To honor God by making disciples who live in obedience to Christ Jesus through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

In 2016, Olivet Baptist Church of Lansing celebrated its 100th anniversary by creating a new mission statement. It would be based on the following principles.

As the people of God, together we would focus everything we do on three essential truths Jesus taught:

1. Love God and keep His commandments.  
   Matthew 22:37-38
2. Love your neighbor as yourself.  
   Matthew 22:39
3. Go and make disciples.  
   Matthew 28:18-20
WHAT WE’RE ABOUT

To accomplish this mission, we determined:

To turn the focus of our ministry outward to our community and the world.

To find a ministry for everyone.

To equip the people of our church to fulfill the ministry God has for them to do.

We do this by recruiting coordinators and task groups to handle each ministry project, and encouraging the younger generations (under 55) to become the leaders of Olivet.
We believe:

1. The Bible is God’s authoritative and inspired Word, without error, and the only rule of faith and practice.
2. There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. God created the earth and all the people in it. God is still in charge of His creation; every person is special and loved by God.
4. Mankind fell into sin in the garden of Eden, and can never earn forgiveness through good works.
5. All have sinned; the wages of sin is death, which will consist of eternal separation from God. But those who believe in Jesus will be given eternal comfort in God’s presence (Rom. 3:23, 6:23; Rev. 20:15, 21:4).
6. In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His death and bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
7. Jesus died on the cross in our place to achieve our forgiveness, and He rose again to provide eternal life for all who will believe in Him. Jesus Christ is the Son of God sent to the earth to provide the only way for people to come to God. (John 14:16)
8. Those who put their trust in Jesus Christ have new life that will last forever.
9. In baptism by immersion, as commanded by Christ, representing the identification of the Christian with the death, burial, & resurrection of Christ.
10. The Holy Spirit fills the believer with power to live like Christ and gives the body of Christ all the spiritual gifts in the New Testament.
11. We are to function as His ambassadors sharing the good news of Jesus and serving real needs until He returns.
HOW WE SEEK
TO GROW DEEPER WITH GOD

We believe congregational worship is our opportunity to fall down before the Lord and focus our love and response to Him. We are not in the building to be entertained. We as God’s church come together to worship the Divine. We hear the word of God preached truthfully and without reservation. We see and experience the Holy Spirit moving among us, testifying to His work.

• Praise through singing of primarily contemporary music with a Worship Team, utilizing guitars, drums, keyboard and vocalists
• PowerPoints and lyric sheets
• Videos
• Bible-focused teaching
• Holy Spirit-infused leading
• Banners
• Seasonal programs
• Growth group meetings in homes
• Time spent weekly dedicated to the reading of God’s word out loud
• Prayer meetings
• Children’s messages
• Dramas and skits
• Puppets
• Scripture readings
• Testimonies and healings
• Holy Spirit Renewal Ministry events

The Desire

We seek to drive out any spirit of complacency from our church and find a leader who will help us hear and follow the Holy Spirit’s leading together as one body.
Jesus commanded us to love others and we obey that directive in a number of different ways. Some areas of ministry are monthly, such as donations of household supplies and personal needs for a local charity, while others are held in relationship to seasonal activities. Shown below are a few of the ways that Olivet reaches out with the love of Christ in our local community through our hands and activities.

Easter Egg-Stravaganza – egg hunt, games, crafts, puppet show with gospel message

Mother’s Day lunch and pampering for Lansing Women’s Rescue Mission residents

Worship services at Lansing Rescue Mission

Community Fun Fest

Monthly food distribution through the Lansing Food Bank - 87,041 lbs. of food in 2017

Neighborhood Trunk or Treat and Bonfire

Thanks and Giving Food Drive Lunch with food donations to Holt Food Bank

Habitat for Humanity Rehab Project

Serve the evening meal at Women’s Rescue Mission the first Sunday of the month

Hannah’s House 5K (hannahshouselansing.org)

The Desire

We seek to let the works of our hands glorify God and our activities bear testimony to His love. We need a Spirit-led leader who will help us plan what we do.
HOW WE SHARE

THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

Our greatest mandate is to take Jesus Christ to the lost and share His love and salvation with others. While supporting mission work locally and internationally is important, each member holds responsibility for reaching out to the individuals in their own personal environment. We desire to grow in how we share, not only in how we use our finances but in what we say and do. Our desire is to let our hands and feet become the hands and feet of Jesus.

Ingham County Jail - Bibles, books, long underwear

Praying for the homeless through the Cardboard Prophets ministry

Church in the Park worship services and picnics

Missionary work in Mexico


Donations for personal needs are collected quarterly.

