



CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

OF

M-46 TABERNACLE FAMILY MINISTRIES

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD

RIVERDALE, MI

Adopted Feb 6 2022

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Preamble

Whereas, It is the express purpose of God, our Heavenly Father, to call out of the world a people who shall constitute the Body, the Church of Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone; and

Whereas, The members of the Body, the Church, are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship and instruction in the Word of God, the work of the ministry, and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament; and

Whereas, According to God's Word, the early Christians came together in such fellowship as a representative Body of Blood-washed and Spirit-filled believers, who cooperated with, and sent out, evangelists and missionaries, and, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, set over the churches, Pastors, teachers, deacons and helpers; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we recognize ourselves as a cooperative Fellowship of Christians, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, till we all come in the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:3-13).

ARTICLE 1

Name, Slogan, Logo and Mission Statement

1. The name of this church shall be **M-46 Tabernacle Family Ministries (hereafter referred to TFM), Riverdale, Michigan.**

2. The Pentecostal Church of God's slogan is: **"Proclaiming Bible Truth in Pentecostal Power. LOOK WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE!"**

3. TFM's' slogan is: **"A Place To Call Home!"**



4. The Pentecostal Church of God logo is:

PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH OF GOD



5. TFM logo is:

6. TFM mission statement shall be **"Connect: with God and others, Serve: our family and our church, Go: to our community and to the world."**

ARTICLE 2

Purpose

The objects and purpose of this church shall be:

- (a) To preach the Gospel and further the cause of the Kingdom of God in Riverdale, Vestaburg, Montcalm County, surrounding areas, and unto all the world.
- (b) To promote freedom of worship and liberty of expression within the limits of our local authority.
- (c) Encourage and challenge congregants to live victoriously in Christ and spread the good news of the Gospel.

ARTICLE 3

Relationship

M-46 Tabernacle Family Ministries is a part of, and in fellowship with the Pentecostal Church of God, Michigan District, and the Pentecostal Church of God (Incorporated), an incorporated body with headquarters at Bedford, Texas, and shall be entitled to representation at the State and General Conventions according to the General and District Bylaws.

ARTICLE 4

Annual Church Business Meeting

The annual meeting shall be held in the month of February and shall be governed by Parliamentary Procedure. Time and date to be set by the local Pastor and Board.

ARTICLE 5

Form of Government

M-46 Tabernacle Family Ministries now has and shall always maintain a representative and congregational form of government.

PART 1

Governing Body

(a) The governing officers of M-46 Tabernacle Family Ministries shall consist of elected Pastors and Board Members.

(b) A quorum shall be a majority of the elected Board Members. In the case of a tie, the Lead Pastor will cast the deciding vote.

(c) The Board shall meet monthly unless otherwise notified by the Pastor. An emergency Board Meeting may be called at any time by the Pastor or, in the absence of a Pastor, a Board Member.

(d) No business of a confidential nature shall be divulged by any Board Member to anyone except as the nature of the issue shall require.

(e) The decisions of the Pastor and local Board shall be final unless reversed by the constituency at an annual business meeting or a special called business meeting.

PART 2

Qualifications and Duties

A. Pastor

1. Titus 1 - 3. The Pastor shall meet these qualifications.
2. The Pastor shall be responsible to the local church and conduct his/her ministry to build up the local body of believers in the larger interest of the church universal. The Pastor will be subject to those whom God has placed in authority over them in the District and General offices.
3. In the event of a Pastoral vacancy for whatever reason the following shall be the procedure:
 - a. **If there is a Co-Pastor/Associate Pastor (Credentialed with the Pentecostal Church of God and in good standing), before there are any other names considered to fill the vacancy, said party filling the afore-mentioned position, if they desire, shall be voted upon. A 2/3 election is required.**
 - b. The District Bishop shall be requested to conduct the meeting.
 - c. In the event that an election is not reached on the above person(s), the Bishop assumes the role of Pastor until names can be submitted and try-outs for the congregation may be considered and a new pastor is elected.
 - d. Names for the Pastor position are to be presented to the Church Board by the District Bishop. Try-outs are to be scheduled for the Board's approval followed by a vote by the congregation, which has the final authority to decide.
 - e. All candidates for said position must be credentialed and in good standing with the Pentecostal Church of God, having a good record of their membership from the past.
4. The Pastor shall be responsible to faithfully disciple all who come to faith under their ministry, to encourage every person to identify with the local church, to work faithfully at evangelism, such as home visitations, hospital calls, counseling, and wherever the need is. The Pastor will endeavor to train every believer in personal witnessing.

5. The Pastor will give his/herself to prayer, evangelism, revival, discipleship, and peacemaking for the edifying of the local body.

