

# CODE OF REGULATIONS

of the

## PLEASANT VIEW MISSIONARY CHURCH

Greenville, Ohio

Approved November 2011

### ARTICLE I – NAME

This Church shall be known as the Pleasant View Missionary Church, Inc. of Greenville, Ohio.

### ARTICLE II – AFFILIATION

This Church is a member Church in the Missionary Church, Inc., with denominational headquarters in Fort Wayne, Indiana. We are also a member of the East Central District of the Missionary Church. As such, it shares the privileges, benefits, and responsibilities of that affiliation.

### ARTICLE III – STATEMENT OF FAITH

This Church is committed to the complete statement of faith and practice as found in the Constitution of the Missionary Church, Article III. Please call the church office for a copy or go to [www.mcusa.org](http://www.mcusa.org).

### ARTICLE IV – PURPOSE, PROCESS & VALUES

Our purpose is to become a Spiritually Mature Church by seeing people Saved, Strengthened, Serving, and being Sent Out.

Our values are:

I. ***All people matter to God.***

The foundational value set forth in the Bible is that all people, regardless of age, race, or background, matter to God (Luke 15). He creates all persons with potential and purpose and desires them to be in fellowship with him by making Jesus Christ their Lord and Savior (Genesis 1-2; John 3:16). Therefore, we will do everything we can to witness and minister through the love of Jesus Christ to all people in as many ways as God inspires us to do through the work of the Holy Spirit.

II. ***Lives can be changed through Bible centered, relevant teaching/preaching.***

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, the authoritative and trustworthy rule of faith and practice for Christians (II Timothy 3:16). The Bible is timeless and timely, relevant to the common needs of all people at all times and to the specific problems of contemporary living. The Holy Spirit guides us, instructs us, and inspires us to know God's Word more deeply (John 16:5-16). Therefore, we are committed to equipping Christians, through the preaching and teaching of God's Word and through the power of the Holy Spirit, to study, be transformed by, and teach the Word of God.

III. ***God calls us to Godly servant leadership.***

The Bible makes clear that all those who follow Jesus Christ, regardless of age, are called to be his servants (Luke 14:27). As servants, we are called to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God by the guidance of the Holy Spirit through Good Works and Sanctification – the process of becoming perfectly Holy through God's grace (John 15, Galatians 5:22-26). When the church of Jesus lives out this servant leadership, we believe that anything can be accomplished for Christ (Philippians 4:13). Therefore, we are committed to seeing that our leaders exemplify Christian discipleship through service, giving, worship, prayer, and study. We are also committed to helping all servants of Christ discover their spiritual gifts so that they might serve Christ more effectively.

IV. ***God calls us to biblical community.***

As Christians, we are called to be in community with other Christians (Acts 2). This community, known as koinania, is based on the love of Jesus Christ and his desire for us to love others as ourselves (Matthew 7:12, I Corinthians 13). Therefore, we are committed to developing ministries to build biblical community for all ages that will help them feel connected to others and connected to God. We are also committed to developing these communities so that they are life transforming in every way.

**V. *God calls us to commitment to prayer.***

God desires his people to pray and he hears and answers prayer (Matthew 7:7-11, James 5:13-18). The Bible makes clear that we should pray "unceasingly" (I Thessalonians 5:17). Therefore, the ministries and activities of this church will be characterized by a reliance on prayer in their conception, planning, and execution. We will also do everything we can to help people develop powerful prayer lives in which they feel a deep connection with God.

**VI. *God calls us to passionate worship.***

Worship is one of the primary ways a person connects with God (Exodus 23-25). The Bible makes clear that worship takes place in many forms and ways (Psalms). Therefore, we will seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to develop worship services that will help all people of all ages worship God in Spirit and in Truth. (Values II and V adapted from Lakeview Community Church, Cedar Hill, Texas.)

**ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP**

**Section A – Qualifications**

- A. Must have been immersed in water after accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- B. Must be in agreement with the church's articles of faith.
- C. Must take some type of Membership class approved by the Elders.
- D. Must turn in a membership questionnaire.
- E. If a member is in good standing of another Missionary Church, they can transfer their membership

**Section B – Discipline**

- A. Purpose of Discipline. The church is commanded to discipline its members when they continue in open and habitual sin. Church discipline has multiple purposes including the following:
  - (1) Encouraging the sinning members to repent, thus restoring him/her to fellowship with Christ and the church using Matt. 18:15-20 as the basic guideline.
  - (2) Warning other members against such sin.
  - (3) Upholding and maintaining the moral purity and blameless testimony of the church.  
1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:6-11, 7:8-10; 1 Tim. 5:19-20; 2 Thess. 3:6, 14-15
- B. Process of Discipline. Should any member depart from the standard of Scripture and engage in conduct which conflicts with biblical principles of holiness, the steps of discipline outlined in Scripture shall be followed. Hence, some or all of the following steps shall be taken in the process of enforcing church discipline:
  - (1) Private reproof of the sinning member.
  - (2) Reproof before two or three witnesses.
  - (3) Public reproof before the church.
  - (4) Termination of membership and possible disassociation and severance of fellowship.
    - The entire process of church discipline outlined above shall be carried out and enforced in a spirit of Christian love, care and sensitivity.
    - The termination can be appealed to the local congregation. If the person does not agree with the decision of the church, they may appeal the decision to the District Executive Board.

- No accusation shall be entertained against a minister or Elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses (1 Tim. 5:19). Should any minister/Elder depart from the standard of Scripture and engage in conduct which conflicts with biblical principles of holiness, the steps of discipline outlined in Matt. 18:16-18; Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Thess. 3:6, 14-15; 1 Tim. 6:3-5; Titus 3:10; and elsewhere in Scripture shall be followed.
  - Matt. 18:16-18; Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; Gal. 6:1; 2 Thess. 3:6, 14-15; 1 Tim. 6:3-5; Tit. 3:10
- C. Enactment of Discipline. It is hoped that the preliminary steps of discipline outlined in sections B (1), (2) and (3) above will result in repentance on the part of the sinning member. However, if there is no indication of repentance after these steps are taken, the sinning person's membership shall be terminated in accordance with section B (4) above. Such termination of membership shall be decided by the Elders after due consideration and prayer. The reason for termination shall be stated in a pastoral letter and delivered to the terminated member.
- D. Agreement of Members to Submit to the Process of Church Discipline. Every person who becomes a member or who maintains membership in a local Missionary Church explicitly consents to submit to the process of church discipline outlined above in section 3.a, b and c.
- (Adapted from the Missionary Church Constitution)

### Section C – Removal of Membership

- A. Inactive Members - A member failing to share in the fellowship and responsibilities of his/her church for a period of one year without just cause shall forfeit his/her membership.
- B. Transfer of Membership - Members in good standing moving from one locality to another where there is a Missionary Church shall at their request be given letters of transfer. In case of a pastor moving from one Missionary Church to another, the memberships of the pastor and such members of his family as accompany him and are members in good standing in the Missionary Church from which they move shall automatically transfer to the new church of which he becomes pastor.

## ARTICLE VI Paid STAFF

### Section A – Senior Pastor

1. The qualifications for the Senior Pastor shall be those found in the Constitution of the Missionary Church, Article XII.E.2.
2. The duties of the Senior Pastor shall include those found in the Constitution of the Missionary Church, Article XIII.E.1.
3. The Senior Pastor shall be selected, reviewed and compensated according to the District Pastoral Relations Policy as found in the Manual for the Missionary Church East Central District.

### Section B – Duties of Senior Pastor

1. To seek the mind of God through study and prayer preparation to preach and teach the Word.
2. To build and protect the body through preaching, praying, teaching, and encouraging.
3. To lead the church family toward the vision God has given.
4. To be an example to the flock of God in all matters of conduct.
5. To minister to the sick, elderly and hurting.
6. To oversee the ministry of the paid staff.
7. To serve on the Elder Board.
8. To preside at congregational business meetings.

