

The Journey Church Constitution and Bylaws

Constitution

Preamble

We are a family of believers, made up of imperfect people following the perfect Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our heart is to become a community that lives by Faith, is known by Love, and is a voice of Hope to the greater North Oakland County area and beyond.

We desire spiritual growth in our Church; to establish ourselves with Christ in Bible-centered practices; and to enjoy harmony in our church family and all our business practices.

This family of believers accepts the Bible as its authoritative text.

2 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.

For these reasons, we hereby adopt this Constitution.

Article I. Name

This family of believers is known as The Journey Church.

Article II. Our Mission

Our Mission is to help people know Jesus, follow Jesus, and grow in Jesus, by answering the scriptural call to:

- Love, worship and obey our Lord Jesus Christ. (Mark 12:30, Philippians 2:9-11, John 14:15)
- Share the love of Jesus with everyone we meet. (John 15:12)
- Proclaim the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (John 3:16)
- Make disciples of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- Build up believers to grow in relationship with Jesus and each other. (Ephesians 4:11-13)
- Serve Jesus by serving others. (Matthew 25:35-40)
- Glorify our Lord Jesus Christ in all we do. (Psalm 115:1)

Article III. Statement of Faith

The Bible: We believe the Bible in its original text is the divinely inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God. It is the supreme authority for faith and life: sufficient, true, relevant and useful in the world today and always. Scripture reveals the character and love of God to us, His will for our lives, and the path by which we can receive salvation. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Deuteronomy 4:2; Deuteronomy 10:17; John 3:16; Romans 12:2)

The Triune God: We believe there is one true God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. He is the infinitely perfect Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of all things. (Ephesians 4:4-6; Matthew 28:19; Revelation 1:8; Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 1:3; 1 Chronicles 29:11)

Jesus: We believe Jesus is the Son of God who became human and dwelt among us. We believe in His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His atoning death on the cross, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father in heaven, and His physical and visible return to this earth in power and glory as Judge of the living and the dead. (John 1:14;

Matthew 1:23; Hebrews 4:15; Acts 2:22-24; Romans 8:34; Acts 1:11; Philippians 2:5-11)

The Holy Spirit: We believe at the moment of salvation the Holy Spirit dwells within each believer, making us a new creation, born again in the Spirit of Christ. The Holy Spirit enables us to understand spiritual truth, convicts us of our sins, guides us to live a godly life and seals us in Christ for the day of redemption. (2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:5-8; 1 Corinthians 2:14; John 16:8; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 1:13)

Sin: We believe Adam (the first man) and Eve (the first woman) rebelled against God's perfect plan in the Garden of Eden. As a result, all people inherit a sinful nature which separates us from the Holy God. All fall short and are in desperate need of a Savior and forgiveness. (Genesis 2:7, 17, 21-22; Genesis 3:6-13; Romans 5:12; Romans 3:23-24)

Salvation: We believe that all people will stand before the judgement seat of Christ. On our own, we would all be found guilty. Salvation cannot be earned by way of good works, but only through faith in Jesus. God graciously offers the gift of salvation and eternity with Him to all who believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died on the cross and rose from the dead to pay the penalty for our sins. (2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Titus 3:4-7)

The Church: We believe Christ is the head of the Church which consists of all true believers, who through faith have received Christ as their Savior. As His Church, we must dedicate ourselves to spurring each other on toward love and good deeds; meeting together; and encouraging, teaching and admonishing one another as we submit to His authority over our lives. (Ephesians 1:22-23; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Hebrews 10:24-25; Colossians 3:16)

Evangelism and Discipleship: We believe that the ministries of evangelism (proclaiming the message of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ) and discipleship (helping followers of Christ grow up into maturity in Christ) are the responsibilities of all followers of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:18–20; Romans 10:9–15; 1 Peter 3:15)

Article IV. Practices of Faith

The practices of this Church family will be in conformity with biblical, scriptural principles.

Baptism. Water baptism is an outward expression of an inward commitment to the Lord. We believe in full immersion baptism, as it symbolically represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. It is a declaration made to show an intent to walk with Him in newness of life. (Matthew 28:19, Acts 10:47–48, Romans 6:4).

Communion. The Lord’s Supper is a symbol and remembrance of His suffering and sacrifice on the cross. (1 Corinthians 11:26). All who have professed faith and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior are welcome to participate in communion.

Tithes and Offerings. Tithing is an opportunity for an individual to honor God with a portion of the financial wealth that God has provided. This is a voluntary opportunity to show God we understand He has blessed the work of our hands (Deuteronomy 2:7) and we honor Him and His work in the world.

