

# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FRANKENMUTH BIBLE CHURCH

## PREAMBLE

"Let all things be done decently and in order." I Cor 14:40. To this end do we, as members of the Frankenmuth Bible Church, solemnly and sincerely set forth the following constitution by which we willingly and cheerfully agree to be governed.

## ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this church shall be the Frankenmuth Bible Church of Frankenmuth, Michigan, incorporated under the laws of the State of 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 worldwide proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the promotion of godly worship, the defense of the "faith once delivered" (Jude 3), 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, a non-denominational, independent, and autonomous organization, adhering to the evangelical doctrine of the Christian faith as set forth in the Holy Bible and as defined in the Statement of Faith and Doctrine.

### SECTION C - Fellowship

It is the intent of this church to seek fellowship with other churches of like precious faith. It may also enter into such cooperation with other evangelical churches as shall not jeopardize its non-denominational and evangelical position. To this end, the church may be a member of an evangelical fellowship.

## ARTICLE III - STATEMENT OF DOCTRINE

### SECTION A - Holy Scriptures

We believe that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God," by which we understand that the whole Bible is inspired in the sense that holy men of God "were moved by the Holy Spirit" to write the very words of Scripture, which are inerrant and infallible, and our only source for faith and practice. We believe that this divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the writings -- historical, poetical, doctrinal, and prophetic -- as appeared in the original manuscripts. We believe that all the Scriptures center about the Lord Jesus Christ in His person and work in His first and second coming. We also believe that all the Scriptures were designed for our practical instruction (Mark 12:26, 36; 13:11; Luke 24:27, 44; John 5:39; Acts 1:16; 17:2-3; 18:28; 26:22-23; Rom 15:4; I Cor. 2:13; 10:11; II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet 1:21).

### SECTION B - The Godhead

We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons -- the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit -- and that these three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfection, and worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence, and obedience (Matt 28:18-19; Mark 12:29; John 1:14; Acts 5:3-4; II Cor 13:14; Heb 1:1-3; Rev 1:4-6).

#### 1. The Person and Work of God the Father

God the Father -- the first person of the Trinity -- orders and disposes all things according to His own purpose and grace (Psa 145:8-9; I Cor 8:6). As the absolute and highest ruler in the universe, He is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption (Psa 103:19; Job 1:6; Rom 11:33). He is the creator of all things (Gen 1).

His Fatherhood denotes a spiritual relationship, first of all within the Trinity, and secondly, within mankind; creatively relational to all men, but spiritually only in relation to believers. He has decreed for His own glory all things that come to pass, and continually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and events (I Chron 29:11).

This He does so as in no way to be the author and approver of sin (John 8:38-44) nor to abridge the accountability of moral, intelligent creatures (I Pet 1:17). He has graciously chosen from all eternity those whom He would have as His own (Eph 1:3-6); He saves from sin all who come to Him through Jesus Christ; and He relates Himself to His own as their Father (John 1:12,18; Eph 1:3-6; I John 3:1-2; II Cor 6:17-18; Gal 4:6-7).

## 2. The Person and Work of Jesus Christ, the Son

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, born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (John 1:1, 2, 14; Luke 1:35).

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal physical resurrection from the dead (Rom 3:24-25; I Pet 2:24; Eph 1:7; I Pet 1:3-5).

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God as our High Priest. We believe that He became Head over all things to the Church which is His body, and in this ministry He ceases not to represent, intercede, and advocate for the saved (Acts 1:9-10; Rom 8:34; Eph 1:22-23; Heb 4:14-16; 7:25; 9:24; I John 2:1-2).

We believe in that "Blessed Hope" -- the personal, imminent, and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones and His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish His millennial kingdom (I Thess 4:13-18; Zec 14:4-11; Rev 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6; I Thess 1:10; 5:9).

## 3. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the blessed Trinity, though omnipresent from all eternity, took up His abode in the world in a special sense on the day of Pentecost according to the divine promise, dwells in every believer and by His baptism, unites all to Christ in one body, and that He, as the Indwelling One, is the source of all power and all acceptable worship and service. We believe that He never takes His departure from the Church, nor from the feeblest of the saints, but is ever present to testify of Christ, seeking to occupy believers with Him and not with themselves nor with their experiences. We believe that His abode in the world in the special sense will cease when Christ comes to receive His own at the completion of the Church (John 14:16-17; 16:7-15; I Cor 6:19; Eph 2:22; II Thess 2:7).