B. Board Members

1. Board members must meet the criteria in Titus 1 - 3.
2. In order to be eligible for a position on the Board, he/she has professed Jesus Christ as Savior and a registered member in good standing of M-46 Tabernacle Family Ministries Church for a period of two (2) consecutive years and be faithful in attendance at all services, as much as possible, and consistent in tithe and offerings for a period of two (2) consecutive years.
3. A Board member should have the concerns of the church as a whole on his mind and heart, which includes the people and the Pastor.
4. A Board Member must be at least 18 years old.
5. M-46 Tabernacle Family Ministries PCG Church shall be served by five (5) elected Board Members and one (1) alternate.

6. The Board would request nominations of potential board members to be submitted to the Board by January 1. The Board interviews the potential members during the month of January to determine that they meet the Biblical requirements of a board member. Qualified members names will be given to the congregation two (2) weeks prior to the Annual Business meeting so that it allows time for the members prayerful consideration prior to the vote a the Annual Business meeting.

Duties. Advising and working in harmony with the Pastor. Assisting in areas such as visitation, church business transactions, serving the constituency as their representative in the local Board Meetings, to help (if necessary) in the upkeep of properties and to be an encourager in the faith and shall not spread or promote discord.

PART 3

Terms of Office

Pastor. Shall be elected for a lifetime unless an accusation is submitted, and procedures are followed, according to the General Bylaws of the Pentecostal Church God (See Section 4 Addendum).

Board. Term of election shall be for two years unless completing an unexpired term. Three (3) board members shall be elected one year and two (2) board members shall be elected the alternate year. Alternate board member shall be elected annually.

PART 4

Procedures of Election

(a) The Board would request nominations of potential board members to be submitted to the board by the first Sunday in January. The Board would interview the potential members during the month of January Board meeting to determine that they meet the Biblical requirements of a board member. Qualified members names will be given to the congregation two (2) weeks prior to the Annual Business meeting.

(b) Those eligible to vote in the Annual Church Business Meeting shall meet all Bylaw requirements and Membership Rules (see Article 8).

(c) Two nominating ballots should be made. If a person receives simple majority vote, they are automatically voted onto the board. During the third nominating ballot, the highest names will become board members, whether two or three are needed.

(d) After three (3) nominating ballots have been cast, only the two (2) highest names shall be voted upon. All offices shall require 2/3 majority for election.

ARTICLE 6

Church Administration

(a) All positions of leadership not elected by the constituency will be filled with Pastoral approval. If there is no Pastor, then Board approval will be required.

(b) Any church leader such as, Teachers, iServe Directors, Worship team member, etc., that shall be found to be involved in unscriptural conduct or not faithfully executing their duties, not faithful in attendance and/or tithe may be removed at the discretion of the Pastor.

(c) The Pastor shall be ex-officio chairman of all committees, groups, departments, etc.

(d) The Official Board of the church shall be the resolution committee.

(e) All positions of a pastoral nature such as Care Pastor, Children’s Pastor, Youth Pastor, Assistant Pastor must be filled with the Holy Ghost.

(f) These facilities may only be used for weddings that adhere to the biblical definition of marriage. These facilities may not be used by any individual, group, or organization that advocate, endorse, or promote any anti-biblical lifestyle or agenda. This policy also applies to birthday parties, reunions, anniversaries, weddings, or baby showers.

(g) Under no circumstances is the Pastor to officiate, participate, or endorse any wedding ceremony that violates the belief and teaching of this church body in accordance with the Bible.

ARTICLE 7

Marriage, Homosexuality and Gender

We find in view of such misunderstanding in our nation and in the Church world concerning marriage, homosexuality and gender; that we, the Michigan District Pentecostal Church of God, must set forth our Biblical belief and position concerning these matters; this has been our beliefs and practice from the foundation of our Fellowship. We must not be alarmed when unbelievers do not honor God and will not allow the Bible to be their guide in life and conduct (I Cor. 1:18).

I. Our Definition of Marriage

1. A Divine institution, set in order by God, the uniting of one man and one woman; having the Divine charge to reproduce and have dominion over the earth (Gen. 1:27-28).

2. Gen. 2:18, “And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. 22, And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23, And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24, Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

3. Jesus Christ bears witness of the same in Mat. 19:4-6,” ... Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh.”

4. Therefore the Divine charge to male and the female was to “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth”. If this was to be done there must be the uniting of the man and woman in a relationship that the Bible refers to as “one flesh” according to Scriptures. This matter of being “one flesh” is referred to seven times in the Bible. Gen. 2:24; Mat. 19:5 & 6; Mk. 10:8 (2); I Cor. 6:16; and Eph. 5:31.

