



Pastor Benjamin L. Smith- Senior Pastor

2023 & Beyond Vision:

“It’s A New Day” – Philippians 3:13-14

~Membership Manuel~



Love. Grow. Serve.



Greetings New Member,

We are all excited that you have chosen to become a member of the Lord's family here at the Gethsamene Missionary Baptist Church (GMBC). As a child of God, you have been granted the same rights, advantages, privileges and protection He provides for all that belong to Him. GMBC is a church where all are accepted for who we are, forgiven of what we've done and loved because of Christ. As a member of His family God has a purpose for you to fulfill. We, as the body of Christ, follow His will and work together as one (I Corinthians 12: 12-31).

To help you become better acquainted with your new church home, we have prepared this Church Member Orientation Manuel. There are many wonderful opportunities and information about our church that we want to share with you to help you begin to get the most out of your membership at BBC. We are excited about God sending you to participate in the ministries of GMBC, and we are committed to helping you feel welcomed and accepted. Ask questions, share ideas, and lend a helping hand. We anticipate that GMBC will be a better church now that you are here.

This manual and official orientation is an introduction to GMBC. There are various ministries which will allow you to fulfill God's purpose for your life in Christian service. After completion of this course and prayerful guidance from God we know that you will successfully begin to carry out your purpose in one of these ministries.

**Remember, God Created You, Jesus Saved You, the Holy Spirit Guides You, And,
We All Love You!!!**

Welcome, Welcome, Welcome

Yours Because of Christ,

Rev. Benjamin L. Smith - Senior Pastor

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*Pastor is available for appointments for consultations, etc. Tuesday's – Friday's



Church History

In October of 1956 our founding Pastor, the late Reverend George Williams, Sr. organized the Madison Avenue Baptist Church with the aid of the late Pastor Adrian King (Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, Saginaw, MI), and the late Pastor Nick Hall (Bethesda Baptist Church, Saginaw, MI).

In 1965 the church name was changed to Evening Star Baptist Church. As the church continued to grow under the leadership of our second Pastor the late Pastor Dr. Nathaniel Calhoun, we were blessed to purchase a larger worship campus and moved into our new building in April of 1968 located at 1600 Woodside Avenue. After continuous faithfulness of congregation and leadership we were able to celebrate the mortgage burning seven years later after acquiring in 1975.

During the early 1980's our church was able to organize and launch core vital ministries including the music ministry, young Christian women united ministry, license and ordain new ministers and deacons as our leadership departments were reorganized to provide a more effective approach.

Due to the continuous growth of our church there was a need to expand. However, city codes prohibited our expansion goals at our second location. Therefore, under the leadership of our third pastor the late Pastor LeRoy Quinn, we purchased our third location and marched in on March 5, 2000, to our current location of 1200 N. Johnson Street. Later in that year our church name was changed for the third time to Gethsamene Missionary Baptist Church (**Due to State of Michigan Incorporation Law's we could not have the biblical spelling of Gethsemane because another church already held the spelling, so that is where the (a) in Gethsamene comes from).*

Over the last 69 years of faithful commitment and service with the guidance of the Lord and all Pastors that have been assigned to our church we have grown spiritually, financially and in membership. With all the labor put forth Gethsamene has been able to use the fruits to go through name, location, and leadership changes. We were also able to purchase and renovate the assets God has given us over the years.

We are forever thankful for all the milestones God has graciously allowed us to accomplish yesterday as we continue to press forward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. As a Church we are forever grateful for this "New Day" God has given us to continue to grow spiritually, finically and in membership.

Pastoral History

1st: **Pastor George Williams, Sr.** (Founder) 1956 – 1964 *Deceased = 8 Years of Service

2nd: **Pastor Dr. Nathaniel Calhoun, Sr.** 1965 – 1979 *Deceased = 14 Years of Service

3rd: **Pastor LeRoy Quinn** 1980 – 2001 *Deceased = 21 Years of Service

4th: **Pastor Alfonzo Abner** 2002 – 2016 *Retired = 14 Years of Service

5th: **Pastor Edward Jones** 2017 – 2021 *Retired = 4 Years of Service

6th: **Pastor Benjamin Smith** 2022 – Present

Church Name History

Evening Star / Madison Avenue Missionary Baptist Church – 1956 – 1967

Evening Star / Woodside Missionary Baptist Church – 1968 – 2000

Gethsamene Missionary Baptist Church – 2000 – Present

Who We Are

Gethsamene is a community of believers of Jesus Christ, doing life together. Everything that we do is centered around growing in learning, serving, praying and giving to bring glory to God. We believe that God is the head of our church and sent his only son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins that we may be saved.



Mission

Gethsamene (GMBC) is purposed to drawing the total being to bringing men, women, and children into the family of God, developing disciples of Christ by equipping saints for service, and endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace.

Vision

“It’s A New Day” – Philippians 3:13-14 “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Core Values:

- **Restoration (23) Unifying (24) Discipleship (25) Compassion (26)**

Statement of Religious Freedom:

Gethsamene Baptist Church believes that religious liberty is a gift from God. We support the freedom of the individual conscience to choose to worship God according to the dictates of one’s heart. And while we celebrate our own liberty to embrace biblical truth without compromise, we also support the first amendment to the Constitution which guarantees freedom of religion for all Americans. In this light, as Americans, we join with other faith communities in supporting the right of Islamic and other religious bodies to worship according to the dictates and mandates of their faith expressions.

“Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” -Ephesians 3:21

Church Covenant:

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the 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 contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, and the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate our children to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

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 in speech; to be slow to take offence, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour to secure it 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.

What We Believe!!! Articles of Faith:

I. The Scriptures.

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried.

II. The True God.

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III. The Fall of Man.

We believe the Scriptures teach that Man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgressions fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

IV. The Way of Salvation.

We believe that the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

V. Justification.

We believe the Scriptures teach that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

VI. The Freeness of Salvation.

We believe that the Scriptures teach that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own determined depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

VII. Regeneration.

We believe that the Scriptures teach that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith, and newness of life.

VIII. Repentance and Faith.

We believe the Scriptures teach that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our prophet, priest and king, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

IX. God's Purpose of Grace.

We believe the Scriptures teach that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

X. Sanctification.

We believe the Scriptures teach that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means especially the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

XI. Perseverance of the Saints.

We believe the Scriptures teach that such only are real believers as endure to the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

XII. The Law and Gospel.

We believe the Scriptures teach that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arise entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the Means of Grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XIII. A Gospel Church.

We believe the Scriptures teach that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its

only scriptural officers are Bishops or Pastors, and Deacons whose Qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

XIV. Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We believe the Scriptures teach that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XV. The Christian Sabbath.

We believe the Scriptures teach that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

XVI. Civil Government.

We believe the Scriptures teach that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the Kings of the earth.

