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# STATEMENT OF FAITH AND CONSTITUTION

of the

## JENISON BIBLE CHURCH

6360 14th Avenue

Hudsonville, Michigan 49426

Prepared by

THE INDEPENDENT BIBLE MISSION OF MICHIGAN

### ARTICLE I — NAME

This organization shall be known as “Jenison Bible Church of Hudsonville, Michigan.”

### ARTICLE II — PURPOSE

#### ***SECTION A — Phases of its Ministry***

The object of this church is the ministry of the Word of God for the salvation of souls, the edification of Christians, the world-wide proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the promotion of Godly worship, the defense of the “faith once delivered,” and cooperation with Christian activity.

#### ***SECTION B — Independence and Autonomy***

It is the purpose of the original incorporators of this church that it shall be and forever remain an independent and autonomous organization, adhering to the fundamental and pre-millennial doctrines of the Christian faith, as set forth in the Holy Bible, and as defined in the “Statement of Faith and Doctrine” of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, as amended June 1969.

#### ***SECTION C — Udenominational Character***

It is likewise the original purpose of this church, in accordance with the New Testament example and teaching, that it shall forever remain free from denominationalism. It shall, for this reason, avoid identification with denominations or associations of churches by means of its name, or by the observance of traditions peculiar to such denominations or associations. It shall never change its name nor its polity so as to affect such identifications (1 Cor. 1:11-13; 3:1-9).

#### ***SECTION D — Amendments to ARTICLE II***

The provisions of Article II shall be amended only by unanimous consent of the membership.

### ARTICLE III — FELLOWSHIP

#### ***SECTION A — Fellowship with Other Local Churches***

Fellowship with other local independent churches shall be maintained by this church. It may also enter into such cooperation with other fundamental churches as shall not jeopardize its undenominational and fundamental position. To this end, the church may be a member of, and affiliate with, the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, as long as such membership does not jeopardize its independence or fundamental character.

## **SECTION B — Affiliation with Local Church Councils**

Affiliation or cooperation with local church councils, etc., shall be such as shall not compromise the fundamental doctrinal position of this church.

## **SECTION C — Amendments to ARTICLE III**

The provisions of Article III shall be amended only by unanimous consent of the membership.

## **ARTICLE IV — STATEMENT OF DOCTRINE**

### **SECTION A — The Holy Scriptures**

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed (II Tim. 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:20, 21; Matt. 5:18; John 16:12,13).

### **SECTION B — The Godhead**

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 (Deut. 6:4; II Cor. 13:14).

### **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 (Ron. 3:24, 25; I Peter 2:24; Eph. 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5).
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; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; Rom. 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 Cor. 3:6; I Cor. 12:12-14; Rom. 8:9; Eph. 1:13, 14).
2. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth; and, that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (John 16:13; I John 2:20,27; Eph. 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 (Gen. 1:26,27; Rom. 3:22,23; 5:12; Eph. 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 (Eph. 2:8-10; John 1:12; Eph. 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; Rom. 8:1,38,39; 1 Cor. 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 (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 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 (Rom. 6:13; 8:12,13; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 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 (II Tim. 3:1-5; Rom. 12:1,2; 14:13; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11; I Cor. 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 Cor. 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 sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established (1 Cor. 12:4-11; II Cor. 12:12; Eph. 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 this present age (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 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 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).
3. We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1, 4; 1 Cor. 3:9,16; 5:4-7,13; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
4. We recognize the ordinances of Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper as a scriptural means of testimony for the church in this age (Matt. 28:19,20; Acts 2:41,42; 18:8; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

## ***SECTION M — Dispensationalism***

We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense, reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these -- the age of law, the age of grace (the church), and the age of the millennial kingdom — are the subjects of detailed revelation in scripture (John 1:11; 1 Cor. 9:17; II Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. 1:10; 3:2-10; Col. 1:24,25; Heb. 7:19; Rev. 20:2-6).

## **SECTION N — The Personality of Satan**

We believe that Satan is a person, 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; Is. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2- 11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

## **SECTION O — 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 Thess. 4:13-18; Zech. 14:4-11; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:1-6; 3:10; I Thess. 1:10; 5:9).

