

*Living Rock Baptist Church*

*The  
Living Rock Covenant*

*Statement of Faith  
And  
Constitution*

# LIVING ROCK 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 scripturally baptized, we do now, in the presence of God, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

## We engage in **Responsibility** to:

- Spread the gospel through all nations and to seek salvation for our acquaintances and neighbors all over the world.
- Sustain the worship service, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines.
- Pray and seek for growth
- Contribute cheerfully and regularly to support financially the ministry of the word and the expenses of the church.

## We engage in **Unity** to:

- Follow spiritual leadership
- Refuse gossip
- Care to one another in Christian love
- Remember each other in prayer
- Be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation

## We engage in **Integrity** to:

- Maintain a private and public godly life
- Walk wisely in the world
- Present a faithful family
- Be just in dealings

## We engage in **Ministry** to:

- Be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior
- Discover, develop and deploy spiritual gifts and talents
- Develop heart for service

We commit ourselves 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 the principles of God's word.

Amen !

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

This doctrinal statement is not intended to summarize all the truth of the Scripture. Rather it is intended to specify truths which, if believed by the members of this church, will cause the church to remain sound doctrinally.

### **The Scriptures**

We believe that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God," by which we understand the whole Bible, consisting of sixty-six books, is inspired in the sense that holy men of God "were moved by the Holy Spirit" to write the very words of Scripture. We believe that this divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the writings, historical, poetical, doctrinal, and prophetic as appeared in the original manuscripts. We believe that all the Scriptures center about the Lord Jesus Christ, in His person, and work, in His first and second coming, and hence that no portion, even of the Old Testament, is properly read or understood until it leads to Him. We also believe that all the Scriptures were designed for our practical instruction. (Mark 12: 26, 36; 13:1-11; Luke 24:27, 44; John 5:39; Acts 1:16; 17:2,3; 18:28; 26:22-23; Rom. 15:4; I Cor. 2:13; 10:11; II Tim. 3:16; II Peter 1:21; Act 28:23).

### **The Godhead**

We believe there is one, and only one, living and true God and that He is eternal, immutable, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. He is creator and sustainer of heaven and earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all our honor, confidence, and love, God eternally exists in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Exo. 20:2-3; I Cor. 8:6; I John 5:7; Rev.4:11)

We believe in the absolute Deity of Jesus Christ. He is the only begotten Son of God, the Eternal Word manifested in the flesh. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. His sinless life and ministry on earth, His death on the Cross as a substitutionary atonement for the sins of all mankind, His bodily resurrection from the dead, His exaltation to the right hand of the Majesty on high as Lord, Mediator, Priest, and Advocate. of the world. (Isa.7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:30-35; John 1:1, 2, 14, 18; Phil. 2:5-8; Heb. 4:15;7:26;1Co 15:1-3; 2Co 5:21; Heb 2:9; 4:14;7:25;9:24; John 14:1-3; Act 1:11)

We believe in the personality and the Deity of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit convicts men of sin, regenerates, indwells, baptizes, seals, and sets believers apart to a holy life. (John 14:16-17; Acts 5:30-32; Rom. 8:14; I Cor. 3:16; Eph. 1: 13; 4:3 0; I Peter 1: 2)

### **Satan**

We believe that God created an innumerable company of spiritual beings, known as angels; Satan, "that old serpent", called also the Devil, and angel called "Lucifer, son of the morning" the highest in rank fell through pride, thereby becoming Satan, the unholy god of this age, originator of sin and the author of all power of darkness, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire. (Matt. 4:1-3; II Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:10; Isa. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:15)

## **Man**

We believe that man was originally created in the image and after the likeness of God, and that he fell through sin, and as a consequence of his sin, lost his spiritual life, becoming dead in trespasses and –sin and that he became subject to the power of the devil. We also believe that this spiritual death, or total depravity of human nature, has been transmitted to the entire human race of man, the man Christ Jesus alone being excepted; and hence that every child of Adam is born into the world with a nature which not only possesses no spark of divine life, but is essentially and unchangeably bad apart from divine grace. (Gen. 1:26; 2:17; 6:5; Ps. 14:1-3; 51:51 Jer. 17:9; John 3:6; 5:40; 6:53; Rom. 3:10-19; 8:6-7; Eph. 2:1-3; I Tim. 5:6; I John 3:8)