XVII. Righteous and Wicked.

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVIII. The World to Come.

We believe the Scriptures teach that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day, Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave for final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

Lesson #1:

The Holy Trinity

Facts For Christians

The God that we serve exist in three persons (Genesis 1:26, 11:7, Isaiah 48:16, Luke 1:35).

(1) God The Father, (2) God The Son, and (3) God the Holy Spirit.

These three as one make up the Holy Trinity. **All Christians must know this basic fact regarding each of them.**

God The Father

God is the creator of all things. (Genesis 1-2:1-3) In six days God created the Heaven and the earth. He created all living creatures and provided all that every creature would need to survive.

All Christians must believe that God is real. (Hebrews 11:6) God is not the result of a vivid imagination. He is real and without faith in Him we are nothing. It is God who sustains us in all things at all times.

God is a personal being. (Jeremiah 29:13) God is not an inanimate object. He is not an it, but rather a personal being. When we search for Him with our whole heart we will find Him. We acknowledge His person with such titles as Father, Shepherd, Friend and Counselor to name a few.

God is a spiritual being. (Numbers 23:19, John 4:24) God is not a human being. He is a spirit. And if we are to have true communication with Him it must be spiritual. Humans too are spiritual beings. The flesh is only used to house our spirits for existence here on earth. Acceptance of this fact allows believers to both hear from and speak to God.

Jehovah is the only God. (Isaiah 44:6, I Corinthians 8:4-6, I Timothy 2:5) The God that we serve, Jehovah, is the Only True and Living God. There is no other God, end of story. Some serve and worship the earth, moon or sun. Others worship objects made by man. Christians serve the God that created the earth, moon, sun. We worship the God that created the man that made the object.

God hates sin. (Isaiah 59:2, Amos 5:21-23, Romans 6:23) God hates sin because of its end result on us, destruction and death. But because of His love for us God provided a way of deliverance from sin for us, Jesus.

God loves humans. (John 3:16) While God does indeed hate sin he loves humans that committed sin. He loves us so that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to suffer and die for our sins thereby granting us eternal life.

God is omniscient. (Psalm 139:12, Isaiah 40:13-14, Luke 12:7, John 2:24-25) Nothing is hidden from God. He has infinite knowledge, awareness and wisdom. He knows most of the inner thoughts of humans. God can search our hearts and minds and knows the number of hairs on our heads.

God is omnipresent. (I Kings 8:27, Jeremiah 23:24, Psalm 139:7-10, Hebrews 13:5) God is everywhere at all times. There are no hiding places from God. There is no place where anyone can escape the presence of God.

God is omnipotent. (Job 9:19, Isaiah 40:28, Hebrews 1:3, Revelation 19:6) There is none as powerful as God. He is the Almighty.

All Christians must know these basic facts regarding the Son of God:

God The Son

Jesus was there in the beginning. (Genesis 1:26, 11:7, Isaiah 48:16, John 1:1-5) Jesus has always existed. Jesus was present with God before the beginning. He worked with God to create everything that was created.

Jesus was foretold of in Old Testament scripture. (Isaiah 7:10-15, Micah 5:2-5) God in His infinite wisdom knew that His people needed a savior. Sin held His people captives, and He had to provide a way of escape from sin and a bridge to Himself. The foretelling of the coming messiah provided hope and encouragement for His people.

Jesus was sent by God. (John 3:16) God, because of His love for human beings, sent His Son to serve as the ultimate sacrifice to cleanse our sins. God sent His Very Best to suffer and die in our place so all that believe in Jesus and accept Him as Lord and Savior would receive eternal life.

Jesus was born of a woman. (Luke 2:1-7) Jesus entered this earth, in His human form, just as every man has since Eve gave birth to Cain, He was born of a woman. Mary gave birth to Jesus in a barn and used an animal feeding trough for His bed.

Jesus was an example for all Christians. (Luke 2:49-52, Matthew 3:13-17, 4:1-11 Mark 6:30-43, Luke 23:34, John 19:26-27) Jesus was obedient to His parents, baptized, resisted temptation from Satan, had compassion for others, made provisions for them, loved His enemies and cared for His family. These are just a few areas where we find Jesus setting the example. A search of the scripture will reveal Jesus setting the example or teaching the proper manner to live as Christians.

Jesus died. (Matthew 27:45-56, Luke 23:44-49, John 19:28-30) Jesus died. He did not faint. He died. He did not lapse into a coma. He died. There is no refuting this fact. Everyone, on the day of His death, both enemies and loved ones all agreed that Jesus died.

Jesus was buried. (Matthew 27:57-60, Mark 15:42-47, Luke 23:50-56, John 19:38-42) After Jesus died His body was taken by Joseph of Arimathea and placed in a tomb that Joseph had

purchased for himself. A stone was placed across the opening of the tomb and Pilate sent soldiers to guard the tomb.

Jesus was resurrected. (Matthew 28: 1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-2, John 20:1- 10) Death nor the grave had the power to hold Jesus captive. He overcame them 11 for our sake.

Jesus ascended to Heaven. (Act 1:4-11) Jesus returned to His Father and now after having saved us intercedes on our behalf to God.

All Christians must know these basic facts about the: Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit was there in the beginning. (Genesis 1:26, 11:7, Isaiah 48:16) The Holy Spirit was present with God The Father and Jesus The Son before the beginning.

The Holy Spirit is personal, not impersonal. (John 16:17, 15:26, 16:7-8) Spirit is revealed as Him not It. The Holy Spirit is the direct agent between heaven and earth in this gospel age.

The Holy Spirit regenerates. (II Corinthians 3:6, Romans 8:11) The Holy Spirit converts or reforms us, believers, completely.

The Holy Spirit teaches. (John 14:26, 16:12-14) When we study the word of God we must ask for the aid of the Holy Spirit to teach us the information that God desires we have knowledge of.

The Holy Spirit guides. (Romans 8:14, Galatians 5:16, 18) In order to live a successful Christian life all Christians must rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He leads believers in all truths. He will never lead us in the wrong direction or in any way that is contrary to God.

The Holy Spirit Convicts believers of sin. (John 16:5-11) The Holy Spirit is here to show all the truth about sin. That it is a destructive force, contrary to God and His Will and that it, if not forgiven, leads to death.

The Holy Spirit gives inspiration. (II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21) The Holy Spirit gives insight and inspiration to all believers.

The Holy Spirit provides comfort. (John 14:16, Acts 9:31) The Holy Spirit comforts believers in restless times. There are times in the life of a believer when the circumstances of life seem unbearable. God in His infinite wisdom has sent the Holy Spirit to comfort believers at such times.

The Holy Spirit is a gift from God. (John 14:15-26, Acts 2:1-4) God has sent the Holy Spirit to believers as a gift. He expects His children to make use of all that He provides.