## **SECTION P — 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 (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28,29; 11:25,26; Rev. 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 be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; Rev. 20:4-6; I Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; I Thess. 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 Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-26; Matt. 25:41-46; II Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6,7; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 20:11-15).

## **ARTICLE V — ORDINANCES**

We recognize two ordinances of the church for this age - The Lord’s Supper and Water Baptism. They are not to be regarded, however, as a means of salvation, nor as means of grace by which special merit is obtained.

### **SECTION A — The Lord’s Supper**

This ordinance shall be observed at least once each quarter and as often as the Pastor and Elders shall decide on special occasions. All who have accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior and are walking in fellowship with the Lord shall be welcome to join in this service -- unless they are under the discipline of the church, as defined in Article VI, Section D, Part 2 (1 Cor. 11:17-34).

### **SECTION B — Water Baptism**

When administered by this church, baptism shall be by immersion at the request of those who have personally acknowledged Christ as Savior. This ordinance shall not be a requirement for membership in this church (Acts 8:36-39; 10:47,48; 1 Cor. 1:14-17).

### **SECTION C — Dedication Service for Children**

While it is not an ordinance of the Lord, this church shall practice allowing a Christian parent or parents to present his child before the Lord in a service of public dedication (1 Sam. 1:27,28).

## **ARTICLE VI — MEMBERSHIP**

### **SECTION A — Qualifications of Members**

Persons who give testimony to their faith in Christ as Savior, who give assurance of their willingness to follow and submit themselves to the Word of God as the only rule of faith, doctrine, and practice, and who indicate their agreement with the Constitution of this church, shall be eligible for membership.

## **SECTION B — Reception of Members**

1. Christians who desire to associate themselves with this church, and who fulfill the qualifications for membership shall make application to the Pastor and the Board of Elders. They shall then meet with the Pastor and Board for examination and approval.
2. Applicants who have been approved for reception into the membership shall be recommended to the church by announcement from the pulpit or in the bulletin for two consecutive Sundays. If no valid objections are received by the Board of Elders during that period, the right hand of fellowship shall be extended to them at a following Sunday service. Their membership shall then be in force.

## **SECTION C — Status of Membership**

The membership of this church shall consist of three groups, namely, the Active Membership, Associate Membership, and Inactive Membership.

1. 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.
  - a. Active members who have reached the age of 18 years shall be entitled to vote.
  - b. No minimum age shall be set for membership. The fitness of each applicant who is under voting age shall be determined by the Pastor and Board of Elders.
2. 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. They shall have the right to attend the business meetings of the church, but shall not have the right to vote.
3. Inactive Membership shall consist of the following:
  - a. Those who no longer have residence in this area, but still desire to hold their membership in this church;
  - b. Those who have been absent from the services of the church for a period of 12 months without giving a satisfactory reason for such absence;
  - c. Those who have come under some disciplinary action of the church.
  - d. Inactive members shall not have the right to vote or hold any office in the church.
4. This church recognizes that children of Christian parents are sanctified by the Lord (1 Cor. 7:14) in that they have been set aside for the hearing of the gospel. Therefore it shall be the responsibility of all members of this church to aid by their prayers, example and encouragement all the children of members that they may come to an early conversion to the Savior.

## **SECTION D — Discipline of Members**

1. The reasons for discipline are three-fold:
  - a. Non-attendance, as described in Article VI, Section C, Part 3. An annual review of the active membership shall be conducted by the Pastor and Board of Elders, after which those who have been absent for a period of 12 months shall be placed on the Inactive Roll, provided that a contact has first been made in the interest of restoring them to regular attendance.
  - b. Doctrinal deviation, or heresy (I Tim. 6:3-5; Titus 3:10,11; Rom. 16:17,18).
  - c. Immoral conduct (1 Cor. 5:9-13; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; II Thess. 3:6).
2. The discipline of this church in doctrinal and moral matters shall be entrusted to the Pastor and the Board of Elders. Any disciplinary action that is deemed necessary shall be in the spirit of love (II Thess. 3:14,15; I John 4:7) and meekness (Gal. 6:1).
  - a. The procedure in any matter of discipline shall be that which is laid down by the Bible (Matt. 18:15-17). No accusation of wrong doing shall be received by any member of the church until the accuser has himself faced the accused and done his best to restore him.

