

CONSTITUTION

Of the Trinity Baptist Church,
Spokane, Washington
Adopted March 24, 1954
Amended 1982
Amended January 6, 2008
Amended November 20, 2016

PREAMBLE

Reposing our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, believing in the teaching and practices of the Baptists and those great distinctive principles for which they have ever stood, namely:

1. The Lordship of Jesus Christ;
2. The Bible, the standard of faith and practice;
3. Regenerated membership;
4. Believer's (Baptism by) immersion;
5. Progressive sanctification;
6. Soul liberty;
7. Congregational government;
8. Separation of church and state.

We therefore, band ourselves together as a body of immersed believers in Jesus Christ and adopt, ordain, and establish for our government and plan of worship service the following declaration of faith, covenant, constitution and by-laws (and we hereby revoke all previous constitution and by-laws and action contrary to this constitution, by-laws and standing rules).

DECLARATION OF FAITH

1. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, and a finished work, that it was written by men divinely inspired by Him and is therefore the only infallible authority in matters of faith and conduct. (2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
2. We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, eternal in His being, perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power. We rejoice that He concerns Himself mercifully in human affairs, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He gives eternal life to all who come to Him through His Son Jesus Christ. (Psalm 90:2; 1 Peter 1:14-16; Romans 11:33)
3. We believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal and only Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit, of virgin birth, sinless in His life, making atonement for the sins of the world by His death. We believe in His bodily resurrection, His ascension and visible, premillennial return to the world according to His promise. (1 John 5:20; Matthew 1:20; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Acts 1:9-11)

4. We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from God to convict the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. In His ministry, the Holy Spirit regenerates, sanctifies, teaches, empowers for service, and comforts those who believe in Jesus Christ. (John 14:16-17; John 16:7; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7)
5. We believe that all people, by nature and by choice, are sinners but that God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. We believe, therefore, that those who confess their sin and accept Christ as Lord and Savior will rejoice forever in God's presence and those who refuse to accept Christ as Lord and Savior will be eternally separated from God in hell. We believe that every human being is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith. (Romans 3:10-12; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; Ecclesiastes 12:14; John 3:18)
6. We believe in the universal church a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and of which all spiritually reborn people are members. We also believe in a multitude of local churches, each a company of believers in Jesus Christ associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that to these local churches were committed to the ordinances of baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper, and that God has laid upon these churches the task of proclaiming to a lost world repentance and the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Furthermore we believe that each church is independent and autonomous and must be free from interference by an ecclesiastical or political authority. Nonetheless, we support cooperation with other persons and groups in programs that promote the work of God's universal church, and we uphold the rights of civil government when these do not infringe upon our obligations to God. (Acts 2:1-4; Acts 2:41-47; Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 5:28-29; Romans 13:1-6; Matthew 10:28)
7. We believe that Christians are to follow the Savior's example in ministering to human physical needs. Such acts of love are good in themselves; and when done in the name of Jesus, they bring glory to God.
8. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.
9. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. As a consequence, we believe that the continuing practice of any of these perversions disqualifies any and all individuals from membership in Trinity Baptist Church. (Gen. 2:24; Gen.19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 1 Cor. 6:9, 12-19; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)
10. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23; Tit. 1:6)

11. We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)

COVENANT

Having been led by the Holy Spirit of God to assemble ourselves together as a local church, which we believe to be an assembly of regenerated believers baptized by immersion and bound together by ties of Christian love, discipline, ministry and unity, we covenant together:

1. to strive for personal growth in spiritual knowledge, holiness, maturity, and love;
2. to participate fully in the worship, teaching, discipline, and order of this church in obedience to God's Word and in submission to the chosen leadership of this church;
3. to contribute regularly and cheerfully to the financial needs of this church for ministry here and throughout the world;
4. to minister to each other by praying for each other, by seeking to build each other up, by helping to meet each other's spiritual and physical needs, and by seeking the reconciliation of those actions or convictions that may cause a breach of harmony;
5. to seek the salvation of the lost by word and by example and to provide for the spiritual nurture of those in our care;
6. to live lives which seek to glorify God by devotion to that which is good and acceptable and perfect and by seeking to do nothing which would give offense to other Christians or to unbelievers;
7. to exercise the spiritual gifts, given by God to each Christian in active building up of believers and of this church in a decent and orderly manner.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization, a corporation, shall be the Trinity Baptist Church of Spokane, Washington.

ARTICLE II - OBJECT

The object of this organization shall be to promote:

1. the preaching of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in order to win people to a personal faith in Him as Savior.
2. to provide for the worship of God, the preaching and teaching of the Word of God, to administer the ordinances of the New Testament, to seek the spiritual improvement of our members, and to maintain a Baptist Church to minister to its own community, and to extend a ministry of the gospel unto all the earth.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this church shall consist of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who have been immersed; acknowledge substantial agreement with the faith, practice and covenant of this church; and have been received into the fellowship by regular action of the church. Voting shall be set forth in the by-laws.

ARTICLE IV LEADERSHIP

The scriptural leadership of this church are Pastors and Deacons, and the by-laws shall determine their election, term, and succession. The church shall elect and appoint to the various forms of service indicated by their titles and as defined in the by-laws such other officers as are deemed advisable.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

Meetings for worship, prayer, praise, fellowship, business, and special purposes shall be held as set forth in the by-laws.

ARTICLE VI - RELATIONSHIPS

Believing in the sovereignty of the local church as an autonomous body of believers under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, this church by official action shall determine the maintaining of fraternal fellowship and cooperation with churches of like faith and practice; or with organized groups of Baptists or interchurch relationships; when our cardinal beliefs will not be compromised. To such groups this church may send statistical reports and may be represented in their meetings. No financial support is to be given to a work or workers whose doctrinal position is in opposition to the preamble of this constitution.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a three-fourths vote of members present and voting at any business meeting provided such amendments have been submitted in writing at a previous quarterly meeting.