

**The Constitution
of
Glen Ellyn
Bible Church**

October 30, 2005

CHURCH CONSTITUTION

The name of this church shall be "Glen Ellyn Bible Church," incorporated in the state of Illinois.

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE

The purpose of this church is to proclaim God's Word, thereby nurturing believers in fellowship, winning others to Jesus Christ and spreading the Gospel through home and foreign missions.

ARTICLE II

STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are given by inspiration of God and are the only infallible rule of faith and practice (*2 Timothy 3:16, 17*).
2. 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.
3. We believe that our first parents were created holy and upright, that they fell from this condition, and that, in consequence, the whole human race is by nature dead in trespasses and sins (*Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1,2*).
4. We believe in the incarnation, death and bodily resurrection of the Son of God and that salvation is attained only through repentance and faith in Him (*Acts 4:12*).
5. We believe that every believer can and should be assured of his or her salvation, having God's Word as authority for such assurance (*1 John 5:11-13*).
6. We believe that the Church of Jesus Christ is made up of all true believers, irrespective of color, race or denomination (*1 Corinthians 12:13*).
7. We believe in the Holy Spirit as a divine person indwelling all believers as our instructor, comforter and guide (*John 14:26; Galatians 5:18*).
8. We believe in a separated walk of life according to *2 Corinthians 6:17,18* and *2 Corinthians 7:1*.
9. We believe in the eternal bliss of the redeemed in Heaven and in the eternal punishment of the lost in Hell (*John 3:36; Luke 16:22, 23*).
10. We believe in a personal Devil who goes about as "a roaring lion" and as "an angel of light," seeking whom he may devour (*1 Peter 5:8, 2 Corinthians 11:14*).
11. We believe in the angels as God's ministering spirits (*Hebrews 1:14*).
12. We believe in the personal and premillennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ (*1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17*).

ARTICLE III

ORDINANCES

SECTION 1. BAPTISM

The ordinance of baptism of believers shall be by immersion based on the individual's confession of faith as witnessed by the Senior Pastor or others as approved by the Senior Pastor.

SECTION 2. LORD'S SUPPER

- A. This church welcomes participation in the Communion Service by all who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior through faith in His blood shed for their sins and who demonstrates a newness of life by practical obedience to Him.
- B. The Lord's Supper shall normally be observed monthly.

ARTICLE IV

FINANCES

This church believes that the Bible teaches that the proper method of financing the Lord's work is by tithing and by the free will offerings of consecrated believers. Accordingly, this church shall primarily rely on tithing and free will offerings for its financial support, and may also receive funding from other gifts, events and sources as deemed appropriate by the Elders and to the extent consistent with its operation as a church and applicable law.

ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. QUALIFICATIONS AND PROCEDURE

- A. A Christian believer may be received into regular membership in this church upon sharing his or her testimony of faith in Jesus Christ with representative members of the Board of Elders.
- B. Each candidate for membership shall receive a copy of the Constitution to be read before giving his or her testimony to the Board of Elders. It is necessary for the candidate to give written assent to the Constitution.
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Board of Elders, the church shall receive the candidate into membership in the presence of the congregation.
- D. The Senior Pastor and his wife shall automatically become members when the Senior Pastor assumes his duties.

SECTION 2.

TYPES

- A. **Regular**
Regular membership provides all the rights, privileges and responsibilities of this church, except that the right to vote is limited to members sixteen (16) years of age or older.

B. Nonresident

Nonresident membership applies to missionaries, students, members of the armed services and relocated members who have been received as regular members and are away from the church area but return for periods of time. The full privileges of this type of membership are granted to such members during their stay in this area. Any relocated member who has not supported or communicated with the church for one year will be placed on inactive status.

C. Inactive

The membership rolls of the church shall be reviewed at least annually under the direction of the Elders. Following such review, any member determined to be absent from, and not participating in, the church fellowship for a period of six months shall have his or her name placed on inactive status, provided (i) the Senior Pastor or the Board of Elders has communicated with the absent member, and (ii) no explanation of the absence satisfactory to the Elders has been given. Inactive members will be considered nonvoting members and shall be ineligible to hold any elected office.

SECTION 3.