The Desire

We long to be bold but need a leader to teach us, guide us, and encourage us in our walk and our witness as followers of Jesus Christ.
Christian Services, www.christianserviceslansing.com, a Lansing-based mission that advocates with churches for the poor, has worked with Olivet for a number of years. “They are a giving church,” Christian Services says, “with a heart for helping people in need both within and outside of their church members. Over many years, they have been active in a variety of ways and we consider them a network partner church. Recent activity has included volunteer teams to help distribute back-to-school clothing at Judson Memorial Baptist Church Love Clothing Center, collecting items for other church resource banks, helping meet other needs identified by Christian Services, utilizing Christian Services to assess requests made by call-ins/walk-ins to the church, and supporting the Christian Services Help Center. In addition, they work with the food bank to host monthly food distributions for those living on the South side of Lansing.”

The Chaplain of the Ingham County Jail: “We have seen first-hand how they’ve helped the jail ministry by volunteering, and providing clothing and Bibles. They also support the jail ministry financially as well as attending our annual fundraising banquet.”

Holt Food Bank: Daily, the members of this church pick up and deliver fresh produce, bread, desserts, meats, fish and poultry for distribution at the Holt Community food bank, serving approximately 100-120 families each month. Donations from Olivet’s Thanks and Giving Food Drive Lunch go to the Holt Food Bank.

Olivet has hosted the Karen Baptist Church of Lansing since the church began meeting. Their leaders were thankful for Olivet’s openness and acceptance of others, and the helpfulness shown by Olivet members to their congregation. “They let us share the gospel,” one leader wrote to Olivet.

“It has the potential for other ministry because of its openness to others,” the Karen leaders said.

The leaders also value Olivet’s involvement with Endeavor House, a transitional housing program for men recovering from drug and alcohol abuse. The Karen children have also enjoyed being a part of Olivet’s youth activities including the puppet programs.

(L) Leaders of Olivet were honored with traditional Karen attire during a special recognition service held by members of the Karen Baptist Church of Lansing.
FUTURE GOALS

Reinstate Sunday School for adults and kids
Partner with other churches for ministry opportunities such as VBS, etc.
Share answered prayer
Focus on why people need Jesus
Teach people that it's the responsibility of every follower of Christ to share the good news of Christ
Rely on the Word preached
Train our people to do Kingdom work
Increase mentoring and discipleship
Increase the growth group ministry
Serve based on personal talent and skills
Increase in spiritual growth as evidenced by testimony

The Prayer

God, We meet together in love. We bring our gifts and donations. We reach out to the community.

But we want more for Your Kingdom.

We are not who we can be yet.

We’re ready for the next step in our journey. We’re praying for Your guidance. We’re praying for Your Spirit.

We’re praying for our shepherd.
OUR THOUGHTS

What's Exciting Now
Puppet ministry
Activities
Growth groups
Serving opportunities
Focus on evangelism
Search for a new senior pastor

Making New Disciples
“We need to encourage and mentor new Christians”
“More classes and neighborhood outreach activities”
“Learn to speak to non-Christians”
“Develop a culture of evangelism”
“We need to go and make disciples because they aren’t coming to us anymore.”

Olivet
“We love our church.”
“We need more, younger members.”
“Jesus is always present.”
“We need new ideas and energy to call us to greater levels of faithfulness to the Great Commission.”
“I love this church family.”

Our Concerns
“Getting younger people involved”
“People not willing to serve”
“Adjustment/change”
“Age of congregation”
“Budgetary issues”
Olivet Baptist Church began in 1916 as the East Baptist Church. The First Baptist Church of Lansing took over a building on South Hayford Street in Lansing, MI from the Christian Union Mission and started a Sunday School outreach lead by Mr. Beck, the Assistant Pastor.

In 1920, the church’s name was changed to Olivet Baptist Church and under Rev. Donald Gray, plans were drafted in 1925 for a new building with a social hall/gymnasium and kitchen. The building was dedicated in June 10, 1928, with the financial backing of the Michigan Baptist Convention.

Over the next three decades, several pastors served the church. Olivet helped found Bethel Baptist and University Baptist Church. During the post-WWII days, Olivet was home to many Michigan State University (MSU) students and served as a sponsor for Boy Scout troops.

In 1954, Rev. William Hartman began a 28-year ministry that saw an influx of younger people from the Jesus People movement. The congregation welcomed the younger believers and the church saw healings and words of prophecy.

One young attendee, who had joined Olivet in 1972, was Ed Owens. An MSU graduate, Ed felt the calling to become a pastor and Rev. Hartman encouraged the church to support him with a scholarship to continue his studies.

