



**Berean Baptist Church  
of Rohnert Park, California**

**Church Constitution and Bylaws**

January 16, 2002

6298 Country Club Dr.  
Rohnert Park, California 94928

# Berean Baptist Church of Rohnert Park, California

## Church Constitution and Bylaws

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# **Berean Baptist Church of Rohnert Park, California**

## **Church Constitution and Bylaws**

### **ARTICLE I NAME AND PURPOSE**

#### SECTION 1 – NAME

The name of this organization shall be Berean Baptist Church of Rohnert Park, California.

#### Section 2 – PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The principal office for the transaction of the ministry, affairs, and activities of the Corporation is 6298 Country Club Drive, Rohnert Park, Sonoma County, California. The board of directors (board) may change the principal office from one location to another. The secretary on these bylaws opposite this Section shall note any change of location of the principal office, or this Section may be amended to state the new location.

#### Section 3 – PURPOSE

- (A) This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building, maintaining and operating of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, day care centers, camps, nursing homes, and cemeteries, and any other ministries that the Church may be led of God to establish. This church may not surrender its sovereignty to any outside organization nor fellowship with groups, which do not adhere essentially to our Statement of Faith.
- (B) Within the context of the purpose stated above, this Church shall also ordain and license men to the Gospel ministry; evangelize the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; educate believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; maintain missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country; and engage in any other ministry that the Church may decide, from time to time, to pursue in obedience to the will of God.
- (C) No substantial part of the activities of the Church shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The Church shall not partici-

pate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

## **ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP**

### Section 1 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Upon a majority vote of the members present at any Church service or meeting, membership shall be extended to all who have had and whose lives evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour; and upon compliance with any one of the following conditions:

- (A) By baptism (immersion) as a true believer in Christ Jesus as personal Saviour;
- (B) By letter of transfer from another Baptist Church of like faith and order or other written statement of good standing from the prior church if the applicant has been baptized by immersion subsequent to a profession of faith.
- (C) By testimony of faith, having been baptized by immersion in a Baptist Church of like faith and order.
- (D) By restoration, if having been removed from membership, upon majority vote of the congregation after confession is made publicly before the Church membership of the sin or sins involved, and satisfactorily evidencing repentance to the Discipline Committee (see Section 6).

### Section 2 –NONDISCRIMINATION

The Church shall have a racially nondiscriminatory policy and therefore shall not discriminate against members, applicants, students, and others on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin. We are exempt from Title VII provisions against religious discrimination.

### Section 3 – DUTIES OF A MEMBER

- (A) On becoming a member of this Church, in addition to the Church Covenant and Statement of Faith, each one further covenants to love, honor, and esteem the Pastor; to pray for him; and to recognize his authority in spiritual affairs of the Church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the Church; to support the Church in prayer, tithes, offerings, and with other financial support as the Lord enables; and in accordance with Biblical commands to support through a lifestyle walk, affirmation of the beliefs and practices of the Church.

- (B) Members agree that they are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other members or the Church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the Church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. However, we agree to permit a member to seek compensation for injuries from another member's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander.

#### Section 4 – PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

This congregation functions not as a pure democracy, but as a body under the Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the Pastor as the undershepherd with the counsel of the Board of Deacons. Membership in this Church does not afford those individuals with any property, contract, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Determinations of the internal affairs of this Church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be resolved exclusively by the Church's own rules and procedures. The membership of the Church has certain limited areas of exercising a vote. The vote of a member is to confirm and ratify the direction of the Church as determined by the Pastor and Board of Deacons.

#### Section 5 – DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER

- (A) There shall be a Discipline Committee consisting of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons. These men shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statement of Faith and violations of the Church Covenant. If the Pastor or a deacon is the subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a member of the Discipline Committee. He shall be entitled to the same steps as other Church members and be subject to the same discipline.
- (B) Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.
- (C) If reconciliation is not reached, either the Pastor or a deacon designated by the Pastor is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination, and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.
- (D) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, the Discipline Committee, as the Church representatives biblically responsible for putting down murmuring, shall hear the matter.
- (E) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B), (C), and (D) have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be

removed from the membership of the Church upon a majority vote of the membership present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering disciplinary action.

- (F) Neither the Discipline Committee nor the Church may hear any matter unless the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, except in the case of a public offense.
- (G) If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the Church membership, all contact with him from that point forward must be for the sake of restoration (except family members).

#### Section 6 – RESTORATION OF MEMBERS REMOVED FOR DISCIPLINARY OFFENSES

A member that has been removed for disciplinary reasons may be restored to membership in the Church under the following conditions:

- (A) Restoration of membership shall be determined by a majority vote of the membership.
- (B) The removed member must make an appearance before the Discipline Committee for the purpose of determination and examination of the offending party's statement of repentance and desire for reinstatement.
- (C) If the Discipline Committee is satisfied that the removed member is repentant and has forsaken the sin, it may refer the matter to the Church for a vote of reinstatement. The extent of the disclosure of the offense and the procedure for a statement of repentance to the Church shall be at the discretion of the Discipline Committee.
- (D) The Pastor and Board of Deacons reserve the right to restrict the participation of the restored member in certain Church discretionary offices and activities for a period of time. The length of time of the restriction shall be determined by the Pastor and Board of Deacons and shall reflect the severity of the offense.