TERMINATION

A member may have his or her name removed from the church rolls by joining another church and so notifying this church, by disciplinary action of the membership or by making written request of the Board of Elders.

In addition, any member placed on inactive status, at the conclusion of one year will be dropped from the church membership rolls, unless he or she has communicated to the Board of Elders reasons satisfactory to the Elders as to why he or she should not be dropped. On the Board of Elders' approval of such reasons, the inactive member will be allowed to continue his or her inactive status, but only for one additional year.

Any members removed from the church membership rolls, except for those removed by disciplinary action, must go through the procedure outlined above (Article V, Section 1) to be reinstated as a member. Any members removed from the church rolls by disciplinary action must follow the procedure outlined in Article VI, Section 5(B) to be reinstated as members.

SECTION 4.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To walk together in Christian love.
2. To exercise Christian care and watchfulness over one another.
3. To pray with and for one another, sharing our burdens, sorrows and joys.
4. To be thoughtful and courteous to one another, slow to take offense, quick to forgive and quick to seek forgiveness.
5. To guard the spiritual and scriptural purity, peace and prosperity of the church and its growth in scriptural knowledge and godliness.
6. To assist, as the Lord enables, in the work of the church and to promote its usefulness as a witness to the saving grace of God in Christ Jesus.
7. To contribute, as the Lord directs, to the financial support of the church.
8. To engage regularly in personal Bible reading and prayer.

9. To bring up such children as may be entrusted to our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
10. To live an exemplary Christian life in accordance with biblical principles.
11. To endeavor to bring others to an acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

ARTICLE VI

DISCIPLINE

SECTION 1.

POLICY

This church believes that the discipline of members is a biblically taught responsibility. Members who espouse doctrines contrary to Scripture or contrary to those outlined in the Statement of Faith (Article II) and members who are found to be living lives inconsistent with clearly defined biblical standards shall be subject to disciplinary action.

SECTION 2.

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of discipline is the loving restoration of the erring member, through his/her repentance, to the end that the erring member experiences the full forgiveness of Christ and His body. It is this experience of repentance and forgiveness that will free the erring member to renewed spiritual growth and will maintain or restore unity within the church.

While restoration is the primary purpose for discipline, there are several other reasons why discipline is an important expression of Christ's life in His Church. Disciplinary action conveys to the church the attitude that sin is not to be taken lightly and is a reminder that the follower of Christ must be careful to maintain a life of spiritual purity. Discipline is also a means by which the church can preserve a pure presentation of Christ to those who are watching from without. Finally, discipline is a means of maintaining effective ministry through the preservation of order and harmony.

SECTION 3.

RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility for all disciplinary actions shall rest with the Board of Elders. At its discretion, the Board of Elders may select representatives to handle such actions.

SECTION 4.

PROCEDURE

- A. Any official disciplinary action shall take place only after personal, private attempts to resolve the problem.
- B. Any cause for discipline shall be presented, in writing, to either the Senior Pastor or the Chairman of the Board of Elders.
- C. The Board of Elders or its representatives shall examine the grievance to determine its accuracy. If there is no verification of the grievance, it shall be dismissed and written notice given to the person bringing the grievance.
- D. If there is verification of the grievance, the Board of Elders or its representatives shall meet with the accused and encourage him/her to repent.

- E. If the erring member refuses to repent, the findings shall be presented to the Board of Elders, which may then call a special church business meeting to revoke that person's membership. Upon a two-thirds favorable vote of those members present and voting at the meeting, membership will be revoked. Such a vote shall be taken by secret ballot. If the accused member is not present at the meeting, a written record of the proceedings shall be mailed to him/her.

SECTION 5. RESTORATION

- A. If the accused member repents at any time prior to the deprivation of his/her membership, an immediate plan for the restoration of that member shall be implemented under the guidance of the Senior Pastor and Board of Elders.
- B. Any member who has been excluded from membership for disciplinary reasons may be restored only upon the recommendation of the Board of Elders and a two-thirds favorable vote of the members present and voting at a regularly scheduled or specially called business meeting of the church. It is the duty of the church to forgive and fully accept members who are thus restored.

