

CONTENTS

Preamble	1
Article I – Name and Affiliation.....	1
Article II – Purpose.....	1
Article III – Statement of Faith	2
The Holy Scriptures.....	2
The Godhead	2
The Person and Work of God the Father.....	2
The Person and Work of God the Son.....	3
The Person and Work of God the Holy Spirit	4
Creation and Fall of Man	5
Salvation	4
Assurance of Salvation	5
The Church.....	6
The Walk of the Believer	6
The Eternal State	6
Holy and Fallen Angels.....	6
The Return of Christ	7
Article IV – Ordinances.....	8
SECTION A - The Lord’s Supper	8
SECTION B - Believers’ Water Baptism	8
Article V – Membership	8
SECTION A – Qualifications	8
SECTION B – Status of Membership.....	9
SECTION C – Reception of Members.....	10
SECTION D – Responsibility – Christian Walk and Conduct.....	10
SECTION E – Discipline.....	11
SECTION F – Arbitration.....	13
Article VI – Government.....	14

SECTION A – Authority	14
SECTION B - Business Meetings	14
SECTION C — Voting at Business Meetings.....	15
SECTION D — Elected Officers	15
SECTION D — Elected Officers ... continued ...	20
SECTION E - Confidentiality Of Church Records:	21
Article VII - Ordination and Commissioning	21
SECTION A - Composition and Function of Council of Ordination....	21
SECTION B - Discipline of Ordained Ministers.....	22
SECTION C - Commissioning.....	22
Article VIII– Ministry	22
SECTION A - Leadership Qualifications	22
SECTION B - Committees	22
SECTION C - Missions Ministry	23
Article IX – Finances	23
SECTION A - Support.....	23
SECTION B - Loans and Credit	23
Article X – Properties and Assets	23
SECTION A - Title.....	23
SECTION B - Acquisition and Sale of Property	24
SECTION C - Use of Property	24
SECTION D – Dissolution	24
Article XI – Amendments.....	24
SECTION A - Procedure.....	24
Appendixes	25
MEMBERSHIP COVENANT	25

**Note: All Scripture references are taken from the
New King James version of the Bible**

Preamble

We, the membership, do adopt and subscribe to the following Statement of Faith, and constitution of WHITNEYVILLE BIBLE CHURCH.

Article I – Name and Affiliation

1. The corporate name of this Church shall be “Whitneyville Bible Church,” of Alto, Michigan. Hereafter to be referred to as the/ this Church.
2. This church is undenominational and shall remain independent and an autonomous (self-governing) organization as long as it exists. It is in full agreement with the principles of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America.

Article II – Purpose

1. To stand unequivocally for the fundamentals of the Faith as contained in the Holy Scriptures.
2. To present the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ at home and abroad.
3. To teach the Holy Scriptures for the edification of those who have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.
4. To do all things for the glory of God.

Mark 16:15 ... And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Ephesians 4:11-16 ... And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Colossians 3:17 ... And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Article III – Statement of Faith

1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe that The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are given by inspiration of God, inerrant in the original writings, and are the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

II Timothy 3:16-17 ... All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2. The Godhead

We believe in one GOD—the Creator and ruler of the Universe, existing in a divine and incomprehensible Trinity—the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, each possessing divine perfection.

I John 5:7 ... For there are three that bear record in Heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one.

■ The Person and Work of God the Father

1. We believe that God, the Father, who is holy, omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent, so loved the world that He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to become our only means of salvation.

Isaiah. 6:3 ... “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!”

Psalms 139:7-12; ... Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,” even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. (see also vs. 1-4, 13-16)

John 3:16 ... For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

2. We believe that God the Father is sovereign and calls the sinner. He becomes the believer’s Father at the new birth.

John 6:37 ... All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

John 6:44 ... “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

3. We believe that God the Father sends the Holy Spirit to abide in the believer forever in response to the Son’s request, and that this takes place at conversion.

John 14:16-17; 26 ... And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you ... But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

4. We believe that God the Father answers believing prayer when asked in accordance with His will in Jesus' name.

James 1:5-7 ... If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

■ The Person and Work of God the Son

1. 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.

John 1:1-2, 14 ... In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Luke 1:35 ... And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for all mankind as our representative, substitutionary sacrifice. The sufficiency of this atoning sacrifice, once and for all eternity, to accomplish the redemption and justification of all who trust in Him is assured by his literal, physical resurrection from the dead.

