

# Calvary Bible Church

## Constitution & Policies

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# CALVARY BIBLE CHURCH CONSTITUTION

## INTRODUCTION

*Our Church: Nondenominational and in fellowship with all who love the Lord Jesus Christ*

*Our Theme: Jesus Christ and Him crucified, who is overall, God blessed forever*

*Our Mission: The salvation of the lost; the perfecting of the saints*

*Our Hope: The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*

*Statement: We, the members of Calvary Bible Church, do ordain and establish the following articles to which we voluntarily submit ourselves:*

## ARTICLE I (Name)

The organization shall be known as Calvary Bible Church of Rogers City, Michigan.  
This church shall, and remain, a nondenominational and autonomous organization.

## ARTICLE II (Identity)

Calvary Bible Church of Rogers City is a community of believers who exist to proclaim the glory of God and His grace and truth through our Lord Jesus Christ. We are an independent, reformed and evangelical church.

A. We are **independent** in that we believe in the autonomy of the local church, under the authority of Scripture and the Headship of Christ. We are governed by a plurality of elders and deacons elected by the members of our church. We are members of The Fellowship of Independent Reformed Evangelicals (FIRE), a unifying network for independent, reformed, baptistic churches to experience mutual edification, fellowship, cooperation and prayerful support in ministries and missions. We also strive to work together with other local and regional churches for the sake of the gospel.

B. We are **reformed** in that we affirm the five “solas” of the Reformation (the authority of Scripture alone; salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone; all things to the glory of God alone). We are in substantial agreement with the historic reformed confessions of the Christian faith, such as *The London Baptist Confession of 1689* and the *Westminster Confession of Faith*. We rejoice in the sovereign grace of God in the salvation of sinners.

C. We are **evangelical** in that we believe the mission of the church is to bring the gospel to every tongue, tribe and nation. We believe that this mission begins in our own community and extends to the ends of the earth. We gather in our worship services for edification and scatter throughout the week to evangelize, striving to follow the call of our Lord to be *in* the world but not *of* it.

## ARTICLE III (Doctrine)

### A. The Holy Scriptures

We teach 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 Pet 1:20-21; Matt 5:18; John 16:12-13)

### B. The Godhead

We teach 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).

### C. The Person and Work of Christ

1. We teach 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 a virgin, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (John 1:1,2,14; Luke 1:35)

2. We teach 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 Pet 2:24; Eph 1:7; 1 Pet 1:3-5)

3. We teach 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)

#### **D. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit**

1. We teach that the Holy Spirit, the eternal Spirit of God, exists in person and convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and that He is the Supernatural Agent in the regeneration of man, 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 teach 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)

#### **E. The Total Depravity of Man**

We teach 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)

#### **F. Salvation**

We teach 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 at the cross of Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. (Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; John 1:12; 1 Pet. 1:18-19)

#### **G. The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers**

1. We teach 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 Pet 1:5)

2. We teach 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 freedom to sin. (Rom 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15)

3. We teach that all true believers will manifest evidence of the regenerating work of God in their lives by a persevering faith and a newness of life that reflects the continual indwelling Holy Spirit. (Matt. 7:20; Luke 8:15; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:22-23; Phil. 1:6; Heb. 10:39; 2 Pet. 1:10)

#### **H. Sin and the Believer**

We teach that within every saved person, while possessing a new, redeemed nature in Christ, remains the influence of the old nature, the flesh, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the flesh through Jesus Christ by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and that all claims to the eradication of sin in this life are unscriptural; it is the continual responsibility of every believer to deny the flesh and walk in the Spirit. (Rom. 6:13; 8:12-13; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:10; 1 Pet. 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9)

#### **I. Separation**

We teach that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord. (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)

#### **J. The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts**

1. We teach that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all of His gifts; and that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are for the perfecting of the saints; and that although all believers receive a gift or gifts to be used, the *emphasis* of the Christian's walk should be on the fruit of the Spirit (which is true spirituality), rather than on the gifts of the Spirit. (Gal 5:16,22-23; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Eph 4:7-12)

2. We teach 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)

## **K. The Church**

1. We teach that the Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph 1:22-23; 2:1-10; 5:25-27; 1 Cor 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2)
2. We teach that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the Scriptures. (Acts 14:27; 20:17,28-32; 1 Tim 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)
3. We teach that the primary purpose of the local church is the edification of God's people through the ministry of God's Word and fellowship, out of which flows evangelism of the world around us. It is the obligation and privilege of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of the Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind. (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:19-20; Eph. 4:11-13; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Heb. 10:25)
4. We teach that the local church is to observe the two ordinances appointed by the Lord Jesus, water baptism and the Lord's Supper. We teach that water baptism is the immersion of the believer in water, as a testimony of the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection as our Substitute. We teach that the Lord's Supper is the church's remembrance of the death of Christ, by the shared partaking of the bread and the cup, and that it is to be observed until He comes. (Matt 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:8; 1 Cor 11:23-32)

## **L. The Personality of Satan**

We teach that Satan is a person, the author of sin and instigator of the fall of man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and redeemed man; and that he will be eternally punished in the lake of fire. (Gen. 3; Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; 1 Pet. 5:8; Rev. 20:10)

## **M. The Second Coming and the Eternal State**

1. We teach that "Blessed Hope," the personal, imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. We teach 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; Titus 2:13; 1 Thess. 1:10; 4:13-18; 5:1-11; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-21)
2. We teach that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the 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)
3. We teach 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 resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor 5:1-10; Phil 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thess 4:16-17)

## **N. Marriage**

We teach that marriage is always to be between one man and one woman only. Homosexual unions and same-sex marriages, even if sanctioned by the civil authorities, are aberrations of God's law (Genesis 1:28, 2:18; Leviticus 18:22, 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:10) and thus ungodly and not permissible; neither is it biblical, godly or permissible for a man to have more than one wife at the same time or a woman to have more than one husband at the same time (Genesis 2:24, Malachi 2:13-15, Matthew 19:4-6), nor for a couple to live together as husband and wife outside of the covenant of marriage (Hebrews 13:4).

