

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

6718 Prospect - Caseville, MI 48725

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

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advance of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate 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 abuse of intoxicating drink as a beverage, 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 offense, 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.

ARTICLE I- NAME

The name of this organization shall be THE CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH of Caseville, MI. The Church was granted incorporation status on Nov. 19, 1959.

ARTICLE II- AFFILIATION

This Church shall fellowship and cooperate with other churches of like faith and practice as the opportunity presents itself. However, this Church shall maintain its autonomy and independence as a called out local assembly and shall not answer to or recognize any other ecclesiastical body as supreme or authoritative in faith and practice. We recognize the Scripture as the final authority in faith and practice.

ARTICLE III- PURPOSE

The purpose for which this church is established and ordained shall be to bear united witness to the faith of its members in the whole Bible as the Inspired Word of God; to promulgate the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the faith once for all delivered to the saints; to aid in missionary work and in the winning of the lost to the Lord Jesus Christ; to build up its constituency in the most holy faith. It is both our burden and vision to continue these religious, charitable and educational activities as long as God allows us to maintain this ministry.

ARTICLE IV- ARTICLE OF FAITH

Section 1. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally inspired and the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore, has truth without any admixture of error for its matter. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions, shall be tried. 11 Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:19-21.

Section 2. Of the True God

We believe there is one and only one living and true God, and infinite Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. Exodus 20:2-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 1 John 5:7; Revelation 4:11.

Section 3. Of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement; that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony, that He is the agent in the New Birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer. Gen. 1:1-3; Matt. 28:19; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Luke 24:49; John 3:5-6; John 14:16-17; John 14:26; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; Acts 11:16; Rom. 6:14; Rom. 8:16, 26-27; Eph. 1:13-14; Hebrews 9:14.

Section 4. Of the Devil, or Satan

We believe in the personality of Satan, that he is the unholy god of this age, and the author of all the power of darkness, and is destined to the judgement of an eternal justice in the lake of fire. Matt. 4:1-3; II Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:10.

Section 5. Of Creation

We accept the Genesis account of creation and believe that man came as a direct creation of God and not by evolution. Gen. 1 & 2; John 1:3; Col. 1:6-17.

Section 6. Of the Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not only by constraint, but of choice; and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse. Gen. 3:1-6, 24; Rom. 5: 10-19; Rom. 1:18.

Section 7. Of the Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of woman, and that He is both the Son of God and God the Son. Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:4.

Section 8. Of the Atonement for Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by the Father, freely took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of

Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust; Christ, the Lord, bearing our sin in His own body on the tree; that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and all sufficient Savior. Isa. 53:4-7; Matt. 18:11; John 3:16; Acts 15:11; rom. 3:2-25; 1 Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21; Eph. 2:8; Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14; I John 4:10.

Section 9. Of Grace in the New Creation

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again, that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life. John 3:3,6-8; Acts 16:30-33; rom. 6:23; II Cor. 5:17 & 19; Eph. 2:1; Col. 2:13; I Pet. 1:4; 1 John 5:1.

Section 10. Of Justification

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification:

- A. That justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life, on principles of righteousness;
- B. That it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done; but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, his righteousness is imputed to us. Acts 13:39; Rom. 5:1 & 9; Rom. 8:1.

Section 11. Of Faith and Salvation

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. Acts 16:31.

Section 12. Of the Local Church

We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers are pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the true mission of the Church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self government free from interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each Church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local Church is final. Acts 2:41-42; Acts 15:13-18; Acts 20:17-28; 1 Core 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 3:17.

Section 13. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water to show forth in the crucified, buried and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life, that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation. We believe that the Lord's supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. Matthew 3:16; John 3:23; Acts 8:26-39; Romans 6:3-5; 1 cor. 11:23-28; Col. 2:12.

Section 14. Of the Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked: that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. Gen. 18:23; Mal. 3:18; Mat. 25:34,41; Luke 6:25; John 8:21; Rom. 6:17; Rom. 7:5; Rom. 6:23; 1 John 5:19.

Section 15. Of Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed; except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the Kings of the earth. Ex. 18:21-22; 11 Sam. 23:3; Dan. 3:17-18; Matt. 22:21; Acts 4:19-20; Acts 5:20; Acts 23:5; Rom. 13:1-7.

Section 16. Of the resurrection, personal, visible, pre-millennial return of Christ, and related events.

