

WISHKAH VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I - Name

The name of this Church is Wishkah Valley Community Church. It is a corporation duly created by the Washington Secretary of the State on June 17, 1971 as a Non-profit Religious Corporation.

ARTICLE II - Purpose

This Church is organized to glorify God by conducting religious services and teaching and training people in the truth of God's Word, the Bible, calling people to repentance from sin and to faith in Jesus Christ, making disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, and edifying the Body of Christ.

ARTICLE III - Statement of Faith

1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; Matthew 5:18; John 16: 12, 13).

2. The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

3. God the Father

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that he hears and answers prayers, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through His Son, Jesus Christ.

4. The Person and Work of Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (John 1:1, 2, 14; Luke 1:35).

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for all mankind as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice, and that the sufficiency of this atoning sacrifice to accomplish the redemption and justification of all who trust in Him is assured by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead

(Romans 3:24, 25; 4:25; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Timothy 4:10; Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2:24; and 2 Peter 2:1).

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of representative, intercessor, and advocate (Acts 1:9, 10; Hebrews 9:24; 7:25; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1, 2).

5. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13, 14).

We believe that He is the divine teacher who guides believers into all truth; and, that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (John 16:13; 1 John 2:20, 27; Ephesians 5:18).

6. The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Genesis 1:26, 27; Romans 3:22, 23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12).

7. Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18, 19).

8. The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38, 39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:5).

We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Romans 13:13, 14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

9. Separation

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God (2 Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1, 2; 14:13; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1).

We believe that sexual intimacy is a wonderful gift of God that is only to be expressed between one man and one woman (as genetically defined), within the love and bonds of marriage (Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5; Hebrews 13:4). Therefore, we believe that any other form of sexual intimacy is both immoral and a perversion of God's gift (Leviticus 18:1-30; Proverbs 6:32; 1 Corinthians 6:18; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8).

10. Missions

We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the gospel to all mankind (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19, 20).

11. The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts

We believe that it is the privilege and responsibility of every believer to minister according to the gift and grace of God that is given to him (Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 13; 1 Peter 4:10-11).

We believe that the biblical offices of pastor and elder in the church, or their equivalents, are restricted to biblically qualified men (1 Timothy 2:12; 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).

12. The Church

We believe that the Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all those saved by faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2).

We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17; 28-32; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

We believe that water baptism by immersion is a symbol of the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection and a testimony of what has taken place in their heart.

We believe that communion, or the Lord's Supper, is held as a memorial of Christ's death and should be done in a scriptural manner and as a testimony of our continuing fellowship with Christ.

(Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 2:41, 42; 18:8; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

13. The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a created being, a fallen angel, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6, 7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

14. The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in that “Blessed Hope,” the personal, imminent, coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Mathew 25:31-33; 24:30-31; 24:36; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9).

15. The Eternal State

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28, 29; 11:25, 26; Revelation 20:5, 6, 12, 13).

We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4-6; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17).

We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude vv. 6, 7; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15).

Section 2: Statement on Marriage and Sexuality

According to the Christian Scriptures, marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God’s unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. We believe that sexual intimacy is a wonderful gift of God that is only to be expressed between one man and one woman (as genetically defined), within the love and bonds of marriage. (Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:21-33; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5; Hebrews 13:4).

We believe that any form of sexual intimacy outside of marriage is both immoral and a perversion of God’s gift (Leviticus 18:1-30; Proverbs 6:32; 1 Corinthians 6:18; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8). Furthermore, we believe that any form of sexual immorality such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, cohabitation (regardless of the age of the individuals involved), any attempt to change one’s gender in disagreement with one’s genetically defined gender, is sinful and offensive to God (Leviticus 18-20; Romans 1).

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

In light of our biblical commitments, the pastor of Wishkah Valley Community Church will perform no same gender weddings or any other anti-biblical weddings or ceremonies at the church or at any other location. Furthermore, no member or non-member parties will be allowed to use the facilities of the church for same gender and /or sexually immoral weddings, wedding receptions, or other functions.

We do believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Christ Jesus (Romans 8). And we believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior, attitudes, or speech directed towards any individual are to be renounced and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Wishkah Valley Community Church.

Section 3: Covenant of Faith

In subscribing to these articles of faith, we by no means set aside, or undervalue, any of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments; but we deem the knowledge, belief and acceptance of the truth as set forth in our Doctrinal Statement, to be essential to sound faith and fruitful practice, and therefore necessary for Christian fellowship in Wishkah Valley Community Church.

