

The Constitution of Clackamas Bible Church

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Clackamas Bible Church, do ordain and establish the following articles, to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this church shall be Clackamas Bible Church, of Clackamas, Oregon.

ARTICLE II ARTICLES OF FAITH

0.0.1 *The Bible*

We believe the Bible is the authentic Word of God, His written revelation to man.¹ We believe the Bible is eternal, unchanging, ² verbally inspired, inerrant and infallible in the original manuscripts,³ and reliably preserved throughout all generations.² We believe the Bible is the supreme authority in the life of the believer and in the function of the church.⁴

¹ Deuteronomy 29:29 ² Matthew 5:18, 24:35 ³ 2 Timothy 3:16-17;
² Peter 1:20-21 ⁴ Matthew 4:4

0.0.2 *The Godhead*

We believe in one True God:¹ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;² eternal in being, identical in nature, equal in power and glory, having precisely the same attributes and perfections.³

¹ Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:6 ² Matthew 28:19;
² Corinthians 13:14 ³ Acts 5:3-4; Hebrews 1:1-13

0.0.3 *Man's Creation and Fall*

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God,¹ but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sin nature and consequent alienation from God, and came under judicial sentence of death.²

¹ Genesis 1:26-27 ² Romans 5:12; 3:23; 6:23

0.0.4 *The Person and Work of Christ*

We believe that our LORD Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God;¹ that without ceasing to be God He became a man,² having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.³ We believe the Son of God came to glorify the Father⁴ by revealing God,⁵ destroying the works of the devil,⁶ and redeeming sinful people by His substitutionary, atoning death through His blood shed on the cross.⁷ We believe in the physical resurrection of our LORD'S crucified body;⁸ His bodily ascension into heaven;⁹ His exaltation to the right hand of the Father¹⁰ where, as High Priest of His people,¹¹ He fulfills the ministry of Representative,¹² Intercessor,¹³ and Advocate.¹⁴

We believe in the imminent,¹⁵ bodily¹⁶ coming of the LORD Jesus Christ for the Church¹⁷ and His subsequent premillennial return to establish His Kingdom on earth.¹⁸

¹John 1:1, 14 ²Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 2:9 ³Luke 1:34-35

⁴John 17:1-4 ⁵John 1:14-18; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3 ⁶1 John 3:8

⁷Romans 3:24-25; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:19-20 ⁸1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Luke 24:36-43 ⁹Acts 1:9-11 ¹⁰Ephesians 1:20-23; Philippians 2:9-11

¹¹Hebrews 4:14-16 ¹²Hebrews 9:24 ¹³Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34

¹⁴1 John 2:1 ¹⁵Matthew 24:37-44

¹⁶Acts 1:11 ¹⁷1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 ¹⁸Revelation 20:4-6;

Zechariah 14:4-11

0.0.5 ***The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit***

We believe in the personality of the Holy Spirit;¹ that He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment;² that He regenerates the individual,³ and indwells,⁴ enlightens,⁵ and guides the believer;⁶ that He baptizes every believer into the body of Christ,⁷ and seals every believer for the day of redemption.⁸ We believe that the Holy Spirit strengthens us with power, testifying of the LORD Jesus Christ, so that we might know the love of Christ and the fullness of God.⁹

¹John 14:16-17 ²John 16:7-11 ³Titus 3:5 ⁴Romans 8:9

⁵Ephesians 1:15-18 ⁶John 16:13 ⁷1 Corinthians 12:12-13

⁸Ephesians 4:30 ⁹Ephesians 3:14-19

0.0.6 **Salvation**

We believe that salvation is entirely the gracious work of God¹ wherein the Holy Spirit, by means of the gospel message,² moves upon the sinner with regenerating power,³ bringing forth repentance from sin⁴ and faith in the LORD Jesus Christ⁵ as the only hope of eternal life.⁶

We believe that every person who believes in the LORD Jesus Christ for salvation is justified before God only on the merits of the perfect life and propitiatory sacrifice of Christ.⁷ We believe that those God justifies will experience an ongoing work of sanctification,⁸ and that believers should joyfully persevere in this process.⁹ We believe that saving faith manifests itself in works pleasing to God.¹⁰ We further believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ forever.¹¹