- b. If such attempt fails, the problem should be brought to the spiritual leadership of the church (Gal. 6:1), who shall determine the facts in the matter and attempt to restore the one in error. If this is not successful, charges shall be put in writing and placed in the hands of the suspected person and he, or she, summoned to meet with the Board of Elders not more than two and not less than one week subsequently. Failure on the part of the accused to appear for trial will not prevent the Board from examining the case and rendering a verdict in accord with the testimony received. In the event the individual being disciplined is not satisfied with the decision of the Board, he or she may appeal to the congregation as a whole and will have the privilege of being tried before the congregation. A simple majority vote of all the members of the church present at the final hearing will decide the case.
  - c. The names of persons who leave this church to unite with another church, without a letter from this church, shall be erased from the Roll by vote of the Board. Those who are guilty of heresy and who refuse to repent of their error shall be excommunicated from the church. Those who are guilty of immoral conduct shall be placed on the Inactive Roll and forbidden to partake of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 5:11-13). If the immorality persists after a period of two years of exhortation by the Elders of the church, the same shall result in excommunication from the church by action of the Board. The names of any whose status of membership has been changed shall be reported at a Sunday morning service, either by announcement from the pulpit or publication in the Sunday bulletin, indicating whether they have been placed on the Inactive Roll, erased from the Roll, or excommunicated.
3. The purpose of all discipline shall be to restore the individual to fellowship and active membership in the church. Such efforts shall be made in the light of the following Scriptures: Gal. 6:1,2; 2 Thess. 3:14,15; Heb. 10:24,25; James 5:19,20. Restoration to fellowship shall be granted upon due repentance and by action of the Pastor and Board of Elders.
  4. No articles placing unusual restraints upon persons except such as are Biblical, shall be proposed by this church. We believe the Holy Spirit convicts and corrects each as to what is their besetting sin (Col. 2:14-23; Gal. 6:1; I Tim. 4:1-3; Rom. 14).
  5. The provisions of Article VI, Section D, Part 4 shall be amended only by unanimous vote of the membership.

### ***SECTION E—Letters of Transfer***

1. Letters of transfer shall be received from other fundamental churches, subject to the provision of Article VI, Sections A and B.
2. Letters of transfer to fundamental churches shall be granted to those on the Active Roll. Application for dismissal from this church, and recommendations for membership in other fundamental churches should be made by letter to the Church Clerk, being careful to state the name of the church with which it is desired to affiliate. Letters shall be granted by action of the Board of Elders.
3. When an applicant for membership is under discipline by the church from which he is transferring, the Board shall investigate the cause of the discipline.

## **ARTICLE VII - GOVERNMENT**

### ***SECTION A***

The government of this church shall be vested in the Active Membership and executed through duly elected officers, boards, and committees, in accord with all of the provisions of this Constitution.

### ***SECTION B— The Church Council***

1. The Council shall be composed of the Pastor, Board of Elders, Board of Deacons, the Church Clerk and Assistant and/or Associate pastors, who will serve as ex-officio members.
2. This Council shall consist of at least three men. In the event there are less than three Deacons, any three Council members shall be designated as Trustees for the purpose of handling legal matters. These Trustees shall continue in office until their successors are in office.
3. When possible, the Boards of Elders and Deacons shall each consist of three or more men, depending on the

size of the church and the availability of qualified persons.

4. This Council shall meet within two weeks of the Annual Meeting for organizational purposes. It shall meet quarterly thereafter at times designated at the first meeting, and at other times when deemed necessary upon call of the Pastor. The Pastor shall preside at these meetings. In the absence of the Pastor, the Chairman shall be appointed by the Council from its membership.

