



LAKE DON PEDRO **BAPTIST CHURCH**

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We declare and establish this Constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the body in an orderly manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other churches.

ARTICLE I- NAME

This body shall be known under the corporate name of Lake Don Pedro Baptist Church.

ARTICLE II- PURPOSE

to live as and make disciples of Jesus Christ through the process of Connect, Grow, Serve and Go.

CONNECT

with God, with other believers, and the lost

GROW

Know God's word, understand His word, and obey His word.

SERVE

One another

GO

Share the gospel in our community and the world.

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB)

Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' "The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31 (NASB)

ARTICLE III- MEMBERSHIP

The membership shall consist only of those on the most current Official Membership Roll at the time of the annual or special business meeting. The membership roll may be revised during the year at the discretion of the Church Board, but at a minimum it shall be revised annually. (See By Laws Chapter I Membership.)

ARTICLE IV- STATEMENT OF FAITH AND MEMBERS COVENANT

A. Statement of Faith

About God

There is one true and living God, eternally existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Genesis 1:1, 26; Isaiah 45:21-22; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1-14.

About Jesus Christ

He is the Son of God, who revealed God in the flesh. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life which He offered as the perfect sin sacrifice to God by dying on the Cross. He demonstrated His divinity and His power over sin and death when He rose from the dead after three days. He ascended into Heaven and will someday return. In the end everyone will confess that Jesus Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. John 1:1-14, 14:10-30; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-36, 2:1-7; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 4:12, 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 2:4-5, 6:13-16; Philippians 2:5-11.

About the Holy Spirit

He is coequal to the Father and the Son. He is present in the world to make people aware of their sin and need for Christ. At the moment of salvation sinners are regenerated, indwelt, and sealed by Him. God's Spirit guides, teaches, gives spiritual gifts, and empowers every believer and the church. All Christians are called to live daily under His control. Matthew 28:19; John 16:7-13, 3:5-6, 14:16-17; Ephesians 1:13; Acts 1:8, 5:3-4, 5:18; Galatians 5:25.

About the Bible

The Bible, Old and New Testament, is the written Word of God. Inspired by the Holy Spirit and written by man. It is without error in its original writings. It is the supreme and final authority for faith and life. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 19:7; Isaiah 8:20; 2 Peter 1:21.

About Mankind

We are created in “the image of God”, but fell into sin and therefore are subject to death and eternal judgment. Mankind is in need of God’s salvation. All people will be raised from the dead; the saved to eternal life/heaven, the lost to eternal punishment/hell. Genesis 1:27, 3; Isaiah 53:1-6, 59:1-12; Romans 3:23; Hebrews 9:27; Romans 6:23; John 3; Acts 24:15.

About Salvation

For a person to be saved he or she must know and understand the truth about Jesus Christ, repent of their sin, believe in the gospel, and call in faith on Christ’s name. There is no other way to be reconciled with God and be spiritually born again. No one who has been genuinely saved through Jesus Christ (born again) can lose his or her salvation, they are children of God. John 1:12, 3:1-36; Romans 6:23, 10:9-10, 13, 14:6; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 1:13, 2:8-9, 4:30; Titus 3:5; Romans 5:1; Galatians 3:26.

About Baptism and the Lord’s Supper

Both are ordinances given by Christ to his followers. Baptism by immersion illustrates the experience of a believer dying to sin and experiencing a new life. Communion is the act of remembering the significance of Christ’s death until His return. Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 8:34-39; Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:20-24.

About the Church

The Church belongs to Jesus Christ, who is its head. The church is the body of Christ, all Christians collectively and every local congregation individually. Each local church forms an autonomous, self-governing body, free from any interference by any Convention or any other church or political authority. Church and State serve different functions that are best exercised free from the dictates and patronage

of the other. The work of the church is to glorify God, love one another, and make disciples of all nations. Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18; Acts: 6:3-6, 13:2-4, 15:2, 22-31; Ephesians 3:21; John 13:35, 15:12; Matthew 28:19-20.

About Human Life

Every person is a creation of God, made in His image, from conception till death. Thus every human being has God-given value, is sacred, has dignity, and is deserving of respect, compassion, the right to life, liberty, justice, and protection from practices such as abortion, euthanasia, or assisted suicide through all stages of life. All Christians have a responsibility to uphold these inalienable truths and rights for all people. Genesis 1:27, 5:1; Exodus 20:13; Psalm 139:13-18.

Family and Marriage

Both are institutions ordained by God. Family is the foundational institution of human society and consists of persons related to each other by marriage, blood or adoption. Marriage, according to God's original design, is the act of uniting of one man and one woman in a covenant commitment for a lifetime. Recognizing the reality of divorce we also acknowledge that it is not unpardonable, understanding that scripture both states that God hates divorce and also provides for some exceptions. Genesis 2:22-24; Matthew 19:8; Hebrews 13:4; Ephesians 5:22-33; Malachi 2:16; Matthew 19:1-9; 1 Corinthians 7:12-15.

B. Membership Covenant

As a summary of the principles for Christian conduct among its members, we adopt the Members Covenant attached to this Constitution and By-Laws.