

# **CONSTITUTION OF CALVARY BIBLE CHURCH LIMA, OHIO**

## **Preamble**

Calvary Bible Church is an institution free from any denominational control. The members, aware of the prevailing apostasy in denominations, have separated themselves therefrom, in the spirit of II Corinthians 6:14-18. Calvary Bible Church would be after the New Testament pattern, being made up of a group of witnesses. Emphasis is placed upon the scriptural thought of “the fellowship of believers” rather than upon the importance of membership. Free of the sectarian spirit, we would remember that there is but one body, the Body of Christ, in which all believers are members. This Church is established to preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to “contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered unto the saints.”

## **Article I, Name**

The name of this Church shall be *Calvary Bible Church*.

## **Article II, Purpose**

The purpose of Calvary Bible Church shall be the salvation of souls (I Pet.1:9); the edification of the saints through the teaching of God’s Word (Eph.4:11-16); the world-wide proclamation of God’s saving grace, expressed in the shed blood and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary (Heb.9:11-12); the promotion of godly worship (Heb.10:24-25; 13:15); the defense of “The Faith Once Delivered” (Jude 3); and, cooperation with Christian activity functioning in harmony with God’s Holy Word, the Bible, until He come (Eph.4:1-7).

## **Article III, Doctrine**

1. **The Holy Scriptures.** We believe 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 (II Tim.3:16-17; II Pet. 1:21; Mt.5:18; Jn.16:12-13).

2. **The Godhead.** We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Dt.6:4; II Cor.13:14).
3. **The Person and Work of Christ.**
  - a. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (Jn.1:1-2, 14; Lk.1:35).
  - b. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Rom.3:24-25; I Pet.2:24; Eph.1:7; I Pet.1:3-5).
  - c. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9-10; Heb.9:24; Heb.7:25; Rom.8:34; I Jn.2:1-2).
4. **The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.**
  - a. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling, and sealing them unto the day of redemption (Jn.16:8-11; II Cor.3:6; I Cor.12:12-14; Rom.8:9; Eph.1:13-14).
  - b. We believe 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 (Jn.16:13; I Jn.2:20, 27; Eph.5:18).
5. **The Total Depravity of Man.** We believe 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, in that sin has entered into every part of his being; and that while the natural man may show limited evidence of good works, he is, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Gen.1:26-27; Rom.3:22-23; 5:12; Eph.2:1-3, 12).

6. **The Relation of the Sexes.** God created man in His own image, and human beings are, by creative act, male and female. God has so ordained the family that the male is designated as the head, and the woman is in submission to her husband. Men and women are different by nature and by creative design, and their differences do not indicate superiority or inferiority of either, but rather, they are evidence of an all-wise Creator (Gen.1:27; 2:18-25; 3:16; I Cor.11:3; Eph.5:22-24).
7. **The Family.** We believe that God established the family according to the exclusive pattern of one woman for one man. God assigned the husband to be the head of the wife and the parents to be the head of the children. Husbands are to love their wives and wives are to be subject to their own husbands; children are to obey their parents and parents are to bring their children up in the nurture (training) and admonition (education) of the Lord (Gen.2:18, 21-24; Eph.5:22-6:4; Col.3:18-21).
8. **Human Life.** We believe in the sanctity of human life. We believe human life begins at conception, and from conception through the elderly adult years should be respected as a creation of God. We believe abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, suicide, assisted suicide, and other similar acts are acts of murder and therefore against the will of God (Gen.1:27; Ex.20:13, Lev.19:32; Job 12:12; Ps.139:13-14; Is.44:2, 24; Jer.1:5; Rom.9:20-22; I Tim.5:1-2).
9. **Sexual Perversion.** We believe that the God who created male and female in the human family also established the sexual union of the man and the woman, but only in the marriage relationship. Sex outside of marriage is clearly forbidden, and all sexual relationships between man and man (homosexuality), or between woman and woman (lesbianism), or between humans and animals (bestiality) is a vile perversion of the creative order, and

will result in subjection to the wrath of Almighty God (Gen.2:21-24; 19:1-38; Ex.20:14; 22:19; Lev.18:22; Rom.1:26-27).

