

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the Society is: Jesus Way Fellowship.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of the Society is to establish and maintain a Christian fellowship in order to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to further the Kingdom of God according to the Bible, which it confesses to be the infallible Word of God for doctrine and life.

Specifically, we purpose to:

When necessary, to acquire, purchase, lease, hire, borrow, exchange or otherwise dispose of any property for the use of the Fellowship and the furtherance of its mission in conformity to the laws of this Province.

ARTICLE III – STATEMENT OF FAITH

THE WORD OF GOD. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

THE TRINITY. We believe there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit that these are equal in every divine perfection and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

GOD THE FATHER. We believe in God, the Father, and infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of all people, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

JESUS CHRIST. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.

THE HOLY SPIRIT. We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe in the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that he is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.

REGENERATION. We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

THE Church. We believe in the universal Church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid up in the members of the local church the primary task of giving the Gospel of Jesus Christ to as lost world.

CHRISTIAN CONDUCT. We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well being of others; that the Christians' conduct should be blameless before the world, that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.

THE ORDINANCES. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local Church; baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ..

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY. We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.

CHURCH COOPERATION. We believe the local Churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in denominational organization. Such an organization, whether a regional or district conference, exists and functions by the will of the Churches. Cooperation in a Conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with interdenominational Churches on a voluntary independent basis.

THE LAST THINGS. We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and establishment of His Kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

ARTICLE IV – DISSOLUTION

Upon receiving recognition as a charitable organization by the Department of National Revenue of Canada the following shall occur upon winding or dissolution of the Society: Any funds or assets of the Society remaining after the satisfaction of its debts and liabilities shall be given to or transferred to one or more Christian Church, Christian Charitable

Organization, Christian Charitable Corporation or Christian Charitable Trust recognized by the Department of National Revenue of Canada, as being qualified as such under the provisions, of the *Income Tax Act* of Canada from time to time in effect.

ARTICLE V – DISSOLUTION SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION

Prior to receiving recognition as a charitable organization by the Department of National Revenue of Canada the following shall occur upon winding or dissolution of the Society: Any funds or assets of the Society remaining after the satisfaction of its debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to one or more Christian Church, Christian Charitable Corporation or Christian Charitable Trust.

ARTICLE VI – DIVISION

In the case of organic division of the Fellowship membership, the Fellowship property shall belong to those members who abide by the Constitution and By-Laws, the Executive Committee of the British Columbia Baptist Conference may give recommendations.

ARTICLE VII – CONSOLIDATION

Should conditions arise where consolidation with another Christian Church/Ministries would be advisable, the Board/The Council of Elders, in consultation with the Executive Committee of the British Columbia Baptist Conference, shall be authorized to negotiate the terms of such consolidation in so far as the property is concerned and bring a recommendation to Jesus Way Fellowship for approval. The final approval belongs to Jesus Way Fellowship.

ARTICLE VIII – AFFILIATIONS

The Fellowship declares its loyalty to the British Columbia Baptist Conference of the Baptist General Conference of Canada for so long as that Conference adheres to the Statement of Faith herein adopted. The society affiliates with the Baptist General Conference of Canada.

ARTICLE IX – ALTERATION

Articles III, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX and X in this constitution are alterable.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I – FELLOWSHIP COVENANT

Having been led by the Holy Spirit of God to receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and to confess Him as Lord, and on confession of this 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 covenant with one another, as one body in Christ, to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him.

We promise by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to forsake the ways of sin and to walk together in Christian love and in the paths of righteousness. With this in view we engage to strive together for both the peace and purity of this Fellowship; to sustain this worship and steadfastly to cherish and hold its ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute as faithful stewards such time, talent and money, in the measure that God prospers each of us, that the responsibility for the work of the local Fellowship and the world-wide ministry of spreading the Gospel be faithfully and effectively discharged.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to teach the Bible to our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to be just in our dealings and faithful in our engagements, to be exemplary in our deportment; to avoid unkind words and unrighteous anger; to abstain from all evil; to combine zeal and knowledge in our efforts to advance the cause of our Saviour; to make Christ first in all things – spiritual and temporal.

