

# **Orwell Bible Church**



**2020**



## **Financial**

- Money designated for missions is included in all financial reports. (1/86)
- \$100 is in the Missions account as a buffer.
- The pastors and deacons determine the use of memorial funds in cooperation with the family of the deceased
- A withdrawal or change of the church's investment fund by the financial secretary must have the approval of the deacon board. (7/92)
- Special speakers receive \$125.00 for the first service and \$20 for each additional service. \$.56 per mile will be paid for one round trip. (8/96)
- Visiting missionaries shall receive the customary rate for guest speakers if they present the morning service, otherwise they will receive what is taken in a love offering. If a guest speaker agrees to come on a love offering basis, they receive whatever is collected with no mileage consideration. If less than \$30.00 is collected, the General fund will be used to make up the difference. The church may make other arrangements to assure someone who generally comes on a love offering basis receives a larger amount. (7/96)

- The services that members of the Orwell Bible Church render in the area of speaking, teaching, and preaching, are voluntary and unpaid. (4/92)
- The finances of the Orwell Bible Church and its ministries are provided by freewill offerings. Special projects may be funded by special freewill offerings, we do not raise money by selling any products or services. (7/96)
- The Trustee fund in on the yearly budget will be carried over from year to year if not used to allow for bigger projects to be funded thereby. (1/14)

### **Membership:**

2. Watch Care membership: This is a means by which someone who is in our area temporarily (college student, part time resident who winters in Florida, etc.) can have the benefits of membership without forfeiting their membership in their home church. They must be someone who intends to be actively involved and meets the requirements of regular membership. Everything in the church constitution that applies to regular membership also applies to Watch Care membership with the following exceptions:

a) The home church is consulted and is agreeable to the action, and membership is maintained there.

b) The Watch Care member does not have a vote in our business meetings. (3/86)

### **Facility:**

• Orwell Township elections are held in the church basement. (Approved 7/94)

• Church members may use the church fellowship hall for special gatherings (wedding/ baby showers, receptions, reunions, anniversary parties, etc. under the following conditions:

a) It is the type of function the church would approve of.

b) There is no smoking.

c) There are no alcoholic beverages.

d) There is no inappropriate language.

e) The facilities are cleaned and restored to original condition tables and chairs returned to proper places, etc.) and trash is removed from the premises.

f) The custodian/ trustees are informed prior to use, so preparations can be made.

g) The date is cleared with the pastors/deacons. (7/96)

### **Ministry:**

• No new ministry is begun or special service or event planned without prior permission being obtained from the pastors or deacons. Approval should be received before any plans are made or potential leaders recruited. (7/96)

- Anyone responsible for children during church functions (Kidz Church, Sunday School, Nursery, etc.) must be 18 years of age or older, or must have an adult present. (7/96) Also PA clearances need to be current.

## **Policy concerning Infectious Diseases**

It is the policy of our church that anyone who meets the spiritual qualifications for membership is allowed to join our church regardless of disability or disease. Those with diseases which are contagious are welcome to attend and participate in our church and its functions as long as they have been assured medical authority that they will not endanger the health of others in the particular activity in which they engage. Adults attending our church or its functions who have an infectious disease are encouraged to act in the best interests of the health and safety of others by abstaining from church services and functions while they are in a contagious state.

To provide for the health and safety of infants and children in the care of nursery staff, children who are in a contagious state should not be taken to the nursery or Sunday School classes., but should be cared for by a parent or guardian.

Even though some contagious diseases are not transmitted by casual contact or by airborne particles, it is still prudent to refrain from the care of children in the nursery and from food-

handling. This is a courtesy to those who are concerned.

The disease of AIDS deserves special attention. Additional guidelines to the aforementioned include:

The Bible being our guide for all things, is our guide regarding the potential spread of fatal, infectious diseases. According to the Bible, those who had leprosy were required to let others know of the dangers of contact with them by crying out "Unclean" (Lev. 13:45) From that we infer the wisdom of notifying the congregation of the attendance of someone who is HIV positive.