Romans. 3:24-25 ... Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed ...

1 Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5

Hebrews 7:27 ... Who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

3. 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.

Hebrews. 7:25 ... Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 9:24 ... For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.

I John 2: 1-2 ... My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Acts 1:9-11; Romans. 8:34

■ The Person and Work of God the Holy Spirit

1. We believe in the Holy Spirit as a Divine person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He is the supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption.

John 16:8-11 ... And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

I Corinthians. 12:12-13 ... For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

Romans 8:9; II Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:13-14

2. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth, and that it is the privilege and responsibility of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit.

John 14:26 ... But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance whatsoever I have said unto you.

Galatians 5:18 ... But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

3. We believe that spiritual gifts are allocated by God through the Holy Spirit to all believers for the building up of the Saints and the glorification of God as instructed in the Scriptures.

I Corinthians Chapters 12-14

3. Creation and Fall of Man

We believe that mankind was created holy and upright but fell from this condition and that in consequence, the whole human race is by nature depraved, sinful, alienated from God, and unable to remedy his lost condition.

Genesis 1:26-27 ... Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Romans 3:23... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Ephesians 2:1-3 ... And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2: 12

4. Salvation

- a. We believe in the incarnation, death, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; and that salvation is attained only through repentance, and faith in Him.

Acts 4:12 ... Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

- b. We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again, The new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus and is instantaneous and not a process. In the new birth the one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the Divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God. The new creation is brought about in a manner beyond our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 4:10-12 ... let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

5. Assurance of Salvation

We believe that every believer can and should be assured of their salvation, having God's Word as authority for such assurance.

John 5:11-13 ... And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

6. The Church

We believe that Christ is the Head over all things in the Church. We believe that the Church of Jesus Christ is made up of all born-again believers, irrespective of color, race or denomination.

Ephesians 1:22-23 ... And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

I Corinthians 12:13 ... For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

7. The Walk of the Believer

It is the privilege and duty of all the saved to live in joy, peace, and continued fellowship with believers in Christ and our great God and Saviour who, although setting us free from the law, has commanded us to live separately from sinful pleasures, practices, and associations and to keep our mind set on things above, not on things on the earth.

Romans 12:1-2 ... I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Additional References:

Romans 14:13; Galatians 5:1; Titus 2:12; I John 1:17; I John 2:1; II Corinthians 6:17-18; II Corinthians 7:1.

8. The Eternal State

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all mankind, the saved to eternal life with Christ in heaven and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment in hell.

Matthew 25:46 ... And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

John 5:28-29 ... Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

John 11:25-26 ... Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Additional References: Revelation 20:5-6, 12-13; Luke 16:22-23

9. Holy and Fallen Angels

a. The Bible clearly teaches the existence and personality of angels, both holy angels and fallen angels (demons).

2 Peter 2:4 ... For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

- b. We believe in an actual devil, Satan, who is a fallen angel, the author of sin, and the expressed enemy of God and accuser of mankind. He goes about as a roaring lion and as an angel of light seeking whom he may devour. His defeat was accomplished through the cross of Christ and he and his demons will be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 ...But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

1 John 3:8 ...He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Revelation 12:10 ... Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down."

Revelation 20:10 ... The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

1 Peter 5:8 ... Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

II Corinthians 11:14 ... for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

- c. We believe in the holy angels as God's ministering spirits.

Hebrews 1:14 ... Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

10. The Return of Christ

We believe in that "blessed hope," the personal, imminent and pre-millennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones at the close of this age when the Church, His bride, will be caught up to meet Him in the air and so we shall ever be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians. 4:16-17 ... For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.

Jude 14 ... Behold the Lord cometh with ten thousand of His saints.

Revelation 20:1-6

Article IV – Ordinances

We recognize two ordinances (God ordained directives) of the Church for this age - the Lord's Supper and Believers' Water Baptism. They are not to be regarded, however, as a means of salvation or as a means of grace by which special merit is obtained.

SECTION A - The Lord's Supper

This ordinance shall be observed regularly as often as the Elder Board (see Article VI, Sect. D, Item 7) shall decide. All who have accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior and are walking in fellowship with the Lord shall be welcome to join in this service unless they are under conviction of the Holy Spirit to abstain or under the discipline of the Church as defined in Article 5 Section E.

