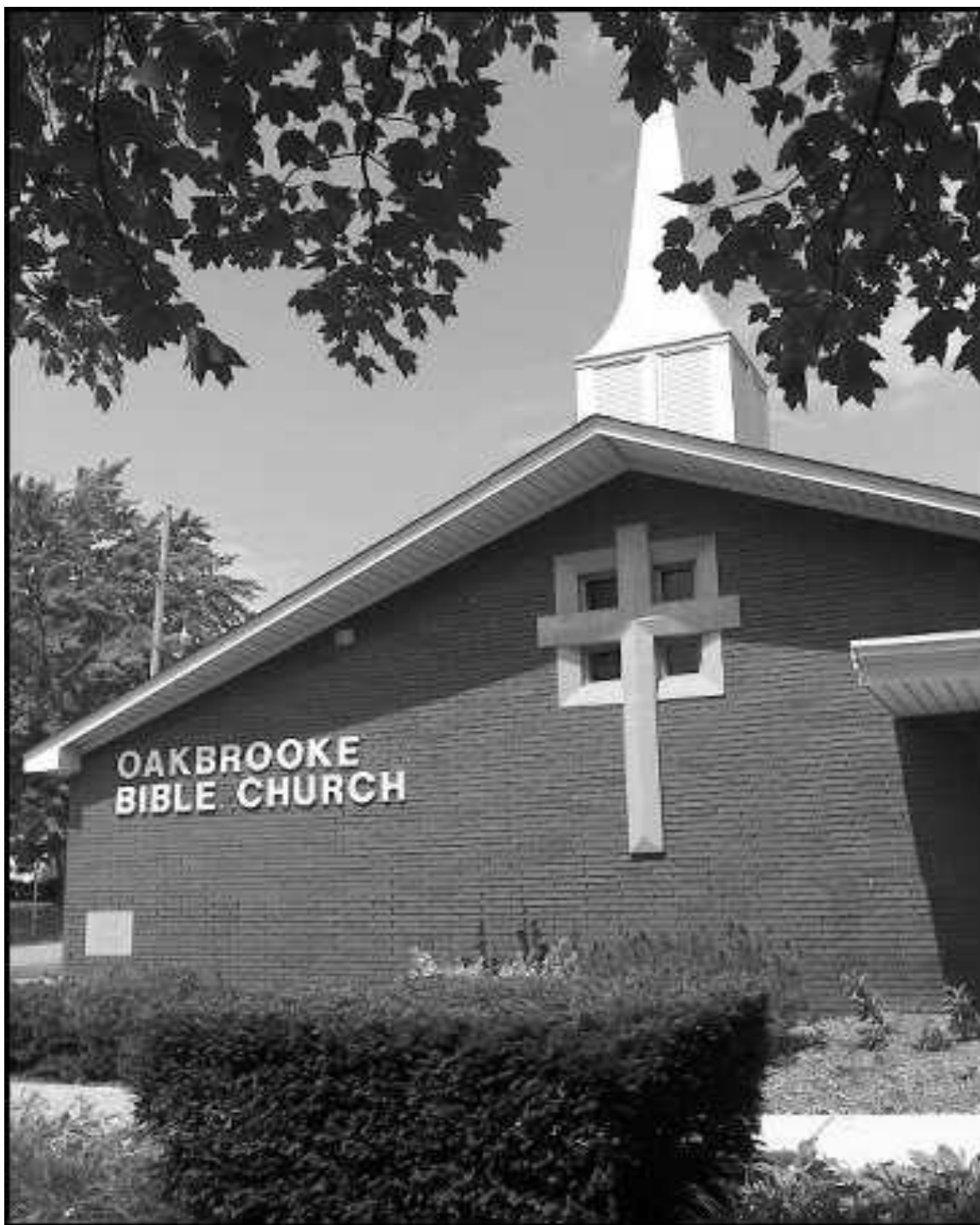


## Ministry Structure and Constitution



Oakbrooke Bible Church  
Waterford, Michigan



# **CONSTITUTION OAKBROOKE BIBLE CHURCH**

**PREAMBLE:** We, the members of OAKBROOKE BIBLE CHURCH, do ordain and establish this Constitution to which we voluntarily submit.