- A. We believe in the bodily resurrection. Matt 28:6-7; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; 1 Cor. 15:4.
- B. The ascension. Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9-11; Heb. 12:2; Rev. 3:21.
- C. The high Priesthood. 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 2:17; Heb. 5:9-10; Heb., 8:6; 1 John 2:1.
- D. The second coming. John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 4:16; Heb. 9:28; James 5:8.
- E. The resurrection of the righteous dead. 1 Cor. 15:42-44; 1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:13-18.

F. The change of the Living in Christ. I Cor. 15:51-53; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Thess. 4:13-18.

G. The Throne of David. Isa. 9:6-7; Luke 1:32; Acts 2:29-30.

H. The millennial reign. Isa. 11:4; Isa. 32:1; Psalms 72:8; I Cor. 15:25; Rev. 20:6; Rev. 20:14.

Section 17. Of Marriage

We believe the institution of marriage was ordained by God in the garden of Eden after the special creation of Eve by God as recorded in Genesis 2:18-25. Marriage was intended to be between one man and one woman for life. Malachi 2:14-16 and Matthew 19:3-9 both support the union of one man with one woman for a lifetime. In II Corinthians 6:14, the Bible further teaches that believers should only marry other believers. While the Bible allows for divorce on the grounds of unfaithfulness, the ideal would be for the couple to forgive each other and continue in their marriage as Christ forgives us as His bride, Ephesians 5:21-33. Since people come to know Christ from all different backgrounds and situations, whether or not a couple (meaning a man and a woman) would be allowed to be married at Calvary Baptist would depend on the individual situation. However, unions between the same gender are decidedly unbiblical (Genesis 19, Leviticus 18:22, 20:13, Romans 1:26-27, I Corinthians 6:9-10) and will not be allowed at Calvary Baptist Church for any reason or circumstance.

ARTICLE V

A copy of this constitution shall be made available to each voting member of the church.

ARTICLE VI- MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Admission

Any person accepting the views and practices of this church as set forth in our church covenant and articles of faith may be received by a two-thirds vote into fellowship of this church in any of the following manners:

- A. Upon profession of faith in Christ as personal Saviour, and baptism by immersion.
- B. By letter of transfer from any church of like faith and order.
- C. By statement of Christian experience, having received New Testament believer's baptism by another church of like faith and practice.
- D. By restoration, after having been excluded from membership, or after having been taken from the active membership roll.

Section 2. Dismissal

Members are dismissed from this church by:

- A. Letter of transfer. A letter of transfer may be granted by a majority vote of the church, to any member of the church in good and regular standing, to unite with any other church of like faith and order. This letter will be made out to a specifically named church and sent to the clerk of same.
- B. Exclusion. Any member of this church, after having been given due notice and opportunity to be heard, may be excluded from membership, upon recommendation of the board of deacons, when his conduct is known to be contrary or incompatible with the doctrines of the New Testament and the practices of this church.
- C. Erasure. At his request a member's name may be erased from membership roll, for reasons sufficient unto himself.

Section 3. Inactive roll.

- A. Resident Members. Any resident member who shall not attend the regular services of the church for a period of one year, or any member failing to support the church within the same limit of time, unless hindered by unavoidable circumstances, (for example, sickness, employment, governmental service, being away at school, etc.) shall not be considered in "good and regular standing", and if , after having been contacted by the Deacons, He continues in this inactivity, his name shall be placed on the inactive list.
- B. Non Resident Members. Any member living in another locality, shall communicate with the church at least once a year, to evidence his continued interest, and if not heard from for one year, shall be placed on the inactive list.
- C. Dropping Inactive Members. An inactive member, after a period of another year, who shows no desire to return to active membership, shall, without further action, be dropped from the roll of the church.
- D. Restoration of Inactive Members. If, however, anyone whose name is on the inactive list desires to be restored to active membership, he may be so restored upon recommendation of the Deacons of the church.

ARTICLE VII- OFFICERS

The Board of this Church shall be made up on the officers named in the scriptures, that is, Pastor and Deacons (Acts 6:2-5; I Tim. 3:1-13) with other officers of the *Church, which shall be* Church Clerk, Church Treasurer, and others as needed. All officers, other than Pastor and Deacons, shall be elected yearly, with due consideration for other members in good standing who desire to serve in the office. In the event of two members desiring the same office a decision shall be reached by secret ballot.