I Corinthians. 11:17-34

SECTION B - Believers' Water Baptism

This ordinance shall be observed at the direction of the Elder Board, when a candidate has submitted an acceptable request. Water baptism is by immersion (if candidate is able) and is offered to those who have personally acknowledged Christ as Savior.

Acts 8:36-39, 10:47,48; I Corinthians. 1:14-17

Article V – Membership

The Bible teaches that all Christians should align themselves with a local body of believers for encouragement and accountability to one another.

Hebrews 10:24-25; Ephesians 2:19-22

SECTION A – Qualifications

1. No person shall be considered for membership before they have attended this church and proved themselves faithful for one year. This waiting period may be waived upon receipt of a letter of recommendation from a similar Bible believing church.
2. Persons desiring to unite with this church will qualify for membership by:
 - a. Confessing and possessing the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.
 - b. Accepting in its entirety the Statement of Faith contained in Article III of this constitution.

- c. Agreeing to be governed by this constitution.
 - d. Being approved by the Elder Board as to their Christian experience and the basis of their salvation.
3. No person shall be considered for membership who holds membership in an oath-bound secret society.

SECTION B –Status of Membership

1. The membership of this Church shall consist of three types: Active Membership; Associate Membership; and Inactive Membership.
2. The Elder Board shall inform the congregation of any membership status changes on a monthly basis.
3. Active Membership shall consist of Christians who have been received in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution. They must not be members of any other church with an exception for those who maintain a seasonal residence in another location for six months or less out of a year.
 - a. No minimum age shall be set for membership.
 - b. Active members who have reached the age of 18 years shall be entitled to vote.
4. Associate Membership shall be extended to the following:
 - a. Those who meet the qualifications of Active Membership, but who are not permanent residents of this area, such as students and missionaries, who may hold regular membership elsewhere.
 - b. Those who no longer reside in this area but still desire to hold their membership in this Church.
 - c. Associate members may be permitted to teach and participate in church ministries. They shall have the right to attend the business meetings of the Church, but shall not have the right to vote.
5. Inactive Membership shall consist of the following:
 - a. Those who have been absent from the services of the Church for a period of six months without giving a satisfactory reason for such absence.
 - b. Those who are under disciplinary action of the Elder Board.

- c. Inactive members shall not have the right to vote or hold any office or position of service in the Church. The Elder Board shall seek to restore the inactive member to active membership. If this has not been accomplished after twelve additional months, they may be dropped from the membership roll.
6. The names of persons who request a letter of recommendation to regularly attend another church may be removed from the roll by vote of the Elder Board.
7. If an individual desires to voluntarily withdraw membership, a letter must be submitted to the Elder Board. This action will result in immediate removal from the membership roll.

SECTION C – Reception of Members

Applicants who have been approved for reception into the membership shall be recommended to the Church by announcement from the pulpit or in the bulletin for two consecutive Sundays. If no valid objections are received by the Elders during that period, the right hand of fellowship shall be extended to them at a following Sunday morning service. Their membership shall then be in force.

SECTION D – Responsibility – Christian Walk and Conduct

1. It is the responsibility of every member, as enabled by God, to regularly attend worship services, to partake of the Lord's Supper, to spend a portion of each day in Bible reading and in prayer, to be a personal and public witness, to be concerned about winning others to Christ, and to have a willingness to serve in the work of this church.
2. It is the responsibility of every member and our conviction that proportionate giving is a distinct privilege and positive command given to God's people. We therefore pledge ourselves to contribute systematically to the support of the Church, with such a portion of our income that we believe God desires of us, according to the principle laid down in I Corinthians 16:2.
3. It is the responsibility of every member to conduct their daily lives and conversation in obedience to all those principles laid down in the Word of God. All members will be expected to live so as not to be a reproach to the Lord.
4. It is the responsibility of every member to respond to conflict in a way that will glorify God, serve others, and allow us to be more like Christ. (*Matthew 5:9; Luke 6:27-36; Galatians 5:19-26*)