## **ARTICLE I - NAME AND LOCATION**

**Article I of this Constitution was amended by congregational vote on May 23, 2010 to change the name of Calvary Baptist Church of Pontiac to Oakbrooke Bible Church.**

**NAME:** The name of this church shall be OAKBROOKE BIBLE CHURCH. The word “church” as used in this document shall refer to Oakbrooke Bible Church, whereas the word “Church” shall refer to the Body and Bride of Christ.

**LOCATION:** The physical plant of Oakbrooke Bible Church is located in Waterford Township, Michigan.

## **ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this church shall be to glorify God. It shall seek to attain this end through the public worship of God, the preaching of the Scriptures, consistent Christian living by its members, personal evangelism, missionary endeavor and Christian education (Ephesians 1:5-14; Colossians 1:9-10; Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:9-12).

**AUTHORITY:** The Elders constitute the governing body of this church. The final temporal authority in all matters of church government is vested in the membership of the church.

**INCORPORATION:** To implement this purpose legally the church is incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan, so that it may own, provide and/or maintain a place of worship (including suitable real estate and buildings), receive, hold and disburse gifts, bequests and funds, and/or do all and sundry things necessary or incident to carry on such purpose.

## **ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

**MEMBERSHIP:** Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior and giving evidence of having been born again (John 3:3) and having expressed a desire to conform to the Church Covenant and doctrinal position of this church may upon the recommendation of the Elders acquire active membership in this church in the following manner:

- A. By vote of the church and baptism by immersion.

- B. By vote of the church and by letter of transfer from another church of similar faith and order, provided that the applicant has previously been baptized by immersion.
- C. By vote of the church upon the applicant stating his or her experience and faith in Christ and showing that he or she has previously been baptized by immersion.

1. **Responsibilities of Membership:** The responsibilities of church membership are summarized in the church covenant as follows:

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, we do now in the presence of God and this church most solemnly and joyfully enter into this Covenant with one another as one body in Christ. We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit:

- a. To walk together in Christian love;
- b. To exercise Christian care and watchfulness over one another;
- c. To pray with and for one another, sharing our burdens, sorrows, and joys;
- d. To be thoughtful and courteous to one another, to be slow to take offense, and to be quick to forgive and to seek forgiveness;
- e. To guard the spiritual and Scriptural purity, peace, prosperity of the Church, and to promote its usefulness as a witness to the saving grace of God and Christ Jesus;
- f. To assist, through the gifts of the Spirit, in the work of the Church, and to promote its usefulness as a witness to the saving grace of God and Christ Jesus;
- g. To contribute, as the Lord directs, to the financial support of the church, the relief of the needy, and evangelism of all people;
- h. To love and to pray for all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ;
- i. To engage regularly in personal Bible reading and prayer, and to establish family devotions where possible;
- j. To bring up such children as may be entrusted to our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord;
- k. To walk circumspectly in the world, to provide things honest in the sight of all men, to be faithful to engagements, exemplary in deportment, denying ungodliness and worldly lust;
- l. To endeavor by example, by work, and by prayer, to win others to an acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord;
- m. To purpose that when we remove ourselves 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.

2. **Rights of Members:** Active members of this church shall have the following rights:

- a. To receive the spiritual oversight and care of the Elders of the church;
- b. To vote in person or by absentee ballot at all congregational meetings of the church;
- c. To participate as teachers/helpers in the Sunday School, upon approval of the Elders;
- d. To participate in the music ministry of this church, upon approval of the Elders;
- e. Those members who have attained the age of 18 years may serve in elected positions of the church after one year of active membership and all Scriptural and constitutional qualifications are met;

f. Any and all other rights normally afforded the membership of this church.

