

Columbus Bible Church
Columbus, Michigan
CONSTITUTION

Article I

Section A: NAME

The name of this church shall be the Columbus Bible Church, Columbus, Michigan.

Section B: PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to preach the gospel and to teach the Word of God, to minister in Christian service to the community in which it is located, to promote the spiritual development of believers, and to seek the salvation of the lost through evangelism in missions at home and abroad.

Section C: SUPERSEDE

This copy of the Columbus Bible Church Constitution dated 10/16/2016 supersedes all other copies of the CBC constitution and it is the only valid constitution.

ARTICLE II

Statement of Faith

Section A: THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, to be the only inspired, inerrant, infallible, authoritative Word of God, having been completed in the Apostolic age, therefore additional prophecies and the speaking in tongues are not accepted as revelation from God. (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18; John 16:12-13.)

Section B: THE GODHEAD

1. We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deuteronomy 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14) 2. We believe God is spirit, from everlasting to everlasting the same, creator of all things, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. (John 4:24; Luke 24:29; Psalms 90:2; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17; Isaiah 44:24; Revelations 19:6; I John 3:20; Psalms 147:5; 139:7-10; Jeremiah 23:34.)

Section C: THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST

1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (John 1:1-2, 14; Luke 1:35.)
2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Romans 3:24-25; T Peter 2:24; Ephesians I :7: I Peter I :3-5.)
3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative Intercessor, and Advocate. (Acts 1:9-10; Hebrews 9:24, 7:25; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1-2.)

Section D: THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person Who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (John 16:8-11; II Corinthians 3:6; I Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14.)
2. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher Who guides believers into all truth; and that it is a privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the spirit. (John 16:13; I John 2:20, 27; Ephesians 5:18.)

Section E: THE TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MAN

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and that man is totally depraved, and of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12.)

Section F: SALVATION

We believe that Salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. (Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:18-19.)

Section G: THE ETERNAL SECURITY AND ASSURANCE OF BELIEVERS

1. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; I Peter 1:5.)
2. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15.)

Section H: THE TWO NATURES OF THE BELIEVER

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and, that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural. (Romans 6:13; 8:12-13; Galatians 5:15-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; I Peter 1:14-16; I John 3:5-9.)

Section I: SEPARATION

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures; practices and associations is commanded of God. Performing same sex unions/marriage will not be practiced at Columbus Bible Church. (II Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1-2; 14:13; I John 2:15-17; II John 9:11; II Corinthians 6:14—7:1.)

Section J: MISSIONS

We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind. (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 5:19-20.)

Section K: THE MINISTRY AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; and that speaking in tongues and the working of miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established. (I Corinthians 12:4-11; II Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7- 12.)

2. We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted. (John 15:7; I John 5:14-15.)

Section L: THE CHURCH

1. We believe that the Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of the present age. (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-27; I Corinthians 12:12-14; II Corinthians 11:2.)

2. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. (Acts 14:27, 20:17, 28:32; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11.)

Section M: THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN

We believe that Satan is a fallen angel, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14: 12-17; Matthew 4:2-11, 25:4 1; Revelation 20:10.)

Section N: THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST

We believe in that “Blessed Hope “, the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth with His saints, to establish His Millennial Kingdom. (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Zachariah 14:4-11; Revelation 19:11-16,20:1-6,3:10; I Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9.)

Section O: THE ETERNAL STATE

1. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; Revelation 20:5-6, 12-13.)

2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to the glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4-6; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23, 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:16-17.)

3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne of Judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious torment. (Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude vs. 6-7; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15)

ARTICLE III

Policy

1. The government of this church is vested in its members. The church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body.

2. The church shall not be considered as a member of any fellowship except by a 2/3 majority vote of the church members at a properly called meeting of all members.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

1. Qualifications: The membership shall consist of those persons who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, have received appropriate instruction, and have been recommended by the Pastor and Deacons. They shall have given public assent to the covenant and statement of faith of this church; be accepted by vote of the church; and publicly received into its fellowship at a Sunday morning worship service.

2. Duties: The duties of Church memberships include...

- Active sympathy with the purposes of the church;
- Regular financial support of the church programs;
- Regular participation in church worship and activities.

3. Rights: Under the law of the state, only members who have attained the age of eighteen have the right to vote on questions involving the acquirement and disposition of property, the expenditure of money, and the calling or dismissing of a pastor. Members under eighteen years of age shall have the right to vote on matters not involving such corporate action.

