

CHURCH CONSTITUTION
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEWISTON

We, the members of the First Baptist Church of Lewiston, MI do ordain and establish the following articles and Constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLE I – Name

This organization shall be called the First Baptist Church of Lewiston, Michigan.

ARTICLE II – Church Covenant (attached pg. 6)

ARTICLE III – Character of Government

Section 1. Policy. This Church shall be informed in worship and the government is vested in the body of believers of which the Church is composed. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, and no denominational or associational representatives shall ever sit in judgment over its affairs.

Section 2. Doctrine. It receives the Scripture as its final authority in all matters of faith and practice. No interpretation of this Constitution shall in any way overrule the Holy Scriptures. (Authorized King James Bible 1611).

Section 3. Support. The expenses of the Church, including the Pastor's salary, and all various expenses of the various organized functions of the Church and Bible school, shall be raised by the tithes and free-will offerings of God's people. This Church will not permit nor condone the raising of funds by any other manner. The church will however accept revenue from mineral rights.

Section 4. Change of Constitution. The Church may make any amendments in the Constitution which may seem necessary; but such amendments must be submitted to the membership in written form at least two weeks in advance of the business meeting, and can be adopted by the $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the votes cast.

ARTICLE IV – Church Membership

Membership in this Church may be acquired in the following manner:

A. **Baptism.** Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, by vote of the Church, and by baptism by immersion, duly granted by said churches, and upon their public profession of Christ as Savior, and acceptance of the covenant of faith and practice as approved by this Church.

B. **Admission by Letter.** Members of other Baptist churches may be received into membership by virtue of the Letter certifying their baptism by immersion, duly granted by said churches, and upon their public profession of Christ as Savior, and acceptance of the covenant of faith and practice as approved by this Church.

C. **Admission by Christian Experience.** Believers whose membership is not current in another Baptist Church may be received into membership on the basis of their Christian experience, upon the vote of the church, the public confession of Christ as Savior, and the public affirmation of baptism by immersion after salvation.

D. **Termination of Membership.** Any person not willing to live according to the rules given forth in the Holy Scriptures or is guilty of conduct unbecoming a Christian is subject to removal from this local assembly. (I Corinthians 5:11-13; II Thessalonians 3:6; Romans 16:17; Titus 3:10; and Matthew 18:17).

E. **Restoration.** Any person whose membership has been terminated may be restored upon vote of the Church, after evidence of his repentance and reformation, his public confession, and with approval of Pastor and Deacons.

ARTICLE V – Officers of the Church.

Section 1. The officers of this church shall consist of a Pastor, Deacons (number determined by Pastor), Trustees (number determined by Pastor), Clerk, Treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent, and Auditing Committee (if need arises).

ARTICLE VI – Election of Officers.

Section 1. The Pastor shall be elected by a 75% majority of votes cast. See Article VIII for eligible voter's clause. He shall hold office for an indefinite period.

Section 2. Deacons shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Church. They shall be in office for a term of one year. No nominations from the floor will be taken. Nominations must be submitted in written form to the Pastor and Nominating Committee at least one week prior to the annual business meeting. Rules for service are found in I Timothy 3. In the absence of a pastor, the deacons shall call meeting for business.

Section 3. Trustees shall be elected at annual business meeting for a term of one year.

Section 4. The Clerk, Treasurer, and Auditing Committee (if needed) shall be elected annually by the Church, upon recommendation of the Nominating Committee which consists of the Pastor and Deacons.

Section 5. The Sunday School Superintendent shall be appointed by the Pastor.

Section 6. Vacancies in any Church office shall be filled by Pastor's appointment for the balance of the term.

Section 7. The Organist, Pianist, Choir Director, Song Leader, Ushers, Bus Drivers, Nursery attendants, Sunday School teachers and workers, shall be appointed by the Pastor for an indefinite period and shall fulfill their duties under his direction.

Section 8. If an assistant pastor or other employee in the ministry is desired: the pastor and deacons shall agree to nominate him/her at a business meeting.