#### Section 7 – TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Members, not under the disciplining process of Sections 5 and 6, may request that letters of transfer be sent to another Baptist Church of like faith and order.

#### Section 8 – TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- (A) Any member that willfully absences himself from the services of the Church for a period of six (6) months shall be disciplined and removed from membership. Such removal shall not occur unless a good faith effort to contact the member has been exercised at least one (1) month prior to the scheduled dismissal. After the six (6) month period has expired, the member shall be brought before the next regularly scheduled business meeting for a vote of dismissal. A majority vote of those present is required for this action. Upon good cause being shown, this provision for termina-

tion may be waived at the discretion of the Pastor and Board of Deacons in the case of any individual member.

- (B) No member of this Church may hold membership in another church. If any member unites in membership with another church, that person is automatically terminated without notice from membership in this Church. If the member unites with any church not of like faith and order, a formal action of dismissal will be taken.

### **ARTICLE III OFFICERS**

#### Section 1 – SCRIPTURALLY MANDATED OFFICERS

##### (A) PASTOR

###### 1. Duties and Qualifications

- (a) The Pastor is an undershepherd or spiritual overseer. The Scriptures also refer to this office as Elder or Bishop (1 Timothy 3:1-5; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 1 Timothy 5:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:7-17). These are examples of such and also show clearly that the Pastor is to oversee and supervise the affairs of the Church. He shall not only have the general supervision of the Church, but shall have unrestricted liberty in presenting any matter he deems necessary to the Church for its consideration and instruction.
- (b) The Pastor shall be the moderator of the Church and preside at all of its meetings. He is an ex-officio member of all the committees and organizations, in charge of the pulpit, and responsible for supplying speakers. In legal matters he shall act as president of the corporation.
- (c) 1 Timothy 3:1-6 and Titus 1:7-9 give the qualifications of a Pastor. The life of the Pastor and his household shall be an example of godliness and spirituality. They should not indulge in worldly and sinful practices, which would tend to weaken the testimony of the Church (1 Thessalonians 5:22). No one who uses intoxicating liquors, drugs, or tobacco in any form, or who brings disrepute upon his ministry through sinful language, practice, or associations shall be considered for Pastor.
- (d) Because of this office, the Pastor shall be counted worthy of double honor (1 Timothy 5:17). No accusations shall be accepted against him without two or three witnesses (1 Timothy 5:19).
- (e) No divorced person shall be Pastor of this Church (1 Timothy 3:1-2, Titus 1:5-6). No person shall be considered for the office nor serve as Pastor of this

Church whose beliefs and teachings are not in accordance with the Statement of Faith, or who will not declare himself to be a non-Charismatic, Soul Winning, Pre-Millennial, Independent Baptist. This subsection states the minimum doctrinal requirements for the Pastor and shall not be amended by any action taken under Article VII.

- (f) No person shall be considered for the office nor serve as Pastor who maintains any connection with the National Council of Churches or any of its agencies, conventions, or other ecclesiastical body or bodies.
- (g) No woman shall be considered for, nor serve as Pastor of this Church (1 Timothy 2:12, 3:2).
- (h) The term of the Pastor shall be for an undesignated period of time; he shall not be subject to dismissal by the Church at any time, except for violation of the Statement of Faith or Church bylaws. Should the Pastor become the subject of a disciplinary action for a violation, a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members present and voting shall be required to decide the matter. No action may be taken against the Pastor until proper notice of a Church business meeting to decide the matter has been given to the membership of the Church. Such notice of meeting shall be given from the pulpit at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. Disciplinary removal of the Pastor from office automatically terminates his membership. Restoration to membership after disciplinary removal will be subject to the requirements of Article II, Section 6.

## 2. Pastor (Call of)

Whenever it is necessary, by death or resignation of the Pastor, the Church shall, without necessary delay, proceed to secure a new Pastor in the following manner:

- (a) The deacons will serve as the pulpit committee. If the Church does not have qualified deacons when the Pastorate is vacant, a pulpit committee shall be elected from the membership.
- (b) The pulpit committee shall meet and elect one of its members to contact and invite to the pulpit a minister who meets the requirements of the Constitution and Bylaws. He shall be in agreement with the Statement of Faith. No person shall be invited to the pulpit of the Church without consent of the pulpit committee.
- (c) It shall be announced in at least three regular public services prior to the taking of a ballot that the visiting minister is a candidate for the office of Pastor of the Church, and the voting time announced.
- (d) The vote must be by written and secret ballot.

(e) A three-fourths majority of members present and voting shall be necessary for the calling of a Pastor.

