

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF LARKSPUR CONSTITUTION

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the public confession of our faith, having been immersed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We PURPOSE, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to: walk together in Christian love, strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort, promote its prosperity and spirituality, attend its services regularly, sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines, give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin, give faithfully of time and talent in its activities, contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel throughout all nations.

We ALSO PURPOSE to: maintain family and private devotions, train our children according to the Word of God, seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances, walk circumspectly in the world, be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our conduct, avoid all gossip, backbiting and unrighteous anger, abstain from all forms of activity which dishonor our Lord Jesus Christ, cause stumbling to a fellow believer, or hinder the winning of a soul to Christ, be zealous in our efforts to advance the cause of Christ our Savior, and give Him preeminence in all things.

We FURTHER PURPOSE to: encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return, watch over one another in brotherly love, remember each other in prayer, aid each other in sickness and distress, cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech, be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation and, mindful of the rules of our Savior, seek it without delay.

We MOREOVER PURPOSE that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible unite with some other church of like faith and order where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. In the event there is no such church, we shall seek, with the Lord's help, to establish one.

CHURCH CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the church shall be **CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF LARKSPUR, CALIFORNIA.**

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to worship God through: preaching and teaching the Word of God, administering the ordinances of the New Testament Church, ministering In Christian service to the community, promoting the spiritual development of believers, and seeking the salvation of the lost through evangelism and missions, at home and abroad.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Admission

The membership of this Church shall consist of such believers on the Lord Jesus Christ who: have been baptized (immersed in water), accept the Holy Scriptures as their only rule of faith and practice, and gladly subscribe to and be governed by this Covenant, Constitution, and Articles of Faith in their entirety.

Every candidate for admission to this Church shall relate his or her Salvation and Baptism experience to the Senior Pastor and Deacon Board.

The Senior Pastor and Deacons, having satisfied themselves that the candidate is eligible for membership, shall recommend such to the Church at any regular meeting of the Church. A majority vote of members present is required for approval of membership.

Associate Membership, which includes all of the benefits and responsibilities of regular membership with the exception of voting rights, is available to those living in the Larkspur area on a temporary basis. Associate members are permitted to retain membership in a church of like faith and practice at home while participating in ministries in this local Church. Associate members shall be admitted in the same manner as regular members.

Section 2 – Duties of Members

The duties and obligations of members are set forth in the **Church Covenant**.

Section 3 – Dismissal of Members

A letter dismissing any member in good standing may be granted to another Bible-believing baptist church upon majority vote of the members present. A Certificate of Christian Character may in like manner be granted to any evangelical church.

Any person granted a letter of dismissal and desiring to be restored to membership without having joined another church may do so in the manner prescribed in Section 1 of this Article.

The act of granting a letter to another church shall be considered as severing the member's connection with this Church.

Section 4 – Inactive Membership

Members are expected to attend the regular services of Calvary Baptist Church unless providentially hindered (Hebrews 10:25). A member who fails to attend for six months without giving evidence of providential hindrances will be considered by the congregation

for inactive membership. If the congregation places the person on inactive membership, the person loses voting and service privileges. Should the person request full membership to be reinstated by the congregation, such a request will be considered if evidence of renewed faithful attendance exists. However, an inactive member will forfeit all membership after one year of not attending. Each case will be considered on its own merits. The person may be removed by the congregation with or without written notification.

Members who are commissioned by this Church for such activities as missionary or military service and who will be unable to regularly attend a local church of like faith and practice may retain inactive membership in this congregation indefinitely, provided they continue to abide by this **Church Covenant, Constitution, and Articles of Faith** and unite with this Church as soon as they are able. Membership may be dissolved in the following additional ways:

- A. death of the member,
- B. the member's request in writing,
- C. the regular or associate member's moving out of the area,
- D. letter of recommendation to another church of like faith and practice granted to members in good standing, or
- E. a member who unites with another church.

Section 5 – Discipline of Members

A Covenant Committee consisting of the Deacon Board with the Senior Pastor shall handle all violations of the **Church Covenant, Constitution, and Articles of Faith** which call for disciplinary action.