We believe that, in the Church Age, certain well-defined ministries are committed to the Holy Spirit, and that it is the duty of every Christian to understand them and to be adjusted to them in his own life and experience. The ministries are: the restraining of evil in the world to the measure of the divine will; the convicting of the world respecting sin, righteousness, and judgment; the regenerating of all believers; the indwelling and anointing of all who are saved, thereby sealing them unto the day of redemption; the baptizing into one body of Christ of all who are saved; and the continued filling for power, teaching, and service of those among the saved who are yielded to Him and who are subject to His will (John 3:6; 16:7-11; Rom 8:9; I Cor 12:13, 31; 13:1-13; 14:12; Eph 4:30; 5:18; II Thess 2:7; I John 2:20-27).

We believe that some gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues (other languages) and miraculous healings, were given to be used as "signs" to authenticate the message of the first century church. As the New Testament Scriptures were completed their authority was thus established. We believe that speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary evidence of the baptism nor the filling of the Spirit. We believe that in accordance with the sovereign will of God, healing is available through the prayer of believers (Jam 5:14). We believe complete deliverance of the body from sickness and death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection (Acts 2:22; 4:8,31; Rom 8:23; I Cor. 12:4-11; 13:8 II Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:7-12). We believe that other "non-sign" gifts are given to the church as Christ determines (Rom 12:4-8). The use of these gifts contributes to the spiritual maturity in the body of Christ as believers learn and apply the truths of scripture. We further believe that ecstatic experiences do not contribute to or attest to one's spiritual maturity (Eph. 4:7-16; I Cor. 12:11).

## SECTION C - Concerning Angels

### 1. Holy Angels.

We believe that angels are created beings (Col 1:16), and therefore are not to be worshipped, although they are of a higher order of creation than man (Heb 2:7), proven by the fact that their place is about the throne of God (Rev 5:11-12; 7:11).

## 2. Fallen Angels.

We believe that Satan is a created angel and the author of sin. He incurred the judgment of God by rebelling against his Creator, involving numerous angels in his fall (Job 1:6-7; Isa 14:12-17; Ez 28:11-19; II Pet 2:4; Jude 6; Rev. 12:9), and introducing sin into the human race by his temptation of Eve (Gen 3:1-15).

We believe that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man (Matt 4:1-11; 25:41), is the prince of this world (Eph 2:2; John 12:31), who was defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Rom 16:20), and shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire (Job 1:6-7; Isa 14:12-17; Eze 28:11-19; Rev 20:10).

## SECTION D - The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man, originally created in the image and after the likeness of God, fell through sin, and as a consequence of his disobedience, the threatened penalty of death was then and there inflicted, so that he lost his spiritual life, becoming dead in trespasses and sins, and that he became subject to the power of the devil. We also believe that this spiritual death, or total depravity of human nature, has been transmitted to the entire race of man, the man Christ Jesus being excepted; and hence that every child of Adam is born into the world with a nature which not only possesses no spark of divine (living) life, but is essentially and unchangeably bad, apart from divine grace (Gen 1:26; 2:17; 6:5; Psa 14:1-3; 51:5; Jer 17:9; John 3:6; 5:40; 6:53; Rom 3:10-19; 8:6-7; Eph 2:1-3; I Tim 5:6; I John 3:8).

## SECTION E - Salvation Only Through Christ

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. We believe that, owing to universal death through sin, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless born again; and that no degree of reformation however great, no attainments in morality however high, no culture however attractive, no baptism or other ordinances however administered, can help the sinner to take even one step toward heaven. A new nature imparted from above, a new life implanted by the Holy Spirit through the Word, is absolutely essential to salvation, and only those thus saved are sons of God. We believe, also, that our redemption has been accomplished solely by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made to be sin and was made a curse for us, dying in our room and stead. No human activity can add anything to the finished work wrought for us by Him who united in His person true and proper deity with perfect and sinless humanity.

