



"Sanctify them in truth; Your word is truth." John 17:17

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization, a non-profit corporation, shall be the Tonasket Bible Church of Tonasket, Washington.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

Tonasket Bible Church exists to equip people for life through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our first priority is to grow in our love for God through worship, prayer and practicing what we learn through Bible study (Psalm 7:17; 21:13; 22:22; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; 1 Peter 3:15).

Our second priority is to love and serve others through the use of God-given gifts and talents and personal evangelism (Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 1:8; 2:41-47; 5:42; 8:4; 13:1-3; 20:18-21; Romans 10:14,15; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 4:11-16; 5:18-21; Colossians 3:15-17; 2 Timothy 2:2; Hebrews 10:24,25; 1 Peter 4:10,11).

ARTICLE III STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section A. THE BIBLE

The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament are the verbally inspired Word of God; they were without error in the original writings; they are the complete and final written revelation of God, and they alone are our only authoritative source of faith and practice. Additional written revelation from God ceased with the completion of the New Testament. (Psalm 19:7-11; Psalm 119; Matthew 5:18; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16,17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Revelation 22:18,19).

Section B. THE TRIUNITY OF GOD

There is only one God, eternally existent in three Persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - Who are co-equal in Their nature, attributes, and perfection; and each of Whom is to be honored as God (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4;

Psalm 18:30,31; 147:5; Matthew 28:19; Mark 12:29; Luke 3:22; John 4:24; 5:23; 10:30; 14:9; Acts 5:3,4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:1-3).

Section C. JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is God the Son, the promised Messiah, begotten in the flesh by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, without sin, true God and true man, and the only mediator between God and Man (Isaiah 7; 14; 9:6,7; Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:1-3, 14, 29; 5:18; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 1:2-9; 2:14,15; 1 John 5:20).

Section D. THE MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST

The death of Jesus paid the penalty for sin, completely satisfied the righteous wrath of God against sin, and provided redemption and forgiveness for all who believe. After His death, Jesus Christ arose bodily from the dead, was seen by many during a period of forty days, and then ascended into Heaven to appear before God the Father as our Advocate and Intercessor from which place He will some day return to establish His Kingdom on earth (Isaiah 53:5,6; Luke 24:36-43; John 1:18; 3:16; 20:25-28; Acts 1:6-11; Romans 3:21-26; 6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; 20-23; Galatians 3:13; Colossians 1:13,14; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; 1 Peter 1:18,19; 2:24; 1 John 2:1,2; Revelation 20:6).

Section E. THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit convicts men of sin, causes spiritual birth, baptizes all believers into the Body of Christ, indwells, seals, sanctifies, gifts, guides, equips, teaches, and fills the believer, so that he may walk in obedience to God and His Word (John 3:5; 14:16,17,26; 15:26,27; 16:7-15; Acts 1:8; 5:3,4; Romans 8:9,14; 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 2:10,11; 6:11,19; 12:4-13; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:16-18, 22,23; Ephesians 1:13,14; 4:30; 5:18-21).

Section F. "CHARISMATIC GIFTS"

The sign gifts of miracles, healings, tongues and the interpretation of tongues were intended to confirm the primary ministry of the apostles, which was to establish and build the church with divine revelation from God. Sign gifts have ceased because the ministry of the apostles has ceased. The message of the apostles is completely contained in the New Testament (Mark 16:20; Acts 2:43; 14:3; Romans 15:18,19; 1 Corinthians 13:8-10; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:3,4).

Section G. THE CREATION AND FALL OF MAN

God created the physical universe. Man was created by God in His own image, but sinned through his personal disobedience to the revealed will of

God; and as a result, all mankind is sinful in nature and practice, is unable to save itself, and faces eternal separation from God (Genesis 1:1,26,28; 2:7, 18-24; 3:1-24; 9:6; Matthew 19:4; Mark 7:21-23; John 8:42-44; Romans 1:18, 3:10,23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3).

Section H. THE SALVATION OF MAN

Salvation from sin, death and hell is eternal; is the free gift of God's grace; and is received by man's personal faith and belief in Jesus Christ. This salvation is not received by nor based on any sacrament, merit, or good work on our part (John 1:11-13; 3:16; 5:24; 10:28-30; 14:6; Acts 16:31; Romans 3:23-26; 5:8; 6:23; 10:9,10; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 7:24,25; 1 Peter 1:18,19; 1 John 5:11-13).