The Holy Spirit is a helper to believers. (Romans 8:26) God knows that believers cannot survive in this hostile world without someone helping them. His Holy Spirit helps believers navigate the sometimes-harsh environment of this world.

Lesson #2:

Salvation

All Christians must know these basic facts about:

Salvation

Salvation is the transformation of a person's individual nature and relationship with God as a result of repentance and faith in the atoning death of Jesus Christ on the cross. All humanity stands in need of salvation which is only possible through faith in Christ Jesus. Believers are saved by grace through faith for good works (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Because of Adam's "Fall," (Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-11) all humans required a plan of salvation. God's word assures all that accept Christ as Lord and Savior that salvation belongs to them (I John 5:10-13) and that they are saved (John 6:37).

Scriptures regarding salvation:

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

Matthew 1:21

Matthew 11:28-30

Matthew 18:14

Mark 16: 15-16

Humans are unable to save themselves. God provided a means of salvation for the world and all credit belongs to God (Ephesians 2:8-9).

God provides the following through Salvation:

Access to God. (Romans 5:1-2, Ephesians 2:13) Before Jesus suffered and died in our place for our sins individuals only had access to God through the high priest. But because Christ is salvation for believers all believers have access to God through Christ Jesus. There is no need to go through another human being to have access to God.

Adoption into God's family. (John 1:12, Romans 8:22-24, Galatians 4:4-7) Through salvation God has adopted and accepted believers as His children. Because of salvation believers are able to see God as their Father.

Forgiveness of sin. (Psalm 32:1-2, Matthew 26:28, Acts 5:30-31) All human beings commit sin. An offering to God must be rendered by the sinner to receive forgiveness. Jesus Christ is The Offering to God for all believers. Salvation blots out the sinful deeds of believers and saves us from sin which, if not forgiven leads to eternal damnation.

Peace with God. (Ephesians 2:13-17, Isaiah 53:3, John 16: 33) Salvation removes the hostility that exists between humans and God and replaces hostility with peace. Without salvation there will always be turmoil between humans and God.

A New Life. (II Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:4, Galatians 6:14) Without salvation humans remain in the adamic state, the nature of Adam. That state or nature causes humans to satisfy their flesh while neglecting their souls. Salvation begins with a spiritual rebirth that causes believers to live spiritually as opposed to carnally.

Deliverance from the power of sin. (Romans 6:14, 7:21-25, 8:2-4, Galatians 1:3-5) Sin does not have a hold on believers because God has granted believers salvation. Without salvation humans are slaves to sin. Once salvation is received, the believer is no longer a prisoner to sin.

The Conversion Experience

To be saved or receive salvation, a conversion, or turn must take place. For that conversion take place a person must trust in God as a child has trust in his or her parents (Matthew 18:3). Humans must turn to God from sin (Acts 14:15, I Thessalonians 1:8-9). There are three steps in this process. While they are listed here in sequence they may also occur simultaneously.

Conviction is the state humans find themselves in when they acknowledge their sinful condition. It is a remorseful condition (Acts 2:36-37). Once this condition is acknowledged, the person must then confess their sins (Acts 19:18).

Repentance is the second step in the conversion process (Mark 1:15, Luke 5:32). Repentance is an essential element in the salvation experience. At this point a person not only acknowledges his or her sinful state but also realizes that turning to God is the only way out of this sinful state. When a person repents it causes Heaven to rejoice (Luke 15:7). Jesus instructed His disciples to preach repentance (Luke 24:47).

Faith is the final step in the conversion experience. Faith is simply trust in God for, and in all things (Hebrews 11:1). A person must trust that Jesus can save him or her (John 3:16). A person must trust that God can and will supply his or her needs (Philippians 4:19). The only means of pleasing God is by trusting Him (Hebrews 11:6).

All Believers Must Be Born Again

Jesus tells us that the only way an individual will see the Kingdom of God is to be born again (John 3:3). This rebirth is spiritual and must take place in order to be reborn. Following is a list of scriptures regarding rebirth and why it is needed. The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23 KJV)

If a person is not born again, sin will lead to his or her death. Death is separation from God forever.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath sent Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (Romans 10:9 KJV)

Rebirth involves publicly confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and belief in God and His ability to save in the heart.

But that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost. (Titus 3:4-5 KJV)

A human's works cannot save them, Only God has that power.
For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved. (Romans 10:13 KJV)

God promised that he would save all that called upon Him.

If you have not allowed Jesus Christ to be your personal Savior pray earnestly and honestly the following prayer:

Dear God. I know that I have sinned by breaking your laws and I ask forgiveness. I believe that Jesus died for my sins. I want to be born again and receive new life in Him. I will follow Jesus as my Lord and obey Him in all that I do. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

All believers should know the basic facts about: The Church

God calls believers into fellowship with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Believers are told to assemble together to encourage each other (Hebrews 10:25). Jesus in His instruction to His disciples gives us the purpose of the church in what is known as the Great Commission. There He states:

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:19-20 KJV)

The responsibility of the church is to spread and share the good news of the gospel throughout the world. To that end members of the church have the privilege of serving God and their fellow man. Some of the basic responsibilities of church members (Christians) are as follows:

Love the church: (Ephesians 5:25) Just as Christ loved believers, the church, believers are to love one another (the church). There must be love among and between members of the church. Christ set the example in this area by giving Himself for the church. We as the church ought to give of our time, talent and resources to the church.

Worship the Lord. (Psalm 95:6, 96:6, 150) God desires the worship and praise of His people. The church is meeting the place where believers assemble to offer worship and praise to God as one. Worship and praise of God is both public and private (Matthew 6:6, Luke 4:16). The church is the physical location where believers can offer uninterrupted worship and praise to God.

Serve the Lord. (Luke 22:21, John 9:4, I Corinthians 10:31, 15:58) God calls all believers into service. God has placed within each believer a gift that is to be used to bring Him glory. In service to the church we are to use those God-given gifts.

Keep God's commandments. (John 14:21, John 15:10, 14) By adhering to God's commandments believers show their love for God. While no one is sinless all believers should always be striving to remain obedient to the Word of God.

Support the ministry. (Proverbs 3:9, Malachi 3:8-12, Luke 6:38, II Corinthians 9:7) Believers provide the financial assistance needed to sustain the operations of the church. We must give financially as God has prospered us. By properly giving to the church we give to ourselves. How? When believers give to God He blesses them in return.

Ordinances of the Church

Ordinance - An authoritative decree or law.

Jesus commands the Christian Church to observe two ordinances, ***Baptism*** and the ***Lord's Supper***. There are some basic facts all Christians must know regarding each of these ordinances:

Baptism

The Ordinance of Baptism is a symbol of the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:3, Colossians 2:12). Baptism means to be entirely immersed or submerged in water (Mark 1:5, John 3:33).

