



**MACOMB CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

Adopted by congregational vote at a special meeting, February 18, 1973

Amended by the congregation at a special meeting held on July 8, 1990.

Amended by the congregation at the annual meeting held on November 4, 2007.

Amended by the congregation at the annual meeting held on November 10, 2024.

Former Address:  
42850 Hayes Road  
Clinton Township, MI 48038

Present Address:  
13845 22 Mile Road  
Shelby Township, MI 48315

**CONSTITUTION****PREAMBLE**

These rules and regulations presuppose that the Bible, rightly divided, constitutes the only and all-sufficient rule of faith and practice for the local congregation. These articles of the Constitution, therefore, intentionally avoid the realm of the permissive and are designed to aid the congregation in managing the affairs of the church with decency and order.

**ARTICLE I: NAME**

**Section 1.** This congregation, which had its beginning on October 17, 1971, and incorporated as a Michigan non-profit ecclesiastic corporation known as Macomb Christian Church, shall be designated as the Macomb Christian Church.

**ARTICLE II: PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY**

**Section 1.** The purpose of this corporation shall be to lead sinners to an obedient belief in Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God; to exalt God and the Bible as the Word of God; to provide opportunity for worship and fellowship after the New Testament pattern which includes the weekly observance of the Lord's Supper; and thereby, to restore New Testament Christianity and the consequent union of all followers of Jesus Christ with the Bible as the only final authority.

**ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.** Membership shall be constituted of penitent believers in Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God without reservation, who have repented toward Christ, who have confessed His name before men, who have been immersed in water for the remission of sins, and who have resolved to abide by the teachings of Christ as presented in the New Testament.

**ARTICLE IV: AUTONOMY**

**Section 1.** The Macomb Christian Church is a free and autonomous body, claiming the right of free governance and recognizing no outside religious authority or control except Jesus Christ. This church will not be responsible to nor be bound to any other corporate body.

**ARTICLE V: FINANCE**

**Section 1.** The work of the Macomb Christian Church shall be financed primarily by tithes and offerings.

**ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.** This Constitution may be amended at any business meeting of the church by a two-thirds vote of the active members present and voting, provided that notice of the proposed amendment is communicated to each eligible voting member at the regular Sunday morning service for two consecutive Sundays immediately preceding the date on which the vote is taken, and notice is provided in the manner the church normally communicates with members two weeks prior to the vote.

**Section 2.** EXCEPTION. Article II, Article III, Section 1, Article IV and Article VI, Section 2 cannot be amended. Any attempt to amend these articles violates the intent of the founders. Those attempting such action shall forfeit their right of membership and claim to the property of the Macomb Christian Church.

**BYLAWS****PREAMBLE**

Macomb Christian Church endeavors to be a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ as described and established by the New Testament. The purpose of these Bylaws is to help carry out the life of this Church in a biblical and orderly manner. The ultimate authority for the Church's organization, governance, and operation is the Bible. When a conflict or ambiguity exists concerning these Bylaws, deference is to be given to Scripture for resolution.

**ARTICLE I: NAME AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE**

The name of the corporation is Macomb Christian Church. This corporation is a Michigan non-profit ecclesiastic corporation and will be further referred to in these Bylaws as the "Church." The Church maintains its principal office at 13845 22 Mile Road, Shelby Township, MI 48315.

**ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP****Section 1: General**

The New Testament depicts groups of people who, once devoted to Jesus, regularly participated with a specific body of believers (see Romans 16:1, 1 Corinthians 1:2, 2 Corinthians 8:1, Philippians 1:1, Acts 11:26). To implement the principles of accountability and commitment to such a local body as defined in the New Testament and practiced in the early churches, the Church recognizes the need for formal membership. Membership in this Church will consist of all persons who have met the qualifications for membership, as set forth herein.

**Section 2: Qualifications of Membership**

Any person who places his or her faith in Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior and Lord, repents of sin, has been baptized by immersion, and is willing to commit himself or herself to the membership agreement as a part of the local body of believers may become a member by expressing such a desire by proceeding through the membership process laid out by Macomb Christian Church.

**Section 3: Responsibilities of Membership**

The responsibilities of members are described by, but not limited to, the following: spiritual growth, helping others follow Jesus more closely ("making disciples"), and practicing the many "one-another's" of the New Testament ("love one another," "serve one another," "submit to one another," "share each other's burdens," "motivate one another to acts of love and good work," etc.).

**Section 4: Voting**

Voting privileges shall be accorded all active members 18 years of age and older. An active member is one who has supported the church through regular attendance, contribution of talent, and regular financial support during the six months prior to any business meeting of the members. Exceptions concerning voting privileges shall be determined by a majority vote of the Elders.

**Section 5: Termination of Membership**

Membership of an individual in the Church will be ended by the written request of the member to an elder or minister of the Church, by the individual's death, or by a consensus decision of the Elders.