Section I. THE DESTINY OF MAN

All believers will be resurrected to spend eternity in a new heaven and a new earth. All non-believers will be resurrected to stand before God's throne of judgment where they will be sentenced to everlasting punishment and separation from God (Matthew 25:46; John 3:16; 5:24; 10:27-30; Romans 5:1; 6:23; 1 Thessalonians 1:9,10; 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; 1 John 5:13; Revelation 20:11-15; 22:3,4).

ARTICLE IV AUTHORITY AND AFFILIATION

Section A. PRIMARY AUTHORITY

The primary authority in this church shall rest solely in Jesus Christ as Head of the Church. His leadership and will as Chief Shepherd is revealed to this church through His Word, the Bible (Matthew 16:18; John 10:1-18; 21:15-17; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 1:20-23; Colossians 1:18; 2 Timothy 3:16,17; Hebrews 4:11,12; 13:20,21).

Section B. SECONDARY AUTHORITY

The secondary authority in the church shall rest in its Team of Elders, who are undershepherds of the Lord Jesus. Through their mutual submission to the Scripture and to one another, the Lord's leadership and will is both discerned and affirmed through the Elders' unity through unanimity (Acts 6:1-7; 13:2,3; 15:1-35).

Section C. AFFILIATION

This church shall be autonomous and independent, and is not subordinate to any external authority or control, ecclesiastical or governmental. Any affiliation or association it may have with any other church, group of churches, or any other organized body, shall be done so voluntarily. The

continuance of any such affiliation shall be subject to the will and action of the church's Team of Elders.

ARTICLE V LEADERSHIP

Section A. SENIOR PASTOR

1. Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, because He is God and He bought the Church with His own blood. The Lord Jesus, through the instrumentality of the Holy Spirit and the Bible, shall be pre-eminent as the Pastor of this church (Matthew 16:18; John 10:1-18; 21:15-17; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 1:20-23; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 13:20,21; 1 Peter 5:4; Revelation 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22).

2. We do not recognize the human office of Senior Pastor. Instead, God has given (and will continue to give, we trust) gifted men who serve as a team of spiritual leaders (elders) among the church (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:7-13; 1 Timothy 3:2; 5:17; Titus 1:9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

Section B. ELDERS

1. Definition

The word "elder" is synonymous with "overseer", "bishop", "presbyter", "pastor", and "shepherd" (Acts 20:17,28; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

2. Qualifications

Elders shall demonstrate the qualities of spiritual maturity outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9 and 1 Peter 5:1-4.

3. Selection

a. The Team of Elders shall inform the church when the need for additional elders arises. This announcement shall be made during at least one of the regular Sunday morning meetings, in order to solicit prayer from the church.

b. After prayerful consideration, the Team of Elders shall interview each man who appears to demonstrate in his home-, church-, and work-life, the qualities of an elder as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; and 1 Peter 5:1-4.

c. Upon unanimous agreement by the Team of Elders that a man under consideration for the office of elder is indeed qualified, and that man agrees to serve as an elder among the church in the capacity assigned to him, then the man under consideration shall be named as a member of the Team of Elders of Tonasket Bible Church by the Team of Elders.

4. Duties and Responsibilities

The Team of Elders shall:

- a. Shepherd/oversee the flock/church (Acts 20:28-31; 1 Peter 5:1-4)
- b. Direct the affairs of the church (Acts 11:30; 1 Timothy 5:17)
- c. Teach the Word of God (Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9)

5. Relationships

- a. The Elders shall function as a team. Biblical references to elders always use the word in the plural form ("elders") with the exception of 1 Timothy 3:1,2 and Titus 1:6,7. The remaining seventy-five (75) references use the plural form of the word. We understand this to imply that pastoral ministry is not to be carried out by one man, but a plurality of godly men.
- b. No elder shall be elevated above another in authority, importance, honor or control.
- c. Differences in ministry function are to be expected according to an elder's giftedness, experience and training. Ministry responsibilities for each individual elder shall be assigned by the Team of Elders after careful analysis of the spiritual needs of the church. Such assignments, or any assignment revisions, when they are made, shall be communicated to the church in writing.

