

# **Columbus Bible Church Constitution**

**1770 Palms Road**

**Columbus, Michigan 48063**

**Revised: January 21, 2024**

## Established 1851

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## Columbus Bible Church

Columbus, Michigan

### CONSTITUTION

#### Preamble

Having placed our faith solely in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation, and accepting the doctrinal statement in Article II of the Constitution, we therefore organize ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ, adopting for our government, plan of service and worship the following Constitution. We hereby revoke all previous constitutions and action contrary to this Constitution as of 01/21/2024. This document was revised by vote of the membership of Columbus Bible Church, Columbus, Michigan on 01/21/2024.\_\_

#### Article I

##### Section A: NAME

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

##### Section B: PURPOSE

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

#### ARTICLE II

## Statement of Faith

### Section A: THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired; that it has truth without any admixture of error for its matter; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

By "The Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but is the very Word of God.

By "inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.

II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter. 1:19-21; Acts 1:16; Acts 28:25; Psalms 119:105, 130, 160; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17; Luke 24:44-45; Psalms 119:89; Prov. 30:5-6; Rom. 3:4; I Peter 1:23; Rev. 22:19; John 12:48; Isaiah 8:20; Eph. 6:17; Rom. 15:4; Luke 16:31; Psalms 19:7-11; John 5:45-47; John 5:39

### Section B: THE GODHEAD

1. We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deuteronomy 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14)

2. We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite Spirit, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing

distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Ex. 20:2-3; Gen 17:1; I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:6; John 4:24; Psa. 147:5; Psa. 83:18; Psa. 90:2; Jer. 10:10; Ex. 15:11; Rev. 4:11; I Tim 1:17; Rom. 11:33; Mark 12:30; Matt. 28:19; John 15:26; I Cor. 12:4-6; I John 5:7; John 10:30; John 17:5; I Cor. 2:10-11; Phil 2:5-6; Eph. 2:18; 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 to reveal God and redeem sinful men.

John 1:1-2, 14; Luke 1:35

2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead.

Romans 3:24-25; I Peter 2:24; Ephesians 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; Hebrews 9:24, 7:25; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1-2

### Section D: THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that He convicts of sin, of judgment and of righteousness; that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the New Birth; that He seals, endues, guides,

teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.

John 14:16-17; Matt. 28:19; Heb. 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Gen. 1:1-3; II Thess. 2:7; John 16:8-11; John 15:26-27; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5-6; Eph. 1:13-14; Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; John 16:13; Rom. 8:14; Rom. 8:16; II Thess. 2:13; I Peter 1:2; Rom. 8:26-27

#### Section E: THE DEPRAVITY OF MAN

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, God created them male and female, but that in Adam's sin humanity fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and that man is depraved, and of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition.

Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12

#### Section F: SALVATION

We believe that Salvation is the gift of God brought to man wholly 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; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24; John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14; Isa. 53:4-7; Rom. 3:25; I John 4:10; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21; John 10:18; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 1:4; I Pet. 2:24; I Pet. 3:18; Isa. 53:11; Heb. 12:2; I Cor. 15:20; Isa. 53:12; Heb. 9:12-15; Heb. 7:25; I John 2:2

#### Section G: THE ETERNAL SECURITY AND ASSURANCE OF BELIEVERS

1. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever.

John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; I Peter 1:5

2. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh.

Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15

#### Section H: THE TWO NATURES OF THE BELIEVER

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and, that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural.

Romans 6:13; 8:12-13; Galatians 5:15-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; I Peter 1:14-16; I John 3:5-9

#### Section I: SEPARATION

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures; practices and associations is commanded of God.

II Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1-2; 14:13; I John 2:15-17; II John 9:11; II Corinthians 6:14—7:1

#### Section J: MISSIONS

We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind.

Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 5:19-20

#### Section K: THE MINISTRY AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; and that speaking in tongues and the working of miracles gradually ceased as the church matured and the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established.