3. **Renewal of Membership:** There shall be an annual renewal of membership. Such renewal procedures shall be adopted and approved by the Elders

4. **Discipline of Members:**

The purpose of church discipline is to effect a return to a Biblical standard of conduct and doctrine in a member who errs (Galatians 6:1), to maintain purity in the local church (1 Corinthians 5:6) and to deter sin (1 Timothy 5:20).

Any member of this church who teaches or insists on holding false doctrine, and persistently conducts himself or herself in a manner inconsistent with Biblical teaching, or who persists in disturbing the unity or peace of the church shall be dealt with as follows, according to Matthew 18:15-18:

- a. It is the duty of any member of this church who has knowledge of an erring member's heresy or misconduct to warn and correct the erring member in private, seeking his or her repentance and restoration.
- b. If the erring member does not heed this warning, the warning member shall again go to the erring member accompanied by one or two other members as witnesses to warn and correct, seeking repentance and restoration.
- c. If the erring member still refuses to heed the warning, the matter shall be brought to the attention of the Elders, who, upon careful and prayerful investigation, shall tell it to the church, encouraging the congregation to pray for repentance and restoration of the erring member.
- d. If the erring member refuses to heed to warnings of the leadership of the church and the church body, he or she shall be dismissed from the church pursuant to the Scriptures and treated as an unbeliever. There shall be no appeal of the discipline process or the dismissal to any court. The congregation shall be encouraged to pray for the repentance and restoration of the erring member.

It is clearly understood that the discipline process will continue to conclusion whether the erring member leaves the church or otherwise seeks to withdraw from membership.

5. **Termination of Membership:** Membership may be terminated in one of four ways:

- a. By physical death;
- b. By transfer: When it is requested, the Elders may grant to a departing member in good standing, a letter of dismissal to the fellowship of another church. No such letter may be given to a member who is at the time under the corrective discipline of this church. The Elders may refuse to grant a letter of transfer to any church which is in their judgment disloyal to the gospel (Jude 3).
- c. By exclusion: If a member habitually absents himself or herself from the stated meetings of the church without valid reason, or if due to relocation he or she ceases to maintain a vital contact with the church, he or she may be excluded from membership by the Elders. The Elders shall

- notify the excluded member in writing at the last known address. If the excluded member applies again for membership, the procedures set forth will again be followed.
- d. By dismissal by majority vote of the congregation as a final step of church discipline.

#### **ARTICLE IV – CONFESSION OF FAITH**

Oakbrooke Bible Church subscribes to *The London Baptist Confession of 1689*, a full copy of which is available for free download at [www.oakbrookechurch.com/london.pdf](http://www.oakbrookechurch.com/london.pdf). What follows is a summary of our doctrinal position on vital areas of Christian teaching:

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are verbally inspired by God and inerrant and infallible in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and in life.

We believe in one God eternally existing in one essence, yet three co-equal persons, the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God who became man, begotten by God, conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born to the virgin Mary.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, who convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He is the life of the believer, and He empowers the preaching and teaching of the gospel.

We believe that mankind was created in the image of God, sinned, and thereby incurred not only physical death, but spiritual death, which is separation from God, and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the basis of His shed blood.

We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, His ascension into heaven, and His present life there as High Priest and Advocate for us.

We believe in the blessed hope, which is the personal, visible return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again by the Holy Spirit, and thereby become children of God and heirs of eternal life.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost in hell, and the fellowship of the saved in heaven.

We believe in the existence of a personal devil, who is still working in the world to destroy the souls of men, and that he and all his angels and all who do not receive Christ as their Savior will eternally perish in the lake of fire.

We believe in the Church, whose mission it is to preach the Scriptures to all the world, all of its endeavors being guided by multiple leadership and supported by the wise stewardship of God's people.

We believe that the ordinances of the Church, given by our Lord, are Baptism of the believer by immersion in water, and the Lord's Supper (Communion).