10. **Salvation.** We believe that salvation is the gift of God to repentant man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (Eph.2:8-10; Jn.1:12; Eph.1:7; I Pet.1:18-19; II Cor.7:10).
11. **The Security and Assurance of Believers.**
  - a. We believe that all of the redeemed, that is, those who are born again, are kept by God's power, and are secure in Christ for eternity (Jn.6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom.8:1, 38-39; I Cor. 1:4-8; I Pet.1:5).
  - b. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Rom.13:13-14; Gal.5:13; Tit.2:11-15).
12. **The Two Natures of the Believer.** We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provisions made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural (Rom.6:13; 8:12-13; Gal.5:16-25; Eph.4:22-24; Col.3:10; I Pet.1:14-16; I Jn.3:5-9).
13. **Separation.** We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and that separation from all religious apostasy, and all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded by God (II Tim.3:1-5; Rom.12:1-2; 14:13; I Jn.2:15-17; II Jn.9-11; II Cor.6:14-7:1).
14. **Missions.** We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scriptures, and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind (Mk.16:15; Acts 1:8; II Cor.5:19-20).

## 15. The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts.

- a. We believe that God is sovereign in bestowment of all His gifts; and, that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; and that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established (I Cor.12:4-11; II Cor.12:12; Eph.4:7-12).
- b. We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted (Jn.15:7; I Jn.5:14-15; Jms.5:14-15).
- c. We believe that God made man to minister to others as a way of life, and that each person is to minister according to the “measure of faith,” each saint being gifted uniquely, manifesting all the gifts in varying degrees (Rom.12:1-8).

## 16. The Church.

- a. We believe that the Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age (Eph.1:22-23; 5:25-27; I Cor.12:12, 14; II Cor.11:2).
- b. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17; I Tim.3:1, 13; Tit.1:5-11).
- c. We believe that water baptism of believers and the Lord’s Supper are the ordinances to be observed by the Church, but that neither of these is essential to salvation (Acts 16:31; Mt.28:19; I Cor.11:23-26).
- d. We believe that the purpose of the Church includes the corporate exaltation of God, the edification of believers, and the evangelism of the lost (Col.3:16; Eph.4:11-12; Acts 1:8).

17. **Dispensationalism.** We believe in the dispensational view of Bible interpretation, which is that the Bible is to be interpreted literally (including prophetic passages) unless it obviously is to be interpreted figuratively. God revealed Himself and His expectations to man gradually and progressively, working with

man in different ways during different “economies” (dispensations) (Mt.28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:8; I Cor.11:23-26).

18. **The Personality of Satan.** We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin, and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; that Christians are to war against him continuously (I Pet.5:8); and, that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6-7; Is.14:12-17; Mt.4:2-11; 25:41; Rev.20:10).
19. **The Second Advent of Christ.** We believe in the “Blessed Hope,” the personal, imminent, and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones (the rapture); and, in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints ending “the tribulation,” to establish His Millennial Kingdom (I Thes.4:13-18; Zech.14:4-11; Rev.19:11-16; 20:1-6; I Thes.1:10; 5:9; Rev.3:10).
20. **The Eternal State.**
  - a. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Mt.25:46; Jn.5:28-29; Jn.11:25-26; Rev.20:5-6, 12-13).
  - b. We believe that, at death, the souls of the redeemed are absent from the body and present with the Lord, where, in conscious bliss, they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Lk.23:43; Rev.20:4-6; II Cor.5:8; Phil.1:23; 3:21; I Thes.4:16-17).
  - c. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the Second Resurrection, when, with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Lk.16:19-26; Mt.25:41-46; II Thes.1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Mk.9:43-48; Rev.20:11-15).
21. **Fellowship Covenant.** In subscribing to these articles of faith, we by no means set aside or undervalue any of the Scriptures,

the Old and New Testaments; but we deem the knowledge, belief, and acceptance of the Truth as set forth in our Doctrinal Statement to be essential to sound faith and faithful practice.

#### **Article IV, Membership**

Section 1. Any person who has accepted Christ as his Savior, and gives assurance of his desire to live a consistent Christian life, and has received, or gives assurance of his willingness to receive the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Table, and who gives assurance of his willingness to abide by this Constitution and shows evidence of a satisfactory attitude toward the doctrinal standards of this church, shall be eligible for membership. Any person desiring water baptism in this church shall be immersed.

Section 2. Persons may be received into membership following confession or restatement of faith and satisfactory examination by the Official Board of the church. This action is taken by the Official Board and is subject to the will of the Congregation as are all matters. (The term "Congregation" refers specifically to the membership throughout this document.)

