
CONSTITUTION

Last amended September 2020



Bible Presbyterian Church

BIBLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Merrill, Wisconsin

ARTICLE I – NAME

- 1.1 *Name.* The name of this church shall be *Bible Presbyterian Church* of Merrill, Wisconsin, a particular church of the Presbyterian Church in America.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

- 2.1 *Purpose.* The purpose of this church is to glorify God through worship, education, fellowship and outreach. This purpose may be amplified in a written “Statement of Purpose” which shall not be considered a part of this constitution.

ARTICLE III – DOCTRINE

- 3.1 *Doctrine.* While the written word of God as found in the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments shall be the primary standard of doctrine for the church, the subordinate doctrinal standards shall be the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Westminster Larger Catechism and the Westminster Shorter Catechism in the forms adopted by the Presbyterian Church in America.

These documents (*The Westminster Confession and Larger and Shorter Catechisms*) which form our doctrinal standards, we will uphold as the final authority for the beliefs and practices of our church.

This church affirms the biblical conviction that gender is not a fluid category but of only two forms, male and female, as determined by one’s biology at birth. Therefore, restroom usage in our facility is limited to one’s biological gender. We also affirm that marriage is to be between a biological man and a biological woman and that weddings conducted in our facility or by our pastoral staff are limited to heterosexual unions, either of two confessing Christians or two non-Christians.

This church affirms the sanctity of all human life, including the life of the unborn. Therefore, we cannot in good conscience require our employees to be covered by health insurance plans which provide abortion services.

Since this church is a religious institution with clear doctrinal and moral precepts, no activities, ceremonies, or meetings will be held within its facility which violate said biblical doctrines and moral precepts. We also reserve the right to require all church employees to adhere to our doctrinal and moral standards.

ARTICLE IV – GOVERNMENT AND PROPERTY

4.1 *Government.* Bible Presbyterian Church adopts the Book of Church Order of The Presbyterian Church in America as its governing by-laws.

4.2 *Property.* As stipulated by BCO, we hold ownership of our own church Properties without right of any reversion whatsoever to Presbytery, General Assembly or any other court of the church.

4.3 *Distribution of Assets.* If the corporation dissolves, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this corporation shall be distributed to the presbytery of which the church is a member. The distribution shall be designated for the beginning of new churches. Such distribution shall be made in accordance with all applicable provisions of the laws of Wisconsin.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

5.1 *Membership.* The membership of this church shall consist of a group of believers with their children organized to worship God in accordance with the doctrinal, governmental and disciplinary standards of the Presbyterian Church in America.

5.2 *Communicant Members.* Communicant members of this church shall be persons who have presented themselves before the Session and have been accepted by the Session on the basis of 1) their profession of faith in Christ; 2) the Session's judgment that they have been regenerated and that their profession is not contradicted by flagrant sin or false doctrine; and 3) their willingness to submit themselves to this government of this church and denomination.

5.2.1 Communicant members may be added by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or by letter of transfer from a church not deemed heretical by the Session. Prospective members will normally be expected to complete a preparatory class conducted by the Session.

5.3 *Non-Communicant Members.* Non-communicant members of the church are children of communicant member(s) or children under the care of communicant member(s).

ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENTS

6.1 *Amendments.* This constitution may be amended by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the communicant members present and voting at each of two duly called meetings of the congregation which shall be held not less than two weeks apart.

6.2 *Meeting Notification for Amendments.* The meetings shall be announced from the pulpit during the morning service and the proposed amendment read for three consecutive weeks prior to the first congregational meeting. In addition, communicant members shall be notified of the congregational meetings by mail at least one week prior to the first meeting.