We believe that the new birth of the believer comes only through faith in Christ and that repentance is a vital part of believing, and is in no way, in itself, a separate and independent condition of salvation; nor are any other acts, such as confession, baptism, prayer, or faithful service, to be added to believing as a condition of salvation (Lev 17:11; Isa 64:6; Matt 26:28; John 1:12; 3:5,16,18,36; 5:24; 6:29; Acts 13:39; Acts 16:31; Rom 1:16-17; 3:22,26; 4:5; 5:6-9; Rom 10:4; Phil 3:4-9; Titus 3:15; Jam 1:18; I Pet 1:18-19,23).

## SECTION F - The Extent of Salvation

We believe that when an unregenerate person exercises that faith in Christ which is illustrated and described as such in the New Testament, he passes immediately out of spiritual death into spiritual life, and from the old creation into the new; being justified from all things, accepted before the Father according as Jesus Christ His Son is accepted, loved as Christ is loved, having his place and portion as linked to Him and one with Him forever. Though the saved one may have occasion to grow in the realization of his blessings and to know a fuller measure of divine power through the yielding of his life more fully to God, he is, as soon as he is saved, in possession of every spiritual blessing and absolutely complete in Christ, and is, therefore, in no way required by God to seek a so-called "second blessing" or a "second work of grace" (John 5:24; 17:23; Acts 13:39; Rom 5:1; I Cor 3:21-23; Eph 1:3; Col 2:10; I John 4:17; I John 5:11-12).

## SECTION G - The Assurance and Security of the Believer.

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 5:24; 6:37-40; John 10:27-30; Rom 8:1, 38-39; I Cor. 1:4-8; Phil 1:6; I Pet 1:5; Heb 7:25; I John 5:13).

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; Rom 8:6-13).

## SECTION H - 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 and 8; Gal 5:16-25; Eph 4:22-24; Col 3:10; I Pet 1:14-16; I John 3:5-9).

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### SECTION I - The Christian Walk

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 and all worldly pleasure, practices, and associations is commanded of God (Rom 12:1-2; 14:13; I Cor 6:19-20; II Cor 5:14-15; 6:14-7:1; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11).

### SECTION J - The Great Commission

We believe that it is the explicit message of our Lord Jesus Christ to those whom He has saved that they are sent forth by Him into the world even as He was sent forth of His Father into the world. We believe that, after they are saved, they are divinely reckoned to be related to this world as strangers & pilgrims, ambassadors & witnesses.

We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word of the truths of the Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind (Matt 28:18-19; Mark 16:15; John 17:18; Acts 1:8; II Cor. 5:18-20; I Pet 2:11).

### SECTION K – End Times

We believe in the imminent and premillennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ for the church in the rapture. This coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy, and as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service, and energetic mission. Christ will subsequently return with the church to personally and bodily establish His Millennial reign on earth, bringing peace and righteousness. Prior to Christ's reign on earth, the world will experience seven years of tribulation and judgment (Titus 2:11-14; I Thessalonians 4:13-18, I John 3:1-3; I Corinthians 15:51-55; Revelation 20:1-6; Daniel 9:24-27; Revelation 6-19).

### SECTION L - The Eternal State

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).

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; II Cor. 5:8; Phil 1:23; 3:21; I Thess 4:16-17).

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).

### SECTION M - The Church

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; I Cor 12:12-14; II Cor 11:2).

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).

### SECTION N – Marriage and Sexuality

We believe that marriage is exclusively a complementary and covenantal relationship ordained by God between one man and one woman as genetically created by God. It is the only marital union sanctioned by and officiated under the auspices of this church and its Pastors. Marriage is not subject to cultural, judicial, or legislative redefinition. We further believe that all forms of sexual intimacy must only occur within the confines of that union, and that all acts of sexual immorality outside of marriage are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We also believe that forgiveness and restoration is graciously offered through Christ to all who confess and forsake any violation of God's standard of morality (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18-25; Leviticus 18:22, Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 1:26-27; I Corinthians 9:9-20; I Thessalonians 4:3-8; Hebrews 13:4; and I John 1:9).

## **ARTICLE IV - ORDINANCES**

### SECTION A - The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper shall ordinarily be commemorated at least once a month and at such other times as determined by the Elders. The Table shall be open to all those assembled who have exercised a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The order of service shall be taken directly from the Bible (I Cor 11:17-34).

