



PORT HURON BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS

EST 2012-03
Revised 2016-02

EST 2012-03

Revised 2016-02-14

PORT HURON BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS

INDEX

ARTICLE 1 - NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1.01 - NAME

SECTION 1.02 - PURPOSE

SECTION 1.03 - AUTONOMY

ARTICLE 2 - STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 2.01 - STATEMENT OF FAITH

SECTION 2.02 - AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

SECTION 2.03 - COVENANT

ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 3.01 - QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 3.02 - DUTIES OF A MEMBER

SECTION 3.03 - PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 3.04 - DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER

SECTION 3.05 - TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 3.06 - TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE 4 - OFFICERS

SECTION 4.01 - CHURCH OFFICERS

SECTION 4.02 - DESIGNATION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS

SECTION 4.03 - ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

SECTION 4.04 - TERMS OF OFFICE

SECTION 4.05 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 4.06 - PASTORAL OVERSIGHT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

SECTION 4.07 - STAFF PROCEDURES FOR EMPLOYMENT

ARTICLE 5 - DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS

SECTION 5.01 - PASTOR

SECTION 5.02 - DEACONS

SECTION 5.03 - CHURCH CLERK

SECTION 5.04 - TREASURER

SECTION 5.05 - FINANCIAL SECRETARY

SECTION 5.06 - ASSOCIATE PASTORS

SECTION 5.07 - DUTIES OF ALL OFFICERS

ARTICLE 6 - MEETINGS

SECTION 6.01 - MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

SECTION 6.02 - MEETINGS FOR CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 6.03 - SPECIAL MEETINGS

SECTION 6.04 - FISCAL YEAR

SECTION 6.05 - FORBIDDEN MEETINGS

SECTION 6.06 - MEETINGS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS

ARTICLE 7 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

SECTION 7.01 - PURPOSE

SECTION 7.02 - CHURCH PARTICIPATION

SECTION 7.03 - STAFF MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 7.04 - STATEMENT OF FAITH ACCORD

SECTION 7.05 - UNITY

SECTION 7.06 - TEACHING

SECTION 7.07 - CHRISTIAN WALK

ARTICLE 8 - ORDINATION

SECTION 8.01 - ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 8.02 - ORDINATION PROCEDURE

SECTION 8.03 - REVOKING OF ORDINATION

SECTION 8.04 - LICENSING MEMBERS

ARTICLE 9 - INDEMNIFICATION

SECTION 9.01 - ACTIONS SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION

SECTION 9.02 - EXPENSES SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION

SECTION 9.03 - LIMITATIONS OF INDEMNIFICATION

SECTION 9.04 - TIMING OF INDEMNIFICATION

SECTION 9.05 - EXTENT OF INDEMNIFICATION

SECTION 9.06 - INSURANCE

ARTICLE 10 - COMMITTEES

SECTION 10.01 - STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION 10.02 - SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SECTION 10.03 - OTHER COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 11 - DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

ARTICLE 12 - BINDING ARBITRATION

SECTION 12.01 - SUBMISSION TO ARBITRATION

SECTION 12.02 - NOTICE OF ARBITRATION

SECTION 12.03 - LIMITATIONS ON ARBITRATION DECISIONS

SECTION 12.04 - ARBITRATION PROCEDURES

ARTICLE 13 - AMENDMENTS

BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1 - NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1.01 - NAME

This congregation of believers shall be known as Port Huron Baptist Church of Port Huron, Michigan.

SECTION 1.02 - PURPOSE

This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, day-care centers, and camps; the evangelizing of the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; the educating of believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; and the maintaining of missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country.

SECTION 1.03 - AUTONOMY

The Port Huron Baptist Church of Port Huron, Michigan shall be and remain independent and autonomous. However, it may participate in fellowship and activity with organizations of like doctrine and faith for the promotion of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as long as it does not infringe upon the independence or autonomy of this Church.

ARTICLE 2 - STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 2.01 - STATEMENT OF FAITH

The following comprise the Scriptural beliefs of this church and its members.

1. The Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit without any mixture or error, and therefore is, and shall remain unto the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme authority by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried. (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21; Psalm 119:105,160; Romans 15:4; Psalm 19:7-11)

(A) By "The Holy Bible", we mean the collection of 66 books, from Genesis to Revelation, which does not only contain or convey the Word of God, but in fact is the very Word of God. (I Thess. 2:13)

(B) By "Inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or will ever be inspired. We also mean that God inspired His Word verbally and plenary, so that not only the thoughts of the Bible are inspired, but each and every word itself is "God-breathed". (Acts 1:6; 28:25; Prov.30:5-6; John 10:35)

(C) We believe that God, in faithfulness to His Word, has Providentially preserved the Scriptures in their original languages. This preservation extends not only to the ideas and doctrines of the Bible, but to the very words themselves. We further believe that God has

preserved these words in the Massoretic text of the Old Testament, and the Textus Receptus of the New Testament. (Psalm 119:89; I Peter 1:23; Matt.5:18)

(D) We believe that God desires for people of all language groups to be able to hear and understand His preserved Word. Therefore, the only English translation of the Bible which will be used in the public ministry of Port Huron Baptist Church will be the Authorized Version (King James Bible) which is an accurate, word for word translation based upon the Massoretic text and the Textus Receptus. (Rev. 22:19; John 12:48)

2. The True God.

We believe in the one true God who is personal, spirit, and sovereign; perfect, infinite and eternal in His being, holiness, love, wisdom, and power; self-existent and self-revealing in three distinct Persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. (Mark 12:29; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:9; Psalm 135:6; 18:30; 147:5; Deut. 33:27; Matt. 28:19; I John 5:7; Phil. 2:5-6)

(A). The Person and Work of the Father

We believe in God the Father, commonly spoken of as the first member of the Trinity. God is an infinite and perfect spirit who is the source and support of all things. He is perfect in perfections and purposes. He is equal in nature and authority to the other two members of the Trinity. (Genesis 17:1; Psalm 139:7, 11; Acts 15:18; Ephesians 1:11; I John 5:7) (1) We rejoice that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, (2) that He hears and answers prayer, (3) and that He saves from sin and eternal damnation all who come to Him through Jesus Christ, (4) and that He has a paternal relationship to believers only. (1) Dan. 2:21; 4:17 (2) John 15:16 (3) John 6:44; 3:16, 18 (4) Rom. 8:15; John 8:41-44

(B). The Person and Work of Jesus Christ.