(B) DEACONS

1. The general duties of a deacon, aside from appointed tasks, shall be to assist the Pastor in building up the Church numerically, financially, and spiritually; to visit the sick, sorrowing, and needy; to prepare for the observance of the Lord's Table; to strive personally to win the lost to Christ; to guard and protect the reputation of the Church and Pastor against gossip, to investigate delinquents, and to endeavor to remedy any spiritual weakness in the lives of its members; to cooperate with the Pastor in the care, operation, and repair of the physical properties of the Church; and in caring for the administrative needs of the Church's various ministries as requested by the Pastor. Duties toward the Pastor shall be to pray for him earnestly and continually; to see that his material and physical needs are taken care of; and to strive in every way to help him in performance of Scriptural duties (Acts 6:2-7).
2. 1 Timothy 3:8-13 gives the qualifications of a deacon and his wife. The deacon and his household should not indulge in worldly and sinful practices, which would tend to weaken the testimony of this Church (1 Thessalonians 5:22). No one who uses intoxicating liquors, drugs, tobacco, or who brings disrepute upon the Church through undermining, violent uncontrolled temper, sinful language, practice, or associations shall be considered for deacon or, having fallen into such practices and persisting in the same, be retained. Habitual disobedience to the Word of God shall disqualify the deacon and his office shall be declared vacant.
3. No divorced person shall be considered for the office of deacon.
4. A deacon is to be faithful in all things (1 Timothy 3:11), especially the regular and special services of the Church. Therefore, unless because of illness or otherwise providentially hindered, a deacon is expected to attend all Church and deacon's meetings. Habitual absence from these meetings shall disqualify the deacon and his office shall be declared vacant.
5. Each deacon shall be elected for a term of three (3) years. He may be elected as many times as the Church and Pastor so desire. The number of deacons shall be no less than three (3) and no more than fifteen (15), determined as follows: Three (3) deacons for the first fifty (50) or less members, and one (1) deacon for any part of each additional forty (40) members thereafter (e.g. first 50 members = 3 deacons, 51-90 = 1 additional deacon, 91 members = 1 additional deacon, etc.). No more than two (2) deacons may be elected or reelected in any one year. Any person elected to fill a vacancy shall serve only the remainder of the vacated term. He shall be eligible for election to a full term thereafter.

6. Each deacon must be ordained by the Church or have been previously ordained by a Baptist Church of like faith and order. Ordination shall be a dedicatory ceremony and shall confirm the candidate's support of the Church's Statement of Faith. A council of ordained members of the Church shall conduct the ordination. This council shall make recommendation to the Church as to the qualifications of the candidate. Final approval or rejection of the ordination of a candidate shall be at the discretion of a majority vote of the Church membership.
7. The total number of deacons shall constitute a Board of Deacons and a Board of Directors of the Corporation, which duties shall include but not be limited to that of a Finance Committee and Discipline Committee. As a Finance Committee, the deacons shall be responsible for the formulation and oversight of the Church budget and all budgets of auxiliary organizations. As a Discipline Committee the deacons shall operate in accordance with the duties outlined in Article II, Section 5. The Board of Deacons shall also be responsible for interviewing and recommending new candidates for membership.
8. Immediately following the annual Church administration meeting, the Board of Deacons shall assemble and elect, from their own number, a chairman, who shall serve as vice president of the corporation. In the absence of the Pastor, the vice president shall serve as moderator of all meetings. The Board of Deacons shall also elect, from their own number, a secretary who shall serve as secretary of the corporation.

## Section 2 – DISCRETIONARY OFFICERS AND WORKERS

In order to promote a high spiritual standard for this Church, all officers, teachers, staff members, and committeemen will be expected to attend all regular services of the Church, except they be sick or providentially hindered, and an office shall be declared vacant after evident delinquency. All officers and workers must be born again, baptized members of the church for at least 30 days. Each officer and worker must be exemplary in his deportment while on duty and on his own time and must be in agreement with the general practices and doctrinal positions of the Church. In addition, personal appearance is critical to the proper discharge of duties. Each officer and worker is expected to dress neatly and modestly. No body piercing will be acceptable for male officers or workers. Females must be discreet in the use of piercing and have no piercing other than that of the ears. No officer or worker may receive a tattoo while occupying an appointed or elected position in the church.

### (A) TRUSTEES

All of the currently serving deacons shall be trustees for the length of time they serve in the capacity of a deacon. Duties shall be to sign legal papers for the Church and to aid the Pastor. The Pastor will serve as a director and president of the corporation. In conjunction with Pastoral approval, the Board of Trustees shall exercise only the following specific powers:

1. To purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real estate and personal property on behalf of the Church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the Church;
2. To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber real estate and personal property of the Church, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and use of the Church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for indebtedness, in the name of the Church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges;
3. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the Church corporation, if such action is mandated by a vote of the Church membership.

(B) CHURCH CLERK

The Church Clerk shall be elected to serve for one year and is responsible for keeping a fair record of all legitimate actions and activities of the Church, an up-to-date record of names of members, to write for the letters of people joining the Church by this method; to send out letters; and to collect from all services the names of those making decisions.

(C) TREASURER

The Treasurer shall be elected to serve for one year. He shall receive, deposit, and expend all monies of the Church as directed by the Church. He shall keep a record of accounts, and make a report at the Annual Report Meeting and when otherwise directed by the Church. Nominees for the office of treasurer shall be selected from the members of the Board of Deacons. If no deacon is willing to serve, the Pastor and Board of Deacons shall choose the nominees.

