

**AVALON MISSIONARY CHURCH
BY-LAWS**

Last Revised, November, 2007

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this church shall be Avalon Missionary Church, Inc. of Fort Wayne, Indiana

ARTICLE II – AFFILIATION

This church is a member of the Missionary Church, Inc., P.O. Box 9127, Fort Wayne, IN 46899.

ARTICLE III – PURPOSE

The purpose statement of this church shall be: Avalon Missionary Church purposes to make followers of Jesus Christ who are experiencing grace-based relationships, reproducing and equipping other disciples, and influencing their world toward Christ.

ARTICLE IV - STATEMENT OF FAITH

The statement of faith for this church shall be as outlined in the Constitution of the Missionary Church.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

1. Qualifications for membership in this church shall be as outlined in the Constitution of the Missionary Church.
2. Applicants for membership shall complete the application form, attend the membership class, be approved by Leadership Council or a committee appointed by the Council and be received into membership in a public service of the church.
3. Members in good standing moving from one location to another may, at their request, be given letters of transfer stating their standing in the church and indicating their termination of membership. Such letters will be addressed to the church they are joining. No open transfers of membership will be given to any member. The membership of pastors and family members, which accompany them, shall automatically be transferred to the church of which they become pastor.
4. Discipline of the membership shall be as outlined in the Constitution of the Missionary Church

ARTICLE VI – LOCAL CONFERENCE.

1. The first regular business meeting of the church shall be held at the regular place of assembly on a Sunday in February for the purpose of receiving written reports from the Leadership

Current in 2015

Council, ministry team leaders, pastor(s) and designated staff of the congregation for the previous year.

2. The second regular business meeting shall be held at the regular place of assembly on a Sunday in November for the purpose of electing the officers, School Board Chairman, approving the budget(s), and transacting other business pertaining to the work and welfare of the congregation.

3. Special meetings of the congregation may be called by the Leadership Council with seven days notice necessary from the time of notification for such a meeting. In addition, by a petition of 25% of the membership of the congregation, a special meeting will be called with seven days notice given for the said meeting.

4. A quorum shall consist of 15% of the eligible-voting members of the congregation. All members sixteen years of age and over shall be eligible to vote. No absentee ballots are permitted.

ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS

1. The officers shall be the Chairman, Assistant Chairman, Senior Pastor, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Financial Secretary. All officers shall be members of this congregation.

2. The term of office for each officer shall be three years. The term of office for the Senior Pastor shall be determined according to the guidelines established in the By-laws of the Central District of the Missionary Church. No officer may be elected for more than two consecutive full terms on the Council. No member of the congregation may serve more than one elected office concurrently.

3. The election for the officers shall be at the second regular business meeting of the congregation. An election will be by the affirmation of 70% of the ballots cast. Each year after receiving recommendations from the congregation, the Nominations Committee shall present nominations for open officer positions for the second regular business meeting of the congregation.

4. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

(a) The Chairman or Vice-Chairman shall preside at the meetings of the Leadership Council and shall have such other powers and duties as this By-Laws or the Council Policy File may prescribe. If neither the Chairman nor the Vice-Chairman is able to preside, another Council member may be elected to preside by those present.

(b) The Vice-Chairman shall assist the Chairman when requested and shall serve as Chairman in the absence of the Chairman.

(c) The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Leadership Council and shall keep, or cause to be kept, in a book provided for the purpose, a true and complete record of the proceedings of such meetings and shall perform a like duty, when required, for all committees appointed by the Leadership Council. The Secretary shall attend to the giving and serving of all notices of the Church required by this By-Laws, shall have custody of the books (except books of account) and records and in general shall perform

all duties pertaining to the office of Secretary and such other duties as this By-Laws or the Leadership Council may prescribe.

(d) The Treasurer shall keep correct and complete records of account, showing accurately at all times the financial condition of the Church. He or she shall have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds, securities and other valuables which may from time to time come into the possession of the Church. He or she shall deposit or cause to be deposited all funds of the Church with such depositories as the Leadership Council shall designate. He or she shall furnish at meetings of the Leadership Council, or whenever requested, a statement of the financial condition of the Church and in general perform all duties pertaining to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as these By-Laws or the Leadership Council may prescribe.