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ who is the second Person of the Trinity, the eternal Word and Only Begotten Son, our great God and Savior; that He never ceased to be God for one instant and that His humiliation did not consist in laying aside His deity; that as man He was miraculously begotten of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary; that as Man was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin; that as the perfect Lamb of God He gave Himself in death upon the Cross, bearing there the sin of the world, and suffering its full penalty of divine wrath in our stead; that He rose again from the dead and was glorified in the same body in which He suffered and died; that as our great High Priest He ascended into heaven, there to appear before God as our advocate and intercessor. (John 1:1, 1:29; 3:16; 8:46; 20:25-28; Titus 2:13; I John 2: 1; 5:20; Matt. 1:20; 20:28; Luke 1:26-38; 24:36-43; Col.2:9; Rev.22:16; Heb.4:14-15; 9:24; Isa. 53:5-6; Gal. 3:13)

(C). The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that the Holy Spirit, commonly spoken of as the third member of the Trinity, is a divine Person, He is co-equal with the Father and Son and of the same substance and nature; that He convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment, bears witness to the truth, is the agent of the new birth and that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses to, sanctifies, and helps the believer, indwelling every true child of God. (II Cor. 13:14; John 14:16, 17; Rom. 8:14-27; Eph. 1:13, 14; I Cor. 12:13)

3. The Total Depravity of Man.

We believe that man, in the person of the first Adam, was created in innocence, but by personal willful disobedience to the revealed will of God man became a sinful creature, thus plunging the whole race into condemnation and death, so that now all mankind is born in sin and shapen in

iniquity and become willful sinners with the expression of personal choice, and so are without excuse before God, and have within themselves no possible means to desire to seek after God or the recovery of salvation. (Gen. 3: 1-6; 3:24; Rom. 5:10-19; 7:18; Mark 7:21-23; Matt. 19:26)

4. Redemption from Sin

We believe that the only escape from the condemnation of sin is through the redemption wrought by Jesus Christ, when He voluntarily took upon Himself a human body and nature, yet without sin, and by His suffering, death, shed blood and resurrection made full satisfaction to the justice of God for the sin of man; that the blessings of this salvation are given on the grounds of grace to all who believe and confess; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept these offers of mercy. (John 1:13, 14; 3:1-7; Heb. 10:4-14; Acts 16:30-33)

5. The New Birth

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with the Word of God, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life. (John 3:3,6-8; II Cor. 5:17,19; I John 5:1; Acts 16:30-33; II Peter 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1; Col. 2:13; James 1:18)

6. Repentance and Faith

We believe that repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God prompted by the Holy Spirit; that it is characterized by godly sorrow for sin as offensive to God and ruinous to the soul; and that true repentance is inseparably related to true faith. In addition, true repentance will RESULT in a changed life. Further, we believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. (Luke 13:1-3; 15:7; Acts 8:22; 20:21; 16:31)

7. Salvation By Grace.

We believe that faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation from sin and this salvation is wholly by grace; that no works, however good procure and/or make that salvation more secure. We believe in the eternal security of the believer. (Acts 16:31; Eph 1:3, 2:8,9; Titus 3:5-7; Rom. 10:9-13; John 1:12, 10:27-30; I John 5:13; I Peter 1:15)

8. The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers.

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever and by no means are able to lose this salvation. We believe that God's children may know the privilege of being believers and to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Rom 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15; John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1; 38-39; I Cor. 1:4-8; I Pet. 1:4-5; I John 5:13)

9. The Church.

We believe that the church is a congregation of believers baptized by immersion, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His Word; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers are Pastors and Deacons whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the true mission of the local church, the Body of Christ, is to Glorify God in: the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity; the subsequent baptism into the church of those who receive Christ; and the continuous training of believers in the teaching of

Jesus Christ. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only head is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that each church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence; and that the will of the church is final. In addition, we reject the doctrine that the body of Christ (the church) is universal and invisible. (Acts 2:14; 15:13-18; 20:17-28; I Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:12, 22; 4:11; 5:23,24; II Tim. 3:17; Col. 1:18)

10. The Ordinances

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one time backward, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, as a testimony to our death to sin and resurrection to a new life, and that it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He returns, and should be preceded always by salvation, baptism, church membership, and solemn self-examination as to the believer's relationship to God and others. We believe that the elements of the Lord's Supper consist of unleavened bread and the unleavened (unfermented) fruit of the vine. Only under the authority of the Church are these ordinances to be administered. (Acts 8:26-29; John 3:23; Rom. 6:3-5; Matt.3:16; Col.2:12; ICor.11:23-28, 12:13)

11. Future Events

We believe the Scriptures teach that at death the spirit and soul of the believer pass instantly into the presence of Christ and remain in conscious joy until being reunited with the body at the resurrection when Christ comes in the air for His own; the blessed hope of the believer is the imminent, personal, pre-tribulational, premillennial appearance of Christ to rapture all believers. His righteous judgments will then be poured out on an unbelieving world during the Tribulation (the seventieth week of Daniel), the last half of which is the Great Tribulation. The climax of this fearful era will be the physical return of Jesus Christ to the earth in great glory to introduce the Millennial Davidic kingdom; Israel will be saved and restored as a nation; Satan will be bound and the curse will be lifted from the physical creation. Following the Millennium, the Great White Throne judgment will occur, at which time the bodies and souls of the wicked shall be reunited and cast into the Lake of Fire. Following this, God will create the New Heavens and the New Earth (II Cor.5:8; I Cor. 15:51-57; Titus 2:13; I Thess. 4:14-17; Matt. 24:21, Rev. 19:11-16; 20:2, 3, 11-15; Rom. 11:26, 27)

12. The Eternal State

We believe in a literal Heaven and Hell. Heaven: the place of eternal conscious joy for all who receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Hell: the place of eternal conscious punishment in the Lake of Fire for all who reject Jesus Christ and for those who have never heard the gospel of Christ, for they are condemned to Hell; (Phil. 1:21;23; Psalm 9:17; John 8:24; II Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 20:10-15; Rom. 1:19-20, 2:1; Acts 4:12)

13. The Personality of Satan.

We believe that Satan is a personal being, a fallen angel, prince of demons, the god of this age, the great enticer and deceiver, the adversary of Christ and His people, accuser of the brethren, whose end is the Lake of Fire. (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-19; II Cor.4:3, 4; I Peter5:8; Rev. 12:9, 10; Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10)

14. Creation.

We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin. (Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11)

15. Civil Government.

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home, 2) the church, and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; I Pet. 2:13-14)

16. Human Sexuality.

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance

Thus we believe there is a difference between the sexes. Thus all our building facilities that are for the purpose of the different sexes (male or female) should only be used as intended.

We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman.

