

**CONSTITUTION  
OF  
SURREY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY**

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**Name**

1. The name of the Society is **SURREY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY**.

**Purposes**

2. The purposes of the Society are:
  - (a) attract Christian parents/guardians who desire to seek for their children an education which is directed by God's all-powerful Word, and have these children trained to help them acquire and grow in a Christian world and life view;
  - (b) establish and operate Christian schools, and to hire and employ qualified Christian teachers and other staff members to direct, advise on, and carry out Christian education based on the principles set forth in the Society bylaws;
  - (c) gift funds to qualified donees as defined in subsection 149.1(1) of the *Income Tax Act*;
  - (d) enter into agency or other arrangements for cooperation, joint venture or otherwise with any other entity, organization, society or national or international agency, carrying on or engaged in any activity directly or indirectly related to the purposes of the Society;
  - (e) use, give, devote, accumulate or apply from time to time all or part of the funds of the Society or income there from for such purposes which the board of directors of the Society considers advisable in promoting the purposes of the Society;
  - (f) invest the funds of the Society, not immediately required for any of its purposes in such manner as the board of directors of the Society considers prudent, subject to any restrictions on the investing of funds received as government grants imposed by the provincial government, and in doing so the board of directors shall not be limited to making investments in which trustees are authorized to invest by law;
  - (g) incorporate or organize or join in the incorporation or organization of any entity for carrying out any purpose or exercising any power which the Society itself could carry out;
  - (h) solicit, receive and accept financial assistance, government grants, donations, endowments, gifts, bequests, rents, hereditaments and other property or assets whatsoever;

- (i) pay all expenses and liabilities of or incidental to the formation and operation of the Society;
- (j) own legally or beneficially, sell, let, mortgage, manage, lease, dispose of or otherwise deal with any or all of the property or assets of the Society; and
- (k) do all such acts and things as may be incidental, conducive or beneficial to the attainment of the Society's purposes.

**BYLAWS  
OF  
SURREY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY**

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**PART 1 - INTERPRETATION**

- 1.1 In these bylaws and the constitution of the Society, unless the context otherwise requires:
- (a) “address of the Society” means the address of the Society as filed from time to time with the Registrar in the Notice of Address;
  - (b) “Advisory Council” means the council appointed by the Board in accordance with these bylaws;
  - (c) “arm’s length” means parties who are not closely related, who do not have close business ties and who are acting independently of each other. A director is not at arm’s length from another director of the Society if the director is a business partner, employer, spouse, parent, child, or sibling of the other director;
  - (d) “Board” means the directors acting as authorized by the constitution and these bylaws in managing or supervising the management of the affairs of the Society and exercising the powers of the Society;
  - (e) “Board resolution” means:
    - (i) a resolution passed at a meeting of the Board by a simple majority of the votes cast by those directors entitled to vote at such a meeting; or
    - (ii) a resolution that has been submitted to all of the directors and consented to in writing by 75% of the directors who would have been entitled to vote on it in person at a meeting of the Board;
  - (f) “bylaws” means the bylaws of the Society as filed in the office of the Registrar;
  - (g) “Chair” means a person elected to the office of Chair in accordance with these bylaws, but such office holder may, with the approval of a Board resolution, use the title Chairman, Chairperson or Chairwoman in substitution for the title “Chair”;
  - (h) “constitution” means the constitution of the Society as filed in the office of the Registrar;
  - (i) “directors” means those persons who have become directors in accordance with these bylaws and have not ceased to be directors, and a “director” means any one of them;