## **Salvation**

The Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried according to the Scriptures, as a substitutionary sacrifice, and rose again the third day. All who believe in the resurrected Savior are justified by His shed blood. (John 1:29; Rom. 3:25-26; 11 Cor. 5:14; Heb. 10:5-19; I Pet. 2:24; 3:18; 1 John 1:8; 3:18)

We believe that the new birth of the believer comes only through faith in Christ and that repentance is a vital part, of believing, and is in no way, in itself, a separate and independent condition of salvation; nor are any other acts, such as baptism or faithful service, to be added to believing as a condition of salvation. (John 1:12; 3:16, 18, 36; 5:24; 6:29; Acts 13:39; 16:31; Rom. 1:1617; 3:22, 26; 4:5; 10:4; Gal. 3:22)

We believe that all who are born again are eternally secure being sealed by the Holy Spirit and kept by God the Father. (John 10: 28-29; Rom. 8:35-39; Eph. 1:13-14; 4.-30; Phil. 1:6; Jude1)

## **The Local Church**

We believe that the local New Testament Baptist church was founded upon Christ, The Rock, that its mission is to bear to the ends of the earth a Spirit-filled testimony to the judgement of God against sin and the salvation of sinners who believe that God has raised Jesus-Christ from the dead.

We believe that Christ loved and gave himself for the church that is a body of believers in Christ having followed the Lord in the waters of baptism.

We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; It is scriptural for local churches to co-operate in contending for the Faith and proclaiming the gospel; however, each local church has the privilege of deciding how and to what extent they will co-operate. (Mat 16:18; Mat 3:13-17; Act 20 :28; Mat 28:18-20; Rom 10:9; Eph 5:25; Acts 11:29-30; Rom 6:4; Heb12:23; 1Co12:27; Col. 1:18)

## **Ordinances**

We believe that there two Christian ordinances instituted by Christ, the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper to be observed until He comes again.

We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion (Greek :“fully wet”) of a believer in water in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; that its set for the identification of the believer with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus-Christ; that it is performed by an ordained minister through the authority of the local church. (Ref. Acts 19). Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privilege of church membership and to the Lord’s Supper.

We believe that the Lord’s Supper is a commemoration of the Lord’s death to be observed by the church members till He comes; that the elements, unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine, are symbols of His broken body and the shed blood, and that our observance of it is a pictorial testimony of the believer’s fellowship of His sufferings and crucifixion and should be preceded by self-examination.

(Matt. 28:19-20; John 13:1; Act 8:38; Acts 19:2-5; Rom 6:3-11; John 4:1-2; 1Cor. 11:22; 1Co 5:8; Deut 32:14; Mat 26:29; 1Co11:17-34; Phil 3:10; 3-26)

## **Coming of Christ**

We believe in the coming of the Lord Jesus-Christ for those in the church, those that are asleep, and we which are alive and remain. The believers shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. .The church, called the Bride will then be married to one Husband, Jesus-Christ. After this, Jesus will return to the earth with His saints to establish His kingdom of righteousness and reign for one thousand years (pre-millennial). (John 14:1-3; I Cor. 15:51-52; Rev 19:7-8; Phil. 3:20; 1 Thess. 1:10; 4:13-18; II Thess. 2:7-10; Titus 2:11-14; Rev 20:4-6; Heb. 10:37)

## **Resurrection**

We believe that all the dead will be raised; that the righteous dead will have part in the resurrection, which will issue in eternal life, and the wicked dead will have part in a resurrection, which will issue in the eternal damnation of the lake of fire. (John 5:29; 1Co15:51-52; Luke 16:19-31; Rev 20:11-15)

# CONSTITUTION (bylaws)

## ARTICLE 1 - NAME

The name of this church shall be:  
**Living Rock Baptist Church**

## ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP

### A. Qualifications for Membership

The qualifications for membership in this local church are:

- 1) Profession of faith in Christ followed by baptism by immersion; or
- 2) A letter of transfer granted from another church of like faith and doctrine.

