



Statement of Faith
&
Constitution

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND CONSTITUTION

of the

JENISON BIBLE CHURCH

6360 14th Avenue

Hudsonville,

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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 — Udenominal 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 (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 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; 2 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 (Rom. 3:24, 25; 1 Peter 2:24; Eph. 1:7; 1 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; 1 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; 2 Cor. 3:6; 1 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; 1 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; 1 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; 1 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; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 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

(2 Tim. 3:1-5; Rom. 12:1,2; 14:13; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11; 2 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; 2 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; 2 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; 1 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; 1 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; 2 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 (1 Thess. 4:13-18; Zech. 14:4-11; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:1-6; 3:10; 1 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; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; 1 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; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6,7; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 20:11-15).

SECTION Q — Marriage

1. We believe in the sanctity of marriage as originally established in the Bible (Gen. 2:18-24; Matt. 19:4-6).
2. We believe that marriage is only between one man and one woman, as biologically born or genetically defined. We reject all forms of polygamy (Gen. 2: 22-24; Matt. 19:4-6, Eph. 5:22-33; 1 Peter 3:1-7; 1 Cor. 7:11-15).
3. We believe that Biblical marriage can never be between two men or between two women (Rom. 1:24-32).
4. We believe that the marriage definition of paragraph (2) above is God's plan for begetting children (Gen. 1:27-28).

SECTION R — Sexual Deviation

We believe that the only biblically-sanctioned forms of human sexual expression and practice are between the husband and the wife within their marriage. We believe that the Lord has never given people in any other relationship His permission for mutual sexual relations (Heb. 13:4).

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 Senior Pastor and the Board of 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 church, this church shall practice allowing a Christian parent or parents to present his/her child before the Lord in a service of public dedication (1 Sam. 1:27,28).

ARTICLE VI — MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A — Qualifications of Members

1. 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.
2. No person who is currently practicing, or who believes that he or she is entitled to practice, homosexual forms of sexual expression may be a member of Jenison Bible Church.

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 Senior Pastor and the Board of Elders. They shall then meet with a pastor and the Board of Elders 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: 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 Senior Pastor and/or 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, teach 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 Senior 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 (1 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; 2 Thess. 3:6).
2. The discipline of this church in doctrinal and moral matters shall be entrusted to the Senior Pastor and the Board of Elders. Any disciplinary action that is deemed necessary shall be in the spirit of love (2 Thess. 3:14,15; 1 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 of Elders 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 of Elders, 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 of Elders. 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 Board of Elders of the church, the same shall result in excommunication from the church by action of the Board of Elders. 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 Senior 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; 1 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 of Elders 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 Senior Pastor, Board of Elders, Board of Deacons, the Church Clerk, Assistant and Associate Pastors, Administrators and Directors. Only the Senior Pastor, Board of Elders, Board of Deacons and the Church Clerk shall be voting members. The Council shall elect its officers from its voting 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 1 month 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 Senior Pastor. The Council Chairman shall preside at these meetings. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman shall preside.

SECTION C — Election of Officers

1. Nominating Committee

- a. A Nominating Committee, composed of a pastor, two outgoing Council members (one of which must be an Elder) 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. The Church Council shall also name the chairman of the Nominating Committee and recommend to the committee the number of Elders and Deacons to be elected.
- b. This Committee shall meet to consider the qualifications for office of all active members of the church. The Nominating Committee shall present the names of the candidates for the various offices to the Board of Elders prior to notifying the candidates. The Nominating Committee shall present to the church a slate consisting of the candidates who have agreed to run for their respective offices. The nominating committee shall nominate, if possible, more than one candidate for each vacancy in all offices to be filled. Candidates for the office of Elder, Deacon, or Church Clerk must be active members of this church for at least one year.
- c. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be announced from the pulpit and posted six Sundays 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. Any changes must be approved by the Nominating Committee and presented to the Board of Elders.

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 Senior Pastor.

3. Vacancies

In the event of an office being vacated after the Annual Meeting, the remaining members of the Church 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. Men may not serve consecutive terms as an Elder and/or a Deacon for more than three successive years.

5. Subsidiary Organizations

Members of all subsidiary organizations shall hold election of officers. The maximum consecutive term in office shall be three years. Any exceptions to this term limit must be approved by the Church Council. All organizations who have members of voting age must elect officers who are members of the church.

6. Absentee Ballots

- a. Absentee Ballots shall be made available to all voting members who are unable to attend the Annual Meeting or any other Special Business Meetings.
- b. These Ballots shall include the selection of candidates for church offices and any measures that are to be voted on by the congregation.
- c. These ballots shall be made available to those who request them 2 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting and shall be available either directly from the church office or through postal or electronic distribution.
- d. The ballots must be received by the church by the day of the meeting, and shall carry the name of the submitter on a sealed envelope.
- e. The Church Clerk shall read the names of all persons who are voting absentee, and shall certify that all absentee ballots are a) submitted by qualified voting members, b) submitted by persons not in attendance at the meeting, and c) that no member has submitted more than 1 absentee ballot. After all ballots have been certified, the Clerk shall remove the ballots from the envelopes, and give them to the tellers for tallying with the other ballots.
- f. Those voting by absentee ballots shall not be counted towards the quorum required for the business meeting as prescribed in Section VII, Section E, paragraph 4.
- g. Absentee ballots cannot be applied to any measures which are amended on the floor prior to being brought to a vote.

