

FORM 3 SOCIETY ACT

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the Society is “Okanagan Chinese Baptist Church” (hereinafter referred to as “the Church”).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES

The purposes of the Church are as follows:

1. To establish and maintain a separated testimony to our Lord Jesus Christ;
2. To edify the saved and equip them to aggressively evangelize the lost;
3. To provide a center for worship and Christian fellowship by maintaining Sunday and other services;
4. To employ, send out and direct Christian missionaries to preach the Gospel;
5. To print, publish and distribute Church literature;
6. To evangelize through radio, television, and other means of communications;
7. To receive, acquire and hold donations, devises and bequests.
8. To do all other things as are incidental or conducive to the above objects.

ARTICLE III: STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Church is unswervingly committed to the following statement of faith:-

Scripture

We believe the Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testaments to be the plerarily and verbally inspired Word of God, the supreme and final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed.

Trinity

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons .Father, Son and Holy Spirit .co-eternal in being, co- identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfection.

Jesus Christ

1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men.
2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal physical resurrection from the dead.
3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate.

Holy Spirit

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, and that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption.
2. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth; and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and that man is totally depraved, and of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition.

Salvation

1. We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins.
2. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever.

Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire.

Resurrection

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead and judgment of all; the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into everlasting life.

Second Coming

We believe that the personal and imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ is the blessed hope of the church.

Baptism

We believe that the ordinance of baptism is the immersion of the believer in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit by a person authorized by the Church. It shows forth the believer's union with the crucified, buried and risen Christ, and His death to sin and resurrection to a new life.

Lord's Supper

We believe that the Lord's Supper is an ordinance to commemorate the death of Christ. The elements are symbolic of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus who died upon the cross.

Church

1. We believe that the church is a spiritual organization made up of all born-again persons.
2. We believe that the New Testament church is an autonomous body of baptized believers voluntarily banded together for worship and service of God, recognizing the need for mutual counsel and co-operation with other bodies of like faith.

This provision is unalterable.

ARTICLE IV: CHURCH 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 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 the 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 Gospel throughout all nations. We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to educate our children religiously; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour. We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer, to aid one another 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 the rules of our Saviour, to secure such reconciliation without delay.

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

This provision is unalterable.

ARTICLE V: CHURCH CHARACTER

The Church is an independent and non-profit organization.

This provision is unalterable.

ARTICLE VI: PROPERTY RIGHTS

1. The Church may with its own funds or by gifts acquire, and own by purchase, lease or otherwise, such real and personal property as may be necessary for realizing the objectives of the Church, pursuant to constitution of the Church, and may with its own funds build churches or parsonages or other buildings as may be necessary for the purposes of the Church. The title to all properties, both real and personal, shall be vested in the Society known as Okanagan Chinese Baptist Church.
- 2.(a) In the event of a split in membership, though God forbid, the Property Rights shall belong to the members who stand by this Constitution.
 - (b) If the Property Right cannot be resolved as stated in paragraph 2(a) above, i.e. both (or all) parties stand by the Constitution, then the Property Rights of the Church shall be decided by at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the members present in a special business meeting called for this purpose. The quorum of such a meeting shall consist of at least seventy-five percent (75%) of all active members. However, if such a majority cannot be obtained, then the name and all real and personal properties of the Church shall be temporarily entrusted to Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists whose head office is in Alberta, Canada, until a resolution is reached to the satisfaction of the said Convention.
3. If the members of the Church shall cease to use the property for the purposes set forth in the Articles of the Constitution, or if the members of the Church shall dissolve, then, the property of the Church shall become the property of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists, to re-establish the Church or employ the values thereof for the furtherance of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This provision is alterable.

ARTICLE VII: LOCATION OF CHURCH OPERATION

The operations of the Church are to be chiefly carried out in the Region of Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, Canada.

This provision is alterable.

BY-LAWS

Here set forth, in numbered clauses, the bylaws providing for the matters referred to in section 6(1) of the Society Act and any other bylaws.

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

1. QUALIFICATION:

The membership of the Church shall be composed of professed, regenerated and baptized believers.

2. DUTIES:

Members are expected to lead exemplary Christian lives, to attend faithfully the services of the Church, to give regularly for its support and its causes, and to share in its organized work. Members are also required to abide by the Constitution and the By-laws of the Church.

