

Greetings!

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of Maranatha Bible and Missionary Conference, located in Norton Shores, MI. Maranatha is a conservative, evangelical conference center and resident community where guests and residents *Vacation with Purpose*. We seek to provide programs that clearly present the Bible as God's Word, offer people the opportunity to receive Christ, encourage spiritual growth and challenge them to live consistent, Godly lives of service wherever He places them. Our mission is: "to provide spiritual renewal in a recreational setting emphasizing Bible teaching and worldwide missions."

We are prayerfully seeking members who believe in this ministry and desire to give of their time, talents and treasure to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It is our hope that this information will be helpful for you to better understand the process and timetable related to your application.

If, after prayerful consideration, membership in this type of Christian conference ministry is appealing to you, please complete and return the attached application to the Maranatha office. Complete the top of each recommendation form and give them to two (2) members from whom you are seeking a recommendation.

We look forward to the opportunity to consider you for membership.

On behalf of:

Linda Bush  
Chairperson of the Membership Committee

Corrine DeWitt  
Administrative Assistant & Member Relations  
[cdewitt@maranathamichigan.org](mailto:cdewitt@maranathamichigan.org)  
231-798-2161 x 1153

Gary Feenstra  
Executive Director  
[gfeenstra@maranathamichigan.org](mailto:gfeenstra@maranathamichigan.org)  
231-798-2161 x 1180

# Maranatha Bible and Missionary Conference

## Bylaws and Policies

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### 4000 – Membership/Leaseholder

#### 4100 – Membership and Leaseholder Approval Process

- A. Membership prospects are given an application packet by an administrative staff member and the membership process is explained. The packet includes:
- Application including two reference forms to be completed by current, non-relative members
  - Statement of Organizational Mission, Vision and Core Values
  - Statement of Faith
  - Member in Good Standing Statement
  - Rules of Conduct
- B. Once written materials are fully completed and submitted, prospective members are formally interviewed by the Board Membership Committee following the procedures below:
1. Applicants will be interviewed by at least two members of the membership committee. In the absence or unavailability of two committee members, the chairman may select at least two board members, or former board members, if needed (other than a sponsor of the membership applicants).
  2. After completing interview, membership committee members write up the notes of the interview, including the names of those who conducted the interview and their recommendation to support/ not support this application. File these with the membership application

materials (application, two recommendation letters, statement of faith) in the membership committee folder/Google drive.

- C. Following the formal interview with the Membership Committee a recommendation of the committee is given to the full board including personal details regarding applicant(s) and a vote for membership is taken. If not recommended by the committee or approved by the full board, a decision will be made as to how to proceed depending on the individual situation.
- D. If approved, the applicant(s) are considered in "candidacy" status until 15 days after the meeting in which candidacy was approved. If no further information or questions arise from either board members or the candidates themselves, they will be considered regular members on that date.
- E. When candidates are approved by the board as members, a signed "original" copy of the application is filed in the administrative office along with all supporting documents, as well as electronic copies of such kept in membership committee files
- F. The applicant(s) are notified of the final disposition of their application by the membership chair and notified by letter sent by the administrative staff or Committee Chair, welcoming the new member(s) and sending a membership packet.

#### **Leaseholder Applicant Approval:**

Those who wish to become leaseholders, may begin the process after they have been vetted by the membership committee and affirmed by a vote of the board to be member candidates. Leaseholder standing is not automatic with membership.

#### **The process of approval for leaseholder consists of the following:**

- A. Applicant(s) shall be a "Member in Good Standing" and attest to all of the qualifications outlined in the "Member in Good Standing" policy in writing at the time of leaseholder application (if in membership process, this has already been accomplished.)

- B. After the membership process has been completed and should one wish to become a leaseholder at a later time, they will be asked to attest once again in writing they continue to uphold the mission and vision of Maranatha and are members in good standing and continuing to abide by the statement of faith of Maranatha.
- C. Leaseholder applicants are vetted by the membership committee for leaseholder status. There will be contact with a Board member to update the qualifications of "Member in Good Standing" and "Leaseholder" before property acquisition can proceed.
- D. They will be connected to the financial officer of Maranatha as to what the fees are and how they will be billed, given a copy of the leaseholder agreement, the board policy on building, trailer applicants will be given the policy related to mobile home living.
- E. Leaseholder applicant shall attest to current ability and commitment to provide appropriate financial payment of various fees associated with the purchase and lease of property desired.
- F. A membership committee representative will present leaseholder candidates to the board at the following board meeting that is received for information.