5. It is the responsibility of every member to please and honor God by depending on his wisdom, power and love by faithfully obeying his commands and by seeking to maintain a loving, merciful and forgiving attitude toward our Church family. (*Psalm 37:1-6; Mark 11:25; John 14:15; Romans 12:17-21; I Corinthians 10:31; Philippians 4:2-9; Colossians 3:1-4; James 3:17-18; 4:1-3; I Peter 2:12*)
6. It is the responsibility of every member to recognize our own contribution to conflicts by confessing our sins, asking God to help us change any attitudes and habits that lead to conflict and seeking to repair any harm which may have been caused by us. (*Proverbs 28:13; Matthew 7:3-5; Luke 19:8; Colossians 3:5-14; I John 1:8-9*)
7. It is the responsibility of every member to overlook minor offenses or to talk directly and graciously with those whose offenses seem too serious to overlook. When a conflict with another Christian cannot be resolved in private, we will ask others in the body of Christ to help us settle the matter in a biblical manner. (*Proverbs 19:11; Matthew 18:15-20; I Corinthians 6:1-8; Galatians 6:1-2; Ephesians 4:29; II Timothy 2:24-26; James 5:9*)
8. It is the responsibility of every member to actively pursue genuine peace and reconciliation instead of allowing relationships to be damaged – forgiving others, as God for Christ’s sake, has forgiven us. (*Matthew 5:23-24; Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 2:3-4*)

SECTION E – Discipline

1. We recognize that discipline is a part of discipleship. When the steps outlined in Section D have not resolved the conflict, and it affects the ministry of this church, then there is a need for the Elder Board to intervene on behalf of the Church.
2. The purpose of all discipline shall be to strengthen the local Church by promoting consistent Christian living with a biblical standard of conduct and doctrine. Every effort shall be made to restore erring members to fellowship and active membership of the Church. (*Galatians 6:1; I Corinthians. 5:6; I Timothy 5:20*).
3. Reasons for discipline are:
 - a. Publicly speaking or teaching doctrine contrary to our Statement of Faith (*I Timothy 6:3-5; Romans 16:17*)

- b. Immoral conduct (*I Corinthians 5:9-13; II Corinthians. 6:14-17; I Thessalonians. 4:3; II Thessalonians. 3:6*)
 - c. Sowing discord that causes division, jeopardizing the spiritual life of the Church (*Proverbs 6:19; I Timothy 6:3-5; Romans 16:17*)
4. Rules for discipline are:
- a. The discipline of this church shall be entrusted to the Elder Board (as defined in Article VI, Section D, Item 7).
 - b. Any disciplinary action that is deemed necessary shall be in the spirit of love and meekness. (*II Thessalonians. 3:14-15; Galatians 6:1*)
 - c. Accusations against a member will not be brought before the Elders until the first two steps of Matthew 18:15-17 have been taken.
 - d. No accusation shall be brought against any Elder except upon the testimony of two to three witnesses. (*II Corinthians 13:1; I Timothy 5:19*)
 - e. If a disciplinary procedure is initiated by the Elder Board:
 - Charges shall be stated clearly to the accused person in writing. He or she will then be requested in writing to meet with the Elder Board not more than two weeks, and not less than one week subsequent unless providentially hindered. Failure on the part of the accused to appear before the Elder Board will not prevent the Elders from examining the case and reaching a decision in accordance with the testimony received.
 - The accused may be accompanied by an advocate of his/her choice during examination by the Elder Board.
 - The charge and the decision of the Elders shall be communicated to the congregation not more than two weeks, and not less than one week subsequent unless providentially hindered.
 - In the event the individual being disciplined is not satisfied with the decision of the Elder Board, he or she may ask for an arbitration council provided by the IFCA unless he or she has deliberately refused to meet with the Elders. (*Matthew 18:17; I Corinthians 13:1*)

5. Goals of discipline are:

- a. The severity of the discipline shall match the severity of the offense.
- b. Upon pronouncement of disciplinary action the repentant member will be restored to fellowship following these steps:
 - A probationary period of restricted ministry in the area of the offense
 - They must seek help if it's a case of life dominating patterns (*Proverbs 28:13b, Galatians 6:1f*)
 - Upon pronouncement of disciplinary action the unrepentant member will be either moved to inactive membership status or, at the discretion of the Elder Board, removed from the membership rolls if the severity of the offense warrants and will not be allowed to participate in the ministries of this church (*I Corinthians 5:11-14; Matthew 18:17*) (cf Article 5, Section B, Item 5)

