

Green Lake Calvary Church

CHURCH CONSTITUTION



Green Lake Calvary Church
Rooted and Growing in Jesus Christ



BY-LAWS

I. Membership

Section A

Persons desiring to unite with this church, upon confession of their faith, shall be examined by the Elder Board as to their Christian experience and the basis of their salvation; likewise those with letters of recommendation from sister churches, shall present them in person to the Board. Applicants whose examinations are satisfactory will be recommended to the church for membership; and when approved by the Board, will be notified by the church office when to appear to be received into membership.

Section B

All public and private means of grace, such as regular attendance at the service of God's house (including the Lord's Supper) the daily, systematic reading of the Bible, private and family prayer, personal and public testimony, and the winning of others to Christ, shall be urged upon our members.

Section C

We also assert our conviction that proportionate giving is a distinct and positive command in the Scriptures (Malachi 3:8-11) and pledge ourselves to a systematic contribution for the support of the church, of such portion of our income as we believe God requires of us, according to the principle laid down in I Corinthians 16:2.

Section D

We shall require of each other in our daily walk and conversation, loyal obedience to all those moral precepts laid down in the Word of God so plainly as not to need definition.

II. Government

Section A: Governing Body

The government is vested in the members of whom this church is composed.

Section B: *Congregational Meeting*

The church may be called together for the transaction of any legitimate business by a majority vote of the Board, notice of such meeting having been given at two regular church meetings preceding the day appointed. At any legally called congregational meeting, twenty percent of active members will constitute a quorum. The annual congregational meeting of the church shall be held the second Monday of June of each year. At this meeting shall occur the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, annual reports, the election of officers and other necessary business. The Clerk shall keep the minutes, and the meeting shall be governed by parliamentary rules. The voting shall be restricted to members of eighteen years of age or older.

Section C: *The Board*

Election of Elders and Deacons

The voting members of the church shall elect all offices by ballot, and a majority of all votes cast shall be required to elect. All candidates for the church Board shall have been a member of the church for at least one year.

Section D: *Work Of The Board*

All other powers, such as examination of candidates for membership, discipline, appropriation of all monies and supervision of sub-organizations, shall be vested in the Board consisting of the incumbents of the following offices and elected as above described:

The Pastor, not less than two Deacons and two Elders; each member shall be elected by the congregation for a period of two years, after which time they preferably drop out for a period of at least a year. In case of vacancy of said members of Board, an appointed member to fill out the unexpired term shall be nominated by the Board and approved by the congregation. All members of the Board shall be members of this church.

Section E: *Change of Constitution*

The church may make any change in the constitution which seems necessary; but such changes must be submitted to the members in a written form at least two weeks

previous to the meeting, and can be adopted only by the vote of two-thirds of the membership then present.

Section F: *Ordination*

This church believes that it is God's holy will to actively commission men to the Gospel ministry. Such men who are Spirit-called and Spirit-filled may be ordained to preach the gospel and to administer the ordinances. This church by a two-thirds vote, and a two-thirds vote of the Board, may approve and ordain men who meet the following qualifications:

1. Each candidate for ordination, will be examined by a council of Biblically sound pastors, as to their salvation experience, call to the ministry, education, doctrinal belief, character, reputation, and demonstrated efficiency in Christian service.
2. Each candidate must serve at least one year as a pastor, assistant pastor, or in definite Christian work in such manner as to convey reasonable evidence of God's call to the ministry.
3. Upon the approval of the special council, the candidate will then be ordained by this church, and an ordination service will be held for this purpose.

If at any time following the ordination service, the person who has been ordained by the church fails to live up to the beliefs we embrace, and brings reproach upon the gospel ministry, this person will be examined, and approached in the spirit of I Corinthians 13, and if all attempts of restoration are fruitless, this church has the prerogative to repeal the ordination Powers and Papers.

Section G: *Committees & Sub Organizations*

Committees appointed for the administration of the various phases of the work shall be approved by the Board. Every committee and organization shall report regularly to the Board and annually to the church.

III. *The Board*

THE PASTOR

The Pastor shall be chosen by ballot by a two-thirds majority of voting members present.

Nominations having been presented by the Board, and shall, by virtue of his office, discharge all the functions of the ministry. He shall be ex-officio member of all committees.

ELDERS

There shall be an indefinite number of Elders, not less than two, who shall be in actual service. They shall be elected for a two year term, shall assist in the administration of the Lord's Supper, interview new members, and such other spiritual offices as the work of God assigns.

DEACONS

There shall be an indefinite number of Deacons, not less than two, elected for two years each, and entrusted with such responsibilities as the finances and building and grounds upkeep, and as the work of God assigns.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD:

The officers of the Board shall be as follows: Chairman, Vice- Chairman, Clerk, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer, to be chosen by the Board from its membership and to serve one year.

DUTIES

Chairman:

The chairman shall perform such duties as usually appertain to that office.

Vice-Chairman:

The vice-chairman shall perform duties of the chairman in his absence.