And the essence of a Christian wedding (which is the only type this church and its qualified officers shall perform) is the Divine blessing of the bride and groom as they exchange vows while God receives the worship of the congregation as they witness these vows and as they offer Him prayer and praise. Thus we will only conduct a marriage between a Christian man and a Christian woman and believe it is a worship service.

Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5,13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; I Cor. 5:1; 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4; Gen. 2:22-24; Rom. 7:2; I Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23.

17. Family Relationships

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and only men can hold the position of leadership (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure, ordination and the teaching of men in the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; I Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12) We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal

correction. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; I Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4, Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; I Pet. 3:1-7)

18. Divorce and Remarriage.

We believe that God disapproves of and hates divorce and intends marriage to last until death of either spouse. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of Pastor or Deacon. (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; I Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6)

19. Abortion.

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well being of the mother are acceptable. (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1,5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)

20. Love.

We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward both those who are not believers and those who oppose us. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or the use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions. (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10; 17-21; 13:8-10; Phil. 2:2-4; II Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; I John 3:17-18)

21. Lawsuits Between Believers.

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve church disputes and matters. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve church disputes and matters between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (I Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)

22. Missions.

We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; II Cor. 5:20)

23. Giving.

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe (10%) as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give (above the 10%) other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made. (Gen. 14:20; Mal. 3:10; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; I Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; I Tim. 5:17-18; I John 3:17)

24. Separation and Sanctification

(A) Personal Separation

We believe that the Scriptures clearly teach non-conformity to the world for every believer; that born-again people should be separated from the world unto Christ; that it is clearly commanded of God to all believers to live lives of separation from all worldly and sinful practices and to be holy as He is holy. We believe that positional sanctification is to be progressive throughout the entire life span of a believer here on earth. God's provision for holy living is in the believer's identification with Christ in His death, resurrection and ascension; the indwelling Person and power of the Holy Spirit and the believer's yielded- ness to Him; and by the powerful Word of God. We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord. God commands His people to separate from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations, and to refrain from all immodest and immoderate appearances, piercings, and bodily markings. (Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; II Cor. 6:14-7: II Tim. 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11; Lev. 19:28; I Cor. 6:19-20; Col. 1:13; 3:1-4; II Cor. 3:18; 6:14-17; 7:1; Titus 2:14; I Peter 1:14-16; II Peter 3:18; Heb. 10:1,14; 4:12; Rom. 6:1-14; 12:1,2; John 17:17; Eph. 5:25-27; I John 2:15-17; James 4:14)

(B) Ecclesiastical Separation

We believe in total and complete separation as taught in the Word of God from all forms of heresy and ecclesiastical apostasy. We believe the Scriptures teach that we are to:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Try them; | I John 4:1 |
| Mark them; | Romans. 16:17 |
| Rebuke them; | Titus 1:13 |
| Have no fellowship; | Ephesians. 5:11 |
| Withdraw ourselves; | II Thessalonians. 3:6 |
| Receive them not; | II John 10, 11 |
| Have no company with them; | II Thessalonians. 3:14 |
| Reject them; | Titus 3:10 |
| Separate ourselves. | II Corinthians. 6:17 |

Any associations with other churches and fellowships shall never be anything other than voluntary, and shall continue only so long as these groups are in agreement with the doctrine of Port Huron Baptist Church.

DOCTRINAL Declaration

To members, prospective members, and friends, be it known that Port Huron Baptist Church is holding tenaciously to the cardinal doctrines of the faith, and we at this time most happily bring them to the remembrance of all people, that they know our doctrinal position.

Port Huron Baptist Church of Port Huron, Michigan is opposed to any kind of compromise with error. We are disheartened and alarmed by the following trends among evangelicals throughout our country. Such trends are as follows:

- The making of concessions to unsaved intellectuals.
- The willingness to accept theistic evolution and other theories contrary to Genesis 1-6.
- The recognition of the ecumenical movement.
- The willingness to reconsider Biblical inspiration and preservation.
- The acceptance of worldly, secular methods in the worship of Christ, including contemporary music, pop psychology, teachings designed not to offend the unsaved, and the neglect of Biblical preaching.

The willingness to cooperate beyond proper doctrinal lines for the sake of evangelism, social change, or improved family relationships.

A compromising attitude toward worldly practices such as social drinking, smoking, dancing, theater attendance, gambling, and membership in secret orders; and a critical attitude toward those who oppose worldliness among believers.

Let all who read this Statement of Faith be assured that the Port Huron Baptist Church of Port Huron, Michigan is absolutely opposed to Liberal Theology, Neo-orthodoxy, New Evangelicalism, and the Charismatic movement.

SECTION 2.02 - AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members. All literature, schools, colleges, academies, universities, institutions, seminaries, missionaries, missionary boards, etc. that are indorsed or accepted within this church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith.

SECTION 2.03 - COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of our Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred, acquaintances, and all others; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful to our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from worldly amusements such as movie attendance, gambling, rock music, and dancing; to be free from all oath-bound secret societies and partnerships with unbelievers; to abstain from the sale or use of tobacco in any form, narcotic drugs, or intoxicating drink as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior .

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy of speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, and to secure reconciliation without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 3.01 - QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

All persons applying for membership shall be examined and recommended by the Pastor and Deacons before they are brought before the members. Upon a majority vote of the voting members present at any church service or meeting, membership shall be extended to all who have had and whose lives evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; who renounce sin; who endeavor to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord; who fully subscribe to the Statement of Faith contained herein; who enter into the Church Covenant contained herein; who agree to submit to the authority of the church and its leaders as set forth herein; and upon compliance with any one of the following conditions:

- (A) By baptism (immersion) as a true believer in Christ Jesus as personal Savior;
- (B) By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing church of like faith and practice, or other written statement of good standing from the prior church if the applicant has been baptized by immersion subsequent to a profession of faith;
- (C) By testimony of faith, having been baptized in a Baptist Church by immersion; or
- (D) By restoration, if having been removed from membership, upon majority vote of voting members after confession is made publicly before the church membership of the sin or sins involved, and satisfactorily evidencing repentance to the Pastor (or the Deacons if the office of Pastor is vacant).
- (E) Membership privileges shall begin in accordance with Church vote. The Right Hand of Fellowship shall be given by the Pastor, or in the absence of the Pastor, by the Vice-moderator of the Church as a public welcome into the membership.

SECTION 3.02 - DUTIES OF A MEMBER

On becoming a member of this church, in addition to the covenant contained in Article 2, Section 2.03, each one further covenants to love, honor, and esteem the Pastor; to pray for him; to recognize his authority in spiritual affairs of the church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the church; to support the church in prayer, tithes, offerings and with other financial support as the Lord enables; and in accordance with Biblical commands, to support through a lifestyle walk affirming the beliefs and practices of the church.