5. This union God brought about in uniting a man and a woman together in a Christian marriage is a revelation of the union between Christ and His Church; therefore, a Christian wedding is worship unto God who created this Divine institution. Eph. 5:29-33

6. God’s Law affirms the role of a man and a woman in the family relationship by commanding the children: “Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long ...” Ex. 20:12

7. The New Testament reaffirms this marriage relationship between a man and a woman, and of the family in a definite way, as being a father, a mother, and children. Eph. 5:21-6:4 & Col. 3:18-21

8. Therefore, we the Michigan District Pentecostal Church of God and M-46 Tabernacle Family Ministries, without reservation define and declare that Christian marriage is a covenant relationship between a man and a woman, and we reject and condemn all attempts to redefine marriage in any other terms.

II. Our Position Concerning Homosexuality

1. Webster’s New World Dictionary, copyright, 1968; defines it as: (1) sexual desire for those of same sex. (2) sexual relations between individuals of the same sex. Opposed to heterosexuality.

2. It is important that we as the Michigan District Pentecostal Church of God and M-46 Tabernacle Family Ministries declare our Biblical position on this matter. Normally we would treat this sin just as we would adultery and fornication. But the importance is based on the fact that its legalization gives it more influence on the public, the Church world and especially on our children. Because of this we declare that homosexuality is clearly unbiblical and sinful, regardless of what laws are passed.

3. The sin of homosexuality is seen in both in the Old and New Testaments. We find in the Old Testament where God's judgment is pronounced. Lev. 20:13 "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them." Lev. 18:22; Judges 19:1-30

4. The more common one is Sodom and Gomorrah in Gen. 19:4-25. This judgment of God that came upon them was of such severity that this particular sin was labeled as sodomite several places in the Bible. In Old Testament: Deut. 23:17 "There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel." "The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible", copyright 1962 gives meaning of sodomite as, "a male person who engages in sexual relations with another male." I Ki. 14:24; 15:12; 22:46 and II Ki. 23:7 Apostle Peter used it as an illustration I Pet. 2:6, Jude also used it in vs. 7.

5. The Apostle Paul seeking to help the Church at Rome to deal with those who had rejected God, tells them in Rom. 1:24 "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: 25, Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator.... 26, For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27, And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. 28, And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind..."

The sin of homosexuality is clearly seen of both men and women, and the judgment that is passed upon such.

6. The Apostle Paul speaks to the Church at Corinth. The city was a sinful city, like others; but it was noted for their sexual immorality. The Apostle realized how important it was for the new Christians to understand God's moral order. And those that committed such sins would not make it to heaven. I Cor. 6:9 "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 6:10 ... shall inherit the kingdom of God."

Notice the Apostle doesn't want them to be deceived, regardless how accepted it was by the world.

Joseph Thayer, Greek Lexicon, 19th copyright 1978 states that "effeminate" is, "of a catamite, a male who submits his body to unnatural lewdness". Catamite is a boy used in a form of sodomy. Thayer states meaning of "nor abusers of themselves with mankind" is, "one who lies with a male as with a female, a sodomite".

It is also used in I Tim. 1:10. A.T. Robertson, Greek scholar 1931 says, "late compound for sodomites."

7. Such Scriptures Rom. 1:24-28 and I Cor. 6:9-10 not only condemn the more scandalous examples of homosexual behavior, but they also condemn the more modern-day lifestyles. That which is proclaimed as a loving and committed relationship.

8. Homosexual behavior is a sin because it is contrary to God's created order for human relationships and the family unit. "Gen. 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a helpmate for him. 2:22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." The message could not be any clearer of what God's order is for a man and a woman.

9. Jesus reaffirms this established order that was from the beginning as was stated under (marriage above) Mat. 19:4-6 and Mk. 10:6-9

10. As was stated homosexuality is sin; but it is not an unpardonable sin. It is just as other sins, whether fornication, adultery, or all other transgressions of God's Law. Our only hope is repentance and forgiveness of sin through the blood of Jesus Christ which produces a regenerated heart and transformed and changed life and conduct. I Cor. 6:11 was speaking to those who had been partakers of such sins stated in vs. 9 and 10.

Notice how the Apostle states it, "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified..."

11. Therefore, we the Michigan District Pentecostal Church of God and M-46 Tabernacle Family Ministries stand opposed to any and all forms of homosexual lifestyles and behavior. We believe it is directly opposed to God's Word, and it is sinful.

III. Our Position Concerning Gender

1. We believe that biological sex at birth is God's gift and part of God's glory in creation. The consequences that have come upon the human race after the fall of man into sin was and is devastating. The disorder, malfunction, evil, brokenness and pain has corrupted God's "good" creation. Gen. 3:1-24; Eph. 2:2; Rom. 8:20-21

2. We believe that gender identity must be determined by biological sex according to God's good design and not by one's self-perception. Such perception comes from a heart that has not been created anew by Jesus Christ. Jer. 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Gen. 6:5; Prov. 14:12 (16:25); Eph. 4:17-18

3. We believe that male and female roles are ordained by God, and this being part of His created order. Gen. 2:18, 21-24; I Cor. 11:7-9; Eph. 5:22-33

4. Therefore, we believe for a person to seek to live contrary to their birth sex, whether by behavior, medical or surgical therapy are rebelling against the gift of God. And God's design He has for the person.