### B. Admission of Membership to the Local Assembly

- 1) A candidate for membership shall be counseled by the Pastor, Deacon or authorized personal worker, will be explain the Covenant, Constitution, and Articles of Faith. To obtain membership by a letter of transfer, a request is send to the candidate's former church. Upon receipt of candidate's letter, if approved, the candidate is accepted into the membership. Such request may be presented to the church at any regular service or scheduled business meeting.
- 2) A majority vote of the eligible voting members present at such business meeting or regular church service is necessary for a request of letter of transfer or for acceptance into membership.
- 3) At an appropriate service the new member will be publicly presented to the local assembly, and be extended the Right Hand of Fellowship by the congregation.
- 4) Excluded members (put to silence - removed), may be re-admitted into fellowship following public acknowledgment to the congregation. At which time humble confession for disorder shall be made, requesting forgiveness. Upon recommendation of the Pastor and Deacons and the majority vote of the eligible voting members of the church present at any regularly scheduled meeting, providing announcement required for Special Meetings (Article 3, D. 1) has been made prior to the meeting, membership may be re-admitted.

### C. Termination of Membership

- 1) Membership shall be terminated when a letter of recommendation is granted upon request of another church of like faith and doctrine. A majority vote of the eligible voting members of the church present at a business meeting is required for any member who desires to unite with another church.
- 2) Those who insist on holding false or heretical doctrines, contrary to the position of the church as set forth in the Articles of Faith, who walk disorderly, bringing reproach upon the church, create dissension and division, shall be subject to discipline and exclusion by action of the church in conference, after all reasonable means of reconciliation have been exhausted (I Cor. 5:1-13; Gal. 1: 8-9; II Thess. 3:6-14).
- 3) Any member who habitually absents himself from the regularly scheduled services of the church for a period of one year, without satisfactory reason, is placed on an inactive list and may be subject to disciplinary action, after efforts have been made to communicate with the member and he has either indicated that he does not desire to return or has moved and left no forwarding address. An inactive member shall be ineligible to vote. Such a member who repents and shows again his commitment to God and the church may be restored to active membership.
- 4) By death upon report of decease to the Church

### D. Waiver of Claim

Notwithstanding the provisions hereinbefore contained, membership in this local church shall be on the condition that disciplinary action of the member and termination of membership in the manner herein provided shall not give the suspended member cause for legal action against the pastor or any member taking part in the suspension proceedings or the Church; and the acceptance of membership in this local church shall be evidence of a waiver by the member of all rights of action, causes of action, and all claims and demands against the local church or any member or officer of the Church by virtue of suspension proceedings and termination of membership in this local church under the foregoing provision.

## ARTICLE 3 - MEETINGS

### A. Regular Services

The church shall maintain a worship service on the Lord's Day. The Pastor, or someone appointed by the church in the case of the Pastor's incapacity, shall be in charge of that service. The members or the Church may also have a weekly prayer and/or bible study and /or fellowship meetings.

### B. Annual Business meeting

The Church Year will close the last day of December. The Annual Business Meeting will be held in February where annual reports are presented

### C. Regular Business Meeting

- 1) The regular scheduled business meeting will be held the first week of each month, at which time recommendations from the Pastor or members may be presented, for discussion, for action by the church at the next business meeting, after it has been discussed by the officers, who shall decide if it should be brought before the church.
- 2) Routine church business, such as the addition or deletion of members, approval of church expenditures for necessary equipment, services, repairs, supplies, etc., may be conducted at any regularly scheduled business meeting.
- 3) Only those, whose names appear on the church active list, will have a vote or a voice in the regular business meetings of the local assembly. A member who has not attended a business meeting for three consecutive months and cannot provide a satisfactory reason for such negligence, is not eligible to vote in a church conference.
- 4) All matters brought before the church shall be determined by a majority vote, except where otherwise specified in this constitution.
- 5) The Pastor shall serve as Moderator at all times or someone appointed by the church, in case of the pastor's incapacity, to serve in his place. The moderator does not have a vote except in case of a tie. The moderator is responsible for conducting an orderly meeting.

### D. Special Meetings & Services

- 1) Special called meetings or services may be held at any time if announced from the pulpit, published, or posted prior to such meeting.
- 2) The Pastor or the Moderator of the church will call for these meetings or services.

## ARTICLE 4 - ELECTED CHURCH OFFICERS

### A. Election of officers

- 1) The election of church officers, such as Deacon, will take place at the regularly scheduled June business meeting.
- 2) As set forth in this Constitution, Officers are to be elected by majority of the voting members.

### E. Elected Officers

- 1) The elected officers and responsible of Duties of the church are as follows. The normal term of office is as indicated.
  - a. Pastor (1 year)
  - b. Deacons (1 year)
  - c. Any other elected office of the church as approved by vote (1 year)
- 2) The above listed officers may be re-elected to fill their own vacancy. Election to fill vacancies in the above listed offices will be at the June church business meeting, except voting to elect a new Pastor, which will be at any regular service or business meeting after discussion with the officers of the church.