SECTION 3.03 - PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

- (A) Only members at least eighteen years of age who are physically present at a duly called meeting of the church shall be entitled to vote. There shall be no proxy or absentee voting. The eligible membership of the church has certain limited areas to exercise a vote. Members may not vote to initiate any church action, but rather the vote of a member is to confirm and ratify the direction of the church as determined by the Pastor and the Deacons.
- (B) This congregation functions not as a pure democracy, but as a body under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the Pastor as the Undershepherd. Determinations of the internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church's own rules and procedures. The Pastor shall oversee all aspects of this church. The Deacons shall give counsel and assistance to the Pastor.

(C) Membership in this church does not afford the members with any property, contractual, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Although the general public is invited to all of the church's worship services, the church property remains private property. The Pastor (or in his absence, an individual designated by the Deacons) has the authority to suspend or revoke the right of any non-member to enter or remain on church property. If after being notified of such a suspension or revocation, the person enters or remains on church property, the person may, in the discretion of the Pastor (or in his absence, an individual designated by the Deacons), be treated as a trespasser.

(D) A member, upon five-business days prior written request made upon the church, may inspect or copy the prepared financial statements of the church, the minutes of the proceedings of church meetings, and the minutes of the proceedings of board meetings.

1. A member may not, under any circumstances, inspect or copy any record relating to individual contributions to the church, the list of names and addresses of the church members.

2. The church may impose a reasonable charge, covering the costs of labor and material, for copies of any documents provided to the member before releasing the copies to the member.

SECTION 3.04 - DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER

(A) There shall be a discipline committee consisting of the Pastor and the Deacons. These men shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statement of Faith and violations of the Church Covenant. If the Pastor or a Deacon is the subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a member of the discipline committee. The Pastor and Deacons shall be entitled to the same steps as other church members and be subject to the same discipline.

(B) Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he is to go to the offending party and seek to restore his brother (in extreme situations, he may take a witness). Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.

(C) If reconciliation is not reached, a second member, either a Deacon or the Pastor is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.

(D) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, the discipline committee, as the church representatives Biblically responsible for putting down murmuring, shall hear the matter. If the matter is not resolved during the hearing before the discipline committee, the committee shall recommend to the individual members of the church that they, after self-examination, make an effort personally to go to the offending member and seek that member's restoration.

(E) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B), (C), and (D) have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the church upon a majority vote of the voting members present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering disciplinary action.

(F) No matter may be heard by the discipline committee or the church unless the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, except in the case of a public offense.

(G) If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the church membership, all contact with him from that point forward (except by family members) must be for the sake of restoration.

(H) The procedures provided in this section are based on Matt. 18:15-20; Rom. 16:17-18; I Cor. 5:1-13; II Cor. 2:1-11; Gal. 6:1; I Thess. 5:14; II Thess. 3:6,10-15; I Tim. 5:19-20; and Titus 3:10-11.

SECTION 3.05 - TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Members, except those involved in the disciplinary process of Section 3.04, may request that letters of transfer be sent to another church.

SECTION 3.06 - TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

(A) The membership of any individual member shall be automatically terminated without notice if the member in question has not attended a regular worship service of the church in the preceding six months. Any member who has not attended the regular church services for a period of two months shall not be entitled to vote (provided they are not hindered by sickness, disability, or other extenuating circumstances) at a duly called meeting of the church. Any member, who has not attended the regular church services for a period of three months, provided they are not hindered by sickness, disability, or other extenuating circumstances, shall be called upon by the Pastor and or Deacons. At least two attempts must be made to restore the individual to fellowship before termination of membership takes place. Upon good cause and an investigation of the member in question by the Pastor and Deacons, this provision for termination may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the Pastor and Deacons. If the member is terminated from membership, his/her privileges of membership shall end (SECTION 3.03). The Church Clerk shall be informed of the terminated member.

(B) No member of this church may hold membership in another church. Any member united in membership with another church, shall be automatically terminated without notice from membership in this church, except when such member is under the disciplinary process of Section 3.04. This termination may be waived in any case of any individual member at the discretion of the Pastor and Deacons.

(C) A member, except under the disciplinary process of Section 3.04, may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such resignation, except at the discretion of the Pastor and Deacons.

ARTICLE 4 - OFFICERS

SECTION 4.01 - CHURCH OFFICERS

The church officers are Pastor-Section 5.01, Deacon-Section 5.02, Church Clerk-Section 5.03, Treasurer-Section 5.04 and Financial Secretary-Section 5.05. One person may hold two or more offices, except that of Pastor. The Pastor, from time to time as he deems appropriate, may appoint other church officers, subject to a confirmation vote of the church membership.

SECTION 4.02 - DESIGNATION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church the Pastor shall serve as President of the corporation; and the Chairman of Deacons shall serve as Vice President of the corporation.

SECTION 4.03 - ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

(A) The Pastor. Because the Bible commands Christians to walk worthy of the vocation to which God has called them (Eph. 4:1) and commends a man desiring the office of a bishop as one who desires a good work (1 Tim. 3: 1), the Pastor must, in addition to his adherence to the Statement of Faith as provided in Article 2 and the qualifications for and duties of membership as provided in Sections 3.01 and 3.02, conduct his personal and professional life according to the following Biblical standards:

1. Family Relationships:

a. Gender. While emphasizing that men and women are spiritually equal before God, the Bible instructs that God has ordained distinct and separate functions for men and women within the church administrative structure. Accordingly, only men are eligible to assume the office of Pastor. Gal. 3:28; I Tim. 2:8-15; 3:2.

b. Marriage. The Bible commands that the Pastor be the husband of one wife. Therefore, he disqualifies himself from pastoral ministry upon his or his wife's divorce and/or remarriage (except in the case of a widower). Mark 10:11; I Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6.

c. Spouse and Children. The Pastor is the shepherd of the church as he is the leader of his family. His ability to lead his family and bring his children into proper subjection to spiritual, parental, legal, and other proper authority reflects upon his ability likewise to bring the church into proper subjection to spiritual authority, to bring unsaved individuals to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and to facilitate the proper spiritual development of saved members. I Tim. 3:4-5; Titus 1:6.

2. Alcohol. The Bible commands Pastors to be sober, vigilant, of good behavior, and not given to wine. Accordingly, the Pastor must abstain from the consumption of alcoholic beverages. Eph.5:18; I Tim. 3:2-3; Titus 1:7.

3. Teacher/Counselor. Because the Pastor is required to provide spiritual guidance to members on both an individual and congregational level, he must study the Word of God to prove himself divinely qualified and competent to teach and counsel members accordingly. The Bible commands that he be discreet in his counseling of individual members. Acts 20:28-32; I Tim. 3:26; II Tim. 2:15.