### **SECTION C — Election of Officers**

#### 1. Nominating Committee

- a. A Nominating Committee, composed of the Pastor, two Council members and two other Active Members of the church, shall be appointed by the Church Council at a meeting held three months prior to the Annual Meeting.
- b. This Committee shall meet to consider the qualifications for office of all active members of the church. It shall present to the church a slate of candidates for the various offices to be filled. It shall recommend the number of Deacons and Elders to be elected, and shall nominate, if possible, more than one candidate for each vacancy in all offices to be filled.
- c. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be announced from the pulpit and posted on the bulletin board one month prior to the Annual Meeting. Members of the church who object to any part of the report or who desire to nominate additional candidates shall notify the Committee within two weeks of the day the report appears with reasons for their action. All nominations must be approved by the Nominating Committee.

#### 2. Election Procedure

Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the church. When there is more than one nominee for any given office, voting shall be by ballot. A simple majority is required to elect all church officers except the Pastor.

#### 3. Vacancies

In the event of an office being vacated after the Annual Meeting, the remaining members of the Council may appoint a man to fill this office until the next Annual Meeting of the church.

#### 4. Terms

The terms of Elders and Deacons shall be for three years, and their election shall be so arranged by the Nominating Committee that all shall not terminate at the same time.

#### 5. Subsidiary Organizations

Members of all subsidiary organizations shall hold election of officers. The maximum consecutive term in office shall be two years, except for Christian Women's Ministries, which shall be three years. All organizations who have members of voting age must elect officers who are members of the church.

### **SECTION D — Committees**

1. Standing Committees for the administration of the various phases of the work shall be designated and appointed by the Church Council at the first meeting following the Annual Meeting of the church.
2. Special Committees for short term service may be appointed as needed by the Council or other duly constituted Board of the church.
3. The appointment of all Committees shall be reported to the church on the Sunday following the meeting at which they were appointed.
4. Every Committee and organization shall report regularly to the unit by which they were appointed, and annually to the church.

### **SECTION E — Meetings**

#### 1. Annual Meeting

- a. The Annual Meeting of the membership shall be held the Tuesday after the third Sunday in January of each year at a time set by Council. The Fiscal Year shall be the same as the Calendar Year.
- b. The agenda shall include the presentation of reports by the officers, committees, organizations, and pastors of the church; the annual election of officers; and such other matters as are deemed necessary.
2. The Boards of Elders and Deacons shall meet within two weeks of the Annual Meeting, and all other organizational units (excepting those standing organizations which have regular annual elections at other times) within one month of the Annual Meeting, for organizational purposes. They shall at this time set a schedule for meetings throughout the year at regular intervals.
3. Special business meetings of the membership may be held at any time upon call of the Pastor, the Council, or by written request to the Council of twenty five percent of the voting members of the congregation. The call of such a meeting and its purpose must be announced at the morning service on two consecutive Sundays preceding the date of the meeting. Records of these announcements must be kept with the regular minutes of the business meetings of the church by the Clerk.
4. A quorum at the Annual Meeting or Special Meetings of the membership shall be one-third of all voting members. When less than fifty per cent are present, a two-thirds majority shall be required to pass any measure.
5. The Pastor shall preside at the Annual Meeting and all Special Business Meetings. In the event of the absence of the Pastor, the Chairman of these meetings shall be appointed by the Council.

### **SECTION F — Arbitration Board**

1. In the event the internal affairs of the church should reach a state of controversy so that it seems impossible to achieve peaceful negotiations between the Pastor and the congregation, and/or between factions in the membership, a Board of Arbitration shall be called in to aid in reaching a point of agreement.
2. This Board shall be composed of Pastors of three Independent churches, named by the Board of Elders and approved by the congregation every two years. The Board of Arbitration shall have the privilege of calling in two additional qualified consultants.
3. The Board of Arbitration shall be called in by a two- thirds majority vote by secret ballot of the Council or by a petition presented to the Council bearing the names of twenty five percent of the voting membership.
4. The decision of this Board shall be binding upon the congregation, and its conclusions must be accepted by all with the following exceptions:
  - a. It has no power to change the Constitution or Doctrinal Statement, nor even pass judgment on it. It must uphold the Constitution.
  - b. It has no power to dissolve the church, nor dispose of real estate.