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.
5. Committees or Boards may form subcommittees comprised of individuals from their membership for the purpose of dividing up their work. Subcommittees shall not have the power to pass motions.
6. Council approval must be given to add any members to subcommittees who are not already members of the parent committee or board.

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 Church 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; the approval of the annual budget; 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 Senior 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 services 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 Council Chairman shall preside at the Annual Meeting and all Special Business Meetings. In the event of the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman shall preside at these meetings.
6. All business meetings shall follow generally-accepted rules of parliamentary procedure.

SECTION F — Arbitration Board

1. Whenever disagreement or conflict between a pastor and the congregation, or between pastors, and/or between factions in the membership reaches a state where all parties involved determine it impossible to achieve peaceful negotiations, a Board of Arbitration shall be called in to aid in reaching a point of agreement.
2. This board shall be composed of active or retired pastors of three independent churches of like faith and practice, 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 Church 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 Senior 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; 1 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; 2 Cor. 6:14; 7:1; 1 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 Senior Pastor

1. Qualifications
 - a. The Senior 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, along with the Board of Elders, shall be recognized as the God-appointed leaders 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. Observation & investigative visits by members of the Council to his present pastorate, if applicable, is necessary.
- b. When a qualified candidate has spoken at two Sunday services on two separate dates, 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 Senior Pastor, by virtue of his office as a 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 a non-voting 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

- a. The Senior Pastor's term 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.
- b. A vote may be taken by the congregation at any time to terminate the Senior 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 percent of the membership has been presented to the Council.
 - (3) A two-thirds majority shall be required to terminate the Senior Pastor's services.

- c. In the event of doctrinal or moral defection, the Senior Pastor's services may be terminated immediately by action of the Council and be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a special meeting called within 30 days for that purpose in accord with Article VII, Section E

SECTION C — Qualifications and Functions of Church Council Members

- 1. All Council members must be active members of this church.
- 2. The qualifications set forth in 1 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 Jenison Bible Church Constitution and Doctrinal Statement?"

- 3. Every member of the Council, pastoral and administrative staff shall annually sign a statement indicating unreserved agreement with this Constitution and Doctrinal Statement.
- 4. Functions
 - a. The Board of Elders shall be responsible, with the Senior 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 and other pastors shall function for the Senior Pastor in emergencies or when the church has no Senior Pastor. At the Board of Elders' meetings, reports of ministry activities of the pastoral and administrative staff shall be received.
 - 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 consultation of a member of the pastoral staff, minister to the needy and supervise the benevolent funds of the church. They shall prepare an annual budget to be presented to the congregation. They shall administer all financial details of the paid staff including, but not limited to, payroll, benefits, insurance, professional expenses, and retirement funding.

- 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 be responsible to see that all monies are deposited in a bank as soon as practical after the monies have been received and shall submit a monthly report to the Board of Deacons and the Church Council, and an annual report to the church. The books of the Treasurer shall be audited or reviewed 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 keep a separate set of books of the church financial records. The Financial Secretary shall report to the Council monthly and to the congregation annually. These records shall be reconciled monthly with those records of the Treasurer. The Financial Secretary's set of books shall be audited or reviewed 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.
- f. Meeting Quorums

All meetings of the Board of Elders, Board of Deacons or Church Council shall require a 60% quorum to pass any motions.

SECTION D — Christian Education Ministry

1. This ministry shall be recognized as an extension of the Bible-teaching ministry of this church and shall encompass all Christian teaching carried out by this church except for preaching and teaching by the pastoral staff. It shall be administered by the Christian Education Director, and such officers as he may appoint, subject to approval of the Board of Elders.
2. The purpose of this ministry shall be for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ (Eph. 4:12).
3. This ministry shall include, but not be limited to, adult and children's Sunday School, mid-week services, men's and women's Bible studies, and Vacation Bible School.

4. Anyone within the ministry who will fulfill a teaching role shall be an Active or Associate Member of the church, and shall be appointed after meeting approval of the Senior Pastor and Board of Elders.
5. Any curriculum that is taught in any educational setting must have the approval of the Senior Pastor and the Board of Elders.
6. All Christian Education ministry offerings and expenses shall be handled through the general fund of the church. A record shall be kept of all offerings deposited with the Church Treasurer. Missionary contributions from any sub-organization within this ministry 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 Church 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 assist the Board of Deacons in the administration of 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.

SECTION F — Paid Staff

1. As the needs of the ministry warrant, the Church Council may recommend to the congregation the addition of paid staff positions.
2. The Church Council shall create job descriptions for all paid staff and review them at least once every three years.
3. The Deacons shall define the compensation package for the position which must then be approved by the congregation at the Annual Business Meeting or at a Special Business Meeting called for that purpose per Article VII, Section E. The congregation shall be provided with the job description prior to voting.