Christians must know that Baptism:

Was commanded by Christ. (Matthew 28:19) Jesus tell believers that they must baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Does not save. (Mark 16:16) Belief in Christ saves, not baptism. Baptism is the outward expression of believers of their wiliness to follow Christ.

Water is used to perform baptism. (Acts 10:47-48 I Peter 3:21) Water is a cleansing agent and is used symbolically as the washing away of sin.

Christians must also be baptized into Christ.

Baptism into Christ signifies that believers have been buried and risen with Christ. (Romans 6:3-7)

Believers are baptized by one Spirit into one body. The body of Christ. (I Corinthians 12:13)

Believers are baptized into Christ. (Galatians 3:27)

Believers are buried with Christ in baptism and rise with Him through faith. (Colossians 3:11-13).

There are two types of Baptism:

- Spirit
- Water

Spirit Baptism:

Baptism of the Spirit is the act of the Holy Spirit when He makes us apart of the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:13). Every believer experiences this baptism. It takes place the very moment we believe and receive Jesus Christ as Savior (Ephesians 4:5, Colossians 2:12, I Peter 3:21, Mark 1:4-8)

Water Baptism:

By being submerged in water believers symbolize we are baptized into the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Believers are cut off from the Adamic life because of baptism into the death of Christ. (Romans 6:3-7)

In order that humans are baptized they must first believe that Jesus is the Son of God. (Acts 8:37-39)

Believers must know these basic facts about:

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper took place before the death of Christ. Jesus and His disciples went into a closed room where He washed their feet and shared with them bread and wine, which symbolized the body and blood of Christ. As Believers partake of the Lord's Supper, we must remember Christ, receive strength from Him and rededicate ourselves to Him and His cause. (I Corinthians 11:23-34)

The Lord's Supper is an established ordinance. (Matthew 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22:15-20, I Corinthians 11:23-26) Jesus established the Lord's Supper and expects all believers to continue to participate in it.

The Lord's Supper was given to the Church. (Luke 22:17-20, I Corinthians 11:18) The Church, believers, are expected to remain obedient to Christ in all things.

The Lord's Supper is a memorial to the death of our Lord and Savior. (Mark 14:22)

The Lord's Supper Is Called:

- Communion (I Corinthians 10:16)
- The Breaking of Bread (Acts 2:42, 46, 20:7)

- The Cup of Blessing (I Corinthians 10:16)
- The Eucharist
- The Last Supper
- The Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 11:20)
- The Lord's Table (I Corinthians 10:21)

Symbols used in the Lord's Supper and their significance:

- The **Table** is the place of love, fellowship, sharing and communion. It is the family table - a love feast - a meal. (Leviticus 24:5-9, Psalm 23:5)
- The **Bread** (Isaiah 53:5) represents His broken body (Matthew 26:26). It is the type of the Lamb that was slain.
- The **Wine** is a symbol of the Blood of Christ that was shed for our sins, which we as believers do in remembrance of the Lord. During the Lord's Supper, we ask for forgiveness of all our sins. It represents the New Covenant (Matthew 26:27).

The believer should do as follows as they prepare to partake of the Lord's Supper:

Come:

In remembrance of Christ's death on the cross for "me" (I Corinthians 11:23-26).

To the table with a desire to participate (Luke 22:14-15).

In faith (Hebrews 4:2, 11:6, Romans 14:23).

In remembrance of what Christ did for you (I Corinthians 11: 23-26). The Israelites remembered sins. His Church remembers Him.

With Thanksgiving (Luke 22:17).

Examining their hearts (I Corinthians 11:28) making sure we are in the right standing with God and our brothers and sisters (I Corinthians 11:27, Psalm 24:3-5).

With a repentant and thankful heart (I Corinthians 10:21)

In a spirit of fellowship and love (I Corinthians 10:16-17)

In Holy fear (Matthew 26:24, I Corinthians 11:27-32).

In self-examination (I Corinthians 11:28).

With a threefold look at Christ.

- A **backward look** to Calvary - Jesus' death - His suffering for us.

- An **Upward look** to Heaven - Jesus’ resurrection - His ascension - sitting at the right hand of the Father.
- A **Forward look** to Jesus’ coming when we will meet Him.

Lesson #3:

God’s Word, Prayer and Tithe

Believers must know these basic facts about the Bible:

“Bible” derives from the Greek term “books” and refers to the Old and New Testaments. God’s Holy Scriptures, the Holy Bible, was written by men divinely inspired by God and it record’s God’s revelation of Himself to humans. It has God, the Holy Spirit for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without mixture of error for its matter. The Bible above all talks about God and His relationship to the world. The Bible is a rule or standard of authority for Christians.

The Bible is divided into two parts. The Old Testament which was primarily written in Hebrew, with some portions of Ezra-Nehemiah and Daniel in Aramaic, consist of thirty-nine books. The New Testament, which was written in Greek, consists of twenty-seven books. Combined, there are sixty-six books in the entire Bible.

These are the 66 books of the Bible:

<u>Old Testament-39</u>		<u>New Testament-27</u>	
<i>5 Books of the Law</i>		<i>The Four Gospels</i>	
Genesis	Exodus	Matthew	Mark
Leviticus	Numbers	Luke	John
<i>The 12 Books of History</i>		<i>1 Book of History</i>	
Joshua	1 Chronicles	Acts	
Judges	11 Chronicles		
1 Samuel	Ezra	<i>The 21 Letters</i>	
11 Samuel	Nehemiah	Romans	Titus
1 King	11 Kings	1 Corinthians	Hebrews
		Galatians	James
<i>5 Books of Poetry</i>		Ephesians	1 Peter
Job	Psalm	Philippians	11 Peter
Proverbs	Ecclesiastes	Colossians	1 John
Song of Solomon		1 Thessalonians	11 John

		11 Thessalonians	111 John
<i>17 Books of Prophecy</i>		1 Timothy	Jude
Isaiah	Jonah	11 Timothy	
Jeremiah	Micah		
Lamentation	Nahum	<i>1 Book of Prophecy</i>	
Ezekiel	Habakkuk	Revelation	
Daniel	Zephaniah		
Hosea	Haggai		
Joel	Zechariah		
Amos	Malachi		
Obadiah			

The Bible:

- Is life to believers (Deuteronomy 8:3)
- Enlightens believers (Psalm 119:103-105)
- Is knowledge and power to believers (Matthew 22:29)
- Offers comfort to believers (Romans 15:4)
- Tells believers that God loved them first (I John 4:19)
- List the Commandments of God (Exodus 20)
- List the greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:41-46, Mark 12:28-31)
- Inform believers of the fact that God is the Shepherd to His people (Psalm 23)
- Tells believers of the power of faith (Matthew 21:18-22)
- Tells Believers of the power of God over all things (Mark 4:35-41)
- Tells believers of the power of prayer and praise (Acts 16:23-26)
- Tells believers that all are sinners (Romans 3:23)
- Tells believers that they are free from sin (Romans 6:12-14)
- Tells believers that they must act on what they hear in or from the Word of God (James 1:22-25)
- Tells believers that their faith is displayed in their actions (James 2:14)
- Tells believers that Jesus will return (I Thessalonians 4:16)

Listed here are only a few subjects that are revealed in the Bible, and they only scratch the surface of what God wants to reveal to His children through the study of His word.

