

CONSTITUTION OF
RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH of RED DEER
May 5, 2003

Preamble

As members of Riverside Baptist Church of Red Deer we unite ourselves together as a body of Christian believers to more effectively carry out the Great Commission of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20). Desiring that all things be done decently and in order as referred to in 1 Corinthians 14:40, we solemnly and sincerely subscribe to the following constitution by which we voluntarily agree to be governed.

Article I – Name

The name of this church shall be Riverside Baptist Church of Red Deer.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of this church shall be:

- 1) To be witnesses of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and in deed to the people of our church, city, province, country and the world in which we live (Acts 1:8).
- 2) To worship the Triune God, seeking to respond in obedience to His leadership, according to the Scriptures.
- 3) To instruct, equip, and train Christians for ministry and service.
- 4) To fellowship together.
- 5) To serve each other as members of the same local church as well as to serve the community in which we live.

Article III - Statement of Faith

The statement of faith for Riverside Baptist Church of Red Deer shall be the doctrinal statement of “The Baptist Faith and Message” 2000 edition. A copy of this statement is available upon request.

Article IV – Church Authority and Affiliation

The government of Riverside Baptist Church of Red Deer is vested in the body of members who comprise it. Persons duly received by the members shall constitute the membership.

This church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation, which are common among Southern Baptist Churches. This church shall freely and gladly cooperate with the Midwest Baptist Association, and the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists.

Article V – Organizational Structure

The structure of Riverside Baptist Church of Red Deer may include a leadership team comprising of the pastor and the leaders of all ministries within the church as set out in the church bylaws.

Article VI – Perpetual Succession and Powers

Riverside Baptist Church of Red Deer shall have perpetual succession and has power to acquire by gift, devise, bequest, trust agreement, contract or otherwise, real and personal property within and without the province. The church may hold, sell, dispose of, exchange, mortgage, lease, let, improve and develop such property. Without restricting the generality of the foregoing, it may acquire in any way or ways real and personal property for the purpose of funding the purposes of Riverside Baptist Church of Red Deer and deal with any and all such property as empowered by this section.

Article VII – Charitable Status

Riverside Baptist Church of Red Deer shall carry out all of the above purposes without purpose of gain for its members or adherents, and any profits or other accretions to the church shall be used in promoting its purposes.

Article VIII – Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of this church, all its remaining assets, after payment of liabilities, shall be distributed to Southern Baptist charitable organizations, which are qualified donees under the Income Tax Act of Canada. Dissolution of Riverside Baptist Church of Red Deer can only be accomplished through a two-thirds majority vote that has been published by all reasonable means to the membership at least six weeks in advance.

Article IX – Amendments

Section #1: Changes in the constitution and by-laws may be made at any regular business meeting of Riverside Baptist Church of Red Deer provided each amendment shall have been published by all reasonable means to the membership at least two weeks in advance. Amendments to the constitution of Riverside Baptist Church of Red Deer can only be accomplished through a two-thirds majority vote of members present.

Section #2: Articles II, VII, VIII, and IX of the constitution are unalterable.

BY-LAWS OF
RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH of Red Deer
May 5, 2003

Article I – Church Membership

Section 1. General

Riverside Baptist Church of Red Deer is an autonomous and democratic church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the exclusive right of self government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this church.

The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.

Section 2. Basis of Membership

Those eligible for membership in Riverside Baptist Church of Red Deer shall be people who have repented of their sins and trusted in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour. They will have also been baptized based on the Scriptures by immersion.

Section 3. Duties of Membership

Members are expected to be faithful in all duties that are essential to the Christian life. These include: attending faithfully the services of the church; giving regularly towards its support; and serving God through the ministries of Riverside Baptist Church of Red Deer.

Section 4. Voting Rights of Members

All active members shall be entitled to a vote on all issues brought to the church. Members must be present in order to vote.

