



**Rules and Bylaws**

**Church Covenant**

**Articles of Faith**

Revised April 2004

**4847 Joyce Street  
 Vancouver, B.C.**

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## ARTICLE I

### Membership

**Section 1.** Applicants for baptism and church membership shall be examined by one of the pastors or one or more of the deacons, regarding their conversion. Upon recommendation being made to the Church, acceptance shall be decided by a majority vote of the eligible members present at any Church meeting. It is desirable that the question of reception shall not be taken in their presence. In the event that any objection is raised to any candidate, the matter will be referred back to the Deacons' Board.

**Section 2.** Members in good standing of any other Baptist Church may be received by letter of transfer, by the majority of eligible members present at any Church meeting.

**Section 3.** Any regularly baptized believer, who does not have a letter of transfer, shall be examined by one of the pastors or one or more of the deacons regarding his/her conversion. Upon profession of faith, and recommendation he/she may be admitted into the membership by the majority vote of eligible members present at any Church meeting.

**Section 4.** An excluded member may be restored to membership on confession of his errors, and on giving evidence of repentance at a regular Prayer Meeting of the Church, members only being present.

**Section 5.** A member, upon written request, may be dismissed or transferred from the membership of the Church by letter, on authorization of the Church.

**Section 6.** If any member of the Church shall be guilty of any crime, gross impropriety or misdemeanor, it shall be the duty of the member having knowledge of the same to give the information in writing to the Deacons, who, if unable satisfactorily to settle the matter, shall submit it to the Church. All difficulties between members shall be dealt with according to the directions given by our Lord as recorded in Matthew 18:15-17; heresy, as recorded in Titus 3:10,11.

**Section 7.** A "non-resident member" who desires his name left on the roll, shall communicate with the church, through the senior pastor or clerk, at least once a year. Should he not do so, the clerk will write him and, if he does not correspond for another six months, his name shall be placed on the inactive roll. Non-resident members shall not be entitled to voting privileges unless they return to regular attendance.

## **Section 8. Standards of Membership**

- (1)** To attend regularly, if possible, all services of the Church including the midweek Prayer Meeting, and the Monthly Communion Service.
- (2)** To bear witness to His saving grace daily, and to live a separated life.
- (3)** To engage in some form of Christian activity within the Church if possible, as spiritual idleness is not conducive to spiritual health.
- (4)** Members are especially admonished to seek to bridle the tongue. Great harm can be done to the Lord's work through foolish, indiscreet, or inconsiderate speech.
- (5)** Every member is expected to familiarize himself with the Doctrinal beliefs of the Church, and to be loyal to its doctrines, its policies, and its officers.
- (6)** It is further considered the duty of each member to support the Church financially "as the Lord has prospered them", and since the standards of the New Testament are not lower than those of the Old Testament a tithe is recommended, and that the same should be given by way of the policy of the Church.

## **ARTICLE II.**

### **Duties of Officers and Committees**

#### **Section 1. Pastoral Staff**

- (1)** All pastors must be in harmony with the statement of faith of this church. We hold that Pastors must be men having the qualifications as described in I Timothy 3:1-7.
- (2)** The senior pastor
  - a) He shall have the oversight of the church.
  - b) It shall be his duty to preach statedly at the church; to administer or direct the administration of the Ordinances; to dispense or direct the administration of the Benevolent Fund with the approval of at least one Deacon; to be ex-officio member of the Deacons' Board and all committees of the church; to perform the other duties incumbent on his office.
  - c) He shall be allowed a minimum of a month's vacation with salary each year at such time as he may desire, the pulpit to be supplied at the expense of the church. Such supplies must be in harmony with the doctrinal position of the church.

- (3)** Other pastors
  - a) The church shall call other pastoral staff as required, each job description shall be approved by the Deacons' Board.
  - b) Each other pastor shall, under the direction and authority of the senior pastor, have the oversight of such ministries of the church as are outlined in his job description.
  - c) Each other Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of the Deacons' Board and any other committees as specified in his job description.
  - d) Other pastors shall assist the senior pastor in the administration of the ordinances as required.
- (4)** Should it be deemed advisable by a pastor or church to terminate the engagement between them, there shall be given one month's notice on either side; that from the church shall be supported by three-fourths of the eligible voting members present at a duly called meeting.

## **Section 2. Board of Deacons**

- (1)** There shall be four to seven Deacons appointed each year by the ballot vote of the Church at the Annual Meeting. No Deacon shall be elected to office without 75% of the votes of the members present and voting.