4. For any position that does not include spiritual oversight, the following shall apply:
 - a. The candidate shall be hired by the Church Council.
 - b. Once hired, the individual shall be accountable to the Church Council.
 - c. Termination of the position shall be at the discretion of the Church Council. The Senior Pastor and Associate Pastors shall have the authority to temporarily suspend individuals with pay for up to two weeks in cases where gross misconduct warrants immediate action prior to official decision by the Church Council.
5. For positions of spiritual leadership the following shall also apply:
 - a. A two-thirds majority vote of the congregation at the Annual Business Meeting or Special Business Meeting called for that purpose per Article VII, Section E. shall be required to hire the candidate. This vote shall take place only after the candidate has been approved by the Council.
 - b. Once hired, the individual shall be accountable to the Senior Pastor and the Board of Elders.
 - c. The individual shall be terminated in the same manner as the Senior Pastor as defined in Article VIII, Section B, Part 4.
6. All paid staff are accountable to the Board of Deacons for financial reporting criteria and for following expense procedures.

ARTICLE IX — FINANCES

SECTION A

1. The financial program of this Church shall be supported through the free-will offerings of its members, attenders and others who are interested in its ministry.
2. However, sub-organizations of the church shall be permitted to receive voluntary contributions related to specific ministry activities which they sponsor provided that:
 - a) the contributions are used to fund specific events or projects and,
 - b) the fund-raising effort is not promoted to the general public.

SECTION B

1. Loans or credit in excess of 2% of the current general fund budget reported at the last Annual Meeting must have congregational approval.
2. Purchases of Non-Budgeted Items - The Board of Deacons may make additional non-budgeted purchases as long as the accumulated expenditures of those purchases does not exceed 2% of the current general fund budget expenditures. A complete and separate listing of the purchases must be included with the annual financial reports. When the accumulated expenditures 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. Permanent designated funds shall be established by approval of the congregation. Temporary designated funds shall be established through the authority of the Board of Deacons.
2. The “General” fund shall by definition be undesignated, and as such does not have the same limitations as other designated funds.
3. Any temporary use of funds for purposes other than designated must have approval of the Church Council.
4. If the purpose, for which permanently designated funds have been authorized, is to be changed, it must be done with congregational approval.
5. Gifts not specified for either temporary or permanent funds shall be deposited in the General Fund. Donors bear the responsibility to request the return of such gifts.

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 2% of the general fund budget 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 Pastoral Staff or other representatives of the Church Council shall have access at all times and under all circumstances to all properties owned by the Church provided such access does not interfere with the ministries of the church. The missionary home shall be exempt from this requirement while it is occupied, except for necessary maintenance or repairs.

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 IFCA International (formerly known as 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, Ministerial License, Ministry Commission

SECTION A—Composition and Function of Council of Ordination

1. Whenever, in the judgment of the Board of Elders, a man in this membership, or in special cases a male non-member, is called to the Christian ministry, the Board of Elders shall arrange for a Council of Ordination to be assembled to determine the applicant's suitability for the Church to issue formal ordination credentials.
2. The Council of Ordination shall consist of ordained ministers and, if possible, one delegate from each of the fundamental churches invited to participate.

3. The Council of Ordination shall thoroughly examine the applicant regarding his personal Christian experience, call to ministry, educational training, doctrinal belief, reputation, and demonstrated efficiency in Christian service.
4. Upon the successful completion of the ordination examination and the recommendation by a 2/3 majority vote of the Council of Ordination, the Board of Elders shall ask the Church Council to gain permission for the granting of Church ordination credentials at a duly called business meeting of the Church, according to Article VII, Section E. This action requires a 2/3 majority vote of the Church Council.
5. At a Church business meeting, the recommendation of the 2/3 majority vote of the Council of Ordination and the Church Council shall be presented. A 2/3 majority vote of the congregation shall be necessary to ordain a candidate. The minutes of the Council of Ordination and of the public service shall be incorporated into the records of church meetings. The church shall issue a Certificate of Ordination to the newly ordained minister.
6. After the church has voted in favor of ordaining the candidate, the Church, through arrangement of its Pastors, Board of Elders, and the approved candidate, shall conduct a public service whereby the approved candidate is bestowed with a formal statement of the church's approval of ordination and a certificate of ordination by Jenison Bible Church.

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 of Elders.

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.
 - a. This license shall be temporary until such time as the minister is ordained
 - b. In cases whereby full ordination is not required for ministry, the Board of Elders may recommend that the Church make such a license permanent.
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 1 Cor. 13.

SECTION D — Ministry Commission

Any man or woman who is qualified for and approved by the Church for Christian ministry, other than as a pastor of a local church, shall be eligible for public Commissioning by the Church. Such a Commission for Service shall be authorized and administered by the Board of Elders of the Church, which Board shall also retain the authority to discipline a commissioned individual and/or revoke said Commission.

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 E.

SECTION B

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

** The name change in Article X, Section D is true for references to “Independent Fundamental Churches of America” in Article II, Section B and in Article III, Section A.*