Section 5. Active Members

An active member is one who has demonstrated consistent participation in the services and related activities of the church. An active member is one who supports the church through his or her time, talent, and treasure.

Section 6. Inactive Member

An inactive member is one who has shown no consistent interest in the church. After efforts have been made to restore active fellowship, according to the Biblical pattern, and after an absence of three consecutive months, if the inactive member still displays no interest the said person shall be removed from the membership list of the church.

Section 7. Receiving New Members

The requirements and process of those seeking membership in Riverside Baptist Church of Red Deer are:

- a) Have confessed and claimed Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord after asking for and receiving forgiveness for their sins.
- b) Have been baptized scripturally by immersion.
- c) Provide a letter or statement of their faith in Jesus Christ and their baptism by immersion from another church of like faith and practice.
- d) Express his or her agreement with the purpose, statement of faith, and covenant set forth in the constitution and Bylaws of this church.
- e) Having expressed the desire for membership, the candidates will be presented to the congregation for acceptance.

Section 8. Termination of Membership

Membership in Riverside Baptist Church of Red Deer shall be terminated for the following reasons:

- a) Transfer of membership to another church.
- b) After an offence has been committed where the said party refuses to make things right as is laid out in Matthew 18:15-20.
- c) Death of the member.
- d) No membership shall be terminated at the same meeting when the recommendation for such action is made, except for a transfer to another church.

Article II – Church Offices and Staff

Section 1. General

All church officers shall be members in good standing and must be elected by the membership of this church.

Section 2. Pastor

- a) The pastor shall be called by vote of the church, for so long a time as the relationship may prove mutually agreeable to him and the church.
- b) The pastor shall be the spiritual leader of the church.
- c) The pastor shall be responsible to administer and lead the church according to the tenets of the New Testament and the Baptist Faith and Message.
- d) He shall be the presiding officer of the church and the first officer of any organised Bible Studies connected with it.

- e) He shall give leadership and direction to all church programs.
- f) It shall be his duty to appoint all committees not specified by motion or otherwise, and he shall act as an Ex-officio member of all church committees, giving them whatever help he can.
- g) The pastor shall be responsible to and directly accountable to the membership of the church.

Section 3. Deacons

a) Deacons shall be elected from the membership as deemed necessary by the pastor and the church. Deacons shall serve on a three year rotational basis, after having served consecutively for three years; one must take a one year absence from service. Deacons shall meet the requirements laid out in 1 Timothy 3.

Section 4. Associate staff/officers

- a) Associate ministers may be added to the church staff as deemed necessary and appropriate by the pastor and church.
- b) Associate ministers shall be responsible to and accountable to the church through the pastor.

Section 5. Church clerk

- a) The church shall elect annually a church clerk, whose duties it shall be, to keep a fair record of all church business proceedings, enrol the names of all new members, and release all letters ordered by the church.
- b) The church clerk shall make a report to the church at each regular business meeting.

Section 6. Church Treasurer

- a) The church shall elect annually a church treasurer, whose duties it shall be, to receive all funds belonging to it and pay them out as directed by its order. He/she shall record all receipts and expenses in a timely manner.
- b) The church treasurer shall make a report to the church at each regular business meeting, and provide the members with monthly statements.

Section 7. Church Trustees

- a) The church shall elect as deemed appropriate, three (3) adult members of the church to serve as trustees. The trustees shall be elected on an annual basis. The pastor shall be an ex-officio member of the trustees.
- b) The trustees shall serve as the legal officers of the church in any and all matters dealing with real and personal property.
- c) Any church business meeting authorising such action by the trustees shall give not less than two (2) weeks' notice, including two (2) Sundays, of such action in compliance with the Religious Societies' Land Act of the Province of Alberta.
- d) The trustees must sign with two (2) signatures any and all legal documents.
- e) The trustees shall make a report at the next scheduled regular business meeting following any action on the church's behalf.