Section 3. Members are expected to strive conscientiously to live according to light revealed to them by the Holy Spirit through God's Word, and to wholeheartedly support the services and activities of the church.

Section 4. The Official Board shall revise the rolls of the church whenever they deem it necessary. When members manifest inconsistency, flagrant sin, an unscriptural attitude toward the church's doctrinal standards, or show indifference toward the life and work of the church by willfully absenting themselves from the church services for a period of six months, or for refusing for inadequate reasons to educate their children in the Lima Christian Academy, they may be dropped from the roll or placed on the inactive roll at the discretion of the Official Board. Those whose names are to be removed from the membership roll shall be notified if possible and practical and given an opportunity for a hearing if they desire it. Those who move away shall have their names transferred automatically to the inactive roll when they have ceased

to attend church for six months (Heb.10:25; Ps.122:1; 133:1; Eph.6:4).

Section 5. Persons on an inactive roll shall not be entitled to hold office or vote in church matters.

Section 6. Persons on an inactive roll may be restored to full membership by the Official Board.

Section 7. Letters of transfer to other churches will not be granted and members will not be received into this church by letter. A letter of honorable dismissal will be granted a member who wishes to unite with a church of like faith elsewhere.

Section 8. Adherents as well as members are recognized as having a relationship to this church. Adherents are:

- a. Children of church members.
- b. Christians considering union with this church.
- c. Non-Christians who are seeking spiritual light, have chosen this church, and are faithful in their attendance and support of its services of worship.

Protracted absence will be sufficient ground for removing any name from the list of adherents. Adherents have no voting rights in congregational meetings.

## **Article V, Government**

Section 1. The government of the church is vested in its voting membership. Each member, having reached the age of 18, is entitled to vote in congregational business meetings.

Section 2. The Official Board shall be the executive of the Congregation in its dealings with the pastor, employees, missionaries, affiliated organizations, branch works, and any outside organizations. As the executive of the Congregation, it is charged with its government and its spiritual nurture.

Section 3. Any member of the Official Board may be removed from office at any time by a majority vote of the Congregation at any legally-called congregational meeting as provided by Article IX, Sections 1 and 3.



Section 4. The Official Board shall have the management and control of all property belonging to the church. It shall not encumber with loan, transfer, sale, or purchase, any real estate for the church except by express authorization: a majority vote of the membership present, at a constitutionally-called business meeting.

Section 5. The Official Board, as the executive of the Congregation, shall supervise the work of the church in every area. All other boards, committees, and organizations are amenable to the Official Board, and shall report thereto at the discretion of the Board. The Official Board shall, at all times, be subject to the majority vote of the Congregation.

Section 6. The Official Board shall direct the examination and reception of the applicants for church membership and shall pass upon their fitness. The Congregation will be notified ahead of time when a candidate is being considered.

Section 7. The Official Board shall meet monthly at a time and place of their choosing. A majority vote of those present at any regular or special meeting shall be necessary for all decisions.

Section 8. Special meetings of the Official Board may be called by the pastor or by one-third of the members of the Board. Such special meetings must be announced on Sunday morning before the meeting is held, or all of the members of the Board must be properly notified of the meeting.

Section 9. In the October meeting the Official Board shall appoint a nominating committee from the active membership of the Church. The committee shall thoroughly investigate every man nominated for Elder or Deacon.

### **The Personal Qualifications For An Elder Are As Follows:**

1. An Elder must be a male, preferably a married man (I Tim.3:2, 4-5).
2. He must be spiritually mature, not a novice (I Tim.3:6).
3. He must have a consistent testimony and be without reproach in all aspects of his life (I Tim.3:1, 7).

4. He must clearly be the head of his home, having wife and children in subjection, one who “ruleth well his house” (I Tim.3:2, 4-5).
5. He must consistently provide evidence of a Spirit-controlled temperament (I Tim.3:2-3: “Temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, not given to wine, not violent, not a brawler”).
6. His home life and personal life must be distinctively marked by hospitality. His home must be open to people (I Tim.3:2).
7. He must be capable of planning and implementing an effective teaching ministry (I Tim.3:2).
8. He must not be preoccupied with the quest for material things (I Tim.3:3).
9. He must have sound theological convictions, and be capable of explaining and defending them (Tit.1:8).
10. He must be evidencing a mature walk with the Lord which reflects consistent and regular periods of time alone with the Lord Jesus Christ (Tit.3:11).

