

By-Laws of Central Washington SDB Church

**Yakima, Washington
(Revised 2026)**

Article I

Name

The name of this organization shall be: “Central Washington Seventh Day Baptist Church”, and be referred to hereafter as “the Church”.

Article II

Purpose

The purpose of this Church is threefold: Worship, Evangelize, and Edify.

Article III

Affiliation

This Church has chosen to seek and become a member of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference with a congregational form of government.

Article IV

Membership

Section 1- Qualification

Membership is open to any person who accepts Jesus Christ into their lives as Lord and Saviour with a life which corresponds to their profession. They must also be in agreement with the teachings of the church according to the Articles of Faith, Church Covenant, Constitution and these By-Laws.

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Section 2 - New Members

- (a) Individuals desiring membership shall let it be known by coming forward at the scheduled service, or informing the pastor of such desire. The pastor shall then meet with the candidate to inform the person about the qualifications for members. The candidate's name is then brought to vote at a duly appointed business meeting to decide if he or she, will be accepted into membership. This will be followed by the pastor presenting the candidate to the church to receive the right hand of fellowship. In the absence of the pastor, a deacon or an individual chosen by the board may do this.
- (b) New members shall be admitted by one of the following:
 - (1) Affirmation of faith and baptism by immersion.
 - (2) Reaffirmation of faith after previous baptism by immersion.
 - (3) Letter from another church of like faith.
- (c) **Membership Commitment**

It was unanimously voted at the July 13, 2016 Business Meeting to have all new Members from this date forward to sign the Membership Commitment Statement which states, “I, the undersigned, hereby affirm that I have been instructed in the Articles of Faith, Constitution, By-Laws, and the Church Covenant of the CWSDB Church and stand in agreement with them”

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Section - 3 Inactive Membership

- (a) Members, who, for a period of 2 months, have not attended church services or made contact with the church giving adequate reason for lack of attendance, shall be considered inactive. An inactive member shall not hold a position in the church voting rights. An inactive member may be reinstated to active membership by making such desire known to the church and attending four successive Sabbath Services.
- (b) “In case of any member not attending the church or maintaining contact for a period of one year, without extenuating circumstances, their names will be dropped from church membership. There will be an effort to contact such members to inform them of this policy and encourage them to reactivate their membership”.
- (c)

Section – 4 Separation from the church

People who wish to separate themselves from membership may do so by request. At this time their name will be dropped from the membership roll. If in good standing, the church may give a letter of recommendation for membership in another Christian Church.

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Section 5 - Discrimination in Membership

Those desiring membership will not be discriminated against because of race, color, sex, or political view. Neither will past sinful lifestyles prevent membership, if such has been repented of. The church will discriminate in areas of lifestyle it considers to be sinful and contrary to the Bible. This will include co-habituating without marriage, same sex relationships and other blatant acts unbecoming a Christian.

Section - 6 Discipline

- (a) The church has the right to discipline its members who may bring reproach upon the body of Christ. The discipline will not exceed Scriptural guidelines and will always be for the purpose of reinstatement to full fellowship. Such disciplinary actions shall be determined by the church with the advice of the pastor and church board.
- (b) Discipline may include the exclusion of membership by a majority vote of the church at any scheduled business meeting.

Section 7- Definition of Marriage

We believe that the Bible defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman making a covenant together, before God. (Matthew 19:4-6, Mark 10:6-9, Ephesians 5:31-33). Therefore, we cannot endorse, sanction or perform a legal or religious ceremony solemnizing the union of any same gender couples by any person associated with the church or allow such actions on the church property or within the church facilities.

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Article V

Offices

Section 1 – Pastor

The Pastor shall be called by a 75% vote of the members present at a previously announced business meeting. Likewise, the pastor may be dismissed from the pastoral position by a 75% vote of members present at a previously announced business meeting announced weekly in the church bulletin for four consecutive weeks. The board will guide the church in selecting a pulpit committee. The committee will then select and present candidates to the church. The congregation will vote on the pastoral candidates. The pastor shall be called for an initial three-year period, and thereafter his call shall be renewed annually by vote of the church and a yearly evaluation prepared by the board and presented to the church. The results of this evaluation are to be shared with the pastor. The pastor shall serve as the moderator over scheduled business meetings. In the absence of the pastor the board chairman shall serve as a moderator.