3. RIGHTS:

On any matter coming before the Church for action, each member aged 19 years or older is entitled to express his opinions and to one vote.

4. ADMISSION OF MEMBERSHIP:

(a) Membership may be obtained through:

(i) profession of faith in the Lord Jesus, such candidate being scripturally baptized in the Church;
or

(ii) a Letter of Transfer from a church of like faith and practice; or

(iii) a statement of faith indicating prior conversion experience and membership in a church of like faith and doctrine, provided that neither the applicant nor the Church is able to secure a Letter of Transfer; or

(iv) reinstatement. Any person whose membership had been terminated for any of the reasons described in Article I, Section 5, Paragraphs (b) through (f) may request to have his membership reinstated. Such request shall be processed according to Paragraph (c) of this section to ensure a satisfactory explanation or evidence of repentance and reformation if applicable.

(b) An individual may become a member of this Church upon recommendation of the Church Council and by vote of the membership;

(c) All membership applicants shall be personally interviewed by two of the following: the Pastor, other pastoral staff, deacons, the moderator or the heads of Departments, or their representatives, who shall make the required recommendation to the Church Council concerning such applicants. All applications shall then be approved by the membership.

5. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be terminated:

(a) by death upon report of decease to the Church;

(b) by a letter of transfer to another church of like faith and doctrine, upon request of the same from such member;

(c) by a change of faith of any member. Such termination shall be confirmed by the membership in a regular business meeting.

(d) by a request from a member to release his covenant obligations to the Church. Such requests shall be granted after the Church has patiently and kindly endeavored to secure his continuation in the Church membership.

- (e) by expulsion in a regular business meeting if a member becomes an offense to the Church and its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, by persistent breach of covenant vows, or by advocating doctrines out of harmony with those of the members. This action will be carried out only after a full investigation of the evidence, and after faithful efforts and necessary disciplinary actions have been made by the Church Council to bring such member to repentance and amendment.
- (f) by erasure if a member has been absent from the Church for one year without good reason. Such termination shall take place only after due notice has been given to such member and upon the vote of the membership at a regular business meeting.

6. GRIEVANCES:

All cases of difficulties between members shall be dealt with according to the directions given by our Lord as recorded in Matthew 18:15-17. However, before a complaint is brought to the attention of the Church, the aggrieved shall discuss the complaint with the deacons or Church leaders. If the deacons or Church leaders are unable to satisfactorily resolve the situation, they may, if deemed wise, call a special business meeting of the Church recommending disciplinary action be taken. Before such a special business meeting is called, the deacons or Church leaders must notify the offending party by a written notice outlining the complaint and the opportunity to be heard.

All proceedings against a member shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance, but should guilt be established in the special business meeting, the Church shall decide what disciplinary action must be taken, and this may include suspension or termination of membership in the Church.

7. WAIVER OF CLAIM

Notwithstanding the provisions hereinbefore contained, membership in this local church shall be on the condition that suspension of the member and termination of membership in the manner herein provided shall not give the suspended member cause for legal action against the senior 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.

8. GOOD STANDING OF MEMBERS

All members except those under suspension are considered to be in good standing.

ARTICLE II: CHURCH MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

1. PASTOR(S):

- (a) The Church shall have one Senior Pastor, and any number of minister(s) as approved by the membership.
- (b) Qualification: The Senior Pastor shall be an ordained Baptist minister or an ordained minister of like faith and practice. Ministers shall also have the following qualifications:
 - (i) He must have been called by God. His beliefs and teachings are in harmony with the tenets of the Church.
 - (ii) He must have a proven ability to lead, to teach, and to shepherd a congregation.
 - (iii) He shall possess the necessary qualification as set forth in the Scripture (1 Timothy 3:1-7).
 - (iv) His spouse must also be a Christian.
- (c) Duties:

Senior Pastor: The Senior Pastor is responsible for leading the Church to function as a New Testament church. He is the leader of the pastoral ministries in the Church. As such, he works with the other ministers, deacons, Church leaders and Church staff:

- to lead the Church in performing its tasks,
- to lead the Church to engage in a fellowship of worship, witness, education, ministry and application,
- to administer the ordinances,
- to proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers, and
- to care for the Church members and other persons in the community.

