

Constitution & Bylaws of Tapestry Church

Preamble

This Constitution and Bylaws are made to:

1. Preserve and secure the principles of our faith.
2. Respect and honour each individual member of the church.
3. Provide for orderly conduct of internal affairs, in dealing with others, and of governing church members.
4. Serve as an umbrella of protection and guidance for our Church Planting Network.

Article I

Name and Location

The name of this non-profit organization is Tapestry Church (Tapestry). Tapestry currently meets at the Tuscany Community Club. Tapestry's mailing address is PO Box 27032 RPO Tuscany SDN, Calgary, AB T3C 2Y1. Tapestry shall have full power and authority to change the principle office and meeting place from one location to another.

Article II

Purpose

The purpose of Tapestry is to glorify God by obeying the Great Commandment (Matthew 22: 36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 18-20). The process is designed to produce disciples of Jesus Christ, which involves these values and practices:

Here's What We Love (Values)

- GOD – We delight in God and follow after Jesus
- PEOPLE – Doing life together as we give ourselves away
- SCRIPTURE – We love it, learn it and live it
- TRANSFORMATION – Becoming more and more in every way like Christ

Here's How We Live (Practices)

- Pray
- Study the Scriptures
- Hang out
- Serve
- Talk about Jesus

Article III

Statement of Faith

In essential beliefs we have unity

“There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” Ephesians 4:4-6 (NIV)

In non-essential beliefs we have freedom

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters...Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand...So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God...So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves.” Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22 (NIV)

In all our beliefs we show love

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35 (NIV)

ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

These “Essential Beliefs” of Tapestry are summary statements regarding the basics of evangelical Christian faith and are in harmony with the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptist (CCSB) Statement of Faith.

About God

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. (*Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; Psalm 90:2; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14*)

About Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus was both fully God and fully human, was born of a virgin and lived a perfect, sinless human life. He offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven’s glory and will return someday to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (*Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 8:58, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13*)

About the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a divine person, co-equal with the Father and the Son. He is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with the power for living, enables understanding of Biblical truth and guides them in righteous living. He provides every Christian with spiritual gifts for service. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily. (*2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13, 5:18; Galatians 5:25*)

About the Bible

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without any mixture of error. (*2 Timothy 1:13, 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Psalm 119:105, 160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5*)

About People

People are the supreme object of God's creation, originally created in the image and likeness of God. Humanity fell through disobedience, incurring both physical and spiritual death. All people are sinners by nature and sinners by choice and this separates them from the life of God. Only through the atoning work of Jesus Christ can anyone be saved and restored to relationship with God. (*Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; 51:1-8; Isaiah 53:6, 59:1-2; Romans 3:23; 5:12*)

About Salvation

Salvation is by grace through faith. It is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn in repentance from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. (*Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26, Romans 5:1*)

About Eternity

People were created to exist forever in eternity. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation through Christ. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence. (*John 3:16; 17:3; Romans 6:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 20:15*)

About Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Jesus instructed His disciples to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the Church two visible symbols (called "ordinances") as reminders. These two ordinances are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. While we respect all acts of spiritual obedience, the Bible teaches that Baptism is to be done by immersion, following salvation, as a one-time act of obedience and identification with Jesus Christ as Lord. The Lord's Supper is an ongoing symbol remembering our Lord's death, burial, resurrection and promised return. Each individual must decide his or her own participation in these ordinances. Regardless, we

do not regard anyone's participation in these practices as a means of salvation. (*Matthew 28:18-20, 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:23-32, Colossians 2:12*)

About The Church

The Church consists of all those who have been saved through faith in Jesus Christ. Christ is the Head the Church, whose members have been commissioned by Him to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations. The local church is an autonomous, local body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the worship of God, for teaching of the Word of God, for prayer, fellowship and the proclamation of the Gospel, and for observance of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The local church is governed by the principles found in Scripture. (*Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:41-47; I Corinthians 12:12-14; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 10:25*)

IN SUMMARY

The cornerstone of our belief and faith is Jesus Christ. Through Him, we have the free gift of salvation, an eternal relationship with God, and an example of how to live our lives and love God and each other. He is central to everything that we believe and everything that we do. God wants us to live in the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, keeping ourselves constantly in subjection to Christ, we must allow God's Holy Spirit to live through us in a daily "walk" of faith. All of us need to make sure that He is the center of our lives in every way.