- (2)** They shall act as counselors and assistants to the pastors in advancing the general interest of the Church; and shall endeavor to maintain a healthy tone of piety and activity in the Church; shall have the management of the finances of the Church; and shall, with the senior pastor, have charge of the maintenance of the Church Property.
- (3)** They shall have full authority to decide on the character of all meetings held within the Church building, or in the name of the Church.
- (4)** They shall distribute the emblems of the Lord's Supper.
- (5)** They shall, with the pastors, examine candidates for Baptism and Church Membership; and shall assist at the Ordinance of Baptism.
- (6)** They shall, with the senior pastor, revise the Church roll annually, such revision to be recommended at a duly called business meeting of the Church.
- (7)** When it is necessary to call a Pastor, the Deacons shall constitute a Pulpit Committee, and without delay, at a meeting duly called for that purpose, shall submit to the Church the name of a Minister considered suitable for the Pastorate, who, provided at least three-quarters of the eligible members present are agreed, shall be called to the Pastorate. Notice of such a meeting must be given from the Pulpit for three consecutive Sundays.

- (8) They shall annually elect from amongst themselves a chairman to act as Chairman, when present, at all meetings of business of the Church and Board of Deacons.

### **Section 3. The Church Clerk**

- (1) Shall be elected each year at the Annual Church Business Meeting.
- (2) Shall take and keep the minutes of the proceedings at the business meetings of the Church and shall read the same at the next regular business meeting if requested. When, on being confirmed, they shall be signed by the Chairman as correct.
- (3) Shall act as Corresponding Secretary of the Church.
- (4) Shall take charge of all records, valuable documents, and shall have custody of the seal. It shall be used only in the presence of two or more members of the Board of Deacons, who shall attest the same with their signature.
- (5) Shall keep a register of all members of the Church.
- (6) At the close of the year shall prepare a report of the Church for the year, and shall report same to the Church at the Annual Church Business Meeting.
- (7) Shall send the Annual Report to Victoria, and to our Convention.

### **Section 4. The Treasurer**

- (1) Shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting of the Church.
- (2) It shall be the Treasurer's duty to receive all monies, and deposit same in a chartered bank in the name of the Church, withdrawable by cheque.
- (3) Shall keep a true and fair Book of Accounts.
- (4) Shall present to the Church, once a month, a Statement of the receipts. At the Annual Business Meeting shall present a detailed report duly audited, of the monies received and paid out during the year.

### **Section 5. The Financial secretary**

- (1) A Financial Secretary shall be elected at the Annual Church Business Meeting.
- (2) Shall have charge of the envelope system of the Church; shall keep a record of all envelope subscribers, amount subscribed, and shall give to the subscriber an annual statement of the amount he has given.
- (3) The Financial Secretary or one or more of the Deacons shall count and sign with the Treasurer all Church offerings, in the book provided for that purpose.

## **Section 6. Auditors**

- (1)** There shall be one or more auditors elected at the Annual Business Meeting of the Church.
- (2)** They shall examine all the financial books and accounts with vouchers for the same, for all the departments of the Church, and, if correct, shall append their signatures thereto.
- (3)** They shall be empowered to call for all papers, books and documents necessary to supply the information required.
- (4)** The Church may hire professional Auditors if found necessary or desirable.

## **Section 7. Nominating Committee**

- (1)** It shall be composed of four members chosen by the Church by June each year. A Deacon shall be included in the four.
- (2)** All nominees to offices in the Church must be contacted for their approval to stand for the office indicated.
- (3)** The report of the Nominating Committee shall be attached to the Church Bulletin Board at least two Sundays prior to the Annual Church Business Meeting.
- (4)** The Committee shall bring their report to the Annual

Business Meeting. No nominations for any office may be made from the floor, but nominations can be given to the Nominating Committee up to, but not after, three weeks prior to the Annual meeting by any eligible member, so long as he has the approval of the nominee.

## **Section 8. Deaconesses**

- (1)** There shall be two or more Deaconesses who shall be elected at the Annual Church Business Meeting.
- (2)** They shall advise the senior pastor of the sick and needy; shall send flowers and cards to the sick and bereaved; shall visit, if possible, the sick and aged.
- (3)** They shall prepare the emblems for the Lord's Supper.
- (4)** They shall look after the baptismal gowns and shall, where necessary, assist in the baptismal service.

**Section 9.** The Church shall create, elect or appoint further committees or coordinators as needed to further the work of the ministry.