HIV positive infants who are not toilet trained and children up to seven who tend to share things that have been in their mouths, or may bite one another, should not be involved in the regular nursery or Sunday school functions of the church, but should be at all times under the direct supervision of their parents or guardians.

Children seven and over who have learned control will be allowed to attend Sunday School and enter the regular life of the church. The age of seven was chosen because most children at that age have matured sufficiently re: potty training, putting things in their mouths and biting. These children should not engage in rough play since AIDS is transferred through blood. Adults with AIDS are welcomed into the regular life of the church, however they shall refrain from service in the nursery

and from food-handling. Even though the possibility of infection as result of these activities is remote we must be cautious for the benefit of others. The pastors and deacons shall have authority in the enforcement of this policy in specific situations. (4/97)

### **Meetings:**

- The time for regular Quarterly Business Meetings:  
So as not to rush members into decisions on motions being made or items being voted on, the meetings will be held after the Sunday services with no dedicated ending point. (7/18)
- Prior to appointing a nominating committee there should be a brief description of the duties of said committee so those being considered have a knowledge of what is expected.

### **Church Officers:**

- Policy concerning deacon term limits:  
In order to provide for the refreshment of the souls of those who have labored in the care of their fellow Christians, and in order to prevent stagnation in the opinions and actions of the board of deacons, the nominating committee is encouraged to maintain a two-consecutive-term limit for the office of deacon. Following a year's absence from the board, a person previously



serving in this capacity is to be considered eligible for nomination again. Thus, after 6 years of service, a deacon may enjoy a Sabbath year, while his absence from the board also creates an opportunity for another to serve in this unique and special office. (10/19)

- Policy concerning deacon nominees previously divorced: Whereas marital unity, sexual fidelity, and family leadership are critical themes throughout Scripture generally, and in the I Timothy qualifications for church leadership specifically, it has long been an unwritten understanding in our congregation that men who have been divorced are not qualified to serve as deacons. As a result of the lack of unanimous agreement on this topic among intelligent and Spirit-filled students of the Word of God, the board of pastors and deacons has deemed it necessary to establish a guiding policy for the nominating committee so that such a sensitive issue need not be handled solely by the nominating committee when it meets to prepare annual ballots. So that such a sensitive issue is not callously or carelessly decided based on prevailing church culture or social climate, it seems best to the board to establish that divorce is neither an automatic disqualification nor a small matter easily ignored. Therefore, the board strongly urges the nominating committee to investigate each and every of the following five issues regarding divorced persons nominated to the office

of deacon of Orwell Bible Church, and not to dismiss such a person on the grounds of a previous divorce alone, nor to endorse them without question, as though the divorce were a non-issue.

1 - Whether one or both persons were believers in Christ at the time of divorce.

2 - The grounds for, and circumstances of, the divorce, and whether it was initiated by the nominee.

3 - Whether the nominee has paid responsible attention to the physical needs and growth of character of any children of the marriage in question.

4 - The growth in sanctification of the nominee, particularly in the areas of marriage and family life, and most especially in the areas of character that may have contributed to previous marital disharmony.

5 - Whether the nominee is currently living in fidelity to a spouse, and if unmarried, living in fidelity to the requirements of Christian morality.

Trustee Policy:

Any trustee may make immediate purchases and modifica-

tions/repairs to the church building without previous permission and consultation with the rest of the board as long as purchases amount to less than 50\$.

For any project that will cost over 50\$ in material to be completed, it is necessary to have a trustee meeting or a group email to gain board consensus and approval for the project.

All purchases are to be made at C.C Allis Hardware when advisable. Under any other circumstances, purchases are to be made with a church credit and receipts are too be turned into the church treasurer's mailbox.

Regardless of the financial figure of a repair at the church, all trustees and pastors should be notified that a repair has been completed after the task has been accomplished. This notification of completion applies to both repairs that exceed a 50\$ limit and have been discussed among the trustees as well as repairs under the 50\$ limit that do not require board approval for carrying out. This is for the purpose of clear communication between all members of the trustees and record keeping financially.

Trustee meetings are to be held monthly and trustees are required to attend on a regular basis.