**Section 6: Discipline of Members**

The purpose of church discipline is to glorify God by maintaining purity in the Church (1 Corinthians 5:6), protecting believers by deterring sin (1 Timothy 5:20), and promoting the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her back to biblical standards of doctrine and conduct (see Galatians 6:1).

**ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS****Section 1: Location**

Meetings of the members will be held at 13845 22 Mile Road, Shelby Township, Michigan, or at a location designated (including virtual) by the Elders.

**Section 2: Annual Meeting**

A meeting of the members will be held annually on such a date and time as determined by the Elders. The purpose of this meeting will be to present the annual budget, vote on items of interest to the Church, and present reports as deemed necessary by the Elders. New business items may not be voted upon during a special or annual meeting. All items for voting consideration must be presented by the Elders and adequate communication must be given to the congregation two weeks prior to the vote.

**Section 3: Special Meetings**

Special meetings may be called at any time by the Elders by giving a two-week notice to the members. Church members may, for any purpose, present to the Chairman of the Elders a petition calling for a special meeting of the membership. This petition will be signed by no fewer than a number of members representing 20% of average adult attenders over the prior four weeks of the Church's Sunday morning services and state the purpose for which the meeting is being called. Should the petition address problems or grievances, the Elders will meet with the petitioners to seek resolution. If appropriate, the Elders may schedule, announce, and conduct the special meeting related specifically to the items contained in the petition within 30 days of the receipt of the petition.

**Section 4: Notification Requirements of Meetings**

Church members will be given prior notification of meetings for members no less than two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting. Notification of membership meetings and their agendas will be provided in the manner the church normally communicates with membership.

**Section 5: Quorum**

Those members present will constitute a quorum of the membership for the transaction of any and all business.

**Section 6: Affirmations**

Affirmation is the process of expressing support for the decisions or recommendations of the Elders presented at a membership meeting. Decisions the Elders have made will be presented to the members for their affirmation. Affirmation of elder decisions will be by two-thirds of members present at the time of the vote, including absentees and online votes.

Member affirmation will be requested for the following: the presentation of the next annual operating budget; the amending of the Constitution or Bylaws; the affirmation of Elders and Lead Minister; indebtedness that results in a mortgage or a lien against Church real estate; and purchase or sale of real estate.

**Section 7: Meeting Procedures**

The Chairman of the Elders will conduct all Church meetings for members, and in his absence such meetings will be conducted by the Vice-Chairman of the Elders. Official minutes will be taken and filed in the permanent records of the Church.

**ARTICLE IV: ELDERS****Section 1: General Scope**

The Church seeks to be a New Testament Church committed to the teachings of the Bible. No other authority or tradition is to guide the means, faith, or structure of the Lord Jesus Christ's Church. The pastoral and administrative structure for a New Testament Church is to utilize a plurality structure of leaders, consisting of, but not limited to, Elders, professional staff, and lay leaders. The Elders are accountable before God for the ultimate oversight of the Church.

**Section 2: Duties**

The Elders will oversee, lead, shepherd, and care for the spiritual condition of the Church as set forth in the Bible. According to scriptural example, the Elders' primary responsibilities in an elder governance model are prayer (Acts 6:2); preaching (Acts 6:2; "ministry of the word"); policy creation and oversight (Acts 15:22, 28-29); pastoral care (Acts 20:28); protection (Acts 20:28-31).

**Section 3: Qualifications**

Any man who is an active member of the Church and has demonstrated spiritual maturity over a period of time and meets scriptural requirements (see 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Hebrews 13:17) is eligible to serve as an elder.

**Section 4: Selection**

While there is no established biblical mandate for a minimum number of Elders, those Elders currently serving will determine the appropriate number of Elders to serve at the Church based upon the number of spiritually qualified individuals with a preference for an odd number for voting purposes. When deemed necessary to have additional Elders, currently serving Elders will recruit, orient, equip, and integrate new Elders into the Eldership through a deliberate vetting process.

**Section 5: Terms of Service**

An elder will serve a three-year term and may be re-elected for subsequent terms of three years. A sabbatical of one year may be taken after each term but must be taken after two consecutive terms.

**Section 6: Organization of The Elders**

The Elders will meet as a collective group as often as necessary, and minutes will be recorded. The Elders will appoint annually from their own number men who serve in the following roles: Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Recording Secretary of the Elders.

**ARTICLE V: CHURCH LEADERSHIP****Section 1: General Scope**

The following is a description of the various positions of leadership at the Church, which creates a multifaceted leadership structure and allows us to do ministry in a decent and orderly fashion.

**Section 2: Elders**

The Elders, previously described in Article IV, have final authority over all matters of the Church.

**Section 3: Lead Minister****DUTIES:**

The Lead Minister is responsible to the Elders to lead the Church in such a way that the church functions effectively as a New Testament Church, thereby achieving the stated vision and purpose. The Lead Minister will provide a clear voice of leadership to the Church and be responsible for communicating the vision, while preaching/teaching the Word of God so that lives can be authentically formed by Scripture. He is to lead by precept and example, maturing believers through insightful and accurate presentation of the Word. The Lead Minister will be considered a member of all Ministry Teams by virtue of his role ("ex-officio").