4. Economic Consideration. Remembering that a Christian's ultimate, eternal reward is in Heaven, the Pastor must not use his spiritual position of leadership for profit or personal financial gain. Rather, he should exemplify spiritual dependency, hospitality, generosity, and self-sacrifice. Matt. 6:19- 34; I Tim. 3:2-3; I Tim 6:6-11; Titus 1:7; I Peter 5:2.

5. Social Reputation. Because certain conduct, including that which is questionable and not necessarily in direct violation of Scripture, may be a stumbling block to the spiritually weak or unsaved, a Pastor must therefore strive to maintain a good, spiritual reputation among those within the community who are without Christ. This includes observing the ordinances of lawful governmental authority to the extent that they do not directly conflict with the commands God has set forth in the Bible. I Corinthians 8-9; I Tim. 3:7; I Pet. 2:13-17.

(B) Deacons. In addition to his adherence to the Statement of Faith as provided in Article 2, the qualifications for and duties of membership as provided in Sections 3.01 and 3.02 and the qualifications for officer candidacy as provided in Section 4.03(C), a Deacon must conduct his personal and professional life according to the following Biblical standards:

1. Family Relationships:

a. Gender. While emphasizing that men and women are spiritually equal before God, the Bible instructs that God has ordained distinct and separate functions for men and women within the church administrative structure. Accordingly, only men are eligible to assume the office of Deacon. Gal. 3:28; I Tim. 2:8-15; 3:2.

b. Marriage. The Bible commands that a Deacon be the husband of one wife. Therefore, like the Pastor, a Deacon disqualifies himself from the office upon his or his wife's divorce and/or remarriage (except in the case of a widower). I Tim. 3:12.

c. Spouse and Children. Like the Pastor, a Deacon holds a leadership position within the church similar to that which he holds within his family. His ability to lead his family and bring his children into proper subjection to spiritual, parental, legal, and other proper authority reflects upon his ability likewise to blamelessly perform the duties of his office in a spiritually effective and efficient manner. The Bible also commands a Deacon's wife to abstain from gossip and slander, to be serious-minded, and to be faithful in her spiritual service. I Tim. 3: 11-12.

2. Stewardship. The Bible commands that a Deacon perform the duties of his office with all seriousness, prudence, and dignity. The gravity of his position requires him to study the Word of God and pray for divine wisdom diligently. I Tim. 3:8-9; II Tim; 2:15.

3. Pastoral Support. Because God has called the Pastor to the leadership of the church, the Bible commands Deacons to support, encourage, and cooperate with the Pastor within the framework of the Bylaws as supported by the Word of God. Condemning hypocrisy, the Bible commands that Deacons not engage in disparaging gossip or slander against the Pastor, another officer, or a member. Acts 6:2, .4; I Tim. 3:8.

4. Alcohol. The Bible commands that a Deacon not be given to much wine. Accordingly, a Deacon must abstain from the consumption of alcoholic beverages. I Tim. 3:8; Prov. 31:4-5.

(C) All Officers. Only church members are eligible for election or appointment to any church office or position. The church shall not install or retain an officer who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith. The Pastor must initially approve each church officer prior to the commencement of the officer's duties. Moreover, all church officers, upon request of the Pastor, shall affirm their continued agreement with the Statement of Faith.

SECTION 4.04 - TERMS OF OFFICE

(A) The relationship between the Pastor and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party by the giving of a month's notice, or less by mutual consent with a month's salary. The calling of a Pastor or severance of the relationship between the Pastor and the church may be considered at any regular church administration meeting, provided notice to that effect shall have been posted in writing and given from the pulpit to the church two Sundays prior to said

regular church administration meeting. A majority vote of the eligible voting members present and voting shall be required to call a Pastor or to sever the relationship between the Pastor and the church. Disciplinary removal of the Pastor from office automatically terminates his membership. The calling of a Pastor shall employ the following:

1. The Deacons shall thoroughly investigate and prayerfully consider all candidates and make a report to the congregation at least once a month.
2. They shall present the name of one candidate at a time for approval given to the Church at a special meeting called for that purpose.
3. Before the candidate is presented to be voted upon, the Deacons must secure his permission and present to the Church, at the time of voting, a signed statement by the proposed candidate signifying his unreserved acceptance of the Church's Bylaws.
4. A three-fourths majority vote of the voting members present shall be required to call a Pastor. Two-thirds of the voting members, in good standing of the church, must be present at the voting in of a Pastor.
5. The Church through the Chairman of Deacons shall extend the call. Should the candidate fail to receive the majority vote, or refuse the call, the Deacons shall seek out another acceptable candidate. Should the candidate receive the majority vote and accept the call, he and his family (all who are eligible for church membership) automatically become members.
6. The Deacons shall present a compensation package, approved by voting members by majority vote, to the new Pastor.

(B) The term of service for all offices and positions in the church, except the Pastor and Deacons, shall be one year, at the expiration of which they may be re-elected or re-appointed. Deacons shall serve a three-year term, at the expiration of which they may be re-elected.

(C) A vacancy occurring in any office or board, except in the case of the Pastor, may be filled at any regular church administration meeting.

(D) Elected and appointed officers shall serve in their respective offices until their successors are duly elected or appointed.

(E) Members of the Deacons may be removed from office for unbiblical conduct, as determined by the other board members, upon a majority vote of the remaining members of the Deacons.

SECTION 4.05 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The annual election of officers by the majority vote of the voting members present shall occur during the annual church administration meeting.

SECTION 4.06 - PASTORAL OVERSIGHT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

(A) Subject to the approval of the church membership and on the condition that they shall become a member of the church upon assuming their duties, the Pastor may hire or appoint individuals (individuals are subject to approval of the Deacons) in a needed position within the church such as associates and assistants to assist the Pastor and other staff in carrying out his God-given responsibilities by following the procedures in Section 4.07.

(B) All church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the Pastor who has the sole authority to hire, appoint, or dismiss the same. The church shall not hire, appoint, or retain

any employee or volunteer who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith.

SECTION 4.07 - STAFF PROCEDURES FOR EMPLOYMENT

In calling church staff who will receive all or part of their financial support from the church; such as Associates, Assistants to the Pastor, Youth Pastors, Evangelists, Bus Directors, Christian Education workers, youth workers, counselors, callers, teachers, etc., no one shall be considered without the recommendation of the Pastor. A majority vote of the voting members present shall be required in the approval of the needed position within the church; the Pastor at his discretion shall choose the individual (individuals are subject to approval of the Deacons) to fill the position.

