before men that they might see our good works and glorify the father which is in Heaven" (Matthew 5:16).
**Conduct During Worship/Fellowship Assemblies:** All things done decently and in order (I Corinthians 14:40).

**Church Etiquette**

Come early to assist if needed in preparation of services.

Never enter the aisle or talk during the reading of scripture, prayer, or any other reading (e.g. announcements etc.)

If the message of the occasion has begun, please take a seat near the door.

Be devout in every aspect, you are here to worship not to socialize or lounge.

Be thoughtful of the comfort of others and not selfish and have persons crawling over us to seat. Please move down toward the center of the pew or seat.

Consider that a stranger is a guest in our church. Treat them with the same kindness that we would have them greet us in their church.

Never begin to replace wraps or coats during the last hymn. They will still be there after the benediction.

Never eat, drink, or chew gum.

Remember at all times that we are in the Lord's house, and not our own. So we are to join in the service and give praise, thanks, and admiration to God.
MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONNAIRE
(Please print. You may use this form to update any information.)

Title:  __ Mr.  __ Mrs.  __ Miss  __ Ms.  __ Dr.  ____________ Other

Name: _________________________________________________________
(First)     (Middle )     (Last)

Preferred Name/Nickname: _________________________________________

Street Address: __________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
(City)     (State)     (Zip)

Preferred Phone: ________________________    Unlisted? Y or  N

Alternate Phone: ________________________ Home  Work  Cell  Other

Email Address: ___________________________________________________

Family Members  Relationship  Date of Birth  Member?
________________________________________________________________
Y or  N
Y or  N
Y or  N
Y or  N
Y or  N
Y or  N
Y or  N
Y or  N
Y or  N
Y or  N

**Please return to a member of the Hospitality Ministry**
**Please use the back of this form for additional comments**