**ARTICLE III  
SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

**Section 1.** Once per month or as decided by the board or the senior pastor, the Board of Deacons shall meet for prayer and the discussion of the business of the Church, a majority to form a quorum.

**Section 2.** The First Annual Church Business meeting shall be the last Wednesday of September, if possible or as decided by the deacons and the senior pastor. At this meeting the election of officers for the coming year will take place, and the annual church budget will be presented. For the Annual Meeting twelve eligible members shall constitute a quorum. The second Annual Business meeting will be held on a Wednesday of November each year, or as decided by the deacons and the senior pastor. At that time all reports of the Church shall be given.

**Section 3.** Special business meetings may be called at any time by the senior pastor, or by the Board of Deacons. Eight eligible members shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 4.** A vacancy in any church office may be filled at any specially called business meeting.

**Section 5.** Only members of 16 years of age or over are eligible to vote at any Church meeting, and those herein before stated as eligible.

**Section 6.** If possible, the proposed Budget, the Nominating Committee Report and the Financial Statements be duplicated and given to members by the Sunday before the Business Meetings. An Agenda shall be prepared by the Deacons' Board for all duly called Business Meetings. Any member desiring to have business included shall place it in writing with the Deacons' Board at least a week before such meeting.

**Section 7. Public Worship**

**(1)** The Church shall meet regularly every Lord's Day for the public worship of God, and at such other times as may be decided by the Church.

**Section 8. Lord's Supper**

The Ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed on the first Sunday of each month or as decided by the senior pastor and the deacons.

## **Section 9. Prayer Service**

**(1)** Once during each week, at least, the church shall meet for prayer.

## **Section 10. Societies and Organizations**

**(1)** All Societies and Organizations of the Church shall be under the authority of the Church.

### **ARTICLE IV Amendments**

These By-laws may be amended at any regularly called business meeting by a three-quarter vote of the members present and voting, provided such amendment has been placed in the hands of the Clerk, in writing, and the announcement of same made from the pulpit of the Church at two Sunday services.

### **ARTICLE V Rules of Order**

**Section 1.** The business of this Church shall be governed by the ordinary parliamentary rules.

**Section 2.** Each member of the Church shall be entitled to a copy of these By-laws. free.

## **ARTICLE VI Statement of Faith**

We endorse the "Statement of Faith" of the Regular Baptist Convention of British Columbia as the Statement of Faith of this Church.

### **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 Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into 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 its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.



We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to bring up our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord; 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; to abstain from addictive and hallucinogenic drugs not prescribed by a physician, drunkenness and all forms of intemperance and excess, 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 Church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant, and the principles of God's Word.

**ARTICLES OF FAITH**  
of the  
**CONVENTION**  
of **REGULAR BAPTIST CHURCHES**  
of **BRITISH COLUMBIA**

The views of faith and practice held by the Convention of Regular Baptist Churches of British Columbia are as follows:

**I. OF THE SCRIPTURES**

We believe the Holy Bible to be that collection of sixty-six books from Genesis to Revelation which, as originally written, as objectively the very Word of God <sup>1</sup>; that it was written by men supernaturally moved; that it is verbally and plenary inspired <sup>2</sup>; that it is truth without any admixture of error <sup>3</sup>; and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to men <sup>4</sup>; the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried <sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> I Thess. 2:13;

<sup>2</sup> II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:19-21; II Sam. 23:1-2;

<sup>3</sup> John 17:17; Psalms 119:160;

<sup>4</sup> Heb. 1:1, 2; Psalms 119:89;

<sup>5</sup> John 12:48; Isa. 8:20

## II. OF THE TRINITY

1. We believe that there is one, and only one, living, eternal and true God <sup>1</sup>; an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the Creator and the Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth <sup>2</sup>. inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honour, faith and love <sup>3</sup>; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit <sup>4</sup>, equal in every divine perfection, executing distinct and harmonious offices in the work of redemption <sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Deut. 6:4; Jer. 10:10; 1 Tim. 1:17;

<sup>2</sup> Psalms 147:5; John 4:~4; Heb. 1:2; Rev 19:6;

<sup>3</sup> Ex. 15:11; Heb. 1:3; Rev. 4:11;

<sup>4</sup> Matt. 28:19 Eph. 4:4-6;

<sup>5</sup> John 15:26; Eph. 1:13-14.