After graduation from seminary, Ed and his wife Sherry moved to Virginia to pastor a church. Rev. Hartman, who had retired in 1982, had other ideas, and asked Ed to come back to Olivet.

After praying for guidance and seeing a bumper sticker that said “Say yes to Michigan,” Ed and Sherry did.

On Labor Day, 1983, Pastor Owens preached his first sermon. In 1988, the church building was sold due to the high cost of utilities and maintenance. Services were held at the nearby Seventh Day Adventist church for several years.

After looking at several properties a long standing member of Olivet affirmed that God desired Olivet to be built on the Willoughby Road acreage. The building was completed in time for the Christmas service in 1991.

In 2000, Olivet expanded the building to increase space for classrooms and activities. A part-time Associate Pastor position focusing on worship was added in 2000, then eliminated in 2018. An expanded sanctuary was completed in 2006. Olivet began hosting the Karen Baptist Church of Lansing in 2006 and continues this relationship today.


After graduation from seminary, Ed and his wife Sherry moved to Virginia to pastor a church. Rev. Hartman, who had retired in 1982, had other ideas, and asked Ed to come back to Olivet.
Facts and Figures

The current total budget of Olivet is $169,100 (2017).
The current average annual income of church participants is $52,000 (estimate).
The current expenses of Olivet is $164,500 (2017).
The annual mission giving is $13,700.
The current endowment is $0.
DEMOGRAPHICS

Household Income Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual household income ($)</th>
<th>Number of households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 24,999</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 - 44,999</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45,000 - 59,999</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60,000 - 74,999</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75,000 - 89,999</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90,000 &amp; above</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Employment Status

- Employed full-time: 32%
- Employed part-time: 9%
- Homemaker full-time: 5%
- Retired: 44%
- Student: 3%
- Unemployed: 7%
Olivet holds a Lansing street address but is located on the border between South Lansing and Delhi Charter Township (Holt). The church’s Willoughby Road location is the dividing line between Holt and South Lansing. Holt is not a city or a village, it’s actually a zip code area (48842) and school district located in Delhi Charter Township.

The Holt community is rising in popularity due to location, reasonable housing rates and an attractive school system. A new plan for revitalizing the downtown area is underway and successful strides have been made in recent years to improve community assets such as the walking trails (see green box at right), festivals, live music, outdoor movie nights, and cultural events.

With the increase of people moving into the area and growing house construction, residents of Holt cheer on the Rams at the high school, (shown below) which was completed in 2003. Holt High School has been listed as one of the top 100 high schools in the U.S., receiving the Presidential Blue Ribbon award from the U.S. Dept. of Education. (Source: https://www2.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/index.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Holt</th>
<th>Lansing</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median home sale price (2015)</td>
<td>$148,096</td>
<td>$88,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median household income (2015)</td>
<td>$61,650</td>
<td>$37,426</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.city-data.com

A great source of information for all things in and around the area of Delhi Charter Township is http://www.delhitownship.com/AboutDelhi.htm.

Although Delhi Charter Township is home for many Olivet members, the rich diversity of the area means people are used to navigating around the area and willing to travel to find a church home that suits them. Over 50% of Olivet’s membership lives within 5-10 miles of the building.

**DELHI TOWNSHIP FUN FACTS**

Delhi Township has four connecting paved trails for walking, biking, rollerblading or cross country skiing. They’re lighted and dog friendly. Check them out at delhitrails.com.

Delhi Township has sheep! Rather than pay to mow the grass at the wastewater plant, sheep are used. In the spring, the sheep are sheared and the wool is made into socks and skeins that are sold to raise money for the township.

Delhi Township has seven parks including one with a beachfront swimming area.
Holt’s easy access to both downtown Lansing and East Lansing affords its residents a wide range of options for events and activities. From outdoor music festivals in the summer to Michigan State University football games in the fall, there’s something of interest for all ages. Shown below are just a few of the venues available in the Lansing area.

- Impression 5 Science Center
- Potter Park Zoo
- R.E. Olds Transportation Museum
- Turner-Dodge House
- The Country Mill
- Riverwalk Theatre
- Great Lakes Folk Festival
- MSU Spartan Stadium (football)
- Wharton Center for the Performing Arts
- All-of-Us Express Children’s Theatre
- Michigan Women’s Museum & Hall of Fame
- Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum
- MSU Bug House
- Bath School Disaster Museum
- State Capitol Building
- Oldtown
- Michigan Princess Riverboat
- W.J. Beal Botanical Garden
- Munn Ice Arena (hockey)
- Abrams Planetarium
- MSU Farms
- MSU Dairy Store
- Demmer Shooting Sports Education & Training Center
- Jenison Field House
- Starlight Dinner Theater
- Cooley Law School Stadium (Lansing Lugnuts)
PASTORAL SEARCH

Shown below are the areas of expertise we are searching for in our next pastor, in order of importance:

Interpreting the Faith
Evangelism
Leadership
Leadership Development
Education
Preaching
Church Growth
Nurturing Fellowship

“Be completely dedicated to Olivet, love the congregation, and lead us to follow the Great Commission, and to love God more.”

