

# **CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF TOWERS BAPTIST CHURCH**

## **PREAMBLE**

For the more certain preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the accepted tenets of the missionary Baptist denomination (Southern Baptist), and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this church and the freedom of action of this body, with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith, we declare and establish this constitution:

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **I. Name:**

This body shall be known as the Towers Baptist Church of Richmond, British Columbia, and shall exist for the maximum period allowed by the laws of this province unless sooner lawfully dissolved.

### **II. Church Covenant:**

(See copy attached as adopted by the church at its organization on October 1, 1967)

### **III. Articles of Faith:**

The doctrinal statement of the church is the same that is entitled *The Baptist Faith and Message* which was adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in session at Kansas City, Missouri, on May 9, 1963, a copy of which is attached.

### **IV. Character of the Church:**

Section I. Polity: The government of the church is vested in the body of believers in Christ who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist Churches.

Section II. Doctrine: This church receives the Scriptures as its authority in matters of faith and practice. Its understanding of the truth as contained therein is in essential accord with the belief of Baptist Churches as indicated in the articles of faith herewith.

### **V. Purpose:**

This church, believing in the Bible as the inspired word of God and the sole authority for faith and practice, acknowledging its adherence to all the teachings of Jesus Christ, and cooperating with the Canadian Southern Baptist Conference, the Northwest Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention, as well as the associations and agencies related to each, declares its purpose to be: (1) to maintain regular services, both devotional and for public worship; (2) to Proclaim earnestly the Gospel message and urge its personal acceptance; (3) to cooperate heartily by prayer and gift of service in an effort to establish the Kingdom of Christ throughout the world; (4) to promote systematic Bible study and training for Christian service, and to encourage in every possible way, life enlistment in some form of religious activity; (5) to secure as far as possible, as taught in the sacred Scriptures (James 1:27), the practice of true religion and Christian philanthropy; and (6) to own, purchase or sell property, to incur debts, float debentures and transact such business as is necessary to carry out the above stated purposes.

### **VI. Dissolution:**

In the event of the dissolution of this church, all of its remaining assets, after payment of liabilities, shall be distributed to one or more Southern Baptist charitable organizations or churches in Canada.

## **BY-LAWS**

### **Article I. Place of Worship**

The place of worship shall be at 10311 Albion Road, Richmond, British Columbia, or at such other place as shall be designated by the congregation. The business of the church shall be conducted at such place of worship.

### **Article II. Membership:**

*Section I. Qualifications:* The membership of this church shall consist of such persons as confess publicly Jesus Christ to be their Lord and Savior, and who: (1) after such examination by the church as to their Christian experience and if coming from other churches as to their letter of dismission and recommendation or satisfactory substitutes therefore, (2) have been baptized scripturally, (3) enter into its covenant, (4) and if coming from another religious group or denomination, to first attend a new member's class before being presented to the body.

*Section II. Duties:* Members are expected first of all to be faithful in all duties essential to the Christian life; and also to attend habitually the services of this church, and to give regularly for its support and causes, and to share in its organized work.

*Section III. Rights:* Such members as are in full and regular standing, and such only, may act and vote in the transactions of the church.

*Section IV. Quorum (15%):* Fifteen percent of the resident membership shall constitute a quorum for the transacting of all routine business. To call a pastor or to buy or sell property, twenty-five percent of the resident membership shall be required for a quorum.

*Section V. Termination of Membership:* The continuance of membership shall be subject to the principles and usages of Baptist churches and especially as follows: (1) Any member in good and regular standing who desires a letter of dismission and recommendation to any other Baptist church is entitled to receive it upon his request. (2) If a member in good standing requests to be released from his covenant obligations to this church for any reason which the church may finally deem satisfactory, after it shall have patiently and kindly endeavored to secure his continuance in its fellowship, such requests may be granted, and his membership terminated. (3) The church may also, after due notice and hearing, terminate the membership of persons for the space of one year non-resident, or for the same space of time, not habitually worshipping with the church. (4) Should a member become an offense to the church and to its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, or by consistent breach of his covenant vows, or of non-support of the church, the church may terminate his membership, but only after due notice and hearing and after faithful efforts have been made to bring such member to repentance and amendment. (5) The membership of no person shall be terminated (except by letter to another church) at the meeting when the recommendation for such action is made. (6) All requests for termination of membership or action looking thereto shall first be considered by the deacons, who shall make recommendation to the church.