2. We believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God <sup>1</sup>; that He is truly and eternally God, equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit <sup>2</sup>; that for our redemption He took upon Himself the nature of unfallen man <sup>3</sup>; that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in a unique and miraculous manner, and was born of Mary, a virgin <sup>4</sup>; that in the one Person of Christ there are two natures, the Divine and the human, each distinct and

indissolubly united <sup>5</sup>; that being tempted in the flesh He lived a sinless life <sup>6</sup>; that He was crucified under Pontius Pilate <sup>7</sup>; that the third day He arose bodily from the tomb and manifested Himself for forty days to His disciples <sup>8</sup>; that in His glorified body He ascended to the Father <sup>9</sup>; that as High Priest He ever lives to make intercession for His own <sup>10</sup>. that according to His promise He will come again in person, visibly, with power and great glory <sup>11</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> John 1:18;

<sup>2</sup> John 1:1; 10:30; II Cor. 13:14;

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 8:3; <sup>4</sup> Luke 1:35; Matt.1:18-25

<sup>5</sup> Phil. 2:6-8; <sup>6</sup> Heb. 4:15;

<sup>7</sup> John 19:13-16; <sup>8</sup> Matt. 28:6; John 20:27; Acts 1:3;

<sup>9</sup> Acts 1:8, 9; Phil. 3:20. 21;

<sup>10</sup> Heb. 7:25;

<sup>11</sup> Acts 1:11; Heb. 9:28; Rev. 1:7; Titus 2:13, 14; Matt. 24:30; I Thess. 4:13-18.

3. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature <sup>1</sup>; that He was active in creation <sup>2</sup>; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment <sup>3</sup>; that He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and in testimony <sup>4</sup>; that He is the agent of regeneration <sup>5</sup>; that He dwells in every believer from the moment of his

conversion<sup>6</sup>; that every believer is baptized in the Spirit by Christ<sup>7</sup>; that He fills the believer as control is yielded to Christ<sup>8</sup>; that the evidence of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the life<sup>9</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Acts 5:3, 4; Eph. 4:4-6;

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 1:1-3; <sup>3</sup> John 16:8-11;

<sup>4</sup> Acts 5:32; <sup>5</sup> Titus 3:5; John 3:3-6;

<sup>6</sup> Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 3:16;

<sup>7</sup> I Cor. 12:13; Matt. 3:11;

<sup>8</sup> Eph. 5:18; <sup>9</sup> Rom. 8:1-8; Gal. 5:22-23.

### III. OF THE DEVIL, OR SATAN

We believe that Satan is a person<sup>1</sup>; that he is the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world<sup>2</sup>; that he is man's great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the saints<sup>3</sup>; that he is the author of all false religions, the inspirer of all apostasy, and the chief of all the powers of darkness<sup>4</sup>; that he with his principalities is overcome by our appropriation of Christ's victory on Calvary<sup>5</sup>; that he along with his hosts is destined to final defeat at the hands of God's Son, and to suffer eternal punishment in a place prepared for him and his angels<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Matt.4:3; James 4:7;

<sup>2</sup> Eph. 2:2; II Cor. 4:4;

<sup>3</sup> Gen. 3:1-15; Zech. 3:1-2; I Pet. 5:8; Rev. 12:1-9;

<sup>4</sup> II Cor. 11:1-15; I John 3:8; Eph. 6:12;

<sup>5</sup> I John 3:8; Col. 2:15; Luke 10:17-19;

<sup>6</sup> Rev. 19:11-16, 20; Rev. 20:10; Matt. 25:41.

### IV. OF THE CREATION

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively<sup>1</sup>; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness<sup>2</sup>; that man's creation was not by evolution or change of species or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms<sup>3</sup>; that all animal life and vegetable life were effected by special creation, and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind"<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 1:1, 2:4; Heb. 11:13; Acts 17:24-26;

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 1:26-27; <sup>3</sup> Gen.2:7; Gen. 2:21-23;

<sup>4</sup> Gen. 1:11, 12, 21, 24, 25.

## V. OF THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Creator, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state <sup>1</sup>; in consequence of which all men are now sinful, and all are sinners not only by constraint but of choice <sup>2</sup>; and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse <sup>3</sup>; that man in his fallen state is in a condition of total depravity by which is meant his utter incapacity to receive the things of the Spirit of God apart from the quickening grace of the Holy Spirit <sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 3:1-6, 24; Rom. 5:12, 19;

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 3:10-23; Eph. 2:1-3; Isa. 53:6;

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 1:20, 28, 32; Gal. 3:22;

<sup>4</sup> Rom. 3:10; Rom. 8:7; I Cor. 2:14; John 6:44.