In cases of personal differences between members, the Covenant Committee shall recommend that the persons involved endeavor to settle their own differences in accordance with the instructions of Christ as recorded in Matthew 18:15–17. Refusal on the part of anyone to comply with these instructions shall make them liable to discipline.

The Church must properly, lovingly, but firmly exercise church discipline against those members who in the judgment of the Pastor and Deacons have persisted in sinful behavior. The procedure shall be according to Matthew 18:15–17, allowing reasonable time for repentance after every effort has been made to bring the person to correct the sinful behavior. The person has a right to defense if he or she so wishes before the congregation at the business meeting in which the matter will be prudently discussed. By majority vote of members present, the guilty party will be excluded from membership and must be notified in writing immediately.

Section 6 – Restoration of Membership

Should an excluded member repent and desire restoration, such a request will be considered eagerly by the Pastor and Deacons. After such members have given to the Pastor and Deacons a satisfactory explanation and acceptable evidence of honest repentance, and upon their recommendation to the Church, a vote will be taken for their restoration. A majority vote of members present will reinstate the membership.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1 – Meetings for Worship

Unless otherwise provided, the Church shall meet each Sunday for worship and evangelistic efforts both morning and evening and at least once during the week for prayer. Other meetings shall be planned as desired.

Section 2 – Business Meetings

The fiscal year of the Church shall be the calendar year.

The annual business meeting of the Church for the election of officers, adoption of the budget, and the transaction of such other business as is not provided for in the next paragraph shall be held during the first full week of December.

The annual business meeting of the Church for the presentation of reports and installation of officers shall be held during the month of January.

Quarterly business meetings shall be held during the months of April, July, and October. Previous notice of business meetings shall be given at two Sunday morning services immediately preceding the date of the meeting, except when otherwise provided by this **Constitution**.

Section 3 – Voting

Only members in good standing, eighteen years of age or over, shall be qualified to vote in any business meeting.

All voting shall be by voice vote of members present unless otherwise specified in these bylaws or requested by a member present. The vote for Senior Pastor, officers, and budget shall be by ballot.

Section 4 – Nominations

Nominations shall be overseen by the Nominating Committee as specified in Article VI, under section entitled “Nominating Committee”.

Section 5 – Quorum

Those members in good standing present at a duly called business meeting shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

All officers of the Church must be members in good standing of this Church and must subscribe to this **Church Covenant, Constitution, and Articles of Faith**. Upon refusal to do so, the office shall be declared vacant.

Section 1 – Senior Pastor

The Senior Pastor must meet all the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. For those qualities not specifically clarified in Scripture, we desire to practice Christian charity in accordance with Romans 14-15:7 and 1 Corinthians 8 while seeking to continually grow in holiness (1 Thessalonians. 3:13).

The Senior Pastor shall be elected at a special meeting of the Church. Public notice of such meeting shall be given from the pulpit at two Sunday morning services immediately preceding the date of the meeting. A seventy-five percent majority vote of voting members present shall be necessary for his election.

The Senior Pastor shall continue in office until he resigns or until his resignation is requested in the following manner:

The severing of the pastoral relationship may be considered at a special business meeting presided over by the chairman of the Deacons, provided: the Deacons have received a written request for such action by twenty-five percent of members in good standing, and the Church notice of such meeting shall have been given on two successive Sundays just prior to such a meeting. A seventy-five percent majority vote of members present shall be necessary to discharge a Senior Pastor.

The Senior Pastor shall be moderator of all Church business meetings unless specified otherwise in this **Constitution** and an Ex-officio member of all boards and committees. No business other than routine matters not affecting policies shall be transacted in his absence except when the Church is without a Senior Pastor.

Vacation:

The Senior Pastor shall be entitled to an annual vacation of two weeks with no carry over to the following year. Additional time may be granted by the Deacon Board. The Senior Pastor will be allowed to attend two conferences of his choice each year which will not be counted as vacation. As funds are available, the Church shall assist in paying for conference expenses.