SECTION F – Arbitration

In the event the internal affairs of the Church should reach a state of controversy that it seems impossible to achieve peaceful negotiations between the Pastor and Full Board, and/or between factions in the membership, a Board of Arbitration consisting of IFCA affiliated pastors and/or elders mutually agreed upon by both parties in the controversy shall be requested to aid in reaching a point of agreement. The Board of Arbitration may be requested by a majority vote by secret ballot of the Full Board or by a petition presented to the Full Board bearing the signatures of twenty-five percent (25%) of the active membership. The decision of the Board of Arbitration shall be binding upon the congregation and its conclusions must be accepted by all – with the following exceptions:

- It has no power to change the Constitution or Statement of Faith, nor even pass judgment on it. It must uphold the Constitution.
- It has no power to dissolve the Church or dispose of real estate or other property of the Church.

Article VI – Government

SECTION A – Authority

The government of this Church shall be vested in the active membership, implemented through a plurality of Elders who oversee duly-elected officers and committees in accordance with all the provisions of this constitution. The membership and elected officers are mutually accountable and all are under the Headship of Christ.

1 Peter 5:5-6 ... Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your Elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time...

SECTION B - Business Meetings

1. The Church may be called together for the transaction of any business by a sixty-seven percent (67%) majority vote of the Full Board, with notice of such meeting given from the pulpit or published in the Church bulletin on each of two Sundays immediately preceding said meeting.
2. It shall be the right of any member or number of members to petition the Full Board and be granted a hearing at their regular meeting. If following this hearing a group of members desires a special business meeting, such meeting shall be called by the Full Board upon written request of twenty-five percent (25%) of the active voting membership. Notice of this meeting shall be given from the pulpit or published in the Church bulletin on each of two Sundays immediately preceding the meeting. No question may be voted upon at this meeting unless stated in the notice of the meeting.
3. The annual business meeting of the Church shall be held within 30 days following the end of the fiscal year, at which time the reading of the minutes of the previous business meeting, the election of officers, the presenting of annual reports, and other necessary business shall occur. Should the annual business meeting be postponed due to lack of a quorum, expiring terms shall be extended until a quorum can be assembled.
4. All congregational business meetings shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order.

5. A quorum at business meetings of the Church shall be fifty percent (50%) of all voting members (including absentee voters) for published items of business. For non-published items of business a quorum shall be considered to be met if forty percent (40%) of all voting members are in attendance. If there is not a quorum in attendance at any business meeting, the Full Board will reschedule said meeting to be held within two weeks.

SECTION C — Voting at Business Meetings

1. Voting at business meetings shall be restricted to active voting members (see Article 5, Section B, Item 3). Non-members attending business meetings will not be given the floor unless they are requested by the chairperson.
2. Active members who are unable, because of sickness or other acceptable reasons, to be present at business meetings may vote by absentee ballot (where not otherwise prohibited) by obtaining an official ballot from the Church Clerk. The ballot is to be enclosed in a sealed, unmarked envelope that shall be enclosed in an envelope bearing the signature of the voter, and presented at the meeting. The Clerk or duly designated agent shall verify the eligibility of the absentee voter and present the inner envelope to the tellers.
3. Failure to indicate a choice of any item on a ballot will be considered a blank ballot for that item only and not counted when compiling the results on that item.
4. For published business a simple majority of those voting is required to pass an item of business. For non-published business, a sixty-seven percent (67%) majority of those active members in attendance shall be required to pass an item of business. For the occasion of the call or termination of a pastor's services (see Article VI, Section D, Item 7 - d - 1 and 2), a seventy-five percent (75%) majority of those active members in attendance shall be required.