# Maranatha Bible and Missionary Conference

## Bylaws and Policies

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### 4110 – Membership Manuel

#### 4110.01 – Mission, Vision, Purpose, Core Values, Statement of Faith

##### Our Mission –

To provide spiritual renewal in a recreational setting emphasizing Bible teaching and worldwide missions.

##### Our Vision –

To provide encouragement toward a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Our programming, recreation, and year-round conference facilities aim to renew and equip our guests and resident community toward greater service for Him.”

##### Our Purpose –

Maranatha is a conservative, evangelical conference center and resident community where guests and residents Vacation with Purpose. We seek to provide programs that clearly present the Bible as God’s Word, offer people the opportunity to receive Christ, encourage spiritual growth and challenge them to live consistent, Godly lives of service wherever He places them.

##### Our Core Values - Bible Teaching

- Missions
- The Family
- Ministry to Guests, Members and Staff
- Wholesome Recreational Opportunities
- Resident Membership, Housing & Participation

- Guest Lodging & Program Ministry
- Music and Worship
- Organizational Integrity/Stewardship
- Community Mindedness

### Statement of Faith -

The corporation and its members affirm the following Statement of Faith:

- We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Deut. 6:4-5; I Tim. 2:5, I Cor. 8:6)
- We believe that God is the maker and sustainer of heaven and earth and all that is in it. (Gen 1:1; Gen 1:28; Col 1: 15-20; I Cor. 8:6)
- We believe that God gives and sustains life from conception until natural death. (Psalm 139)
- We believe the Bible to be the God breathed, true, authoritative Word of God. (II Tim. 3:16)
- We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of His Father and the promise of His personal and imminent return in power and glory. (Phil 2:6-11; I Cor. 15: 3-4)
- We believe that all have sinned and are therefore separated from God. (Rom. 3:23; I John 3:1)
- We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures and that all who believe in Him are reconciled by His death and resurrection. (Rom 3:23; Rom 10:9-10)
- We believe that every person must be treated with compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity. (I Cor 13; I John 1:6-7; I John 3:11)
- We believe God wonderfully created each person as distinctly male or female, in His image and to reflect His nature. (Gen 1:26-27)

- We believe that marriage has only one meaning as described in Scripture. Marriage is between one man and one woman in a single exclusive union. (Matt 5:31-32)
- We believe that sexual intimacy should only be between one man and one woman who are married to each other. Sexual immorality is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; I Cor. 6:9-10, 18)
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life in unity with believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. (I John 3:9; John 3:3-7)
- We believe in the physical resurrection of the dead for final judgment; the lost will be sent to everlasting conscious punishment and the redeemed will live forever with Christ in the joys of the renewed creation. (I Cor. 15:20-28)
- We believe that as a result of the grace provided to us in Christ, we become members of the Family of God, brothers and sisters in Him, and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ. As part of the Family of God, we are to invite the leading of the Spirit of truth and freedom in our hearts and lives, to do Christ's redeeming work in a broken world; thus, every believer a minister. We have direct access with the Father and are given the responsibility for loving and right relationships with others, as well as for the stewardship of His creation and resources. As His children, we serve God's purpose in and for the world, to His glory alone. (Romans 8:14-18, I Peter 2:9-11)

# Maranatha Bible and Missionary Conference

## Bylaws and Policies

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### 1120– Code of Conduct

Maranatha Bible and Missionary Conference is a conservative, evangelical conference center and resident community. Maranatha is a place where people Vacation with a Purpose. The Maranatha community consists of those who, in furtherance of our mission, are living together in intentional, voluntary fellowship, aware that we are called to live our lives before a watching world. The Maranatha Code of Conduct identifies the expectations for living in community as we seek to fulfill our mission. Galatians 5:13–14 reminds us that while we were called to be free, our freedom is best used when we serve one another in love. (Romans 14:1–23; 1 Corinthians 8:1–13, 10:23–33). Apostle Paul admonishes us to be careful as to how we are perceived by others. Everyone is at a different stage in their Christian walk and we as Christians are given certain liberties in what we believe is appropriate behavior. Members, staff and guests are required to conduct themselves in a manner that doesn't offend others, making every effort to do what leads to peace and mutual edification" (Romans 14:19).

The Maranatha community members, staff and guests voluntarily commit themselves to the following expectations of behavior. This commitment results from the conviction that these expectations serve the common good of the individual and Maranatha.