Moreover, should we move from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some local Church where we can carry out the spirit of this Covenant and the principles of the Word of God.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

ADMISSION

All those confessing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and Lord of their

lives, having been baptized, showing evidence of regeneration, and accepting the Statement of Faith and Covenant held by the Fellowship may qualify for membership. All members of the Society may be members of other Societies and/or Churches.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Members shall strive to live in accordance with the Fellowship's Covenant. They should assist the Leader and Council of Elders in carrying out the ministry of the Fellowship. They shall endeavour to preserve the unity of the Fellowship and if at any time they find themselves opposed to the fundamental doctrines of Scripture or fundamental practices of the Fellowship, they shall first bring their concern to the Council of Elders. If disagreements still exist, they shall not seek to disrupt our fellowship but shall quietly withdraw their membership.

Every member is encouraged:

To acquire scriptural knowledge and to constantly progress in grace and spirituality. (Col 2:6-7)

To love their Leaders and Council of Elders, praying for and upholding them in their ministries. (Heb 13:7, 17)

To love one another, pray for one another and tenderly regard one another. (Rom 12:10; 1 Tim 2:1)

To bear faithful testimony, to live an exemplary life in word and deed and to witness to the power and grace of the gospel of Jesus Christ. (1 Pet 3:15; Acts 1:8)

To experience the blessing of participating in a regular ministry in and through the Fellowship.

STATUS

All members in good standing shall have equal rights and are eligible to vote. Those under legal age (19 years old) will not be allowed to vote.

“**Resident members in good standing**” shall include all members received into the membership who have not been dismissed or placed on the inactive list.

“**Non-resident members**” are members in good standing who are living too far away to

attend regularly, but who maintain contact with the Fellowship, such as students, missionaries, personnel in the armed forces, retirement home residents, etc.

“**Inactive members**” are those who have been absent from the Fellowship for a period of six months without manifesting interest. Inactive members have no rights of membership and are ineligible to vote. They can be removed from the Fellowship’s membership by a vote of the Council of Elders

DISCIPLINE

Misconduct

Designated Council of Elders shall interview all members conducting themselves in such a manner as to bring reproach upon the name of Christ or upon the Fellowship, and shall endeavour to restore them to the path of fellowship following the pattern of Matthew 18:15-20; Galatians 6:1-3; and Titus 3:10-11. Failing to receive satisfactory evidence of repentance and reformation, the Council of Elders shall recommend dismissal of the offender(s).

Grievances

In all grievances between members, the offender(s) shall be dealt with in accordance with the rules laid out in Matthew 18:15-20 and 1 Tim 5:19-21, and no public complaint shall be made until this course has been pursued. Charges shall be in writing and shall be submitted to the Council of Elders

TERMINATION

All terminations or dismissals shall be effective upon a unanimous vote of the Council of Elders.

Termination and Transfer

Any members in good standing desiring to unite with another Church may, upon written request, be granted a regular letter of transfer or recommendation. A member may hold membership of more than one Society

Termination by Dismissal

Any members who persist in conduct unbecoming of a Christian or habitually neglect their Fellowship responsibilities may be dismissed by the Council of

Elders.

Termination of Inactive Members

Any members who have been absent from the Fellowship for a period of six months without manifesting interest will be contacted by the Council of Elders. After determining they are no longer interested in the ministry of the Fellowship, they will be released from membership.

ARTICLES III – MEETINGS

A. WORSHIP AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Fellowship is meeting every Friday for worship and may schedule other meetings as deemed necessary (including those for education, fellowship, and prayer).

B. BUSINESS MEETINGS

The annual business meeting shall be on a date set by the Council of Elders in compliance with the Societies Act. Notification of the meeting shall be made available to the Fellowship at least two (2) **Weeks** prior to the meeting.

The Council of Elders shall meet at least twelve (12) times yearly or as needed.

Special congregation meetings of the Fellowship may be called at the request of the Council Elders or the Leader, or upon written request of at least ten percent (10%) of the resident members in good standing. Such written requests shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Council of Elders. Notification of the meeting shall be made available to the Fellowship at least two (2) Fridays prior to the meeting with announcement at all Friday Services.

QUORUM

Fellowship Business Meetings

a. **A quorum shall be a minimum of 50% of the Elders plus 5 members.**

Exceptions shall include calling of the Leader, legal matters concerning property, or constitutional changes. At least 50% of the resident members in good

standing must be present to constitute a quorum.

Council of Elders

For urgent matters, the Leader will meet with the Chairman and two other members of the Council of Elders.

For the Council of Elders, when recommending to the Fellowship a call to a Leader candidate the required Elders support shall be at least 85% of those voting

LEGAL VOTING AGE (19 years of age)

All legal matters pertaining to the purchase, sale and mortgaging of property shall be voted on by members in good standing who are of legal age.