## VI. OF THE ATONEMENT FOR SIN

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace <sup>1</sup>; that it is through the mediatorial office of the Son of God, Who by the appointment of the Father <sup>2</sup>, freely took upon Him our nature, yet with-out sin, honoured the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and expiatory atonement for our sins <sup>3</sup>; that His atonement consisted in the voluntary substitution of

Himself in the sinner's place, bearing the penalty of God's Holy Law, shedding His precious blood <sup>4</sup>; the Just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree <sup>5</sup>; that having risen bodily from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven, and is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and all-sufficient Saviour <sup>6</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Eph. 2:8, 9; Acts 13:38, 39; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24

<sup>2</sup> John 3:16; I Tim. 2:5, 6;

<sup>3</sup> II Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; Heb. 2:14; Rom. 3:25;

<sup>4</sup> I Pet 2:24; John 10:17-18; Gal.3:10-13; I Pet. 1:18,19

<sup>5</sup> 1 Pet. 3:18; Isa. 53:5-7;

<sup>6</sup> Heb. 10:12-22; I John 2:2; Heb. 7:25, 26.

## VII. OF ELECTION

We believe that election is the eternal act of God's sovereign grace by which He chooses, calls, justifies and glorifies sinners <sup>1</sup>; that it is effectuated by the Holy Spirit through God's Word in drawing sinners to Christ so that their wills are freely brought into compliance with God's elective purpose <sup>2</sup>; that it excludes all human boasting <sup>3</sup>; that it is demonstrated In believers by their personal faith in Christ, their love to God and their desire for holiness <sup>4</sup>; that it is the ground of the believer's assurance and promotes humility and service <sup>5</sup>.

- <sup>1</sup> Rom. 8:28-30; Rom. 9:16; Rom. 11:5;  
<sup>2</sup> John 6:37, 44; Acts 13:48; I Pet. 1:2;  
<sup>3</sup> Eph. 2:8, 9; Rom. 3:24-27;  
<sup>4</sup> Eph 1:4; Col. 3:12; I Thess. 1:3-7;  
<sup>5</sup> II Peter 1:5-11; Rom. 11:27-36; Rom. 8:33.

## VIII. OF THE NEW CREATION

We believe that in order to be saved a sinner must be born again through personal faith in Jesus Christ <sup>1</sup>; that the new birth is a new creation; that it is instantaneous and not a process <sup>2</sup>; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life as the gift of God <sup>3</sup>; that such is kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation and shall never perish <sup>4</sup>; that the new birth is brought about in a miraculous manner above man's comprehension wholly and solely by the grace of God through the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth <sup>5</sup>; that its proper evidence appears in the fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life <sup>6</sup>.

- <sup>1</sup> John 3:3,5,7; John 1:12;  
<sup>2</sup> II Cor. 5:17; II Cor. 4:6; John 5:24;  
<sup>3</sup> Eph. 2:1; II Pet. 1:4; Rom. 6:23;  
<sup>4</sup> I Pet.1:5; John 10:28-30;  
<sup>5</sup> John 3:7, 8; John 1:12-13; I Pet. 1:23;  
<sup>6</sup> II Cor. 7:1; Eph. 2:10; Titus 2:11, 12; Eph. 4:22-24.

## IX. OF JUSTIFICATION

We believe that Justification is the great blessing by which God accepts, accounts and declares man as righteous <sup>1</sup>; that it includes pardon from the guilt and condemnation of all his sin, the gift of eternal life on principles of divine righteousness <sup>2</sup>; that it is bestowed by grace through faith solely upon the grounds of Christ's perfect life, and expiatory death whereby the righteousness of Christ is imputed to the believing sinner<sup>3</sup>.

- <sup>1</sup> Rom. 3:24-28; Eph. 1:6;  
<sup>2</sup> Rom. 5:1; Acts 13:38,39; Rom. 1:17;  
<sup>3</sup> Phil. 3:9; Rom. 4:4, 5; II Cor. 5:21.

## X. OF SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is primarily the believer's position in Christ by the grace of the new Testament sealed to the believer by the blood of the everlasting covenant whereby he is set apart unto God as the recipient of all heavenly perfections <sup>1</sup>; that it is also a process by which the believer sets himself apart from sin to God in the gradual attaining of moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy

Spirit dwelling in his heart and in obedience to the Word of God<sup>2</sup>; that it will culminate in the glorious and eternal state of entire sanctification at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> I Cor. 1:30; Heb. 10:10, 14; Heb. 9:14, 15;

<sup>2</sup> John 17:17-19; II Tim. 2:21, 22; Heb.13:12, 13; II Cor. 3:18; I Thess. 4:3, 4;

<sup>3</sup> Eph. 5:26; I Thess. 5:23, 24; Phil.3:20, 21; I John 3:1-3.