(D) FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The Financial Secretary shall be elected for one year. His duties shall be to count all offerings with the treasurer, verify deposits, and to sign offering vouchers; to keep a confidential record of all offerings and gifts through envelopes or checks of individuals and to issue receipts for such for income tax purposes. The Financial Secretary and Treasurer shall not be from the same immediate family.

(E) AUDITORS

Two Auditors shall be elected for one year. They shall examine the records of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary of the Church and all other Church entities in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and shall report their findings to the Church at the Annual Report Meeting

(F) SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

The Sunday School Superintendent shall be elected for one year. He shall, under the authority of the Pastor, have charge of the administration and promotion of the Sunday School. He shall, with the Pastor, appoint all Sunday School teachers and officers. He shall attend teacher and officer meetings. Substitute and temporary teachers, who are not members of the Church, may be permitted to teach with the approval of the Pastor or Board of Deacons in the Pastor's absence. However, regular teachers must be members of the Church in good standing.

(G) HEAD USHER

The Head Usher shall be elected for one year. He shall be in charge of the general decorum of the Church services, welcoming and seating the people and receiving the offerings. He shall ensure the safekeeping of offerings until the Treasurer and Financial Secretary tally the count. In his absence, a Deacon shall be responsible for delivering the offerings to the Treasurer and Financial Secretary. He shall appoint assistants who shall be approved by the Board of Deacons.

(H) STAFF MEMBERS

The Pastor with notification to and advice of the Board of Deacons shall appoint all staff members. They shall serve at the Pastor's discretion for an indefinite period of time. All staff members report to and receive duties and assignments directly from the Pastor.

Section 3 – INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Notice of newly elected officers shall be posted in a prominent place on the first Sunday after the election. Each elected officer shall begin duties on January 1.

Section 4 – VACANCY OF OFFICES

A vacancy in any office except that of the Pastor shall be filled from members of the Board of Deacons until such time as a new officer may be elected at any regular Church business meeting.

Section 5 – RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

Any officer may resign his office on the giving of at least thirty (30) days advance written notice to the Board of Deacons. Failure to maintain membership in good standing in the Church is grounds for removal from office.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES**

Section 1 – MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Unless otherwise determined by the Pastor and Board of Deacons, the Church shall meet each Sunday for public worship both morning and evening and at least once during the week for Bible study and prayer. Except when circumstances forbid it, the ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed on the first Sunday evening of each month.

Section 2 – ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- (A) The Annual Election Meeting of the Church shall be held the third Wednesday in December, or at a suitable time determined by the Board of Deacons, for the purpose of electing officers, presenting a budget, and conducting such other affairs as may be at hand.
- (B) The Annual Reports Meeting of the Church shall be held the third Wednesday in January, or at the discretion of the Board of Deacons, for the purpose of hearing reports, including the treasurer's report which shall incorporate the financial reports of each auxiliary organization, to accept a budget, and conduct such other affairs as may be at hand.
- (C) Fifty (50) percent of the members of voting age shall constitute a quorum at the annual meetings.

Section 3 – MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATION MEETINGS

There shall be a monthly membership administration meeting on the third Wednesday of each month, except months in which the annual meetings are held. Reports shall be given and necessary affairs transacted. Thirty (30) percent of members of voting age shall constitute a quorum at the monthly meetings. The time of this meeting may be reasonably adjusted at the discretion of the Pastor.

Section 4 – SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATION MEETINGS

The Pastor or Chairman of the Deacons may call special membership administration meetings at any convenient time, providing notice is given at the Sunday services prior to the date of the meeting. At such meetings, fifty (50) percent of the members of voting age shall constitute a quorum.

Reception of members and emergency measures may be acted upon at any regular or special meeting of the Church without regard to quorum.

#### Section 5 – AUTHORIZATION OF MEETINGS

No secret or unauthorized meetings are permitted. Proper authorization shall be construed in accordance with the provisions of Article IV, Section 4. Members participating in any unauthorized private meeting(s) convened for the purpose of or resulting in the undermining of general Church and/or Pastoral policies, practices, and procedures, whether held on or away from Church premises, shall be subject to disciplinary action (Prov. 6:16-19).

#### Section 6 – LOSS OF QUORUM

The members present at a duly called or held meeting at which a quorum is present may continue to transact the affairs of the Church until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum.

#### Section 7 – NOMINATING PROCEDURE

Four weeks before the Annual Election Meeting, blank ballots shall be sent to all voting members. These ballots shall be accompanied by a list of Church officers, incumbent and retiring. Each voting member shall fill in the blank ballots from the list of eligible church officers and/or with the names of nominees he deems qualified to fill each prospective office. These ballots shall be returned within fourteen (14) days. The Board of Deacons shall tally the ballots and all nominees shall be contacted before placing their names on the final election ballot. The Pastor and Board of Deacons reserve the right to reject non-qualified nominees on the basis of their disagreement with the Statement of Faith and/or noncompliance with the general practices, policies, and procedures of the Church. After determination of each nominee's qualifications, the Board of Deacons shall present the final ballot to the Church for election.

#### Section 8 – VOTING AGE OF MEMBERS

All members eighteen (18) years of age and older shall have the right to vote.

#### Section 9 – OTHER PROCEDURES

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern procedures not covered in these bylaws.