### **The Personal Qualifications For a Deacon Are As Follows:**

1. A deacon must be a male, preferably a married man (I Tim.3:11-12).
2. He must be serious-minded and dignified (I Tim.3:8).
3. He must be a sincere, devout Christian (I Tim.3:9).
4. He must be the head of his own house, managing his children well (I Tim.3:12).
5. He must not be greedy for money (I Tim.3:3).
6. He must not be given to much wine (I Tim.3:8).
7. The wife of a deacon must be faithful and serious-minded, not given to slanderous speech (I Tim.3:11).

The proposed candidates shall be examined by the Official Board in the light of these qualifications, and also as to their agreement with the doctrinal statement and the standards that may be established by the church or the Official Board. No man shall be considered for the

office of Elder or Deacon who has a divorced wife living, or who is married to a divorced woman (I Tim.3:2, 12).

No candidate shall be considered for the office of Elder or Deacon if he also cannot answer in the affirmative the following questions:

- A. Have you experienced the new birth set forth in John 3:3-6, and have you publicly confessed Christ as personal Savior?
- B. Are you in hearty agreement with the doctrinal statement of this church, and with its Constitution?
- C. Are you living a dedicated, prayerful Christian life, especially as regards loyal observance of the moral precepts taught in the Word of God for believers, including:
  - 1. Separation from the world in the spirit of I John 2:15-17, James 4:4, and Titus 2:11-15;
  - 2. Freedom from membership in oath-bound religious or secret social organizations or entangling alliances with unbelievers; and,
  - 3. A moral conduct beyond reproach and freedom from carnal indulgence such as the use of intoxicating liquors, tobacco in all its forms, and narcotic drugs, all of which are harmful, a stumbling-block, and out of harmony with a dedicated life (Rom.8:12-13; 12:1-2; 13:14; 14:21; Gal.5:16-25; Eph.4:22, 24; Col.3:1-10; I Pet.1:14-16; I Jn.3:5-9)?

The nominating committee shall make all nominations to any office prayerfully and carefully, and in the light of the best interests and spiritual welfare of the church.

Note: The relation of the Pastor and the Elders needs to be clearly noted. The qualifications for all Elders are listed in Article V, Section 9. While the Pastor is also an Elder (I Pet.5:1), he carries an additional responsibility as a “ruling Elder” (I Tim.5:17). He is the “messenger” of the Church (Rev.1:20). He has been chosen by the Holy Spirit for this ministry (Eph.4:11). The word “pastor” means “shepherd.” Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Chief Shepherd (Jn.10:14). It is a pastor’s duty to be a shepherd to the Elders of the church as well as to the rest of the Congregation. This responsibility is described in detail in I Peter 5:1-4.

Section 10. The Official Board, in its November meeting, shall receive the report of the nominating committee, shall approve or revise it, and present it to the Congregation during or preferably at the close of a morning worship service. The Congregation may add nominations of its own if it wishes, or reject the report in part or in whole. In case of a total or partial rejection of its report, the nominating committee shall continue to function, unless otherwise ordered by the Congregation, until a slate submitted is fully accepted by the Congregation. The annual congregational elections shall take place not sooner than two weeks after the report of the nominations to the Congregation in order to give time for the Official Board to examine any candidates for Elder or Deacon according to the provisions of Article V, Section 9.

Section 11. All officers elected at the annual congregational meeting in December shall assume their new duties as of January 1st.

Section 12. In case of vacancies in offices on the Official Board, a nominating committee shall submit candidates for unexpired terms to the Congregation for election, said committee to be composed and function in accordance with Article V, Section 9. In the event an unexpired term is six months or less, said vacancy can be filled by the Official Board at its discretion.

## **Article VI, Pastors and Officers**

Section 1. There shall be elected by the Congregation as officers of the Church, Elders and Deacons. These, together with the Pastor, shall constitute the Official Board of the Church, and the School Board of the Lima Christian Academy.

Section 2. The term of office for both Elders and Deacons shall be three years. An Elder or Deacon may succeed himself in office for one full term, after which he must remain off the Official Board for a year before accepting election to such office again. Any vacancy in the Official Board may be filled according to Article V, Sections 9 and 12.

Section 3. Within thirty-one days after the congregational election the Official Board shall meet and elect from among the Elders, or a Deacon if an Elder is not available, a chairman of the Congregation,

and a vice-chairman of the Official Board. These may be the same person. The Official Board shall also elect three from among their members to serve as trustees for the purpose of signing legal documents.

