



CHURCH CONSTITUTION

Since it pleased Almighty God, by His Holy Spirit, to call us to unite here in 2021 under the name Redeemer Baptist Church of Treasure Valley, ID, for the worship of the Triune God and the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we do hereby organize ourselves in accord with the Idaho Nonprofit Corporation Act and adopt this Constitution as our articles of governance, to be interpreted at all times to reflect the character of and bring glory to Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Bible and articulated in the Statement of Faith and Covenant of this church.

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This church is registered in the State of Idaho as a religious non-profit organization under the name of: Redeemer Baptist Church of Treasure Valley, Inc. This Constitution was adopted in Fall 2021.

ARTICLE 1. NAME

The name of the church shall be Redeemer Baptist Church. Referred to as "RBC" or "the church" in this constitution.

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE

Section 1. RBC exists by the grace of God, under the authority of the Word of God, for the glory of God, which is its ultimate goal.

Section 2. RBC glorifies God by loving Him and people, making disciples, and maturing disciples in ways that are commanded and consistent with the teaching of the Bible and as expressed in the Statement of Faith, the Constitution, and the Church Covenant, namely:

Clause 1. Gathering together for the worship of God and mutual edification;

Clause 2. Equipping the saints through Bible instruction and study;

Clause 3. Proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through preaching and personal evangelism, and any other means consistent with the teachings of the Bible;

Clause 4. Encouraging, supporting, and participating in local, domestic, and international missions work;

Clause 5. Administering the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper;

Clause 6. Encouraging biblical fellowship among believers;

Clause 7. And encouraging fellow churches to biblical faithfulness and purity.

ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Qualification for membership and intake process:

Clause 1. Members of RBC shall be believers in Jesus Christ, who give evidence of regeneration;

Clause 2. Who have been baptized by immersion as believers in obedience to Christ;

Clause 3. Who hold without mental reservation the doctrines of RBC as expressed in the Statement of Faith;

Clause 4. Who promise to keep the commitments expressed in the Church Covenant.

Clause 5. The process of entering into membership includes submitting an application, interview with an Elder, Applicant's permission to contact leadership from previous church, and any other requirement the Elders see fit.

Clause 6. An Applicant shall be received as a Member of RBC upon the recommendation of the Elders and the subsequent agreement of three-quarters of the Members present and voting on the question at any Members' Meeting.

Clause 7. No Member of RBC shall retain membership in any other church.

Section 2. Expectations of members:

Clause 1. Members shall be expected to participate actively in the life of RBC: By regularly attending its Lord's Day meetings;

Clause 2. By faithfully observing its ordinances, namely Baptism and the Lord's Supper;

Clause 3. By submitting to its discipline and instruction;

Clause 4. By attending its Members' Meetings;

Clause 5. By voting on the election of officers, on decisions regarding membership, and on all other matters submitted to the congregation's vote;

Clause 6. By applying of their various gifts to build up RBC.

Clause 7. No Person who is not a Member shall lead any ministry or hold any office of RBC.

Clause 8. Members shall be at least sixteen years of age in order to vote.

Section 3. Termination of membership:

Clause 1. RBC shall recognize the termination of a Person's Membership following his or her death, and may do so following his or her voluntary resignation or joining with another church.

Clause 2. RBC shall have authority to refuse a Member's voluntary resignation or transfer of membership to another church, either for the purpose of proceeding with a process of church discipline, or for any other reason the church deems necessary or prudent.

Clause 3. RBC shall have authority to exercise discipline over its Members, which may involve excluding from its membership any Member consistently neglectful of the duties enumerated in Article 3, Sections 1 and 2, or guilty of scandalous conduct by which the reputation of Christ or His church is dishonored. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 18:15-17 and those of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 and 2 Corinthians 2:6-8.

Clause 4. A Member shall be removed from membership as a matter of church discipline upon the recommendation of the Elders and the subsequent agreement of three-quarters of the Members present and voting on the question at any Members' Meeting.

Clause 5. A Member shall be removed after the following process: The Elders and other members will seek such a person, calling him to repentance and restoration. If no evidence of repentance is demonstrated the Elders will present the matter to the church at the following Member's Meeting, and give no less than thirty days, but not more than ninety days to seek resolution. After this announcement to the church a person shall not receive communion or participate in any ministry.

Clause 6. If a disciplined Member demonstrates sufficient evidence of repentance they shall be restored to membership. This restoration shall follow the steps outlined in Article 3, Sections 1, Clause 5.

Clause 7. A Member removed from membership shall not attend any church meetings unless permitted to attend per the discretion of the Elders.

Section 4. Statement on Marriage and Sexuality

Clause 1. We believe that term “marriage” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

Clause 2. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

Clause 3. We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one’s sex, or disagreement with one’s biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

Clause 4. We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

Clause 5. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Clause 6. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the church.