Pastoral Staff:

In order to meet the needs of the Church, the Senior Pastor is at liberty to fill positions, salaried (within the budget) and unsalaried, with personnel who are equipped for a particular task and meet the spiritual qualifications. Pastoral staff positions (Assistant Pastor, Music Pastor, Youth Pastor) shall be nominated by the Senior Pastor and Deacon Board and approved by the Church by majority vote of members present. Each member of the pastoral staff must meet all the qualifications as for the Senior Pastor. All staff employees (salaried and unsalaried) shall be directly responsible to the Senior Pastor.

The pastoral staff is under no obligation to perform a wedding even if a couple meets the Scriptural requirements for marriage.

Section 2 – Deacons

Members in good standing shall elect Deacons at the Church's annual meeting. The maximum number of Deacons shall be determined by the Senior Pastor and Deacon Board. The Deacon Board shall consist of all those currently serving their terms. The candidate for Deacon must be a man at least twenty-one years of age who has been a member of the Church for at least one year.

All Deacons must meet all the qualifications set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:2- 3. For those qualities not specifically clarified in Scripture, we desire to practice Christian charity in accordance with Romans 14-15:7 and 1 Corinthians 8 while seeking to continually grow in holiness (1 Thessalonians 3:13).

At each annual meeting, one-half of the Deacon Board shall be elected to serve for a term of two years. At that business meeting, each member in good standing shall be privileged to vote for the required number from the list prepared by the Nominating Committee.

Immediately following the annual meeting, the Deacons shall meet and elect from their number a chairman, secretary, and such other officers as may seem to be required for the efficient functioning of the Deacon Board.

It shall be the Deacons' duties to assist the Senior Pastor in: supervising the work of the Church in all departments, promoting the spiritual welfare of the Church, conducting religious services, considering applications for Church membership, dispersing benevolence funds, visiting Church attendees, providing pulpit supply, leading the Church in the Senior Pastor's absence, and overseeing and directing Church needs and directions.

The Deacon Board shall: hold regular monthly meetings at such times and places as may be determined advisable, give a report of its work at each annual meeting of the Church, and present at the annual business meeting a current Church and missionary budget for the ensuing year. These budgets become operative when adopted and approved by the Church. It shall be the duty of the Senior Pastor and the Deacon Board to supervise and direct all expenditures. Those expenditures in excess of \$1,000 outside the regular budget must be submitted to and approved by the Church. The Deacon Board shall be authorized to fill all vacancies whether occurring within itself or other offices in the Church. Such appointment shall be in effect until the next annual business meeting of the Church.

Section 3 – Clerk

At each annual business meeting, the Church shall elect from its membership a Clerk to serve for the ensuing year. The Clerk shall: keep a record of the proceedings of the Church, have charge of the statistical records of the Church and minutes of the business meetings, keep a register of all members, and perform such other duties as may be required by the Church.

Section 4 – Treasurer

At each annual business meeting, the Church shall elect from its membership a Treasurer to serve for the ensuing year.

The Treasurer shall: disburse funds as authorized by the Church, keep an accurate book of accounts, give a monthly financial report to the Senior Pastor and the Deacon Board, give a financial report at all quarterly Church business meetings, and make a full report at the annual meeting of the Church.

All expenditures, including special offerings, shall be made by check or electronic fund transfer. All checks shall be signed by any two of the following: the Treasurer, a Deacon, or any other designee appointed in writing by the Deacon Board.

The Treasurer shall: act as missionary treasurer and receive and keep an accurate account of all monies contributed for missionary purposes, and distribute such funds in accordance with the instructions of the Church.

In the exercise of The Church Covenant and its Purpose under Article II, the church may establish various funds. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions but suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the church. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to advance its stated purposes.

Section 5 – Financial Secretary and Assistant Financial Secretary

At each annual business meeting, the Church shall elect from its membership a Financial Secretary and an Assistant Financial Secretary to serve for the ensuing year.

The Financial Secretary and Assistant Financial Secretary shall maintain an independent financial receipts record.

The Financial Secretary and Assistant Financial Secretary shall count the offering every week. Deacons may assist as needed. At least two of these individuals shall be entrusted with this responsibility at a time. Only the Financial Secretary, Assistant Financial Secretary, or a Deacon may make a deposit.

Section 6 – Sunday School Superintendent

The Sunday School Superintendent shall be a male member in good standing appointed by the Senior Pastor and Deacon Board.