## **ARTICLE IV (Membership)**

### **A. Qualifications, Responsibilities and Procedures**

#### **1. Qualifications**

The membership is open to any person who has accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior (Acts 2:47 NASB; John 3:16-18; Rom. 10:9-19; John 14:6; Acts 4:12)

#### **2. Procedures for membership**

- a. Be baptized (if not baptized previously), the giving of public testimony of possessing and confessing the Lord Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior. (Calvary Bible only baptizes by immersion unless circumstances prevent it.)
- b. Attend a supervised study led by the pastor and/or an elder covering the complete constitution, doctrine, policies and ministries of Calvary Bible Church. (*A new pastor would be excused from meeting this requirement.*)

- c. Fill out an application form and sign a Membership Covenant Agreement (Article IV, Section B).
- d. Appear before the church board to give testimony of his/her Christian experience and the basis of his/her salvation.
- e. Upon favorable completion of steps “a” through “d”, your desire for membership will be posted by the pastor/board and any member in opposition to the applicant should make contact with a board member. The applicant will be presented for approval to the church membership at any official business meeting or public worship service where the church clerk, or assistant clerk, is present to record the name into the rolls.

### 3. Responsibilities

- a. Membership shall consist of such Christians who desire to actively fellowship and be identified with the church family, in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.
- b. Members shall be encouraged to enjoy the privileges of voting, administration, and service within the church family until there becomes a reason to end the membership.
- c. Each member agrees to regularly attend church services and to be willing to serve in the ministry of this church; members will be encouraged to daily spend time in Bible study and prayer and to be concerned with the winning of others to Christ as a faithful and credible witness for Him.
- d. Giving: It is our conviction that proportionate giving is a distinct privilege and positive command given to God’s people, and therefore, we pledge ourselves to a systematic contribution for the support of this church. We give a portion of our income as we believe God desires of us, according to the principle laid down in 1 Corinthians 16:2.
- e. Walk and Conduct: We shall encourage each other in our daily walk and conversation, loyal obedience to all those precepts laid down in the Word of God. We shall warn against immorality and against those practices which tend toward immorality. We shall also warn against those practices which are known to be harmful to the human body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit. All members shall be expected to live at all times so as not to be a reproach to the Lord. (NIV)

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” (Col. 3:17)

“If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight reign on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.” (James 1:26)

“It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.” (Rom. 14:21)

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” (Gal. 5:22-23)

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” (Col. 3:12-16)

“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said, ‘I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be My people.’ (2 Cor. 6:14 – 7:1)

- f. Members under disciplinary action shall not have the right to vote or hold any office or position of service in the church. The elders, with the pastor, shall seek to restore the member to active fellowship and responsibility. If this has not been accomplished after twelve (12) months, they may be terminated from the membership roll.

**B. Agreement:** Anyone applying for membership in Calvary Bible Church must be in agreement with, and sign, the application for membership. NOTE: An application form is included in the back portion of this constitution.

Membership Covenant: I have read the constitution of Calvary Bible Church, including the Scripture references contained therein, and agree to abide by it. To the loving leadership of the church officers, I do solemnly assume the responsibilities of membership (Article IV, A, 3) in this constitution. I will strive to live to honor my Lord and Savior in my walk and conversation. I further promise to cheerfully contribute to the financial support of this church and its gospel ministry and to use the gifts and talents God has given me to build up the body of Christ (Eph. 4:11-13). I will pray for the leadership of the Holy Spirit in my life and the ministry life of this church.

### **C. Termination of Membership**

1. Disciplinary
2. Voluntary

## **ARTICLE V (Discipline of Members)**

**A. The purpose** of all discipline shall be to strengthen the local church by promoting consistent Christian living. Every effort shall be made by the pastor and/or board to restore erring members to fellowship and active membership of the church.

**B. The reasons** for discipline are threefold:

1. Non-participation, as described in the Membership Covenant Agreement. An annual review of the membership shall be conducted by the elders, with the pastor, in accordance with Article VI, Section D, 1., d., after which those who have been absent for an extended period of time may be dismissed from the membership rolls, provided that an attempt has first been made in the interest of restoring them to regular fellowship and activity.
2. Doctrinal deviation or heresy (1 Tim. 6:3-5; Titus 3:10,11; Rom. 16:17,18)
3. Immoral conduct, lying tongue, sowing discord among the brethren, etc. (1 Cor. 5:9-13; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; Rom. 16:17,18; Prov. 6:16-19)

### **C. Procedure for doctrinal or moral discipline**

1. The discipline of this church in doctrinal and moral matters shall be entrusted to the pastor and the elders. Any disciplinary action that is deemed necessary shall be in the spirit of love (2 Thess. 3:14,15; Gal. 6:1). No accusation shall be brought against any members except upon the testimony of two or three witnesses (2 Cor. 13:1). The individual shall be presented with the charges with the desire and effort to correct the difficulty and restore proper fellowship. He or she shall be summoned to meet with the elders not more than two weeks subsequently. The individual, on being notified, may immediately select any member of the elders to assist or represent him or her in the examination while the chairman of the board shall appoint one of its members to represent the elders.

After a fair and impartial hearing of all the witnesses accessible and all facts ascertained, if the majority believes him or her guilty, the individual may be dismissed from membership. Failure on the part of the individual to appear for hearing shall not prevent the elders from examining the case and rendering a verdict in accordance with the testimony received.

2. Those whose heretical doctrine is so opposed to the church's life and faith as to destroy the possibility of fellowship shall be dismissed from the membership.

3. Those who are guilty of gross sin may be dismissed from the membership or placed on the inactive roll and forbidden to partake of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 5:11-13). Persistent unchristian conduct shall result in being dropped from the church membership rolls by action of the elders. The names of any whose status of membership has been changed shall be reported at a regular business meeting.

**D. Restoration of fellowship and/or membership** will be granted upon due repentance and presentation

## ARTICLE VI (Government)

**Introduction:** The government is vested in the active membership and executed through duly elected officers, board, committees, and employees in accordance with all provisions of this constitution.