The senior pastor is an ex-officio member, with voting privilege, of all committees and departments.

- (d) Calling of Pastor(s): Pastor(s) shall be chosen and called by the Church whenever a vacancy or vacancies occur. The election shall take place at a regular business meeting, an annual general meeting, or special business meeting called for such purpose.
- (e) Resignation
Pastor(s) may resign by giving three months written notice to the congregation or to the Church Council by a letter addressed to the moderator of the Church.
- (f) Vacancy
When the senior pastorate becomes vacant, the Church Council shall be empowered to act in the full legal capacity of the senior pastor, and shall arrange to supply the pulpit with suitable pulpit ministry until such time as a new senior pastor has been duly installed.

2. MODERATOR

- (a) The Church shall have one Moderator and may have one or more Vice-Moderators.
- (b) Qualification:
 - the Moderator and Vice-Moderator(s) shall possess the necessary qualification as set forth in the Scriptures (1 Tim 3:3 -13, Acts 6:3),
 - the Moderator and Vice-Moderator(s) shall be members of the Church,
- (c) Duties:
 - to oversee the Church Council in performing its functions, responsibilities and duties,
 - to participate in activities of the Church Council.
- (d) Moderator(s) are elected by the membership every year as part of the election of the Church Council.

3. HEAD OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT:

- (a) The Head of the Finance Department shall serve as the treasurer of the Church.
- (b) The duties of the Head of the Finance Department shall include:
 - to keep an accurate account of all monies received by the Church,
 - to make payments of all obligations incurred by the Church,
 - to keep a record of individual offerings and be responsible for preparing and distributing annual receipts from Revenue Canada,
 - to prepare a written report of the receipts and expenses of the Church monthly,
 - to prepare a written report of the receipts and expenses of the Church for the Annual General Meeting, and
 - to assist the auditor(s) in every way to perform their duties as designated by the Church.
- (c) The Head of the Finance Department is elected by the membership every year as part of the election of the Church Council.

4. SECRETARY:

- (a) The Secretary shall serve as secretary of the Church Council and shall keep minutes of the business meetings of the Church and the Church Council,
- (b) The Secretary shall preserve and properly file all correspondence, reports and documents, including keeping a current registry of members, and
- (c) The Secretary shall give all notices required to be given to members and the Church Council.

(d) The Secretary is elected by the membership every year as part of the election of the Church Council.

5. DEACONS:

(a) The number of deacons shall be determined according to the needs of the Church as approved by the membership. Deacons are elected by the membership.

(b) Qualification:

(i) Deacons shall possess the necessary qualification as set forth in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:8-13, Acts 6:3)

(ii) Deacons shall have been members of the Church for at least three years.

(iii) Duties: Deacons shall serve with the Pastor and staff in pastoral ministries as follows:

- to lead the Church in performing its tasks,
- to lead the Church to engage in a fellowship of worship, witness, education, ministry and application,
- to proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers, and
- to care for the Church members and other persons in the community.

(c) Term of Office: Deacons shall serve for a term of three years. Deacons may be re-elected for subsequent terms.

6. STAFF:

The Church shall employ a staff according to the needs of the Church, under the general supervision of the Senior Pastor. Specifics of each position shall be described in a job description. Each staff shall be approved by the membership.

7. DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(a) The number of members of each Department/Committee may vary with the requirement of that Department/Committee.

(i) Departments of the Church include but are not limited to the following:

- Secretary
- Worship Department
- Mission Department
- Fellowship Department
- Christian Education Department
- Finance Department
- General Service Department
- Visitation Department

(ii) Committees of the Church include but are not limited to the following:

- Salary and Benefits Committee
- Property and Building Management Committee
- Nominating Committee

(b) Qualification:

(i) Department/Committee members shall possess the necessary qualification as set forth in the Scripture (1 Timothy 3:8-13, Acts 6:3).

(ii) Department members/Committee chairman shall be members of the Church.

(c) Duties:

(i) To perform the tasks of the Department/Committee to which he/she is elected.

(ii) To participate in activities of the Church Council.

(iii) Election: Department/Committee members shall be elected at a regular business meeting, an annual general meeting or a special business meeting called for such a purpose on an annual basis.

- (d) Department and Committee members are elected by the membership every year as part of the election of the Church Council.