### **ARTICLE V FINANCES**

#### Section 1 – FREE WILL GIFTS

The Church shall raise no monies except by free will giving.

## Section 2 – FUNDRAISERS

Church departments and auxiliary organizations shall hold fundraisers only by approval of the Pastor or Board of Deacons. All monies raised shall be for the use of those departments and in no case shall be used for the general expenses of the Church.

## Section 3 – PRIVATE INUREMENT

No part of the net earnings of the Church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article I, Section 3.

## Section 4 – MEANS OF ASSUMING OBLIGATIONS

No financial obligations shall be placed upon the Church either as a mortgage, note or any other form except by corporate act of the Church through its members. However, the finance committee shall be permitted to spend an amount not to exceed five (5) percent of the monthly budget in any one calendar month on the unbudgeted but routine expenses, provided the money is on hand.

## Section 5 – OFFERINGS

All offerings shall be counted by at least two people (the Treasurer and Financial Secretary or members substituting for them). All obligations shall be paid by check and must be accompanied by two (2) signatures.

## Section 6 – DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

From time to time the Church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the Church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any purposes stated in Article I, Section 3.

## Section 7 – DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the Church, the Trustees shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all liabilities of the Church, dispose of all the assets of the Church to currently supported missions or Baptist Churches of like faith and order.

Section 8 – FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Church shall run from January 1 to December 31.

**ARTICLE VI  
AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS**

Section 1 – OVERSIGHT

Auxiliary organizations, such as youth groups, church schools, etc. shall be considered as a part of the total Church program, and shall not be started without approval of the Board of Deacons. Each such auxiliary organization shall be self-governing but subject to oversight by the Pastor and Board of Deacons. They shall conduct themselves in harmony with stated Church purposes and policies. All officers shall be members of the Church.

Section 2 – FINANCES

All monies controlled by auxiliary organizations are subject to the same accounting policies and procedures as the Church. The Pastor and Board of Deacons shall choose auditors for auxiliary organizations.

**ARTICLE VII  
AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be revised or amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting, at any regular Church administration meeting, provided that said revision or amendment has been submitted in writing and announced from the pulpit fourteen (14) days before the vote is taken.

## **ADDENDUM ONE**

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**We believe and hold the following articles of faith:**

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#### **Article One**

##### **Of the Scriptures**

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction <sup>(1)</sup>; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end <sup>(2)</sup>, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter <sup>(3)</sup>; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us <sup>(4)</sup>; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union <sup>(5)</sup>, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried <sup>(6)</sup>.

#### **Article Two**

##### **Of the True God**

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth <sup>(7)</sup>; inexpressibly glorious in holiness <sup>(8)</sup>, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love <sup>(9)</sup>; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost <sup>(10)</sup>, equal in every divine perfection <sup>(11)</sup>, and executing distinct and harmonious offices in the great work of redemption <sup>(12)</sup>.

#### **Article Three**

##### **Of the Fall of Man**

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker <sup>(13)</sup>; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state <sup>(14)</sup>; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners <sup>(15)</sup>, not by constraint, but choice <sup>(16)</sup>; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin <sup>(17)</sup>, without defense or excuse <sup>(18)</sup>.

## **Article Four**

### **Of the Way of Salvation**

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace <sup>(19)</sup>, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God <sup>(20)</sup>; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin <sup>(21)</sup>; honored the divine law by his personal obedience <sup>(22)</sup>, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins <sup>(23)</sup>; that having risen from death, he is now enthroned in heaven <sup>(24)</sup>; and uniting in his wonderful person the most tender sympathies with divine perfections, he is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all sufficient Saviour <sup>(25)</sup>.

## **Article Five**

### **Of Justification**

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ <sup>(26)</sup> secures to such as believe in him is Justification <sup>(27)</sup>; that Justification includes the pardon of sin <sup>(28)</sup>, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness <sup>(29)</sup>; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood <sup>(30)</sup>; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God <sup>(31)</sup>; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity <sup>(32)</sup>.

## **Article Six**

### **Of the Freeness of Salvation**

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel <sup>(33)</sup>; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith <sup>(34)</sup>; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel <sup>(35)</sup>; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation <sup>(36)</sup>.

## **Article Seven**

### **Of Grace in Regeneration**

We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again <sup>(37)</sup>; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind <sup>(38)</sup>; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth <sup>(39)</sup>, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel <sup>(40)</sup>; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life <sup>(41)</sup>.

## **Article Eight**

### **Of Repentance and Faith**

We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God <sup>(42)</sup>; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ <sup>(43)</sup>, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy <sup>(44)</sup>; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all sufficient Saviour <sup>(45)</sup>.

## **Article Nine**

### **Of God's Purpose of Grace**

We believe that Election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners <sup>(46)</sup>; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end <sup>(47)</sup>; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable <sup>(48)</sup>; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy <sup>(49)</sup>; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree <sup>(50)</sup>; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel <sup>(51)</sup>; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance <sup>(52)</sup>; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence <sup>(53)</sup>.

## **Article Ten**

### **Of Sanctification**

We believe that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness <sup>(54)</sup>; that it is a progressive work <sup>(55)</sup>; that it is begun in regeneration <sup>(56)</sup>; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means, especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer <sup>(57)</sup>.