### A. Meetings

The fiscal year of the church ends on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. All business meetings shall be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month following the end of the quarter, and the annual business meeting shall be held at the time of the regular January quarterly business meeting. All church business meetings shall be given an official notice which consists of the following: "Notice of said meeting shall be given from the pulpit and published in the church bulletin on each of the two Sundays immediately preceding said meeting."

Robert's Rules of Order (latest edition) shall be the parliamentary manual of this church except where it may be contrary to this constitution.

A quorum shall consist of 50% of the eligible members who have attended at least one (1) regularly scheduled business meeting during the last 12 months and are not prevented from currently attending a meeting as a result of distance or illness. Prior to the church's annual business meeting, the board shall review the various memberships to establish an accurate count of members in the different categories. This roster will be used for roll call at the annual meeting. All business meetings shall be chaired by the board chairman or some other person if the board desires.

The meeting shall consist of the following:

1. Roll call of members present and minutes of preceding annual or quarterly meeting
2. Report by church clerk
3. Current financial report
4. Reports from each of the church organizations and the pastor

**All annual meeting reports** are to be in writing and will become part of the record of the church. If a verbal addition to the report is made, the clerk will record the addition in the meeting minutes.

5. Any additional old or new business as required

The official board may call a special meeting of the church to transact business, providing the meeting and business has been given official notice.

It shall be the right of any member or number of members to petition the board and be granted a hearing at a regular board meeting. If, following a hearing with the board, a group of members desires a special business meeting, such meeting shall be called by the board upon written request of 25% of the active membership. An official notice must be given prior to the meeting, and no question may be voted upon at this meeting unless stated in the official notice of the meeting.

All quarterly meetings are to be patterned after the annual business meeting.

The board or committee chairman, respectively, shall have the authority to change and reschedule any church or committee meeting date or time.

The board normally meets on the third Thursday of each month unless otherwise decided by the board.

### B. Voting

1. Voting at business meetings shall be restricted to active members eighteen years of age and over. All congregational voting, where not otherwise specified, shall require a two-thirds majority vote in order to pass.
2. Active members who are unable, because of sickness or other acceptable reasons, to be present at business meeting may appoint a proxy (*Proxy form* to be used) to act on their behalf, or may vote by absentee ballot by obtaining an official ballot from the church clerk. The ballot is to be enclosed in an envelope bearing the signature of the voter and presented at the meeting. The clerk or duly designated agent appointed by the board shall verify the eligibility of the absentee voter and present the inner envelope to the tellers.
3. Failure to indicate a choice of any item on a ballot will be considered a blank ballot for that item only and will not be counted when compiling the results on that item.

### C. Selection and Election of Church Officers

The Scriptural qualifications for office of elder (bishop) and deacon should be carefully read (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9).

The selection process:

1. The board explains/reviews the qualifications and needs of church officers to be filled in the leadership positions of the church for the fiscal year at the October membership meeting. Members will be encouraged to submit names to the board for consideration. December 1 will be the last date names can be submitted to the board for consideration at their regular meeting.
2. The board meets to evaluate and develop a slate of nominees. This slate is part of the agenda for the annual membership meeting.
3. At the annual meeting of the membership, the nominee slate will be evaluated in the following manner:
  - a. Open discussion of the nominees, name by name. (Nominees and family will be excused from the discussion and leave the room.)
  - b. When all the discussion has been completed, the voting procedure will take place.
4. Exceptions to the above, due to vacancies or additions, may be recommended by the board at any membership meeting with a possible vote taken at the meeting.

**D. Elected Officers:** The official board (referred to in this constitution as the “board”) and officers

General statement: Jesus Christ alone is the Head of His Church (Col. 1:18). He has ordained that individual churches should be governed by Himself through elders and deacons whom He appoints, who are endowed by His Spirit with the gifts and graces needed to accomplish their work. Christ has ordained that local churches are to be administered by elders and deacons (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 3:1-13).

1. Board

- a. The church board shall be composed of elders and deacons with three-year limits on staggered schedules. All board members are to be active church members. Each board member is expected to be at board meetings. If the board decides the member is not able to carry out his board responsibility, he may be addressed to the church membership by the elders (in accordance with the church constitution) at a regular or special meeting and reviewed for dismissal from the board.
- b. 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.
- c. Any individual set apart to one of these offices should be able to conscientiously affirm, and openly discuss, his agreement with the church’s faith and constitution. If he should at any time move from this position, he would be under spiritual and moral obligations to immediately make that fact known to the elders in an orderly manner.
- d. At the November board meeting the board is to review memberships and church officers. At this same meeting each board member should be evaluated in accordance with the preceding item c.
- e. While we acknowledge the valuable gifts which God has given women and the valuable assistance they may render to the church, we believe Scripture teaches church women are not to hold either the office of deacon or elder in the church (1 Tim. 3:2). Women, therefore, shall not be nominated, elected or ordained to either of these offices in the church (Titus 1:6). Since it is also a violation of the Scriptures for a woman to exercise authority over a man in spiritual things, no woman shall be appointed to a teaching or authoritative function in a ministry of the church where adult men would be regularly under her ministry. Nevertheless, we acknowledge and encourage the valuable gifts and assistance of women in the formal instruction of children and other women (Titus 2:3-5), in the informal instruction even of men, and in the benevolent ministries of the church (1 Tim. 3:11; 5:9,10).

2. Elders

- a. Those who have been called of God to rule and teach in the church are called elders, pastors, or bishops. These are interchangeable names designating one and the same office in a New Testament church (Acts 20:17,28; Eph. 4:11,12; Titus 1:5,7).
- b. Anyone desiring the office of an elder must evidence to God’s people the personal, domestic, and ministerial qualifications that are set forth in the Scriptures (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).