SECTION D — Elected Officers

1. The elected church officers shall be:
 - Nominating Committee Members
 - Treasurer
 - Clerk
 - Deacon
 - Elder

2. Candidates for these offices must meet these qualifications:
 - Active member of the Church
 - At least 21 years of age
3. Nominating Committee
 - a. The Nominating Committee shall consist of two Elders and one Deacon selected from their number and two additional members selected from the church membership at the annual election.
 - b. The nominating committee members selected from the church membership will serve a two year staggered term.
 - c. The committee shall prayerfully consider the matter of officers and members to be elected for the ensuing year, and shall recommend to the Full Board one or more persons to fill each expiring or vacant office. Following Full Board approval, the slate will be published in the bulletin and posted in the Church meeting place two weeks prior to the annual business meeting.
4. Treasurer
 - a. The Treasurer shall be elected from the active membership at the annual election for a term of three years.
 - b. Duties of the Treasurer:
 - The Treasurer shall record and disburse church funds and shall be responsible to the Deacons.
 - The Treasurer shall make a monthly written financial report to the Full Board and present a written annual financial report to the membership at the regular annual business meeting.
 - The Treasurer shall submit the books for an annual audit in such a manner as may be directed by the Full Board.
 - c. The Treasurer is not to be a voting member of the Full Board.
5. Clerk
 - a. The Clerk shall be elected from the active membership at the annual election for a term of three years.
 - b. Duties of the Clerk:
 - The Clerk shall take minutes of all congregational meetings

- The Clerk shall take minutes of Full Board meetings.
 - The Clerk shall keep an accurate record of membership rolls.
- c. The Clerk is not to be a voting member of the Full Board.
6. Deacons
- a. The Deacons shall be elected from the active membership at the annual election for a term of two years. After serving their term of office, Deacons cannot be re-elected as a Deacon or elected as an Elder until one year has elapsed.
- b. In addition to the above qualifications, Deacons must meet the qualifications stated in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-6.
- c. The Deacons shall function as the trustees of the Church in all legal matters.
- d. Duties of the Deacons:
- The Deacons are responsible for the financial matters of the Church including receiving, recording and depositing the offerings.
 - The Deacons are to ensure that the facilities are maintained properly.
 - The Deacons are to minister to the needy and supervise the benevolent funds of the Church.
 - The Deacons may also assist in the administration of the “Lord’s Supper” if necessary.
- e. The Deacons shall appoint a Chairman from their own number.
- f. A report of the business of the Church shall be made at the annual business meeting.
7. Elders
- a. The Elders shall be elected from the active membership at the annual election for a term of three years with terms so arranged that a majority will not go out of office at the same time. After serving their term of office, Elders cannot be re-elected as an Elder or elected as a Deacon until one year has elapsed.
- b. In addition to the above qualifications, Elders must meet the qualifications stated in I Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1: 5-9.

- c. Duties of the Elders:
- The Elders shall have the care of the spiritual welfare and discipleship of the Church.
 - The Elders shall assist in the administration of the “Lord’s Supper” and baptism, and shall have responsibility for matters of Church discipline (See Article V, Section E).
 - The Elders shall oversee all standing committees and approve all committee members.
 - The Elders are responsible for the general orderliness of the regular services.
 - The Elders shall examine all prospective members before recommendation for membership is made (see Article V, Section A).
 - The Elders shall perform such duties as the Word of God provides. (*Acts 20:28-31; Titus 1:5-11; and I Timothy 3:1-16*).
- d. The Elders shall appoint a Chairman from their own number.
- e. In addition to the general office of Elder, the Church may call one or more men to fill a specific role of Pastor.

Pertaining to Pastor(s)

1. Qualifications:
 - a. Pastors shall be member(s) of the Elder Board with the same rights and responsibilities as the other Elders.
 - b. In addition, Pastors shall meet the following qualifications: 1) ordained to the Christian ministry in a like manner to the process defined in Article VII, Section A and 2) must subscribe to the whole of this constitution without reservation.
2. Calling of Pastor(s):
 - a. The Full Board shall appoint a pastoral search committee to investigate possible candidates and arrange for them to speak at Sunday services. Investigation of a candidate shall include a questionnaire regarding training, pastoral experience, pastoral and leadership philosophy, and