Section 4. Within thirty-one days after the congregational election the Official Board shall meet, and elect from the male membership of the church, a church clerk, a church treasurer, an assistant treasurer, a financial secretary, and an assistant financial secretary. Those elected to these positions shall meet the qualifications found in Article V, Section 9 A, B, and C, and they shall serve for one year. The clerk and the treasurer will hold an advisory relation to the Official Board, and are expected to attend the meetings.

Section 5. A Pastor, an Assistant, a Director of Christian Education, or any other professional assistant, may be called upon by a majority vote of the Congregation after recommendation by the Official Board or by a committee appointed by the Official Board. Pastors and such assistants shall serve until their positions are terminated by death, resignation, or by vote of the Congregation. Pastors and other such professional assistants shall give a minimum of thirty days notice before termination of their services. In the event the Congregation votes that the Pastor's or Assistant's services be terminated abruptly, the salary involved shall continue for thirty days.

Section 6. A pastor's services or the services of any assistant as indicated in Article VI, Section 5, may be terminated at any time by majority vote of the Congregation after a fair and impartial hearing under the supervision of the Official Board, at a meeting called in accordance with Article IX, Sections 1 and 3.

Section 7. When a pastor wishes to retire, the following procedure will be followed in order to grant an honorary title, "Pastor Emeritus":

- a. The Congregation, in a legally-called meeting, must approve the request to grant the title of "Pastor Emeritus."
- b. Salary and support will cease at the end of the calendar year, or at least thirty days after the aforementioned congregational meeting.

- c. Until a pastor is called, the Pastor Emeritus could serve as Interim Pastor, if his services are requested.
- d. After a pastor is called, the Pastor Emeritus will cease to be a member of the Official Board.

Section 8. All officers shall serve until their successors take office except in cases of discipline.

#### Section 9.

- a. All regular Sunday School teachers, officers, congregational officers, choir directors, youth counselors, teachers and officers of the Lima Christian Academy, and the directors and superintendents of departments of Daily Vacation Bible School shall be members of Calvary Bible Church, unless specifically exempted by the Official Board (Mt.16:18; II Tim.2:2; Tit.2:1).
- b. Any constitutions or by-laws, and revisions thereof, of church groups or organizations must be in harmony with the Constitution of the church, and shall not be valid until approved by the Official Board.
- c. The nominating committees of all organizations in the church shall counsel with the Pastor or (Pastor-designated) Clerk of the Official Board before submitting reports to their organizations.

### **Article VII, Duties of Pastors and Officers**

Section 1. The **Pastor** shall be responsible to oversee the work and program of the entire Church. He shall have the oversight of the spiritual life of the Church, the direction of the worship and evangelistic services, and the administration of the ordinances of believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper; he shall be an ex-officio member of all committee meetings connected with the Church or any of its organizations, and he shall be the Chairman of the Official Board and Vice-Chairman of the Congregation unless otherwise directed by this Constitution or ordered by vote of the Congregation. He shall be the Superintendent of the Lima Christian Academy. He shall appoint, with the consent of the Official Board, all necessary committees such as Ushering, Auditing, Sick Calling, Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Tellers to assist the Financial Secretary, Sunday

School officers, and Directors of Vacation Bible School. He shall employ the teachers of the Lima Christian Academy with the consent of the Official Board, and shall employ such hourly assistants as monitors and aides as necessary. He shall be responsible for the financial and practical oversight of the Lima Christian Academy and shall report monthly to the Official Board. If at any time his personal belief, teaching, and preaching shall not be in full accord with the doctrinal statement of the church, his services as Pastor shall be terminated as provided by Article VI, Section 6.

Section 2. The **Official Board** is charged with the government, spiritual nurture, and business administration of the Congregation. It belongs to the Official Board to decide upon the qualifications of applicants for membership in the Church and to certify departing members to other Congregations; to watch over the deportment of members of the Congregation; to counsel parents in training their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; to administer the ordinances of the Lord's House and judicially enforce His laws governing the lives of His people; to devise and direct ways and means of leading the people to honor the Lord with their substance; to determine the uses to be made of the church edifice or attached buildings. The Official Board shall have the care of the physical property and finances of the church and shall oversee all the business affairs of the Congregation, preparing an annual budget for submission to the Congregation at its annual meeting. Furthermore, it belongs to the Official Board to exercise control over the Sunday School and over the Lima Christian Academy, and supervise all other organizations and agencies of the Congregation; to direct the services of praise and other ordinances of worship; and to attend to all matters which, in its judgment, pertain to the spiritual welfare of the Congregation. The members of the Official Board shall be expected to visit members of the Congregation, giving special attention to the sick and sorrowing.