## SECTION B - Baptism

It shall be required of every candidate seeking membership in the Frankenmuth Bible Church that he or she shall have been baptized. Baptism shall be administered upon the recommendation of the Pastor or Elders, and after due examination. The mode of baptism shall be immersion (see membership requirements). The Pastor, his assistant, or any one of the Elders may administer baptism (Acts 2:41; Matt 28:19-20; Acts 8:36-39).

## ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

### SECTION A - Qualifications for Membership

Adults or young people desiring to unite with this Church by confession of a personal faith in Christ as Savior, or by letter from another evangelical Church, shall be examined by at least two Elders as to their Christian experience and basis of salvation, and shall be required to submit to the foregoing Articles of Faith and Statement of Doctrine.

Children who are able, through due examination by at least two Elders, to show an understanding of their faith in Christ as their personal Savior, may be received into membership of the Church.

Any candidate for membership who has not been baptized at the time of his or her examination shall be required to be baptized before being received into membership. The baptism required must be a baptism subsequent to salvation. This Church will practice immersion only, except for pouring in the case of disabled persons.

The Elders examination shall review the doctrinal statement and especially the obligations of members with candidates. The Elders' vote shall be unanimous.

### SECTION B - Receiving Members

As many as have been duly examined by the Elders and fully meet the qualifications for membership under Article V, Section A, shall be received into active membership at that time. The new members shall be welcomed publicly into the fellowship of the Church at the first convenient service following their reception by the Elders.

### SECTION C - Privilege and Responsibility of Members

1. It shall be the responsibility of the members to attend as diligently as possible the worship of God in this Church (Heb 10:25).
2. They shall endeavor to be filled with the Spirit (by faith) constantly in their daily lives (Eph 5:18).
3. To have a faithful prayer life (I Tim 2:1-2; I Thess 5:17).
4. To use their God-given spiritual gifts for the building up of individuals and of the Church (I Cor 12:12-31; Rom 12).
5. To separate themselves from every appearance of evil (II Cor 6; I Thess 5:22).
6. To be faithful stewards as God prospers them (II Cor 9:6-8; I Cor 16:2).
7. To do good unto all men (Rom 12:17-21; Psa 34:14; Rom 15:1-3).
8. To obey and submit to those in the Church who have the rule over them (Heb 13:17).
9. To learn God's Word (I Pet 2:1-3).
10. To be faithful witnesses for Christ in every area of life (I Cor.7:20-24; Jude 23).
11. To obey God's revealed will for their lives (Rom 12:1-2).

### SECTION D - Types of Membership

The membership of this Church shall consist of three groups; namely, active members, associate members, and inactive members.

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. Only active members are eligible to vote.

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.

Inactive membership shall consist of the following: those who no longer have residence in this area, but still desire to hold their membership in this church; those who have been absent from the services of this church for a period of three months without giving a satisfactory reason for such absence; those who have come under certain disciplinary action of the Church. Personal contact will be made before an inactive status is determined.

## SECTION E - Termination of Church Membership

Membership may be terminated for one of the following reasons:

1. A written request from the member.
2. Prolonged absence from the fellowship - After 6 month's absence, the church shall seek to locate the member to determine their status. Their membership may be terminated by vote of the Elder Board.
3. Due to disciplinary action.

## **ARTICLE VI - DISCIPLINE**

### SECTION A - Purpose of Church Discipline

To bring spiritual restoration to those who have fallen in order to protect the purity of the Frankenmuth Bible Church and to mature the body of believers (I Cor. 3:1-3; 5:5-6;11; II Cor. 2:7-11; 7:7-12; Eph 4:12-16; Titus 1:9-11; Heb 3:12-14).

### SECTION B - Sins That Should Be Disciplined

1. Persistent teaching of False Doctrines (Rom 16:17-18; I Tim 6:3-5; Titus 3:10-11).
2. Continuing immorality or disorderliness (I Cor 5:1-13; II Cor 6:14-17; Col 3:5-10; I Thess 4:1-8).
3. Causing division or discord (Prov 6:19; Rom 16:17; II Thess 3:6-7, 11).