**Article Eleven**  
**Of the Perseverance of Saints**

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end <sup>(58)</sup>; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors <sup>(59)</sup>; that a special Providence watches over their welfare <sup>(60)</sup>; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation <sup>(61)</sup>.

**Article Twelve**  
**Of the Harmony of the Law and the Gospel**

We believe that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government <sup>(62)</sup>; that it is holy, just, and good <sup>(63)</sup>; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin <sup>(64)</sup>; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible Church <sup>(65)</sup>.

**Article Thirteen**  
**Of a Gospel Church**

We believe in a visible Church under the headship of Christ which is a congregation of baptized believers <sup>(66)</sup>, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel <sup>(67)</sup>; exclusively vested with the authority to observe the ordinances of Christ <sup>(68)</sup>; governed by his laws <sup>(69)</sup>, and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his Word <sup>(70)</sup>; that its only scriptural officers are Bishops, or Pastors, and Deacons <sup>(71)</sup>, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

**Article Fourteen**  
**Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer <sup>(72)</sup>, under the authority of a New Testament Baptist Church, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost <sup>(73)</sup>; to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life <sup>(74)</sup>; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a Church relation; and to the Lord's Supper <sup>(75)</sup>, in which only the members of each particular local Church, by the sacred use of unleavened bread and the unfermented fruit of the vine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ <sup>(76)</sup>; preceded always by solemn self-examination <sup>(77)</sup>.

**Article Fifteen**  
**Of the Observance of the First Day of the Week**

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day <sup>(78)</sup> and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes <sup>(79)</sup>, by abstaining from all secular labor except by scriptural provision, and avoiding sinful recreations <sup>(80)</sup>; by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private <sup>(81)</sup> and public <sup>(82)</sup>; and by preparation for that rest that remains for the people of God <sup>(83)</sup>.

**Article Sixteen**  
**Of Civil Government**

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society <sup>(84)</sup>; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed <sup>(85)</sup>; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ <sup>(86)</sup> who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth <sup>(87)</sup>.

**Article Seventeen**  
**Of the Righteous and the Wicked**

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked <sup>(88)</sup>; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem <sup>(89)</sup>; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse <sup>(90)</sup>; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death <sup>(91)</sup>.

**Article Eighteen**  
**Of the World to Come**

We believe that the end of the world is approaching <sup>(92)</sup> and in the imminent return of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ <sup>(93)</sup>; who at the end of the church age will descend from heaven, transform the righteous living, and raise the righteous dead from the grave to everlasting peace and happiness <sup>(94)</sup>; that a seven year period of tribulation will then take place <sup>(95)</sup>; at which end Christ will personally return to the earth with His saints to rule in a Messianic Kingdom for one thousand years <sup>(96)</sup>; at which end the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, <sup>(97)</sup>; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of the lost in hell on principles of righteousness <sup>(98)</sup>.

### Scripture References

- (1) 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21; 2 Sam. 23:2; Acts 1:16; 3:21; John 10:35; Luke 16:29-31; Psa. 119:11; Rom. 3:1-2
- (2) 2 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 1:10-12; Acts 11:14; Rom. 1:16; Mark 16:16; John 5:38-39
- (3) Prov. 30:5-6; John 17:17; Rev. 22:18-19; Rom. 3:4
- (4) Rom. 2:12; John 12:47-48; 1 Cor. 4:3-4; Luke 10:10-16; 12:47-48
- (5) Phil. 3:16; Eph. 4:3-6; Phil. 2:1-2; 1 Cor. 1:10; 1 Pet. 4:11
- (6) 1 John 4:1; Isa. 8:20; 1 Thess. 5:21; 2 Cor. 8:5; Acts 17:11; 1 John 4:6; Jude 3:5; Eph. 6:17; Psa. 119:59-60; Phil. 1:9-11
- (7) John 4:24; Psa. 147:5; 83:18; Heb. 3:4; Rom. 1:20; Jer. 10:10
- (8) Exod. 15:11; Isa. 6:3; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; Rev. 4:6-8
- (9) Mark 12:30; Rev. 4:11; Matt. 10:37; Jer. 2:12-13
- (10) Matt. 28:19; John 15:26; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 1 John 5:7
- (11) John 10:30; 5:17; 14:23; 17:5, 10; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6
- (12) Eph. 2:18; 2 Cor. 13:14; Rev. 1:4-5; comp. 2, 7
- (13) Gen. 1:27, 31; Eccl. 7:29; Acts 16:26; Gen. 2:16
- (14) Gen. 3:6-24; Rom. 5:12
- (15) Rom. 5:19; John 3:6; Psa. 51:5; Rom. 5:15-19; 8:7
- (16) Isa. 53:6; Gen. 6:12; Rom. 3:9-18
- (17) Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 1:18, 32; 2:1-16; Gal. 3:10; Matt. 20:15
- (18) Ezek. 18:19-20; Rom. 1:20; 3:19; Gal. 3:22
- (19) Eph. 2:5; Matt. 18:11; 1 John 4:10; 1 Cor. 3:5-7; Acts 15:11
- (20) John 3:16; 1:1-14; Heb. 4:14; 12:24