## **ARTICLE VIII — MINISTRY**

### **SECTION A — Responsibility of the Membership**

1. All members of this church shall be expected to participate in its ministry, in such measure as talents and circumstances enable them. Such service shall be voluntary and subject to the supervision of the Pastor and the Board of Elders.
2. The members of this church are urged to cultivate all those graces in their Christian lives that will glorify the Lord, promote spiritual growth, and further the ministry of the church. And they are entreated:
  - a. To engage in private and family Bible reading, prayer, and the regular attendance at the services of the church (Heb. 10:25; I Tim. 4:12-16).
  - b. To practice daily living that is consistent with the Scriptural principles of the Christian life; to abstain from worldliness in all its forms, avoiding such alliances which would constitute an unequal yoke with unbelievers; to guard against religious apostasy and false teaching (Titus 2:11-15; II Cor. 6:14; 7:1; I John 2:15-17).

- c. To support the financial program of the church with systematic, proportionate giving (1 Cor. 16:2).
- d. To fellowship in Christian love and unity with the entire membership, so as to avoid the development of factions (1 Cor. 1:10, James 2:1-5).

**SECTION B — Leadership and Duties of the Pastor**

1. Qualifications

- a. The Pastor shall be a man who gives evidence of the call of God to the ministry of the Gospel and of adherence to the Scriptural principles governing church leadership. He shall be recognized as the God-appointed leader of the congregation.
- b. Any man to be considered as a candidate for this pastorate shall have read this Constitution and shall have signified in writing his unreserved agreement with its provisions and with the undenominational position of this church.

2. Call

- a. The Church Council shall act as a Pulpit Committee or shall appoint a Pulpit Committee to investigate possible candidates and arrange for them to speak at Sunday services. Investigation of a candidate shall include a questionnaire regarding training, pastoral experience, and qualifications mentioned in Section B, Part 1. A visit by members of the Council to his present pastorate is advisable where possible.
- b. When a qualified candidate has spoken at two Sunday services, his name may be presented by the Council for a vote at a regularly called congregational meeting. A three-quarters majority vote shall be required to extend a call. Only one candidate shall be considered at a time.

3. Duties

- a. The Pastor, by virtue of his office as spiritual leader and shepherd of the flock, becomes a member of this church, and his duties shall be those generally associated with his office, including the ministry of the Work, administration of the ordinances, and the care of the spiritual welfare of the members. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and organizations within the church.
- b. Activities and ministries outside the local field such as attendance at conferences, Bible teaching and evangelistic campaigns, vacations, etc., shall be arranged in conference with the Council.

4. Termination

- c. The pastors' terms of office shall be indefinite. A notice of 60 days shall be given to terminate with remuneration and services continuing through this period, unless otherwise mutually agreed.
- d. A vote may be taken by the congregation at anytime to terminate the pastor's services subject to the following:
  - (1) A special meeting may be called for that purpose in accord with Article VII, Section E.
  - (2) It shall be placed on the agenda of a regular meeting, provided that previous action has been taken by the Council, or a petition of twenty-five per cent of the membership has been presented to the Council.
  - (3) A two-thirds majority shall be required to terminate the pastor's services.
- e. In the event of doctrinal or moral defection, the pastor's services may be terminated immediately by action of the Council or be ratified by a vote of the congregation within 30 days.

**SECTION C — Qualifications and Functions of Council Members**

- 1. All Council members must be active members of this church.
- 2. The qualifications set forth in I Tim. 3:1-13, and Titus 1:5-9, as applicable to each office, shall be required of all members of the Council. They shall be able to answer in the affirmative the following questions, to be asked by the Nomination Committee:

First: "Have you read the Scriptures listed above?"

Second: “Is it your purpose, God enabling you, to meet the standards in these Scriptures?”

Third: “Are you and your wife in accord with the Constitution and Doctrinal Statement?”