### SECTION C - How Discipline Will be Handled

1. Before any disciplinary action is taken, the principles of Matt 18:15 shall be carried out.
2. Any disciplinary action that is deemed necessary shall be in the spirit of love and meekness (II Thess 3:14-15; Gal 6:1).
3. No accusation shall be brought against any member except upon the testimony of two or three witnesses (Matt 18:16; II Cor. 13:1; I Tim 5:19).
4. The suspected person shall be confronted with the charges with the desire and effort to correct the difficulty and restore proper fellowship. If this does not lead to restoration of fellowship, charges shall be put in writing and placed in the hands of the suspected person, and he or she summoned to meet the Elders not more than two and not less than one week subsequently. Failure on the part of the accused to appear for a hearing will not prevent the Elders from examining the situation and rendering a decision in accord with the testimony received.

### SECTION D - Refusal of Discipline

If the member being disciplined rejects scriptural admonition and refuses to repent their membership will be terminated.

## **ARTICLE VII - GOVERNMENT**

### SECTION A - Congregational Meetings

In matters of business, the government of this Church, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, shall be vested in the Council of Elders, herein referred to as "Elders", consisting of at least five in number, if possible, and no more than eight. The fiscal year of the Church shall end on the thirty-first day of December each year.

Regular congregational meetings shall be held in February, May, and November, the exact dates of which shall be set by the Elders. The November meeting shall be held primarily to elect Elders who shall take office the following January and to review the spending plan. The meeting in February and May will be primarily used to communicate vision and direction from the leadership. Said meetings shall be announced to the congregation from the pulpit for a period of two consecutive Sundays immediately preceding the scheduled dates.

Church election of the Elders shall be held annually. The candidate shall be elected by a 75% vote of all active members of the Church who are present and in good standing at the time of the election; such members are not to be under the age of fifteen (15) years. Written ballots shall be used in all elections. The Elders may determine the use of absentee ballots.

Special meetings of the congregation may be called by the Elders at any time for the transaction of any legitimate business. The nature of the meeting and the date must be announced two (2) consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting.

The chairman of the Elders shall be the chairman of the congregational meeting.

A quorum for regular or special congregational meetings shall be one-third of the active members who are not under the age of fifteen (15) years. In the event a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be rescheduled for a date not less than one week later, and be properly announced the following Sunday.

#### SECTION B - The Elders and Deacons

The Elders shall be the church in action, and shall have authority to attend to any incidental or current business.

The Elders shall meet the requirements of I Timothy 3:1-11 and Titus 1:6-9, and are to be active members of the Church.

Regular meetings of the Elders shall be held monthly at a date and time to be established by the Elders. The chairman shall be elected by and from the Elders. He shall serve for one year and shall be other than the Pastor.

The Pastor, the Chairman of the Elders, or any three members of the Elders may call a special Elders' meeting at any time they think necessary to do so. All Elders shall be notified of any called special Elders' meeting.

In the transaction of business in all Elders' or Congregational meetings, Parliamentary Rules of Order shall be observed.

A quorum for the Elders shall be more than 50% of the Elders.

The Elders shall strive toward unanimity in their decisions, and if unanimity cannot be reached they must be in consensus in their recommendation to the congregation.

Should a vacancy arise, the Elders may appoint a replacement to fill the vacancy until the next January.

The Elders shall select the officers of the Church and Sunday School.

The Deacons may be selected by the Elders as needed. They are to be active members of the Church and are to meet the Biblical requirements for Deacons as outlined in I Timothy 3:8-11. They may attend the Elders' meetings by invitation of the Elders. Their term of service is to be determined by the Elders. The Deacons/Deaconesses shall collectively meet regularly to communicate and coordinate their areas of ministry. The church secretary shall attend to record minutes.

Aside from the Elders, the Church is to have a Pastor, who is one of the Elders and is the paid Elder. His salary and work are to be determined and to be reviewed annually by the Elders no later than October first of each year.

The Elders shall be the Trustees of the Church. It shall be the duty of the Trustees to oversee the offerings of the Church. It shall be their duty to develop the grace of giving in the members of the Church. At least two people shall count all Church monies. The Trustees shall authorize and make provision for payment of salaries and all other Church expenses.