The Superintendent and the Senior Pastor shall appoint all Sunday School officers and teachers. The appointments must in turn be subject to the approval of the Deacon Board to whom the Superintendent shall be directly responsible.

The Superintendent shall give a quarterly report to the Church.

Section 7 – Trustees

The Deacon Board shall constitute the Trustees of the Church plus such other men necessary from the members of the Church in good standing to make up the minimum State required number of three. In the event that the Church has fewer than three Deacons,

other male members who are twenty–one years of age and older may be elected at a Church business meeting (as described in Article V, section 2) to serve as Trustees.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to: hold in trust all the property of the Church, sign such mortgage notes as the Church may require, see that adequate insurance is carried on the Church properties at all times, fulfill all requirements of civil law respecting the trustees of a corporation, subject always to the instruction of the Church. They shall make quarterly reports as needed.

Section 8 – Ordination

Any male member of this Church who in the judgment of the Senior Pastor and Deacon Board: possesses the Scriptural qualifications of a Pastor as set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:5–9, has demonstrated an ability to teach and preach the Word of God, and gives evidence of Divine leading to the work of the ministry, may be considered as a candidate for ordination.

An Ordination Council of men who are members and spiritual leaders in this Church and pastors of other churches of like faith and order shall be called by this Church to thoroughly examine the Scriptural qualifications, Divine leading, academic preparation, and doctrinal convictions of the candidate.

Upon a positive recommendation by the Ordination Council and a majority vote of members, this Church shall proceed with an appropriate ordination service. Ordination shall be withdrawn when a man ordained by this Church disqualifies himself: by violating the Scriptural qualifications of a Pastor or by rejecting the fundamentals of the Christian faith as set forth in the Articles of Faith of this Church.

ARTICLE VI 10 COMMITTEES

Section 1 – Elected Committees

Pulpit Committee – The Deacon Board shall constitute the Pulpit Committee. Its duty shall be: to select and present to the Church possible candidates for the pulpit and, at the Senior Pastor’s request, to provide pulpit supply during his absence.

Nominating Committee – The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Senior Pastor and at least three members elected by the Church membership at the October quarterly meeting. It shall be the duty of this Committee to: determine the nominations for Deacons, suggest names for all other elected offices, and interview all nominees with a view of obtaining their consent to serve if elected.

Auditing Committee – The Auditing Committee shall consist of at least two persons elected by the Church membership at the December meeting. They shall examine: the books of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary, all necessary vouchers and records of the missionary accounts, and all other financial records. They shall make a report to the Church at the quarterly business meeting in April.

Covenant Committee – The Deacon Board shall constitute the Covenant Committee in accordance with Article III, Section 5.

Missions Committee – The Missions Committee shall consist of members appointed by the Pastor. This Committee shall be responsible for screening all missionaries seeking Calvary Baptist Church's financial support in accordance with our Church Missionary Policy. All recommendations made by the Missions Committee must be approved by the Senior Pastor and Deacon Board. All approved missionaries shall be confirmed by a Church majority vote at a regularly scheduled business meeting. The Committee will also assist with other duties related to missionaries at the direction of the Pastor.

Section 2 – Other Committees

The Senior Pastor and Deacon Board may appoint other committees as they deem appropriate. All committee members shall be church members in good standing. These other committees shall have no authority to act on behalf of the church or the corporation. These committees shall be subject to the control and direction of the Senior Pastor and Deacons at all times.

ARTICLE VII SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS

No subsidiary organization of this Church shall engage in any practice or policy contrary to the general position of the Church itself.

All regular Teachers and Officers of subsidiary organizations shall be members in good standing in the Church. Exception may be made upon approval of the Deacon Board. In all cases, Teachers and Officers shall be required to subscribe to the ARTICLES OF FAITH of the Church.

ARTICLE VIII LEGAL PROVISIONS

Section 1 – Property Ownership

This Church shall have the right to own, buy, or sell tangible properties, both real and personal, in its own name and through properly elected officers, when authorized by a seventy-five percent majority vote of Church members present at a business meeting in accordance with Article 4, Section 2.