Our next pastor should, in the words of our members:

“Cast a vision that the congregation gets excited about, embraces and is willing to wholeheartedly participate in. Be devoted to prayer and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in everything they do or asks the congregation to do.”

“Demonstrate care and build rapport with every demographic before making large-scale changes, encourages lay leadership to take full ownership of the mission.”

“Be completely dedicated to Olivet, love the congregation, and lead us to follow the Great Commission, and to love God more.”

“The new pastor needs to teach from the Word. They will need to bring a strong vision and commitment to that vision. They will need to have the ability to transfer that vision and commitment to the congregation.”
WHAT WE OFFER

There is a Spirit-filled, passionate, energetic leader who preaches the Bible and has a vision for Olivet waiting in the wings. We can’t wait to meet our new pastor and continue working for the Kingdom of God together.

The Role of the Pastor

Olivet’s Pastor gives spiritual oversight to the Olivet Baptist congregation. This takes place in the leadership of worship, preaching, teaching, prayer, administration, counsel and other ministry to individuals in the congregation. Along with the Pastor’s Council, the Pastor is responsible to discover and keep the church focused on the Lord’s mission for Olivet.

Annual Salary and Benefits

The Senior Pastor will be paid $40-$50K which includes a salary, housing allowance and Social Security offset. Other benefits such as vacation, medical insurance, mileage reimbursement, retirement plan and professional enrichment leave time are described in the complete job description. For more information, please contact a member of Olivet’s search committee. Contact information for Olivet is on the back of this profile brochure.
WHO TO CONTACT

CHURCH NAME:

Olivet Baptist Church
5455 West Willoughby Road
Lansing, MI 48911
517.887.0988
www.obclansing.org

PASTORAL SEARCH
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Gary Cunningham
2904 Majestic Circle
Lansing, MI 48912
517.484.1149 Home
517.599.5255 Cell
Email: garygodskid@aol.com

REGIONAL CONTACT

Reverend Dr. Michael A. Williams
Executive Minister
American Baptist Churches of Michigan
4578 South Hagadorn Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
517.332.3594
Email: mawilliams@abc-mi.org
Fax: 517.332-3186

PASTORAL SEARCH
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mary Calkins
Scott Cook
Gary Cunningham
Gilbert Manuell
Rebekah Rieske
Will Rieske

(L-R) Gilbert Manuell, Scott Cook, Mary Calkins, Will Rieske, Rebekah Rieske, Gary Cunningham
As the service closes, two members of the Prayer Team lay their hands on a young woman struggling with depression. She weeps gently as they softly pray over her, nodding in tune with the Spirit’s prompting. They close in a group hug, wrapping the young woman in love and mercy.

On one side of the platform, the Worship Team members are stowing wireless microphones as latches on guitar cases firmly snap into place.

Young siblings burst into the sanctuary anxious to show off what they made in Kingdom Kids. They dodge the Michigan State University armchair quarterbacks and are brought to an abrupt halt by the sight of Talking Hands Puppeteers tearing down the puppet stage. Thirty minutes ago, there were animal puppets telling the Children’s Message and now there are teenagers folding stage curtains. The children venture closer and are rewarded by an invitation to try on one of the puppets and help put away the equipment.

In the foyer, laughter, hugs and handshakes are shared as people prepare to leave. The Ministry Manager makes notes, confers with volunteers and reminds people of the sign-up sheets for upcoming events, ministry opportunities and growth groups.

At the front door, there’s a back-up as willing hands haul household donations for Christian Services to a member’s car trunk for delivery. Plans are made to see each other at growth groups and meetings throughout the week. With cries of “thank you” and “your ride’s here” and “see you later,” the foyer begins to empty.

Children, Bibles and tote bags are collected. A final clatter comes from the kitchen as coffeepots are washed out (and finished off) and communion trays are scrubbed.

A final hug, one last hand shake.

The Church leaves the building.

This is Olivet Baptist.
Olivet Baptist Church
5455 West Willoughby Road
Lansing, Michigan 48911

517.887.0988
www.obclansing.org