**BYLAWS OF NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH,**

**REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA**

EFFECTIVE: November 8, 2016

PREAMBLE

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in these bylaws, this corporation/organization is a member church in the Reformed Church in America; is (and at all times shall be) subject to and governed by the Constitution of the Reformed Church in America, including its *Book of Church Order* (*BCO*); and agrees that the provisions of this section shall not be amended or modified in any manner without the prior written consent of the classis with jurisdiction over this corporation/organization.

ARTICLE I

NAME AND LOCATION

The name of the congregation and its corporation is “New Hope Community Church, Reformed Church in America”. It is a Michigan non-profit corporation. The principal location of the congregation shall be 244 S. 79th Avenue, Shelby, Michigan, or such other location as the Consistory shall designate.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of New Hope Community Church is to be “a community of broken but growing followers of Jesus, led by the Spirit, seeking restoration with God, each other, and the world.”

ARTICLE III

MEMBERS

Section l. Membership in the New Hope Community Church, RCA, shall be granted by the board of Elders.

Section 2. Termination of Membership. The Elders shall remove from the church roll the name of the following members: one who has transferred to another church; one who has united with another church without securing a certificate of transfer; one whose membership has been terminated by a procedure of discipline; one who has had a prolonged inactive status; and deceased members (RCA BCO).

ARTICLE IV  
CONSISTORY, OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section l. Consistory. The New Hope Community Church, Reformed Church in America, is governed by the Consistory. The Consistory is made up of the Elders and Deacons currently installed in office, and the installed Minister/s of the church serving under a call. The Consistory combines the ministerial functions and governmental powers of the offices of the Minister, Elder, and Deacon in the service and supervision of the church. The whole body acts as the representative of the congregation. The Elders, together with the Minister/s, constitute a board of Elders with specified responsibilities and powers. The Deacons constitute a board of Deacons with specified duties and authority. The full membership of the Consistory will serve as the Board of Directors and trustees of the corporation. The Consistory may appoint such standing and ad hoc committees with such tasks and persons as it deems necessary to serve specific purposes. The Consistory will set expenditure and reimbursement policy.

Section 2. Election of Elders and Deacons. The board of Elders shall have four members (other than the minister/s) and the board of Deacons shall have four members. Each year, where no vacant terms need to be filled, a single slate with ballots will be established from the membership by the Elders to elect one or two Elders and one or two Deacons for three-year terms. The turnover rotation for each the board of elders and the board of deacons will thus be two, then one, then one so that all four spots on each board turn over every three years, ideally staggering when each board turns over two spots so that both boards don’t turn over two spots in the same year. If a vacancy occurs in either elected office during a term, the Elders shall temporarily appoint a new Elder or Deacon and if that appointment occurs prior to October l0 in any calendar year, the remaining term of that Elder or Deacon shall be filled at the next election as part of the single slate. The slate of candidates will be published to the congregation three weeks prior to elections.

Section 3. Consistory Officers. The officers of the Consistory shall be President, Vice President, Clerk, and Treasurer, and shall be chosen by the Consistory.

A. President: The President shall be the Minister/s willing to serve, or an Elder in the absence of any Minister or at the request of all Ministers.

B. Vice President: The Vice President shall be an Elder and shall fulfill the duties of the President in his/her absence.

C. Clerk: The Clerk may be an Elder or Deacon shall keep records of the organization, minutes of all meetings, and the membership list.

D. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be a Deacon. The Treasurer receives monies and disburses funds as authorized by the Deacons. A Financial Secretary, appointed by the Consistory, may assist the Treasurer and Deacons in this work. The Treasurer also prepares and gives Treasurer’s reports at monthly Consistory meetings and at congregational meetings.

Section 4. Ministers. All Ministers will be called or contracted by the Consistory and approved by a majority of the Members present and voting after a fourteen-day notice to members of the congregational meeting. Following Classis approval, the person’s name must be published in the church for three successive Sundays, allowing for the raising of lawful objections, before the classis shall install the minister.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS

Section l. Consistory Meetings. The Consistory shall meet in regular sessions at least six times a year. The date of the meetings shall be set annually by the Consistory. Special meetings may be called by the Consistory. Notice of all regular and special meetings shall be announced to the congregation of the New Hope Community Church, RCA. Consistory meetings are not open to the public or all members but any member or friend of the church will be afforded an opportunity to address issues at any Consistory meeting. The Ministers may attend all of each Consistory meeting.

Section 2. Elder Meetings. The Board of Elders shall meet at stated times at least four times a year for the transaction of business which is their particular responsibility. The minister shall preside at all meetings except where otherwise provided. The meetings shall begin and end with prayer. Minutes of meetings shall be kept and shall be submitted to the classis at least once a year.