Offerings are over and above the tithe and an expression of praise to Him for providing above and beyond our needs. We are further commanded by God to share with those who teach us, giving unto the teacher, “all good things.” (Galatians 6:6).

Missions and Service. We believe that God has called the Church to work together to spread the gospel message to all nations. We believe His word calls us to make disciples according to the teachings of Jesus Christ regardless of the social or financial status, and to minister to the needs of all through sacrificial giving and service. (Isaiah 58:6–12; 61:1; Matthew 5:1–7:28; 28:18–20; Luke 4:18; 21:1–4; Galatians 2:10; 1 Timothy 6:8)

Sexuality and Marriage. We will teach and uphold God’s design for marriage as found in the scriptures. Marriage is the union of a man (husband) and a woman (wife) through a covenant designed by God. God created humankind in His image, intentionally male and female, each bringing unique and important qualities to relationships. We are all broken people and all fall short of God’s standards and we will not turn away anyone seeking to develop a relationship with the Lord and will minister with love and compassion, while fully teaching and upholding the word of God. (Genesis 1:27, Hebrews 13:4, I Corinthians 7:35, Matthew 19:4–6)

Sanctity of Life. We believe that God created man from “the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.” (Genesis 2:7) He made men and women in his image (Genesis 1:26–27), formed us in our mother’s womb, and He knew us in the beginning, even before we were formed. (Psalm 139:13–16) For that reason, we believe that all life is sacred from beginning to its natural end.

Article V. Conflict Resolution and Discipline

The Christian life requires discipleship, scriptural conflict resolution, self-discipline, and Godly discipline to train oneself and others to grow into spiritual maturity. (1 Timothy 4:7).

Discipleship and Self-Discipline. Discipline comes through learning God’s Word and developing a personal relationship with

Jesus Christ through guidance of the Holy Spirit. The goal is to transform lives and develop a character that glorifies God and seeks Him in all things. (1 Peter. 4:7–12).

1. As a Church family, we recognize our obligation to honor, serve, worship, praise and glorify God in all that we say and do. (1 Corinthians. 10:31).
2. Jesus Christ is the head of the Church and its primary lawgiver. (Ephesians. 1:22; Isaiah 33:22). Those who follow Him will:

- a. strive to keep His commandments. (John 14:15).
- b. love one another sincerely. (John 13:34, 35; Romans 12:9; 13:8–10; 1 John 3:18).
- c. work together as one body of believers, united in mission and will care for one another. (Ephesians 4:3; Romans 12:18).
- d. work toward the spiritual benefit of the Church family so that everyone grows in spiritual maturity. (1 Corinthians 14:12, 26; Ephesians 4:12, 29; 2:21, 22).
- e. watch over one another and support each other for the good of all. (Philippians 2:3, 4).
- f. faithfully pray with and for one another. (James 5:16).

Conflict Resolution. It is important to recognize negative conflict and resolve it in a manner consistent with Biblical principles. All families experience conflict and that is no less true in a church family. Not all conflict is negative and some degree of respectful

disagreement can help a church consider direction in a way that supports the mission of the church family. Negative conflict ignores the care and concern for the Church family and creates a destructive environment that threatens the good of the whole assembly.

Any matter involving negative conflict within this Church family, within the Leadership, or any controversy that threatens to cause injury to the Church family, must be called to the attention of Leadership as soon as possible by anyone aware of the situation. All conflicts will be handled in a mature, loving and constructive manner, according to scripture, for the restoration of all those involved. (Matthew 5:23–24; Matthew 5:9; Matthew 18:15–20; 1 Corinthians 5:1–13; 2 Corinthians 2:5–8.)

If Corrective Discipline is necessary, all correction is intended to restore fellowship with the Lord and his Church family to bring about:

1. Repentance, reconciliation, and spiritual growth of the individual (Hebrews 12:1–11; Matthew 18:15–17; 1 Corinthians 5:5; Galatians 6:1);
2. Purity of God’s church as a whole (1 Corinthians 5:6–7; Ephesians 5:27; Revelation 21:2);
3. A unified witness to non-Christians (Matthew 5:13–16; John 13:35; Acts 5:10-14); and
4. The glory of God manifested when His character is reflected to the watching world (Deuteronomy 5:11; John 15:8; Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 2:12).

Bylaws

We have voluntarily associated ourselves together for the purpose of forming a corporation under the laws of the State of Michigan, and we hereby certify:

Section I – Incorporate Name and Location

As stated in the Restated Articles of Incorporation, the name of the corporate church is The Journey Church.