- c. Because the authority of the elders of the church is human authority, it has both high prerogatives and important limitations:
- (1) It is divinely-delegated authority. Thus, elders are answerable to God for the exercise of this authority (Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:17). Therefore, elders are obligated to discharge all of the duties specified by God in the Scriptures (particularly in such passages as Acts 20:17,28ff; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; and Heb. 13:17). They must seek to gain the consciences of God's people through the ministry of the Word (1 Tim. 3:2c; 2 Tim. 4:1-2; Heb. 13:17).
  - (2) The authority of the elders does not include the right to make certain decisions unilaterally. In major decisions of church life (such as those having to do with corrective discipline, recognition of officers, and the sale of a church building), the local church as a whole has a voice (Acts 6:2-6; 9:26; 1 Cor. 5:4-5,13; 2 Cor. 2:6). Yet the elders must provide definitive leadership to the church in the making of such decisions.
  - (3) The authority of the elders is limited to the sphere of the local church. Thus, they will not require punishments for sin beyond those of Biblical church discipline, will not invade the Biblically-defined spheres of other divinely-ordained human authorities (husbands, fathers, civil rulers, and employers), and will not command God's people regarding matters not specified in Scriptures except to order the house of God by the application of His Word (Matt. 22:21; Luke 12:13-14; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:3a; Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-26; 6:1; 1 Cor. 7:25-28,35-40).
  - (4) The authority of elders is conditioned by the fact that they are themselves members of the local church. While elders are shepherds over the flock, they are also members of the flock. Therefore, each individual elder is entitled to the same privileges, is obligated by the same responsibilities, and is subject to the same discipline as are all the other members of the church. Thus, each individual elder is both under the oversight of his fellow elders and accountable to the church as a whole (Matt. 18:17; 23:9; Gal. 2:11; 3 John 1,9,10).
  - (5) The authority of every elder (or pastor) is the same. Thus, every elder has equal rule in the church. Though gifts possessed and functions performed will vary from elder to elder, this diversity must not undermine real parity among the elders (Acts 20:28; Gal. 2:11; 1 Tim. 5:17).
  - (6) Finally, the authority of the elders is very real authority. God's people are, therefore, required to submit when it is Biblically exercised (Heb. 13:17; note also the Scriptural titles and functions of the office).
- d. One crucial aspect of the elders' duties is personally overseeing the flock of God.
- Pastor, with the assistance of the elders, shall care for the spiritual welfare of the congregation, and all duties ascribed to them in other parts of this constitution.

### 3. Deacons

- a. Deacons are responsible primarily to administer the benevolent concerns of the church as well as its business affairs (Acts 6:1-4). They must fulfill the duties of their office in cooperation with, and in subjection to, the elders.
- b. The church shall set apart, according to its need, men who evidence the Scriptural qualifications for that office (Acts 6:1-7; 1 Tim. 3:8-13).

### 4. Duties and Responsibility:

- a. The board shall assume supervision of all sub-organizations of the church. At the first board meeting after the annual business meeting, the board shall elect from its members a chairman and vice-chairman; and from the church membership, appoint an assistant clerk and an assistant treasurer. Committee appointments: missionary committee; youth advisory committee; Sunday school superintendent; usher; others as required, i.e. music, worship, Christian education, etc.
- b. At the first board meeting in October, the board shall appoint a budget committee. Ref: Article XI, Sec. D., 1., for details.
- c. The board shall not expend an amount in excess of \$1,000.00 without authorization of the church membership.
- d. The board shall also review membership as outlined in Article V, Sec. B., 1.; Article VI, Sec. D., 1., d.
- e. Elected officials: A church treasurer and a church clerk shall be elected from the active membership. These officers shall serve as non-board members, unless otherwise requested by the board. The job descriptions are listed in Article XI, Sec. C., 4. and 5.

## ARTICLE VII (Ministry)

A. **Pastor**, under shepherd, of the flock, (a leader among leaders) as in 1 Peter 5:2-3, serving with an attitude consistent with Col. 3:23-25.

1. General: Preaching, teaching, training, mentoring, shepherding, and counseling. A model of Christ, through caring, nurturing, obedience to Christ. A deep love for Christ and His people. A compassion for souls and for the lost community in which he lives. The pastor with the elders shall watch over the spiritual life and ministry activity of this church. Job description is listed in detail in Article XII, Sec. C., 1.
2. Accountability: The pastor is accountable to the church board.
3. Call: The official church board shall become the pulpit committee and shall arrange for pulpit supply when the church is without a pastor. At the board's discretion, a liaison person, or search committee, can be established to carry out the required duties of the pulpit committee. Such a committee should be composed of no less than two board members and five church members.
  - a. The pulpit committee's duty shall be to communicate with prospective candidates; to get information necessary to meet the qualifications of a pastor as required by this constitution as well as any other information that it thinks would be helpful in final choice of a pastor.
  - b. Before an offer to a candidate is given by the pulpit committee, the membership shall be briefed on the qualifications at an announced meeting so that it can intelligently vote at a special business meeting the Wednesday following the last day the candidate has spoken. A public announcement of the date the candidate is coming must be made at least two Sundays in advance.
  - c. The pulpit committee is to make all arrangements for the candidate to visit this church.
  - d. Following shall be the method of voting for the final acceptance or rejection of the candidate:
    - (1) The vote must be by ballot.
    - (2) Two appointed tellers shall count the ballots publicly.
    - (3) Only members eighteen years or older, in good standing, may vote. (See Article V, Sec. A.)
    - (4) To have a valid vote, at least 50% of the total eligible membership must vote.
    - (5) The vote to call a pastor must be by a 75% majority of the eligible members voting.
    - (6) Each candidate shall be voted on separately at the time of his candidating, and shall not be in competition with anyone else.
    - (7) A new pastor cannot be called unless he is in full accord with the constitution and doctrinal statement of this church, and must affix his signature to a statement declaring the same, and pledging himself not to depart therefrom (Article XI, Sec. C., 1.).
4. Termination of the pastorate: The pastor shall serve the pastorate until it is terminated by his written resignation, or by request of the congregation, effective not less than thirty days, or not more than sixty days, unless otherwise agreed upon by mutual consent of the church (2/3 vote of all eligible voters). In case of an abrupt dismissal, the salary involved shall continue for sixty days or less, should he find other employment. Once his resignation has been tendered, the pastor will no longer be entitled to a vote on the church board in doctrinal and procedural matters. His vote as a congregation member is unchanged.

