



Blossom Valley
B I B L E C H U R C H

BLOSSOM VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH

Bylaws

Approval Page

The bylaws are approved on _____ and entered into the Elder Board minutes by the following signees:

Mike Connolly

Pat Bowers

Rick DeLong

Greg Enos

Blossom Valley Bible Church Bylaws

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. Blossom Valley Bible Church exists to love and honor God by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.
- 1.2. The bylaws describe the church beliefs, defines the church governance including the makeup and qualifications of its church staff, Board of Elders members, and other church leaders, such as ministers and the leadership team. The bylaws also provide guidelines for scheduling and conducting meetings.
- 1.3. The bylaws do not hold any legal standing but are intended to provide order to church governance, provide guidance and accountability to the church leadership.
- 1.4. Ratification of the bylaws.
 - 1.4.1. The bylaws shall be ratified by the Board of Elders when any of the following occur:
 - 1.4.1.1. Anyone installed as a new lay elder
 - 1.4.1.2. Any changes are made to the bylaws

2.0 Statement of Faith

- 2.1. This section provides an overview of our statement of faith. For more details, see the Blossom Valley Bible Church Confession of Faith.
- 2.2. We believe that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God, supernaturally inspired and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine and conduct (Mark 12:26, 36; Acts 17:2,3; Rom. 15:5; II Tim. 3:16,17; II Pet.1:19-21.)
- 2.3. We believe there is only one God who exists eternally in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and that these are One God (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19-20; John 1:1-4; II Cor. 13:14; Heb. 1:1-3.)
- 2.4. We believe that God, from a heart of love for people, sent Christ into the world to save sinners, and that in His death, the Lord Jesus made a perfect sacrifice and atonement for sin (John 1:29; John 8:34-36; Rom. 5:8; Rom. 3:23-26; II Cor. 5:21.)
- 2.5. We believe that Jesus Christ was both God and man, born of a virgin, and lived a sinless life. He was crucified and died for our sins, was raised from the dead on the third day, and ascended into heaven where He now intercedes for all who believe (John 5:58; John 10:30; Col. 1:15; Col. 2:9; Mark 9:31; Heb. 4:15-16; Acts 7:55-56.)
- 2.6. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Person, is God, and possesses all the divine attributes. He indwells all believers and He baptizes and seals all believers at the moment of their conversion. The Holy Spirit fills all believers in response to their confessions of sin and their submission to Him. He guides, instructs, comforts, and

gives spiritual gifts as He wills and empowers believers for godly living (Acts 5:3-4; John 16:7-11; I Cor. 12:3,11; Rom. 5:5; I Cor. 6:29; II Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13-14, 4:30.)

- 2.7. We believe that man was created in the image of God, with a free will to make moral choices. But man sinned, and willfully disobeyed God, and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit, and personal repentance, can salvation and spiritual life be realized on the basis of personal faith in Christ (Gen. 1:26, 2:15-17, 3:6-24; John 3:3; Matt. 19:28; John 1:12-13; Titus 3:5.)
- 2.8. We believe that once a person has salvation, through Jesus Christ, that believer is still capable of disobedience of God (sin) which interrupts his or her fellowship with God, but this does not result in a loss of salvation (John 1:12; Rom. 10:9,10; II Cor. 1:20-22; I John 5:11,12.)
- 2.9. We believe that all who receive Christ become joint-heirs with Christ, and, at death, their spirits depart to be with Christ. These together form the True Church, the Body of Christ (Rom. 8:17; Gal. 3:29; 4:7; II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:21-23.)
- 2.10. We believe in personal, bodily and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is our "blessed hope" and which has vital bearing on the personal life, witness, and service of the believers (I Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 20:6; John 14:1-3; I Cor. 15:51; Tit. 2:11-14.)
- 2.11. We believe that water baptism by immersion, after accepting Christ as personal Savior, is a testimony of death to sin and resurrection to a new life (Luke 3:21,22; Matt. 28:19, 20.)
- 2.12. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a living memorial service setting forth, in sacred and symbolic manner, the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 26:26-29; Luke 22:19,20; I Cor. 11:27-29.)
- 2.13. We believe that the aim of every Christian is growing in spiritual maturity through obedience to the Word of God and the indwelling Holy Spirit (I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14; 4:12; I Cor. 3:16; 6:19.)
- 2.14. We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Psalms 139.)
- 2.15. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male and female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen 1:26-27.) We further believe that anyone who rejects their biological sex rejects the image of God that is within that person.
- 2.16. We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen 2:18-25.)