Section 2 – Individual benefit

No profit shall ever accrue to the benefit of any individuals from the assets, holdings or other transactions in which this corporation may become involved.

Section 3 – Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of this corporation, all of its debts shall be fully satisfied to the extent possible. None of its assets or holdings shall be divided among the members or any other individual or individuals but shall be irrevocably designated by a seventy-five

percent majority vote of Church membership prior to dissolution to such other nonprofit religious corporations as are in agreement with the letter and the spirit of the Articles of Faith adopted by this Church and in conformity with the requirements to the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (Section 501 C-3).

Section 4 – Amendment process

This document may only be amended in the following manner: Amendments must be consistent with the teaching of the Word of God. They must not violate the purpose for which this Church was established and the doctrinal basis on which it was founded and is to be perpetuated. They must meet the needs of Calvary Baptist Church of Larkspur. Any proposed amendment to this document must be presented in writing to the Pastor and Deacon Board at least one month before the regular Church business meeting at which it is to be presented. In order for the proposed amendment to be voted upon, it must be recommended to the Church by the Senior Pastor and Deacon Board, and announced at any regular morning weekly worship service at least once each week for two weeks immediately preceding the meeting at which it is to be presented. A seventy-five percent majority vote of members in good standing present shall be necessary for its adoption.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

Section 1: Doctrine of the Scriptures

We believe in the authority and sufficiency of the Holy Bible, consisting of the sixty six books of the Old and New Testaments, as originally written; that it was in every word and in every thought completely inspired and is the product of Spirit controlled men, and therefore is infallible and without error in all matters of which it speaks.

We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions shall be tried (2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).

Section 2: Doctrine of God

We believe there is one, and only one, living and true God and infinite Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (Exodus 20:2-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11; 1 John 5:7, 8:16, 26-27)

God the Father

We believe that God the Father is Father in His relationship within the Trinity and in His relationship with those who receive Jesus Christ as Savior; that He orders all things after the counsel of His own will and in so doing, concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer; that He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent; and that He is the object of our worship and praise (Psalm 65:2, 139:1-24,

147:5; Matthew 5:45, 6:24–34; John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5).

God the Son

The Lord Jesus is coequal and coeternal with the Father; we believe that He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary; that He is God manifest in the flesh, very God and very man, that He was sent by the Father for the purpose of being the perfect sinless sacrifice for the sins of mankind; that He died in our stead, was buried, and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, gaining victory over death for us. We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ and in His ascension into heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest, interceding for us. We believe that He is the object of our faith; that He is the only way to the Father; that He is imminently coming for the saints; that He will reign as King of kings on earth for one thousand years; and that He will judge evil works of darkness at the end of the Millennial reign (Isaiah 61:1–3; Matthew 28:6–7; Mark 16:6; Luke 1:26–38, 24:2–6,51; John 1:1–4, 3:13–17, 14:6, 20:27; Acts 1:9–11, 16:31; 1 Corinthians 15:1–4, 55–57; Colossians 1:16–17; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11; Hebrews 2:17, 4:14–16, 5:9–10, 7:25, 8:6, 12:2; 1 John 2:1; Revelation 3:21, 20:4–6, 11–15, Revelation 20:11–15).

God the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son, and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the Evil One until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the New Birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer (John 14:16.17; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Genesis 1:1–3; John 16:8–11; Acts 5:30–32; John 3:5–6; Luke 24:49; Ephesians 1:13–14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Romans 8:14; Romans 8:14; Romans 8:16, 26–27)

Section 3 – Doctrine of Creation

We believe:

- A. the Biblical account of the creation of the physical universe, angels, and man,
- B. that this creation took place over six, 24 hour days,
- C. that this account is neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical, account of the direct, immediate, creative acts of God without any evolutionary process,
- D. that man was created by the direct work of God and not from previously existing forms of life, and
- E. that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race (Genesis 1:2; Colossians 1:16–17; John 1:3).