Section 3. The **Elders** shall be responsible, with the Pastor, for the spiritual welfare of the church; they shall assist in ministering the ordinances of the church, and shall make the necessary provisions for the membership, investigate delinquents, and endeavor to remedy any spiritual weakness in the lives of its members. They

shall faithfully perform all other duties designated by this Constitution or pertaining to their office. They shall endeavor, by God's grace, to live and serve in full conformity with the standards set forth in this Constitution for their particular office, and especially as found in the Word of God (I Tim.3:1-7; Tit.1:6-9).

Section 4. The **Deacons** shall assist the Pastor, the Elders, and other leadership of the church in promoting the spiritual welfare of the Congregation. They shall endeavor, by God's grace, to live and serve in full conformity with the standards set forth in this Constitution for their particular office, and especially as found in the Word of God (I Tim.3:8-13). They shall see that the physical properties of the church are maintained in a usable state of repair, and they may appoint such assistants as may be necessary. They shall look to the Official Board for the necessary funds to perform their work, and shall report to the Official Board at the regular monthly meetings.

Section 5. The **Congregational Chairman** shall preside at the annual business meeting of the Congregation. The Chairman of the Official Board (the Pastor) shall preside at all other business sessions except those which may pertain to the Chairman personally, at which times a chairman, named by the Official Board from among the Elders (or a Deacon if an Elder is not available), shall preside.

Section 6. The **Church Clerk** shall keep an accurate record of all congregational business meetings, and any other meetings designated by the Congregation or Official Board upon request of either body. He shall keep a record of church membership, admissions, dismissions, deaths, professions, attendance, dedications, baptisms, and ordination services. He shall maintain a record of all correspondence and such other records as may pertain to his office.

Section 7. The **Church Treasurer** shall have charge of receiving, crediting, and disbursing all money received by the church and Sunday School, disbursements to be made upon authorization of the Official Board. He shall make a monthly report of receipts to the Official Board, and an annual report to the Congregation. His accounts shall be audited by the Official Board annually, at the close of the church year. His records shall be available for inspection at



all times, by the Official Board. He shall furnish a fidelity bond in such amount as determined by the Official Board, the cost of same to be paid by the church.

Section 8. **Other Treasurers.** The treasurer for the Lima Christian Academy, the youth fellowships, organized Sunday School classes, and all other treasurers of church organizations are responsible to the Official Board, and their books shall be audited annually by the direction of the Board. Where monies are kept in a checking account, all bills are to be paid by check, and appropriate receipts retained.

Section 9. The **Financial Secretary** shall, with the assistance of the Finance Committee and such other assistants as may be authorized by the Official Board, arrange for the receiving, counting, and crediting in their proper form in books provided for this purpose, all offerings and monies received by the church and its affiliated organizations, and deliver such funds with reasonable promptness to the Treasurer or other person designated by the Official Board to act as Treasurer. He shall annually furnish receipts to all contributors in satisfactory form. His books shall always be available for inspection by the Treasurer, Finance Committee, or Official Board. The Financial Secretary shall furnish bond, the cost of same to be paid by the church.

Section 10. Within one month after each annual congregational meeting, the Pastor, Elders, Deacons, and Officers shall be required to affirm and sign the doctrinal statement of the Church, and their signatures shall be filed with the Clerk of the Official Board.

## **Article VIII, Standards of the Church**

1. **Standards for Church Membership.** Those appearing before the Official Board to become members of Calvary Bible Church shall give satisfactory answers to the following questions:
  - a. Have you been born again? Give evidence of your relationship to Jesus Christ.
  - b. Have you read the Constitution of Calvary Bible Church? Are you in accord with the Statement of Faith contained

therein, and will you wholeheartedly support the Constitution?

- c. Will you be faithful to the church, and will you support its services and its work by your time, talents, and offerings?
- d. Have you been baptized?
- e. Do you seek to practice the separation position of Calvary Bible Church?
- f. Do you believe in the Lima Christian Academy's training of your children?

It is understood that the Official Board may ask any other questions it may wish, and make its decisions accordingly.