Article IV

Affiliation

Tapestry Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denomination control. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation and inter-dependence with other churches, our church voluntarily affiliates with the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists (CCSB) and Midwest Baptist Association. We also embrace and support the CCSB Church-to-Church covenant (see Attachment #1).

Article V

Government

The government of Tapestry is vested in its members. The membership retains unto itself the right of exclusive self-government in all phases of its life and organization. It recognizes the needs for mutual counsel and cooperation, which are common among Baptist churches. Tapestry will cooperate with and mutually work with the Midwest Baptist Association and the CCSB.

Article VI

Records and Reports

Tapestry will maintain the following records and reports:

1. Adequate and correct books and records of accounts (financial records).
2. Minutes of the proceedings of its congregational meetings and all other teams.
3. A record of its members, giving their names and addresses.
4. Contribution statements for contributors.
5. Reports of annual review of all church financial books, records, and proceedings.

Article VII

Nonprofit Status and Dissolution

Tapestry is not organized for profit. The property of this church is irrevocably dedicated to religious purposes, and no part of the net income or assets of this organization shall ever incur to the benefit of an officer or member of the organization, or to the benefit of any private individual. In the event of dissolution of the church, all of its assets and property of every nature and description whatsoever shall be paid over and transferred at the direction of the Elders to the Midwest Baptist Association and to the CCSB.

Article VIII

Amendment

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended provided the proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing at a regular congregational meeting and then circulated to the membership. Amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws shall be two-thirds vote of members of Tapestry who are qualified to vote and are present in the congregational meeting with a quorum to discuss and vote for this matter. Providing the amendment passes the first vote, a second vote will be held 30 days after. Should it pass a second reading the amendment will be accepted.

Tapestry Bylaws

I. Church Membership

Section I: Ways to request membership at Tapestry

1. Membership in Tapestry may be requested at a worship service and followed up by a meeting with a pastor/Elder.
2. By transfer of church letter from another Baptist church presented to a pastor/Elder.
3. By a statement of faith of their prior experience of conversion and scriptural baptism by immersion in another evangelical church of like faith and practice.

Elders reserve the right to refuse membership for the same reasons laid out in Section IV (termination of membership).

Section II: Qualifications

1. A personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
2. Baptism by immersion as a testimony of salvation.
3. Completion of new member's orientation class. Candidates for membership and new members need to attend the Church Membership Class to learn and understand the privileges and responsibilities of members to God and the church.
4. Agreement with Tapestry's statement of faith. It shall be the duty of church members to uphold the Statement of Faith, Constitution and Bylaws, and Covenant of Tapestry. It is important that those who unite with us in membership realize this is a covenant relationship which commits each one of us to a relationship of mutual accountability.

Section III: Rights of Membership

Every member shall have the right to participate in the following matters: the annual calendar and budget of Tapestry; the calling of a pastor; the affirmation of church leadership; eligibility for church leadership; participation in congregational meetings; the disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of Tapestry; the merger or dissolution of Tapestry; acquisition of property; and amendments to Tapestry's Constitution or Bylaws.

Section IV: Termination

Members shall be removed from church membership for the following reasons:

1. Death.
2. Transfer of membership to another church.
3. By personal request of the member.
4. Dismissal by the pastors/Elders according to the following conditions:

- a. The member's life and conduct is not in accordance with the Statement of Faith and or members covenant in such a way that the member hinders the ministry influence of the church in the community.
 - b. Procedures for dismissal of a member shall be according to Matthew 18:15-17 or Titus 3:10-11.
5. Because of the covenant relationship we desire among our membership a member that does not have any contact with Tapestry for a period consisting of 3 or more months, without making known to the church leadership their intention to be away for an extended period, shall be removed from membership as the pastoral team/Elders deem appropriate.
 6. The purpose of church discipline or dismissal is the ultimate restoration of the member to fellowship in the body.