ARTICLE 4. MEETINGS

Section 1. Times, scheduling and order:

Clause 1. RBC shall meet together for public worship each Lord's Day, and at other times throughout the week as the Church may determine.

Clause 2. RBC shall hold a regular Members' Meeting at least every other month, which shall not be held in place of the regular Lord's Day worship service, but at some other time.

Clause 3. The Elders, whenever they deem it necessary, or within thirty days of receiving a written request signed by twenty percent of the voting membership, shall call a special Members' Meeting.

Clause 4. No Members' Meeting shall be held until the date, time, and place of such meeting shall be announced at every public meeting of the church for one week immediately prior to the Members' Meeting in question.

Clause 5. Members' Meetings shall proceed according to a reasonable order, and the Members present shall constitute a quorum to do business. Motions shall be adopted upon the agreement of the majority of the Members present and voting on the question, except on matters otherwise provided for in this constitution.

Clause 6. Non-members may be permitted to attend Members Meetings per the discretion of the Elders.

Section 3. Agenda for meetings:

Clause 1. RBC, duly assembled in a Members' Meeting, shall be responsible: To elect officers;

Clause 2. To receive Applicants into church Membership;

Clause 3. To recognize termination of Membership due to death, transfer of Membership, or voluntary resignation;

Clause 4. To exercise church discipline;

Clause 5. To approve, once in every year, a church budget;

Clause 6. To hear reports from the Elders and, from time to time, the various Deacons; and

Clause 7. To take any other action they deem necessary or desirable.

ARTICLE 5. GOVERNMENT

Section 1. The biblical offices in RBC shall be Elders and Deacons.

Section 2. Elders:

Clause 1. Oversight of the ministry, resources, and facilities of RBC shall be vested in a Board of Elders, which shall be comprised of not fewer than three men who satisfy the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. There will be no fewer than 2 elders in the inception stage of the church.

Clause 2. Elders shall be selected as follows: The Board of Elders shall at any regular Members' Meeting present to the church a list of nominees to the office of Elder. For a period of at least one month, the church shall consider whether such nominees are qualified for the office. If any Member believes one or more of the nominees to be unqualified, that Member shall express such concern to the Elders, who may on the basis of that advice remove names from the list of nominees. No name shall be added to the list of nominees which was not included on the initial list. When a period of one month has elapsed, the Elders shall at the next regular Members' Meeting present a final list of nominees to the church, who shall vote Yes or No on each of the nominees in turn. The Moderator or his delegates shall count the votes, and any nominee having the approval of three-quarters of the Members present and voting on his nomination shall be an Elder, which the church shall in due haste publicly recognize and set apart as such.

Clause 3. At least once in every year, the Elders shall at any regular Members' Meeting solicit from the congregation recommendations for the office of Elder, which recommendations shall be given to the Elders in private, and not publicly. The Elders shall give due consideration to any recommendation received.

Clause 4. In accordance with 1 Timothy 2:12 and 3:2, women shall not serve as Elders.

Clause 5. The Board of Elders shall be comprised of both staff Elders and those who are laymen, that is, church members not in the regular pay of the church.

Clause 6. With the exceptions of the staff Elders, Elders shall be reaffirmed by vote of the church triennially, and having served two consecutive three-year terms, shall not be eligible for re-election for one year. A staff elder shall not be subject to a reaffirmation vote, nor to any term limit.

Clause 7. No Elder shall hold the office of Deacon during his tenure.

Clause 8. The Board of Elders shall choose their Chairman and other Officers. In compliance with the nonprofit corporation laws of Idaho, the Board of Elders shall serve as the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

Clause 9. The Elders shall, in keeping with the principles set forth in the Scriptures, especially Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 5:17; Titus 1:5-9; James 5:14; and 1 Peter 5:1-4, undertake the responsibility of shepherding God's flock, devoting themselves to prayer, and the ministry of the Word. They shall have particular authority for the following:

Clause 10. To teach and preach, and have final authority in matters of interpreting the Bible and setting forth doctrine for RBC;

Clause 11. To plan and oversee worship services;

Clause 12. To oversee the ordinances, namely Baptism and the Lord's Supper;

Clause 13. To examine and instruct prospective members;

Clause 14. To oversee the process of church discipline;

Clause 15. To examine and recommend candidates for all offices and positions;

Clause 16. To oversee the work of the Deacons/Deaconesses and all other agents of RBC;

Clause 17. To hire, oversee, evaluate the performance of, and when necessary terminate paid church staff; and

Clause 18. To take any other action which shall be necessary and proper for faithfully overseeing and shepherding RBC.

