

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 ⁸ 1 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
¹⁴ 1 John 2:1 ¹⁵Matthew 24:37-44 ¹⁶Acts 1:11 ¹⁷ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11
¹⁸ Revelation 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

¹ John 14:16-17 ² John 16:7-11 ³ Titus 3:5 ⁴ Romans 8:9
⁵ Ephesians 1:15-18 ⁶ John 16:13 ⁷ 1 Corinthians 12:12-13
⁸ Ephesians 4:30 ⁹ Ephesians 3:14-19

0.0.5 **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 ² 1 Corinthians 1:21; 1 Peter 1:23 ³ Titus 3:4-7
⁴ Luke 24:46-47 ⁵ Acts 20:21 ⁶ 1 John 5:11-12 ⁷ Romans 3:21-26 ⁸ 2
Timothy 2:19-22 ⁹ 2 Corinthians 7:1; Philippians 2:12-13 ¹⁰ Ephesians 2:8-
10; James 2:14-26 ¹¹ John 10:27-30; Romans 8:28-39

0.0.6 **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

¹ Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-27 ² I 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

0.0.7 **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

0.0.8 **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'

0.0.9 **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 a plurality of Elders (hereafter known as the Board). Decision making responsibility rests with the Board. The Board shall seek the leading of the Holy Spirit through the Scriptures, prayer, mutual submission, the exercise of wisdom, unity, and consensus with the Council of Deacons. Major issues (e.g. hiring of a staff member, sale of property, disciplinary actions, etc.) shall be decided by the Board through alignment of agreement. Other issues may be acted upon with a consensus of the Board.

ARTICLE VI CHURCH BOARD

The Board of Clackamas Bible Church shall consist of Elders. Each Board member shall be a member of Clackamas Bible Church (see article III). 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. 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.

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.

0.6.2 Appointment to Office

Elders shall be appointed by the unanimous approval of the Board. He will then be invited to attend Elder meetings for a period of 6 months, meeting with a current Elder and participating in assigned reading and taking a course on leadership. 60 days prior to the end of the 6-month period, the Elder's name is presented to the congregation for feedback, during which the Board will consider any feedback in light of the scriptural qualifications as specified in section 0.6.1. Men thus approved shall be officially appointed to the office by the Elders' public prayer and the laying on of hands.¹

¹ 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 appoint a Chairperson and 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. 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. (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Galatians 6:1; 1 Timothy 5:19-21; Titus 3:10-11)

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 personal request to the Board. A Board member may request a sabbatical for a period of up to 1 year without having to go through the approval process when returning, as long as their personal testimony has not been compromised.

A Board member who fails to maintain the biblical qualifications for office

may be removed by unanimous agreement of the other Board members after due consideration in accord with 1 Timothy 5:19-20. The Congregation will be informed regarding the end of a Board member's service.

0.6.5 Meetings

Regular business meetings will be held by the Board twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. The Board has the authority to change or schedule other meetings as necessary. Regular meetings will be held for the Council of Deacons at the direction of the Deacon Chairperson and the Council Members' availability.

There will be a quarterly Family Forum Meeting on the 3rd Sunday in January, April, July, and October.

The congregation will be informed regularly on the actions of the Board and Council of Deacons. Monthly finance reports will be posted in a place readily accessible to the congregation.

The Board, Council of Deacons, and the Church Bookkeeper will meet at least twice annually to discuss the church budget; once to plan and once to approve. These meetings will be scheduled by the Board at a time convenient to all involved. Other meetings can be scheduled as needed.

ARTICLE VII COUNCIL OF DEACONS

0.7.1 Qualifications

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

0.7.2 Appointment to Office

The Council of Deacons or the Board may present a candidate for Deacon. The candidate may be either a man or a woman. If the Board and the Council are in alignment with accepting the candidate, they may present them to the congregation for a 60-day period of consideration during which the Board and the Council will consider any feedback in light of the scriptural qualifications as specified in section 0.7.1. After the 60-day period has expired and there is a consensus from the congregation, a date will be set for a formal prayer and laying on of hands by the Elders.

0.7.3 Responsibilities

Deacons will appoint a chairperson who will schedule meetings as necessary to conduct the business of Deacons.

The Council of Deacons' primary ministry is the care of the physical welfare of the individual, and the corporate needs of the church, including the church buildings and properties. They oversee the dispersal of funds from the Benevolent Fund.

Deacons will work alongside the Elders in making contact with members of the congregation through the Barnabas Project.

0.7.4 Term of Office

Deacons will serve for an unspecified length of time. Members may be freed of official responsibilities upon personal request to the Deacon Chairperson. The Board and congregation will be advised when a member leaves their office.

A Council member may request a sabbatical for a period of up to 1 year without having to go through the approval process when returning, as long as their personal testimony has not been compromised.

A Council member who fails to maintain biblical qualifications for office may be removed by alignment of agreement of the Board members (per Article V) after due consideration in accordance with 1 Timothy 5:19-20. The congregation will be informed regarding the end of a member's service.

ARTICLE VIII 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. These members should be part of the Board, Council, or Staff. The designated persons will have specific authorization to sign legal documents such as checks, deeds, and contracts at the direction of the Board.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by unanimous approval of the Board. Prior to adopting any changes to the Constitution, the Board shall inform the Council of Deacons and congregation of proposed changes, then allow at least 30 days for any dialogue with them.