ARTICLE VII BOARD OF ELDERS

SECTION 1. COMPOSITION

The government of the church shall be vested in a Board of Elders. The Board of Elders shall consist of at least seven (7) members. The Board of Elders shall consist of the Elder elected to serve as Chairman of the Board, the Senior Pastor and at least five (5) other persons elected to the office of Elder. Any increase or decrease in the number of Elder positions shall be submitted to the congregation for approval at a regularly called business meeting of the church pursuant to Article XII of this Constitution (or at a special congregational meeting called for that purpose in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution). Elders shall serve for a term of one year, beginning on July 1 of each year and continuing through June 30 of the year following, or until their successor has been duly elected. The maximum number of successive one-year terms for each Elder, other than the Senior Pastor, shall be four (4), after which they shall be ineligible to serve as an Elder for a period of one year. The Senior Pastor shall continue as a member of the Board of Elders during his service as Senior Pastor.

SECTION 2. ELECTION

Elections for the office of Elder shall be conducted annually at a regularly called business meeting of the church pursuant to Article XII of this Constitution (or at a special congregational meeting called for that purpose in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution). Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Elders during the church's ministry year shall be filled following the same procedure. Nominees for the office of elder shall be submitted to the congregation for vote individually, by written ballot.

SECTION 3. QUALIFICATION

- A. All Elders must be regular members of the church in good standing and must show evidence of established Christian character (Article V, Section 4). They shall be godly men of mature Christian experience and knowledge who exemplify the standards of this office as detailed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

- B. Before nomination each candidate for the office of Elder shall assent, as attested to by signature, to the following statements:
1. I have publicly confessed Christ as my personal Savior and have experienced the new birth as set forth in John 3: 3-6.
 2. I reaffirm my agreement with this Constitution.
 3. My life is consistent with the expectations for office outlined in *Acts 6:3* and *1 Timothy 3*.
 4. I agree to serve in the capacity of Elder, if elected, for the term for which I am elected.

SECTION 4.

DUTIES

- A. The Board of Elders shall monitor the overall spiritual life and ministry of the church. They shall also be responsible, in conjunction with the Senior Pastor and pastoral staff, for establishing personnel and other policies, for conducting evaluations of the Senior Pastor and for reviewing staff reviews conducted by the Senior Pastor or his designee. Members of the Board of Elders shall also be responsible for interviewing candidates for membership and recommending to the church those candidates found to meet the requirements established by this Constitution. The Board of Elders shall have responsibility for overseeing the spiritual life and pastoral care of the members of the church, including the handling disciplinary actions in accordance with Article VI.
- B. The Board of Elders shall have oversight over all church operations and transactions with power to act. It shall not encumber the church with any transfer, sale, purchase or loan of any real estate, except by authorization conveyed through a majority vote of the church membership present at a constitutionally called business meeting. The Board of Elders shall have authority to approve the appointment of all salaried personnel except as otherwise stated in this Constitution. The Board of Elders shall handle and consider suggestions, recommendations and grievances from or against any member or group affiliated with the church. The actions of the Board of Elders shall be subject to review by the membership at any constitutionally called business meeting.
- C. The Board of Elders shall also appoint a Nominating Committee, which shall recommend to the church for election one or more qualified persons: (i) to fill each position on the Board of Elders which is or will be vacant, , and (ii) to serve on the Pulpit Committee as set forth in Article XI, in accordance with this Constitution. Nominees for the Nominating Committee and any such position shall be regular members of the church, in good standing at the time of their nomination and election.

ARTICLE VIII

STAFF

SECTION 1.

SENIOR PASTOR

A. Selection

To be called as Senior Pastor, a candidate must be presented to the membership by the Pulpit Committee (Article XI) and must receive three-fourths of the written ballots cast in person or by absentee ballot at a constitutionally called business meeting of the church. Public notice of this meeting and its purpose shall have been made on two successive Sundays prior to the meeting. The Senior Pastor shall serve for an indefinite term or for such a term as the church may decide.

B. Qualifications

The Senior Pastor shall be an ordained minister of good reputation, conservative in theology and willing to serve a nondenominational church without attempting to promote any denominational interest. He shall assent, by signature, to this Constitution.