3. Every member of the Council shall annually sign a statement indicating unreserved agreement with this Constitution and Doctrinal Statement.
4. Functions
  - a. The Elders shall be responsible, with the Pastor, for the spiritual oversight of the church. They shall arrange the details of all church meetings, and perform all duties ascribed to them in other parts of this Constitution. The Board of Elders shall function for the Pastor in emergencies or when the church has no pastor.
  - b. The Deacons shall administer all business matters of the church, shall function as trustees in all legal transactions, and shall be responsible for the maintenance of all church property. They shall, with the Pastor, minister to the needy and supervise the benevolent funds of the church.
  - c. The Clerk shall keep a record of all business meetings of the church and the Council, and of the call of such meetings. He shall maintain an up-to-date list of the names and addresses of all members, and be prepared to declare the voting membership at each business meeting. He shall be the custodian of all official papers and keep an inventory of the same. The Clerk shall possess the qualifications of a Deacon and shall be elected by the congregation for a term of one year. He shall be a member of the Council.
  - d. The Treasurer shall receive, safeguard, disburse, and be responsible for all of the funds of the church in its various ministries, and keep an accurate account of the same. He shall deposit all monies in a bank as soon as possible and shall submit a monthly report to the Board of Deacons and an annual report to the church. The books of the Treasurer shall be audited annually under the direction of the Board of Deacons. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Board of Deacons from the members of the Council, if possible a Deacon, for a term of one year
  - e. The Financial Secretary shall assist the Treasurer in counting all offerings and keep a record of the same in a separate set of books. The records shall be audited annually along with the books of the Treasurer. The Financial Secretary shall be appointed annually by the Council from the Active Membership, but his office shall not constitute him a member of the Council.

#### ***SECTION D — Sunday School Ministry***

1. This ministry shall be recognized as an extension of the Bible teaching ministry of this church. It shall be administered by a Committee composed of the Sunday School Superintendent and the teaching staff, and such officers as they may appoint.
2. The Teaching Staff, which is appointed by the Sunday School Superintendent, and all other Sunday School officers, shall be Active or Associate Members of the church, and shall be appointed on a temporary basis until meeting approval of the Pastor and Board of Elders.
3. The Sunday School Superintendent shall be appointed by the council for a term of one year.
4. The curriculum of the Sunday School must have the approval of the Pastor and the Board of Elders.
5. All Sunday School offerings and expenses shall be handled through the general fund of the church. A record of all offerings deposited with the Church Treasurer and all expenditures authorized by the Sunday School Committee shall be kept by the Sunday School Secretary. Missionary contributions from the Sunday School must have the approval of the Missionary Committee.

#### ***SECTION E — Missionary Policy***

1. To insure the regular activity of the Church in the cause of missions at home and abroad, a Missionary Committee shall be appointed by the Council at the first meeting following the Annual Meeting of the Church.

2. This Committee is responsible to communicate with all mission fields in which the Church has an interest, and to investigate and report to the Church on any matters requiring action.
3. The Missionary Committee shall administer all funds designated for missions, and make recommendations to the Council regarding changes or additions to the Church missionary program. All new commitments shall have Church approval, and shall be handled through an independent, fundamental, and reputable mission board or society. Every missionary regularly supported by this church shall annually sign a statement indicating unreserved agreement with this Constitution and Doctrinal Statement.
4. A stated missionary policy shall be adopted by the Church, and published, with revisions, from time to time.

## **ARTICLE IX — FINANCES**

### **SECTION A**

The financial program of this Church and its sub- organizations shall be supported only through the free-will offerings of Christians, and unsolicited gifts of those interested in its ministry.

### **SECTION B**

1. Loans or credit in excess of \$1,000.00 above the liabilities reported at the last Annual Meeting must have congregational approval.
2. Cash Purchases of Non-Budgeted Items - The Board of Deacons may make an additional non-budgeted cash purchase or purchases as long as the accumulated total of those purchases does not exceed 2% of the current general fund budget total. A complete and separate listing of the purchases must be included with the monthly and annual financial reports. When the accumulated total of the purchases exceed 2%, the Board of Deacons must have the consent of the congregation given at a duly called and constituted business meeting.

### **SECTION C — Designated Funds**

1. Any temporary use of funds for purposes other than designated must have approval of the Council.
2. If the purpose for which funds have been previously designated is to be changed, it must be done with congregational approval.
3. Gifts designated through the Church for a specific purpose or person shall be so used, unless the donor approves a change. Otherwise, the gift shall be returned.