ARTICLE 5 - DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS

SECTION 5.01 - PASTOR

(A) The Pastor shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him. He shall administer the ordinances of the church, act as moderator at all church meetings for the transaction of church matters, supervise the teaching ministries of the church, and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership. He shall be an Ex-officio member of the Deacons and all church committees, and serve as Moderator at all officer meetings and all church business meetings, except those meetings that pertain to him.

(B) The Pastor shall appoint the members of the various committees at the annual church administration meeting. He shall serve as the president of the corporation. He shall publicly inform all newly elected officers of the particular function and the responsibilities of their respective offices. He shall extend the right hand of fellowship to all new members on behalf of the church and perform such other duties as generally appertain to such a position. The Pastor shall be free to choose the means and methods by which he exercises the ministry that God has given him.

(C) All appointments for public worship and Bible study and the arrangements thereof including time and place and the use of the property belonging to the church for purposes other than the stated appointments shall be under the control of the Pastor.

SECTION 5.02 - DEACONS

(A) The Deacons shall assist the Pastor, in such manner as he shall request, in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church, in conducting the religious services, and in performing all other work of the church. They shall make provision for the observance of the ordinances of the church. They shall, with the Pastor, consider applications for church membership. They shall, in cooperation with the Pastor, disburse the benevolence fund. They shall assist the Pastor in visitation of each family of this church and all other evangelistic efforts of the church. The Deacons shall assist the Pastor in caring for the administrative needs of the church's various ministries as requested by the Pastor. They shall provide the pulpit supply (except in the case of the Pastor choosing pulpit supply while he is absent, vacationing, away on special meetings, etc.) and choose a moderator for church meetings if the Pastor is unavailable or the office of Pastor is vacant. Upon the death, resignation, or dismissal of the Pastor, the Deacons shall be the pulpit committee and may appoint others they deem necessary to be part of the pulpit committee.

(B) Immediately following the annual church administration meeting, the Deacons shall assemble and elect, from their own number, a chairman who shall be vice president of the corporation, a vice chairman, and a secretary.

(C) The Deacons shall constitute the trustees of the corporation and shall always maintain a minimum of three trustees. In the event there is not a sufficient amount of qualified men for deacons, the office of trustee shall be filled by selected men by the Church Officers (Section 4.01). The individual(s) shall serve as trustee by majority vote of the voting members present at any duly called business meeting. His term shall expire on the next annual business meeting. Trustees shall exercise the following specific powers.

1. To purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the church;
2. To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of the church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges; and
3. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation, if such action is mandated by a vote of the voting church membership.
4. The Pastor and Deacons shall have no authority to sell, lease, give away or dispose of in any manner church property that exceeds one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) without the express will of the church given by a majority vote of voting members at any duly called business meeting; nor shall they mortgage or encumber the same in debt to exceed the same amount without action by the church.

SECTION 5.03 – CHURCH CLERK

The Church Clerk shall:

- (A) The Clerk shall keep a correct and permanent record of all the business meetings of the Church. Exhibit at all reasonable times to proper persons minutes of the business meetings of the church.
- (B) Be custodian of the records of the church, including the current membership roll, baptisms, transfers and certificates of ordination, licenses and commissions. Sign all letters of dismissal.
- (C) Take charge of all Church records, Certify and keep of the church, the original bylaws or a copy, including all amendments or alterations to the bylaws.
- (D) Keep an account of any special events in the life of the church which are of historical interest and give a report at the annual church administration meeting of the status of the church membership roll in the past year.
- (E) Keep all records of the church and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office. All records, files, materials, etc. are church property.

SECTION 5.04 – TREASURER

The Treasurer shall:

(A) Have charge and custody of, and be responsible for all moneys of the Corporation, and deposit all funds in the name of the church in banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected by the Pastor or the Deacons.

(B) Disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the church as may be directed by the Pastor and the Deacons, or the budget adopted by the members of the church at the annual church administration meeting, taking proper vouchers for the disbursements.

(C) Keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the church's properties and business transactions including account of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements and capital.

(D) Make all expenditures of the church by check. Shall be responsible for the proper payment of church bills, and accounting of all funds.

(E) When and as requested, render to the Pastor and the Deacons accounts of all his transactions as treasurer and of the financial condition of the church.

(F) Present a written report of itemized disbursements at the regular quarterly church administration meetings and make a general report for the year at the annual church administration meeting.

(G) Keep an accurate record of individual contributors and present them an annual report of their giving.

(H) Keep all church financial records of the church and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office. All records, files, materials, etc. are church property.

SECTION 5.05 - FINANCIAL SECRETARY

(A) The Financial Secretary shall assist the Treasurer in counting all funds and other responsibilities deemed necessary.

SECTION 5.06 - ASSOCIATE PASTORS

Under the direction and guidance of the Pastor, the Associate Pastors of the church shall assist the Pastor in carrying out the ministries of the church.

SECTION 5.07 - DUTIES OF ALL OFFICERS

(A) All officers shall prepare a written report of their work for the annual church administration meeting and shall surrender any records in their possession to the Church Clerk at the close of their term of office to be filed as a permanent record of the work of the church. All records are the property of the church and must be kept in the church office.

(B) Any officer who neglects his duties as outlined in the bylaws may be removed from his office at the discretion of the Pastor and Deacons and another may be appointed by the Pastor and Deacons to serve the un-expired term.

ARTICLE 6 - MEETINGS

SECTION 6.01 - MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Unless otherwise determined by the Pastor, the church shall meet each Sunday for public worship both morning and evening and Wednesday for Bible study and prayer.

SECTION 6.02 - MEETINGS FOR CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

(A) The annual church administration meeting shall be held on the last Wednesday of January at which time the regular church administration shall be considered. A quorum at any Church business meeting shall require a two-thirds majority of the active members. An active, eligible voting member shall be one who is in full fellowship with the Church. A majority vote of the voting members present shall decide all matters, except the calling or dismissing of a Pastor, or amending the Constitution, or purchase, sale or mortgaging of Church property which cases shall require a three-fourths majority vote. (see ARTICLE 4, Section 4.04: Article 14)

(B) Quarterly church administration meetings shall be held on the last Wednesday of April, July, October, and January. The last quarterly meeting shall be held in connection with the annual meeting.

(C) All church administration meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer for divine guidance and blessing.