ARTICLE IV - Membership

Section 1. Qualifications for Membership

Membership in Wishkah Valley Community Church shall be open to all persons who:

- a. give a clear profession of faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior
- b. have obeyed the Lord in a believer's baptism
- c. provide a letter of commendation from a previous church [if applicable]
- d. be willing to submit to the authority of the church
- e. must be at least 18 years old to be qualified as a member
- f. shall have a lifestyle that matches up with this commitment to Christ in character, conduct, and reputation.

Section 2. Applications for Membership

Anyone wishing to join Wishkah Valley Community Church shall make request for membership to a Pastor or an Elder. The individual shall be given a membership application, a copy of the Statement of Faith, and a copy of the constitution. The Elders shall meet with the applicant following completion of the application. Followed by discussion of eligibility and vote by the elders.

Section 3. Receiving of New Members

Applicants admitted to membership by the Elders shall affirm their membership commitment and be publicly acknowledged as members by the elders at a Sunday Morning worship service.

Section 4. Responsibilities of Members

Each member shall pursue the unity of the faith in cooperation with the other members of this church, and shall purpose to serve in consideration of the other members. Each member who is not under any disciplinary action is entitled to vote at meetings of the church membership.

Section 5. Removal from Membership

Removal of members from this church shall be at the discretion of the Elders. The following are reasons for removal from membership:

- a. lack of regular attendance in a worship service for a period of six months or longer; unless it is due to health other reasons acceptable to the Board of Elders.
- b. request of transfer of membership to another church;
- c. exercise of church discipline with no demonstration of repentance.

Members can withdraw their membership at any time through a written request to the elders. If the request comes due to church discipline, the request will be denied until such time as the discipline process has been completed.

Section 6. Discipline of Members

(a) The church must properly and lovingly exercise discipline upon those members who, in the judgment of the Elders, have persisted in sinful behavior without demonstration of godly repentance (2 Corinthians 7:9-10).

The purposes of church discipline are:

- 1) To seek the spiritual well-being of the sinning believers by calling them to Biblical conduct in their way of living (Galatians 6:1).
- 2) To maintain purity in the local church (1 Corinthians 5:6),
- 3) To deter sin in other members (1 Timothy 5:20).

(b) The procedure shall be according to Matthew 18:15-17, allowing reasonable time for repentance after every effort has been made to call, exhort, and admonish the person.

(c) Members of this church and all other professing Christians who regularly attend or fellowship with this church who err in doctrine, or who engage in conduct that violates Scripture as determined by the Elders, shall be subject to church discipline.

Section 7. Annual Membership Meeting

The annual meeting of the church members shall be held on the 3rd Sunday in February of each year. This meeting will include reports of the affairs of the church, and transact such other business as the Elders determine to be brought before the members, including but not limited to affirmation of the appointments made by the Elders of those who shall serve as Elders and Deacons for the ensuing year.

Section 8. Special Membership Meetings

Special meetings of the members may be called at any time by the Pastor, the Chairman of the Elders, or by a majority of the members of the Elders.

Section 9. Notice of Meetings

Notice of all regular or special meetings shall be published in the regular church bulletin and announced from the pulpit for two successive Sundays prior to the meeting.

Section 10. Quorum

The members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all regular or special meetings of the members.

ARTICLE V – Elders

Section 1. Responsibility of Elders

Subject to the limitations of this Constitution, all the activities and affairs of the Church shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Elders, who shall have the following responsibilities in addition to the other powers enumerated by this Constitution:

- (a) To work as a team to shepherd and oversee the flock, including the administration of the ordinances of Baptism and Communion.
- (b) To select and remove all Elders and employees of the Church; prescribe such duties for them consistent with the Scriptures, with law, with the Articles of Incorporation, or with this constitution; and fix the terms of their offices and their compensation.
- (c) To establish policies and practices for the church consistent with its purpose.
- (d) To make such disbursements from the funds and properties of the Church as are required to fulfill the purposes of this Church and generally to conduct, manage, and control the activities and affairs of the Church.
- (e) Shall be the church's sole authoritative interpreter of Scripture.

Section 2. Number of Elders

The spiritual leadership of the Church, under the headship of Christ, shall be provided by the Board of Elders and Deacons. The Board of Elders and Deacons will consist of a plurality of biblically qualified men, elected by the members of the Church. The number shall be determined by need and the availability of qualified men. They will work together to serve and care for the church.

Section 3. Nomination, Selection, and Tenure of Office

Elders and Deacons will be selected in accordance to Section 4 below. Candidates will be reviewed by the current Elders and Deacons and recommended to the congregation for a vote of approval. Candidates affirmed by the church members, shall assume office immediately. Elders so affirmed shall serve for a period of four years and may serve continuously if reaffirmed after each four year term.