2. **Standards for the Christian Life.** The following standards of Christian life and conduct shall apply to the members of Calvary Bible Church:

- a. Persistent study of the Word of God (Josh.1:8; II Tim.2:15).
- b. A consistent prayer life, both as individuals, and in the family circle (Phil.4:6; I Thes.5:17).
- c. A clear, clean testimony for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ manifesting Christ formed in them (Gal.4:19) and telling others about Him (Mt.28:18-20; Heb.10:23-25).
- d. Faithful attendance at the services of worship of the Church.
- e. A life that is clean and pure in keeping with our profession (Rom.12:1-2).
- f. An emphasis on the "weightier matters": judgment, mercy, and faith without leaving the other undone (Mt.23:23).
- g. Appearance that is comely, modest, gender-clear, and appropriate (Ps.29:2; I Tim.2:9).
- h. A seeking of godly friendships (Pro.13:20; Mal.3:16; Acts 2:42; I Cor.15:33).

3. **Standards of Christian Service.** The following shall be our standard for service for Christ through Calvary Bible Church:

- a. A willingness to serve wherever we may be asked to serve, or wherever there is a need.
- b. Faithfulness in the service rendered. One of the marks of a true Christian is faithful, consistent performance of duties.
- c. The tithes shall be considered the minimum standard of giving for the support of God’s work, and church members are encouraged to secure a greater blessing by setting aside more than the tithe for the work of the Lord. It shall be understood that all commercialization, that is, buying and selling for profit, shall be excluded as a means of Church finance.

#### **4. Standards of Christian Child Training.**

- a. Parents are to bring up their children in the nurture (including spanking) and admonition of the Lord all day long (Eph.6:4; Dt.6:4-8), and the church as “the pillar and ground of the truth” is part of this (I Tim.3:16; Mt.28:18-20; Gal.4:2). We believe it is the responsibility of parents to see that their children are faithful in Sunday School and in all child and youth activities. It is clear from Holy Scriptures that the Biblical instruction of children is the responsibility of the parents (Dt.6:6-8), and the church will make every effort to assist any needy church members who may have difficulty meeting the financial responsibility of providing for their children’s education (Dt.6:6-8; I Tim.5:5; Pro.22:6).
- b. The Lima Christian Academy is a ministry of the Calvary Bible Church to its own membership, but it also ministers to others who hold dear the doctrines which are found in this Constitution.
  - 1) Parents from other churches who enroll their children in the Lima Christian Academy must consent to their children’s being taught the doctrines and practices of the Calvary Bible Church.
  - 2) The Lima Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

## **Article IX, Meetings**

Section 1. The fiscal year of the church shall be the calendar year, and the annual congregational meeting shall be held during the month of December or January, the date to be determined by the Official Board, and announced from the pulpit on two or three Sundays preceding the meeting.

Section 2. At the annual congregational meeting, the minutes of the preceding annual meeting shall be read. The Church Treasurer shall present his financial report, and reports shall be presented by the various organizations of the church and Sunday School. Officers shall be elected for the coming year, and such other business as may be necessary shall be transacted.

Section 3. Called meetings of the Congregation may be held at the discretion of the Official Board, or upon the written request of ten percent of the members of the Church. Notice shall be given as provided for in Article IX, Section 1. No business other than that announced in the notice shall be considered at such called meetings.

Section 4. A majority vote of the voting members present at any constitutionally called congregational business meeting shall be required for the election of officers or to render final decisions in any matter under consideration, except amendments to this Constitution.

Section 5. The voting members present at any congregational meeting called in accordance with the requirements of this Constitution shall be considered a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 6. In the conduct of Official Board and congregational business meetings, any parliamentary questions not covered by this Constitution shall be decided by the latest edition of *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

## **Article X, Ministerial License**

When in the judgment of the Official Board, a man in this membership is called to the Christian ministry, it shall be within the power of the Official Board to grant a ministerial license, provided such authority is recommended by vote of the Congregation.

The Official Board shall carefully examine the applicants for license with the standards for future ordination in view. It is expected that such applicants have two years training beyond high school at the time of license. The Official Board shall state their reasons for licensing an applicant at the time they request the recommendation of the Congregation.

Ministerial license carries with it the right to serve as a pastor, including the performing of marriages.

Ministerial license must be renewed annually by the Congregation at the meeting in December when the officers are elected for the coming year. Failure to renew a license will constitute cancellation. The Official Board shall have authority to cancel the license at any time they deem it necessary.