(D) The moderator shall determine the rules of procedure according to his sense of fairness and common sense, giving all members a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a matter. The moderator is the final authority on questions of procedure, and his decision is final and controlling. The following order shall be observed at the regular church administration meetings:

- Step 1 Devotions & prayer
- Step 2 Reading of minutes
- Step 3 Reception of members
- Step 4 Dismissal of members
- Step 5 Report of officers
- Step 6 Reports of standing committees
- Step 7 Reports of special committees
- Step 8 Unfinished matters
- Step 9 Election of officers
- Step 10 New matters
- Step 11 Adjournment
- Step 12 Benediction

(E) For any meeting under this article, the moderator, in his sole discretion, shall have full and unilateral authority to require non-members to leave the meeting room and to request the immediate removal of any member or other person present who is deemed by the moderator to be disruptive to the proceedings by act or presence. The moderator shall have full authority to order the removal of all children (ages to be determined by the moderator) if the moderator determines, in his sole discretion, that circumstances so warrant.

(F) The Lord's Supper shall be observed in connection with regular services at the discretion of the Pastor and/or Deacons unless the Pastor deems the Church body as unprepared to receive the Lord's Supper.

SECTION 6.03 - SPECIAL MEETINGS

(A) The Pastor (or Deacons if the office of Pastor is vacant or the Pastor is the subject of possible disciplinary action) may call a special meeting as deemed necessary by the Pastor and Deacons. A

meeting for the calling of a Pastor or the severance of the relationship between the church and Pastor shall be called in accordance with the provision of Section 4.04(A).

(B) Bible conferences, missionary conferences, special speakers, and revivals may be called or held as the Pastor deems beneficial.

(C) Because of the inherent religious nature of marriage, the Biblical Typology of Jesus Christ and His bride, the Church, and the Scriptural mandate that all things be done to the honor and glory of God, wedding ceremonies conducted at Port Huron Baptist Church are considered worship services, and the only participants to be united in holy matrimony are a couple consisting of one male and one female.

SECTION 6.04 - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the church shall begin January 1st and end December 31st.

SECTION 6.05 - MEETINGS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS

The Officers of the church (SECTION 4.01) shall meet in regular business session on the Thursday preceding the quarterly business meeting of the Church. Majority of church officers shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business in all official church officer meetings. At Pastor's discretion, other meetings shall he call involving the deacons to meet with him at any time during the calendar year.

ARTICLE 7 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

SECTION 7.01 - PURPOSE

The church believes that it may provide the members' children with an education which is based upon and consistent with Biblical teachings. The church believes that the home and church are responsible before God for providing a Christian education. To this end, the church shall engage in ministries in education in keeping with the following dictates:

SECTION 7.02 - CHURCH PARTICIPATION

All educational programs or courses of instruction formulated and offered by the church shall be primarily for the benefit of the members of the church; however, the Pastor may permit non-church members to participate in church educational programs or courses of instruction if he deems it in the best interest of the church.

SECTION 7.03 - STAFF MEMBERSHIP

All instructors, teachers, and administrators shall be members of this church. This provision shall not apply to visiting missionaries, evangelists, or preachers engaged for the purpose of delivering sermons, conducting revivals, or other special meetings on a temporary basis.

SECTION 7.04 - STATEMENT OF FAITH ACCORD

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be taught and presented in full accord with the Statement of Faith of the church. The church shall not hire, appoint, or retain any employee or volunteer for its educational programs that fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith.

SECTION 7.05 - UNITY

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted as an integral and inseparable ministry of the church.

SECTION 7.06 - TEACHING

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted consistent with the teaching of the inerrant Word of God. Any assertion or belief that conflicts with or questions a Bible truth is a pagan deception and distortion of the truth that will be disclaimed as false. It is the responsibility of every instructor or teacher to present the inerrant Word of God as the sole infallible source of knowledge and wisdom.

SECTION 7.07 - CHRISTIAN WALK

All administrators, instructors, and teachers shall maintain a lifestyle consistent with the precepts which they teach, whether in or out of the classroom. The church shall not install or retain such individuals who fail to adhere or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith. Such individuals shall sign and agree to ARTICLE 2 - STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT and their signature shall be kept on file within the church.

ARTICLE 8 - ORDINATION

SECTION 8.01 - ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Any member of this church or its mission churches, who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry and possesses the qualifications stated in I Timothy 3: 1- 7 and Titus 1:6-9, may be ordained as a minister of the Gospel. Requirements for ordination would be the following: being an active member of Port Huron Baptist Church; a man of high moral character and consistent spirituality; in agreement with the doctrinal statement of the church; knowledgeable in the scriptures, and apt to teach them; active in Christian service through this church; one whose home meets Biblical qualifications.

SECTION 8.02 - ORDINATION PROCEDURE

(A) The candidate shall have a conference with the Pastor for ordination; the Pastor shall examine and pass on the qualifications and requirements of the candidate. Upon approval of the Pastor, the church shall convene a public meeting for the purpose of questioning the candidate concerning his doctrine and practice. The Pastor himself shall question or if he so desires, choose men of the church to participate in the questioning. The church shall hear the recommendation of the Pastor and may then vote to ordain by majority present of voting members present, and proceed with a public ordination service.

(B) If the candidate is found worthy of the ordination, the church may ordain the candidate.

(C) The Pastor and the chairman of Deacons shall arrange for the ordination service.

SECTION 8.03 - REVOKING OF ORDINATION

The church may at any time, by majority vote of the voting members present, revoke its approval of the ordination should the man depart from the faith, doctrinally, morally or disqualify himself as stated in I Timothy 3:1- 7 and Titus 1:6-9.

SECTION 8.04 - LICENSING MEMBERS

Any member of this church or its mission churches may be licensed into the work of the ministry who possesses the qualifications stated in I Timothy 3: 1- 7 and Titus 1:6-9, as a minister of the Gospel. Majority vote of the voting members present is required to license an individual. Should the man depart from the faith, doctrinally, morally or disqualify himself as stated in I Timothy 3: 1- 7 and Titus 1:6-9; the church may at any time, by the same majority vote revoke his license.

ARTICLE 9 - INDEMNIFICATION

SECTION 9.01 - ACTIONS SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION

The church may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, including all appeals (other than an action by or in the right of the church) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a Pastor, Deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the church, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him/her in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding; and if that person acted in good faith and in a manner he/she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his/her conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or on a plea of nolo contendere (no contest) or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner that he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

SECTION 9.02 - EXPENSES SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION

To the extent that a Pastor, Deacon, officer, employee, or agent has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding referred to in this Article, or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter in that action, suit, or proceeding, he or she may be indemnified against expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding.

SECTION 9.03 - LIMITATIONS OF INDEMNIFICATION

Any indemnification made under this Article, may be made by the church only as authorized *in* the specific case on a determination that indemnification of the Pastor, Deacon, officer, employee, or agent is proper in the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Section 1 of this Article. The determination shall be made (a) by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of the Pastor and Deacons who were not and are not parties to or threatened with the action, suit, or proceeding; (b) if the described quorum is not obtainable or if a majority vote of a quorum of disinterested deacons so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion; or (c) by a majority vote of the voting members present of the church.

