

Constitution & Bylaws
Of
Eastridge Baptist Church

Adopted: March, 2001

Enacted: June, 2001

AMENDED AND RESTATED
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
of
EASTRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH
A Washington Nonprofit Religious Corporation

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of the Corporation is EASTRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH, located in Kent, Washington. This Corporation will be further referred to in the Constitution and Bylaws as the "Church."

ARTICLE II

Purpose

The purpose of the Church is to glorify God by fulfilling the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)

1. WORSHIP - "To participate in public worship services together and to maintain personal daily devotions." (John 4:24)
2. FELLOWSHIP - "To encourage, support and pray for each other as members of the family of God. To share our lives together." (1 John 1:7, Acts 2:44-47, Hebrews 10:23-25, Romans 15:5, 7, John 13:34-35)
3. EVANGELISM / MISSIONS - "To share the good news of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in our community and throughout the world." (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 2 Peter 3:9)
4. DISCIPLESHIP - "To help members develop toward full Christian maturity and train them for effective ministry. To promote personal, spiritual growth and discipleship through Bible teaching." (Ephesians 4:11-13, Matthew 18:20, 2 Timothy 2:2)
5. MINISTRY / SERVICE - "To serve unselfishly, in Jesus' name, meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those in our Church, community and in the world." (1 Peter 4:10-11, Matthew 25:34-40, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Galatians 5:13)

ARTICLE III
Statement of Faith

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God, and as the only basis for our beliefs. This Church accepts as a general statement of our faith the doctrinal statement of the CONSERVATIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, dated July 5, 1999. This church chooses not to practice or teach the use of “sign gifts” such as tongues, miracles, prophesies, etc. in its services and ministries.

ARTICLE IV
Affiliation

This Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denominational control. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation with other churches, this Church voluntarily affiliates with the Conservative Baptist Association of America (CB America), the Northwest Conservative Baptist Association (CB Northwest), and CB International.

ARTICLE V
Membership

SECTION I: General

Membership in this Church shall consist of all persons who have met the qualifications for membership and are listed on the membership role.

SECTION II: Qualifications for Membership

All applications for membership will be made to the Board of Elders and, upon approval, new members will be presented to the church in a worship service or membership meeting. All members will meet the following qualifications:

1. A personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
2. Baptism by immersion as a testimony of salvation and identification with Jesus Christ.
3. Completion of the Church's membership class.
4. A commitment to abide by the membership covenant.

SECTION III: Designation of Membership

In an effort to properly reflect the membership of the Church, two rolls shall be maintained. These rolls shall be updated at least annually.

1. Active Members: All members who are currently active in the Church's ministries.
2. Inactive Members: Members who have become inactive as a result of moving out of the Church's ministry area and have not joined another church or have not participated in the Church ministries for a period of six months.

SECTION IV: Responsibilities of Membership

The responsibilities of membership are described in the membership covenant.

SECTION V: Voting Rights of Membership

Every Active Member shall have the right to vote on the following matters: the annual budget of the Church, the calling or removal of the Elders, including the Senior Pastor and the Pastoral Staff, the election or removal of Elders, the disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the church, the merger or dissolution of the Church, the acquisition of real property and related indebtedness, and amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or the Constitution and Bylaws of the Church. Each member 18 years and older is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

SECTION VI: Termination of Membership

Members shall be removed from the Church roll for the following reasons:

1. Death.
2. Transfer of membership to another church.
3. By personal request of the member.
4. Dismissal by the Elders and Pastors according to the following conditions:
 - a. The member's life and conduct is not in accordance with the membership covenant in such a way that the member hinders the testimony of the Church in the community.
 - b. Procedures for the dismissal of a member shall be according to Matthew 18:15-17.

SECTION VII: Restoration of Members

Members dismissed may be restored by the Elders and Pastors according to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:7-8, when their lifestyles are judged to be in accordance with membership covenant.

ARTICLE VI
Membership Meetings

SECTION I: Place

Meetings of the members shall be held at the principal location of the Church or at such other place or places as may be designated from time to time by the Elders.

SECTION II: General Meetings

A general meeting of the members shall be held in May of each year at such time as determined by the Elders. This general meeting shall be the annual membership meeting. The purpose of this meeting shall be to adopt an annual budget and to call Elders, if required. Subject to Section IV of this Article, any other proper business may be conducted at this meeting.

