

CHURCH START COVENANT  
BETWEEN  
LONGVIEW HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH  
AND  
OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH  
Olive Branch, Mississippi

I. Communication

It is vitally important that a good relationship be maintained between Longview Heights Baptist Church and Olivet Baptist Church. As part of this relationship, a monthly report will be submitted to Longview Heights Baptist Church.

II. Responsibilities of Longview Heights Baptist Church(LHBC), the sponsor church.

- 1) LHBC agrees to associate with Olivet Baptist Church for a Period of 3 years, during which LHBC will offer support in the areas of administration, finances, leadership training, and other helps as deemed necessary by both parties.
- 2) LHBC shall use the Minister of Missions to have the responsibility as primary liaison.
- 3) The Missions Ministry Team will be the primary overseer to determine assistance to be given to Olivet BC. Any complaints or correspondence will be addressed to the Minister of Missions and will be communicated to the Missions Ministry Team.
- 4) The Missions Ministry Team is to receive a monthly report that will include the minutes and financial report from Olivet BC business meeting, the attendance and activities of Olivet BC. This

report should include all recommendations relative to the new congregation.

- 5) LHBC shall make a commitment to a prayer support ministry for Olivet BC seeking God's power to enable it to do all it should for the Kingdom of God. Prayer requests should include love, respect, cooperation and a mutual blessing for both churches.
- 6) LHBC has endorsed Bro. James Cook as pastor of Olivet BC. If Olivet BC loses its pastor, a search team will be selected composed of two members from Olivet BC and two members from LHBC and the Pastor of LHBC or his designee.
- 7) The pastor of Olivet BC will be authorized by LHBC to administer the ordinances. If Olivet BC does not have a pastor, the pastor of LHBC or a staff minister he designates will administer the ordinances.
- 8) LHBC shall develop the guidelines to assist the future relationships between itself and Olivet BC.

A covenant relationship between the two pastors will be established and will include a mutual understanding of:

- a. The line of authority and accountability.
  - b. Expectations of each other.
  - c. A time for regular meetings to develop a mutual relationship that allows time for mentoring, planning, praying, encouraging, instructing, and evaluating.
- 9) LHBC shall be responsible for the titles of all real estate, buildings, property and all financial commitments of Olivet BC until such time it is constituted into a church. Legally the new congregation is considered a part of LHBC. Therefore, Olivet BC shall not enter into any legally binding contracts or leases without

prior written approval of LHBC. In no case will Olivet BC become indebted without approval of LHBC. LHBC should make sure that Olivet BC has sufficient insurance coverage, including liability.

10) LHBC shall assist Olivet BC in the administration of its finances by:

- a. Helping Olivet BC open its own checking account.
- b. LHBC will provide the bookkeeping and provide reports for Olivet BC
- c. Funds from all sources related to Olivet BC will be kept in a separate account from that of LHBC.
- d. Checks issued by Olivet BC will bear signatures of authorized representatives from LHBC and Olivet BC.
- e. LHBC will handle Olivet BC pastor's salary and other remuneration from LHBC as agreed upon with the same care and promptness as for LHBC' s pastor.
- f. Adequate insurance and annuity will be provided for the pastor by LHBC as agreed upon by these parties.

### III. Responsibilities of Olivet Baptist Church( the new church start)

Olivet Baptist Church will:

1. Be faithful in teaching Biblical doctrine. It will teach, preach, and practice sound biblical doctrine using the Bible as a basic curriculum and literature offered by the Southern Baptist Convention.
2. Be loyal to the denomination. It will establish and maintain a healthy, friendly relationship with the sponsoring church, local association, state convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.
3. Be regular in its contributions to the association, Cooperative Program, and the three special annual missions offerings. Both the

sponsoring congregation and the new congregation shall be responsible for making these contributions to the appropriate entities. (All offerings except those designated for associational missions are to be sent to the Mississippi Baptist Convention indicating the cause for which they are designated.)

4. Operate according to the constitution and bylaws of LHBC.
5. Plan its programs and adopt a budget with approval of LHBC. The treasurer elected by the new congregation should handle the income and expenditures as directed by the budget. (The pastor of Olivet BC should never handle any funds.) A second person authorized by LHBC should act as signatory with the treasurer on all checks. Both financial procedures and records should follow the policies and procedures of LHBC, and should be reviewed annually by LHBC and Olivet BC.
6. Follow the policies of the LHBC when:
  - a. Voting to receive (or not to receive) as members all persons desiring to become a part of Olivet BC. Joining Olivet BC makes one a member of LHBC and subject to its membership requirements. LHBC allows Olivet BC to receive members on its behalf. Olivet BC should maintain its own membership files. An up to date duplicate of this file will be held by LHBC.
  - b. Electing officers. Upon recommendation of a nominating committee of Olivet BC, the body shall elect its officers and workers such as Treasurer, Clerk, program directors, teachers, etc., and shall present their names to LHBC for approval.
7. Establish financial maturity among its members. Olivet BC will teach Biblical stewardship and move toward financial maturity and self-support.

8. Olivet BC shall organize its programs and ministries. As commanded by its growth, Olivet BC will organize and develop the basic functions of the church, which will include, Bible Study, Discipleship, Missions Education, Stewardship, Evangelism and Ministry.
9. Establish outreach ministries to each unchurched people in the surrounding community.
10. Olivet BC will conduct a regular business meeting each month at least one week before LHBC business meeting. The pastor or moderator can call a special business meeting after a one-week notice.
11. Olivet BC will outline plans and set annual goals, which will result in Olivet BC becoming an organized church at the earliest possible date. When both LHBC and Olivet BC determine that Olivet BC is strong enough to organize into a New Testament Church, the LHBC Missions Ministry Team shall recommend to LHBC membership that plans be made to constitute Olivet BC.

The undersigned parties enter into a covenant relationship, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to plant a new church. All agree the final authority and responsibility for the actions and activities of this new church plant rests primarily with the Longview Heights Baptist Church and the church plant, Olivet Baptist Church, congregation.

The covenant agreement is a commitment of all the undersigned participants to provide support to the church plant for up to a maximum of three(3) years from this date. If a participant is committing to a shorter time of support, this will be reflected in a brief statement in an attached addendum.

By approval of Longview Heights Baptist Church(sponsor) by official church action on February 1, 2004, a commitment was made to sponsor

Olivet Baptist Church plant according to the guidelines and time frame specified in this "Church Start Covenant" agreement. The signatures below represent a commitment on all participants to this Covenant Agreement and guidelines for the above mentioned church plant.

**SIGNATURES:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor, Longview Heights Baptist Church

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor/Planter, Olivet Baptist Church

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Association Missions Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Termination of This Covenant Agreement

- A. Conditions in which any covenant partner can terminate participation in the agreement:
1. Olivet Baptist Church(the plant) clearly departs from the doctrinal stance expressed in the current SBC Baptist Faith and Message.
  2. Olivet Baptist Church clearly ceases to fulfill the commitment to participate in giving to Acts 1:8 kingdom missions according to the agreed upon percentages.
  3. Should Olivet Baptist Church constitute as a church without the agreement of all covenant partners, a partner may cease funding support and participation in the partnership within 90 days.
  4. Olivet Baptist Church significantly fails to live within the guidelines.
  5. Moral or ethical failure on the part of the pastor of Olivet Baptist Church.
- B. Cooperating Entities may terminate this relationship for other reason after consultation of all parties and an agreed upon time frame for termination.
- C. The inconveniences associated with multiple congregations in one facility, cultural differences, differing worship styles or different models of outreach and ministry shall not be sufficient reason for termination of the relationship.