



Constitution

Preface and History

Burning Bush Reformed Church (BBRC) began to meet in the 1970's as a house church. The church was formally organized in 1981 under its present name as a Reformed church based on congregational church polity. For many years, BBRC held church services in Cutlerville, Michigan about one mile from where we now gather. Our first minister, pastor Arie Nobel, served faithfully as minister of word and sacraments for many decades until he passed away in November 2020.

BBRC is both a Reformed church, with its roots in the Reformation, and a congregational church after the pattern of the New Testament churches. BBRC recognizes that the authority of Christ is vested in the whole congregation (Gal.1:8–10; Matt.18:15–20), but that Christ has also prescribed that local congregations be led by godly men who have been duly appointed to lead and oversee the church (Titus 1:5–11; 1 Tim. 3:4–5).

Our prayer is that God will allow our church to remain within the order, discipline, and worship that Christ has instituted for all churches to observe. Every church must always seek to be governed by the biblical rules for the right exercising and executing of the authority that Christ has given, because Christ's institution is the church's only charter and mandate.

Preamble

Mindful of our Lord's instruction that everything in the church be done decently and in order (1 Cor.14:40), BBRC has agreed on the following articles as our church body's constitutive church principles. We acknowledge that documents like a Constitution and Bylaws, despite their usefulness, will avail nothing apart from the Lord's blessing and the presence and power of the Spirit of God in our church. It is with this keen awareness of our absolute dependence upon our merciful Lord that these articles are set forth.

Article 1

The Bible, the infallible Word of God which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the highest rule and standard for all decisions and conduct of BBRC, its members and its office bearers.

Article 2

Subordinate to the Bible, the doctrinal standards for BBRC's decisions and conduct are the following: the three ecumenical creeds (the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed) and the three Forms of Unity (the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dordt).

Article 3

BBRC accepts the Church Order adopted by the Synod of the Reformed Churches held at Dordrecht in 1619 as a framework of church polity to the extent that this Church Order is applicable to congregational church government

Article 4

BBRC accepts the summary called “A Brief Exposition of the Confessions Regarding Certain Points of Doctrine as Maintained by the Protestant Reformed Churches (1951)” as a reliable interpretation of several important teachings of our confessional standards.

Article 5

BBRC from time to time adopts and amends bylaws as necessary. The bylaws are subject to the Constitution. The bylaws will regulate matters like, among others, church membership, church services, procedures for church matters, financial management, decision making procedures, liturgical forms, church discipline, and confessional subscription by office bearers and members. The bylaws can also adopt additional doctrinal documents and frameworks, which will always be subject to the Bible and the subordinate confessional standards of BBRC described in Article 2 above. Any bylaw inconsistent with the Bible or the confessional standards will be invalid.

Article 6

This Constitution can be amended by a decision of two thirds of the voting members present at a duly assembled church members meeting.

Date of last amendment: 5/5/2025