- (21) Phil. 2:6-7; Heb. 2:9, 14; 2 Cor. 5:21
- (22) Isa. 42:21; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 4:4-5; Rom. 3:21
- (23) Isa. 53:4-5; Matt. 20:28; Rom. 4:25; 3:21-26; 1 John 4:10; 2:2; 1 Cor. 15:1-3;  
Heb. 9:13-15
- (24) Heb. 1:8, 3; 8:1; Col. 3:1-4
- (25) Heb. 7:25; Col. 2:9; Heb. 2:18; 7:26; Psa. 89:19; Psa. 14
- (26) John 1:16; Eph. 3:8
- (27) Acts 13:39; Isa. 3:11-12; Rom. 8:1
- (28) Rom. 5:9; Zech. 13:1; Matt. 9:6; Acts 10:43
- (29) Rom. 5:17; Titus 3:5-6; 1 Pet. 3:7; 1 John 2:25; Rom. 5:21
- (30) Rom. 4:4-5; 5:21; 6:28; Phil. 3:7-9
- (31) Rom. 5:19; 3:24-26; 4:23-25; 1 John 2:12
- (32) Rom. 5:1-3, 11; 1 Cor. 1:30-31; Matt. 6:33; 1 Tim. 4:8
- (33) Isa. 55:1; Rev. 22:17; Luke 14:17
- (34) Rom. 16:26; Mark 1:15; Rom. 1:15-17
- (35) John 5:40; Matt. 23:37; Rom. 9:32; Prov. 1:24; Acts 13:46
- (36) John 3:19; Matt. 11:20; Luke 19:27; 2 Thess. 1:8
- (37) John 3:3, 6-7; 1 Cor. 1:14; Rev. 8:7-9; 21:27
- (38) 2 Cor. 5:17; Ezek. 36:26; Deut. 30:6; Rom. 2:28-29; 5:5; 1 John 4:7
- (39) John 3:8; 1:13; James 1:16-18; 1 Cor. 1:30; Phil. 2:13
- (40) 1 Pet. 1:22-25; 1 John 5:1; Eph. 4:20-24; Col. 3:9-11
- (41) Eph. 5:9; Rom. 8:9; Gal. 5:16-23; Eph. 3:14-21; Matt. 3:8-10; 7:20; 1 John 5:4, 18
- (42) Mark 1:15; Acts 11:18; Eph. 2:8; 1 John 5:1

- (43) John 16:8; Acts 2:37-38; 16:30-31
- (44) Luke 18:13; 15:18-21; James 4:7-10; 2 Cor. 7:11; Rom.10:12-13; Psa. 51
- (45) Rom. 10:9-11; Acts 3:22-23; Heb. 4:14; Psa. 2:6; Heb. 1:8; 8:25; 2 Tim. 1:12
- (46) 2 Tim. 1:8-9; Eph. 1:3-14; 1 Pet. 1:1-2; Rom. 11:5-6; John 15:16; 1 John 4:19
- (47) 2 Thess. 2:13-14; Acts 13:48; John 10:16; Matt. 20:16; Acts 15:14
- (48) Exod. 33:18-19; Matt. 20:15; Eph. 1:11; Rom. 9:23-24; Jer. 31:3; Rom. 11:28-29;  
James 1:17-18; 2 Tim. 1:9; Rom. 11:32-36
- (49) 1 Cor. 4:7; 1:26-31; Rom. 3:27; 4:16; Col. 3:12; 1 Cor. 3:5-7; 15:10; 1 Pet. 5:10;  
Acts 1:24; 1 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 2:9; Luke 18:7; John 15:16; Eph. 1:16; 1 Thess.  
2:12
- (50) 2 Tim. 2:10; 1 Cor. 9:22; Rom. 8:28-30; John 6:37-40; 2 Pet. 1:10
- (51) 1 Thess. 1:4-10
- (52) Rom. 8:28-30; Isa. 42:16; Rom. 11:29
- (53) 2 Pet. 1:10-11; Phil. 3:12; Heb. 6:11
- (54) 1 Thess. 4:3; 5:23; 2 Cor. 7:1; 13:9; Eph. 1:4
- (55) Prov. 4:18; 2 Cor. 3:18; Heb. 6:1; 2 Pet. 1:5-8; Phil. 3:12-16
- (56) John 2:29; Rom. 8:5; John 3:6; Phil. 1:9-11; Eph. 1:13-14
- (57) Phil. 2:12-13; Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Cor. 13:5; Luke 11:35; 9:23;  
Matt. 26:41; Eph. 6:18; 4:30
- (58) John 8:31; 1 John 2:27-28; 3:9; 5:18
- (59) 1 John 2:19; John 13:18; Matt. 13:20-21; John 6:66-69; Job 17:9
- (60) Rom. 8:28; Matt. 6:30-33; Jer. 32:40; Psa. 121:3; 91:11-12
- (61) Phil. 1:6; 2:12-13; Jude 24-25; Heb. 1:14; 2 Kings 6:16; Heb. 13:5; 1 John 4:4