*Section IV. Restoration of Membership:* Any person whose membership has been terminated for any offense may be restored by unanimous vote of the church upon evidence of his repentance and reformation; or if on account of continued absence, upon satisfactory explanation.

### **Article III. Church Officers:**

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The officers of the church shall consist of pastors, deacons, church clerk, treasurer, trustees, heads of various departments of the church organization and other officers the church may deem necessary.

*Section I. Pastor:* The pastor shall be a duly ordained Baptist minister of the Gospel, in full fellowship with the denominational agencies with which the church is cooperating. He shall be called for an indefinite period of time unless otherwise agreed upon at the time of the call. There shall be a minimum vote of 75% in favour of calling any particular man before a pastoral call is extended. (See quorum required for a pastoral call in Article II. Section IV.) In calling a pastor the church shall consider only one man at a time.

The pastor shall give leadership and oversight to the ministries of the church, leading the church in its ministry of proclaiming God's Word to believers to foster their spiritual growth, and to unbelievers to win them to faith in Jesus Christ, leading the church in a caring ministry to church members and other persons in the community for the meeting of personal needs, giving direction to the administration of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper, and guiding the church to be a loving fellowship united and a growing commitment to the New Testament objectives for the church. He shall share responsibility with the deacons, and other church workers, motivating, equipping and overseeing the church membership in the performance of its ministry.

*Section II. Deacons:* Deacons shall be elected for one-, two- or three year terms as may be determined by the church, nominated by secret ballot from the adult membership of the church. Nominees shall be interviewed and upon agreeing to serve if elected, election shall proceed at the next regular business session following their nomination, to select the number of deacons the church wishes to elect at that time.

Deacons shall be co-laborers with the pastor in leading the church in proclamation of God's Word to believers and to unbelievers, in providing pastoral care to church members and other persons in the community, in developing the church's missionary outreach to the world, and in building and maintaining harmonious fellowship in the church. The deacons shall serve as a finance and budget committee, except when the church has elected another committee to care for these responsibilities. In keeping with congregational policy of the church (Article IV. Section I. of the Constitution), the body of deacons has only the power of recommendation to the church other than in matters of specific authority designated to them by the church from time to time.

*Section III. Trustees:* The trustees shall consist of not less than two members, one of whom shall be chairman and one secretary. They shall have legal care and custody of the property of the church and shall administer the same under such rules as may be prescribed by the church. The chairman and the secretary shall execute all legal documents and instruments as may be authorized by the church, and all instruments so executed shall become the official action of the church and, except in the case of fraud, shall not be contested.

*Section IV. Clerk, Treasurer, and financial secretary:* The *clerk* shall attend all regular and special conferences of the church and take minutes of the proceedings. He shall accurately keep the membership roll and assist the pastor in the receipts of new members. The *treasurer* shall keep accurate records of all the funds of the church and submit monthly reports to the church. He shall make books available at any time upon request of the church and shall cooperate with members of the finance committee in planning for the church's financial stability. The treasurer shall pay accounts and expend moneys as directed by the church. The *financial secretary* shall receive offering envelopes from the treasurer, and shall keep individual records to donations for all donors and shall issue receipts for all offerings as a matter of course at the end of the calendar year, or on other occasions by a special request of a donor.

*Section V. Other Officers:* Officers to lead various organizations and carry out various functions in the church shall be elected as the church sees fit.

### **Article IV. Removal of Officers and Employees:**

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Any officer may be removed by a majority vote of the church at any time after having given thirty days' notice of such contemplated action. Any employee of the church may be removed, after approval by the pastor of such action, by the responsible administrative officer with a pay period notice or pay in lieu of notice.

### **Article V. Committees:**

The pastor shall appoint or the church shall elect such committees as deemed necessary or advisable for facilitating the work of the church..

### **Article VI. Business Meetings:**

Regular business meetings shall be held each month to report on church activities and to transact necessary business. Special business meetings may be called by the pastor and chairman of the deacons, a majority of the deacons or by ten or more members of the church, with seven days' notice unless notice time is waived by two-thirds consent at a regular worship service. Business shall be conducted according to the precepts of "*Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*."

### **Article VII. Amendments:**

This constitution and by-laws may be amended at any regular business meeting by a two-thirds majority vote, and after thirty days notice has been given of such intended amendment.