

Article VI – Administration

Section G – Self Government

Bethany Baptist Church is a self-governed local church, without obligation to any denomination or other church-governing organization. All property, both real and personal, as well as all financial resources and commitments are wholly the responsibility of this church.

A minimum of three elders shall serve as the board of directors in accordance with the Michigan Non-Profit Corporation Act. If the number of recognized and functioning elders is fewer than three, one or more deacons shall assist in this capacity.

If extenuating circumstances arise and there are no biblically qualified elders or deacons, the members have the responsibility to elect an emergency board of directors until biblical leadership can be re-established.

Section H - Property

The church may own real, personal, or mixed property, as is authorized by the laws of the state of Michigan and as is deemed necessary for the functioning of the church. The church may receive property as a gift or acquire property by means of a new mortgage, utilization of available resources, or other financial instruments. Property will be acquired in a manner consistent with the handling of all other financial expenditures (Article VI, Section F) and held by the church in its own name.

The church has the right to dispose of property by bill of sale, deed, or other means. Disposal of any property of a value which exceeds 2% of the annual budget shall be affirmed by a majority of the members present and voting at a Members' Meeting. All property and financial transactions shall be consistent with the purpose and ministries of this church (Article II).

Section I - Viability

If extenuating circumstances arise and the membership has become inviable, the faithfully attending members shall pursue these actions as a matter of stewardship of the resources given to this church:

1. Seek to unite with another local church which may benefit from Bethany's facilities and assets. This action may result in the establishment of an entirely new church comprised of both memberships, which shall assume all existing properties, assets, and debt. Or, this action may result in a complete transfer of the properties, assets, and debt of Bethany Baptist Church to the selected church.
2. Seek to transfer the properties, assets, and debt of Bethany Baptist Church to another ministry of common mission and teaching.
3. If the above cannot be achieved, the church shall be considered dissolved. In this case, all property and assets shall be sold with the purpose of fully satisfying any outstanding debts. All remaining funds shall be directed to one or more of the church's supported missionaries and/or such other Christian organizations as the members shall determine.

Section J - Revisions

This Constitution may be revised at any regularly scheduled Quarterly or Annual Meeting by affirmation of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members present and voting by written ballot. All proposed changes shall be made public at least 4 Sundays prior to the meeting.

Section K – Related Documents

This constitution acknowledges that there may be related and separately published position and/or policy documents recognized by the Elders. These documents shall support this constitution by outlining distinctives related to teaching, matters of morality, and practical items of function. They shall not conflict with the content contained herein.