

Covenant Agreement for Central Baptist Church and Jonesboro Chinese Baptist Church

1. PURPOSE: The purpose of this agreement is to establish good communication and to clarify the roles and relationship between Central Baptist Church (“the church”) and Jonesboro Chinese Baptist Church (“the church plant”). The planting of this new church is under the leadership and partnership of: Central Baptist Church, 3707 Harrisburg Rd., Jonesboro, AR. 72404, and assisted by the partners listed on the signature page of the “Church Plant Covenant Agreement.”

2. RELATIONSHIP/COOPERATION:

* The church shall offer spiritual guidance, nurture, training, and assistance to help the church plant achieve its goal of becoming a healthy self-sustaining Southern Baptist church.

*The church plant shall understand, approve, and be subject to the church’s doctrinal statement, constitution, by-laws, policies and practices.

*The church plant shall cooperate with and maintain healthy fellowship with the church, the Mt. Zion Baptist Association, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

*The church plant will commit to planting a Southern Baptist church as defined by:

a. Doctrine-Affirmation of SBC doctrinal teachings and beliefs as expressed in the 2000 Baptist faith and Message.

b. Missions-Participate in giving through the Cooperative Program, SBC missions offerings, and developing a personalized and prioritized Acts 1:8 strategy.

c. Leadership-Instruct and lead the church plant to understand that the church is congregational ruled, pastor led and deacon served.

3. LIAISON: The church’s Minister of Missions or a designated staff member shall serve as the church staff liaison with the church plant’s leadership.

4. FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

*The church shall participate in the financial support for the church plant and the amounts and schedules will be forthcoming.

*The church shall assist the church plant in attempting to secure financial support from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention/North American Mission Board, the Mt. Zion Baptist Association, or other organizations and agencies.

* The church shall assist in providing and/or securing and maintaining meeting facilities/location for the church plant until the plant becomes self-sustaining.

*The church shall guide the church plant to financial support of missions through the Cooperative Program (CP) and other local, state, national, and international missions offerings, projects, and partnerships.

5. BUDGET AND FINANCES: The church plant leadership will work with the church concerning financial matters. The church plant leadership will prepare and approve an annual budget and submit it to the church for approval, and will submit a monthly financial statement to the church for review and approval. Church plant receipts and disbursements shall be made through designated accounts or a separate bank account in accordance with procedures established by the church.

6. INDEBTEDNESS: The church plant shall incur no indebtedness of any kind without prior written approval of the church.

7. INSURANCE: The church plant shall be covered under and subject to the property and liability insurance policies of the church until the plant becomes a self-sustaining church.

8. PROPERTY: All church plant requests for use of the church facilities, equipment or vehicles must be submitted and calendared in accordance with established church procedures.

9. MEMBERSHIP: The church plant shall receive members in the same manner as the church.

10. PASTOR AND STAFF: To call a full-time or part-time Pastor, the church plant shall elect a Pastor Search Committee to work with the church Pastor and Minister of Missions, to select a Pastor for the church plant. The Pastor must be approved by the church plant and the church in accordance with church policies.

11. ORGANIZATION: The church plant may establish such organizations, schedule and ministries within its membership as appropriate to meet its needs, subject to church policies and approval.

12. ORDINANCES AND ORDINATION: The church plant may observe the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper administered by those authorized by the church. Ordination of pastors or deacons shall be done in accordance with church policies and subject to church approval.

13. COOPERATIVE MISSIONS GIVING: The church plant shall give a percentage of receipts to cooperative Southern Baptist causes through the SBC Cooperative Program and the Mt. Zion Baptist Association. The church plant shall determine its percentages and be reflected in its annual budget. The church plant members are also encouraged to give to Southern Baptist special missions offerings directly.

14. TERM OF AGREEMENT: This agreement shall be reviewed annually. It may be revised by mutual agreement of the church and the church plant. Details of the partnership between the undersigned parties may be spelled out at a later date.

THIS AGREEMENT APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2013.

By _____

Pastor, Central Baptist Church

By _____

Minister of Missions, Central Baptist Church

By _____

Representative, Jonesboro Chinese Baptist Church

By _____

Mt. Zion Baptist Association Director of Mission or Representative

By _____

Arkansas Baptist State Convention Representative

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