ARTICLE III: DIRECTORS

1. The Church shall have a minimum of five (5) directors.
2. Duties: The duties of the directors shall be to carry out the legal functions of the Church as directed by the membership.
3. Designations: The Senior Pastor, the Moderator and Head of the Finance Department of the current year are directors. In addition, two other members elected from the membership at a regular business meeting shall act as the remaining directors.
4. Except for the Senior Pastor, directors are not remunerated. Directors are elected by the membership every year as part of the election of the Church Council.
5. Members may by special resolution remove a director before expiration of his term of office and may elect a successor to complete his term of office.

ARTICLE IV: CHURCH COUNCIL

1. FUNCTION:
The Church Council is the administrative body of the Church and is vested with the following responsibilities:
 - (a) to oversee the total Church program,
 - (b) to receive reports from the various Church Departments/Committees and give counsel and direction where necessary,
 - (c) to review Church policies and administrative procedures and to make recommendations to the Church membership,
 - (d) to exercise authority over all activities wherever held in the name of the Church, and
 - (e) to recommend new members to the Church membership and to review the Church membership roll annually.
2. MEMBERS:
The Council is comprised of:
 - (a) Pastor(s)
 - (b) The Moderator and Vice-Moderator(s)
 - (c) Staff Representative(s) as required
 - (d) Deacon Representative(s)
 - (e) Department head(s)Each member has one vote in the Church Council meeting.
3. ELECTION:
The Church Council shall have a term of one year and it is elected by the membership in a business meeting every year prior to the end of its term. Members of the Church Council, Departments and Committees may be re-elected for subsequent terms.
4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST
No member of the Church Council shall place himself in a position where there is a conflict of interest between his duties as a Council member and his other interests. Every Council member who is in any way directly or indirectly interested in, or may become interested in, an existing or proposed contract, transaction, or arrangement with the Church or who otherwise has a conflict of interest by virtue of involvement of a member of his family or the involvement of his employer, partner, business associate, or a corporation that the member is involved with as either a director, shareholder, officer,

employee, or agent, then such Council member shall declare his conflict of interest fully at a meeting of the Council members and withdraw from any discussion or vote.

ARTICLE V: ORDINANCES

1. BAPTISM:

The Church shall receive for baptism any person who has received Jesus Christ as Saviour by personal faith, who professes Him publicly, and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord. Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship during any worship service of the Church in the following manner:

- (a) Baptism shall be by immersion in water, and
- (b) shall be officiated by the pastor, or whomever authorized by the Church.

2. THE LORD'S SUPPER:

This is a communion service, in remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ sacrificial death for our sins, by the partaking of the bread and cup. It is a moment of meditation on the love of God and self-examination. All water-baptized Christians may observe the Lord's Supper.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

1. PUBLIC SERVICES:

(a) Worship Services:

The Church shall meet each Sunday for praise, preaching, instruction, evangelism, and for the worship of the Almighty God. The Church shall also have weekly prayer, Bible study and fellowship meetings. These meetings shall be open for all people and shall be conducted under the direction of the Pastor.

(b) Other Services:

Other services include revival, evangelistic and other Church meetings essential to the advancement of the Church objectives.

2. BUSINESS MEETINGS:

(a) Business meetings include the following:

(i) Annual General Meetings:

Annual General Meetings shall be held during the month of January each year to receive reports on the activities of the past year and to approve plans and budget for the current year as presented by the Church Council, or, if unable to be held in January, held as directors decide.

(ii) Regular Business Meetings:

The Church shall hold periodic meetings of the members to discuss the general business and any proposal of the Church Council.

(iii) Special Business Meetings:

The Church may conduct special business meetings to consider matters of special nature and significance.

(b) Business meetings shall be conducted in the following manner:

(i) Quorum:

With exception of Article VII, Section 7, Paragraph (c), Article IX, Section 3 and the Church Constitution Article VI, the quorum consists of those members who attend the properly called business meetings, but shall never be less than 3 members.

(ii) Voting Privilege:

All members 19 years of age and older are eligible to vote on all matters of Church business as stated in By-laws Articles I Paragraph 3.