The mailing address is:

The Journey Church
11489 Rattalee Lake Road
Davisburg, MI 48350

Section II – Organizational Purposes and Powers

The Journey Church is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes, as a non-profit corporation within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law to:

1. Minister the Word of God through regular religious worship services.
2. Spread the Word of God by ministering through various forms of mass media.
3. Encourage and support our Church family through ministries developed within our Church, as well as outreach to minister within the community and abroad.

4. Conduct a local and international church through the direction of the Lord Jesus Christ and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit as set forth in scripture.
5. Own, hold in trust, use, possess, sell, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any such property, real or chattel, as may be needed in the course of its work.
6. Enter into and carry out contracts of every kind for any lawful purpose with any person, firm, association or corporation.
7. Borrow or loan money, or give and receive evidence of donations and issue promissory notes, or otherwise make guarantees of any kind, and secure any or all obligations of the corporation by mortgage, trust, deed or otherwise.
8. Conduct all other acts necessary for the administration of the affairs of a non-profit corporation and exercise all the powers as are granted now or hereafter granted by the laws of the State of Michigan, upon non-profit corporations.

Section III – Term

The term in which the non-profit corporation will exist is perpetual.

Section IV – Membership

Membership in The Journey Church is given to all who profess their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and who voluntarily involve themselves in the affairs of The Journey Church, such as: attending regularly, serving at, and contributing financially to, The Journey Church. For those who do these things, they are automatically considered a member. (Ephesians 4:16).

Section V – Corporate and Leadership Structure

1. **Corporate Board of Directors/Corporate Officers** for The Journey Church are designated for State reporting purposes and will consist of:
 - a. President,
 - b. Vice-President
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer

2. **Leadership Positions** for The Journey Church will consist of:
 - a. Pastor (President)
 - b. Administrative Elder (Vice-President)
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
 - e. Board of Elders
 - f. Administrative Leadership Team
 - g. Ministry Leaders

Section VI – Duties of Officers and Leadership

- a. **Pastor (President):** Jesus Christ is the head of the Church. (Ephesians 5:23). The Pastor is considered the President of the corporate entity on the Board of Directors. The Pastor is also an Elder and oversees the Church body as well as all other Leadership. (1 Timothy 5:17.) The Pastor is considered the spiritual guide under the direction of the Holy Spirit and will provide spiritual instruction to the Church family (1 Peter 5:2) with the assistance of other appointed Elders. The Pastor must be ordained, will lead by example (Peter 5:3), and also oversee all Church outreach into the community and abroad. He will preside over all business meetings of the Church unless otherwise designated.

- b. Administrative Elder (Vice-President):** The Administrative Elder is considered the Vice-President of the corporate entity on the Board of Directors. The Administrative Elder is held to the same standards as the Pastor and must be trusted in leadership. The Administrative Elder will assist the Pastor as necessary and, in the absence of the Pastor, assume all responsibilities or duties of the Pastor until such time as the Pastor can resume his duties.
- c. Secretary:** The Secretary is considered the Secretary of the corporate entity on the Board of Directors. The Secretary is considered part of the Administrative Leadership Team and will preserve the minutes of all business meetings of the Church and the Administrative Leadership Team, and will maintain all official documents of the corporation and make them available on request by Leadership, a Church member, or other agencies as may be necessary for official purposes.
- d. Treasurer:** The Treasurer is considered the Treasurer of the corporate entity on the Board of Directors. The Treasurer is considered part of the Administrative Leadership Team and will oversee all accounting practices, including but not limited to, bookkeeping, complete processing of member donations, payment of Church bills, and any person(s) authorized to assist in these transactional processes.
- e. Board of Elders:** The Board of Elders is made up of the Pastor and other men selected to be spiritual leaders of the Church according to the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 2:11-12, 3:1-7, and Titus 1:5-9. The Board of Elders are not governed by the majority (the Congregation), or by one Elder/Pastor. Elders are responsible for spiritual Church function; caring for God's people through teaching, exhortation, and correction. The Elders are devoted to prayer and ministry of the Word

and must not be consumed with the day to day operation of the Church. (Acts 6:3-4)

- f. **Administrative Leadership Team:** The Administrative Leadership Team is made up of Corporate Officers, Elders, and any others appointed by them. The Administrative Leadership Team is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Church, including but not limited to, meeting regularly with the Pastor to discuss vision, operations, training, support, or other matters of significance affecting Church ministries. Will be responsible for overseeing and preparing the proposed budget for each fiscal year and insuring that budget is carried out as approved or adjusted if ministry objectives necessitate change. The Administrative Leadership Team will endeavor to appoint an independent CPA annually, to review the financial records of the Church to insure proper adherence to all Federal and State laws. The Administrative Leadership Team will also be responsible for providing the congregation with updates as to the vision, operations, and finances of the Church.