Section 4 – Doctrine of Man

We believe that man was created by God in innocence and in the image and likeness of God under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression, Adam fell from his sinless and happy state, and all men sinned in him. In consequence of this, all men are: totally depraved, partakers of Adam's fallen nature, sinners by nature and by conduct not only

from constraint but by choice and therefore, are under just condemnation without defense or excuse (Genesis 3:1–6; Romans 3:10–19, 5:12, 19, 1:18, 32).

Section 5 – Doctrine of Satan

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, the Devil; that he was created by God as an angel but through pride and rebellion became the enemy of his Creator; that he became the unholy god of this age and the ruler of all the power of the darkness and is destined to the judgment of and eternal justice in the Lake of Fire (Matthew 4:1–11; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10).

Section 6 – Doctrine of Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is divinely initiated and wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who, by the appointment of the Father, voluntarily took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, and honored the divine law by His personal obedience, thus qualifying Himself to be our Savior; that by the shedding of His blood in His death He fully satisfied the just demands of a holy and righteous God regarding sin; that His sacrifice consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that having risen from the dead He is now enthroned in Heaven. He is in every way the only suitable, compassionate, and all sufficient Savior.

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation; that repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God, prompted by the Holy Spirit, and is an integral part of saving faith (Jonah 2:9; Hebrews 2:14–17; Isaiah 53:4–7; 1 John 4:10; 1 Corinthians 15:3 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24).

Of Grace and the New Birth:

We believe that in order to be saved sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; 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, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about by our sovereign God in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith and newness of life (John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 John 5:1; Acts 16:20–33; 2 Peter 1:4; Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:1, 5; Colossians 2:13; John 3:8).

Of Justification:

We believe that justification is that judicial act of God whereby: He pardons the believing sinner, gives eternal life on the principles of righteousness, and declares the believer righteous upon the basis of the imputed righteousness of Christ; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's shed blood (Romans 2:24; 4:5; Galatians 2:16; Philippians 3:9).

Of Sanctification:

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer unto God accomplished in a threefold manner:

1. an eternal act of God based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the believer in a position of holiness at the moment he or she trusts the Savior (Hebrews 3:1; 10:10-14; Ephesians 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 1:30),
2. a continuing process in the saint as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to the life (John 17:17; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4), and
3. the final accomplishment of this process at the Lord's return (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 1 John 3:2; Jude 24-25; Revelation 22:11).

Of the Security of Believers:

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ forever (Philippians 1:6; John 10:28-29; Romans 8:35-39; Jude 1).

Section 7 – Of the New Testament Church

We believe the local New Testament Church consists of two or more baptized believers being united by and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, acknowledging the Headship of Christ, and carrying out the teaching of the scripture for the glory of the Lord. Each local New Testament Church is independent of all other organizations. Its members shall solely be the judge of the measure and method of its cooperation with outside organizations and standards of membership. Unity of believers by the Holy Spirit should be taught and practiced in the local New Testament Church (Matthew 18:20; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 4:3).

We believe that an organized New Testament Church: includes the offices of Pastor and Deacons, has the responsibility to remember the Lord's death until He comes, and has the privilege of baptizing believers by immersion. We also acknowledge that the local New Testament Church believers are a part of the Body of Christ, making up the only true church (Ephesians 2:19-22; 5:23-32).

Of Baptism:

We believe that Christian baptism is the single immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our identification with the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, through Whom we died to sin and rose to a new life; and that it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership (Acts 8:36-39; John 3:23; Romans 6:3-5; Matthew 3:16; Colossians 2:12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41).

Of the Lord's Supper:

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His Death until He come, and should be preceded by solemn self-examination (1 Corinthians 11:17–34; Acts 2:42).

Scripturally, the local church cannot decide who will or will not partake of the Lord's Supper. However, words of caution should be given by him who officiates, similar to the following:

The Lord's Supper is for the saved only.

Self-examination is to be made to determine if one is walking in a right relationship with their Lord Jesus Christ.

Participants should be convinced that their conscience is clear toward God and man before partaking.

Of Separation:

We believe in obedience to the Biblical commands to separate ourselves unto God from worldliness and ecclesiastical apostasy (2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:9–10; 1 Timothy 6:3–5; Romans 16:17; 2 John 9–11).