6. Term of Office

- a. An Elder's ministry shall last until he resigns, or is removed from office due to a show of incompetence or lack of responsible leadership as determined by the Team of Elders' evaluation of current ministry effectiveness, or is removed from office due to any infraction of Article VI, Section D, or fails to meet the spiritual qualifications of an elder as outlined in Article V, Section B.2 of these Bylaws, or he completes a three (3) year term of service.
- b. Elders may opt to serve unlimited sequential terms of service. The guidelines for Elder selection will be followed any time an existing or former Elder seeks another term of service.

7. Meetings

- a. The Team of Elders shall meet at least monthly to pray for the people and ministries of Tonasket Bible Church, study the Word of God together, and direct the affairs of the church.
- b. Members of Tonasket Bible Church are welcome to observe any Leadership meeting, but will be excused while the Team is in executive session.

c. Elders shall meet once a month with the Deacons for ministry training and providing general leadership and direction for the church at large. All Elders and Deacons shall provide written ministry reports one week prior to the monthly Leadership Meetings.

d. Deacons shall assist the Elders in decision making for the church at large.

e. Decisions by the Elders during Leadership Meetings shall be unanimous.

Section C. DEACONS

1. Definition

The word "deacon is synonymous with "servant" and "minister" (John 2:5; Romans 13:4; 1 Corinthians 3:5; 1 Timothy 3:8-13).

2. Qualifications

a. Deacons shall demonstrate the qualities of spiritual maturity outlined in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

b. Deacons shall complete required training before overseeing a Ministry Team.

3. Selection

a. The Team of Elders shall inform the church when the need for additional deacons arises. This announcement shall be made during at least one of the regular Sunday morning meetings, in order to solicit prayer from the church.

b. The Elders shall then (either as a Team, or through selected Elders who shall represent the Team) interview, one-by-one, individuals who appear to demonstrate in their home-, church-, and work-life, the qualities of a servant of Jesus Christ as outlined in Section C.2 of this Article.

c. Upon unanimous agreement by the Team of Elders that a man or woman under consideration for the service of a deacon is indeed qualified, and the individual agrees to serve as a deacon in the capacity assigned to him, then the person under consideration shall be named as a deacon of Tonasket Bible Church by the Team of Elders.

4. Duties and Responsibilities

Deacons shall serve in areas that would otherwise detract the Elders from their responsibilities. (Acts 6:1-4) [see Article V, Section B.4]. Ideally, each deacon will be matched to a ministry based on spiritual giftedness.

5. Term of Service

A deacon shall serve until the assigned task is completed, or the deacon resigns from service, or fails to meet the qualifications of a deacon, and is removed from service by a decision from the Team of Elders, or fulfills a three (3) year term of service. Deacons may opt to serve unlimited sequential terms of service. The guidelines for Deacon selection will be followed each time an existing Deacon seeks a consecutive term of service.

5. Meetings

Deacons shall meet once a month with the Elders for ministry training and providing general leadership and direction for the church at large. All Elders and Deacons shall provide written ministry reports one week prior to the monthly Leadership Meetings.

ARTICLE VI MEMBERSHIP

Section A. CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership of the Corporation shall consist of its Team of Elders. As the governing body of the Corporation, the Team of Elders shall:

- a. Fulfill their ministry requirements as outlined in Article V, Section B.4.
- b. Exercise corporate powers not inconsistent with Washington law, the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws.
- c. Select and remove all officers, agents and employees of the Corporation; prescribe such powers and duties for them as may not be inconsistent with Washington State law, the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws; and fix their compensation.
- d. Have the freedom to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose of the Corporation; and for that purpose to authorize to be executed and delivered in the Corporation's name promissory notes, bonds, debentures, deeds of trust, mortgages, pledges, or other evidence of debt and securities.

2. Nothing contained in Section A.1 of this Article shall be construed to limit the right of the Corporation to refer to persons who affiliate with the Corporation as "members," even though such persons are not corporate

members, and no such reference in or outside of the Bylaws constitutes anyone being a corporate member.

Section B. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Those who desire to be recognized as members of TBC are encouraged to attend the membership class. Members of Tonasket Bible Church:

- * Are born-again, having received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- * Demonstrate association with Tonasket Bible Church through regular attendance.
- * Accept the principles and practices stated in the Bylaws of Tonasket Bible Church, including the Church's doctrinal statement.
- * Agree to follow the spiritual leadership of the Elders of Tonasket Bible Church.
- * Are committed to serving God and others by exercising spiritual giftedness/abilities.