- 2.17. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.
- 2.18. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6: 9-10.)
- 2.19. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)
- 2.20. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Blossom Valley Bible Church.
- 2.21. We believe that the wedding ceremonies held in our facility constitute a sacred worship service. Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, Blossom Valley Bible Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the pastors and staff of Blossom Valley Bible Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and the property of Blossom Valley Bible Church shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.
- 2.22. We believe that to preserve the function and integrity of Blossom Valley Bible Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Blossom Valley Bible Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Blossom Valley Bible Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by the statement of faith outlined in this section (Matt. 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.)

3.0 Membership

- 3.1. Acceptance to Membership
 - 3.1.1. Any person may become a member or transfer membership upon having satisfied, in order, each of the following requirements:
 - 3.1.1.1. Public expression of repentance of sins and faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
 - 3.1.1.2. Water baptism by immersion in accordance with the New Testament.

- 3.2. Transfer of Membership
 - 3.2.1. A member in good standing, who wishes to transfer his membership to another church, may request a letter of recommendation.
- 3.3. Termination of Membership
 - 3.3.1. After following scriptural principles of church discipline, the Board of Elders may dismiss a member for any of the following reasons:
 - 3.3.1.1. Persistent engagement in sinful practices without repentance.
 - 3.3.1.2. Denial of any aspect of our Statement of Faith (Section 2.0)
 - 3.3.1.3. For conduct determined by the elders, based on scripture, to be detrimental to the spiritual welfare of the church.

4.0 Church Leadership and Responsibilities

- 4.1. The church leadership consists of pastors, lay elders, ministers, and, leadership team members.
- 4.2. Paid Staff
 - 4.2.1. Salary ranges, vacations, and other benefits shall be established for all staff by the Board of Elders.
 - 4.2.2. The means of hiring and terminating all staff and support staff shall be determined by the Board of Elders.
 - 4.2.3. All paid staff are employed at the will of the Board of Elders and subject to the labor laws set forth by the State of California.
- 4.3. Pastors
 - 4.3.1. When the church has more than one pastor, one of the pastors shall be identified by the Board of Elders as the lead pastor. All other pastors shall be identified as associate pastors.
 - 4.3.2. Pastors shall be men who by virtue of their training, experience, and character is considered by the Elders to be qualified to perform their sacred duties according to the Statement of Faith (Section 2.0).
 - 4.3.3. Pastors provide spiritual leadership and oversight to the church.
 - 4.3.4. Pastors shall fulfill the ordination requirements specified by the Mennonite Brethren.
 - 4.3.5. Pastoral Staff
 - 4.3.5.1. The Pastoral Staff shall consist of the lead pastor, any associate pastors, and other staff representatives as designated by the Board of Elders.
 - 4.3.5.2. The organization of the Pastoral Staff shall be approved by the Board of Elders.

- 4.3.5.3. The members of the Pastoral Staff are not automatic members of the Board of Elders.
 - 4.3.5.4. The Pastoral Staff shall meet as often and in a manner as determined by the Board of Elders.
- 4.4. Lay Elders
 - 4.4.1. The Lay Elders shall be scripturally qualified men who are non-staff members of the church (I Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1: 5-9).
 - 4.4.2. Each Lay Elder shall continue in office until his death, resignation or removal.
 - 4.4.3. Any Lay Elder may be removed for conduct determined by the Board of Elders, based on scripture, to be detrimental to the spiritual welfare of the church.
- 4.5. Other Church Leaders
 - 4.5.1. Leaders shall be called by the Board of Elders for an indefinite term.
 - 4.5.2. Ministers. The Ministers of the church shall be people who by virtue of the training, experience, and character are considered by the Board of Elders to be qualified to perform the sacred duties according to the Statement of Faith (Section 2.0). They shall primarily provide leadership to the church in the ministries to which they are assigned.
 - 4.5.3. Directors. The Directors of the church shall be persons who by virtue of their training, experience, and character are to perform the function to which they are assigned.
- 4.6. Leadership Team
 - 4.6.1. TBA

5.0 Board of Elders

- 5.1. The church shall be governed by a Board of Elders.
- 5.2. Organization of the Board of Elders
 - 5.2.1. The Board of Elders shall consist of the Lay Elders.
 - 5.2.2. Non-lay elder members, such as individuals identified as church leadership from section 4.0, may be added to the Board of Elders by unanimous approval by the Board of Elders.
 - 5.2.3. The members of the Pastoral Staff shall constitute no more than 40% of the Board of Elders.