Prayer

Prayer is the means of communication between God and believers. It is the believer's greatest weapon. It is used to both talk too and hear from God. When properly used it allows the believer to speak intimately with God and strengthens the relationship between believers and God.

Prayer is:

Commanded by God (Luke 18:1) Believers must be obedient to God in all things that He has commanded them to do. Believers must always pray and never lose hope.

The means by which believers do great things (James 5:16) Prayer turns the request of believers into reality. Through prayer the believer can make a difference in the lives of others that he or she prays for.

Taught by Christ (Matthew 6:5-15) Believers must pray in a manner that is consistent with what Christ teaches, and it must be done daily.

Must be done in the name of Jesus (John 14:13) Believers must make all request to the Father in the name of Jesus.

Needed in critical moments (Matthew 26:36-42, Mark 14:32-42, Luke 22:39-46) Jesus went in prayer to God the night before His death. At the most crucial moment of His life the example Christ displays to believers is to take your troubles to God in prayer.

Is sometimes public (John 11:41-42) Jesus tells believers to go into their closet to pray both in private and public (Matthew 6:6).

How Should Believers Begin Prayer?

Prayers must begin with respect and admiration to God. Address God as “Our Father” (Matthew 6:9). Some other titles are: Dear Heavenly Father, Gracious Father in Heaven, Our Loving Father, Dear God, to name a few.

How Should Believers End Prayer?

Prayer to God should always ended “In the name of Jesus.” Believers must make request in Jesus’ name because God has given Christ authority. “Amen,” should end every prayer of believers. Amen is the transliteration of Hebrew word signifying something as certain, sure and valid, truthful and faithful. It is sometimes translated, “so be it.”

Tithe and Offering

God has a financial plan for His Church. He works by plans and has a plan for everything. He had a plan when He created the earth and Humans. He had a plan for the relationship between humans and Himself. He has a plan for the family. He has a plan of salvation and the work of the Church. He has a plan for the financing of the work He has ordered the Church to perform.

Opportunities to give GMBC. Please, these opportunities are not requirements for membership, just an extended opportunity for you to support the ministry’s goals. If you need assistance in understanding giving better, please see a church personnel member.

2016-2017 Membership Contribution Goals				
Description	Weekly	BI-Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Tithes- Requirement (10% of Gross Earnings) Example: Average Salary \$20,000	\$ 39.00	\$ 77.00	\$ 167.00	\$ 2,000.00
Christian Education (Sunday School) \$5.00 each Sunday	\$ 5.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 260.00
Benevolence Offering \$1.00 each Sunday	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 4.50	\$ 52.00
Pastor Aide Ministry 4th Sunday Offering \$5.00 each Month	\$ 1.50	\$ 2.50	\$ 5.00	\$ 60.00
Church Anniversary	\$ 0.50	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.50	\$ 25.00
Pastor Anniversary	\$ 2.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 100.00
Mission / Women's Ministry Annual Day	\$ 0.50	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.50	\$ 25.00
Men's Ministry Annual Day	\$ 0.50	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.50	\$ 25.00
Spring Revival	\$ 1.50	\$ 2.50	\$ 5.00	\$ 60.00
Youth Ministry Annual Day	\$ 0.50	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.50	\$ 25.00
Music Ministry Annual Day	\$ 0.50	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.50	\$ 25.00
Family & Friends Annual Day	\$ 0.50	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.50	\$ 25.00
Pastor Aide Ministry Annual Day	\$ 0.50	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.50	\$ 25.00
Senior & Youth Usher Ministry Annual Day	\$ 0.50	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.50	\$ 25.00
Contribution Options Total	\$ 54.00	\$ 106.00	\$ 232.50	\$ 2,732.00
<i>*Amounts May Differ, rounded off to nearest whole dollar</i>				
<i>*Assessments have been set by Ministry Administration & May Change with prior notice.</i>				

Tithe - Tenth part (10% of your gross earnings), especially as offer to God.

Abraham presented a tithe to the Priest-king of Jerusalem, Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20).

Jacob pledged to offer to God, a tenth of all that God would bless Jacob with (Genesis 28:22).

Old Testament

Purpose of Tithing?

The tithe was used for support of the Levites and the priests (Numbers 18:20-32).

The agricultural produce tithe was used for a family feast at the sanctuary celebrating God's provision (Deuteronomy 14:22-27).

The third year's tithe was to be used for the care of the Levites, orphan's widows, and foreigners (Deuteronomy 14:28-29).

Consequences of Disobedience Regarding Tithing

Those that were disobedient regarding tithing were condemned with a curse from God. (Malachi 3:8-9).

Results of Tithing

Those that are obedient in tithing are blessed by God in return (Malachi 3:10-12).

New Testament

Jesus Taught Tithing

In Malachi 3:1-4 we have a prophecy that the Lord will come and teach people how to live righteously and in a manner that is consistent with God's will. The fact is then stated that Israel has robbed God in not bringing the tithe to God. In Jesus Christ, Malachi's prophecy is fulfilled. Jesus taught in Matthew 23:23 that acceptable living includes the tithe and the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy and faith. The tithe alone is not enough. Believers must live right also.

Other Teachings in The New Testament

I Corinthians 16:2 teaches that believers are to give “as God has prospered,” us. This scripture teaches giving above and beyond the tithe. We believe in God’s plan in everything, and we believe that every member of the church should be a tither, bringing to the Lord a tenth of their income. This plan of finance would meet all of the financial needs of the church. This in turn would mean God’s people would be able to do mighty works for Him in carrying out the instructions of Christ in Matthew 28:19-20.

Membership

Every member of the church is here because God added us to this particular body. Notice that Acts 2:47 says, “...the Lord added to the church....” Only God knows which church is best for us. That’s why 1 Corinthian’s 12:18 says, “But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him.” God added you to GMBC as a special member to our body. 1 Corinthian’s 12:14-27 explains that as a member of a body you have something to contribute. You have talent or gift that you need to use. We are eager to see what you will do through God’s Will.

Our Practice

Every believer is called by God to be a full-time minister of the Gospel, to serve Him in a local, New Testament church, and to represent Christ twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, in our homes, at our jobs, in our community, and anywhere else we might be found. Therefore, the purpose of GMBC is to aid every member in their personal ministries. Every ministry at GMBC is an opportunity for us to improve spiritually and to serve God and others.

JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 5:23). He expects every church to follow His leadership. Thus, at GMBC we honestly seek the Lord’s will in everything we do. That makes us a theocracy, God ruled, rather than a democracy, autocracy, oligarchy, or any other type of government.

HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to administrate the affairs of the church. Thus, we should do likewise and seek His leadership. The Holy Spirit has guided church decisions from the very beginning. Notice in Acts 13:2-4, the Holy Spirit told the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch that Barnabus and Saul were being called to do a work. This is typical of how the Holy Spirit administrates the work of Christ in the church.

PASTOR

The Holy Spirit appoints men, called overseers, in the church to guide and instruct the congregation (Acts 20:28). These men are responsible to oversee or supervise the work of Christ in the lives of the church members. The office of the bishop, or pastor, is for experienced men, appointed by God, and who meet the qualifications cited in First Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

The work of this office is a big responsibility, and those in position of oversight must give account to God (Hebrews 3:17).

MINISTRY LEADERS

At GMBC, the Lord has guided us to provide personnel members of leaders called ministry leaders. Every ministry will have a leader. These leaders are a further extension of Pastoral and future Administrative Assistant to Pastor Oversight to ensure that every member is receiving a ministry and challenges to grow and to serve. The pastoral personnel want every member to reach their fullest potential in Christ. All members are encouraged to assume some responsibility in church ministries to aid in personal spiritual growth as well as to provide ministry for the spiritual needs of others.

Spiritual Structure

1. The Head of the Church “The Shephard” – Jesus Christ
2. Senior Pastor “The Under Shephard” – Pastor Benjamin Smith
3. Deacons

Organizational Structure

*Trustee’s *Administration *Ministry Leaders

1 Corinthians 14:45 “Let all things be done decently and in order”

Affiliations

National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.
National Baptist Congress of Christian Education

Official Church Bible Version

King James Version

Approved Weekly Worship Opportunities

Stay Tuned to our weekly announcements

*Schedule subject to change by administration with prior announcement. In the event of any cancelled services please check our church website, social media, text alerts, local news stations, and or announcements.

Gethsemane Ministry Descriptions

Active Ministry Descriptions:

Minister's (Associate Minister):



Purpose: The purpose of the *Associate Ministers* of GMBC is to assist the Pastor / Chief Servant Leader in the sharing of the gospel of Jesus Christ through encouraging believers in their walk with Christ, participate in worship and provide an avenue through which individuals may share their gift and be an integral part of the worship and mission - vision of the church. The Associate Minister will receive ministerial assignment from Senior Pastor to adhere to Ministry objectives and structure. The position of one who accepts his call into “the ministry” will be that of “Minister”. Upon Ordination, the position will become “Elder”.

Deacons: Leader-



Purpose: GMBC has elected deacons to this honorable position of deacon because your life has exhibited the characteristics of faithfulness and loyalty both to the Lord and His church. A deacon must remember, however, that Jesus said, “The greatest among you shall be your servant.” (Matthew 23:11).

Three passages in the New Testament are commonly cited concerning the office of deacon: Acts 6:1-7, Philippians 1:1, and 1 Timothy 3:8-12. The word of deacon in the New Testament originally described a servant who “stirred up dust while waiting on tables.” As a deacon, your major attention will be given to serving God under the leadership of the Pastor and deacon officers in the practical ministry of the church.

“Deacons are servants of the church. Only within recent years has the body of deacons been referred to as the “board.” The objection to this designation is that it may somehow imply that deacons are managers rather than ministrants. Deacons are not to give orders to the church; they are to receive instructions from the church. Deacons are not to decide for the church; they are to carry out the decisions of the church ... They should never arrogate to themselves any authority for running the church. Their greatest service to the church will usually be found in their assistance to the pastor”

Administration:



Purpose: Providing innovative and efficiently runs the day-to-day operations of the Church, as well as overseeing the financial structure of the Church. Providing quality in adherence to a spirit of excellence to our mission and vision. Quality managers compliance with Church infrastructure.

Personnel Support:

Church Administrator
Financial Secretary
Announcing Clerk
Greeting Clerk
Trustees

Trustees Ministry:



Purpose: Supporting the mission and vision of the church by managing its property and finances, ensuring good stewardship of resources and overseeing the church's legal and operational needs. They are responsible for the physical maintenance of church buildings and grounds.

Working along with the Pastor and Deacon Ministry, the Board of Trustees of Gethsamene Baptist Church (“The Trustee Ministry”) is responsible for managing the fiscal affairs of the Church, subject to the regulation by the laws of the State of Michigan. The Trustee Board is comprised for 4 members (Chairman, 1 Deacon, 1 Financial Secretary, Treasure) who are appointed by the Pastor.

The Trustee Board is responsible for:

*Ensuring the Church will be able to meet its financial goals and objectives in fulfilling the spiritual needs of the congregation and the greater community it serves.

*The control and protection of all monetary assets deemed the property of Gethsamene. Consequently, the Trustee Board must be consulted before any contract or agreement is entered into that will affect the Church's financial position. The Trustee Board in turn is expected to act responsibly by consulting for final approval with the Pastor on significant financial matters.

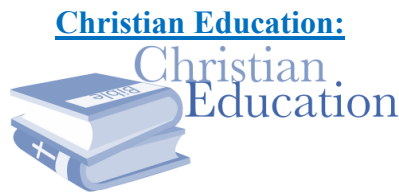
*Preparing monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual financial statements showing details of all income and expenditures of the Church. These statements should be accompanied by an analysis of all the significant factors influencing the Church's financial position.

*Overseeing any special committees in terms of any committee transactions involving the receipt and disbursements of funds.

*The care and custody of the property of the Church, including opening and closing the Church for all regularly scheduled services and special events.

*Interviewing, employing, terminating, upgrading or modifying the job descriptions with executive Minister with any Church personnel in consultation with the Pastor, as required.

The Trustee Board has no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer real estate property without specific authority by vote of the congregation.



Purpose: To teach the word of God in a way to encourage involvement in the total church program and to train souls for Christian Service. Christian Education Ministry involves the administration and coordination of programs or strategies to facilitate the spiritual growth or discipleship of believers into Christ-likeness.

The divisions of Christian Education- Govern by approved curriculum:

- Sunday School
- Vacation Bible School
- Study Hall
- Power In The Garden

Music: Leader-



Purpose: The purpose of the Music Ministry at GMBC is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ through song, encourage believers in their walk with Christ, lead the congregation into a positive worship experience and provide an avenue through which individuals may share their gift and be an integral part of the worship.

And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers with instruments of musick, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy. – 1 Chronicles 15:16

The Music Ministry spreads the Word of God through music experiences.