- g. **Ministry Leaders:** Ministry Leaders act primarily in a position of servant leadership and oversee volunteers in Ministry Programs as established by and under the supervision of the Board of Elders, for congregational care, outreach, or any purpose established to benefit the Church body.

Section VII – Selection of Officers and Leadership

- a. **Pastor (President):** Any vacancy will be filled through the combined efforts of the Board of Elders, the Administrative Leadership Team, and a group of carefully considered and selected Church family members to function as a Pastoral

Search Committee. The Pastoral Search Committee will begin the search process, review resumes and recommend potential candidates based on a majority vote of all Committee members, to the Administrative Leadership Team and the Board of Elders. The Administrative Leadership Team and Board of Elders will decide whether or not to schedule an interview with the potential candidates and at least two members from the Board of Elders will conduct the initial interview. The Board of Elders and the Leadership Team will jointly decide whether to invite the candidate to speak for the congregation, or continue the process for review of different candidates. The final decision on whether to extend an offer to a candidate will be decided by a majority decision of the Board of Elders. In the event there is an even number of remaining Elders that results in a split decision, or the Board of Elders deems it appropriate, the final decision can be made through the combined efforts of the Board of Elders and the Administrative Leadership Team.

- b. Administrative Elder (Vice-President):** Any vacancy will be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Elders. In the event there is an even number of remaining Elders that results in a split decision, or the Board of Elders deems it appropriate, the final decision can be made through the combined efforts of the Board of Elders and the Administrative Leadership Team.
- c. Secretary:** Any vacancy will be filled through the combined efforts of the Board of Elders and the Administrative Leadership Team.
- d. Treasurer:** Any vacancy will be filled through the combined efforts of the Board of Elders and the Administrative Leadership Team.

- e. **Board of Elders:** Any vacancy will be filled by a unanimous vote of the remaining Elders. If the Board of Elders deems it appropriate, the vacancy can be filled through the combined efforts of the Board of Elders and the Administrative Leadership Team.
- f. **Administrative Leadership Team:** The Administrative Leadership Team is made up Corporate Officers, Elders, and any other Ministry Leaders specifically appointed by them. Any vacancy will be filled through the combined efforts of the Board of Elders and the Administrative Leadership Team.
- g. **Ministry Leaders:** Any vacancy will be filled through the combined efforts of the Board of Elders and the Administrative Leadership Team.

Section VIII – Removal of Officers and Leadership

- a. **Pastor (President):** The Pastor may be removed if unable to fulfill the duties of the Pastor, or for other good, established cause, after a combined meeting of the Board of Elders and the Administrative Leadership Team to fully discuss and consider the matter. Removal can occur by combined majority vote of the Board of Elders and the Administrative Leadership Team.
- b. **Administrative Elder (Vice-President):** The Administrative Elder may be removed if unable to fulfill the duties of the Administrative Elder, or for other good, established cause, after a meeting of the Board of Elders to fully discuss and consider the matter. Removal can occur by a majority vote of the Board of Elders. In the event there is an even number of Elders that results in a split decision, or the Board of Elders deems it appropriate, the decision can be made

through the combined efforts of the Board of Elders and the Administrative Leadership Team.

- c. **Secretary:** The Secretary may be removed with or without cause, if the Board of Elders and the Administrative Leadership Team determine that it is in best interest of the Church and the determination is decided by majority vote of the Board of Elders and the Administrative Leadership Team.
- d. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer may be removed with or without cause, if the Board of Elders and the Administrative Leadership Team determine that it is in best interest of the Church and the determination is decided by majority vote of the Board of Elders and the Administrative Leadership Team.
- e. **Board of Elders:** A Board of Elders member may be removed if unable to fulfill the duties of an Elder, or for other good, established cause, after a meeting of the Board of Elders to fully discuss and consider the matter. Removal can occur by majority vote of the remaining Board of Elders members. In the event there is an even number of Elders that results in a split decision, or the Board of Elders deems it appropriate, the decision can be made through the combined efforts of the Board of Elders and the Administrative Leadership Team.
- f. **Administrative Leadership Team:** An Administrative Leadership Team member may be removed with or without cause, if the Board of Elders and the Administrative Leadership Team determine that it is in best interest of the Church and the determination is decided by majority vote.