Clause 19. An Elder shall be removed from office upon the vote of two-thirds of the Members present and voting on the question at any Members' Meeting. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 18:15-17 and those of the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 5:17-21.

Section 3. Deacons/Deaconesses:

Clause 1. Particular service to RBC shall be provided by Deacons/Deaconesses, the number of which shall vary as the church has need, and who shall satisfy the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

Clause 2. The Deacons/Deaconesses shall not meet together regularly as a body. Each diaconate position shall serve a particular need of RBC, and shall be created or dissolved upon the recommendation of the Elders and the subsequent agreement of the majority of the Members present and voting on the question at any Members' Meeting.

Clause 3. Deacons/Deaconesses shall be selected as follows: The Board of Elders shall at any regular Members' Meeting present to the church a list of nominees to the office of deacon/deaconess. For a period of at least one month, the church shall consider whether such nominees are qualified for the office. If any Member believes one or more of the nominees to be unqualified, that Member shall express such concern to the Elders, who may on the basis of that advice remove names from the list of nominees. No name shall be added to the list of nominees which was not included on the initial list. When a period of one month has elapsed, the Elders shall at the next regular Members' Meeting present a final list of nominees to the church, who shall vote Yes or No on each of the nominees in turn. The Moderator or his delegates shall count the votes, and any nominee having the approval of three-quarters of the Members present and voting on his nomination shall be a Deacon/Deaconess, which the church shall in due haste publicly recognize and set apart as such.

Clause 4. At least once in every year, the Elders shall at any regular Members' Meeting solicit from the congregation recommendations for new diaconate positions and for qualified persons to fill new or vacant positions, which

recommendations shall be given to the Elders in private, and not publicly. The Elders shall give due consideration to any recommendation received.

Clause 5. Deacons/Deaconesses shall be reaffirmed by vote of the church triennially.

Clause 6. In keeping with the principles set forth in Acts 6:1-6, Deacons/Deaconesses shall not exercise a ministry of spiritual authority, but shall support the Elders' ministry of the Word, work to maintain the unity of RBC, and care for the physical needs of the church.

Clause 7. RBC may recognize Deacons/Deaconesses to take responsibility for seeing that the sick, the sorrowing, the aged, and the infirm, receive spiritual and physical comfort;

Clause 8. For leading the hospitality ministries of RBC;

Clause 9. For attending to the normal care and maintenance of church properties;

Clause 10. For receiving, holding, and disbursing a fund for benevolence, and for reporting from time to time on the use of such funds to both the Elders and the church;

Clause 11. For attending to the accommodations for public worship;

Clause 12. For assisting in distributing the elements during the Lord's Supper; and

Clause 13. For serving in other specific capacities as RBC has need.

Clause 14. No person or group shall solicit money on behalf of RBC or any of its ministries without the approval of the Elders and the Deacon/Deaconess of Finance.

Clause 15. A Deacon/Deaconess may be removed from office by a decision of the Elders, or upon the recommendation of the Elders and the subsequent agreement of the majority of the Members present and voting on the question at any Members' Meeting.

Clause 16. In the event a diaconate position becomes vacant, the Elders may appoint a person to fill that position and assume its responsibilities, until such time as some person can be duly recognized by the church as a Deacon/Deaconess.

Section 4. Volunteers

Any volunteer at RBC may be subject to a screening process which may include, but not be limited to an application, an interview, and a background check.

Section 5. Deviation of practice

If a church member believes RBC to be out of accord with this constitution, he or she should inform an Elder. When the Elders determine that the church is out of accord with this constitution, they must provide an update at each members' meeting until the situation is remedied.

ARTICLE 6. ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Clerk

Clause 1. The Clerk shall record the minutes of all regular and special Members' Meetings of RBC, keep an accurate roll of the membership, and give reports as requested by the Elders, particular Deacons/Deaconesses, or the church. In compliance with the nonprofit corporation laws of Idaho, the Clerk shall serve as the Secretary of the corporation.

Clause 2. The Clerk shall be selected to a renewable term of three years upon the recommendation of the Elders and the subsequent agreement of the majority of the Members present and voting on the question at any Members' Meeting.

Clause 3. The Clerk may be removed from office by a decision of the Elders, or by a majority vote of the Members present and voting on the question at any Members' Meeting.

Section 2. Budget/Finances

Clause 1. RBC shall select a Deacon/Deaconess of Finance, who shall, with the advice and approval of the Elders, present to the Church at the penultimate regular Members' Meeting of every fiscal year a budget, which shall be considered and voted upon by the Church at the final regular Members Meeting of every fiscal year.

Clause 2. The budget shall be adopted upon the motion of the Deacon/Deaconess of Finance and the subsequent agreement of the majority of the Members present and voting on the question.