¹Ephesians 2:8-9 ²1 Corinthians 1:21; 1 Peter 1:23 ³Titus 3:4-7

⁴Luke 24:46-47 ⁵Acts 20:21 ⁶1 John 5:11-12 ⁷Romans 3:21-26

⁸2 Timothy 2:19-22 ⁹2 Corinthians 7:1; Philippians 2:12-13

¹⁰Ephesians 2:8-10; James 2:14-26 ¹¹John 10:27-30; Romans 8:28-39

0.0.7 **The Church**

We believe that the universal Church, which is the Body and Bride of Christ,¹ is a spiritual organism made up of all born again persons, irrespective of their affiliation with Christian organizations.²

¹Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-27 ²1 Corinthians 12:12-14

We believe that this universal Church is manifested in various places in the form of local churches.¹ We believe that a local church is an organized body² of believers in the LORD Jesus Christ who meet together regularly³ for worship,⁴ instruction in God's Word,⁵ mutual edification,⁶ observance of the ordinances,⁷ and

the exercise of discipline.⁸ When not purposefully gathered, the members are strategically placed by God in the community and the world to carry out the great commission until the LORD returns.⁹

¹ Acts 14:23; Galatians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1 ² 1 Corinthians 12:18;

1 Timothy 3:1-15 ³ Hebrews 10:2 ⁴ Acts 2:46-47 ⁵ Acts 2:42

⁶ 1 Thessalonians 5:11 ⁷ Acts 2:41; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

⁸ Matthew 18:15-20; Hebrews 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 5:4-5

⁹ Genesis 12:2-3; Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

0.0.8 **The Personality of Satan**

We believe the person of Satan was originally created a blameless and perfect being but through pride and wicked ambition rebelled against God,¹ thus becoming utterly depraved in character, the great adversary of God and His people,² leader of all other evil angels and wicked spirits,³ the deceiver and god of this present world.⁴ His powers are vast, but strictly limited by the permissive will of God. Who overrules all his wicked devices for good,⁵ that he was defeated by our LORD Jesus Christ and judged at the cross,⁶ and therefore his eternal doom in the lake of fire is certain.⁷ Believers in the LORD Jesus Christ, clothed in the full armor of God,⁸ are able to resist⁹ and overcome him by the blood of the Lamb,¹⁰ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

¹ Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19 ² Job 1 & 2; 1 Peter 5:8

³ Revelation 12:7-9 ⁴ 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Ephesians 2:1-3

⁵ Job 42:10-17 ⁶ John 12:31-33; Colossians 2:13-15

⁷ Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10 ⁸ Ephesians 6:10-17

⁹ James 4:7 ¹⁰ Revelation 12:11

0.0.9 **The Eternal State**

We believe that upon physical death the soul of one who has trusted in the LORD Jesus Christ for salvation passes immediately into His presence,¹ and there remains in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His coming, when soul and body reunited shall be associated with Him forever in glory.²

We believe that upon physical death the soul of an unbeliever remains in conscious suffering³ until the final judgment, when soul and body reunited in physical resurrection shall be punished forever in the lake of fire,⁴ away from the presence of the LORD and from the glory of His power.⁵

¹ 2 Corinthians 5:6-8 ² Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

³ Luke 16:19-26 ⁴ Matthew 25:41, 46; Revelation 20:11-15

⁵ 2 Thessalonians 1:9

0.0.10 **Conclusion**

We not only believe that this body of doctrine is a sacred trust to be preserved and taught in its purity, but we also believe it is a life to be lived and a gospel to be preached.

ARTICLE III CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Clackamas Bible Church regards as members those professing faith in the LORD Jesus Christ,¹ and who choose to regularly worship and fellowship with this

local congregation. According to Scripture, it is expected that such persons have or will obey the LORD in baptism,² participate in the Lord's Supper,³ and live a life which manifests the character of our LORD Jesus Christ.⁴ Such members should uphold the unity expressed in the Articles of Faith and uphold the order expressed in the Constitution of Clackamas Bible Church. They are encouraged to share their testimony with the congregation or the elders as a public witness.