A. Illegal and Legal Substances:

1. Maranatha prohibits the possession, use, or distribution of illegal substances and the abuse or illegal use of legal substances, including prescription and over-the-counter medication.
  2. Tobacco: Maranatha is a smoke-free environment. The use of any type of tobacco, vaping or e-cigarette product is prohibited on Conference grounds and in Conference buildings.
  3. Alcoholic Beverages: The use of alcohol is prohibited on Conference grounds and in Conference buildings. Alcoholic beverages are not served at any Maranatha functions or programs on or off campus.
- B. Please observe community quiet time from 11:30 p.m. until 7:00 a.m.
  - C. Recreational facilities are closed during regular Conference services.  
Reservation times for tennis are available daily.
  - D. On Sunday, recreational facilities are open for a limited time on a first come first serve basis.
  - E. Fires are prohibited on the grounds, except with permission from Administrative Services.
  - F. Use of Motorcycles, mopeds, motorized scooters and all-terrain vehicles is prohibited on Conference grounds or beach, except on public roadways.
  - G. Conduct and dress should reflect the highest standards of Christian modesty, good taste and high moral standards.
  - H. Appropriate attire should be worn both to and from the pool/beach and while swimming. Because of the variety in swimsuit styles, Maranatha requests that everyone follow the Biblical principles of modesty. For women, only one-piece or two-piece bathing suits that cover the midriff are permitted. Men should wear traditional swim trunks. A Speedo style suit is not allowed.
  - I. Attend Conference sessions regularly when available.

- J. For the convenience and safety of all, the ONLY vehicles permitted beyond the Channel Road gate are condominium or Channel Road resident's vehicles, vehicles with legally approved handicapped permits and emergency vehicles for water safety personnel.
- K. Group counselors and sponsors are responsible for the enforcement of Conference standards with members of their group.
- L. Maranatha will not reserve living units to children, under age 18, unless accompanied by a responsible adult.
- M. All persons (guests, visitors or residents) must be registered at the Lodge office and hold appropriate identification in order to enjoy use of Conference facilities.
- N. Pets of permanent residents must always be leashed and are not permitted at the pool or main beach.
- O. Skateboards, scooters, roller blades & bicycles are permitted except as noted by signs.

# Maranatha Bible and Missionary Conference Bylaws and Policies

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## 4130 – Member in Good Standing Policy

### A. A “Member in Good Standing”:

1. Shall have a completed, dated, and approved membership application on file with Maranatha at all times. The Board shall review every file periodically to determine whether the Member remains a Member in Good Standing.
2. Shall sign, subscribe to, and accept at all times Maranatha’s Statement of Faith as adopted by the Board of Maranatha and shall reaffirm same upon the request for any Director.
3. Shall abide at all times by the Code of Conduct as the same may be revised from time to time by the Board.
4. Shall at all times evidence a substantial interest in the purposes and objectives for which Maranatha was incorporated, as set forth in Maranatha’s Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, by meaningfully participating in Maranatha’s mission through the donation of time and/or money.
5. Shall abide by and cause all children under said Member’s care to abide by all provisions contained in the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Code of Conduct, Operating Policies, and Member Handbook, as each of the foregoing may be revised from time to time.
6. Shall abide by and cause all children under said Member’s care to abide by all other policies, rules or decisions that may be adopted by the Board or the membership of Maranatha from time to time.
7. Shall timely pay all fees, bills, dues, rent and other charges that said Member may owe to Maranatha under any separate contract entered into between Maranatha and said Member.

- B. Only a Member in Good Standing shall be entitled to enter into a mobile home lot lease, cottage ground lease, or a condominium ground lease, or own a mobile home, residential cottage, or condominium unit at Maranatha.
- C. If there is more than one (1) owner of any condominium unit, residential cottage, or mobile home, all owners must be Members in Good Standing.



**Maranatha Bible & Missionary Conference  
Application for Membership**

**PLEASE PRINT IN INK**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Email \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Email \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Age \_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Age \_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Address of home church \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_ church phone \_\_\_\_\_

Senior Pastor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Associate Pastor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member? Yes / No Is your spouse a member? Yes / No How many years member? \_\_\_\_\_

Attending? \_\_\_\_\_

What offices/positions have you held, and in what activities have you been involved within your church or community?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide names and addresses of two non-related (to you or to each other) sponsors who are current Maranatha members in good standing who are not relatives to either applicant or spouse. **Please Note: It is your responsibility to provide your sponsors with the enclosed forms and request that they complete them on your behalf.**

*Sponsor One*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Years known? \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

*Sponsor Two*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Years known? \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Why are you applying for Maranatha membership?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH** *(Please use a separate piece of paper if necessary)*

Please give a brief biographical sketch - (family life, church involvement, missions involvement, skills, talents, abilities and hobbies that you desire to offer as a Maranatha member.)