Article III – Member's Meetings

- a) Annual member's meetings shall be held in the second quarter of each year. Other meetings will be held and called as needed.
- b) No business shall be transacted in the pastor's absence unless absolutely necessary or without his knowledge and consent. In case such business should be transacted in the pastor's absence and without his knowledge and consent, he shall have the exclusive right to call the matter for reconsideration.
- c) The pastor or his designee shall act as moderator of all business meetings of this church.
- d) A quorum of not less than five shall constitute a quorum for the transacting of business.
- e) Special member's meetings may be called by the pastor, (or moderator if someone other than the pastor), or at the request of five or more active members. Two weeks notice shall be given for such a meeting, except in the event of what is deemed as an emergency, where 48 hours written notice is given to at least 75% of active members. The written notice may be waived in the event that at least 75% of active members are present at a regular service and by vote call a meeting to order.
- f) Only active members are eligible to vote regarding the transactions of this church.
- g) Except where otherwise provided in the constitution and by-laws, Robert's Rules of Order shall be used as a guide in the conducting of the member's meetings of this church.

Article IV – Church Ordinances

Section 1: Baptism: This church shall hold to the practice of baptism in the New Testament, that is, only those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord will be accepted for baptism, and that baptism shall be immersion in water. The pastor or another of the church's choosing shall administer baptism.

Section 2: Lord's Supper: this church shall observe the Lord's Supper on a regular basis. Believers in Jesus Christ who are of like faith may participate in the Lord's Supper. The pastor or another of the church's choosing shall administer the Lord's Supper.

Article V – Church Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Saviour and been baptized, and being in agreement with Riverside Baptist Church's statements, strategy, and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Riverside Baptist church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

- 1. I will protect the unity of my church**
 - ... by following the example of Jesus Christ
 - ... by acting in love toward other members
 - ... by refusing to gossip
 - ... by following the leaders

"Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many'" (Matt. 21:25-28; Luke 10:42-44 NIV).

"So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together" (Rom. 14:19 PHILLIPS).

"Have a sincere love for other believers, love one another earnestly with all your heart" (1 Peter 1:22 TEV).

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs" (Eph. 4:29).

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you" (Heb. 13:17).

- 2. I will share the responsibility of my church**
 - ... by praying for its growth
 - ... by sharing my faith with the lost
 - ... by inviting the unchurched to attend
 - ... by warmly welcoming those who visit

"To the church—. . . We always thank God for you and pray for you constantly" (1 Thess. 1:1-2 LB).

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. . . ." (Matt. 28:19-20 NIV).

"The Master said to the servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes, and urge the people there to come so my house will be full'" (Luke 14:23 NCV).

"So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified" (Rom. 15:7 LB).

3. I will serve the ministry of my church
. . . by discovering my gifts and talents
. . . by being equipped to serve by my pastors
. . . by developing a servant's heart

"Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you" (1 Peter 4:10 PHILLIPS).

"[God] gave . . . some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Eph. 4:11-12).

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who . . . [took on] the very nature of a servant" (Phil. 2:3-4, 7).

4. I will support the testimony of my church
. . . by attending faithfully
. . . by living a godly life
. . . by spending time in God's Word
. . . by developing a lifestyle of prayer
. . . by giving regularly

"Let us not give up meeting together . . . but let us encourage one another" (Heb. 10:25).

"Whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Phil. 1:27 PHILLIPS).

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15).

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful" (Col. 4:2).

"Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering" (1 Cor. 16:2 LB).

"A tenth of [all your] produce . . . is the Lord's, and is holy" (Lev. 27:30 NCV).

**5. I will do my part to fulfill the church's mission
... by obeying the Great Command
... by obeying the Great Commission**

“We will love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; love our neighbours as ourselves; and go to make disciples“(Matthew 22:37-40; Matthew 28:18-20).

Article VI – Amendments and Additions to the Bylaws

Changes in the by-laws may be made at any regular business meeting of the church. Amendments to the by-laws shall be made only by a majority of the active members present and voting.