## **ARTICLE V - QUALIFICATIONS OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

All persons who hold any position of leadership (including, but not limited to teachers, committee members, church staff and church workers) must meet and maintain the following spiritual qualifications for leadership:

1. Has accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior.
2. Is a member of Oakbrooke Bible Church for a period of not less than one year, with the exception of the Senior Pastor and other staff Pastors. (Non-members may be invited to teach on a temporary basis with the approval of the Elders).
3. Teaches no doctrine contrary to the "Confession of Faith" as put forth in the Constitution of Oakbrooke Bible Church.
4. Provides systematic spiritual, financial, and physical support to the Oakbrooke Bible Church ministry.
5. Is known for a dedicated Christian life according to the standards of God's word, and will purpose to put any sin, including doubtful conduct and conversation, out of his/her life so that the resulting influence is helpful rather than a hindrance.
6. Fulfills such specific biblical requirements as may apply to the position of responsibility.

## **ARTICLE VI - ELDERS, DEACONS AND STAFF**

Because the New Testament recognizes only two elective offices in the church (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1; Philippians 1:1), the officers of this church shall be limited to those who serve either as Elders or Deacons.

Those who serve and minister as elders, deacons, or as staff at Oakbrooke Bible Church shall collectively and individually oversee, provide for, and encourage the spiritual life, welfare, and total ministry of the congregation in order to insure the proper equipping of the saints.

As God's servants and stewards, these leaders shall be persons:

1. Who meet the qualifications as given in Scripture (1 Timothy 3:1-15; 5:19-25; 2 Timothy 2:24-25; Titus 1:5-9; Acts 6:3-6);

2. Who adhere to the doctrinal basis of this church;
3. Whose soundness in the faith and whose ability to serve has been examined and approved by the church.

Therefore, our church leaders are to be assisted, obeyed and respected as they carry out their duties (Hebrews 13:17).

## **1. Duties of The Elders**

### **a. Spiritual Oversight of the Membership:**

- 1) The Senior Pastor is the lead/teaching elder of the church and as such shall lead all meetings of the Elder body and the church.
- 2) The first priority of the Elders is to ensure that each member of this church, and those considering membership in this church, understands the Gospel and has, as best can be determined, been regenerated by the Holy Spirit by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- 3) The Elders shall guard the congregation against doctrinal error and shall labor to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. The determination of the Elders on all matters related to doctrinal interpretations is final. The Elders shall
  - a) Teach and exhort as well as refute those who contradict the truth;
  - b) Insure that instructors, Bible study leaders and youth leaders are properly qualified;
  - c) Arrange for pulpit supply during the Senior Pastor's absence.
- 4) Taking the spiritual oversight of the congregation which includes holding the membership accountable to biblical standards of holiness, growth in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and participation in the life of the church (1 Peter 5:1-4; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 2:15). The Elders shall:
  - a) Lead by Christ-like example
  - b) Consistently model spiritual character, attitudes, values, and behavior among the members;
  - c) Provide for and invite the opportunity for frequent and on-going contact with members;
  - d) Conduct the affairs of the church in an atmosphere of openness and mutual sensitivity, focusing as much on nurturing the members as on decision-making.
- 5) Guarding his own life and teaching and watching over the spiritual life of individual members/families within the congregation to ensure their salvation (1 Timothy 4:16).

### **b. Other Oversight Responsibilities of the Elders:**

- 1) The Elders are responsible for the employment, terms of employment, direction, and termination of employment of pastoral staff and employees;
- 2) Installing the duly elected Pastor and/or Pastors;

- 3) Approving all subordinate organizations, and committees of the church;
- 4) Approving all applicants for church membership;
- 5) Approving nominations by the membership of men to the Elders
- 6) Upon the vacancy of the office of Senior Pastor, the Elders shall constitute the Pulpit Search Committee, which involves:

- a) Prayerfully seeking qualified candidates for the vacancy and to make recommendation to the church on the choice of a new Senior Pastor, in accordance with Article VII of this Constitution.