BUSINESS PROCEDURE

With love for each other member as the basis of our conduct and in a spirit of prayer, all business will be conducted by general consensus, consistent with the Constitution and By-laws of the Fellowship. Motions and voting will be part of the business procedure.

ARTICLE IV – LEADERSHIP

The administration of this Fellowship shall be carried out by the Council of Elders functioning in conjunction with the leadership of the Senior Leader under the headship of Jesus Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit according to the Scriptures. The Senior Leader and the Council of Elders are the decision making body. The Council of Elders function is to exercise oversight of the Fellowship in all areas with Fellowship approval being required on the following items:

Calling of Senior Leader, Associate Leader.

Adoption of the Constitution, By-laws and amendments as may be required.

Sale, acquisition, or encumbrances of property.

Adoption of the annual budget.

A. Present Senior Leader

Qualifications

The Senior Leader shall be a man called of God for the ministry of the Gospel in agreement with the Statement of Faith and Covenant of the Fellowship, as well as sympathetic and cooperative with the British Columbia Baptist Conference and Baptist General Conference of Canada.

His life must demonstrate qualities expressed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-4, Titus 1:5-9, and financial stewardship, and must be able and desire to serve God by leading His people.

Duties

The duties of the Senior Leader will be to:

- give vision and leadership,
- preach the Word,
- oversee the practice of the ordinances,
- correct, rebuke, encourage, and teach with patience the members of the Fellowship, so that they are able to do the works of service and to attain maturity in Christ, (II Timothy 4:2; Ephesians 4:11-13),
- be a member of the Council of Elders,
- have ex-officio privileges on all other committees,
- oversee the delegation of responsibilities for the Administration staff.

Call

Search Committee:

As necessary a Search Committee will be formed to search out and recommend a qualified candidate.

Extension of Call:

The Search Committee will make a recommendation to the Council of Elders and this recommendation and its terms will be presented by public declaration and written notification to resident members in good standing.

Upon the approval of the Council of Elders, at an annual or special business meeting a secret ballot vote will be held, 35% of the resident members in good standing must cast ballots, with a 75% affirmative vote required to extend a call. When the call has been ratified it will be communicated to the candidate by the Chairman of the Council of Elders.

Dissolution of Relationship:

A Leader relationship can be dissolved by:

Resignation

When a Leader resigns, the Leader should tender a letter of resignation. The Council of Elders will make a recommendation to the Fellowship regarding the date of dissolution of the Leader relationship at a special called meeting. Normally the date of dissolution shall be 40 – 90 days after the presentation of the resignation. The Council of Elders may extend this period.

Dismissal

Any proposal to dismiss a Senior Leader shall be referred to the Council of Elders for consideration. The Council of Elders will meet with the Senior Leader in an attempt to correct the grievances. (Refer to 4c). If the grievances cannot be resolved, the Council of Elders may dissolve the Leader relationship.

When a written accusation for the dismissal of the Senior Leader is signed by 20% of the resident members in good standing the Council of Elders shall investigate. If such petition fails, all signatories to the petition will immediately resign their positions. They will not be eligible for any leadership position for a minimum of one year, and then only providing their attitude toward the Senior Leader has changed.

All dismissal actions must be in accordance with the B.C. Labour Relations Code.

Areas of Grievances include:

Doctrinal deviation
Immoral conduct
Professional incompetence

Elders

Qualification

An Elder shall be a man called to God for the ministry of the Gospel in agreement with the Statement of Faith and Covenant of the Fellowship, as well as sympathetic and cooperative with the British Columbia Baptist Conference and the Baptist General Conference of Canada.

His life must demonstrate qualities expressed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 Peter 5:1-4; Titus 1:5-9, financial stewardship, and he must be able and desire to serve God by leading His people.

Duties

Each Elder will be assigned responsibilities.

Extension of Call

The Senior Leader will interview the prospective Elder and report to the Council of Elders. Upon approval by the Council of Elders, the name will be presented to the congregations for ratification by 2/3 majorities.

Term of Office

Elders are appointed for three-year term with one-year sabbatical leave going in rotation. The three-year term can be extended for another one year. Maximum of four years.

The Chairman can serve for a maximum of two years. The Chairman may be re-elected for another two-year term.

The Council of Elders will organize itself so as to provide a chairman and other necessary positions to effectively carry out the various tasks of ministry. These officers will fulfill requirements for the Fellowship as required by

the Societies Act of the Province of British Columbia.