I Corinthians 12:4-11; II Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12

2. We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted.



John 15:7; I John 5:14-15

#### Section L: THE CHURCH

1. We believe that the Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of the present age.

Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-27; I Corinthians 12:12-14; II Corinthians 11:2

2. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures.

Acts 14:27, 20:17, 28:32; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11

#### Section M: THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN

We believe that Satan is a fallen angel, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire.

Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14: 12-17; Matthew 4:2-11, 25:4 1; Revelation 20:10

#### Section N: THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST

We believe in that "Blessed Hope", the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth with His saints, to establish His Millennial Kingdom.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Zachariah 14:4-11; Revelation 19:11-16, 20:1-6, 3:10; I Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9

#### Section O: THE ETERNAL STATE

1. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment.

Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; Revelation 20:5-6, 12-13

2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body

are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord.

Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4-6; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23, 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:16-17

3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne of Judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious torment.

Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude vs. 6-7; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15

#### Section P: ORDINANCES

We believe that baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, setting forth the essential facts of redemption – the placement of the believer in Christ which includes His death, burial, and resurrection. Baptism also sets forth the essential facts in the experience of the believer – death to sin and the resurrection to newness of life. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the Lord's death till He comes.

Matthew 26:26-29, 28:19-20; Acts 8:34-39, 16:30-33; Romans 6:1-11; I Corinthians 11:20-34

#### Section Q: MARRIAGE

We believe marriage is a union between one man and one woman ordained by God. It was first instituted by God in the early chapters of Genesis and codified in the Levitical law. As such, the performing of same sex unions/marriage will not be practiced or recognized at Columbus Bible Church.

Genesis 2:24, 25; Matthew 19:4, 5; Romans 7:2

#### ARTICLE III

##### Government

The final governmental authority of this church shall be vested in the body of

believers who comprise its membership (I Peter 2:9). It shall be a locally autonomous body under the jurisdiction of no other ecclesiastical authority. It acknowledges the Lord Jesus Christ as its only Head, and receives the Scriptures as its supreme guide in matters of faith, order, and discipline. The church shall not be considered as a member of any fellowship except by a 2/3 majority vote of the church members at a properly called meeting of all members. The system of government and church officers shall be described under Article VI. -

#### ARTICLE IV

##### Membership

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

2. Duties: The duties of Church memberships include:

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

3. Eligibility: The age of eligibility for membership shall be 18 years of age.

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

- Letters of dismissal and recommendation shall be granted only by vote of the church board, on recommendation of the Senior Pastor and Deacons.
- Any member who desires to may withdraw their name from the church roll at any time by notifying the Church Clerk.

- Any members whose conduct is reprehensible and unbecoming may, after reasonable effort has been made by the Pastors and Deacons to reclaim the offender and opportunity for defense having been given before the Church Board and/or the congregation, be excluded from membership by the Church Board.
- A member who has not been performing their membership duties for one year as determined by the Pastor or a Deacon, without reasonable excuse, shall be automatically dropped from the record. Any appeals shall be the responsibility of the Church Board.

## ARTICLE V

### Ordinances

1. The church shall celebrate the Lord's Supper once a month.
2. Baptisms shall be administered to the believers upon request. We affirm the practice of immersion. Believers transferring by letter will not be required to be re-baptized (as long as they were previously scripturally baptized by immersion.) Infant Baptism shall not be practiced; however, a service of dedication may be requested.