They shall supervise necessary repairs to the Church building belonging to the congregation and hold the same subject to the uses and benefit of the Church.

In matters of special importance affecting the fixed property of the Church, the Trustees cannot take action without the consent of the congregation.

The deacons shall be responsible for the spending plan preparation and submission to the Elders for final approval. The spending plan is to be ready for presentation at the November congregational meeting.

#### SECTION C - Committees

1. Policy on committees. All committees of Frankenmuth Bible Church shall consist of active members and non-members who are at least 15 years old and are approved by the Elders.

Special committees are to be appointed by the Elders as they are needed in the Church. Some of these committees may be: Nominating, Missionary, Lead Pastor Search, Building, and Deaconess. Nominating and Lead Pastor Search committees shall consist of Elders and others as chosen by the Elders. The length of activity of the committees shall be determined by the Elders.

#### 2. Nominating Committee.

The report of the Nominating Committee for potential Elders shall be announced from the pulpit and shall be posted one month prior to the November election.

No nominations will be received from the floor.

#### 3. Missionary Committee.

To ensure the regular activity of the church in the cause of missions at home and abroad, a missionary committee shall be appointed or approved by the Elders at the first meeting following the annual election of Elders.

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.

The missionary committee shall make recommendations to the Elders regarding the administration of all funds designated for missions and changes or additions to the Church missionary program. All new commitments

shall have Elder approval and shall be handled through a reputable evangelical mission board. Every missionary regularly supported by this church shall submit to our statement of doctrine.

#### SECTION D - Other Officers

The church may have other officers who are to be selected by the Elders as the need arises. Their term of office shall be determined by the Elders.

#### SECTION E - Election and Term of Officers

##### 1. The Pastor.

The candidate for Pastor shall be selected by a committee appointed by the Elders. A pastoral candidate shall be recommended by the Elders and approved by the congregation.

A quorum for calling a Pastor shall be seventy-five percent (75%) of the active membership fifteen (15) years old and above. The vote to call a Pastor must be a seventy-five percent (75%) majority of the members voting. The term of office of Pastor shall be an indefinite time period, but subject to review by the Elders.

##### 2. Termination of Pastor.

The decision to terminate the Pastor will be made by the Elders. A notice of sixty (60) days shall be given to terminate, with remuneration and services continuing through this period, unless mutually agreed upon, except in the case of disciplinary action.

##### 3. The Elders.

The congregation shall approve the addition of new Elders at the annual congregational meeting. The term of office shall be for three years. An Elder may serve for two consecutive terms, at which time he is ineligible to serve for one year. He may then be re-elected.

##### 4. Support Staff

Support staff will be called by the recommendation of the Lead Pastor and unanimous vote of the Elders. Support staff, with the exception of the secretarial positions, will serve as a deacon or deaconess over their sphere of ministry. Support staff shall not be eligible to serve as an Elder. **In general, in order to avoid a conflict of interest, family members of staff or Elders shall not be considered for paid church positions or for Elder.**

#### SECTION F - The Duty of the Officers

##### 1. The Pastor-Teacher.

It shall be the duty of the Pastor to watch over the spiritual interests of the Church, to preach the Word, to administer the ordinances, and take charge of the worship services of the Church. All of the Elders also have these responsibilities, and deacons may be appointed for some of these duties. The Pastor is to be an ex-officio member of all committees.

##### 2. Elders and Deacons.

See Article VII, Section B.

##### 3. The Clerk.

It shall be the duty of the Church Clerk to keep a proper record of all meetings of the congregation and of the Elders, to be responsible to keep all papers and documents of the Church in a safe place, and to keep a record of all members of the Church. He shall be one of the Elders. The Clerk shall turn over to the Trustees, when requested by them, or to his successor when selected, all records of the Church. The Clerk shall be selected by the Elders.

##### 4. The Treasurer and/or Assistant Treasurer.

It shall be the duty of the Church Treasurer to bank and disburse all congregational and Sunday School funds as authorized by the Elders, make an annual report of all offerings and disbursements of all funds that have been received by the Church or by organizations that function in the name of the Church to the congregation at the February meeting and render the account of the Church as called for by the Elders.