C. Duties

1. The Senior Pastor shall have general spiritual oversight of the entire program of the church and shall perform all duties necessary to such leadership.
2. The Senior Pastor, or his designee, shall have charge of all staff and shall assign to them such specific duties and responsibilities as deemed necessary and appropriate from time to time.

D. Termination

If the Senior Pastor desires to resign, or if a three-fourths vote by secret ballot of the regular membership present and voting desires the termination of his ministry, a written notice must be given by either party thirty days in advance of the terminating date, unless waived by mutual consent.

SECTION 2.

STAFF

A. Selection

Staff shall be appointed by the Senior Pastor or his designee with prior approval of the Board of Elders and as provided for in the annual budget.

B. Duties

The duties and responsibilities of staff members shall be assigned by the Senior Pastor or his designee from time to time as deemed necessary and appropriate.

ARTICLE IX

CORPORATE OFFICERS

SECTION 1.

OFFICERS

The officers of the Glen Ellyn Bible Church, as recognized by the State of Illinois, shall be the Chairman of the Board of Elders (who shall function as the President of the Corporation), Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers shall serve for a term of one year beginning on July 1 of each year and continuing through June 30 of the year following, or for such other term as stated in this Article IX., or until their successor has been duly elected or appointed. Unless otherwise stated in this Constitution, the maximum number of successive one-year terms for any person to

fill any office, shall be four (4), after which they shall be ineligible to serve as an officer in that office for a period of one year.

SECTION 2

PRESIDENT

A. Election

The Elder elected to serve as Chairman of the Board of Elders shall, by virtue of this office, serve as the President of the Corporation. Elections for the office of Chairman of the Board of Elders shall be conducted each year at a regularly called business meeting of the church pursuant to Article XII of this Constitution (or at a special congregational meeting called for that purpose in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution).

B. Duties

The Chairman (as president of the Corporation) shall preside at Board of Elders meetings and shall have authority to call special Board of Elders meetings, appoint ad hoc committees and conduct other business as the church directs. The Chairman or, in his absence, another member of the Board of Elders designated by the Chairman, shall also act as the moderator of all church business meetings.

SECTION 3

SECRETARY

A. Election

The Board of Elders shall appoint an elder to the position of Secretary at their first meeting following the annual election of Elders.

B. Duties

The Secretary shall, either directly or through his designee, keep an accurate record of the proceedings and decisions of all Board of Elders and church business meetings and shall perform any other necessary duties as the Board of Elders directs.

SECTION 4.

TREASURER

A. Appointment

The Treasurer shall be appointed from time to time by the Elders with such oversight by the Elders as is deemed by them to be reasonable and appropriate. The Treasurer may be an Elder or other member of the congregation, or a staff member hired in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution. In the event that a staff member is designated as the Treasurer, their term as Treasurer shall continue for such time as they remain a member of the staff and no term limit pursuant to Section 1 of this Article IX shall apply.

B. Duties

The Treasurer shall be responsible for reporting monies donated to the church and reporting disbursements in accordance with the annual budget and the special decisions of the church. The Treasurer shall provide such information to the Elders as is deemed necessary, reasonable and appropriate by the Elders from time to time. The book of accounts shall be closed at the end of each calendar year, and a detailed report of all receipts and disbursements shall be presented.

ARTICLE X

FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

SECTION 1.

A. Appointment

The Board of Elders shall appoint annually, from the membership of the church, a Financial Review Committee of at least three members. The Committee shall consist of persons who have not been members of the Elder Board or members of the staff (a) during the period to be reviewed and (b) who are not currently serving on the Board of Elders or staff.

B. Duties

The Financial Review Committee shall, at the direction of the Board of Elders, either perform an annual review of the church books and financial records for the church fiscal year preceding its appointment, or shall, in the event deemed by the Committee to be reasonably necessary and appropriate, engage an outside auditor to perform an audit. This audit or review shall be made after the end of the church fiscal year or at such other times as are deemed necessary and appropriate by the Board of Elders.

Any audits shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. An auditors' written opinion or, in the case of a review, a written discussion of procedure and findings, shall be submitted to the Board of Elders and made available to the congregation within six months or by a mutually agreed upon date after the close of the period being audited.

ARTICLE XI

PULPIT COMMITTEE

SECTION 1.