The divisions of the Gethsamene Baptist Church will consist of the following:

Male Chorus Praise Team Fellowship Choir

Youth Ministry



Purpose: GMBC cares about youth, who are an integral part of our community and our worship. To provide a foundation for children to live a Godly and Christ-centered life through the key's areas of Evangelism, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry and Worship. The youth ministry will have a structure with spiritual activities and excursions to enrich their current and future life.

Worship & Arts Ministry



Purpose: GMBC will utilize various art forms, including music, dance, visual arts, and drama, to express and glorify God through worship services and other events. Our aim is to create a space where people can connect with God and their faith through creative expression.

The Worship and Arts Ministry focuses on fostering a deeper connection with God and encouraging the congregation to worship through artistic mediums. This ministry supports the overall mission and vision of the church by providing opportunities for people to serve, express their faith, and connect with God.

Pastor Aide



Purpose: The Pastor's Aide Ministry assists the Pastor within the ministry; serving as caretakers of the Pastor and his family. The purpose of the Pastor's Aide Committee is to provide service to the Pastor, ensuring that he is fully equipped, prepared, and able to fulfill his responsibilities in leading the congregation. The committee provides the support needed to the Pastor and his family, whether it be in the form of prayer, encouragement through words, or other actions that show their love and gratitude to the pastoral family. Members must be prepared to assist by caring for the pastor's belongings, anticipating the pastor's needs and demands so as to properly furnish and supply what is needed.

Mission: To serve and be of support of our pastor and his family in all areas of their lives with the love of God, ensuring their needs are met at all times.

The Pastor's Aide Ministry keeps track of the pastor's birthday and other special anniversaries or occasions and may plan activities for these events. They will plan or assist other ministries in putting together special activities for Father's Day, Pastor's Appreciation Day and vacation, and assist the Pastor in whatever he may need to best meet his goals for serving the congregation.

Culinary Ministry



Purpose: To provide a professional environment with quality meals and refreshments during church events (funerals, anniversaries, special functions, etc.). The **Culinary Ministry** is responsible for all food service at GMBC. This Ministry has the responsibility to oversee the operation, use, cleanliness, and maintenance and its equipment.

The general duty of the **Culinary Ministry** is as follows:

Consult with the pastor and other church leaders and church organizations to determine the food needs of the church.

Recommend to the pastor and church applicable services to be provided.

Plan meals in accordance with good dietary procedure. Order appropriate provisions, materials, and supplies for special fellowship meals, youth ministries and outreach ministries, various church-wide functions, potluck meals, funerals and social events as requested and required.

Maintain high standards of sanitation in cleanliness of cooking utensils, dishes, glasses, silverware, food handling, preparation, service, and storage in accordance with Health Department Regulations set forth by the State of Michigan Department of Health and Bay County food regulations.

Maintain an up-to-date inventory of all kitchen equipment, food supplies, and physical assets.

Develop and recommend to the Finance Committee a budget for the operation of the kitchen and for the acquisition of needed equipment and supplies.

In consultation with the pastor, recommend policies and procedures related to the church's food service ministry.

Work with the custodian, hospitality chairperson, and church and community organizations on table and room arrangements for pastor/church approved meals and social functions.

Inspect the facilities following events to ensure all policies and procedures have been followed and the kitchen and fellowship rooms have been left in satisfactory conditions.

Exemplify a gracious, cooperative spirit with the pastor, God's people, and the Culinary Ministry chairperson so that everyone participating in food service activities will be spiritually enriched and grow in Christian love and unity (see Ephesians 4:11-16).



Purpose: Men and Women, Making disciples means that we must “Go” and evangelize those who do not yet know Christ. Making disciples means that we must “baptize” or connect people to the local church (GMBC) through identifying them with Jesus Christ. Making disciples means we must “teach” those who know Christ to follow and obey him. Thus, our mission ministry exists to make disciples of all nations (beginning locally and extending globally) by evangelizing, baptizing (connecting believers to a local church) and teaching them to follow Christ.

GMBC seeks to accomplish our disciple making mission through Education, Emphases, and Events.

Education: Focuses Bethlehem on how to fulfill God’s mission and opportunities for mission involvement (evangelism training, mission training, mission videos, mission communications in Christian Education, CARE and more.)

Emphasis: Focuses GMBC on meeting felt needs. These emphases build credibility in order to share God’s message of love and redemption (local food drives, school supply drives, and any other chosen project.)

Events: Focuses GMBC on opportunities to get involved personally in missions (local ministry and mission projects, disaster relief projects, blood drives, church planting, and any events the ministry deem available to support in the opportunity of providing service and or partnership.)

Laymen:



Purpose: The purpose of the Laymen Ministry at GMBC is to "equip every man and boy to become a participant in the Church as a life-style missionary." Leaders work to inform, motivate and to involve men and boys in praying, studying, enlisting, giving, ministering and witnessing in our community and our world.

1. Engage in mission activities. These activities include mission action, personal evangelism, mass evangelism, and special mission projects.

2. Teach missions. We want to first involve men in mission and then having activated their interest, move them into study.
3. Pray for and give to missions. GMBC Laymen must have a heart for mission and with the heart for missions that leads us to pray continually for missions.
4. Develop the personnel ministry. This means "to discover and implement a service to others which a person is uniquely and spiritually gifted to perform
5. Interpret and undergird the work of the church. Accomplishing this task strengthens not only the Laymen ministry, but also our Church and the various other ministries of the Church.



Purpose: To provide a safe and orderly response actions to the Church property, congregation, guests. Provide annual inspections of buildings to make sure the building is up to code in compliance with local, state and federal guidelines. Also provide a line of site to give a safe atmosphere for everyone that visits our worship facilities.

Personnel Support:

Security- Serving as monitors during all scheduled services and activities ensuring all congregational members and guests have a pleasant and safe worship experience.



Purpose: The purpose of the Media Ministry here at GMBC is to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our visually-driven, ever-changing world through the use of technology and media, and to equip other ministries of the church to use digital and electronic media as a worship and outreach tool.

This ministry not only provides the technical support required for our worship services, but also records various events, teachings and sermons, which are made available on DVD, CD, YouTube, Periscope, Facebook and Church Website.



Purpose: The Mother’s Ministry is an important and valuable ministry of the church that should be occupied only by mature women of God. The maturity of members of the Mother’s Ministry is demonstrated by one essential quality – love. There is no room for women to occupy membership in this ministry without maturity in love. As the name of this ministry suggests the aim of members who occupy the position of spiritual mothers seek to carry out the objectives, which are to nurture, comfort, encourage and uplift the membership of our Christian family. You must keep in mind that you do not occupy this position to be admired or respected. You occupy this position to serve. And if you serve well, you will be admired and respected.