Section V: Restoration of Members

Members dismissed from Tapestry shall be restored by the unanimous agreement of the pastors/Elders according to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:7-8.

Section VI: Voting Limitations

Each member is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

II. Meetings of Members

Congregational meetings of the members shall be held in the times, in the manner and the purposes set forth below:

1. An annual meeting of the church shall be held prior to the beginning of the calendar year. The primary purpose of the meeting is to receive and adopt the annual report, the church calendar and budget for the coming year.
2. Tapestry may change the dates of the annual or other scheduled meetings by notifying the members at least 10 days in advance.
3. A special congregational meeting may be called at any time by the Pastor/Elders.
4. Notification of members for congregational meetings may be given by any one of the following methods:
 - a. Distribution of written material to the congregation in attendance at a Sunday service.
 - b. Oral announcement to the congregation at a Sunday service.
 - c. By letter to members.
5. A quorum shall consist of those members present and voting.
6. Members shall be notified no less than 10 days prior to a meeting.

III. Church Officers

All church officers must be members of Tapestry in good standing.

Section I: The Pastor

A. **Qualifications:** The qualifications for pastor shall be consistent with those listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7. His training, skills, and experiences are needed in this area of leadership.

B. Responsibilities

- (a) These generally fall into the following areas: Preaching, teaching, casting Godly vision, pastoral counseling, administration, planning, and guiding Tapestry to grow and fulfill its purposes.
- (b) To live a life of private and public integrity before his family and congregation. A committed Christian leader and partner of the Elders.
- (c) He shall lead and equip Tapestry and all its leaders in fulfilling its values and practices.
- (d) He will provide direction, training and will act as chairman of the Church Leadership Team.
- (e) The pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all on-going teams except the Pastor Search Team.
- (f) He shall work with the Elders in securing pulpit supply in times of his absence.
- (g) The pastor will be in scriptural mentoring relationships with the Elders and church leadership. He will also be encouraged to have a mentor in order to support and strengthen his ministry at Tapestry.

C. Call

- (a) A pastor shall be chosen and called whenever a vacancy occurs.
- (b) A Pastor Search team shall be recommended by the Elders and affirmed by the church membership to seek out a suitable pastor.
- (c) The Pastor Search Team will prayerfully consider and make a recommendation to the Elders. They will recommend only one candidate at a time. Once the Elders have affirmed the candidate, the Pastor Search Team along with the Elders will present the candidate to the Church Leadership Team.
- (d) Once the Elders and Church Leadership Team have affirmed the pastoral candidate, the candidate will be invited to meet with the church over a weekend of activities that will allow the church to get to know the potential pastor and ask questions.
- (e) Following this, the congregation will be asked to pray.
- (f) The pastor's election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least 10 days notice shall be given to the members.
- (g) An affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of those members present is necessary to extend a call to the pastoral candidate.

D. Terms of Service

- (a) The chosen pastor shall serve until the relationship is terminated by either his request or the request of the church. Should Tapestry terminate the relationship, the pastor will be compensated two weeks salary for each year served up to a maximum of 8 weeks. Should the pastor terminate the relationship a minimum 30-day notice will be given.
- (b) There shall be a written covenant agreement made between the pastor and the Elders outlining expectations and roles. This should also include salary, vacation time and benefits.

Section II: Church Staff

Tapestry shall employ or call staff, as the Lord leads.

- A. Decisions on staff members other than that of calling a pastor shall be made by the pastors and the Elders.
- B. A special team may be assigned by the pastor and Elders to help gather suitable candidates.
- C. A written job description and mutual covenant agreement will be prepared when the need for church staff is determined.