5. We also condemn the efforts of a person to change one's bodily identity, whether it be cross-sex hormone therapy, gender reassignment surgery, or any other method whereby one seeks to attain this change. That is to bring themselves in line with their perceived gender identity rather than their biological birth gender identity.

6. Therefore, we the Michigan District Pentecostal Church of God and M-46 Tabernacle Family Ministries believe that a person must respect and remain true to their biological birth gender. And that it is sinful to seek to alter or change this created order of their being.

ARTICLE 8

Membership

A. The following rules are for those who wish to become members of M-46 Tabernacle Family Ministries. The membership will be opened throughout the year, except for the month of February. In order to be eligible to vote in the business meeting, you must turn your membership application card in by January 31 to the pastor. Cards will then be presented to the Board at the next Board Meeting for discussion. You will be notified of the results of your application. Along

with membership comes responsibilities. Those responsibilities that a member must meet in order to retain his good standing and be eligible to vote are:

1. You must have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and be living a consistent Christian life (John 3:5-8).
2. You must be faithful in your consistent attendance to all services as much as possible and your support of M-46 Tabernacle Family Ministries, as well as becoming active in its programs, (Hebrews 23-25).
3. You must be faithful in returning to God the first tenth, or the tithe, of your total income (Malachi 3:8-10), for a period of three consecutive months prior to application of membership, in a recordable way (paying in an envelope with your name and address on it, or by check or money order), and continue to tithe while a member. Anyone not remaining faithful in their tithe for a period of three consecutive months will automatically forfeit their privilege of membership at M-46 Tabernacle Family Ministries.
4. **You must be willing to be water baptized when possible, according to Matthew 28:19.**
5. **You must be filled with the Holy Spirit, or earnestly seeking it.**
6. You must agree to abide by the rules and/or constitution and bylaws of M-46 Tabernacle Family Ministries and to work in harmony with others of like faith for the edification of the Kingdom of God for the edifying of the body of Christ and for the advancement of M-46 Tabernacle Family Ministries.
7. You must endeavor to the best of your ability to walk in the light of God's Word; and should you change your doctrinal beliefs or cease to live a Godly life, you shall consider it right to be removed from the membership of this church and will leave without causing strife or division.
8. Members are to be 18 years of age.
9. If for any reason you have forfeited your membership, you may request to reactivate it by becoming active in tithe and attendance for three consecutive months. Upon meeting this criteria, request your membership to be reinstated to any Board Member, or Pastor, and at the next Board Meeting, your request will be taken into consideration and you will be advised of the result.

The above rules and regulations are not to cause a burden or place a hardship on anyone nor to keep anyone from becoming a member. We want and need members (and non-members alike) who have a vision and desire to promote the Kingdom of God within the walls of M-46 Tabernacle Family Ministries, as well as in the community, and wherever they go.

We feel that being a member of TFM is a very special privilege, not to be taken lightly, and carries a grave responsibility. The reason it is a special privilege is because the precious Spirit of God has blessed us with His presence and where the Presence of God is, is a very special place.

If you meet the above criteria and have a desire to work with us to build M-46 Tabernacle Family Ministries, not for our Glory, but to see those who are lost, dying without God, to come to a glorious experience of salvation, then we want and need you. Membership does not set you apart from those who are not members. Non-members can become involved in all aspects of the program at TFM, but we do restrict the privilege of sitting on the Board or voting in our Business Meetings to members only. All other ministries of the church are open to non-members who are faithful in attendance and tithe.

We believe that if you are faithful to God in restoring to Him that which is rightfully His, He will meet all your needs. However, hard times do come and so if you are a member or you desire to seek membership and have a financial hardship and suddenly lose your income, please advise us so we don't incorrectly remove your name.

B. The Pastor shall have the privilege in extreme cases where the individual(s) is(are) infirmed or of great age and are unable to attend or participate in services to at his discretion accept them to membership upon approval of the board.

1. The Pastor will review the tithing records before each annual business meeting and will contact those who have not been faithful in tithing or church attendance if he feels it is needed, and if necessary, will place them on inactive status.

The above ByLaws were approved by the Pastor and Official Board of M-46 Tabernacle Family Ministries and moved for adoption to the membership at the February 13, 2022 Business Meeting. Portions in **bold** are the changes made from last year's meeting, 2022.

Updated April 18, 2022 (LD)