COMPOSITION

A Pulpit Committee shall be formed when there is a vacancy in the office of Senior Pastor. This committee shall consist of a chairman and six members.

SECTION 2.

ELECTION

The Chairman and members of the Pulpit Committee shall be elected by the membership from candidates properly nominated by the Nominating Committee(pursuant to Article VII, Section 4(C) of this Constitution, at a constitutionally called church business meeting. Any vacancy occurring while the Committee is in place shall be filled following the same procedure.

SECTION 3.

QUALIFICATIONS

The Chairman and members of the Pulpit Committee shall be regular members of the church in good standing.

SECTION 4.

DUTIES

The Pulpit Committee shall seek out and investigate qualified individuals who could be considered as candidates for the position of Senior Pastor. Upon selection of a candidate and the consent of the Board of Elders, the committee shall present the individual at a constitutionally called church business meeting. Only one candidate shall be presented at a time.

SECTION 5. TERMINATION

The Pulpit Committee's duties end upon the acceptance of a call by a candidate or, prior to the call of a candidate, by two-thirds vote of members at a constitutionally called church business meeting.

ARTICLE XII MEETINGS

SECTION 1. ANNUAL MEETING AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

The annual church business meeting shall generally be held in November. A church business meeting shall also generally be held in May of each year for the purpose of electing the Chairman of the Board of Elders and Elders pursuant to Articles VII and IX. Special business meetings may be called by the Board of Elders or when twenty (20) percent of the regular members make a written request to the Board of Elders for such a meeting. Public notice of every such meeting and its purpose shall be given on two successive Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

SECTION 2. PROCEDURE

The Chairman of the Board of Elders (or, in his absence, another member of the Board of Elders designated by the Chairman) shall preside at all business meetings.

SECTION 3. VOTING

The right to vote at a Meeting is restricted to those regular members of the church who are sixteen (16) years of age or older, and in attendance at such meeting or pursuant to absentee balloting procedures established by the Elders from time to time. In connection with the elections, nominations for candidates shall be presented by the Elders, and there shall be no nominations accepted from the floor at such meeting.

SECTION 4. QUORUM

Twenty-five (25) percent of the regular members constitute a quorum at a business meeting. All resolutions, except as otherwise provided for in this Constitution, are valid if a majority of the members present, and voting, vote in their favor.

ARTICLE XIII ORDINATION

SECTION 1. COMPOSITION

It shall be within the power of the Board of Elders to call and conduct an ordination council.

SECTION 2. DUTIES

The ordination council shall thoroughly examine the applicant's call to the Christian ministry, education, Christian experience, reputation, character, doctrinal belief and demonstrated effectiveness in Christian service.

SECTION 3. REVOCATION

It shall be within the province of the Board of Elders to discipline, even to the extent of revoking the ordination credentials, any minister ordained under this Constitution, if said minister fails to

adhere to those doctrines outlined in the Statement of Faith (Article II) or is living a life inconsistent with clearly defined biblical standards. Such disciplinary action shall be taken only after an impartial hearing conducted in the spirit of *1 Corinthians* 13. The minister shall have the privilege of appealing his case to the congregation within sixty days after the decision of the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE XIV

PROPERTY

SECTION 1.

The title to all real property of the corporation shall be in the name of the corporation, and no member or group of members shall have any individual property rights in the assets of the corporation.

SECTION 2.

In the event that this corporation is dissolved, the properties shall be sold, and all proceeds and residual monies, above liabilities, shall be divided among those mission organizations which the church has supported, including those organizations represented by individuals supported by the missions budget for at least five consecutive years during the ten-year period immediately prior to the date of dissolution. This division shall be proportioned on the basis of the relative support levels among those eligible mission organizations as averaged over the aforementioned ten-year period. Those mission organizations which no longer exist as legally recognized nonprofit organizations at the time of dissolution shall be considered ineligible to receive any of these funds, even though they may have received support from the church in the past.

SECTION 3.

By incorporation, the church has legal standing before the courts of the State.

ARTICLE XV

AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any business meeting of the church, properly called for that purpose, provided that the proposed amendment(s) be made available in writing to the members at least two weeks prior to such meeting, and if two-thirds of the voting members are in favor of such amendment(s).