**c. The Missions Advisory Committee:** The Elders shall select from its own membership a chair for the Missions Advisory Committee. The Elders shall obtain from the congregation nominations for a minimum of 7 positions on the Missions Advisory Committee whose responsibilities shall be as follows:

- i. To assist the Elders in the promotion of local and worldwide missions opportunities;
- ii. To prepare an annual missions budget and submit same to the Elders for approval and inclusion in the Annual Operating Budget presented to the church;
- iii. To plan and organize the Annual Church Missions Conference;
- iv. To recommend support for individual missionaries, missions agencies or organizations, and other missionary endeavors to the Elders, who after their review shall present recommendations to the church for approval;
- v. To negotiate covenants, agreements and contracts with missionaries, missionary organizations, or other agencies, for the development and maintenance of missionary work and to make such expenditures as are authorized by the church in the Annual Operating Budget or by special resolution. Requests for expenditures exceeding \$500.00 in excess of budget allowances shall be presented by the Elders to the congregation for its approval;
- vi. To establish necessary bank accounts for the holding and disbursing of missions funds. The chair of the Missions Advisory Committee, the Church Treasurer, and the Chair of the Deacons shall be signatories on any such accounts. Two signatures shall be required for the disbursement of funds from any missions account;
- vii. The Church Treasurer shall be a member of the Missions Advisory Committee with voting power and shall act as the treasurer of the Mission Advisory Committee. He shall provide a monthly accounting to the church for the collection and disbursing of missions funds.

**2. The selection process for the Elders shall be as follows:**

- a. The Elders will consider candidates for Eldership as leadership needs arise.
- b. The candidate will participate in a two-year internship. During this time the candidate and the Elders will determine through prayer, Bible study and ministry partnership one's calling as an Elder.
- c. Assuming one has completed the Elder internship, the Elders will then recommend the individual to the membership.

- d. The members shall approve the final list of nominees. No less than three-fourths majority of those members approving in person or by absentee ballot shall be required for the approval of an Elder.
- e. Following the recognition of an Elder by vote of the congregation, he shall be publicly installed in his office at a regular worship service by the prayer of the whole church and the laying on of hands by the existing Elders.

The Senior Pastor shall serve as chairman of The Board of Elders. The chairman of the Board of Elders shall preside over the meetings of the Board of Elders and shall insure that the Board serves the congregation in a balanced manner addressing each area of responsibility as outlined in the duties.

In recognition that the task of Eldership is significant and is accomplished while continuing care of family and work responsibilities, we understand that individual Elders may need to take leave of some of the responsibilities of Eldership for periods of time. Such sabbatical times will be arranged through mutual consent of the Elders. An Elder may resign his office without prejudice if for good and valid reasons he finds he is no longer able to discharge the duties required.

The Elders shall be mutually accountable to each other in order to safeguard against the continuation in office of an Elder who has rendered himself unqualified for such service.

### 3. **Duties of the Senior Pastor**

- a. Give himself to prayer and the study of the word of God;
- a.** Preach and expound the word of God;
- b.** Administer the Ordinances in accordance with the word of God;
- c.** Share in the pastoral care of the congregation along with the other Elders and pastoral staff;
- d.** Perform the marriage ceremony at his discretion in accordance with the laws of God and the State of Michigan;
- e.** When requested, officiate at the funerals of members of the church and non-members. Requests for funerals of non-members shall be accepted at the sole discretion of the pastor;
- f.** Together with the other Elders maintain church discipline;
- g.** Participate in the installation of newly designated elders;
- h.** Act as ex-officio member of all committees;
- i.** Preside at all meetings of the church, including business meetings;
- j.** Approve all literature and tracts used by this church, including direct oversight of all books and materials in the church library;
- k.** Supervise all other pastors, staff and employees with the right to terminate any employee after consultation with the Elders;
- l.** Perform other constitutional, Scriptural, and general pastoral duties.

The Senior Pastor shall be free to accept invitations to preach the word of God to other groups or organizations, provided such engagements do not interfere with the work of the church. Before accepting invitations to speak for other groups which require his absence from the church and its activities, the Senior Pastor shall consult with the Elders and obtain its approval.