- (62) Rom. 3:31; Matt. 5:17; Luke 16:17; Rom. 3:20; 4:15
- (63) Rom. 7:12, 7, 14, 22; Gal. 3:21; Psa. 119
- (64) Rom. 8:7-8; Josh. 24:19; Jer. 13:23; John 6:44; 5:44
- (65) Rom. 8:2, 4; 10:4; 1 Tim. 1:5; Heb. 8:10; Jude 20-21; Heb. 12:14; Matt. 16:17-18;  
1 Cor. 12:28
- (66) 1 Cor. 1:1-13; Matt. 18:17; Acts 5:11; 8:1; 11:31; 1 Cor. 4:17; 14:23; 3 John 9; 1  
Tim. 3:5
- (67) Acts 2:41-42; 2 Cor. 8:5; Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 5:12-13
- (68) 1 Cor. 11:2; 2 Thess. 3:6; Rom. 16:17-20; 1 Cor. 11:23; Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor  
5:6; 2 Cor. 2:7; 1 Cor. 4:17
- (69) Matt. 28:20; John 14:15; 15:12; 1 John 4:21; John 14:21; 1 Thess. 4:2; 2 John 6;  
Gal. 6:2; all the Epistles
- (70) Eph. 4:7; 1 Cor. 14:12; Phil. 1:27; 1 Cor. 12:14
- (71) Phil. 1:1; Acts 14:23; 15:22; 1 Tim. 3; Titus 1
- (72) Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:5-6; John 3:22-23; 4:1-2; Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts  
2:38; 8:12; 16:32-34; 18:8
- (73) Matt. 28:19; Acts 10:47-48; Gal. 3:27-28
- (74) Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; Acts 22:16
- (75) Acts 2:41-42; Matt. 28:19-20; Acts and Epistles
- (76) 1 Cor. 11:26; Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20
- (77) 1 Cor. 11:28; 5:1, 8; 10:3-32; 11:17-32; John 6:26-71
- (78) Acts 20:7; Gen. 2:3; Col. 2:16-17; Mark 2:27; John 20:19; 1 Cor. 16:1- 2
- (79) Exod. 20:8; Rev. 1:10; Psa. 118:24

- (80) Isa. 58:13-14; 56:2-8
- (81) Psa. 119:15
- (82) Heb. 10:24-25; Acts 11:26; 13:44; Lev. 19:30; Exod. 46:3; Luke 4:16; Acts 17:2, 3; Psa. 26:8; 87:3
- (83) Heb. 4:3-11
- (84) Rom. 13:1-7; Deut. 16:18; 1 Sam. 23:3; Exod. 18:23; Jer.30:21
- (85) Matt. 22:21; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13; 1 Tim. 2:1-8
- (86) Acts 5:29; Matt. 10:28; Dan. 3:15-18; 6:7-10; Acts 4:18-20
- (87) Matt. 23:10; Rom. 14:4; Rev. 19:16; Psa. 72:11; Psa. 2; Rom. 14:9-13
- (88) Mal. 3:18; Prov. 12:26; Isa. 5:20; Gen. 18:23; Jer. 15:19; Acts 10:34- 35; Rom. 6:16
- (89) Rom. 1:17; 7:6; 1 John 2:29; 3:7; Rom. 6:18, 22; 1 Cor. 11:32; Prov. 11:31; 1 Pet. 4:17-18
- (90) 1 John 5:19; Gal. 3:10; John 3:36; Isa. 57:21; Psa. 10:4; Isa 55:6-7
- (91) Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25; John 8:21-24; Prov. 10:24; Luke 12:4-5; 9:23- 26; John 12:25-26; Eccl. 3:17; Matt. 7:13-14
- (92) 1 Pet. 4:7; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Heb. 1:10-12; Matt. 24:35; 1 John 2:17; Matt. 28:20; 13:39-40; 2 Pet. 3:3-13
- (93) Matt. 24:42,44; 1 Thess. 5:1-2
- (94) 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:1-11
- (95) Dan. 9:25; Matt. 24:21
- (96) Rev. 20:4
- (97) Rev. 21:11-15

(98) 2 Thess. 1:6-9; Jude 7

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### **AUTHORITY OF THE STATEMENT OF FAITH**

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members. All literature used in the Church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith.

**ADDENDUM TWO**  
**CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been led as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin, to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor and the spreading of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; and to abstain from the use and sale of intoxicating drink as a beverage and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that, when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other Baptist Church of like precious faith where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

## ADDENDUM THREE

### CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

#### A. HUMAN SEXUALITY

1. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, transsexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. Any employee or member of the Church becoming pregnant or causing pregnancy as a result of consensual intercourse, outside of the marriage relationship, shall be terminated from employment and/or disciplined by the Church according to the Constitution and Bylaws. (Gen. 2:24; 19:5,13; 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).
2. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23).
3. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the Church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the Church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the Church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5,12).

#### B. DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the Church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon. (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2,12; Titus 1:6).

#### C. ABORTION

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well being of the mother are acceptable (Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1,5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).

**ADOPTION**

This Constitution was adopted by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the Church in which a quorum was present.

This Constitution and Bylaws supersedes any other constitutions and/or bylaws of Berean Baptist Church of Rohnert Park, California.

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Date

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Pastor

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Deacon

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