- 5.3. Appointed Roles Within the Board of Elders
 - 5.3.1. The Board of Elders shall appoint from its Lay Elders a Chairman, an Assistant Chairman, and a Secretary.
 - 5.3.2. The Chairman can call a meeting of the Lay Elders to discuss church finances, staff salaries and reviews, disciplinary actions, and new hire decisions. Such meetings can be called without the expressed notification of the Pastoral Staff.
 - 5.3.3. The Secretary, or designate, shall take minutes of all meetings.
 - 5.3.4. All minutes shall be the property of the church.
 - 5.3.5. The Lay Elders have the authority to hold a special meeting for the purposes church business.
- 5.4. Duties of the Board of Elders
 - 5.4.1. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Elders to guide and oversee the direction and work of the church. In harmony with the scriptures, the Board shall adopt all church policies and issue directives to facilitate its responsibilities. These policies and directives shall remain in force until rescinded by the Board of Elders.
 - 5.4.2. The Board of Elders may from time to time appoint committees, whose membership may include Lay Elders, staff, and other church members, and delegate to those committees such powers and duties as may be determined by the Board of Elders.
 - 5.4.3. The Board of Elders shall be responsible for and have the authority to carry out the assessment for additional staff, the reduction of staff, interviews of potential staff, and communication with the church on matters pertinent to the membership.
 - 5.4.4. Attendance at Elder Board meetings shall be restricted to Elder Board members and others approved or requested by the Chairman.
- 5.5. Meetings
 - 5.5.1. The Board of Elders shall normally meet according to the needs of the church, but no less frequently than once every 3 months.
 - 5.5.2. All meetings of the Board of Elders shall be held at the principal office of the Corporation, unless otherwise specified.
 - 5.5.3. Special meetings of the Board of Elders may be called at any time by the Chairman, the Assistant Chairman, or any two (2) Lay Elders. All members of the Board of Elders shall be notified of any special meetings.
 - 5.5.4. Sixty percent (60%) of the membership of the Board of Elders constitutes a quorum for an official board meeting.

- 5.5.5. Elders may participate in a meeting through use of conference telephone or similar communications equipment, so long as all members participating in such meeting can hear one another. Such participation shall constitute personal presence at the meeting.
 - 5.5.6. Any act required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Elders may be taken without a meeting, if all members of the Board of Elders individually or collectively consent in writing (electronic or otherwise) to such action. Such actions shall be tactical, and not strategic. Such written consent shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Elders. Such action shall have the same force and effect as a consensus of the Board of Elders.
- 5.6. Installing New Lay Elders
- 5.6.1. Any Board of Elder member may recommend, by consensus, a member of the church as a potential Lay Elder candidate.
 - 5.6.2. The candidate shall be interviewed and asked if he would consider being a member of the Lay Elders.
 - 5.6.3. Additional vetting and background checks can be initiated at the discretion of the Board of Elders.
 - 5.6.4. The candidate shall be presented to the church congregation as a potential Lay Elder member.
 - 5.6.5. The church congregation can interview the candidate, raise objections to the Board of Elders as to why the candidate is not qualified to be a member of the Lay Elders. The congregation shall be given two weeks to vet the candidate and notify the Board of Elders of any objections.
 - 5.6.6. Upon general acceptance by the congregation, the Board of Elders shall, by consensus, approve the candidate as a member of the Lay Elders.
 - 5.6.7. An installation ceremony may be conducted for the new Lay Elder.

6.0 Board of Directors

- 6.1. The Board of Elders shall be the Board of Directors

7.0 Officers of The Corporation

- 7.1. Officers of the Corporation shall be as set forth below and shall serve until the expiration of terms of Elders, but in any event until their respective successors are elected and qualified.
- 7.2. President. The chairman of the Board of Elders shall be the CEO of the Corporation.
- 7.3. Vice-President. The Assistant Chairman of the Board of Elders shall be the Vice-President of the Corporation.

- 7.4. Secretary. The Secretary of the Board of Elders shall be the Secretary of the Corporation.
- 7.5. Treasurer (Chief Financial Officer). The Treasurer of the Corporation shall be the Elder overseeing the Business Administration Department of the Church or such other person as may be designated by the Board of Elders.

8.0 Miscellaneous

8.1. Amendments

- 8.1.1. These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Board of Elders by consensus of the lay elders provided that prior written notification of the proposed changes has been made known to the Board members.

8.2. Indemnification

- 8.2.1. The Corporation may indemnify any Director, Officer, agent or employee as to those liabilities and on those terms and conditions as are specified in Section 9246 of the Corporation's Code. In any event, the Corporation shall have the right to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any such persons identified in Section 9246 of the corporation code whether or not the Corporation would have the power to indemnify such persons against the liability insured against.

Revised: October 1, 1990

Proposed Revision: August 2015

Ratified: June 26, 2017