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**Please attach a recent family photograph if available.**

**Please list the names of dependent children:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY/STATEMENT OF FAITH** *(Please use a separate piece of paper if necessary)*

Please describe your personal Christian experience and background. Include information about your conversion, church relationship, current opportunities for growth, and present relationship with Jesus Christ. Please submit a separate response for each applicant.

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What do you understand is Maranatha's principal ministry and how membership plays a part in accomplishing this ministry?

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In what ways do you plan on participating in the ministry of Maranatha?

Prayer: Yes / No

Attendance: Yes / No

Financial Contributions: Yes / No

Volunteerism: Yes / No

What level of involvement and participation do you anticipate will be your experience while a Maranatha member?



Attendance/Frequency:

Vacation (1 - 2 weeks per year) \_\_\_\_\_

Occasional (1 time per week) \_\_\_\_\_

Regular (2 -3 times per week) \_\_\_\_\_

Frequent (4 or more times per week) \_\_\_\_\_

*(please check one which you expect to represent your involvement level)*

How long have you been attending Maranatha? \_\_\_\_\_ What has been your level of involvement in the past? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you in full agreement with the following Maranatha documents/statements and are you willing to live within them as a member?

Maranatha Mission Statement: Yes / No

Maranatha Vision Statement: Yes / No

Maranatha Core Values Statement: Yes / No

Statement of Faith: Yes / No

Standards of Conduct: Yes / No

Maranatha Member in Good Standing Statement: Yes / No

Please explain if "No" on any above:

All members are eligible for leaseholder opportunities. Are you interested in becoming a leaseholder?  
Yes / No

What type of accommodations interest you? Mobile Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cottage \_\_\_\_\_ Condominium \_\_\_\_\_

Resident Members are an important part of the Maranatha ministry. They support the ministry with their time, talent and financial resources over and above fees approved by the Board of Directors.

Is this your commitment? Yes / No

All members are required to pay a membership fee. This fee is determined by the Board and is subject to change. The membership fee entitles you to one (1) vote at the Annual Membership meeting each July and must be received by June 1, prior to that meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature & Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse (if applicable) Signature & Date



**Maranatha Bible and Missionary Conference**

**Applicant Sponsor Form**

(Must be completed by a person **other** than a family member)

**TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT - Please print in ink**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Bus Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize the release of the information requested:

Applicant's Signature/Date \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Signature/Date \_\_\_\_\_

**TO BE COMPLETED BY SPONSOR - Please print in ink**

The above-named person(s) has made application for membership at Maranatha Bible and Missionary Conference. As a sponsor reference, please complete the form below to the best of your ability. It is important for us to have your prayerful consideration and personal insights into the character of the applicant. If you are unable or not qualified to answer any specific question, please make a N/A response and continue. **To ensure confidentiality, please return the completed recommendation directly to the Member Relations.**

Sponsor Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Home Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

In what relationship? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you spoken with the applicant(s) about the Mission, Vision, Core Values, Purposes and/or Standards of Conduct and is it your understanding that applicant(s) is in agreement with all of the above? Yes / No

Please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What level of involvement in Maranatha ministry have you observed by the applicant(s)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What characteristics qualify the applicant for Maranatha membership?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Understanding that all Maranatha members are eligible for leaseholder status do you believe the applicant(s) would be an active, contributing part of the ministry? Yes / No Please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any questions or reservations regarding the applicant(s) desire for Maranatha membership? Yes / No

Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Signature & Date



**Maranatha Bible and Missionary Conference**

**Applicant Sponsor Form**

(Must be completed by a person **other** than a family member)

**TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT - Please print in ink**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Bus Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize the release of the information requested:

Applicant's Signature/Date \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Signature/Date \_\_\_\_\_

**TO BE COMPLETED BY SPONSOR - Please print in ink**

The above-named person(s) has made application for membership at Maranatha Bible and Missionary Conference. As a sponsor reference, please complete the form below to the best of your ability. It is important for us to have your prayerful consideration and personal insights into the character of the applicant. If you are unable or not qualified to answer any specific question, please make a N/A response and continue. **To ensure confidentiality, please return the completed recommendation directly to the Member Relations.**

Sponsor Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Home Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

In what relationship? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you spoken with the applicant(s) about the Mission, Vision, Core Values, Purposes and/or Standards of Conduct and is it your understanding that applicant(s) is in agreement with all of the above? Yes / No

Please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What level of involvement in Maranatha ministry have you observed by the applicant(s)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What characteristics qualify the applicant for Maranatha membership?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Understanding that all Maranatha members are eligible for leaseholder status do you believe the applicant(s) would be an active, contributing part of the ministry? Yes / No Please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any questions or reservations regarding the applicant(s) desire for Maranatha membership? Yes / No

Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Signature & Date