**4. Duties of the Deacons:**

- a. To serve under the authority of the Elders by Christ-like example.
- b. To oversee the temporal affairs of the church under and in cooperation with the Elders, which involves:
  - i. Maintaining the legal status of the church;
  - ii. Being responsible for securing funds necessary to meet the current expenses of the church and preparing an Annual Operating Budget and presenting the same to the church for its approval at the Annual Congregational Meeting;
  - iii. Approving the disbursement of funds by the church treasurer in accordance with the annual budget. The Deacons, in concert with the Elders, are authorized to expend up to \$1,000.00 of non-budgeted funds for any single expense arising in the course of conducting the business of the church;
  - iv. Maintaining the physical plant of the church and its property through the Building Committee;
  - v. Preparing reports for the Annual and special business meetings of the church;
- c. The meetings of the Deacons shall be at their discretion, but not less than once per month.
- d. The Deacons shall develop and authorize all policies relative to the conduct of church business, to be approved by the Elders;

**5. Subsidiary Offices/Committees of the Deacons:** The actions and activities of the following officers and committees are subject to the review and approval of The Elders:

- a. **The Church Clerk:** The Deacons shall select from among its own membership a clerk whose responsibilities shall be as follows:
  - i. To keep a correct record of the proceedings of the church business meetings;
  - ii. To have care and control of the official documents of the church including, but not limited to, minutes of meetings of the congregation and committees, legal documents, and membership records. Release of such documents to any person or entity shall be upon approval of the Elders.
  - iii. To respond to requests for transfers of membership and any such other duties as usually incumbent upon such office.
- b. **The Church Treasurer:** The Deacons shall select from among its own membership, and sufficiently bond, a treasurer whose responsibilities shall be as follows:
  - i. To provide monthly to the congregation an accurate written accounting of all income and disbursements in accordance with standard accounting practices;
  - ii. To act as one of the signatories on all church bank accounts;
  - iii. To appoint tellers from among the Deacons to count the weekly offerings;
  - iv. To insure the timely repayment of debt and other obligations of the church in accordance with the church operating budget;
  - v. To assist the Deacons in the development of the annual church operating budget;
  - vi. To make certain that the church is properly indemnified against the loss of real and personal property and against liabilities.

- c. **The Building Committee:** The Deacons may appoint from among its own membership or from among the active members of this church a Building Committee who shall be responsible to insure the general maintenance of the church property, make recommendations to the church for major repairs, conduct an annual itemized inventory of all real and personal property, insure the maintenance of any church owned vehicles, and act as an exploratory body in the event the church desires to acquire property or in any way expand or renovate the existing facilities.
- d. **Ushers:** The Deacons shall appoint ushers with the approval of the Elders for the welcoming of guests and members to the services of the church and for the collection of the offerings.

## 6. **Other Pastors, Staff and Employees**

The Elders shall make determinations on the need for church staff and employees. The Senior Pastor may employ the necessary staff to carry out the purposes of this church in consultation with the Elders and upon approval by the congregation of a budget for such positions.

The Elders shall outline the duties, responsibilities and expectations of all paid positions.

The Elders and Deacons shall develop a Ministry Covenant for each employee, which stipulates the church's financial responsibility to said employee.

All Church staff and employees shall come under the immediate supervision of the Senior Pastor and may be terminated by the Senior Pastor after consulting with the Elders.

## **ARTICLE VII - ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

### **NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF THE SENIOR PASTOR AND THE DEACONS:**

1. **The Senior Pastor:** When the Senior pastorate of this church becomes vacant, it shall be the duty of the Elders after prayerful consideration to provide for the filling of the pulpit ad interim, and to nominate for Senior Pastor one who possesses the requirements set forth in these articles. In carrying out this process, the Elders shall directly communicate to the congregation regularly, and at reasonable intervals. We encourage that all church members who desire to submit the name of an individual for consideration as Senior Pastor do so in writing to the recording secretary of the Elders.