- qualifications mentioned in Section D, Item 7 above. A visit by members of the Full Board to his present pastorate is advisable when possible.
- b. A vote may be taken by the membership at any time to call a pastor, subject to the following:
 - A business meeting be called for that purpose in accordance with Article VI, Sections B and C, or placed on the agenda of the annual business meeting.
 - The candidate has spoken at two Sunday services.
 - He is recommended to the congregation by a unanimous vote of the Full Board.
 - One candidate shall be considered at a time.
 - c. The Pastor(s) and his wife shall automatically become members of the Church upon his taking up his duties as Pastor.
3. Termination of Service of Pastor(s)
- a. The Pastor(s)' term of office shall be indefinite. A notice of not less than 60 days shall be given to terminate, with remuneration and services continuing through this period, unless otherwise mutually agreed.
 - b. A vote may be taken by the membership at any time to terminate the pastor's services subject to the following:
 - A special meeting may be called for that purpose in accordance with Article VI, Sections B and C.
 - It shall be placed on the agenda of a regular business meeting, providing that previous action has been taken by the Full Board, or a petition of twenty-five percent (25%) of the membership has been presented to the Full Board.
 - Fifty percent (50%) of the active voting members will constitute a quorum, and a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of those voting members present will be required to terminate a pastor's services.
 - c. In the event of doctrinal or moral defection, the pastor's services may be terminated immediately by

action of the Full Board, to be ratified by a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the membership within thirty days.

4. Duties of the Pastor(s):
 - Additional Pastoral duties shall include the ministry of the Word, administration of the ordinances and other duties as mutually agreed upon with the Elder Board.

SECTION D — Elected Officers ... continued ...

8. The Full Board
 - a. The Full Board shall be composed of the Deacons and Elders, including Pastor(s).
 - b. The Full Board shall appoint a Chairman from their own number.
 - c. At least one Full Board Member shall serve as a liaison to each standing committee.
 - d. The membership of the Full Board shall consist of at least three men. In the event there are less than three Deacons, any three members shall be designated as trustees for the purpose of handling legal matters. These trustees shall continue in office until their successors are in office. When possible, the Elders and Deacons shall each consist of three or more men, depending on the size of the Church and the availability of qualified persons. The number of Deacon and Elder offices shall be determined by the Full Board with a desired ratio of one Deacon and one Elder per 40 active members.
 - e. In the event of an office being vacated, the remaining members of the Full Board may appoint a qualified person to fill this office until the next annual business meeting.
 - f. The Full Board has the authority to appoint supervisory responsibility over any paid staff member and to require all non-contract employees to wholeheartedly subscribe to the “Responsibility for Christian Walk and Conduct” statements as detailed in Article V, Section D, Items 3-8.

SECTION E - Confidentiality Of Church Records:

No individual(s) shall have the right to inspect the church records as to (i) the disciplining of any member, (ii) the hiring or firing of any employee, (iii) the need or problems of any member or employee, (iv) the financial contributions of any member, or (v) any other records which the Board of Elders may determine to be in the best interests of the Church to keep confidential; except that with respect to item (v) of this Article, the congregation in any business meeting shall have the right, by a simple majority of those members voting, to inspect any of such other records.

Article VII - Ordination and Commissioning

SECTION A - Composition and Function of Council of Ordination

1. When, in the judgment of the Elders, a man in this membership, or in special cases a non-member in agreement with the doctrinal statement, is called to the Christian ministry, it shall be within the power of the Elders to call and conduct a Council of Ordination, after the approval of the Church has been obtained by vote. This council shall consist of the pastor and Elders of this Church, and other ordained Christian ministers and delegates from fundamental churches.
2. The Council of Ordination shall thoroughly examine the applicant regarding his personal Christian experience, call to the ministry, educational training, doctrinal belief, reputation and demonstrated efficiency in Christian service. The applicant shall give evidence of his agreement with those provisions of the constitution of this Church with respect to doctrine, independence of the local church, and Scriptural qualifications for church leadership.
3. Upon completion of the examination of the applicant, a two-thirds majority vote by the Council of Ordination shall be required to recommend his ordination. When so recommended, a public ordination service shall be arranged by this Church and the applicant.
4. The minutes of the Council of Ordination and of the public service shall be incorporated into the record of the Church business meetings, and a Certificate of Ordination shall be provided for the newly ordained minister.