ARTICLE VII – Duties of Officers

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Pastor to preach regularly at the church, to administer the Ordinances of the Church (Baptism and the Lord's Supper), and to perform the various duties incumbent to his office. He shall be, by virtue of his office, member of all committees and organizations, which include the privilege of voting. The Pastor is responsible for, and in charge of, the pulpit and various supplies and services of the Church.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the deacons to visit the sick, to prepare and distribute the elements of the Lord's Supper, to help the Pastor in the spiritual work of the Church, to assist the Pastor in the performance of his duties, and to authorize the expenditure of the relief funds and mission funds not designated under supervision of the Pastor. It shall also be the duty of the deacons to help the Pastor in the oversight of membership discipline. Deacons shall also be allowed to fulfill the duties of trustees.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of Trustees to have charge and take care of all Church properties. They shall, in conjunction with the Pastor, work out the payment of all Church expenditures, for the carrying on of its general work. No debt shall be incurred by Trustees or any Church officer except by vote of the Church if the amount exceeds \$500.00

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a correct record of the proceedings of the Church, take charge of the records, and keep a register of membership authorized by the Church.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all monies and pay all church bills by check. He shall keep a true and fair book of accounts.

Section 6. It shall be the duty of the Sunday School Superintendent to have general supervision of the Sunday School, to strive for the salvation of all the unsaved in attendance, and to work with the Pastor for the full cooperation of the School and Church.

Section 7. It shall be the duty of Ushers to be present at least fifteen minutes before the opening of each worship service to see that all persons attending are welcomed, properly seated, and provided with hymnbooks. It shall also be their duty to see that the audience is made as comfortable as possible, with regard to ventilation of the building. It shall also be their duty to wait upon the congregation for their offerings. The head usher shall apportion the work of the ushers for the regular services of the Church.

Section 8. It shall be the duty of the Auditing Committee, composed of three members, to audit the records of the Treasurer under supervision of the Pastor and/or Deacon Board at close of fiscal year, and to report findings to the Church at annual business meeting.

Section 9. In order to promote and hold a high Spiritual standard of our Church, it shall be the duty of all officers, committee men, church and Sunday School workers, male and female, to attend all the spiritual services of the Church (including Morning Worship, Evening Service, and Mid-week Service). If any fail to attend for reasons other than sickness or providential hindrance, his or her office shall be considered. Vacant. (Hebrews 10:23-25)

ARTIVCLE VIII – Miscellaneous

Section 1. Regular Sunday Services, morning and evening, shall be maintained, and the ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be administered under supervision of the Pastor.

Section 2. Regular Prayer Service shall be held on Wednesday unless otherwise designated by 75% majority vote.

Section 3. Annual Business meeting of the Church shall be held on the third Sunday in January of each year. It shall be the duties of the officers of the Church, and heads of departments to give reports of their transactions at this meeting.

Section 4. Special meetings for business may be called anytime by the Pastor.

Section 5. No secret Business Meetings are valid. No business beyond the routine weekly affairs shall be carried on in the absence of the Pastor (including while on his vacation).

Section 6. Twelve adult members shall constitute a quorum to transact business except in matters pertaining to a Pastor, or for the mortgaging or selling of Church property, in which cases 75% of eligible voters must be present to constitute a quorum. All matters requiring 75% of eligible voters must be submitted to the membership in written form two weeks in advance of the business meeting, and can be adopted by 75% majority of votes cast.

Section 7. The order of business at the Annual Business Meeting shall be:

- A. Prayer
- B. Reading of the minutes from previous meeting
- C. Officer's report
- D. Report of Organizations connected with Church
- E. Report of standing committees
- F. Report of special committees
- G. Unfinished business
- H. New business
- I. Election of Officers
- J. Appointment of standing committees
- K. Adjournment with prayer

Section 8. All funds and properties of disbanded or dissolved organizations or classes of this Church shall automatically become the property of the Church to be disbursed by recommendation of the trustees with majority church votes.

Section 9. All newspaper advertising and publicity must be approved by the Pastor, who is director of all publicity for this Church and its various organizations.

Section 10. All church checks must be approved by the Pastor and signed by the Treasurer or other authorized signature, and all bills paid by check. All money given to Church must be counted at Church by Head Usher and Treasurer, and receipt signed given to the Pastor. In the event that the head usher and/or Treasurer are not able to perform their duties on any given day in which offerings need to be counted, an individual off the 'Tellers List' will be used to count the offering for that day, the deacons shall be tellers by their office and shall appoint other qualified members to the 'Tellers List' as needed.

Section 11. To be eligible to vote you must be:

- A. A member in good standing and
- B. Must have attended the spiritual services of the church four weeks prior to meeting. If any fail due to reasons other than sickness or providential hindrance, his or her vote shall not be counted.
- C. Must be twenty years of age, unless married (Numbers 1:22; 2:26-28),
- D. Must be a tither (Malachi 3:8-10),
- E. Any permanently disabled eligible voter may cast an absentee ballot.