Section 1. The Pastor

Clause A. Qualifications

The Pastor shall be a man called of God to full time Christian work, who shall be in agreement with the Articles of Faith of this Church and in harmony with its purpose and covenant. He shall reasonably meet the requirements of 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.

Clause B. Duties

1. The Pastor shall minister to the spiritual needs of the church as he is guided by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.
2. He shall serve as moderator of the Church and Board and be a member of the Board of Deacons and all committees. The Pastor shall be notified of all meetings.

Clause C. Calling a Pastor

1. The Pastor shall be called for an indefinite term.
2. The calling of a Pastor shall come before the Church at a regularly called Church Meeting, notice of such meeting and its purpose having been read from the pulpit on two successive Sundays previous by authorization of the Board of Deacons, who shall act as the permanent Pulpit Committee.
3. Pastoral candidates may be proposed to the Pulpit Committee by any member of the Church in good and regular standing, and the Pulpit Committee shall duly consider any name thus proffered.
4. No candidate shall be voted upon who has not been endorsed by the Pulpit Committee.
5. Only one candidate shall be presented to the Church and vote upon at any one time.
6. A two third majority vote of all the members present and voting shall be necessary for the selection of a Pastor.

Clause D. Dismissing a Pastor

If at any time it is desirable to sever the pastoral relation it may be brought about by a three months notice to that effect being given by either party, or sooner if mutually agreed upon. The Pastor may be dismissed by majority vote.

Clause E. Salary

The Pastor's salary shall be submitted for Church approval after being recommended by the Board of Deacons. The Pastors salary must be reviewed by the Deacons prior to each annual business meeting.

Clause F. Vacation

The Pastor shall be given at least three weeks vacation with pay each year, and more if so needed at the discretion of the church and shall not be accumulative.

Section 2. Deacons

Clause A. Number

There shall be a desired ratio of one Deacon per five households as qualified candidates are available.

Clause B. Qualifications

Deacons shall be expected to reasonably meet the requirements of Acts 6:1-7, and I Tim. 3:8-13. The Deacons shall be men who are in full agreement with the Confession of Faith and the Church Covenant, including the position of the Church on complete ecclesiastical separation from apostasy and modernism.

In addition they shall be men who have proven themselves faithful to the Church in such matters as the regular attendance of the Sunday and Mid-week services and the financial support of the church.

Clause C. Term

Deacons shall be elected for a term of three years. Terms shall be arranged so that new scripturally qualified candidates can have the opportunity to serve each year. A Deacon shall be ineligible to succeed himself for one year providing there are other scripturally qualified candidates who desire to serve.

Clause D. Organization

Chairman. The Deacons shall, at their first meeting after the annual business meeting, elect from their number, a chairman who shall serve as moderator of the Deacons and Church in the absence of the Pastor.

Clause E. Duties

1. The Deacons shall a. assist in the distribution of the elements of the Lord's supper, b. inquire into the fitness and qualifications of applicants for membership and baptism, c. assist at baptisms, d. visit the sick and delinquent members of the church, e. welcome visitors of the church, f. counsel with the Pastor in matters relating to the spiritual interests of the church.
2. The Board of Deacons shall serve as the permanent Pulpit committee. The Deacons may ask church members in good standing to serve on the pulpit committee if needed.
3. The Board of Deacons and the Pastor shall constitute the Membership and disciplinary committee.
4. The Board of Deacons and the Pastor shall arrange for the supervision of the constant program of visitation.
5. The Board of Deacons shall, jointly with the Pastor, fix or change the time, nature, or order of the public worship services of the church as the occasion may warrant.
6. The Board of Deacons shall maintain a fund known as the "Deacons' Fund" to be used in the interest of the needy of the congregation and for other spiritual purposes, disbursing the same by their own order.

7. The Board of Deacons and the Pastor shall act in such other capacities as this constitution may designate.
8. The Board of Deacons shall for all temporal or legal matters be considered the Trustees of the Church and shall have charge of all properties of the Corporation.
9. As trustees the Deacons shall not spend more than \$500.00 on any one project, and shall not buy or sell property, without the approval of the church.
10. As trustees the Deacons shall hire and determine the salary of a custodian and church secretary as needed.
11. The Board of Deacons shall be the Missionary committee, and as such it shall prepare a proposed missionary budget for each year, to be approved by the church.