Clause 3. Once adopted, the total amount budgeted shall not be overspent. The Elders shall have responsibility to oversee and faithfully disburse the budget. Amendments to the budget shall be adopted upon the motion of the Deacon/Deaconess of Finance and the subsequent agreement of three-quarters of the Members present and voting on the question at any Members' Meeting.

Clause 4. Oversight of and authority over all other resources of RBC shall be vested in the assembled congregation. Upon the recommendation of the elders and the subsequent agreement of three-quarters of the Members present and voting on the question at any Members' Meeting, the congregation may fund certain designated accounts, distinct from the operating budget, which shall be under the oversight and authority of the Elders.

Section 3. Treasurer

Clause 1. The Treasurer shall ensure that all funds and securities of RBC are properly secured in such banks, financial institutions, or depositories as designated by the church. The Treasurer shall also ensure that full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements are kept in books belonging to RBC, and that adequate controls are implemented to guarantee that all funds belonging to the church are appropriately handled by any officer, employee, or agent of the church. The Treasurer shall render to the Elders at least once in every year, or whenever they may require it, an account of all financial transactions and of the financial condition of the church. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for presenting regular reports of the account balances, revenues, and expenses of the church at regular Members' Meetings.

Clause 2. The Treasurer shall be selected to a renewable term of one year upon the recommendation of the Elders and the subsequent agreement of the

majority of the Members present and voting on the question at any Members' Meeting.

Clause 3. No Person shall serve more than three consecutive terms as Treasurer.

Clause 4. No Elder, or paid staff member of RBC, nor the Deacon of Finance, shall be eligible for the office of Treasurer.

Clause 5. The Treasurer shall be removed from office upon the recommendation of the Elders and the subsequent agreement of the majority of the Members present and voting on the question at any Members' Meeting.

ARTICLE 7. RATIFICATION

This Constitution shall be ratified upon the approval of three-quarters of the Members present and voting on the question at any regular business meeting of RBC.

ARTICLE 8. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Statement of Faith and Church Covenant

The Statement of Faith or Church Covenant shall be amended upon the recommendation of the Elders and the subsequent agreement of three-quarters of the Members voting on the question at any regular Members' Meeting, provided the Amendment shall have been offered in writing at any previous regular Members' Meeting, and shall have been announced at every public meeting of RBC for two weeks immediately prior to final consideration. Any Member serving under the commission of this church on an international mission field shall also be eligible to vote by correspondence on this question.

Section 2. Constitution

This Constitution shall be amended by a vote of three-quarters of the Members voting on the question at any regular Members' Meeting, provided the Amendment shall have been offered in writing at any previous regular Members' Meeting, and shall have been announced at every public meeting of RBC for two weeks immediately prior to final consideration. Any Member serving under the commission of this church on an

international mission field shall also be eligible to vote by correspondence on this question.

ARTICLE 9. INDEMNIFICATION

Section 1. Mandatory Indemnification

If a legal claim or criminal allegation is made against a person because he or she is or was an officer, employee, or agent of RBC, the church shall provide indemnification against liability and costs incurred in defending against the claim if the elders determine that the person acted in good faith, with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a similar position would exercise under similar circumstances, and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the church, and the person had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful.

Section 2. Permissive Indemnification

At the discretion of the elders, RBC also may indemnify any person who acted in good faith and reasonably believed that his or her conduct was in the church’s best interest and not unlawful.

Section 3. Procedure

If a quorum of the elders is not available for an indemnification determination because of the number of elders seeking indemnification, the requisite determination may be made by the membership or by special legal counsel appointed by the membership.

ARTICLE 10. DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Approval for dissolution

In the event that the elders of RBC determine that there is reasonable cause to dissolve Redeemer Baptist Church as a corporate entity, the elders shall recommend dissolution to the membership. The elders shall call a special members’ meeting as set out in Article 4, Section 1, Clause 5. Notice of the meeting shall be sent in writing to the membership and posted at all entrances to the church building no less than sixty days prior to the meeting. The notice shall state that the purpose of the meeting is to consider dissolution of the corporation and how the assets of the corporation will be

distributed after all creditors have been paid. Two-thirds of the members present at the meeting must vote in the affirmative to approve the proposal of dissolution.

Section 2. Process of dissolution

After approval of dissolution by the members, all of the corporation's debts shall be fully satisfied. None of its assets or holdings shall be divided among the members or other individuals, but shall be irrevocably designated, as approved by a simple majority of the members present at a members' meeting, to one or more religious organizations which meet the qualifications described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and which are in agreement with the letter and spirit of the organization's Statement of Faith. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of exclusively for such exempt purposes by a court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the corporation is then located.