When the Elders intend to nominate a Senior Pastor they shall notify the membership by mail and from the pulpit one week prior to the service at which such nomination shall be made and at which the candidate shall preach in view of a call. The notice shall include the name of the individual being considered for nomination.

The Elders shall then call a church meeting for the purpose of affirming the call of the nominated candidate. The date and time of the meeting shall be announced at least two Sundays in advance from the pulpit. The meeting shall be moderated by an elder to be determined by the Elders. Voting

shall be by secret ballot. Only one person eligible to become Senior Pastor shall be considered or voted upon at a meeting. The election and its returns shall be counted by members of the Deacons and announced publicly at the election meeting and the next regular service of the church. A three quarter majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to call a Senior Pastor.

After the Senior Pastor has been duly affirmed by the congregation the Elders shall tender to him a Letter of Call, signed by each member of the Elders and the Deacons. The Letter of Call shall specify the financial support. A copy of this Constitution shall accompany the Letter of Call.

The Senior Pastor shall assume his office upon his acceptance of the Letter of Call and the Pulpit Committee function of the Elders shall be disbanded.

2. **Deacons:** The Deacons shall consist of as many males of the membership of the church who meet the qualifications outlined in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Each Deacon shall hold office as long as he is faithful to his calling and has the confidence of his brethren and the congregation.

The selection process for the Deacons shall be as follows:

- a. The members shall be encouraged to regularly submit to the Elders the names of members whose life and gifts are consistent with their being considered for nomination to the task of Deacon. The Elders shall review the individuals so nominated by the congregation and present a list of individuals for vote of the membership at any Monthly or Annual Business Meeting.
- b. No man shall be nominated without his prior knowledge and consent. Any questions concerning the nominees shall be addressed to the Elders in writing no later than one week prior to the meeting.
- c. The church shall vote on the final list of nominations at the meeting by secret ballot or by absentee ballot. No less than three-quarters majority of those members voting shall be required for the election of a Deacon.
- d. Following recognition of a Deacon by vote of the church, he shall be publicly installed in his office at a regular worship service by the prayer of the whole church and the laying on of hands by the Elders and Deacons.

The Deacons shall elect from its membership a chairman, a vice-chairman, the church treasurer, the church clerk, and a recording secretary. The chairman of the Deacons shall preside at all meetings of the Deacons and shall insure that the Deacons serve the congregation in a balanced manner addressing each area of responsibility as outlined in Article IV, Sections 4 and 5 of this Constitution.

Every three years the church shall reconfirm (or express the withdrawal of) its confidence in each of its Deacons at its Annual Meeting. A Deacon may resign his office without prejudice if for good and valid reasons he finds he is no longer able to discharge the duties required.

## **ARTICLE VIII - TERMINATION OF THE SENIOR PASTOR**

The Senior Pastor shall serve until removed by the Lord; or by two-thirds of all votes cast at a church meeting called for the exclusive purpose of removing the Senior Pastor from the church pulpit; or by resignation. In the

event a church meeting is called for the exclusive purpose of removing the Senior Pastor from the pulpit, the Elders shall notify all members of the church by mail at least ten business days in advance of said meeting. We encourage all members desiring to make a comment or suggestion as concerns the removal of the Senior Pastor to do so in writing to the recording secretary of the Elders at least three business days in advance of said meeting.

The Senior Pastor may resign his office by giving 30 days written notice to the Elders of his intent to do so.