Section 4. Qualifications

Each of the Elders must be an active member of this church and possess the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. He shall be:

- (a) Blameless as a steward of God; above reproach (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
- (b) Husband of one wife; a one-woman man (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6)
- (c) Temperate, sober, vigilant (1 Timothy 3:2)
- (d) Sober-minded, prudent (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- (e) Of good behavior; orderly, respectable (1 Timothy 3:2)
- (f) Given to hospitality (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- (g) Apt to teach; able to teach - exhort believers and refute false teaching (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9)
- (h) Not given to wine (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- (i) Not violent; not pugnacious (1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7)
- (j) Patient, moderate, forbearing, gentle (1 Timothy 3:3)
- (k) Not a brawler; un-contentious; not soon angry or quick-tempered (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- (l) Not covetous; not a lover of money; not greedy of base gain (1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7)
- (m) Rules his house well; his children are faithful, not accused of rebellion (1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:7)
- (n) Not a novice; not a new convert (1 Timothy 3:6)
- (o) Has a good report or reputation with outsiders (1 Timothy 3:7)

(p) Not self-willed (Titus 1:7)

(q) Loving what is good (Titus 1:8)

(r) Just, fair (Titus 1:8)

(s) Holy, devout (Titus 1:8)

(t) Self-controlled (Titus 1:8)

Section 5. Removal of Elders

An Elder may be removed from office at any meeting of the Elders or 2/3 vote of the church membership if, after thorough investigation by the Elders (or a duly appointed committee, per Article VI, Section 1 of this Constitution), in accordance with the procedures prescribed by Scripture, including Matthew 18:15-18 and 1 Timothy 5:19, he is found to be spiritually unqualified (according to pertinent Scriptures, including 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9), or physically or mentally unable to perform the responsibilities of an elder. If an Elder is removed because of sin that disqualifies him, and if he refuses to repent from that sin, the removal shall be accompanied, as prescribed in 1 Timothy 5:20, by a public rebuke before the church at a regularly scheduled worship service.

Section 6. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Elders shall be held without call or notice each month at a day and time established by the Elders.

ARTICLE VI - Administration

Section 1. Committees

To promote efficient function, the Elders may appoint committees from within their membership, and from the church at large. These committees shall perform tasks solely in accordance with the duties and with powers specifically delegated by the Elders. The general functions of committees are:

(a) To bring considered recommendations to concerning ministries to the Elders.

(b) To provide a wider base of counsel to the Elders who have the oversight of specific ministries.

Section 2. Deacons

The Elders may appoint Deacons, consisting of members possessing the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13, to be in charge of specific ministries and functions of the church. These appointments shall be affirmed by the members. Deacons shall serve for a term of two years, and shall be accountable to the elders for the discharge of their responsibilities.

ARTICLE V - Ordination, Licensing, and Commissioning

Section 1. Ordination

Ordination refers to the recognition by the Elders of a man's call to the ministry, preparation as a shepherd, and qualification to serve. Ordination shall be conferred for life, so long as the man continues to manifest the qualifications of the office.

Section 2. Licensing

The license is issued by the Elders and is given in recognition of a man's call to that ministry. Its purpose is to allow a man to perform ecclesiastical duties and functions of the church. Licenses will be evaluated and issued on a yearly basis.

Section 3. Commissioning

When local-church certification is required for ministry where ordination would be unnecessary or inappropriate, a person may be commissioned to ministry by the Elders. This authorization continues as long as the opportunity to minister remains and the person maintains the qualifications for ministry.

ARTICLE V - Pastor(s)

Section 1. Call and Tenure

The Pastor(s) shall be selected by the Elders and confirmed by the members of the church at a regular or special business meeting. He shall remain in office an indefinite period of time subject to the following reservations: The Elders reserve the right to dismiss the Pastor(s) upon giving him one month's written notice of their intention to dismiss, followed by a vote of affirmation by a 2/3 vote of the church membership, or the Pastor(s) can be removed by a 2/3 voter of the church membership. The Pastor(s) must give one month's notice if he intends to resign. The time limit of a Pastor's resignation or dismissal may be shorter if both the Pastor and the church agree.

Section 2. Duties

The Pastor shall be a member of the Board of Elders and Deacons. He is accountable to the leadership team that functions in a mutual relationship of teamwork and cooperation for the glory of God. In the absence of the Pastor, the Elders shall be responsible to arrange for the public services of the church.

ARTICLE VI - Dissolution

Upon dissolution of this Corporation, its assets shall be distributed to Northwest Independent Church Extension.

ARTICLE VII - Amendments

This constitution may be amended by the Elders. Such amendments shall become effective upon affirmation by 2/3 vote of the church membership.

Review by Elders and Deacons August 25, 2015

Approved By Church Members _____

Board of Elders and Deacons

David Ridgway, Chair

Virgil Arnold

Jim Edgell

Lee Fundenberger

Dan Zembell

Michael Pauley