### C. Pastor

- 1) The Pastor shall have the qualities as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- 2) The Pastor's candidate, which must be licensee to preach or ordained minister, shall be called at any regular service or business meeting of the church. A majority vote of the eligible voting members shall be necessary for his election.
- 3) The Pastor shall continue in office until he resigns or until his resignation is requested. A two-third vote of the eligible voting members shall be necessary to request resignation. Unless otherwise specified at the church meeting, the Pastor's term of office will cease immediately upon the date of vote. Not with standing, the Pastor that has served the church will be given a period of grace. Which is to say, that financial support should continue for another months, and any and all expenses, approved by the church, that he would have, would be paid for by the church.

#### D. Deacons

- 1) The Deacons shall have the qualities as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:8-13
- 2) The church shall elect them for a term of one year. Unless a Deacon is found contrary to the qualities mentioned in the bible, the officer will always be recommend to the church for a continually service. The Deacons are ordained to remain in service for the church, they will present their candidature for nomination by the church at each annual election. There shall have no replacement but addition to serve as Deacon of the church.
- 3) As deemed appropriate, Deacons will have meetings where subject pertaining to the spiritual as well as physical life of the church is discussed. The Pastor shall attend and preside at these meetings.

#### E. Clerk

- 1) The Clerk of the church will serve a term of one year and will be eligible to be re-elect to his office.
- 2) It will be the duty of the Clerk to keep minutes of all regular service and business meetings of the church. The minutes are to be entered in a suitable volume and preserved for future reference. The minutes of the previous business meeting will be read at each new business meeting and, after appropriate corrections have been made, approved by the majority vote of the church.
- 3) The Clerk is responsible for maintenance of an up-to-date church membership list. Additions or deletions thereto are to be made as indicated in this Constitution.
- 4) The Clerk will secure or issue Church Letters for members coming into or leaving the local assembly as indicated in this Constitution. The Clerk will also assist the Pastor in the general correspondence of the church.
- 5) In the absence of the Clerk, the assistant Clerk is responsible to record the minutes of the regular services and business meetings.

#### G. Treasurer

- 1) The Treasurer will receive all funds of the church and will pay from them the regular bills.
- 2) The Treasurer will keep an accurate book of accounts and will make a full report to the Church at each regular business meeting and annual business meeting.
- 3) The Treasurer will be responsible for banking all moneys at a bank and will establish a checking account with the bank for the paying of bills, etc. Arrangements are also to be made for the signing of checks.

- 4) The Treasurer may assist to provide any required church tax report to different government.
- 5) The Treasure of the church will serve a term of one year and will be eligible for re-election to the office.

F. Assistant Clerk-Treasurer

The Assistant Clerk-Treasurer will abide by the above conditions and may act for the Clerk or the Treasurer in their absence.

**ARTICLE 5 - FINANCES**

A. Financial Policies

- 1) All funds and property belonging to the church must be operated by at least two-third of the voting members of the church.
- 2) Property shall be acquired or disposed of by the church, and shall be controlled and regulated by the church, by at least two-third of the member present at a regular or called business meeting of the church when such meetings are carried out in accordance with this constitution.
- 3) In the event of a split in membership, though God forbid, the Property Rights shall belong to the members who stand by this Constitution. If the Property Right cannot be resolved, i.e. both (or all) parties says they stand by the Constitution, then the Property Rights of the Church shall be temporarily entrusted to the Corporation found under the “Religious Corporations Act Chapter C-71, article 9.3 ; religious corporations law” whose names are listed on the “church patent letters” until a resolution is reached to the satisfaction of the church and the corporation.
- 4) Should this church be disbanded, the property rights of the Church shall be regulated according to the law found under “Religious Corporations Act Chapter C-71, article 16 (succession)”. Property rights shall then become the property of the “United Visionary Baptist Association of Quebec” and employ the values thereof for the furtherance of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

B. Budget

When necessary, a budget will be presented at the annual June business meeting, and voted by the majority for approval of the church.

**ARTICLE 6 - AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION**

- 1) The church in conference has adopted this Constitution on June 13, 2003.
- 2) This Constitution may be amended by three-fourth vote of those members present at a regular business meeting of the church or special meeting after two weeks notice of such proposed change has been given to the church in writing, designating the area affected thereby and stating the proposed change.