Section 8 – Of Personal Holiness

We believe in the priesthood of all believers, that Christ is our Great High Priest and through Him every born-again person has direct access into God's presence without the need of a human priest, and that the believer has the right and responsibility to personally study and interpret the Scriptures guided by the Holy Spirit.

Whereas, regeneration is a one-time event in the life of the believer, sanctification is a continuing process by which God progressively transforms him into the image of Christ. This process will be completed when believers join Christ in heaven, perfected in holiness (John 17:17; Acts 20:32; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 5:26; 1 John 3:2). In demonstration of progressing in sanctification, we believe that the saved should live in such a manner that they do not bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord, and that God has commanded the saved to separate from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations. Believers are thus to flee sinful desires, avoid every kind of evil, and refrain from questionable practices which would harm one's testimony, cause another believer to stumble and otherwise fail to glorify God (1 Corinthians 6:19–20; 2 Timothy 3:1–5; 1 John 2:15–17; 2 John 8–11).

We believe Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes since it is better to suffer wrong than to harm the name of Christ. Disputes and disagreements should be submitted to the spiritual leaders of

the church for resolution in accordance with the principles outlined in Matthew 18:15–17 and any applicable policies of this church (1 Corinthians 6:1–8; Ephesians 4:31–32).

Section 9 – Marriage and Human Sexuality

We believe God has designed the marriage relationship to portray the profound mystery of Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:31–32) to: produce godly offspring (Genesis 1:28), provide helpful companionship (Genesis 2:18), and promote sexual purity and fulfillment (1 Corinthians 7:2–5).

We believe that marriage is designed by God to join one man and one woman in a lifetime covenant of love (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:3–9; 1 Corinthians 7:10–11).

We believe that God created humanity, male and female, to bear His image in the earth (Genesis 1:26). We believe that men and women are created as spiritual equals, yet designed in complimentary order to assume God-given roles in a home, the church, and society. The husband is to be the servant leader in the home and is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ (Genesis 1:26–27; 2:18–25; Matthew 19:4–6; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 5:22–25).

We believe God forbids intimate sexual activity outside of the marriage of a man and a woman. We believe any form of child molestation, fornication, adultery, polygamy, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, bisexuality, trans-sexuality, incest, pedophilia, or pornography is a sinful perversion of God's gift of sex. We believe that any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance reflects a heart that does not submit to God's good and sovereign right to determine our sex and thus is disapproved of and forbidden by God (Genesis 1:27; 2:22–24; 19:5,13; Leviticus 18:1–30; Matthew 19:4–6; Romans 1:26–29; 7:2; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; Galatians 5:19–21; Ephesians 5:22–23; 1 Thessalonians 4:1–8; Hebrews 13:4).

Section 10 – Of Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment and for the interests and good order of human society. Leaders are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the Scriptures (Romans 13:1–7; 2 Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21–22; Acts 23:5; Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:20; 4:19–20; Daniel 3:17–18).

Section 11 – Of Israel

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people; that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, and that she will be regathered in the advent of Christ (Genesis 13:14–17; Romans 11:1–32; Ezekiel 37).

Section 12 – Doctrine of Things to Come

We believe in the pre-tribulation return of Christ. It is an event which can occur at any moment when at that moment the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, the living in Christ shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and all shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air before the seven years of the Tribulation (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; 1 Corinthians 15:42–44; 51–54; Philippians 3:20–21; Revelation 3:10).

We believe that the Tribulation, which follows the rapture of the church, will be culminated by the revelation of Christ in power and great glory to sit upon the throne of David and to establish the millennial kingdom (Daniel 9:25–27; Matthew 24:29–31; Luke 1:30–33; Isaiah 9:6–7; 11:1–9; Acts 2:29–30; Revelation 20:1–6).

Section 13 – Of The Righteous And The Wicked

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28–29, 11:25–26; Revelation 20:5, 6, 12, 13).

We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4–6; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23, 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17).

We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne of Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Luke 16:19–26; Matthew 25:41–46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7–9; Jude 6–7; Mark 9:43–48; Revelation 20:11–15).

**Calvary Baptist Church of Larkspur, California,
has adopted this Church Covenant,
Constitution, and Articles of Faith
On November 17, 2019**