ARTICLE VIII – PASTOR

1. The selection of the Senior Pastor of this congregation shall be in conformity with the Constitution of the Missionary Church and the By-laws of the Central District of the Missionary Church.
2. Avalon Missionary Church shall as outlined in the Constitution of the Missionary Church and in the ministry description maintain the duties of the Senior Pastor.
3. Procedure for a vote of confidence for pastoral leadership shall be governed by the By-laws of the Central District of the Missionary Church.

ARTICLE IX –LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

1. The membership of the Leadership Council shall be the Chairman, Assistant Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Senior Pastor, and five additional members for a total of ten members. All members of the Leadership Council shall be members of this congregation. Each member of the Leadership Council shall serve for a term of three (3) years. For the purpose of rotation, terms shall be staggered so that each year three new members shall be added to the board as three complete their three-year terms.
2. No Leadership Council Member other than the Senior Pastor may serve more than two consecutive full (three-year) terms on the Leadership Council. This provision shall not apply to partial terms in which a member is appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board. Members living under the same roof may not serve on the Leadership Council at the same time.
3. The election of Council Members (in addition to officers) shall also be at the second regular business meeting of the congregation. An election will be by the affirmation of 70% of the ballots cast. Each year after receiving recommendations from the congregation, the Nominations Committee shall present nominations for open Council positions for the second regular business meeting of the congregation.
4. The Leadership Council shall have as its duty the general welfare of the congregation. To this end, it shall determine the general policies, ministry descriptions and position papers of the

congregation. Changes in these may be made with the approval of 75% of the members of the Leadership Council.

5. The duties of the Leadership Council shall be as outlined in the Constitution of the Missionary Church and in the Avalon Missionary Church Leadership Council Policy File. The Leadership Council, exclusive of the Senior Pastor, shall represent the church in negotiating for a pastor in keeping with the Constitution of the Missionary Church and the district bylaws dealing with pastoral relations.

6. The Leadership Council may act to remove a member of the Council for failing to effectively fulfill the responsibilities of his or her office. Such an action may take place at any regular or special meeting called for such purpose, and must be done by a unanimous vote of the members excluding the member who is being removed. A successor may be elected at the same meeting for the unexpired term of the Council Member removed. Failure to elect a Council Member at such a meeting to fill the unexpired term of any member so removed shall be deemed to create a vacancy on the Leadership Council which may be filled by the remaining board members in accordance with Article XI.

7. In the event of moral failure on the part of a Council Member, the officers (acting as an executive committee on behalf of the Council) may call for the resignation of the offending Council Member.

8. The Leadership Council must obtain congregational approval when making non-budgeted financial commitments that exceed a total of 3% of the total annual church budget per annum or a non-budgeted financial commitment to any item that exceeds more than 60 months duration.

9. The Leadership Council shall appoint delegates for District Conference and General Conference.

ARTICLE X – COMMITTEES

1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Senior Pastor, two members named by the Leadership Council and two members elected by the congregation for a one-year term at the second annual business meeting by affirmation of 70% of the ballots cast. The Senior Pastor shall serve as Chairman of the nominating Committee. In the absence of the Senior Pastor, the Leadership Council shall elect a chairman to serve said vacancy.

2. The Leadership Council may appoint additional committees as may be needed to facilitate its functions, and shall have the discretion to include persons on these committees which are not members of the Leadership Council. Likewise, the Leadership Council shall have the authority to remove any person appointed to such a committee whenever, in their judgment, the best interest of the church shall be served by such removal.

ARTICLE XI – VACANCIES

The Leadership Council shall fill by appointment any vacancy until the expiration of the term being filled.

ARTICLE XII – DUE PROCESS PROCEDURE

Any appeal of a decision of the Pastor or the Leadership Council will be handled according to the due process procedure in the Constitution of the Missionary Church.

ARTICLE XIII – DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution, the assets of Avalon Missionary Church, Inc. shall be distributed to the Central District of the Missionary Church.

ARTICLE XIV – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these by-laws and any special rules of order that may be adopted.

ARTICLE XV – AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote at a regularly scheduled or special meeting of the congregation providing seven days notice has been given to the membership. Such notice shall include making printed copies of the current by-laws and the proposed change available to the congregation. Any board, committee or group of three or more members may propose amendments. The Leadership Council will review all proposed amendments.