Section III: Elders

A. Responsibilities

- (a) The Elders will consist of at least three members.
- (b) The Elders will be recommended by the Pastoral Team and voted into position with a three-quarters (3/4) majority vote by the members at the annual meetings and will serve for a term of three years to be reaffirmed annually with a one year break between terms.
- (c) Elders shall demonstrate an exemplary Christian testimony in private, family and public life; a committed Christian leader and partner of the pastor; supporter and promoter of the church faith, values, practices, programs and ministries and will display Christian maturity.
- (d) Elders serve as a team to assist the Pastoral Team in spiritual ministry to the congregation.
- (e) They seek to resolve any fellowship problem of the church.
- (f) They work with the pastors to implement any church discipline when deemed necessary and to restore people to active membership when church discipline has taken place.
- (g) In the absence of the pastor, one of the Elders will serve as and advisory member to all organizations, departments, and teams.
- (h) The Elders assist the pastoral team to set and implement spiritual vision among the church.
- (i) The chairman of the Elders will serve as moderator of the congregation; in his absence or at his request, another Elder may serve.

- (j) The Elders will be in scriptural mentoring relationships with those in Tapestry Church. They will also be encouraged to have a mentor in order to support and strengthen their ministry at Tapestry.

Section IV: Church Leadership Team

- (a) The Church Leadership Team will consist of a minimum of five members. These five members will be chosen by the pastoral team and Elders and will typically be leaders of the various ministry teams.
- (b) The Pastoral Team and Elders will recommend candidates to the congregation for the Church Leadership Team. After a time of prayer, the members will vote to affirm those who have been recommended to serve a term of two years to be reaffirmed annually, with a one year break between terms.
- (c) Each person will be a participating and contributing member of Tapestry, give evidence of a dynamic relationship with Christ and a commitment to this congregation.
- (d) This team will, in consultation with each ministry leader, develop a calendar and give budget recommendations to the Stewardship Team for the upcoming year.
- (e) The Church Leadership Team shall recommend to the church objectives and goals in keeping with Tapestry's purpose, values and practices. They will review the coordinated program plans recommended by the pastor, Elders and ministry teams. They will evaluate program effectiveness in terms of church goals and objectives.
- (f) The Church Leadership Team serves Tapestry between congregational meetings. It ensures ministry teams operate within the purposes, values and practices of Tapestry, following the calendar and budget that has been approved by the church.
- (g) The Church Leadership Team shall assist the Pastors and Elders by communicating any concerns or disagreements that they become aware of directly to the Pastoral Team and Elders and by acting as ambassadors of the vision and direction of the church to the various ministry teams.

Section V: Church Ministry Teams

Tapestry shall establish such teams as needed to carry out its purpose. All team members and new teams established must be approved by the Church Leadership Team.

Attachment #1

CCSB Church-to-Church Covenant

Given that we are a network of churches who give ourselves away to advance the Kingdom of God, we value the importance of being in covenant. While we recognize the autonomy of the local church, we also see the Biblical model of inter-dependence and accountability. Therefore, being led by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to God and to one another to live out the following:

We as churches covenant together to affirm the CHURCH as God's primary vehicle to advance His kingdom.

- by committing to share Christ, send missionaries, start and strengthen churches
- by connecting churches in association
- by valuing the contribution of every church as unique and significant

We as churches covenant together to honor the rich HERITAGE God has given us

- by upholding our commitment to the Baptist Faith & Message
- by being on mission with other CCSB churches
- by partnering with the agencies and churches of the Southern Baptist Convention

We as churches covenant together to practice God's desire for INTER-DEPENDENCE

- by realizing we can do more together than alone
- by accepting responsibility for one another
- by giving sacrificially through the Cooperative Program

We as churches covenant together to welcome God's protection found in ACCOUNTABILITY

- by taking the initiative to assist churches and leaders in times of need
by welcoming our churches and leaders to intervene (assist) in times of need or crisis
- by praying together for forgiveness and restoration in times of moral failure or spiritual distress

We as churches covenant together to protect the UNITY of our churches

- by praying for one another
- by refusing to gossip or compete with one another
- by demonstrating Christ-like loyalty and love to one another

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:20, 21)