The following reasons are considered as grounds of dismissal:

- a. Proven immorality; worldly conduct; difference in doctrine of the position of the church (For any of the above three reasons, the pulpit is to be given up immediately.)
- b. For the loss of confidence of the people
  - (1) The elders shall prayerfully and carefully counsel with the pastor about the problem involved, but with no evident resolving of said problem; and
  - (2) following two notices having been read at two Sunday morning worship services previous to said time of voting; and
  - (3) with the charge against the pastor having been presented by the elders verbally, or in writing to him, not less than three days before said business meeting is to be held, he then can be removed by a 75% majority of the members voting.

## **B. Christian Education Director**

Upon the need and desirability, a Christian education director shall be called by a two-thirds majority vote of the board after being selected by a special committee of the board, appointed by the board chairman. The pastor shall be a member of the special committee. The Christian education director, by virtue of his office, shall formulate, correlate and supervise the Christian education program of this church. He shall discuss with the pastor any plans relating to the overall program of Christian education prior to being submitted to the board or its committees. He shall apply for membership of this church and be required to sign a statement annually of agreement with this constitution.

## **C. Youth Director**

Upon the need and desirability, the youth director shall formulate, correlate and supervise the youth program of this church. He shall be called (with consent of the pastor) by and be responsible to the official board. He shall apply for membership of this church and be required to sign an annual statement of agreement with this constitution.

## **D. Director of Music**

Upon the need and desirability, the music director shall formulate, correlate and supervise the music program of this church. He shall be called (with consent of the pastor) by and be responsible to the official board. He shall apply for membership of this church and be required to sign an annual statement of agreement with this constitution.

## **ARTICLE VIII (Licensing, Commissioning and Ordination)**

### **A. Licensing**

As Spirit-filled men are called out from among us to proclaim the gospel of the grace of God, such men may be given a renewable one-year license to preach and administer the ordinances by a two-thirds majority of the elders, provided that two-thirds of the elders are of the opinion that the candidate has suitable gifts.

### **B. Commissioning**

When approved by the missionary committee and upon request of the missionary to be commissioned, said commissioning must be presented to and approved by a three-fourths majority of the board to become effective.

### **C. Ordination**

1. When in the judgment of the pastor with the elders, a man in this membership, or in special cases a non-member, is called to the Christian ministry, it shall be within the power of the elders to call and conduct a council of ordination. This only after the approval of the church has been obtained by a three-fourths majority vote. This council shall consist of three or more ordained Christian ministers and if possible, include one delegate from each of several fundamental churches invited to participate.
2. The council of ordination shall thoroughly examine the applicant regarding his personal Christian experience, call to the ministry, educational training, doctrinal belief, reputation, and demonstrated efficiency in Christian service. The applicant shall give evidence of agreement with those provisions of the constitution of this church with respect to doctrine, independence of the local church, and Scriptural qualifications for church leadership.

### **D. Power of Revocation**

1. The elders shall have the power to discipline, even to the revoking of the ordination credentials, license or commission of any minister or missionary ordained, licensed or commissioned under this constitution, if said minister or missionary is found guilty of doctrinal or moral defection after an impartial trial conducted in the spirit of 1 Corinthians 13.
2. Failure on the part of the minister or missionary to appear for the hearing will not prevent the elders from examining the case and rendering a verdict in accordance with the testimony received.

## ARTICLE IX (Property)

- A. The title of all real estate and personal property acquired by purchase, deed, gift, transfer, inheritance or other conveyance shall be held and administered in the name of Calvary Bible Church of Rogers City, Inc. (a Michigan corporation). No real estate shall be sold, mortgaged or otherwise encumbered or disposed of without the consent of three-fourths of the eligible voters present at a business meeting of the church, for which business due notice shall be given.
- B. In the event of the dissolution of the Calvary Bible Church of Rogers City, Inc., all its assets, after the settlement of all debts, shall be given to incorporated non-profit Christian organizations that subscribe to the same complete doctrine as outlined in Article III of this constitution, and in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of the Internal Revenue Service.

## ARTICLE X (Amendments)

- A. These articles of the constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of all voting members present at any quarterly, annual or special meeting of the church, providing the proposed change has been presented in writing and read at two Sunday morning worship services of the church prior to voting upon the amendment.
- B. The adoption of these articles shall supercede any and all previous articles of the constitution of this church.

## ARTICLE XI (Church Policies, Job Descriptions and Committees)

- A. **Observance:** All policies authorized by the membership of the church shall be strictly observed.
- B. **Change Procedures:** This article of the constitution (Article XI) may contain data, i.e. fees, rates, rents, etc. that may be changed without a constitutional amendment procedure.

The membership will consider changes, of the previously mentioned data on policies, at any business meeting. Any action on a two-thirds vote will be recorded by the church clerk in the official minutes of the meeting.

### C. Job Descriptions

1. **Pastor:** The pastor shall be an elder/member of the board and an ex-officio (*non-voting*) member of all committees. He shall be required to become a member of Calvary Bible Church and annually sign a statement of his agreement with this constitution, both doctrinally and procedurally.  
Duties:
  - a. The pastor shall preach and teach the Word, administer the ordinances, and have charge of the church services.
  - b. Share in the ministries of the church, such as children's ministry, youth ministry and adult ministry.
  - c. Visitation with congregation, the sick and others as needed and/or required.
  - d. Share in the administration of the church.
  - e. Keep the board and congregation informed of office hours and where he can be reached when not in the office.
  - f. Leadership in developing and implementing the church vision.
  - g. Identifying and developing congregational gifts of ministry.
  - h. Community involvement, showing a compassion consistent with Christ's love of non-believers, as well as believers, with an attitude of cooperation, willing to set aside differences in man-made non-essentials for the sake of sharing the gospel.
2. **Elder:** Elders together with the pastor shall care for the spiritual welfare of the congregation and all the duties ascribed to them in other parts of this constitution. Elders have an accountability to the board.
3. **Deacon:** Share in the administration of the business matters of the church. Deacons have an accountability to the board. Deacons are responsible for the care and distribution of the benevolent fund.
4. **Clerk:** The clerk shall keep a record of all business transacted at the membership business meetings and shall keep an accurate record of the membership, and carry on all necessary correspondence. All church papers, records and documents are under the authority and supervision of the clerk. Records are to be readily available to the board chairman for reference purposes.