Clerk:

The clerk shall keep a record of all business transactions at the Congregational and Board meetings, keep an accurate record of the membership and carry on all necessary correspondence. He shall also secure annually the signatures of persons designated in Article II, Section E.

Treasurer:

The treasurer shall hold and disburse church funds at the direction of the Board. He shall make a monthly report to the Board and an annual report to the congregation. He shall submit the books for an annual audit in such a manner as may be directed by the Board. If assistance is needed, a bookkeeper can be enlisted from the church membership and outside the Board.

Assistant Treasurer:

The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the treasurer.

The Board shall arrange the details of all church meetings and see that all possible preparations for their successful conduct is made. Suggestions shall be made for the offices of Elder and Deacon. by the Board and they shall present them to the church at least two weeks before the last quarterly meeting preceding the annual meeting. Any suggestions from the congregation shall be a signed written statement presented to the Board Chairman seven days before the prescribed meeting.

IV. Discipline

The discipline of the church, being entirely entrusted to the Board by the constitution, shall be exercised according to the following principles:

1) Removal from Roll:

The name of any member who shall be absent from the services of the church for a period of twelve months without giving satisfactory reason for such absence, may be removed from the roll of membership.

2) Excommunication:

In all cases of disorderly conduct or heretical doctrine so opposed to the church's life and faith as to destroy the possibility of fellowship, procedure shall be in the following manner: the suspected person shall first be dealt with and interviewed as directed in Matthew 18:15,18. If this does not lead to restoration of fellowship, charges shall be put in

writing and placed in the hands of the suspected person(s), and he or she summoned to meet the Board at some date not more than two and not less than one week subsequently. After a fair and impartial meeting with board of all the facts ascertainable, if the majority believes him or her guilty, the name of said party shall be removed from the roll and publicly read as excommunicated at the first Sunday morning reception of members succeeding the meeting.

Failure on the part of the accused to appear for the meeting will not prevent the Board from examining the case and rendering a verdict in accord with the testimony received.

V. Property

The right of any property that may be acquired by this church shall be and remain vested in that body of believers who shall remain faithful to the standards of faith and doctrine contained in this Constitution as adopted.

Dissolution Clause:

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 assets. Upon dissolution, any assets of the corporation must be distributed to - first choice, Child Evangelism Fellowship of the State of Michigan, second choice to the Independent Bible Mission and Sudan Interior Mission equally, if they then exist and are exempt from Federal Income Tax, otherwise to one or more organizations recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as one organized exclusively for religious, charitable, literary, or educational purposes.

VI. The Pastor

1) He shall subscribe to the Constitution, By-laws and Doctrinal Statement of the church.

- 2) He shall be a member of this church.
- 3) He shall realize that it is part of his work to call upon the members of the church. It shall be his duty, as well as the duty of all believers to spread the Gospel by means of calling on people not identified with the church.
- 4) He shall realize that this church is an undenominational church, and he shall be most cautious that secondary issues are not exalted and stressed to the dividing of the brethren.
(II Timothy 2:14-24)
- 5) I Timothy 4:12-16

Either party desiring to sever the relationship must be willing to give a 60 day notice of this intention, except for doctrinal or moral defection. In the case of a pastor's leaving by his choice, the Board has the option of waiving this requirement if it is agreeable to the pastor. In any situation when the pastor is leaving, if the Board feels that it is in the best interest of the church, the Board has the right to give the pastor financial compensation equal to 60 days remuneration and terminate the relationship immediately.

- 7) A pastor may be recalled at any time by the following procedure:

The church Board can start a recall action by giving written notice to the church members two weeks before a business meeting at which time a recommendation shall be voted upon. A two-thirds majority vote of active members present shall be deemed necessary to recall.

In the event of doctrinal or moral defection, the pastor's services may be terminated immediately by action of the Board, to be ratified by a majority vote of members present within 30 days.

By-Laws: VII. Marriage, Intimacy, and Appropriate Behavior

Green Lake Calvary Church operates on a strongly-held belief that the marriage relationship has been established by God as a solemn union between a man and a woman (Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:31). Green Lake Calvary Church further holds that, in accordance with the Bible, sexual intimacy and sexual activity is appropriate only within the marriage relationship, between husband and wife (I Corinthians 7:2; 13:4).

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

Accordingly, the following are the views of Green Lake Calvary Church, based on the Bible:

- 1. Marriage can only be between one man and one woman. Therefore, any marriage or civil union that is not between one man and one woman is inappropriate and contrary to the Bible.**
- 2. Sexual intimacy is to be exclusively between a husband and a wife. Any sexual intimacy or sexual act between individuals who are not married to one another is not appropriate.**
- 3. We strongly believe in the Biblical view of marriage, and activity or behavior that is contrary to this Biblical view is improper.**

All individuals involved in Green Lake Calvary Church's operations, activities, and events are expected to uphold the ministry's perspective on marriage, sexual intimacy, and appropriate behavior as set forth in this provision. Individuals and organizations who desire to use Green Lake Calvary Church's facilities must also act in accordance with this provision.

VIII. Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Green Lake Calvary Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Elder Board is Green Lake Calvary Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.