SECTION 9.04 - TIMING OF INDEMNIFICATION

Expenses of each person seeking indemnification under this Article, may be paid by the church as they are incurred, in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit, or proceeding, as authorized by the Deacons in the specific case, on receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the Pastor, Deacon, officer, employee, or agent to repay the amount if it is ultimately determined that he or she is not qualified to be indemnified by the church.

SECTION 9.05 - EXTENT OF INDEMNIFICATION

The indemnification provided by this Article shall be deemed to be discretionary unless otherwise required as a matter of law or under any agreement or provided by insurance purchased by the church, both as to action of each person seeking indemnification under this Article in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding that office, and may continue as to a person who has ceased to be a Pastor, Deacon, officer, employee, or agent and may inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of that person.

SECTION 9.06 - INSURANCE

The church may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a Pastor, Deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the church against any liability asserted against him/her and incurred by him/her in that capacity, or arising out of his status in that capacity, whether or not the church would have the power to indemnify him/her against liability under the provisions of this Article.

ARTICLE 10 - COMMITTEES

SECTION 10.01 - STANDING COMMITTEES

The Pastor (or the Deacons if the office of pastor is vacant) shall appoint standing committees and designate a chairperson for each standing committee, and except when otherwise specifically provided in these bylaws, shall determine the membership of each standing committee. In addition to the discipline committee, the Pastor may appoint other standing committees, as he deems appropriate.

SECTION 10.02 - SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Pastor and Deacons, in its discretion, may create special committees to provide the Pastor and Deacons with advice and information regarding matters submitted to the committee by the Pastor and Deacons for consideration. The committee shall have no authority to act on behalf of the corporation. The members of the committee shall be chosen by a majority vote of the Deacons, including the Pastor and shall serve solely at the pleasure of the Pastor and Deacons. The special committee shall be subject to the control and direction of the Pastor and Deacons at all times.

SECTION 10.03 - OTHER COMMITTEES

The Pastor and Deacons, in its discretion, may appoint members to the following ministries. The committee shall have no authority to act on behalf of the corporation. The members of the committee shall serve solely at the pleasure of the Pastor and Deacons. These committees shall be subject to the control and direction of the Pastor and Deacons at all times.

(A) Ladies Ministries – shall be open to all female members of the church to cooperate with the Pastor and Deacons in the following lines of work: to assist in the preparation for the administration of the ordinances, charitable visitation, and provide flowers for the decoration of the pulpit. They shall also order flowers for funerals of members and for members in the hospital. Together with the Deacons, they shall arrange receptions for new Pastors, missionaries, special speakers or guests. They shall also be in charge of care packages to missionaries, military personnel, college students, food baskets to families in need, banquets, and fellowship.

(B) Ministry of Music - shall be composed of members appointed by the Pastor and Deacons. They shall have charge of supervising the musical program of the church, recommending song leaders,

organists, and pianists. They shall schedule special music and set standards for music for all public services; all are subject to approval by the Pastor and Deacons.

ARTICLE 11 - DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

From time to time the church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. Any deviation from the intended use of funds shall be decided by the Pastor and Deacons to protect the responsibilities and general obligations of the church in the advent of financial hardship. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Section 1.02.

ARTICLE 12 - FINANCIAL SUPPORT

SECTION 12.01 - UNSCRIPTURAL METHODS

This church shall be supported in all its endeavors by the tithes and freewill offerings of the people and is opposed to suppers, bazaars, fairs, box socials, lecture courses, et cetera, as a means of raising money for Church purposes.

SECTION 12.02 - SCRIPTURAL METHODS

The Church accepts the Bible method of finance as final authority in all matters of faith and practice. In matters of Church finance, we believe that tithes and offerings are the Biblical injunctions for giving (see Matt. 3:8-10; I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 9:6-15.) "Upon the first day of the week" (regularly and systematically) "As God has prospered him" (proportionately) "Tithes and Offerings" (proportion is a tithe and offering) "Prove me now herewith" (administrator is God) and "As he purposeth in his heart, so let him give" (each member deciding in the light of the Word of God and the leadership of the Spirit of God, his responsibility).

ARTICLE 13 - BINDING ARBITRATION

SECTION 13.01 - SUBMISSION TO ARBITRATION

Believing that lawsuits between believers are prohibited by Scripture in church matters, all members of this church agree to submit to binding arbitration any matters which cannot otherwise be resolved, and expressly waive any and all rights in law and equity to bringing any civil disagreement before a court of law, except that judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.

SECTION 13.02 - NOTICE OF ARBITRATION

In the event of any dispute, claim, question, or disagreement arising out of or relating to these bylaws or any other church matter, the parties shall use their best efforts to settle such disputes, claims, questions, or disagreement as befits Christians. To this effect, they shall consult and negotiate with each other in good faith and recognizing their mutual interests not to disgrace the name of Christ, seek to reach a just and equitable solution. If they do not reach such solution within a period of sixty (60) days, then upon notice by either party to the other, disputes, claims, questions, or differences shall be finally settled by arbitration as described in section 12.01, above, and such Procedures for Arbitration as are adopted pursuant to Section 12.04, below.

SECTION 13.03 - LIMITATIONS ON ARBITRATION DECISIONS

(A) Should any dispute involve matters of church discipline, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures for church discipline as outlined under Section 3.04, were followed.

(B) Should any dispute involve the removal from office of the pastor or any church officer, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures set forth in Section 3.04 were followed.

SECTION 13.04 - ARBITRATION PROCEDURES

The Procedures for Arbitration shall be as adopted by the Pastor and the Deacons.

ARTICLE 14 - AMENDMENTS

SECTION 14.01 FACILITIES

(A) No facility of Port Huron Baptist Church shall be used in any way that is inconsistent with the statement of faith in Article 2 of this By-laws.

(B) Notwithstanding an individual's feelings or beliefs to the contrary, building facilities that are labeled for use by members of a specific sex (male or female) shall be used only by members of the designated sex as intended. In matters of dispute, the sex recorded at the individual's birth shall be determinative.

These bylaws may be revised or amended by a three-fourths vote of the all voting members present and voting at any regular church administration meeting, provided that said revision or amendment or section has been submitted in writing and announced from the pulpit fourteen (14) days before the vote is taken.

ADOPTION

These bylaws were adopted by a three-fourths vote of the voting members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the church in which a quorum was present.

These bylaws supersede any other constitution, covenant or articles of faith of Port Huron Baptist Church.

Adopted on: Wednesday, January 15, 2003

Revised and Adopted on: June 1, 2014

Revised and Adopted on: February 14, 2016