The clerk's term of office will be for two years.

5. **Treasurer:** The treasurer shall receive and disburse church funds and shall be responsible to the board. The treasurer shall make a written financial report for the monthly board meetings and written quarterly and annual financial reports to the membership at the regular business meetings.
- a. The treasurer shall submit the books for an annual audit. The audit shall be conducted after December 31. The audit report will be available, if possible, at the annual congregational meeting for that fiscal year.
  - b. The treasurer's term of office will be for three (3) years.
- D. **Committees;** structure and schedule. All committees are responsible to the church board. Committee reports will be available at congregational meetings. All reports for the annual meeting must be written to become part of the record.

**1. Budget Committee**

- Chairman of the board
  - Treasurer and/or assistant treasurer
  - Missionary treasurer (if active)
  - Sunday school superintendent
  - One appointment from the church membership
- Meeting schedule: 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December / Appointed: 1<sup>st</sup> board meeting in October

**2. Missionary Committee**

- Chairman of the board
  - Missionary treasurer (if active)
  - Missionary coordinator of ladies' missionary fellowship
  - One appointment from the church membership
- Meeting schedule: 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November / Appointed: 1<sup>st</sup> board meeting in February

**3. Christian Education Committee** (if required)

- One board member
  - Sunday school superintendent
  - Youth ministries representative
  - One elementary class S.S. teacher
  - One adult S.S. teacher
- Meeting schedule: At the discretion of the committee, with a minimum of one meeting per quarter prior to the membership meeting of that quarter / Appointed: 1<sup>st</sup> board meeting in February

**4. Scholarship Committee** (if required)

- Chairman of the board
  - Church treasurer
- Meeting schedule: At the discretion of the committee

**5. Youth Ministries Advisory Committee** (if required)

- Youth coordinator, S.S. superintendent
  - Maximum of three from church family
- Meeting schedule: Quarterly / Appointed: 1<sup>st</sup> board meeting in February

**6. Worship Committee** (if required)

- Chairman as appointed by the board
  - A minimum of three people from the church family approved by the church board annually or as needed
- Meeting schedule: At the discretion of the committee / Approved: 1<sup>st</sup> board meeting in February

**7. Planning Committee** (if required)

- All committee chairmen
  - Other interested persons
- Meeting schedule: In August

**8. Audit Committee**

Three people from within, or outside, the church body appointed by the church board. In addition, the church treasurer and assistant treasurer (if possible) are part of this committee. The action and responsibility of this committee is to work in conjunction with Article XI.C.5.

**E. Church Election Policies and Procedures**

- 1. Church year ends December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 2. During the church board meetings in February and November, the board shall appoint committees and positions. Reference Article IX.

**F. Fee/Rate/Gift/Schedule**

This schedule is to be reviewed annually, in March, by the church board.

Fees, rates, or gifts not listed are to be decided on a case-by-case basis by the church board.

Further definition of each category can be found elsewhere in this article of the constitution.

**1. Fees for non-members**

- a. Building use fee – daily rate
  - (1) Nov. – Apr.                   \$75.00
  - (2) May – Oct.                   \$50.00
 (monthly and annual rates to be calculated based on the number of days used)
- b. Janitorial compensation (if required) – including supplies       \$35.00
- c. Kitchen – use of utilities, utensils, appliances                   \$25.00

**2. Rates**

- a. Pulpit supply
  - (1) Sunday worship service           \$150.00
  - (2) Sunday class                       Case by case
  - (3) Midweek service                   Case by case
  - (4) Mileage                               Case by case
- b. All speakers will be paid through the general fund.
- c. At the discretion of the board, in special cases, a flat remuneration fee (combining speaking and mileage) will override the above rate schedule.

*NOTE: The budget for the year 2009 did not allow for the designation of funds for pulpit supply. It was decided and approved by the church, as part of the 2009 budget, to void the above pulpit supply policy and receive a love offering for the support of any guest speakers.*

**3. Gifts**

Memorials/flowers for funerals within the church family, and for immediate family (parents, children) of church members, shall be administered by the LMF. Gifts for graduating high school seniors within the church family shall be administered by the church board. Exceptions shall be on a case-by-case basis, subject to church board approval.

**G. Finance**

- 1. Church expenditure policy: No one may purchase items without consent of a board member and the amount should not exceed \$25.00. All items should be charged, signed by the purchaser and a receipt given to the church treasurer.
- 2. Auditing of church's books: Our church financial books will be audited once a year in January. The board will determine who will do the auditing.
- 3. Offering/tithe box: A wall-mounted collection box will be used to receive the tithes and offerings.
- 4. The treasurer can sign an expense check for \$500 and less. Any amount greater than \$500 shall require the co-signature of the assistant treasurer. In the absence of the assistant treasurer, the chairman of the board will be the co-signer.

**H. Memorials; Memorial Donations**

Memorials given to the church will be applied to a project as approved by the board.

### **I. Funeral**

The ladies missionary fellowship group is authorized to spend money from the general fund to purchase meat for a funeral dinner if the family doesn't volunteer. Church and family will agree upon a memorial gift or floral arrangement.

### **J. Assembly**

All membership business meetings shall be preceded by an official notice, announced at Sunday morning worship services and printed in the bulletin two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.

1. Church board meetings  
Should meet at least once per month.
2. Annual business meetings  
Shall be held the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in January, or as scheduled by the board.
3. Quarterly business meetings  
Shall be held the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays in April, July, and October, or as scheduled by the board.  
The agenda and/or purpose is to be made up by the board chairman, typed and posted on the bulletin board two weeks prior to all quarterly business meetings.
4. Ministry & activity planning meetings  
Shall be held in November; an open meeting of the church to plan outline tentative ministry activity, dates and special events for the calendar year
5. See Article VII, Section A.