¹ Romans 10:8-10 ² Matthew 28:18-20 ³ 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

⁴ Colossians 1:10

ARTICLE IV CHURCH ORDINANCES

0.4.1 Baptism

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the LORD Jesus Christ. Faith in Christ alone, not baptism, results in our death to sin and resurrection to new life.¹ Baptism shows forth publicly, by a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior. We believe that all who are born again will desire to follow our LORD's example and command in baptism.²

¹ Romans 6:3-11 ² Matthew 28:19-20

0.4.2 The Lord's Super

We believe that the LORD's Supper is a commemoration of His death until He comes; that it should always be preceded by solemn self examination.¹

We believe the LORD's Supper is a command to be obeyed, a reminder to be heeded, a blessing in which to participate, and an act of worship.²

¹ 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 ² Luke 22:14-20

ARTICLE V CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Clackamas Bible Church shall be governed by the Church Board consisting of the Elders and Deacons. Decision making responsibility rests with the Board. The Elders and Deacons shall seek the leading of the Holy Spirit through the Scriptures, prayer, mutual submission, the exercise of wisdom, unity, and discussion with the Congregation. Major issues shall be decided by the Board only in a spirit of unanimous agreement. Other issues may be acted upon with a strong consensus of the Board.

ARTICLE VI CHURCH BOARD

The Board of Clackamas Bible Church shall consist of Elders, Deacons, and Pastors. Each Board member shall be a member of Clackamas Bible Church. They shall be men of honorable reputation, full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and subject to one another under the authority of the Scriptures.¹ Each Board member shall be

exemplary in life and conduct, and shall freely abstain from things which would hinder his influence for God and His work.²

¹ Acts 6:3-6; 1 Peter 5:5 ² Romans 14:13-21

0.6.1 **Qualifications**

Elders shall meet the biblical qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-5.

Deacons shall meet the biblical qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:2-6.

Pastors shall meet the biblical qualifications for Elders.

0.6.2 **Appointment to Office**

Elders, Deacons, and Pastors shall be appointed by the unanimous approval of the Board. With input from the Congregation,¹ the Board shall give diligent attention to the qualifications and evaluation process evident in the passages cited under qualifications. Men thus approved shall be officially appointed to the office by the elders' public prayer and the laying on of hands.²

¹ Acts 6:2-6 ² 1 Timothy 4:14

0.6.3 **Responsibilities**

Each Board member shall be ultimately accountable to God's Word. He shall perform the responsibilities of his office authorized by and accountable to the Board.

Elders shall meet regularly at a time and place as mutually agreed. They shall be responsible for spiritual oversight of all areas which affect the individual and corporate welfare of the church, including prayer for God's people, and personal encouragement and exhortation of individual members as they are able.¹ They shall oversee the observance of the ordinances of the church. The Elders shall discharge matters of church discipline in keeping with God's Word.² The Elders shall have authority to call an ordination council and to ordain men to the gospel ministry.

¹ 1 Thessalonians 2:3-11; 5:12-14

² Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Galatians 6:1; 1 Timothy 5:19-21; Titus 3:10-11

Deacons shall meet regularly at a time and place as mutually agreed. They shall work alongside the Elders in meeting spiritual needs as they are able. Their primary ministry is to care for the physical welfare of the individual and corporate needs of the church, including the church building and properties.

Pastors shall function as Elders. They shall especially dedicate themselves to the ministries of prayer,¹ preaching and teaching God's Word,² and equipping God's people for ministry.³

¹ Acts 6:4 ² 1 Timothy 5:17; 2 Timothy 4:1-5 ³ Ephesians 4:11-12;

2 Timothy 2:2

0.6.4 **Term of Office**

Board members shall serve for an unspecified length of time. A Board member may be freed of official responsibilities upon his personal request to the Board. A Board member who fails to maintain the biblical qualifications for office shall be relieved of the office by unanimous agreement of the other Board members after due consideration in accord with 1 Timothy 5:19-20. The Congregation shall be informed regarding the end of a Board members's service.

**ARTICLE VII
CHURCH OFFICERS**

The Board shall designate at least three of its members to be legally authorized to conduct business and legal matters on behalf of the church. They shall have specific authorization to sign legal documents such as checks, deeds, and contract at the direction of the Board.

**ARTICLE VIII
BUSINESS MEETINGS**

A regular business meeting shall be held by the Board of Elders and Deacons the first Thursday of each month. The Board shall have authority to change the meeting schedule and to convene other meetings as may be necessary for the orderly discharge of its responsibilities.

The Board shall regularly inform the congregation of its actions. Monthly finance reports shall be posted in a place readily accessible to the Congregation. The Board shall schedule a meeting with the Congregation in January, April, July, and October for the purpose of mutual communication.

**ARTICLE IX
AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended by unanimous action of the entire Church Board. Before adopting any changes to this constitution, the Board shall inform the Congregation and allow at least 30 days for dialogue with them.