Clause F. Meetings

The Deacons shall meet at least once a month on such a day and at such a time as the board itself may designate. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Other Officers

Clause I. Church Clerk

It shall be the duty of the church clerk to keep the records of the church, to take minutes at each business meeting and present them when called for. A record of baptisms, marriages, admissions, deaths, and dismissals shall be kept, along with whatever other statistical records the church may desire to preserve.

Clause 2. Church Treasurer

It shall be the duty of the church treasurer to pay all salaries and usual operational expenses. All other bills must be approved by the church or the deacons, and such bills shall be paid by the treasurer.

Clause 3.

Any officer who does not regularly attend church service for three months unless hindered by unavoidable circumstances, shall automatically have his office declared vacant.

ARTICLE VIII-BUSINESS MEETING

Section I. The Annual Business Meeting

The church year shall begin January 1, and end December 31. The annual business meeting of the church shall be held about the middle of January, the specific date to be determined by the board of Deacons, at which time:

1. Officers shall be elected
2. Reports from all church and Bible school societies, board and committees shall be submitted, and 3. such other business as may properly come before the meeting shall be transacted.

Section 2. Quarterly Business Meetings

Quarterly meetings shall be held about the middle of April, July and October.

Section 3. Special Business Meetings

Clause A. Special church meetings may be called from time to time, when necessary, by the official action of the board of Deacons, or the written request of (10) adult members of the church in good and regular standing (providing such members represent ten (10) distinct families).

Clause B. Notice of such special church meetings shall be read from the pulpit on two successive Sundays preceding the date of the meeting.

Clause C. Where such announcement is supplemented by notices mailed to all church members, announcement from the pulpit on one Sunday preceding the date of the meeting shall be deemed sufficient in the matter of calling said meeting.

Clause D. All important resolutions shall be printed in the church bulletin two weeks before a vote is taken by the church.

Section 4. Voting

All members of the church in good and regular standing, 18 years of age and over, may vote at any church meeting providing :

Clause A. They have attended at least three Sunday church services in each of the two preceding quarters.

Clause B. They are faithful in their financial support of the church by their tithes and offerings.

Section 5. Quorum

At regularly scheduled business meetings or at business meetings announced at two previous public meetings of the church shall be those members present and voting. A quorum at other specially called business meetings shall be 20% of the voting membership of the church.

Section 6. Balloting

The method of voting by secret ballot shall be employed in matters of buying or selling property, or other indebtedness to the church and for calling and dismissing a Pastor. At any meeting, a majority vote may also call for using the secret ballot.

Section 7. Robert's rules of order shall govern the proceedings at all business meetings.

ARTICLE IX- COMMITTEE

Section I. Nominating Committee.

The Pastor shall, approximately four weeks before the annual business meeting, appoint three men to serve with him to determine the nominees for each office. The nominating committee shall present at least two names for each office to be filled. These nominees shall be approved by the board of deacons. The nominations shall be printed in the church bulletin the week before the business meeting.

Section 2. Auditing committee.

In the event of a question concerning the church finances, the church shall elect from its membership two persons to serve as auditors for one year. The books shall be audited each quarter. The treasurers of all organizations shall turn their books into the auditors within seven days after the completion of each quarter.

Section 3. Other committees.

The Pastor or the board of deacons shall appoint such other committees as they deem advisable.

ARTICLE X- ORGANIZATIONS

Section I. Bible school.

Clause A. The Bible school shall be recognized as a part of the church and not as a separate organization. It is the school of the church for the purpose of studying the Bible. It shall be the object of every officer and teacher to lead every member in the school into the Christian

experiences and church membership and into active Christian service.

Clause b. All officers and teachers in the Bible school, together with the officers of the various classes, shall be members of the church in good and regular standing.

Clause c. All teachers and officers of the Bible school shall subscribe yearly to the Articles of Faith.

This shall be done at a public installation service conducted in a morning church service shortly after the annual business meeting. Any officers or teacher refusing to do so, or whose conduct or teaching is considered injurious to the class, school or church, upon recommendation of the board of deacons shall be dismissed from the position held. It is further desired that all officers and teachers feel obligated to attend and support all the services of the church.

ARTICLE XI

This constitution may be amended by a two thirds vote of all members present and voting at any annual business meeting, providing the proposed amendment has been presented not later than the quarterly business meeting in October.

ARTICLE XII

This constitution shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the church. Sept. 21, 1977. This constitution was amended by majority vote February 1, 2026.