First, a mother should be a mature Christian. Maturity has nothing to do with longevity of membership, but with character of spirit, that has been developed through one’s obedience to God’s Word. Since this position offers spiritual guidance to the congregation, only a mature woman is qualified to occupy this important position. The qualities of discipline, wisdom and an openness to all members are qualities that reveal a mature Christian.

Titus 2:3 “*The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;*”

This scripture illustrates the qualities needed in women who serve as members of the Mother’s Ministry.

- Reverent – sacred actions
- Not Malicious – this is the same word used for the devil who is a false accuser of the saints of God.
- Not Enslaved – held in bondage
- A Teacher – instructor

Member Services:



Purpose: To provide 100% congregational support. Hebrews 10:24-25 (KJV)- “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Member services shall be the oversight for the Member Retention plan in compliance to “No Member Left Behind”.

Why is Retention Important?

- + Strong retention provides continuity.
- + Retention provides for the development leaders.
- +A strong membership base allows our Church to meet the service demands of our community.

Mission:

Our Membership Retention plan is in adherence to our church philosophy. GMBC is to evangelize to our community and disciple men, women, and children by establishing genuine

relationships, energetic worship, and a festive environment, all in the spirit of excellence. A participatory approach to ministry is used to create an ‘Everybody is Somebody’ attitude, so each member supports one another while going a dimension higher.”

Hospitality:



Purpose: Strives to create a warm / friendly environment throughout the Church so that every guest feels welcomed, important and informed. Providing 100% hospitality. Greeters will be vital to this ministry as they give each guest a personal welcome package for all first time visitors, and have each guest complete a guest informational form. The Hospitality ministry will also serve as the point of contact for congregational care during the time of bereavement in the event of death (Parents, Grand Parents, Children, and Siblings) providing support in bereavement card, food, etc. to the immediate family. This ministry is in support with our member services.

Maintenance:



Purpose: The Facilities Maintenance Ministry exists to glorify God and to keep our church clean and orderly at all times. To fix and maintain lights, carpets, restrooms, landscaping, etc.. To make sure we have all supplies on hand to accomplish the mission.

Taking Care of God's House and making our worship campus a safe and clean environment.

We are called to be a habitation of God through His Spirit; a building or dwelling place to reveal God's glory and power [Ephesians 2:21-22]. The facilities maintenance ministry is here to keep God's house in order, operating in a clean, professional manner that glorifies Him.

Ushers:



Purpose: Effectively assist both people and ministerial personnel in worship and to better serve the congregational members and guest. The team is designed to meet, greet with an enthusiastic spirit and seat those who attend services as they enter the sanctuary.

The usher ministry is an extension of God's hand to the people as they serve as watchmen, servants, and disciplinarians of the church. The team distributes bulletins, tithe and offering envelopes and other supplies as needed.

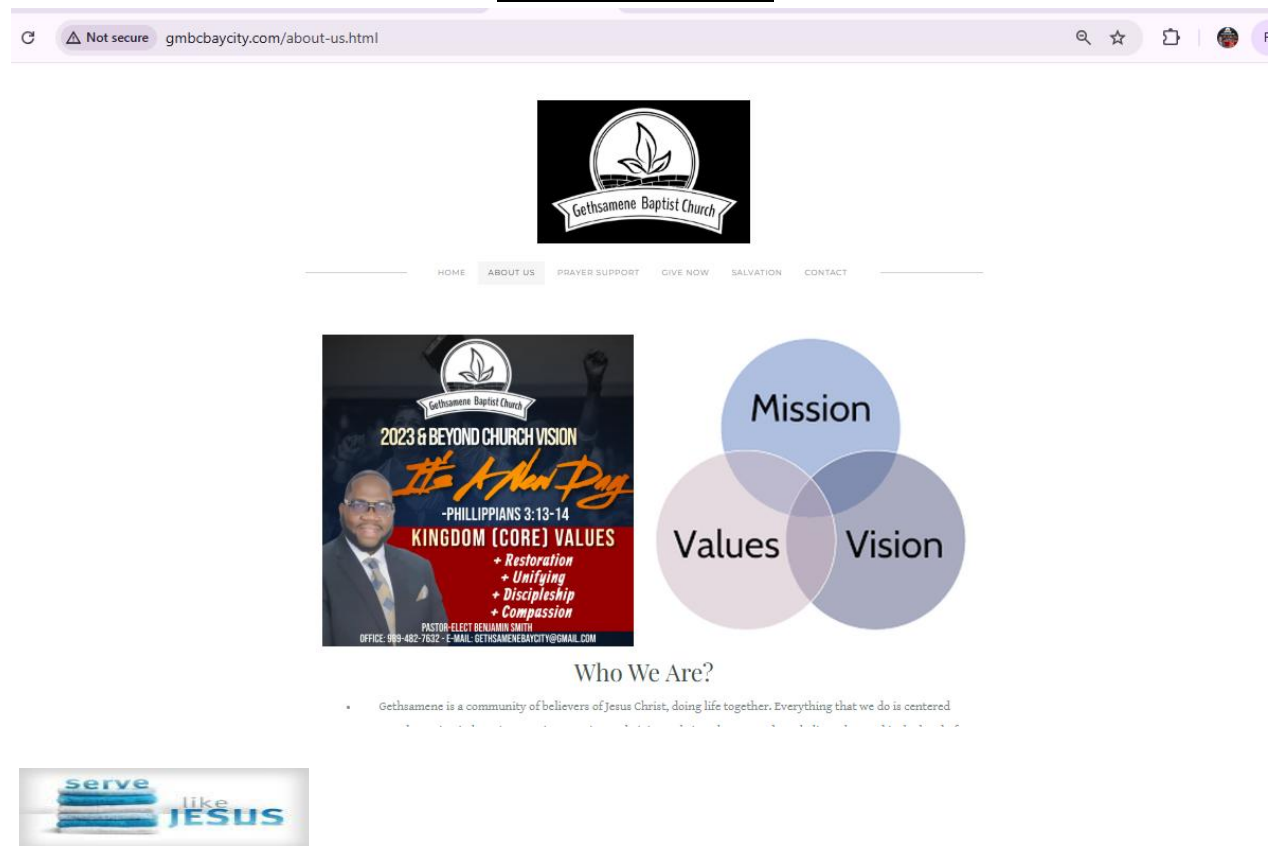
The usher ministry also facilitates and assists in the collection of tithes and offerings during the ministry of giving.



Purpose: As a component to evangelism and providing congregational support to both members and potential guests. The transportation ministry is a vital source to the retention plan of membership of GMBC, providing dependable and safe transportation to all scheduled church services and activities.

If you have any questions or concerns about ministries and or serving opportunities at Gethsamene Baptist Church, please feel free to call 989.482.7632 or email gehsamenebaycity@gmail.com.

Church Website



Approved by:	<i>Rev. Benjamin Smith- Senior Pastor</i>
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Revision	
Reviewed:	