4. Termination: Membership may be terminated in four ways...

- Letters of dismissal and recommendation shall be granted only by vote of the church board, on recommendation of the Pastor and Deacons.
- Any member who desires to withdraw his name from the church roll shall have such permission upon vote of the Church Board.
- Any members whose conduct is reprehensible and unbecoming may, after reasonable effort has been made by the Pastor and Deacons to reclaim the offender and opportunity for defense having been given before the Church Board and/or the congregation, be excluded from membership by recommendation of the Church Board and the vote of the Church members.
- A member on the inactive roll for one year shall be sufficient grounds for the dropping of the same from the record, when recommended by the Pastor and Deacons and voted on by the church membership.

5. The members of this church shall be divided into three groups, namely Active Membership, Associate Membership, and Inactive Membership.

- Active Membership shall consist of such Christians as have been received in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and who are not members of any other church. No person shall be admitted to membership in this church except as an active member. Only Active members shall have any rights in, or assume any control over its property, real, personal or mixed, or take part in reference to or connection with the business of this church.

•Associate Membership shall be extended to those who meet the qualifications of Active Membership, but who are not permanent residents of this area; such as students and missionaries, who may hold regular membership elsewhere. They shall be permitted to teach a Sunday School class or participate in a similar ministry.

•Inactive Membership shall consist of the following...

- 1.Those who no longer have residence in this area, but still desire to hold their membership in this church.
- 2.Those who have been absent from the services of the church for a period of 6 months without giving satisfactory reason for such absence.
- 3.Those who have come under some disciplinary action of the church. Inactive members shall not have the right to vote or hold any office in the church. An inactive member may be restored to the active membership upon appeal to the Deacon Board and upon such Board and Church approval.

ARTICLE V

Ordinances

- 1.The church shall celebrate the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of each month.
- 2.Baptisms shall be administered to the believers upon request. We affirm the practice of immersion. Believers transferring by letter will not be required to be re-baptized. Infant Baptism shall not be practiced, however, a service of dedication may be requested.

ARTICLE VI

Officers, Boards, and Committees of the Church

The Officers of the Church shall consist of the Pastor, four Deacons, Deaconesses, six Trustees, Sunday School Superintendent, Clerk, and Treasurer. All officers must be members of the Church.

1.PASTOR: A Pastor may be called or dismissed by a 2/3 majority vote, via secret ballot, of the Church members present, who have attained the age of eighteen years, at a meeting called for that purpose. Upon acceptance of the Call, the Pastor automatically becomes a member of the church. If the Call is for an indefinite period, the ministerial relations may be dissolved by either the Pastor or the church, giving sixty (60) days written notice, The Pastor shall have in his charge the spiritual welfare of the church. To this end, he shall preach the gospel, administer the ordinances, have under his care all services of public worship, be active in pastoral service to members of the church and shall minister to the needs of the community through visitations, to offer spiritual counsel. He shall administer the activities of the church in cooperation with the other officers

and committees appointed by the church. He shall be moderator at all meetings. In his absence, the chairman of the church board shall serve. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

2.DEACONS: Four Deacons — Two deacons shall be elected annually to serve for a term of two years. It shall be the duty of the deacons to:

- Assist the pastor in calling and dealing with spiritual matters;
- Serve as members of the Church Board;
- Provide the ushers for services of worship and to report on church attendance;
- Assist the Pastor in the administration of the ordinances and in the reception of members;
- Confer with the applicants and recommend individuals for church membership;
- Review requests for membership transferal or dismissal.

3.DEACONESSES: Deaconesses shall be elected annually to serve for a term of two years.

It shall be the duty of the deaconesses to:

- Discover and meet the practical needs of the church families in times of illnesses or death, visit the sick and aged, especially of their own sex and to call upon new members, and to encourage others in their spiritual living;
- Prepare the communion table

4.TRUSTEES: Six trustees — Two trustees shall be elected annually to serve for three years. They shall serve on the Church Board, and with the Deacons, shall have the responsibility for the legal and financial matters of the Church and care of the Church building and property.

5.CHURCH BOARD: The Pastor, Deacons and Trustees shall comprise the Church Board.

The Board shall elect a Chairman and Secretary each year who shall be authorized to sign legal documents. The Board shall meet during the first week of each month or quarter.