### **K. Worship Services**

Any exceptions from the policies below must be approved by the church board.

Participation in worship service; the qualifications for anyone leading a worship service and/or in a teaching assignment:

1. Any person who has accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior and has a good testimony may, by invitation, lead and/or participate in a worship service (lead singing, singing, praying, etc.) on an occasional basis; unless otherwise directed by the board.
2. Anyone teaching Sunday school class or Bible study on church property, or board approved location, shall submit annually to the board a statement of doctrinal agreement (see Calvary Bible Church of Rogers City, Doctrine Acceptance) and agree to be accountable to the church board. In addition, all lesson plans or outlines are to be available to the elders, or designate.
3. Any person teaching a Sunday school class, youth worker/leader, or anyone preaching from the pulpit must agree to and believe in the doctrine as stated in Article III of this constitution.
  - a. Teacher must be spiritually mature with skills and knowledge of Scripture appropriate for the age group being taught.
  - b. If a teacher is on a permanent basis and not a member of Calvary Bible Church, application for membership must be made within twelve months of starting the teaching assignment.

### **L. Misc.**

1. Definitions
  - a. Church family – members and/or others saved and attending church services regularly
  - b. Church friend – interested in church ministry and attending regularly
  - c. Church member – see Article IV, Section B.

#### 2. Media

Communication, whether vocal or in writing, which would inadvertently or otherwise convey the Christian stand or doctrine of the Calvary Bible Church of Rogers City, must be cleared by the official church board prior to being made public to mass media.

## M. Missionaries and Missionary Organizations

CBC missionary policy:

1. Goal: To present/teach the gospel, which includes one or more of the following:

- a. Evangelism and teaching
- b. Church planting, with the goal towards self-support
- c. Support ministries
- d. Retirement adjustment\*

2. Qualifications and Correspondence

All missionaries financially supported by CBC shall be required to furnish a signed statement of doctrine and submit a statement of total income upon request. The elder board will review as required annually each signed statement of doctrine and make recommendations to the membership.

In addition, the missionary or organization will:

- a. Meet one or more of the above goals.
- b. New missionaries requesting CBC support will provide the following prior to church consideration:
  - (1) A description of their proposed work and how it conforms to the above goals
  - (2) Quarterly correspondence (at a minimum) with CBC, sharing progress on goals and prayer requests for a 12-month period prior to CBC consideration
  - (3) Their anticipated monthly financial need and current progress toward meeting that need
  - (4) Their proposed support base from individuals and from organizations (organizations include churches, mission boards, etc.); for example, 25% from individuals and 75% from organizations
  - (5) At least one visit to CBC to share their work during the 12 months, if possible
  - (6) Their current training and means of preparing themselves for the mission field
- c. Correspondence from supported missionaries:
  - (1) At least quarterly correspondence sharing progress on goals and prayer requests and needs
  - (2) Their annual anticipated financial need for the upcoming year
  - (3) At least one visit to CBC to share their work during the year if local, or during furloughs, if possible
- d. Organization correspondence will be at least quarterly. In addition, the organization will submit an annual anticipated financial need for their upcoming fiscal year.

3. CBC commitment, by God's grace:

- a. CBC's commitment will be annual. CBC will conduct at its annual meeting a review of the missionaries. Changes or additions will be decided at this time.
- b. New missionary will only be considered if the 12-month introductory period has been completed. The 12-month period will begin when the required forms (a request for consideration and agreement with missionary policy) are returned to CBC by the missionaries. The annual meeting is conducted on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday following the end of the fiscal year, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

4. CBC will have the following types of missionary and organization disbursements, the amounts to be reviewed annually:

a. Missionaries

- (1) A quarterly commitment. This disbursement depends on length of service with CBC and will be reviewed annually:

0-5 years	\$75.00 per month
>5-10 years	\$100.00 per month
>10 years	\$125.00 per month

*NOTE: In 2008, the CBC board with the approval of the membership, suspended this disbursement from the general budget and went to a "faith giving" approach, encouraging people to give above and beyond their regular giving to support our missionaries. Whatever comes in is divided equally among our missionary families and sent out quarterly.*

- (2) A gift from the missionary special fund. This will be determined on an as needed basis to be recommended by the missionary committee to the church board. The fund will strive to have in reserve a one-month missionary commitment at all times.
- (3) Missionary-of-the-month disbursement (*suspended in 2008*)
- (4) \*Retirement adjustment. A supported missionary will receive their monthly disbursement up to one month after the official date of retirement, after which all disbursements from the missionary funds will cease for that missionary.

b. Organizations

A quarterly payment of \$75.00 per month

**N. Pastor's Leave Policy**

1. Vacation: After the first year of service, the pastor is extended 2 weeks, 2 Sundays of paid vacation, unless otherwise agreed upon. After three years, he is entitled to 3 weeks, 3 Sundays. After five years, he is entitled to 4 weeks, 4 Sundays. It is expected the pastor will take his vacation time by the week, including Sunday.
  - a. Desiring to recognize a new pastor's ministry experience, the board may adjust the vacation time length offered, as well as the starting point of vacation availability to him.
  - b. The board chairman is to maintain the record of the pastor's vacation schedule. The board chairman may authorize unscheduled/emergency vacation requests by the pastor.
  - c. The pastor is responsible for notification, scheduling and arrangements with the board concerning his vacation time(s).

2. Conferences

The board has established that the pastor would have up to 10 days per year for seminars, conferences, and speaking engagements. These days are not vacation days, nor do they include the pastor being away on Sundays, unless arrangements were made because of necessity.

3. Pulpit supply

- a. May be called at the discretion of the pastor with the church board.
- b. Speaker must be in full agreement with our articles of faith (doctrine). Exceptions are to be approved by the church board.
- c. The remuneration for guest speakers and pulpit supply will be determined by the church board and stated in the Fee schedule.