### **Article XI, Ordination**

When, in the judgment of the Official Board, a man in this membership is called to the Christian ministry, it shall be within the power of the Official Board to call and conduct a council of ordination, provided such authority is granted by vote of the Congregation.

The ordaining council shall thoroughly examine all applicants for ordination as to their call to the Christian Ministry, education, Christian experience, reputation, character, doctrinal belief, and demonstrated efficiency in Christian service. The following shall not be ordained to the ministry:

1. One who has not served six months as Pastor, assistant Pastor, or in definite Christian work in such manner as to convey reasonable evidence of God's call to the ministry.
2. One who is addicted to the use of intoxicating liquor, drugs or tobacco in any form, or who belongs to a secret society, or one who brings disrepute upon his ministry through immoral or worldly practices and associations (Rom.12:1-2; II Cor.6:14-18; Jms.4:4; I Jn.2:15).

It shall be within the province of the Official Board to discipline, even to revoking the ordination credentials of any minister ordained under this Constitution, if the said minister is found guilty of any of

the above practices after an impartial trial conducted in conformity with I Corinthians 13.

The minister under trial shall have the privilege of appealing his case to the Congregation within sixty days after the decision of the Board.

## **Article XII, Statement of Missionary Policy**

Section 1. Prospective missionary candidates should be able to give full assent to the Statement of Faith contained in our Church Constitution.

Section 2. Such candidates should hold sympathetically and without reserve, the position of this church with respect to complete separation from apostasy and any entanglements therewith. Those who could go without compunctions of conscience under the old-line denominational mission boards could hardly qualify as taking the position of Calvary Bible Church in matters of Biblical separation. The Official Board will take into consideration the work and testimony of the individual in the home field as an indication of his or her attitude toward Scriptural separation.

Section 3. It shall be expected that our prospective missionary candidates, desiring the prayerful and financial support of this church, shall seek to go to the fields of their call under such missionary boards and agencies as are in essential accord with our Statement of Faith. They should be agencies free from all connections with the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches, and the National Association of Evangelicals.

## **Article XIII, Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at any regular or called congregational meeting, provided the proposed amendment has been printed and distributed to the Congregation at each regular Church service for the two Sundays preceding said meeting.

## CHURCH COVENANT

The following is a Covenant of the membership, and is read at each reception of new members:

“We, then, the members of this Church, do affectionately welcome you to this fellowship with us in the blessing of the Gospel, and covenant together, God helping us, that as strangers and pilgrims, we will abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul (I Pt.2:11). That we will put away from us all bitterness and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evilspeaking, and be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven us (Eph.4:31-32). That as we have opportunity, we will do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith (Gal.6:10.). That we will remember them which have the rule over us, who speak unto us the Word of God (Heb.13:7). And that we will give as God has prospered us (I Cor.16:2), not grudgingly, or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver (II Cor.9:7).”

Note: When reading this Covenant, Scripture References are omitted.

This Constitution was revised by the Congregation 12/5/18.

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
CALVARY BIBLE CHURCH OF LIMA, OHIO**

The undersigned, a majority of whom are citizens of the United States, desiring to form a non-profit corporation under the Non-Profit Corporation Law of Ohio, do hereby certify:

**FIRST:** The name of said corporation shall be CALVARY BIBLE CHURCH OF LIMA, OHIO.

**SECOND:** The place in this state where the principle office of the corporation is to be located is the City of Lima, Allen County.

**THIRD:** The purposes for which said corporation is formed are: providing a place of worship for its members and conducting the same according to the rules, regulations, customs, and practices of the Calvary Bible Church of Lima, Ohio; promoting the cause of the Christian religion and the interests of said Church; receiving, holding and disbursing gifts, bequests, and funds arising from other sources; owning and maintaining suitable real estate and buildings, and doing any and all things necessary or incident to any thereof.

It shall also be the purpose of said corporation to promote, organize, and maintain a Christian pre-kindergarten, Christian day school, Christian junior high school, Christian high school, Bible Institute, Christian college, Christian old people's home, Christian youth camps, Christian youth centers, a home mission board and a foreign mission board, and to edit, publish, distribute and disseminate Christian literature, religious tracts, books, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, and other writings consistent with the foregoing purposes.

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 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 corporate assets. Upon dissolution, any assets of the corporation must be distributed to one or more organizations recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as one organized exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto subscribed our names this 18th day of July, 1960.

THE TRUSTEES OF CALVARY BIBLE CHURCH