Section C. MEETINGS

1. Regular quarterly business meetings shall be held in January, April, July and October. During the quarterly business meetings, the congregation shall receive verbal and/or written reports of the ministries for the church for the previous quarter and review ministry assignments for each elder and deacon in general. The January quarterly meeting will also serve as the annual meeting.
2. During the annual meeting, the congregation shall receive verbal and/or written reports of the ministries for the church for the previous calendar year and review ministry assignments for each elder and deacons in general.
3. Special business meetings may be called by a simple majority of the Team of Elders at any time.
4. Notice of regular business meetings shall be given in writing ten (10) days prior to the scheduled meeting time. Notice of special business meetings shall be given in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the scheduled meeting time.
5. A quorum for any and all business meetings shall consist of all members present at that particular meeting.

Section D. PURITY AND DISCIPLINE

1. Any member who errs in doctrine or conduct to the extent of creating damage or discord to the ministry and testimony of Tonasket Bible Church shall be subject to restorative counsel and/or discipline. Restorative counsel includes, but is not limited to, the following:

a. Self-examination by the warning member who is to approach the erring member (Matthew 5:23,24; 7:1-5; Romans 2:1-3; Galatians 6:1; James 4:11,12).

b. One-on-one contact and confrontation of the erring member's sin (Matthew 18:15; Galatians 2:11; 6:1).

c. If the erring member does not heed this one-on-one warning, the warning member shall take with him/her one or two other members and warn the erring member a second time (Matthew 18:16).

d. The warning members shall report to the Elders the status of the meetings with the erring member.

e. The Elders shall contact then interview the alleged offender with all warning members present.

2. Any member who does not respond obediently to the restorative counsel given by the warning members and the Team of Elders shall be subject to spiritual discipline. Such discipline is limited only to the following steps:

a. If the erring member does not heed the final warning given by the Team of Elders, the matter shall be brought before the church publicly, and the membership of the church shall then be instructed to relate to the erring Christian as though he/she were not a believer nor a member of Tonasket Bible Church (Matthew 18:17; 1 Corinthians 5:4,5,9-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-14).

b. This means that the one who has been disciplined will be encouraged to turn from his/her sin. Members in good standing at TBC are encouraged to maintain "redemptive relationships" with those who have been disciplined by TBC.

3. The goal of all restorative counsel and discipline is to "win" the erring member (Matthew 18:15; Galatians 6:1; 2 Corinthians 2:6-11; 2 Thessalonians 3:15). This means that our priority is to help sinning Christians repent and be restored to full fellowship with their church family.

4. Restorative counsel and discipline shall always be carried out in an attitude of readiness to forgive (Matthew 18:23-25; Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:32; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11), love and humility (Galatians 6:1; Colossians 3:12-14), grief (1 Corinthians 5:2) and prayer (James 5:13-16).

5. All sin is a violation before God (James 2:10) and we all sin (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8-10). However, there are some categories of sin, which bring reproach to the Name of Christ and defile the Church in a greater way than other kinds of sin. These are:

a. Personal conflicts between members with no response to the appeal for reconciliation (Matthew 18:15-17; Philippians 4:2,3)

b. Disorderly conduct from a clear biblical command (2 Thessalonians 3:6-15)

c. Divisiveness within the church (Romans 16:17,18; Titus 3:9,10)

d. Sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 1 Thessalonians 4:3)

e. False teaching/doctrine (1 Timothy 1:20; 2 Timothy 2:17,18; Revelation 2:14-16)

6. Any erring member who is under restorative counsel or discipline is welcome back into fellowship with Tonasket Bible Church upon confession and repentance.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

Section A. REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS

These Bylaws may be revised and amended, and new and additional Bylaws may be made and added to these Bylaws by the Team of Elders whenever the Team deems necessary.

Section B. IMPLEMENTATION OF AMENDED BYLAWS

Any revision, amendment or addition to these Bylaws shall not go into effect until a copy of the revisions have been supplied to the church membership, along with a copy of the Articles to be amended or revised.

ARTICLE VIII TERMINATION

Upon the dissolution or final liquidation of the Corporation, and after payment and discharge of all liabilities and obligations of the Corporation, the remaining assets shall be transferred or conveyed to The Father's Ranch, to be used only for religious or charitable purposes.