

# CONSTITUTION OF BURLINGAME BAPTIST CHURCH

## *Preamble and Heritage*

Whereas the assembling together of true believers is vital to their nurture and growth in Christian living; and

Whereas the teaching and preaching of the Word of God is necessary for the winning of people to a personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and the upbuilding of believers in Christian life and service; and

Whereas the administration of the ordinances of the New Testament is needful for a personal communion with the Lord Jesus Christ; and

Whereas we believe it necessary to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world;

We, the members of this fellowship, do ordain and establish the Burlingame Baptist Church of Portland, Oregon.

## *Faith and Fellowship*

We believe the Holy Scriptures were written by divinely inspired men with God as the author and we accept fully the writings of the Old and New Testaments as the very Word of God, verbally inspired in all parts, our infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice.

We believe the Holy Scriptures were written by men moved by the Holy Spirit and we accept fully the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments as the very Word of God, without error in the original documents; they are infallible and the authoritative rule for faith and practice. Further, we believe that the Scriptures clearly teach the truthfulness of the following paragraphs.

We believe there is one God eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, equal in perfection and executing distinct and harmonious offices in the plan of redemption.

We believe in the deity of Christ, His virgin birth, His shed blood for forgiveness of sin, His bodily resurrection, and His ascension into heaven where He is our intercessor.

We believe the Scriptures teach that redemption, the new birth, is the change wrought in the soul by the Holy Spirit, by which a new nature and a spiritual life, not before possessed, are received, and the person becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus. This change is instantaneous and brought about entirely by the power of God at the moment that saving faith is exercised in Christ. The believer is assured of heaven and by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit he is a child of God.

We believe that man is created in the image of God; that he voluntarily sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death which is separation from God; that all human beings are born with a sinful nature inherited from Adam.

We believe in salvation by grace through faith; that salvation is the free gift of God, not by virtue or works of man, but received only by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; that all true believers possess the gift of eternal life and become adopted sons in the family of God.

We believe in the personal existence of Satan, the deceiver and god of this present world; that he was defeated at the cross, and therefore his final doom is certain.

We believe in the personal, premillennial, and bodily return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We believe that the spirits of the saved after death go immediately to be with Christ in Heaven; that at His second coming their bodies will be resurrected and their works will be judged and rewards determined; that the unsaved shall be raised from the grave, judged and cast into hell, the place of final and everlasting punishment.

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; that the believer has the right and responsibility to study and interpret the Scriptures guided by the Holy Spirit.

We believe that a New Testament church is a fellowship of born again baptized believers meeting in some local place, sovereign and autonomous in matters of church policy and affiliation practicing the two scriptural ordinances of Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and actively engaged in fulfilling the Great Commission.

We believe in the Universal Church, the body of Christ, and that it is composed of all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that it is the mission of the Church to preach the gospel to all the world.

We believe that baptism is the immersion of a believer in water upon confession of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit in testimony of faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Christ; that baptism is a confession that the believer is dead to sin and risen to newness of life in Christ Jesus.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the partaking in obedience of the bread and juice as symbols of Christ's body and blood by members of the Church in commemoration of the suffering and death of their Lord. The observance of the Lord's Supper is to be preceded by faithful self-examination.

Believing in the sovereignty of the local church as an autonomous body of believers under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, this church by official action shall determine the maintaining of fellowship and cooperation with churches of like faith and practice. No financial support is to be given to a work or workers whose doctrinal position is not in keeping with the Preamble of this Constitution.

## **Our Covenant**

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

We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions, to educate our children in the ways of the Lord; to seek the salvation of our family, friends and acquaintances; to walk prudently in the world; to be just in our dealing, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our behavior, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and principles of God's Word.

## **Article I - Name**

The name of this church shall be

***The Burlingame Baptist Church of Portland, Oregon.***

The church shall operate and be known in the community as

***Burlingame Church.***

## **Article II – Object**

Its object shall be to provide for the worship of God; the teaching and preaching of the Word of God for the winning of people to a personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and the up-building of believers in Christian life and service; the administration of the ordinances of the New Testament; and to proclaim the gospel throughout the whole world.

## **Article III – Membership**

The membership of this church shall consist of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who have been immersed; acknowledge agreement with the faith and fellowship statement; practice the covenant of this church; and who have been received into the fellowship by regular action of the church elder board and affirmed by the congregation.

## **Article IV - Senior Pastor**

**Section 1.** The Senior Pastor shall be the principal teaching elder of the church. He shall lead the church to carry out its New Testament purposes through biblical persuasion, his Christian example, and equipping believers to minister.

**Section 2.** The Senior Pastor shall be elected by the church after recommendation of the Pulpit Committee. His election shall be by written ballot at any regular or special business meeting of the church, provided public notice is given from the pulpit for two weeks previous. A three-fourths vote of the members present and voting shall constitute an election.

**Section 3.** The Senior Pastor shall be called for an indefinite period.

## **Article V - Elders and Officers**

**Section 1.** Subject to the powers reserved to the membership, the governing body of the church shall be the Board of Elders consisting of the Senior Pastor and Elders elected by the church. The By-Laws shall determine their election, term of office, succession, and duties.

**Section 2.** The church shall elect and/or appoint such other officers as are deemed necessary and advisable. The By-Laws shall make provision for qualifications and selection of these additional officers when their need is determined. All other officers shall be subordinate to the Board of Elders.

### **Article VI – Meetings**

The meetings for worship, praise, prayer, fellowship, business, and special purposes shall be held as provided by the By-Laws.

### **Article VII – Quorum**

Quorum for the transaction of business shall be as follows:

- A. For the Annual Business Meeting, not less than 40 members eligible to vote.
- B. For the Quarterly Business Meeting, not less than 30 members eligible to vote.
- C. For any Special Business Meeting, not less than 30 members eligible to vote.

### **Article VIII - Voters and Voting**

**Section 1.** Any active member who is thirteen years of age, or over, is eligible to vote at any business meeting.

**Section 2.** Voting for officers and amendments to the Constitution shall be by written ballot. Other items of business may be decided by voice vote, unless five eligible voters request that the vote be by written ballot. In this event the voting must be by written ballot.

### **Article IX - Business Meetings**

The business meetings of this organization shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rule of Order except where there is conflict with the provision of Article VIII, which Article shall prevail in that event.

### **Article X – Amendments**

**Section 1.** An amendment to this Constitution may be initiated by the signed petition of ten or more voting members *or the Board of Elders*.

**Section 2.** An amendment may be acted upon at the Annual Business Meeting provided it is presented at a previous Quarterly Meeting, published in at least two issues of the church bulletin within one month prior to the Annual Business Meeting, and posted on the church bulletin board for the same period of time. A three-fourths vote of the eligible voting members present is necessary to adopt.