### Section C – Additional Staff

1. The qualifications for additional staff shall be determined by the Sr. Pastor and presented to the Elders.
2. Upon approval by the Elders, the Sr. Pastor shall fill additional paid staff positions by the following process:
  - a. Evaluate the needs of the congregation.
  - b. Develop a job description.
  - c. Establish a suitable compensation package.
  - d. Solicit and evaluate qualified applicants.
  - e. Confer with the Elders.
  - f. The Sr. Pastor will offer the position.

6. All additional paid staff members shall serve under the direct supervision of the Senior Pastor. They shall be reviewed annually by the Senior Pastor and the Elders, at which time the current term of call may be extended by mutual consent. The annual review shall include job performance, job description, and compensation.
7. The Sr. Pastor has the responsibility for firing employees as long as the reasons have been evaluated and confirmed by the Elders.

#### Section D – Interim Pastoral Staff

In the event of an extended vacancy in any pastoral staff position (including Senior Pastor), the Elders may, in consultation with the District Superintendent, appoint an interim pastoral staff member who shall not usually serve for more than one year.

### ARTICLE VII – Elders

#### Section A

The goal is to develop a qualified team of servant leaders to assist the pastor(s) in overseeing the church. Their primary responsibilities will include spiritual advice, leadership, accountability, shepherding the flock, involved in church disciplines, and congregational equipping to assist in maturing disciples. In Biblical terminology, elders are to oversee, lead, and care for the local church.

#### Section B

The Elders will function to make spiritual decisions, give direction to the pastor(s) and develop future goals and provide vision for the future ministry of the church.

#### Section C

Qualifications – I Timothy 3:3-13, Titus 1:5-9

Intimacy, tenderness, concern, skills, hard work, suffering, and love characterize the image of an overseer. There is a subtle blend of authority, care, comfort, tenderness, toughness, and courage.

1. Interest – I Timothy 3:1; I Peter 5:2.
2. A strong, God-given desire for the office of Elder.
3. Integrity – I Timothy 3:2-3
4. A strong respect in the community for the man, unquestionable character, one whose morals and ethics are not open for attack, and above reproach.
5. Involvement – Titus 1:7-9
6. An ongoing effective, usefulness in ministry such as teaching and instructing. Communicates beliefs and truths in a manner to encourage a Christian commitment.

#### Section D – Elder Selection & Tenure

1. Nomination of Elders:
  - a. The process will begin when a position of Elder comes open. At that point the Elders will ask everyone in the church to nominate 3 members they believe are spiritually ready to be an Elder.
  - b. The member will be given the Elder application to fill out and return to the Elders.
  - c. The Elders will determine which potential Elder they will interview.
  - d. The Elders will make it known publically who the potential Elder is one month before they will be presented to the congregation.
  - e. The Congregation must affirm the nominee after a public examination and an affirmation of God's calling them to be an Elder by two-thirds (2/3) majority.
  - f. Elders will serve a 3 year term and then must be reaffirmed by the congregation if they desire to remain as Elders
  - g. There will be a minimum of 6 Elders plus the Senior Pastor.
2. Senior Pastor will be a voting member of the Elders.

#### Section E – Elder Officers

1. The Elders shall appoint a Head Elder. The Elders shall also appoint an Assistant Head Elder and Recording Secretary from its own membership.

2. The Head Elder is to preside at all Elder Meetings. The Head Elder is to report/participate in the congregational business meetings. The Elders will provide congregational leadership in the absence of the Senior Pastor, in coordination with other staff personnel
3. Recorder shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Elders. He shall maintain a register of membership, issue transfers of membership, and process all correspondence authorized by the Elders.
4. Each additional Elder will have a specific Ministry Area Responsibility that they will oversee (They will develop a team of people to carry out the tasks needed to be done in their area)
  - a. The Elders will appoint the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Delegates for District and General Conference.
  - b. The Elders can assign task forces as they see fit for special purposes.