- d. The Elder must be a registered member of the Fellowship and of good standing.

Dissolution of Relationship

Resignation will be recognised upon the submission of a letter submitted to Council of Elders.

If an Elder ceases to be a resident member in good standing due to:

Doctrinal deviation

Immoral conduct

Lack of involvement

Removal of the elder will be by the Council of Elders and Senior Leader by 2/3 majorities.

ASSOCIATE Leaders

Qualifications

Associate Leaders shall be people called of God for the ministry of the Gospel. They must be in agreement with the Statement of Faith and Covenant of the Fellowship, as well as sympathetic and cooperative with the British Columbia Conference and the Baptist General Conference of Canada.

They must be people who have demonstrated a life of proven Godly character and conviction in keeping with the same standards established for the role of Elders as set out in 1 Timothy 3:8-12.

Duties

Associate Leaders are responsible for their particular ministry area and to the Senior Leader.

Extension of Call

The Senior Leader will pursue and make a recommendation to the Council of Elders regarding an Associate Leader.

Upon the approval of the Council of Elders, at an annual or special business meeting a secret ballot vote will be held, 35% of the resident members in good standing must cast ballots, with a 75% affirmative vote required to extend a call. When the call has been ratified it will be communicated to

the candidate by the Chairman of the Council of Elders.

Dissolution of Relationship

Resignation will be recognized upon the submission of a letter submitted to the Council of Elders.

If an Associate Leader ceases to be a resident member in good standing due to:

Doctrinal deviation

Immoral conduct

Professional incompetence

Removal of the Associate Leader will be by the Council of Elders.

Yearly Review

A ministry review for each individual will take place yearly under the direction of the Senior Leader with any recommendations or concerns being submitted to the Council of Elders.

OTHER PAID EMPLOYEES

Qualifications

Preference shall be given to those who have experience in the area of service needed. Each candidate will attest to the redemptive presence of Jesus Christ in their life. All paid employees of J.W.F. are to be members of J.W.F. where practical, all Leader and administrative staff must be members.

Call

Job posting will be put on the website for at least two consecutive weeks. Candidates shall be interviewed by the Elders and/or their designate and the specific ministry coordinator. If there is no application from members, the position will be open to the public.

Working Relationship

The Council of Elders shall enter into an employment agreement with the candidate on behalf of the Fellowship.

Dissolution of Relationship

Resignation will be recognised upon the submission of a letter submitted to the Council of Elders.

Termination of a paid employee in this category due to:

Doctrinal deviation

Immoral conduct

Professional incompetence

Will be by the Council of Elders.

ARTICLE V – EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS

Deeds, transfers, licenses, and contracts on behalf of the Fellowship shall be signed by two members of the Council of Elders and they may affix the common seal of the Fellowship for such purposes. Contracts in the ordinary course of the Fellowship's operation may be entered into on behalf of the Fellowship by the Leader(s) or any person authorised by the Council of Elders.

All cheques, bills of exchange or other orders for payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Fellowship, shall be signed by a member of the Council of Elders.

ARTICLE VI – FINANCES AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

Finances for Fellowship ministries shall be obtained through tithes, offerings, bequests, fees, admission fees to special events and grants. Additional appeals for funds, offerings and new sources and methods of raising funds, must be given prior approval by the Council of Elders.

All financial records of the Fellowship and its auxiliary ministries must be reviewed yearly by the Council of Elders, or by a Financial Review Committee as directed by the Council of Elders. At the completion of the review, the Financial Review Committee will submit a written report to the Council of Elders that will be made available to the congregation.

ARTICLE VII – SEAL OF THE FELLOWSHIP

The common seal of the Fellowship shall be under the custody and control of the Council of Elders.

ARTICLE VIII – BOOKS AND RECORDS

The Council of Elders shall see that all necessary books, records and minutes are regularly and property kept.

The financial records shall be kept at a safe place in the province of British Columbia as determined by the Council of Elders and shall at all times be opened to inspection.

Unless otherwise ordered by the Council of Elders, the fiscal year of the Fellowship shall begin on the first day of January and close on the last day of December each year.

The Council of Elders shall authorize the opening of books and records to the inspection of members.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS OF BY-LAWS

The By-laws of the Society shall not be amended except by a special resolution of the society. For all purposes “special resolutions” shall mean a resolution passed by a 75% affirmative vote at a business meeting of the Fellowship.