- (j) “discretion” means sole and uncontrolled discretion to the extent permitted by law;
- (k) “ex officio” means holding a position on the Board or on a committee of the Society by virtue of holding another position in the Society, and in these bylaws a person who holds a position *ex officio* is entitled to receive notice of and to attend meetings of the Board or committee, but shall not be entitled to vote at meetings of the Board or committee;
- (l) “Finance Committee” has the meaning set out in section 8.6 of these bylaws;
- (m) “Governance Committee” has the meaning set out in section 8.5 of these bylaws;
- (n) “members” means those persons who have become members in accordance with these bylaws and have not ceased to be members, and a “member” means any one of them;
- (o) “officers” means the officers of the Society elected pursuant to Part IX of these bylaws;
- (p) “ordinary resolution” means:
  - (i) a resolution passed at a general meeting of the Society by a simple majority of the votes cast by those members entitled to vote at such meeting; or
  - (ii) a resolution that has been submitted to all of the members and consented to in writing by two-thirds of the members who would have been entitled to vote on it in person at a general meeting of the Society;
- (q) “registered address” of a member or director means the address of that person as recorded in the register of members or the register of directors;
- (r) “Registrar” means the Registrar of Companies of the Province of British Columbia;
- (s) “Secretary” means a person elected to the office of Secretary in accordance with these bylaws;
- (t) “Society” means **SURREY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY**;
- (u) “Societies Act” means the *Societies Act*, SBC 2015, c 18, as amended from time to time;

- (v) “special resolution” means:
    - (i) a resolution passed at a general meeting of the Society by a majority of not less than 75% of the votes cast by those members entitled to vote at such meeting; or
    - (ii) a resolution consented to in writing by every member who would have been entitled to vote in person at a general meeting of the Society;
  - (w) “Spring Meeting” means the general meeting of the Society to be held in May, if possible, and no later than June 30 of each calendar year;
  - (x) “Superintendent” means a person appointed to the office of Superintendent under Part 10 of these bylaws;
  - (y) “Vice Chair” means a person elected to the office of Vice Chair in accordance with these bylaws.
- 1.2 Except where they conflict with the definitions contained in these bylaws, the definitions in the *Societies Act* on the date these bylaws become effective apply to these bylaws and the constitution.
- 1.3 Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa; and words importing a male person include a female person.

## **PART 2 - MEMBERSHIP**

- 2.1 The members of the Society are the members in good standing as at the date these bylaws become effective, and those persons who subsequently become members, in accordance with these bylaws and who, in either case, have not ceased to be members as provided for in these bylaws.
- 2.2 Membership in the Society shall be limited to individuals 18 years and older who are committed to furthering the purposes, basis and principles of the Society set out in its Constitution and these bylaws.
- 2.3 An employee of the Society who does not have a child enrolled in the school operated by the Society is not eligible to be a member of the Society. Any member of the Society who becomes an employee of the Society and does not have a child enrolled in the school operated by the Society shall cease to be a member upon the commencement of his or her employment and, if requested, will have the remaining portion of his or her paid membership dues refunded.

- 2.4 Each applicant seeking to become a member of the Society shall:
- (a) complete such application procedures as may be prescribed by the Society;
  - (b) signify agreement with and endorsement of the purposes, basis and principles of the Society set out in the constitution and these bylaws by executing a membership declaration described in section 2.6;
  - (c) be a regular and active attendee in good standing of a Christian church; and
  - (d) satisfy such other requirements as determined by the directors from time to time.
- 2.5 The directors shall possess the sole power to admit members to the Society. An applicant for membership shall be admitted as a member by the affirmative vote of a majority of those directors who are present at a meeting of directors at which a quorum is present.
- 2.6 Every member shall cooperate fully with the purposes of the Society and uphold the constitution and comply with these bylaws and all other applicable rules and regulations of the Society. Every member shall execute a written membership declaration, from time to time, in the form prescribed by the Board to confirm their continuing agreement to support and uphold the purposes of the Society. Membership declarations will be effective from the date of execution to the date fixed by the Board. Unless otherwise resolved by the Board, the fixed date will be the date of the Society annual general meeting of every fifth year after the annual general meeting held in 2017. As of each date fixed by the Board under this section 2.6, each member will be required to execute a new written membership declaration.
- 2.7 Membership dues for members shall be paid on a five-year renewal date (which will coincide with the membership declaration renewal date referred to in section 2.6). Members joining part way through a five-year period will pay a prorated portion of the five-year membership fee. Dues shall be \$10 per year or \$50 for a full five-year renewal per member. At the Board's discretion membership fees may be waived or reduced for members in need.
- 2.8 A person shall cease to be a member of the Society:
- (a) by delivering his or her resignation in writing to the secretary of the Society;
  - (b) upon becoming an employee of the Society unless having a child enrolled in the school operated by the Society;
  - (c) upon his or her death;
  - (d) upon failing to execute the membership declaration referred to in section 2.6 in the form and within the time prescribed by the Board;