SECTION III: Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called at any time by the Senior Pastor, the Elders, or by a written request of a least twenty percent (20%) of the active members to the Elders. Notice of such meetings shall be given to the members in accordance with Section IV of this Article.

SECTION IV: Notice Requirements for Membership Meetings

1. General Requirements. Whenever members are required or permitted to take any action at a meeting, notice shall be given to members no less than two (2) weeks prior to a meeting. Notification of membership meetings shall be given in any of the following manners which shall be deemed to be a reasonable method of calling a membership meeting:

- a. Distribution of written material to the congregation in attendance at a Sunday service;
 - b. Announcement of the meeting in the Church newsletter;
 - c. Oral announcement to the congregation at a Sunday service; or
 - d. Delivery by United States mail to each member identified on the membership roll.
2. Notice of Certain Agenda Items. The following items must be specific in the notice of the meeting; otherwise unanimous consent by those members present must be given to consider the proposal.
- a. Calling or removing an Elder, the Senior Pastor, or Pastoral Staff;
 - b. Amending the Articles of Incorporation;
 - c. Adopting, amending, or repealing the Constitution and Bylaws;
 - d. Disposing of all or substantially all of the Church's assets;
 - e. Adopting or amending a merger agreement;
 - f. Approving the election to wind up and dissolve the Church; or
 - g. Approving the acquisition of real property and related indebtedness.

SECTION V: Quorum

Those members present and voting at a meeting duly noticed and called shall constitute a quorum of the membership for the transaction of business.

SECTION VI: Approval

Approval of 75% of the members present and voting is required on all items in SECTION IV.

ARTICLE VII **Elders**

SECTION I: Qualifications of Elders

All Elders and Pastors shall demonstrate the scriptural qualifications set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9 and I Peter 5:1-4. Elders shall be active members of Eastridge Baptist Church who are able and desirous to serve God by shepherding, teaching, and leading His people.

SECTION II: Elder Board, Number and Term

The Board of Elders shall consist of all Elders duly called by the membership of the Church, the Senior Pastor, and the Pastoral Staff. In addition to the Pastoral Staff, the authorized number of Elders shall be not less than three (3), nor more than twelve (12). Elders will serve for a term of three years. Each Elder is permitted to serve two consecutive terms if reconfirmed by the Church; but following the second consecutive term, they must take at least a one-year sabbatical before serving on the Elder Board again. While on sabbatical, an Elder shall be relieved of serving on the Board, but will still be considered an Elder in the Church, and may continue to assist in shepherding, teaching, and leadership roles.

SECTION III: Election of Elders

Two months prior to the annual membership meeting, the congregation will be invited to nominate men to serve as Elders. These men must meet the Scriptural qualifications as mentioned in Section I of this Article. The nominations are to be submitted in writing to the Elders.

The Board of Elders will conduct a careful and confidential interview with all qualified nominees. If a nominee is desirous of serving in that office and the Elders affirm that the nominee is capable and qualified for the office, he may then be presented to the Church as an Elder candidate. Each elder shall be confirmed individually by a 75% majority vote of the members present and voting at the membership meeting.

SECTION IV: Duties of the Elder Board

1. General Corporate Duties. Subject to any limitations in the Article of Incorporation and these Bylaws, the activities, business and affairs of the Church shall be conducted and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Elders.
2. Specific Duties. The Elders shall fulfill the duties conferred on them by these Bylaws including the following:
 - a. Oversee the spiritual life of the Church.
 - b. Provide for the pastoral care of the Church.
 - c. Determine the direction, vision, goals and policies of the Church.
 - d. Appoint Deacons, Deaconesses, and Ministry Directors to assist in the ministry of the Church.
 - e. Select and remove all officers, agents and employees of the Church except for the Elders, Senior Pastor, and Pastoral Staff; prescribe any powers, duties, and compensation for them that are consistent with law, with the Articles of Incorporation and with these Bylaws.
 - f. Borrow money and incur indebtedness on behalf of the Church and cause to be executed and delivered to the Church's purposes and in the Church's name, promissory notes and other evidences of debt and securities; and
 - g. Recommend an annual operating budget to the Church for approval at the annual membership meeting, including compensation of the licensed and/or ordained ministers of the Church.