## **XI. OF THE LOCAL CHURCH**

We believe that the church is a congregation of baptized believers organized according to the New Testament pattern, associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel, and observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws, and exercising the rights, and privileges invested in it by His Word<sup>1</sup>; that its officers are pastors (or elders or bishops) and deacons, whose qualifications and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures<sup>2</sup>; that the true mission of the church is found in our Lord's commission, namely: to evangelize, to baptize, and to teach believers to observe all that the Lord commanded<sup>3</sup>; that the church has absolute right of self-government free from any outside interference, and

that the one and only superintendent is Christ, acting through the Holy Spirit in harmony with the Word of God<sup>4</sup>; that in all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline or benevolence, the will of the church is final<sup>5</sup>; that it is Scriptural for true churches to co-operate with each other in the furtherance of the Gospel and in contending for the faith, and that each church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its co-operation<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Acts 2:41,42; I Cor.11:2,2-26; Acts 1:1-2; Eph. 4:11-16;

<sup>2</sup> Acts 20:17,28; I Tim. 3:1-13; Phil. 1:1;

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8;

<sup>4</sup> Matt. 18:15-17; Acts 15:22,25,28; Rev. 1:12-20;

<sup>5</sup> Matt. 18:15-17; Acts 5:1-11; II Cor. 8:1-7;

<sup>6</sup> Acts 15:22-31; II Cor. 8:23, 24.

## **XII. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER**

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit<sup>1</sup>; that it is the direct command of Christ<sup>2</sup>; that it shows forth the believer's union with the crucified, buried and risen Christ, and his death to sin and resurrection to a new life<sup>3</sup>; that it is a condition of church membership and according to the Scriptural order

baptism should precede the observance of the Lord's supper in which members of the church by the use of bread and wine after solemn self-examination are to commemorate together the death of Christ <sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Mark 1:5, 9; Rom. 6:4, 5; Matt. 28:19;

<sup>2</sup> Mark 16:15, 16; Matt. 3:15, 16;

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 6:3, 4; Col. 2:12;

<sup>4</sup> Acts 2:41, 42; Matt. 28:19, 20; I Cor. 11:23-28.

### **XIII. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT**

We believe that civil government is divinely appointed for the interests and good order of society <sup>1</sup>; that the individual should fulfil faithfully his responsibilities as a good citizen <sup>2</sup>; that magistrates should be conscientiously honoured and obeyed, except in things opposed to the revealed will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience <sup>3</sup>; that the church should remain distinct and separate from the state, and that there should be no intrusion of the one into the affairs of the other <sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 13:1-7; <sup>2</sup> Titus 3:13;

<sup>3</sup> I Pet. 2:13, 14, 17; I Tim. 2:1-2; Acts 5:29; James 4:12;

<sup>4</sup> Acts 5:29; Matt. 22:21.

### **XIV. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED**

We believe that there is an essential difference in the nature, belief and practice of the righteous and the wicked <sup>1</sup>; that those who through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and set apart by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in God's esteem, and those who continue in impenitence and unbelief are wicked in His sight and under the curse <sup>2</sup>; that this distinction holds even after death; that the righteous depart to be with Christ, and are in a state of conscious blessedness awaiting the resurrection of the just and the receiving of their glorified bodies <sup>3</sup>; that the wicked depart to Hades where they are in conscious torment until the final resurrection and judgment <sup>4</sup>; at which time the righteous enter into everlasting felicity in Heaven and the wicked into everlasting conscious suffering in Hell <sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mal. 3:18; Rom. 6:6, 8, 18; I Pet. 4:18;

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 1:17; Acts 10:34-35; I John 2:29; John 3:18, 36;

<sup>3</sup> II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:21-23; Matt. 7:14;

<sup>4</sup> Luke 16:19-31; I Pet. 3:19, 20;

<sup>5</sup> Matt. 25:46; Rev. 20:15; II Thes. 1:8, 9; Rev. 22:3-5.

# **Purpose Statement of Collingwood Baptist Church**

**As a Bible-teaching  
community  
of faith, we exist to:**

- ◆ love and obey Christ,
- ◆ share His good news,
- ◆ become more like him,
- ◆ serve him in our community and beyond,
- ◆ lead others to become obedient believers in Christ within a worshiping, caring church.