Section 2- Board

The church shall elect not less than three qualified members to serve on the church board. This position is for a period of two years, at which time new board members may be elected or the old ones re-elected. Board members must have been a member in good standing for at least one year. The board is to serve as an advisory for the pastor. It will meet and discuss making recommendations to the church. The board has no power over the church except that delegated by the church to use in specific circumstances.

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Section 3 – Church Clerk

The church clerk shall be elected for a period of one year. The clerk shall keep all church records, take minutes at business meetings, and attend to needful church correspondence.

Section 4 – Treasurer

The treasurer shall be elected for the term of five years and be responsible to keep account of church finances, to disperse funds as directed by the church, and to make needed deposits. The treasurer is also responsible for presenting a financial report at business meetings and makes the financial books available to be seen by any member of the church. This is with the exception of records of individual giving.

Section 5 – Trustees

The church shall elect at least three trustees for an indefinite term. The term may be terminated by the church at any time when circumstances determine such. The trustees are the legal representatives of the church and can only operate as such upon the consent of the church. They shall act on behalf of the church in all legal transactions.

Section 6 – Deaconate

Deacons and/ or deaconesses may be called by the church in such numbers as the church deems proper. Members of the deaconate will be set apart in a proper ordination ceremony and shall serve as long as they are active members in the church. Their duties shall be:

- (1) To lead in the absence of the pastor.
- (2) To assist the pastor in the administration of the church ordinances.
- (3) To assist in the ministry to those in distress, etc.

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Section 7 – Sabbath School Superintendent

The Sabbath School Superintendent shall be elected by the church for a term of one year. The superintendent shall be responsible for appointing appropriate Sabbath School teachers and establishing and maintaining a responsible school which will enhance the students intellectually and spiritually. The superintendent will keep records of attendance and finances.

Section 8- Other Offices

The church may establish other offices as is needed for the advancement of the ministry of the church. Any such office or position may be terminated as the need may arise by majority vote at any scheduled business meeting unless otherwise stated.

Article VI

Meetings

Section 1 – Scheduled Services

The church shall meet Sabbath mornings (Saturday) for Sabbath School and worship followed by the Wednesday evening Bible Study. Other meetings may be scheduled as deemed needed by the church.

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Section 2 – Business Meeting

The church shall meet for business Quarterly on the second Wednesday. Special business meetings may be called with advance notice. The quorum necessary for a business meeting shall be at least **25%** of voting members in attendance. Officers will be elected at the first business meeting of the year. The church shall vote on renewal of pastor's call (after the initial three-year period).

Article VII

Committees

Section 1 – Standing Committees

Standing committees shall be elected by the church. The members of the committee shall serve for the period determined at the time of election.

Section 2- Special Committees

Special committees shall be either elected or appointed by the pastor. The term of their activity shall be stated when the committee is formed and terminated when the purpose is accomplished.

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Article VIII

Dissolution

In event it becomes necessary to dissolve the church, the following actions should be taken by the trustee's and remaining members.

- (a) Allocate the remaining assets, including real property to a nonprofit organization determined at the time of dissolution.
- (b) Notify the state of Washington, in which the incorporation took place, of action of the church to dissolve.
- (c) Forward records and items of historical interest to the SDB Historical Society.

Article IX

Amendments

These by-laws may be amended at any regular business meeting by *vote of 75% of the members present, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing at a previous regular business meeting, and proper notice of four weeks has been given.* Those present must at least meet the standard quorum of 25% of voting membership.

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On July 8th. Al Collier moved to revise the by-laws as follows:

- To change Article IV, Section 3- Inactive membership (a); **From** (Line 6):

“four successive Sabbath Services (either Friday or Saturday)”

To - “ four successive Sabbath Services.” (Line 7)

- To change Article VI. Section 1- Scheduled services. **From** - (Line 1):

“The church shall meet Sabbath evening (Friday) for worship. It will also meet Sabbath morning (Saturday) for Sabbath School and worship....”

To – “The church shall meet Sabbath mornings (Saturday) for Sabbath School and worship.....”

- To change Article VI Section 2-Business meeting. **From-** (Line 1):

“The church shall meet for business bi-monthly on the second Wednesday.”

To – “The church shall meet for business Quarterly on the second Wednesday.”