- g. Ministry Leaders:** A Ministry Leader may be removed with or without cause, if the Board of Elders and the Administrative Leadership Team determine that it is in best interest of the church and the determination is decided by majority vote of the Board of Elders and the Administrative Leadership Team.

Section IX – Ministry Programs

Ministry Programs will be established by of the Board of Elders and the Administrative Leadership Team to meet the needs of the Church family and outreach into the local and foreign community.

Section X – Meetings

- 1. Meetings for Worship.** Meetings for public worship will be held on Sunday with additional meetings possible during the week as determined by the Board of Elders.
- 2. Annual Business Meeting.** There will be an Annual Business Meeting of the Church. This business meeting will be held at the end of the fiscal year. This meeting will be conducted in the auditorium of The Journey Church. Updates regarding the prior year's financial status, outlook and plan moving forward will be discussed at the Annual Business Meeting.
- 3. Notice of Business Meetings.** Written notice of the date and place of the Annual Business Meeting will be sent by regular mail or email to all active members with addresses or email addresses on file, at least ten (10) days and not more than thirty days (30) prior to the meeting. In addition, the meeting details will be announced during the regular worship service of The Journey Church for at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.

Section XI – Finances

1. A separate bank account will be maintained for The Journey Church.
2. All funds needed for the maintenance of The Journey Church will be provided by voluntary contributions, tithes and offerings. Every member will decide before God what he or she will cheerfully give to the support of the Lord's work at home and in the foreign field. (Malachi 3:10, I Corinthians 16:1-2; Romans 12:8).
3. All contributions will be counted by at least two members, qualified by the Treasurer.
4. Deposits must be made promptly in a local bank.
5. Individual contribution records are to be kept confidential; access is limited to those processing contributions and executing bookkeeping services.
6. The Church's financial records, other than individual contributions records, will be made available to the membership during the annual meeting, or upon request by appointment.
7. Year-end giving statements that evidence an individual's yearly contributions to The Journey Church, will be provided to the individual in a timely manner to comply with annual tax reporting requirements.
8. Financial records will be maintained in a manner to easily comply with governmental audits or other financial institution accounting requirements.
9. All financial records, other than individual contributions records, will be available to Church Leadership at any time.

Section XII – Signatories

The President’s signature combined with the Treasurer’s signature will be sufficient for negotiating or executing official business of the corporation.

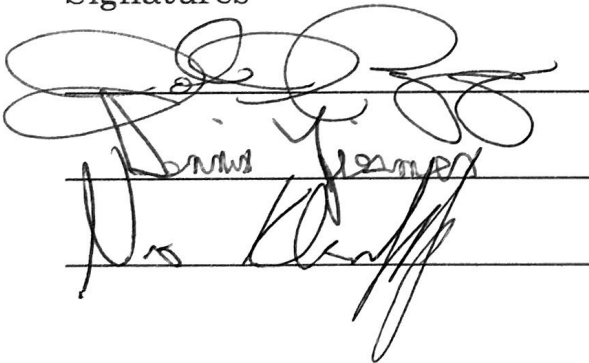
Section XIV – Amendment

These bylaws may be amended or changed through a combined two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Administrative Leadership Team and the Board of Elders at any meeting called for that purpose. Notice of the meeting and the proposed amendment must be provided at least thirty-days in advance of the meeting.

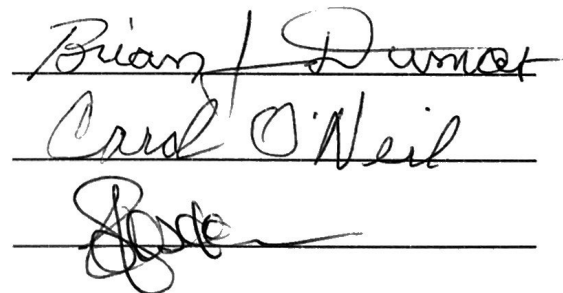
Section XV – Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets will be liquidated and distributed as required by MCL 450.2855, to make provisions for outstanding debts of the non-profit corporation. After making required provision, the remaining assets will be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or will be distributed to one or more organizations that are engaged in a mission substantially similar to that of The Journey Church.

Signatures



Three handwritten signatures are written over three horizontal lines. The top signature is the most prominent and appears to be 'David James'. The middle signature is partially obscured by the top one. The bottom signature is also partially obscured.



Two handwritten signatures are written over two horizontal lines. The top signature is 'Brian Dumort' and the bottom signature is 'Carl O'Neil'. There is a third horizontal line below the second signature with a scribbled-out signature.

Signed: February 15, 2024

Version 1