## **Article X — Properties**

### **SECTION A**

The title to all property of this Church, both real and personal, shall be and remain vested in that portion of the Active Membership that shall remain faithful to the original purpose stated in Articles II and III of this Constitution, and in Article V of the Articles of Association of this Church.

### **SECTION B — Acquisition and Sale of Property**

1. The Church shall have power to acquire and hold property, both real and personal, for the general purpose of the Church. All property so acquired shall be in the name of the Church.
2. Any sale, mortgage, or transfer of real or personal property valued in excess of \$1,000.00 shall be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present at a regularly called business meeting.

### **SECTION C — Use of Property**

1. All properties belonging to the Church shall be available to the membership for purposes consistent with the

ministry of the Church, subject to regulation by the Board of Deacons.

2. The Pastor or other representatives of the Council shall have access at all times and under all circumstances to all properties owned by the Church.

### ***SECTION D — Dissolution***

No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any donor, member, director or officer of the corporation or to any private individual; and no donor, member, officer of the corporation, or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporation assets. Upon dissolution, any assets of the corporation must be distributed to the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, or to The Independent Bible Mission of Michigan, Inc., in that order if it then exists and is exempt from Federal Income Tax, otherwise to one or more organizations recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as one organized exclusively for religious, charitable, literary, scientific, or educational purposes.

## **Article XI — Ordination**

### ***Section A — Composition and Function of Council of Ordination***

1. When, in the judgment of the Board of Elders, a man in this membership, or in special cases a non-member, is called to the Christian ministry, it shall be within the power of said Board to call and conduct a Council of Ordination after the approval of the church has been obtained by vote. This Council shall consist of ordained Christian ministers, and, if possible, one delegate from each fundamental church invited to participate.
2. The Council of Ordination shall thoroughly examine the applicant regarding his personal Christian experience, call to the ministry, educational training, doctrinal belief, reputation, and demonstrated efficiency in Christian service. The applicant shall give evidence of his agreement with those provisions of the Constitution of this Church with respect to doctrine, independence of the local church, and Scriptural qualifications for church leadership.
3. Upon completion of the examination of the applicant, a 2/3 majority vote by the Council of Ordination shall be required to recommend his ordination to the church. When so recommended, a public ordination service shall be arranged by the Council of Ordination in consultation with the pastor or other representative of the church, and the applicant.
4. The recommendation of the Council of Ordination shall be presented to the congregation of the church at a duly called congregational meeting, according to Article VII, Section E and a two-thirds vote of the congregation shall be necessary to ordain a candidate.
5. The minutes of the Council of Ordination and of the public service shall be incorporated into the records of church meetings, and a Certificate of Ordination shall be provided for the newly ordained minister.

### ***SECTION B — Discipline of Ordained Ministers***

1. The Board of Elders shall have the power to discipline, even to the revoking of the ordination credentials of any minister ordained under this Constitution, if the said minister is found guilty of doctrinal or moral defection after an impartial trial conducted in the spirit of 1 Cor. 13.
2. The minister under discipline shall have the privilege of appealing his case to the congregation within 60 days after the decision of the Board.

### ***SECTION C — Ministerial License***

1. The Board of Elders shall have the power to ask the Church to grant a certificate of license for any qualified candidate for the Christian ministry. This license shall be temporary until such time as the minister is ordained.
2. The Board of Elders shall have the power to discipline and revoke the license of any minister granted under the rule of this constitution, if the said minister is found guilty of doctrinal or moral defection after an

impartial trial conducted in the Spirit of I Cot. 13.

## **ARTICLE XII — AMENDMENTS**

### ***SECTION A***

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present, with the exception of Articles II, III, and VI, Section D, Part 4, at a regularly called meeting, provided that such amendment is presented in written form, at least one month previous to the meeting, and by public announcement as provided in Article VII, Section D.

### ***SECTION B***

Amendments of Articles II and III and VI, Section D, Part 4, shall require unanimous consent of the Active Membership.