## ARTICLE VI

### Officers, Boards, and Committees of the Church

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

1. PASTOR: The Senior Pastor may be called or dismissed by a 2/3 majority vote, via secret ballot, of the Church members present, who have attained the age of eighteen years, at a meeting called for that purpose. Upon acceptance of the call, he becomes a member of the church. If the call is for an indefinite period, the ministerial relations may be dissolved by either the Pastor or the church, giving sixty (60) days written notice. He shall

oversee the preaching of the gospel, administration of the ordinances, have under his care, all services of public worship, be active in pastoral service to members of the church and shall minister to the needs of the community through visitations, to offer spiritual counsel. He shall oversee the administration of the activities of the church in cooperation with the other officers and committees appointed by the church. He shall be moderator at all meetings. In his absence, the chairman of the church board shall serve. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

2. DEACONS: Four Deacons providing there are four men qualified and willing to serve. Deacons shall be elected to serve for a term of two years.

Eligibility Requirements for service as a Deacon: Any male, age twenty-one or over, with at least one (1) year of membership in Columbus Bible Church, as of the posted deadline, and who meets the scriptural requirements of a deacon as found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3 is eligible to be nominated as a deacon.

It shall be the duty of the deacons to:

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

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

It shall be the duty of the deaconesses to:

- Discover and meet the practical needs of the church families in times of illnesses or death, visit the

sick and aged, especially of their own sex and to call upon new members, and to encourage others in their spiritual living

- Prepare the communion table

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

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

The Board shall elect a Chairman and Secretary each year who shall be authorized to sign legal documents. The Board shall meet each month.

The duties of the Church Board shall be to:

- Transact legal business and affairs of the Church with the approval of the congregation;
- Promote stewardship on a scriptural basis and direct disbursement of Church funds (Board approval shall be required for disbursement of Scholarship funds);
- Appoint a Sunday School Superintendent each year and other committees as needed;
- Encourage performance on the part of elected officers and committee members. In case of continued lack of performance, resignations should be requested. The Board shall have the responsibility and authority to make appointments to fill vacancies until the next annual meeting.

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

Superintendent's duties are to:

- Conduct quarterly business meetings of the Sunday school teachers and officers;

- Supervise Sunday school worship;
- Be responsible for an adequately trained staff in cooperation with the Senior Pastor;
- Give the Sunday School report at the annual meeting.

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

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

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

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to:

- Receive and assist in counting the offerings;
- Disburse all monies on order of the Church Board;
- Keep a complete record thereof and report the same at the Church Board meetings and Congregational meetings.

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

- Compensation of all paid staff shall be handled by the Church Board. The Senior Pastor will recuse himself from any discussions regarding his own compensation.

## COMMITTEES

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. LIBRARY COMMITTEE: There shall be a three-person committee appointed by the Church Board annually including at least one Pastor or Deacon. This committee shall care for the Church Library and must approve all books placed in the Library.

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



recommendations to the congregation for vote at a properly called meeting.

## ARTICLE VII

### Meetings

1. THE CALLING OF MEETINGS: A notice of meetings specifying the time, place and object thereof shall be read from the pulpit at two successive Sunday morning services preceding such meeting, provided however, in case it is proposed to amend the constitution, the proposed amendment shall be read from the pulpit on three successive Sundays, immediately preceding the date of the meeting. The proposed amendment shall not itself be amended on material point at the same meeting.

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

3. SPECIAL MEETINGS: The Church Board or Pastor may call a special meeting in the manner specified Article VII Section 1 above. Ten percent of qualified voters may present a written application for a special meeting to the Church Board. Business to be acted upon must be stated in the call of the meeting.

### Article VIII: Dissolution

Members of this church have no property rights, and upon termination of membership, they shall be entitled to no personal interest in the church's assets. In the event of the dissolution of the corporation, property of the church shall be distributed as follows: All property, real or personal, owned by this corporation shall be and hereby is irrevocably dedicated to Christian purposes and uses, and upon liquidation, dissolution, or abandonment of the corporation, shall not ensue to the benefit of any private person, except a

fund, foundation, or corporation organized and operated for evangelical Christian purposes consistent with the Statement of Faith in Article II of this Constitution.

#### Article IX: Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a three-fourths vote of at least fifty percent present of the church membership at a regular or special business meeting as outlined in this Constitution.