Section 3. Deacon Meetings. The Board of Deacons shall meet at stated times as needed for the carrying out of its ministry. The meetings shall begin and end with prayer. The board shall render an account in consistory of its ministry, including its collection and distribution of the benevolence contributions of the congregation.

Section 4. Majority Rule. During all Consistory, Elder, and Deacon meetings, a majority of those present and voting is required for a decision. No Minister shall have a vote, except to cast any tie breaking vote.

Section 5. Quorum. For each of the three groups, a majority of the serving members shall constitute a quorum. In the case of Consistory, if no quorum is present, the only action allowed is setting the time and place of the next Consistory meeting.

ARTICLE VI

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Section l. There shall be a minimum of one regular congregational meeting each year. A regular congregational meeting shall be held in the month of November after three weeks notice published to the congregation. The purpose of that meeting shall be for the election of the Elders and Deacons and for the consideration, revision and adoption of a financial budget for the next calendar year and other pertinent business.

Section 2. Business at the congregational meeting will be done by a majority of those present and voting. Votes for Elders and Deacons shall be by written ballot. No proxies or absentee votes will be allowed. Fifteen per cent of the membership attending will constitute a quorum.

Section 3. A special meeting of the congregation may be called by the Consistory by giving public notice to the congregation of the meeting and the purpose thereof on two consecutive Sundays preceding the meeting.

Section 4. Each Confessing Member shall have one vote and be eligible to participate at all congregational meetings.

Section 5. At all congregational meetings the President of Consistory or a person designated by the Consistory shall preside and the Clerk of Consistory shall act as Secretary.

ARTICLE VII

PARLIMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order* shall govern The New Hope Community Church in all cases to which they are applicable.

ARTICLE VIII

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the corporation shall be the calendar year.

ARTICLE IX  
NO BENEFIT TO MEMBERS

No part of the net earnings of the church shall inure in whole or in part to the benefit of, or be distributed to, its members, directors, officers or any other person having a personal or private interest in the activities of the church, except that the church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for goods and services and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this article. This provision shall not be deemed to prevent the church from accepting as members, directors, or officers any persons who have been selected to receive the corporation's services. The church may reimburse officers and directors for their reasonable expenses in carrying out church business.

ARTICLE X

NON-POLITICAL

The church shall not devote more than an insubstantial part of its activities to attempt to influence legislation. The church shall not directly or indirectly participate in, or intervene in (including publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles of Incorporation, the church shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 50l (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible by contributors under Section l70 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE XI

DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of the church, to the extent allowed under applicable law, the Consistory shall, after satisfaction of all liabilities of the church, sell the assets of the church and distribute the proceeds to (a) another organization organized and operating for the same purposes for which this church is organized and operating and which qualifies as an exempt corporation under Section 50l (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or (b) to one or more corporations, funds or foundations organized and operating exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes, which church, funds or foundations shall qualify as exempt organizations under Section 50l (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In no event shall the assets of the church upon dissolution be distributed to members of the church or any person having a personal or private interest in the activities of the church.

ARTICLE XII  
CONSISTORY/OFFICER LIABILITY

If the Articles of Incorporation filed with the State of Michigan so provide, a Consistory member or volunteer officer of the church is not personally liable to the church or its members for monetary damages for a breach of the Consistory member’s fiduciary duty except in the following circumstances: (a) A breach of the duty of loyalty to the church or its members. (b) Acts or omissions not in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of the law. (c) A violation of Section 55l (l) of the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act. (d) A transaction from which the Consistory member derived an improper personal benefit. (e) An act or omission that is grossly negligent.

ARTICLE XIII

VOLUNTEER LIABILITY

If the Articles of Incorporation filed with the State of Michigan so provide, the church shall assume all liability to any person other than the church, its members for all acts or omissions of a Consistory member, volunteer officer or other volunteer if all of the following are met:

(a) The volunteer was acting or reasonably believed he/she was acting within the scope of his/her authority, and

(b) The volunteer was acting in good faith, and

(c) The volunteer's conduct did not amount to gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct, and

(d) The volunteer's conduct was not an intentional tort, and

(e) The volunteer's conduct was not a tort arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of a motor vehicle for which tort liability may be imposed by Section 3l35 of the insurance code of l956 (MCLA Section 500.3l35 and after).

ARTICLE XIV

ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at any Consistory meeting provided that (a) the members of the Consistory have been notified of such proposed changes one meeting prior to such Consistory meeting and (b) the congregation members have been given notice published once each week for three weeks before meeting adopting the change, and provided further that a majority vote of the Consistory members then serving is needed to pass the amendment.

ARTICLE XV

EFFECTIVE DATE

These bylaws will be effective no earlier than November 8, 2016. The existing Consistory members and officers will continue to serve in their respective offices until their replacements have been elected or appointed as described above.

ARTICLE XVI  
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION TO GOVERN

If anything in these bylaws is inconsistent with the Articles of Incorporation, the Articles of Incorporation shall govern.