#### Section F – Elder Responsibilities

1. Serve as undershepherds (under Christ). John 10:16, Col. 1:18, I Peter 2:5, Hebrews 4:14. Ability to receive instruction from Christ.
2. Lead a life of prayer. Willingness to give extra time to pray alone, with other Overseers and the Pastors.
3. Carry out restoration. Gal. 6:1-2. Going to sinning, lax Christians and lovingly confront as needed.
4. Prepare other people to serve. II Timothy 2:2. Giving time to a mentoring process in order to train future leadership/overseers.
5. Be a “steward” (oversees) the flock. I Peter 5:1-2. Committed to Biblical standards and directives; committed to helping by example and testimony; and assisting the congregation to live under the Lordship of Christ. Clarifying as needed: church doctrines, practices and church policies.
6. Select a Pastor. Appoint the Pastoral Search Committee with an elder representative being the chairperson.
7. Complete the annual evaluation of pastoral staff.

#### ARTICLE VIII - DEACONS

1. Anyone who serves as a leader of a ministry should meet the qualifications of a Deacon as defined in I Tim. 3: 8-12 and will be considered a Deacon (servant) in the church.

#### ARTICLE IX – LOCAL CHURCH CONFERENCES

##### Section A – Conference Regulations

1. These regulations shall apply to all congregational business meetings, as described in Sections B, C, and D below.
2. The meeting shall be announced and all business to be transacted posted in writing at least two weeks in advance. A member’s attendance at a meeting, without objection prior to the commencement of the meeting, shall constitute waiver of or defect in notice of the meeting.
3. A quorum for the meeting shall consist of all members, 16 of age and older, present and voting.
4. There shall be no absentee or proxy voting.

##### Section B –Business Meeting

1. The meeting shall be held at a time set by the Elders.
2. The purpose of a meeting shall be:
  - a. To review and affirm Elder candidates.
  - b. To approve the Faith/Planning Budget for the next year.
  - c. To transact any other necessary business.

##### Section C– Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings may be called by the Elders or the District Superintendent.

#### ARTICLE X – CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS

In the interest of maintaining the confidentiality of the affairs of the individual church members and members of the Elders and in the interest of preserving and encouraging the trust given the Elders by individual members, the Elders may keep confidential the minutes of their proceedings, or other church records, regarding the following matters:

1. Discussions and actions taken regarding the spiritual, emotional, psychological, or otherwise personal problems, affairs, and concerns of individual members or Elders.
2. Discussions and actions taken regarding the disciplining or termination of membership of a church member.
3. Discussions and actions taken regarding the evaluation of a church employee's performance, an employee's character and integrity, and the modification of the terms of employment or the termination of employment of an employee.
4. The names of contributors to the church and the amounts of such contributions.
5. Any other matters deemed confidential by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of the Elders.

#### ARTICLE XIV – REFERENCE TO ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

The church may adopt additional documents, other than this Code of Regulations, that provide for personnel matters, or otherwise the operation of this church. For example, the Elders may adopt a policy statement regarding the use of the church facilities for non-church functions. Such additional documents are not incorporated in this Code of Regulations and may be amended or retracted by a majority vote of the Elders. Such additional documents shall normally be maintained in printed form in the Church Policy Manual or the Ministry Profile Notebook.

#### ARTICLE XV – SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS

If any provision of this Code of Regulations is found to violate any law and is, therefore, deemed unenforceable, the remaining provisions of this Code of Regulations shall remain in effect.

#### ARTICLE XVI – DISSOLUTION

In the event of the Dissolution of the Pleasant View Missionary Church, the assets of the church will become the property of the Missionary Church, Inc. a non-profit corporation.

#### ARTICLE XVII – CONFLICTS

If any conflict or discrepancy exists between this Code of Regulations and any additional documents of the church, except the Articles of Incorporation, the Code of Regulations shall govern. If any conflict or discrepancy exists between this Code of Regulations or any additional documents of the church and the Articles of Incorporation, the Articles of Incorporation shall govern.

#### ARTICLE XVIII – AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Code of Regulations may be made by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote at any regular or special Congregational Business Meeting. The proposed amendment(s) shall be published at least two weeks in advance; and, if passed, shall take effect immediately. The Elders may make editorial changes as needed, including correction of typographical or punctuation errors and updating any reference to the Constitution of the Missionary Church and/or the Manual for the Missionary Church East Central District as hereafter amended or designated.