## **ARTICLE IX - PROPERTY AND ASSETS**

1. The church shall have the power to receive, either by gift or purchase, and so hold such real, personal, or mixed property as is authorized by the laws of the State of Michigan and is deemed necessary for the functioning of the church, and shall have power to dispose of such property by mortgage, bill of sale, deed, or otherwise. All property shall be held in the name of the church:
  - a. The transfer, sale or lease of all church real property shall require a two-thirds vote of the members voting at a special business meeting called for such purpose.
  - b. The purchase or sale of all other property of the church shall be at the discretion of the Elders and Deacons in accordance with the annual operating budget of the church.
2. In the case of division of the church caused by conflict (from which we pray God by His mercy to preserve us), all property and assets of the church shall belong to those who abide by its Constitution.
3. In the case of dissolution of the church organization, the property and all assets shall be sold, either through private or public sale. From the proceeds, firstly all current and long-term obligations of the church shall be paid. Secondly, all remaining funds shall be directed to such one or more Christian organizations qualified under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, for the benefit of the church's supported missionaries and/or such other Christian endeavors as the congregation shall determine. The church shall be considered dissolved if so decided by the congregation, or when the church has not held an Annual Meeting for three years, or when less than six members remain.

**RAISING OF FUNDS:** It shall not be the policy of this church to promote suppers, parties, or engage in the sale of products and/or services for the purpose of raising funds. Any exception to this general policy must have the prior approval of the Elders.

## **ARTICLE X - CHURCH MEETINGS**

**REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH:** The church shall meet each Sunday for the purpose of public worship and the preaching of the Scriptures.

**BUSINESS MEETINGS:** There shall be three types of church business meetings throughout the church year:

1. **The Annual Business Meeting** shall be held during the month of October on a date to be determined by the Elders and Deacons. Notification of the date and time of the Annual Business Meeting shall be given from the pulpit at least three Sunday's prior to the meeting. All reports required for the Annual Business Meeting shall be typewritten and submitted to the secretary of the Deacons no later than the last Sunday in August. The church shall approve the annual church operating budget, including the expenditures for the missions program of the church, at its annual meeting. Any such other pertinent business deemed appropriate by the Elders and Deacons may be conducted at the Annual Meeting.
2. **Monthly Business Meetings** may be held on the Wednesday evening following the second Sunday of each month for the purpose of reviewing the budget and any such other business the Elders and Deacons may deem pertinent.
3. **Special business meetings** may be called by the Elders or by the Senior Pastor.

Notice of a special business meeting shall be announced from the pulpit at least two Sunday's prior to the meeting. The notice will include a clear statement of the purpose of the meeting. In the event that a condition or situation arises which is deemed an emergency by the Elders, the advance notice requirement may be waived.

**QUORUMS:** The number of active members present at any annual or special business meeting of the church shall constitute a quorum, provided it is a properly called meeting in accordance with the terms of this Constitution.

A quorum shall be necessary for any vote.

**SUFFRAGE:** Only active members of this church who are at least 16 years of age and whose permanent residence is within 100 miles of the main Oakbrooke Bible Church facility shall have the right to vote in person or by absentee ballot at any business meeting of the church, with the exception of votes on the transfer, sale, or lease of church real property when the member shall have attained legal voting age in the State of Michigan.

If an absentee ballot is required, a request in writing and signed by the member must be made to the secretary of the Deacons at least one week prior to the meeting.

**FISCAL YEAR:** The fiscal year of this church shall begin on October 1 and end on September 30 perpetually.

## **ARTICLE XI - AFFILIATIONS**

**DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION:** This church is an independent Reformed Baptist church subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical denomination or group. This church reserves the right to determine, by vote of its membership and upon the recommendation of the Elders, which group or groups it may fellowship with, such fellowship being on a voluntary basis only.

## **ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS**

The Constitution or Articles of Incorporation of this church may be amended and/or revised at any business meeting by a two-thirds majority of the members voting in the affirmative, providing that both the text of such amendment and the basis for its consideration have been made available to all members at least thirty days in advance of any meeting at which such a proposal will be considered or voted upon.

## **ARTICLE XIII - EFFECTUAL POWER OF THE CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution shall take effect immediately upon its ratification by two-thirds vote of the active members present at the meeting called for this purpose. This Constitution supercedes all previous Constitutions and By-Laws previously in force and shall remain in force as presently formulated or as duly amended according to Article XIV or until this corporation is legally dissolved. This Constitution shall not be suspended or abrogated.