ARTICLE IX – Licensing and Ordaining

Section 1. Any male member, who in the judgment of the Church, gives evidence by his zeal and aptness to teach that he is called of God to the work of the ministry, after having preached in the hearing of the church, may be licensed to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, provided that $\frac{3}{4}$ of members present at any regular meeting agree thereunto.

Section 2. If the Church unanimously decides that anyone of its licensed preachers passes the spiritual qualifications for full Ordination, it shall call a council of Ministers and Brethren to examine the Candidate to which counsel of the propriety of ordaining shall be wholly referred.

Section 3. Any licensed or ordained preacher, licensed or ordained by our church, shall be under subjection to our beliefs and doctrinal statement. If any fail to heed to those beliefs that he was ordained and questioned under and agreed to, he will be subject by our church to removal from membership and forfeiture of license and ordination. (I Timothy 1:11, 18-20; 5:17-25; II Timothy 2:1-16)

ARTICLE X – Rules for Service and Qualifications

Section 1. All the below rules apply to Pastor, Deacons, S.S. Superintendent, and their wives.

Section 2. People in Church leadership roles are expected to conform and live their lives according to these Scriptures: (I Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 3:1-2). Their leadership should be Christ-like, humble and loving. Deacons should also adhere to the qualifications set forth in I Timothy 3.

RULES OF ORDER

1. The Pastor, or in his absence any member appointed by the Pastor, act as Moderator of all business meetings of the Church.
2. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to keep order; and in case the church is equally divided on any question, he shall cast the deciding vote.
3. The meeting shall be opened and closed with prayer.
4. The order of business shall be:
 - a. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting
 - b. Reception of members by experience or letter
 - c. Granting of letters of dismissal
 - d. Reports of committees
 - e. Unfinished business
 - f. New or miscellaneous business
5. A motion before the Church must be disposed of before another can be entertained unless the motion be to amend, postpone, adjourn, or call for the previous question.
6. The Moderator may speak on any question, by calling on any brother to reside in his place.
7. Every member who speaks shall rise and address the Moderator.
8. The Church in conference shall entertain no proposition for discussion which has not been presented on motion of one member and seconded by another.
9. On any point of order, a member may appeal from the Moderator to the Church, whose decision shall be final.
10. On the calling of a Pastor, He becomes Moderator by virtue of his calling.

Adopted by the church April 12, 1995
Revised by church May 19, 2013
Revised by church November 23, 2014

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to work together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the capital ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We believe that the Scriptures reject all sin, including homosexuality. We also believe that marriage is a union between one man and one woman neither, of which, genders has been altered. It is further agreed that our ministers refrain from marrying people of same or altered gender (I Corinthians 5:1-2; 6:9-20, Leviticus 18:22).

We also engage to maintain family and sacred devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of intoxicating beverages; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offence, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that, when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other Church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Statement of Agreement

I have read the Covenant and Constitution of the First Baptist Church of Lewiston and have discussed any questions that have arisen with the Pastor and at least one deacon. In confidence that the Lord has led me to fellowship with this church, I agree in full with the letter and purpose of the Constitution and shall strive to live in accord with it and the brethren of this church.

Signed _____

Date _____

**DOCTRINAL STATEMENT of the
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEWISTON MICHIGAN**

We believe in:

- 1. The Deity of Jesus Christ**
John 10:30; 14:9; 20:28-29
- 2. The Trinity of God**
Matthew 28:29
- 3. The Verbal Plenary Inspiration of the Holy Bible (King James 1611)**
II Timothy 3:16
- 4. The Total Depravity of Man**
Romans 3:10-17, 23
- 5. The Virgin Birth of the Lord Jesus Christ**
Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:27
- 6. The Blood Atonement**
I Peter 1:18-19
- 7. The Bodily Resurrection of Christ**
Matthew 28:6
- 8. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ**
John 14:3
- 9. Salvation by Faith Alone**
Ephesians 2:8-9
- 10. Eternal Security of the Believer**
I John 5:13
- 11. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit**
Romans 8:9-16, I Corinthians 6:19-20
- 12. The Priesthood of the Believer**
Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 20:6
- 13. The Personality of Satan**
Revelation 10:10; Job 1:6-12
- 14. The Reality of Hell**
Luke 16:19-31
- 15. The Reality of Heaven**
John 14:1-6; Revelation – Chapters 2- and 22
- 16. The Local Church**
Acts 2:47
- 17. World Wide Missions by the Church**
Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20
- 18. Two Ordinances Only:** **Baptism by Immersion** – Matthew 28:19
 The Lord's Supper – I Corinthians 11:23-30