**O. Weddings**

1. The pastor must first be contacted by the applicants desiring to be married, and they must give their testimonies to him. The pastor will then give them the application form to be completed and returned for his and the church board's final approval.
2. The applicants must give the pastor a sixty-day notice.
3. If the wedding is to be performed on a Saturday, it must be completely over by 6:00 p.m.
4. Fees for janitorial service and building rental shall be included. All fees shall be in accordance with the Fee schedule.

**P. Nursery**

1. Nursery services will be available for babies.
2. Parents are to pick up babies.
3. If parents are needed in the nursery, they will be notified.

## Q. Property / Building Use

Calvary Bible Church on board approval will lease or permit Christian or other non-profit organizations that serve our community and in which the general membership of our church would be comfortable being a member of, the use of our facilities for their training classes, meetings, suppers.

Each organization shall sign an agreement provided by CBC exempting CBC from the following:

1. Liability related to any physical bodily injury which might occur while in the building or on the property or grounds of 380 Linden Street
2. Release of responsibility for any loss, damage, or theft of any property owned by the user in the described building, property or grounds

In addition, the organization agrees to pay in full for any damage done by the organization to the above property. Further, we will not permit smoking or consumption of alcoholic beverages, and we require each group to clean up and carry their refuse from the premises.

## R. General

1. Annually, in April, the church board shall supervise an inventory of the church property.
2. Only church members may borrow church equipment, and they will be held responsible for any damage done to the equipment borrowed. Any exceptions must be authorized by a member of the church board.
3. A written record will be kept, by the deacons, of who borrows what in the inventory book to be kept by the deacons in the secretary's office. The date the item is borrowed and the date it is returned should all be recorded.

## S. Kitchen Policies

1. There will be a chairman of the kitchen selected by the ladies' missionary fellowship group.
2. The policies of the kitchen are to be established and published by the LMF for the church membership and board record.

## T. Scholarship Program

**Purpose:** The purpose of the CBC scholarship program is to, where possible, financially assist those who have dedicated their lives to God, who have proven by their life their love for the Lord and who are preparing for or are involved in full-time Christian service.

**Candidates:** Candidates will be members in good standing of CBC. Candidates must submit a letter application to the CBC board requesting a scholarship grant. The application must include details outlining how the funds will be used to further equip them to serve in full-time ministry and identify the institution they are or will be attending.

**Scholarship Details:** Scholarships will be available on an annual basis in an amount to be determined annually by the CBC board. The amount will be divided by semester, quarter, or whatever system the selected institution utilizes. Scholarships cover a single school year, requiring an annual reapplication. Candidates not selected for a scholarship on year may apply in subsequent years with the same qualifications applying. The candidate must carry enough credit hours to be classified as a full-time student. The CBC board will act within 30 days of receipt of a complete and qualified application.

**Scholarship Agreement:** The college or institution's doctrinal statement must be in harmony with the doctrinal statement of CBC. Candidate agrees to carry a minimum of 10 credit hours per semester/quarter. Recipient must provide proof of having maintained a "B" average during each year they are a scholarship recipient to qualify for consideration the following year. Each scholarship recipient must agree in writing to the conditions of the CBC scholarship program.

**Scholarship Funding:** Funds required to support the CBC scholarship fund will be provided from the Special Ministries account, as available, and/or special gifts.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP  
CALVARY BIBLE CHURCH OF ROGERS CITY, MICHIGAN**

*(Please fill out and submit to the church board. If you need more space, use the back of this sheet or attach another sheet.)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Children</u>	<u>Birthdates</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

1. I would like to be united in fellowship with Calvary Bible Church:  
\_\_\_\_ by confession of faith in Jesus Christ  
\_\_\_\_ by transfer from \_\_\_\_\_ Church of \_\_\_\_\_
2. Please give the time and circumstance of your conversion (your personal testimony of God's grace bringing you to faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and the change that He has wrought in your life).

3. Concerning baptism:  
\_\_\_\_ I have obeyed the Lord in public, water baptism as a believer in Christ.  
If yes, please tell us when, where, and person officiating? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Have you attended CBC membership classes? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

\* \* \* \* \*

**MEMBERSHIP COVENANT**

I have read the constitution of Calvary Bible Church, including the Scripture references contained therein, and agree to abide by it. To the loving leadership of the church officers, I do solemnly assume the responsibilities of membership (*detailed in Article IV of the church constitution*). I will strive to live to honor my Lord and Savior in my walk and conversation. I further promise to cheerfully contribute to the financial support of this church and its gospel outreach and to use the gifts and talents God has given me to build up the body of Christ (Eph. 4:11-13). I will pray for the leadership of the Holy Spirit in my life and the ministry life of this church.

I hereby desire to join my name to the membership roll of Calvary Bible Church; and if my conduct is ever such that the church board feels that my continued membership with this church is detrimental to it, they may return to me this signed application and thus sever my membership with this church.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date appeared before the board \_\_\_\_\_ Date accepted into membership \_\_\_\_\_

Upon adoption, this constitution supercedes and nullifies all previous constitutions and policies.

#### DATE OF ADOPTION

Constitution of the Calvary Bible Church adoption date: March 3, 1999

#### POLICY REVISIONS / AMENDEMENTS

Revision of policies, adoption date: October 27, 1999

Revision of doctrinal statement and wording of membership responsibilities, adoption date:  
October 25, 2000

Revision of church fiscal year/annual meeting policy and missionary policy, adoption date:  
January 24, 2001

Revision of doctrinal statement, adoption date: January 22, 2003

Revision of policies (T. Scholarship Program), adoption date: November 5, 2008

Amendment of Article II, adoption date: October 28, 2009

Revision of a policy (Article XI, F, 3. Gifts), adoption date: October 24, 2012

Addition of a statement on marriage (Article III, N.), adoption date: October 22, 2014

Revision of Article IV.A.2. (order of procedures for membership) and policies (terms of clerk and treasurer, description of committees), adoption date: July 26, 2017