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

The Lead Minister will be a male and will possess the same spiritual qualifications as that of an elder (see Bylaws, Article IV: Elders, Section 3: Qualifications). The Elders may establish further skill requirements (i.e., preaching, teaching, leadership, etc.).

**SELECTION:**

The Elders will serve as the Search Team for the Lead Minister. The Search Team will locate a Lead Minister candidate, conduct initial interviews, complete background investigations, and recommend a candidate to the Church for their vote and affirmation.

**Section 4: Ministry Staff**

Ministry Staff will be under the supervision of the Lead Minister and will be men or women of faith and leadership capacity. Hiring will be coordinated by the Lead Minister with final approval of the Elders.

**Section 5: Ministry Teams**

Ministry Teams will be created and sustained to carry out the various works of the Church. Each Ministry Team will have a Ministry Staff liaison, supervised by the Lead Minister and Elders. Each Ministry Team will have a designated leader, preferably a deacon if one is qualified and willing to serve.



**GENERAL:**

While Scripture indicates that Elders bear the ultimate responsibility for leading the church, it does allow for the delegation of responsibilities. Therefore, the Elders of the Church will specifically delegate to Ministry Teams the responsibility of overseeing the legal, financial, business, executive, and other matters of the Church. Ministry Teams will create whatever internal structures they deem appropriate to carry out their responsibilities and to fulfill any requirements necessary for them to act as representatives of the Church.

Ministry Teams perform duties related to specific ministry tasks (i.e. benevolence team, missions/outreach team, worship/music team, etc.). These teams have been delegated the responsibility and authority to do their ministry within the confines of their operating budget and church policies. Each team is responsible to meet regularly and are under the oversight of the Ministry Staff or another individual appointed by the Elders and are accountable to the Elders. Each team may create a ministry description, outlining the role and responsibilities of the team. Each ministry will be an integral part of the Church and not an entity in itself.

**TRUSTEES:**

The trustees are comprised of three active members, under the direction of the Elders, that arrange for the leasing or renting of property, sign all contracts necessary to sell or purchase land and buildings on behalf of the Church, negotiate for and sign all applications and other required documents for loans or mortgages, and engage in such other matters as may be requested by the Elders. They are appointed by the Elders, serving a term of five years.

**ARTICLE VI: INDEMNIFICATION****Section 1: General Scope**

The Church will indemnify and hold harmless any member made a party to any action, suit, or proceeding by reason of the fact that they are or were a leader of the Church, against all liabilities, damages, costs and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, actually and necessarily incurred by them in connection with any such action, suit, or proceeding or any appeal thereof, except in relation to matters as to which it will be adjudged in such action, suit, or proceeding that such person is liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of their responsibilities. Such right of indemnification will not be exclusive of any other rights to which such person may be entitled apart from the provisions of this article.

**ARTICLE VII: FISCAL OPERATIONS****Section 1: General Scope**

The Church will maintain adequate and accurate books and records of accounts (i.e., financial records); minutes of Elders' meetings, Ministry Team meetings, and membership meetings; and records of membership including names, addresses, and contribution records of individuals. All such records will be maintained at its principal place of business, and the safekeeping of the records will be the responsibility of the Lead Minister.

**Section 2: Asset and Debt Management**

The Elders delegate the authority to Ministry Teams to manage funds of the Church. If requests for expenditures exceed the approved general operating budget, the Finance Team is responsible to review and approve (or deny) such a request. Any unbudgeted expenditures exceeding 5% of the approved budget must be approved by the Elders.

**Section 3: Fiscal Review**

The fiscal operation of the Church is subject to annual review as deemed necessary by the Finance Team and/or the Elders.

**Section 4: Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year end is December 31.

**ARTICLE VIII: PURPOSE AND REQUIREMENTS TO BE EXEMPT AS AN ORGANIZATION DESCRIBED IN SECTION 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE****Section 1:**

The organization is organized exclusively for charitable, educational purposes, including for such purposes as the making of distributions to organizations that qualify under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future tax code.

**Section 2:**

No part of the net earnings of the organization will inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization will be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof.

**Section 3:**

No part of the activities of the organization will be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization will not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

**Section 4:**

Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, the organization will not carry on any other activities not to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Should legislation be passed that contradicts moral or ethical tenants of the church, the Elders will determine next steps, which might include voluntary loss of 501(c)(3) status or dissolution.

**Section 5:**

Upon dissolution of the organization, Trustees will distribute assets to one or more exempt organizations within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Any such assets not so disposed of will be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purpose or to such organizations, as said Court will determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

**ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS****Section 1: General Scope**

These Bylaws, or any provision of them, may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new Bylaws may be adopted at any time by the Elders, with the affirmation of the change(s) by two-thirds of the active members present at any special or regular membership meeting at which a quorum is present.