

# **HAMMOND BAY BAPTIST CHURCH**

## **“CONSTITUTION”**

### **ARTICLE I. - NAME**

The name of the society is the “Hammond Bay Baptist Church”.

### **ARTICLE II. - PURPOSE**

- A. The members of this society band together under the expressed commission by the Lord Jesus Christ to "make disciples of all nations" Matthew 28:19.

This involves:

1. EVANGELISM - proclaiming the gospel in word and in action, with the intent to persuade people at home and globally to a personal commitment to Christ:
  2. EDUCATION - teaching the truths and the requirements of the Word of God and training its members to serve the interests of Christ and His Church with their gifts, abilities and resources:
  3. EXALTATION - gathering together for the public worship of God and for the observance of the ordinances.
  4. EDIFICATION - gathering together formally and informally in small numbers for fellowship intended for the spiritual nurture and encouragement of one another.
- B. To secure by purchase or gift, title to property, real or personal, as may be utilize to further the objectives of the Society;
- C. To solicit, collect and invest monies and other property for the furtherance of the objectives of the Society;
- D. To cooperate with the British Columbia Baptist Conference and the Baptist General Conference of Canada in their Canadian and global mission.

## **ARTICLE III. - CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been led by God's Spirit to follow Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and upon this confession of faith through water baptism, we now in the presence of God and this assembly earnestly covenant to join together with Christ and his Church.

In so doing, we recognize that it is God's grace which has brought us to Himself and enables us to continue our obedience to Him. With this in view, by God's grace, we shall strive together for both the peace and purity of this church; to sustain its worship and steadfastly to cherish its ordinances, discipline and doctrine. We shall also strive as faithful stewards, to contribute such time, talent and money in the measure that God would prosper us. In so doing, we recognize that we are executing our unique tasks and gifts as a member of Christ's body, and under His Lordship.

In giving ourselves to God and to each other, we realize that together and individually, we are ambassadors for Christ. We thus realize that we are to continue the ministry of Jesus. Empowered by God's Spirit, we endeavor to be God's agents in every activity of life; in our family relationships, in our employment, in our financial affairs, in our worship, in our leisure, and in our attitudes.

We thus covenant to follow the distinctive Christian example modeled by Jesus and clarified in the Scriptures. In so doing, we shall separate ourselves from the world, be refraining from evil practices, and by following Christ's example in every activity of life. In so doing, we recognize that true discipleship is not a harness or a burden. Rather, it is true freedom found in submission to Jesus and in a vital relationship with Him.

Essential to this lifestyle and to our lives are the Bible, prayer, preaching, the church, baptism, the Lord's Supper, and anticipation in the blessed hope of our Lord's return.

## **ARTICLE IV. - STATEMENT OF FAITH**

### ***1. The 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. The Trinity.***

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three 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.

### 3. *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 men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

### 4. *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.

### 5. *The 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 keeps every believer until the day of Christ as an abiding helper, teacher and guide.

### 6. *Satan.*

We believe Satan is a created Angel, a wicked personal being who constantly opposes Christ by tempting men to sin and works to prevent the spread of the Gospel. We believe Satan's influence over every believer has been made ineffective by the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### 7. *Regeneration.*

We believe that all men 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 Lord and Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

### 8. *The 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 profession 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 giving the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

#### **9. *Christian Conduct.***

We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well being of his fellowmen; that his conduct should be blameless before the world; that he should be a faithful steward of his possessions; and that he should seek to realize for himself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.

#### **10. *The Ordinances.***

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church; baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **11. *Religious Liberty.***

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority, that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.

#### **12. *Church Co-operation.***

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by co-operating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether a regional or district conference exists and functions by the will of the churches. Co-operation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise co-operate with inter-denominational fellowships on a voluntary independent basis.

#### **13. *The 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 felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

## **ARTICLE V. - AFFILIATION**

This society shall maintain fellowship with the Baptist general Conference and the Columbia Baptist Conference in accordance with Article IV, section 12 of this constitution.

## **ARTICLE VI.**

Clauses 3, 4, 5, & 6 are unalterable in accordance with section 22 of The Societies Act.

## **ARTICLE VII – ADDITIONAL AFFILIATION**

This society shall also maintain fellowship with British Columbia Baptist Conference and the Baptist General Conference of Canada.

This article is unalterable.

## **ARTICLE VIII – PROFIT AND GAIN**

The purposes of this Society shall be carried on without pecuniary gain to its members, and no dividends shall be declared or paid and any profits or other accretions to this Society shall be used in promoting its objectives.

This article is unalterable.

## **ARTICLE IX – DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY**

Upon the dissolution of this Society and after payment of all debts and liabilities, the remaining property of the Society shall be transferred to the British Columbia Baptist Conference or its successor.

This article is unalterable.

## **ARTICLE X – DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY**

### A. Division

In case of organic division of Church membership, the Church property shall belong to those members who abide by the Constitution and Bylaws. In case of controversy over who is abiding by the Constitution and Bylaws, the Executive Committee of the British Columbia Baptist Conference shall make the final decision.

### B. Consolidation

Should conditions arise where consolidation with another Christian Church would be advisable, the Board in consultation with the Executive Committee of the British Columbia Baptist Conference shall be authorized to negotiate the terms of such consolidation in so far as property is concerned and bring recommendations to the Church for decision.

This article is unalterable.