SECTION B - Discipline of Ordained Ministers

1. The Elders shall have the power to discipline, even to the revoking of the ordination credentials of any minister ordained under this constitution, if the said minister is found guilty of doctrinal or moral defection after an impartial trial conducted in the spirit of I Corinthians 13. (See Article V, Section E, “Discipline of Members” for guidance)
2. The minister under discipline shall have the privilege to appeal his case to the Arbitration Council within 60 days after the decision of the Elders. The final decision will remain with the Church. (See Article V, Section F “Arbitration”)

SECTION C - Commissioning

1. When a missionary requests to be commissioned, it will be done subject to the following provisions:
 - The Missions Committee has given its approval
 - He or she agrees with the Statement of Faith in this constitution
 - After a satisfactory examination by the Elder Board, he or she shall be accepted by a two thirds majority vote of the Full Board

Article VIII– Ministry

SECTION A - Leadership Qualifications

1. All persons who sing, play musical instruments, or speak in our public services must be professing Christians, except in special circumstances by permission of the Full Board.
2. Teachers and officers in the Education Ministry, officers of adult sub-organizations, and adult directors of other sub-organizations, must be Active or Associate Members of this Church, except by permission of the Full Board. All shall be approved by the Full Board.

SECTION B - Committees

1. Standing Committees for the administration of the various phases of the work shall be designated and appointed by the Full Board.

2. Special Committees for short-term service may be appointed as needed by the Full Board.
3. The appointment of all committees shall be reported to the Church on the Sunday following the meeting at which they were appointed.
4. Every Committee and organization shall report regularly to the Full Board.

SECTION C - Missions Ministry

1. To insure the regular activity of the Church in the cause of missions at home and abroad, a Missions Committee shall be appointed by the Full Board.
2. This Committee is responsible to communicate with all mission fields the Church has an interest in, and to investigate and report to the Church on any matters requiring action.
3. The Missions Committee shall make recommendations to the Full Board regarding changes or additions to the Church missions program. All new commitments shall be approved by the congregation at a regular or specially called business meeting.
4. A stated missionary policy shall be adopted by the Church. It shall be reviewed and republished as necessary.

Article IX – Finances

SECTION A - Support

The financial program of this Church and its sub-organizations shall principally be supported through the free-will offerings of members and gifts of those interested in its ministry.

SECTION B - Loans and Credit

Loans or credit in excess of five percent (5%) of the annual budget must have approval of the membership.

Article X – Properties and Assets

SECTION A - Title

The title to all property of this Church, both real and personal, shall be and remain vested in that portion of the Active Membership that shall remain faithful to the original purpose stated in Articles I, II, III of this constitution.

SECTION B - Acquisition and Sale of Property

1. The Church shall have power to acquire and hold property, both real and personal, for the general purpose of this Church. All property so acquired shall be in the name of this Church.
2. Any purchase, sale, mortgage, or transfer of real and personal property valued in excess of \$5,000.00 shall be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present at a duly called business meeting (see Article VI, Sections B and C).

SECTION C - Use of Property

Properties belonging to the Church may be available to its members, subject to regulation by the Full Board.

SECTION D – Dissolution

1. No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any donor, member, director or officer of the corporation, or to any private individual. No donor, member, director, or officer of the corporation, or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporation assets.
2. Upon dissolution, any assets of the corporation must be distributed to a ministry organized for religious purposes which is in agreement with the Statement of Faith and constitution of this Church (see Article V).
3. Any ministry receiving assets must be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or any corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Article XI – Amendments

SECTION A - Procedure

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting membership, with the exception of Articles X and XI, at a regular or specially called business meeting, provided that such amendment is presented in written form at least one month prior to the meeting with notice of such meetings given from the pulpit or published in the Church bulletin on each of two Sundays immediately preceding said meeting.

Appendixes

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Persons applying for membership in Whitneyville Bible Church must be in agreement with the following membership covenant.

I have read the Statement of Faith and the balance of the Constitution of Whitneyville Bible Church, and do solemnly assume the responsibilities of membership in this church. I fully subscribe to the Statement of Faith, and the Constitution. I agree to its provisions and to the loving leadership of its officers. I therefore promise, in dependence upon God, to attend its services as faithfully as possible, to sanctify the Lord's Day, to be faithful in private devotions, and to strive in all things to honor my Lord and Savior by a walk and conversation honoring Christ. I further promise to cheerfully contribute to the financial support of the Church and its Gospel ministry, to assist in the conduct of its services and to pray for the leadership of the Holy Spirit in all things. If at any time I find myself out of harmony with the beliefs and practices of this Church, if my conduct or doctrinal belief shall be called in question by the Pastor and the Board of Elders, I agree to submit the difference to their careful consideration and be governed by their decision as to my future relationship to this church.