The Treasurer shall submit the books at any time for auditing and turn over to the Trustees as directed by them, or to his/her successor when selected, all monies, documents, and papers belonging to the Church. The Treasurer's books and records shall be audited by an Auditing Committee from the Church membership appointed by the Elders not more than thirty (30) days prior to the congregational meeting, and the Auditing Committee's report shall become a part of the Trustees' report. The Treasurer and/or Assistant shall be selected by the Elders.



5. The Children's Ministry Director.

The Children's Ministry Director is the chief officer of the Sunday School. It shall be his/her duty to supervise all departments (said departments to be approved by the Elders), all classes and activities, and to nominate all teachers to the Elders who shall have authority to approve or reject any nominee.

All nominees to the teaching staff of the Sunday School must meet the requirements of membership, although it is not necessary for them to be members of this Church.

He/she shall be selected by, and report to, the Elders.

### **ARTICLE VIII - FINANCES**

#### **SECTION A - How Supported**

The financial program of this church shall be supported only through free-will offerings and unsolicited gifts of those interested in its ministry.

#### **SECTION B - Loans and Credit**

Loans or credit in excess of 2% of annual spending plan shall require 75% quorum of all active members 15 years old and above with a 75% approval of that quorum.

#### **SECTION C - Designated Funds**

The Elders shall approve all designated accounts.

Any temporary use of funds for purposes other than designated must have approval of the Elders.

### **ARTICLE IX - PROPERTIES**

#### **SECTION A - Title**

The title to all properties of the Church, both real and personal, shall be and remain vested in that portion of the active membership as shall remain faithful to the original purpose stated in Articles I,II, and III.

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

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. Any sale, mortgage, or transfer of real and personal property valued at 2% of the spending plan or more shall require 75% quorum of all active members 15 years old and above with a 75% approval of that quorum.

#### **SECTION C - Use of Property**

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 Elders. The Elder Board shall have access at all times and under all circumstances to all property 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, director, officer of the corporation, or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporation's assets. Upon dissolution, any assets of the corporation will be distributed to evangelical missions by vote of remaining membership.

### **ARTICLE X - COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION**

#### **SECTION A - Commissioning**

When approved by the Missionary Committee and upon request of the Missionary to be commissioned, said commissioning must be presented to the Elder Board.

#### **SECTION B - Ordination**

When, in the judgment of the Elder Board, 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 the Elder Board to call and conduct a Council for Ordination, provided such authority is granted by vote of the Church.

The Ordaining Council shall thoroughly examine all applicants for ordination as to their call to the Christian ministry, education, Christian experience, reputation, character, doctrinal belief, and demonstrated efficiency in Christian service. The Ordaining Council shall be made up of the Elders plus other Pastors and representatives of like-minded evangelical Churches.

#### **SECTION C - Discipline of Ordained Ministers**

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 has been conducted in the spirit of I Corinthians 13. The minister under discipline shall have the privilege of appealing his case to the membership within sixty (60) days after the decision of the Board of Elders.

#### **ARTICLE XI - ARBITRATION BOARD**

In the event that the internal affairs of the Church, at some subsequent date after separation from the Independent Bible Mission, should reach such a state of controversy that it seems impossible to achieve peaceful negotiations between the pastor and membership and/or between factions in the membership, a nonprofit evangelical organization may be called in to aid in reaching a point of agreement. This request shall be issued by a simple majority vote at a congregational meeting called either by the Pastor, or two-thirds of the Elders, or a petition of twenty-five percent (25%) of the voting membership.

These efforts shall be understood to be investigative only, with a view towards recommendations leading to resolutions of the problem. To this end, it shall have the right to sit in Elders meetings and congregational meetings and to set up visitation appointments with church families. The recommendations become binding only by action of the membership.

#### **ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS AND LIMITATIONS**

##### **SECTION A - Amendments**

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at any regular or special meeting, provided the proposed amendment has been read and time of meeting announced to the congregation at each regular church service for the two (2) Sundays preceding said meeting, and provided an exact copy of the proposed amendment has been conspicuously posted in the Church exits on the four (4) Sundays immediately preceding said meeting.

##### **SECTION B - Limitations**

Amendments of Articles I, II, and III shall require 75% quorum of all active membership (15) years old and above with a 90% approval of that quorum.