

CONSTITUTION OF CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH

AT SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Chinese Baptist Church at Seattle Washington, in order to more effectively carry out The Great Commission given by Jesus Christ to His Church, do ordain the following Constitution to which we submit ourselves.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this church is Chinese Baptist Church at Seattle Washington, also referred as "The Church" located in 5801 Beacon Ave S, Seattle WA 98108.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Chinese Baptist Church exists as a body of committed believers to glorify God by:

- A. Exalting the Creator,
- B. Edifying the church
- C. Evangelizing the community.

"Exalting the Creator" is to glorify God through worship and godly lifestyle. Matthew 28:18, 1 Corinthians 10:31

"Edifying the church" is to equip the believers to grow as disciples of Christ through the teaching and practical application of God's Word and loving fellowship with Christ and one another. Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 4:11-16; John 13:34-35

"Evangelizing the community" is to go and win disciples for Christ through the proclamation of the Gospel. Matthew 28:19-20

Exclusive Purpose Clause. To conform to IRS standards for a 501(c)(3) organization, it also must be stated that this church is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE III - STATEMENT OF FAITH

- A. **Word of God.** We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18
- B. **Trinity.** We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three distinct persons, that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct, but harmonious, offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. 2 Corinthians 13:14; Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:26-27; 1 Peter 1:2; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19
- C. **God the Father.** We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of people, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. Psalm 19:1; Exodus 3:14; Romans 8:14-15; Matthew 6:9; Matthew 7:11
- D. **Jesus Christ.** We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth. John 1:1-2, 14; Luke 1:35; Romans 3:24-25; 1 Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Acts 1:9-10; Hebrews 9:24, 7:25; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2
- E. **Holy Spirit.** We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide. John 16:8-11; 2 Corinthians 3:6; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14
- F. **Regeneration.** We believe all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are a new creation through the work of the Holy Spirit. John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5

- G. **Church.** We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible confession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world. Ephesians 2:19-22, 4:16; 1 Timothy 3:15; Colossians 1:24
- H. **Ordinances.** We believe the Lord Jesus Christ has commanded two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe in baptism in the name of the triune God by immersion of a believer following confession in faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We believe the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Peter 3:21; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32
- I. **Last Things.** We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal peace and joy of the righteous and the endless suffering of the wicked. 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 4:13-18, 5:9; Revelations 3:10, 19:11-16, 20:1-6
- J. **Eternal Security.** We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:5
- K. **Sanctity of Life.** We believe in the dignity of all human life including unborn babies. Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:13-16; John 3:16; Job 12:10; Luke 12:6-7; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
- L. **Human Sexuality.** We believe that God created each person specifically as a man or a woman. God ordained physical expression of human sexuality to be only in the bonds of marriage and between one man and one woman. 1 Peter 3:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-19; Proverbs 31:10-31; Malachi 2:14-16; Genesis 1:26-28, 2:15-25

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

People who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, who give evidence by their confession and conduct that they are living in fellowship with Him, and who subscribe to the above Purpose and Statement of Faith shall be accepted into membership of this church in accordance with the Bylaws.

ARTICLE V - CONGREGATIONAL ROLE

The primary role of the members shall be to serve as ministers of the Church reaching out to unchurched people first and also caring for the needs of one another within the Church. Members shall also participate in key decisions listed below. Only these decisions require the approval of 75% of a quorum of either 75 members or at least 51% of the eligible members whichever is less.

- A. Calling or dismissing the Lead Pastor
- B. Amending the Articles of Incorporation or Constitution
- C. Purchasing, selling or encumbering Church real property
- D. Dissolving the Corporation
- E. Electing Leadership Council members

ARTICLE VI - MEMBER MEETINGS

Member meetings are a forum for the Lead Pastor and/or the Leadership Council to communicate with the church. These meetings may also be held for the purpose of the church to vote on items in which the authority of the Leadership Council is restricted as listed in Article V.

ARTICLE VII - LEADERSHIP

Section 1 – Leadership Council

The general role of the Leadership Council is to oversee the spiritual health and direction of the church and to provide policy guidance. The Leadership Council members shall meet the biblical qualifications as outlined in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Decisions by the Leadership Council shall be by simple majority unless specified elsewhere in the Constitution or Bylaws.

Section 1.1 – Membership

- A. The Leadership Council will consist of the Lead Pastor and Pastor or designate of the worship service not represented by the Lead Pastor and at least five church members to execute the duties of the Leadership Council. The council will be representative of the congregation.
- B. The members of the Leadership Council shall be members of the church who display spiritual maturity and recognize the calling of the Holy Spirit to serve the church. They shall also be members who have demonstrated leadership qualities and experience.

- C. The term of a Leadership Council member will be three years with exception of the Lead Pastor and Pastor or designate of the worship service not represented by the Lead Pastor. Each term will commence as specified in the Bylaws, with individual terms staggered with approximately one-third of the Leadership Council elected each year.
- D. Council members may be elected to serve a second term. Council members shall serve no more than two consecutive terms. A former Leadership Council member may be presented as a candidate after not serving for one year.
- E. The Lead Pastor is by default the Chair of the Leadership Council and may delegate/undelegate the role of the Chair of the Leadership Council to another member of the Leadership Council.
- F. The Leadership Council shall interpret the Constitution.

Section 2 – Staff

The Staff shall include the Lead Pastor and such additional staff as shall be deemed necessary to carry out the ministerial work of the church. Staff shall display spiritual maturity and recognize the calling of the Holy Spirit to serve the church. They shall also demonstrate leadership qualities and experience.

Section 2.1- Lead Pastor

The Lead Pastor shall meet the biblical qualifications of an elder outlined in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.

The Lead Pastor shall be primarily responsible for:

- A. Providing leadership and vision for the church, Pastoral and Support staff.
- B. Supervision of all staff on a daily basis.
- C. Motivating, equipping and nurturing the church body through spiritual example, leadership and teaching.
- D. Overseeing church discipline and managing conflict within the church, seeking to reconcile relationships and promoting unity.
- E. Responsible for hiring and dismissal of all staff in consultation with the Leadership Council.

Section 2.2 – Pastoral Staff

The Pastoral Staff shall serve under the direction of the Lead Pastor. Pastoral Staff include those who perform pastoral duties. The Pastoral Staff shall be responsible for:

- A. Initiating, coordinating and leading their ministry.
- B. Recruiting, training and overseeing additional staff and coordinating volunteer leaders.
- C. Solving problems and conflicts that arise within the scope of their ministry.

Section 2.3 – Support Staff

The Support Staff shall serve under the direction of the Lead Pastor and/or the Lead Pastor's designate/s. The Support Staff shall assist the pastoral staff in operation of the church. Staff maybe full or part-time, or temporary, an internship or a resident position.

Section 3 – Deacons

The Deacons are to serve and meet the needs of the church.

ARTICLE VIII – PROPERTY

This church shall have the authority to receive, either by gift or purchase, and to hold such real or personal property as is authorized by the laws of the State of Washington, and as is deemed necessary for the business of the church, and shall have the authority to dispose of such property by mortgage, deed or otherwise. All such property shall be held in the name of the church. In case of dissolution of the church, the leadership shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the church, dispose of all the assets of the church in such manner. Any excess assets should be given to the affiliated denomination/s and/or affiliated denominational sub-entity/s who affirm and hold to the entirety of the CBC statement of faith outlined in Article III. No church member shall receive any monetary benefit arising from the dissolution of this Church or any of its assets.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

The church shall follow the amendment provision in Article V. The church shall notify members of the church at least two weeks prior to the meeting.