The duties of the Church Board shall be to:

- Transact legal business and affairs of the Church with the approval of the congregation;
- Promote stewardship on a scriptural basis and direct disbursement of Church funds (Board approval shall be required for disbursement of Scholarship funds);

- Appoint a Sunday School Superintendent each year and other committees as needed;
- Encourage performance on the part of elected officers and committee members. In case of continued lack of performance, resignations should be requested. The Board shall have the responsibility and authority to make appointments to fill vacancies until the next annual meeting.

6.SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: The superintendent shall be appointed by the Church board to preside over the Sunday School.

Superintendent's duties are to:

- Conduct quarterly business meetings of the Sunday school teachers and officers;
- Supervise Sunday school worship;
- Be responsible for an adequately trained staff in cooperation with the Pastor;
- Give the Sunday School report at the annual meeting.

7.CLERK: The Clerk shall be elected at each annual meeting to serve for one year and:

- Keep a complete record in a book provided for that purpose the affairs of the Church, including membership, baptisms, marriages, deaths, etc. and all the transactions at all business meetings of the Church;
- Shall also notify all officers, members of the committees, and delegates of their election or appointment;
- Shall issue letters of dismissal and recommendations voted by the Church;

8.TREASURER: A treasurer shall be appointed yearly by the CBC Board at the 1st yearly CBC board meeting.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to:

- Receive and assist in counting the offerings;
- Disburse all monies on order of the Church Board;
- Keep a complete record thereof in a suitable book provided for that purpose and report the same at the Board Meetings and Congregational Meetings.

9.STAFF: The hiring and dismissal of any paid staff personnel, except for the Senior Pastor, shall be handled by the Senior Pastor, Deacons and Trustees. Decisions to hire or dismiss shall be solely vested in them.

COMMITTEES

The committees of the Church shall consist of a Missionary Committee, a Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee, a Library Committee, and a Pastoral Committee in time of vacancy. All Committee members must be members of the Church.

1. **MISSIONARY COMMITTEE:** There shall be at least a three-member committee appointed by the Church Board, It shall be the duty of the committee to:

- 1.Promote missionary interest in cooperation with other organizations of the Church;
- 2.Maintain correspondence with Church missionaries;
- 3.Plan any Missionary Conference as necessary;
- 4.Make recommendations to the Church for support of Missionary Projects.

2. **NOMINATION COMMITTEE:** there shall be a committee of at least One board member, at least one deaconess, elected from their respective boards, and at least one member from the congregation, elected via normal congregational notice in the bulletin.

This committee will present a slate of candidates prior to the annual meeting.

3. **AUDITING COMMITTEE:** There shall be three persons appointed by the Church Board prior to each annual meeting. It shall be the duty of this committee to audit the accounts of the Treasurer and other funds and report at the annual meeting unless an outside audit is done.

4.**LIBRARY COMMITTEE:** There shall be a three-person committee appointed by the Church Board annually. This committee shall care for the Church Library and must approve all books place in the Library.

5. **PULPIT COMMITTEE:** When the pulpit is vacant, a committee of the deacons and three others elected by the congregation shall be formed. The committee shall choose a chairman and secretary. The committee shall interview candidates and make arrangements for them to preach at the Church. The committee shall make recommendations to the congregation for vote at a properly called meeting.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings

1. **THE CALLING OF MEETINGS:** A notice of meetings specifying the time, place and object thereof shall be read from the pulpit at two successive Sunday morning services preceding such meeting, provided however, in case it is proposed to amend the constitution, the proposed amendment shall be read from the pulpit on three

successive Sundays, immediately preceding the date of the meeting. The proposed amendment shall not itself be amended on material point at the same meeting.

2.THE ANNUAL MEETING: The annual meeting shall be held in January. At this meeting, the annual reports of the various officers, committees and organizations shall be presented, and officers and committee members shall be elected, and such other business may be acted upon as authorize in the constitution. All reports made at the annual meeting must be in writing and for the preceding calendar year from January 1st to December 31st

3.SPECIAL MEETINGS: The Church Board or Pastor may call a special meeting in the manner specified above. Six qualified voters may present written application for a special meeting to the Church Board. Business to be acted upon must be stated in the call of the meeting.

APPLICATION FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

After reading the Constitution of Columbus Bible Church, please answer the following questions. When completed, this application should be presented to the Pastor for processing.

1.Have you trusted Christ as your personal Savior and experienced the new birth as set forth in John 3:3-6?

2.Do you accept and are you in agreement with the Doctrinal Statement and Constitution of this Church?

3.Do you agree to support this Church with your prayer, faithful attendance, and systematic giving as taught in the Word of God?

Signature Date

Signature Date