ARTICLE VIII
Meetings of the Elders

SECTION I: Place of Meeting

Regular or special meetings of the Elders shall be held at the principal office of the Church. A regular or special meeting of the Elders may be held at any place consented to by all of the Elders.

SECTION II: Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Elders may be held without notice if the time and place of such meetings are fixed by resolution of the Elders.

SECTION III: Special Meetings

1. Authority to Call. Special meetings of the Elders may be called for any purpose and at any time by the Senior Pastor or any other Elder.
2. Notice. Notice of the time and place of special meetings shall be given to each Elder at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time set for the meeting. The notice does not need to specify the purpose of the meeting.

SECTION IV: Quorum

A quorum shall consist of at least 50% of the Elder Board. A meeting at which a quorum is initially present may continue to transact business, notwithstanding the withdrawal of Elders.

SECTION V: Action Without Meeting

Any action required or permitted to be taken by all the Elders may be taken without a meeting, if all of the Elders, individually, or collectively, consent to the action. Such action shall have the same force and effect as the unanimous vote of the Elders, and shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Elders.

ARTICLE IX
Officers

SECTION I: Officers

The Board of Elders shall elect legal officers of the Church at the beginning of each fiscal year. The officers elected shall be a President, who will serve as the moderator of the Church; a Vice-President, who will act as the moderator of the Church in the absence of the President; a Secretary and / or a Treasurer. No Pastoral Staff may serve as either President or Treasurer.

SECTION II: Election of Officers

The Elders, the Senior Pastor, and the Pastoral Staff shall be called by the members at a membership meeting. All other officers of the Church shall be chosen by the Board of Elders, and each shall serve at the direction of Elders, subject to the rights, if any, of an officer under any contract of employment.

SECTION III: Removal of Officers

The Elders, the Senior Pastor, and the Pastoral Staff may only be removed, with or without cause, by the members at any regular or special membership meeting. Subject to the rights, if any, of an officer under any contract of employment, all other officers may be removed, with or without cause, by the Board of Elders, at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Elders.

SECTION IV: Vacancies in Offices

A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification or any other cause shall be filled only in the manner prescribed in these Bylaws for regular appointments to that office. Such vacancies shall be filled as they occur.

ARTICLE X
Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws

The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a vote of 75% of the active members present and voting at any special or regular membership meeting, provided proper notice has been given.

DECLARATION OF FAITH
(CB America)

1. THE WORD OF GOD

We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original writings, complete as the revelation of God's will for salvation, and the supreme and final authority in all matters to which they speak.

2. THE TRINITY

We believe in one God, Creator and Sustainer of all things, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; we believe that these are equal in every divine perfection and they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption.

3. GOD THE FATHER

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

4. JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ is God's eternal Son, and has precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. We believe further that He is not only true God, but true man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. We also believe in His sinless life, His substitutionary atonement, His bodily resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, His priestly intercession on behalf of His people, and His personal, visible, premillennial return from heaven.

5. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the Holy Spirit, His personality and His work in regeneration, sanctification, and preservation. His ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, to implement Christ's work of redeeming the lost, and to empower the believer for godly living and service.

6. THE MAN

We believe God originally created persons, male and female, in the image of God and free from sin. We further believe all people are sinners by nature and choice and are spiritually dead. We also believe that those who repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

7. SALVATION

We believe in salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. We further believe that this salvation is based upon the sovereign grace of God, was purchased by Jesus Christ on the cross, and is received by faith, apart from any human merit, works, or ritual. We further believe salvation results in righteous living, good works, and proper social concerns.

8. THE CHURCH

We believe the Church is the spiritual body of which Christ is the head. We believe that the true Church is composed of all persons who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We believe that this body expresses itself in local assemblies whose members have been immersed upon a credible confession of faith and have associated themselves for worship, for instruction, for evangelism, and for service. We believe the ordinances of the local church are believer's baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper.

We believe that each local church is self-governing in function and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority. We further believe that every human being is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life and that each one should be free to worship God according to the dictates of conscience.

9. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

We believe that the supreme task of believers is to glorify God in their life and that their conduct should be blameless before the world. We further believe that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions and that they should seek to realize for themselves the full stature of maturity in Christ.

10. THE LAST THINGS

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and the lost, the eternal existence of all people either in heaven or hell, in divine judgment, rewards, and punishments.