(iii) Notices:

- a) Notices of all business meetings must be given at least fourteen (14) days prior to such meetings, by posting the notice on the Church bulletin board and in the Sunday service bulletins, except as noted below:
 - a special business meeting may be called by ten percent (10%) or more of the members, the fourteen (14) days notice for such a meeting may be waived or reduced by unanimous consent of the members in writing, and
 - fourteen (14) days notice must be given for a special business meeting called for the discussion of Property Rights as mentioned in the Church Constitution Article VI.
- b) Notice of a business meeting of the Church shall specify the place, date and hour of meeting, as the Church Council shall decide, and specify the general nature of that business and motions requiring approval by the membership.

(iv) Failure to Give Notice:

The accidental omission to give notice of a business meeting or the non-receipt of a notice by any of the members entitled to receive notice does not invalidate proceedings at the meeting.

(v) Parliamentary Rules:

Parliamentary law is adopted as the authority for rules and procedures for all business meetings of the Church, the Directors, the Deacons, the Departments and the Committees.

(vi) Proxy Voting:

Proxy voting will be allowed for members who are not available to attend the business meeting in person and the subject matter requires a seventy-five percent (75%) quorum, such as the discussion of Church Borrowing in Article VII, Section 7, and Amendments in Article IX. Such members shall provide written explanation on the proxy. For each motion, such member is allowed one proxy, entitling him to one vote. The format of proxy will be pre-printed and issued by the Church. This practice will be specified at the same time when the meeting notice is issued. No proxy voting will be allowed on motions concerning Property Rights, as discussed in Article VI, Section 2, Paragraph (b) of the Constitution.

ARTICLE VII: CHURCH FINANCE

1. FISCAL YEAR:

The fiscal year of the Church begins on the first day of January and ends on the thirty-first day of December.

2. BUDGETING:

The Finance Department shall present an annual budget for the current fiscal year at the Annual General Meeting as stipulated in Article VI, Section 2, Paragraph (a)(i) of these By-laws.

3. ACCOUNTING:

The Finance Department shall be responsible for:

- (a) Proper bookkeeping for all receipts and expenditures,
- (b) presentation of financial reports to the membership and the government as required, and
- (c) management of Church fund(s)

4. AUDITS:

- (a) An auditor shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting by the membership for the current fiscal year.
- (b) If the appointment of an auditor cannot be concluded as described above, it shall be made at a subsequent business meeting.
- (c) The auditor appointed by the church shall audit the financial accounts and records of the previous fiscal year of the church each year and report to the congregation at a business meeting.

5. REPORTING:

Finance reports shall be made to the membership on a periodic basis.

6. SIGNING AUTHORITIES:

Signing authority resides with the Directors of the Church or authorized persons.

7. BORROWING:

- (a) for the purpose of carrying out its objects, the Church may borrow, or raise, or secure the payment of money in such manner as it thinks fit, provided that a special resolution is passed at an annual general meeting, a regular business meeting or a special business meeting.
- (b) Notice shall be given according to Article VI, Section 2, Paragraph (b) (iii).
- (c) A quorum at such meeting shall be seventy-five percent (75%) of eligible members, but shall never be less than 3 members. If quorum is not met, no motion will be approved.
- (d) A seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote of eligible voting members present in person or by proxy shall be required to approve special resolutions.

ARTICLE VIII: CHURCH RECORDS

1. Books and records

All necessary books of account, records and minutes of all business and Church Council meetings shall be duly kept, together with such further and other books of account and record as are required by any applicable governmental body of statute, and will be safely kept at the Church by the Secretary.

2. Inspection

The said books of account as described in section 1 may be inspected by any member of the Church in good standing, at such time and place to be designated by the Church Council upon receipt of a written request from such member desiring to inspect the same.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

- 1. Amendments to the Bylaws shall be by special resolution, be submitted in writing, and notice shall be posted on the Church bulletin board.
- 2. Notice for consideration of any amendments must be posted on the Church bulletin board at least fourteen (14) days prior to the business meeting at which the amendments are to be considered.
- 3. A quorum at such meeting shall be seventy-five percent (75%) of eligible members, but shall never be less than 3 members. If the quorum is not met, no motion will be approved.
- 4. A seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote of eligible voting members present in person or by proxy shall be required to approve special resolutions.

Dated February 1st, 2001

Witness(es)

Applicants for Incorporation