- (e) on being expelled pursuant to section 2.9;
  - (f) upon failing to renew membership and paying dues within six months of renewal date.
- 2.9 The Board may expel, suspend or otherwise discipline any member for non-payment of dues or other fees pursuant to section 2.7, for conduct that is contrary to the membership requirements in section 2.4, or for conduct which in the discretion of the Board is improper or unbecoming for a member of the Society; or is likely to endanger the interests, purposes or reputation of the Society; or is in violation of the purposes, basis and principles set out in the constitution and bylaws of the Society; or is in breach of these bylaws. The Board may not expel, suspend or otherwise discipline any member until the member has:
- (a) received a notice of the proposed expulsion, suspension or other disciplinary measures that outlines the reasons for the notice;
  - (b) been given an opportunity to be heard by the Board.
- 2.10 All members are in good standing except a member who has failed to sign a membership declaration in the prescribed form as of the dates fixed by the Board under section 2.6 or to pay his or her current membership fees or any other subscription or debt due and owing by them to the Society including, without limitation, tuition payments. The member is not in good standing as long as the membership declaration remains unsigned, or the debt remains unpaid.
- 2.11 Any member who ceases to be a member of the Society forfeits all rights, claims, privileges or interest arising from membership in the Society.
- 2.12 The membership of a person in the society is non-transferable.

### **PART 3 - MEETINGS OF MEMBERS**

- 3.1 The general meetings of the Society shall be held at such time and place, in accordance with the *Societies Act*, as the Board shall decide.
- 3.2 Every general meeting other than an annual general meeting and the Spring Meeting is an extraordinary general meeting.
- 3.3 The Board may, whenever it thinks fit, or shall, if so, requested by 10% of the members of the Society, convene an extraordinary general meeting.

- 3.4 The Society shall give not less than 14 days written notice of a general meeting to its members entitled to receive notice; but those members may waive or reduce the period of notice for a particular meeting by unanimous consent in writing.
- 3.5 Notice of a general meeting shall specify the place, the day and the hour of the meeting.
- 3.6 The accidental omission to give notice of a general meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice by, any of the members entitled to receive notice does not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.
- 3.7 An annual general meeting and the Spring Meeting shall be held at least once in every calendar year.

#### **PART 4 - PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 4.1 No business, other than the election of a person to chair the meeting and the adjournment or termination of the meeting, shall be conducted at a general meeting at a time when a quorum is not present.
- 4.2 If at any time during a general meeting there ceases to be a quorum present, business then in progress shall be suspended until there is a quorum present or until the meeting is adjourned or terminated.
- 4.3 A quorum at a general meeting is 30 members in good standing.
- 4.4 If within 60 minutes from the time appointed for a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting, if convened on the requisition of members, shall be terminated; but in any other case, it shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week, at the same time and place, and if, at the adjourned meeting, a quorum is not present within 60 minutes from the time appointed for the meeting, the members in good standing who are present shall constitute a quorum.
- 4.5 The Chair of the Society, the Vice Chair or in the absence of both, one of the other directors present, shall preside as chair of a general meeting.
- 4.6 If at a general meeting:
  - (a) there is no Chair, Vice Chair, or other director present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting; or
  - (b) the Chair and all other directors present are unwilling to act as chair,the members present shall choose one of their number to be chair.



- 4.7 A general meeting may be adjourned from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.
- 4.8 It is not necessary to give notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting except where a meeting is adjourned for 20 days or more, in which case notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of the original meeting.
- 4.9 All resolutions proposed at a meeting must be seconded and the chair of a meeting may move or propose a resolution.
- 4.10 Any issue at a general meeting which is not required by these bylaws or the *Societies Act* to be decided by a special resolution shall be decided by an ordinary resolution.
- 4.11 A member in good standing present at a meeting of members is entitled to one vote.
- 4.12 The person chairing a general meeting may vote but, if he or she does so and the result is a tie, shall not be permitted to vote again to break the tie and the resolution being voted on shall be deemed to have failed.
- 4.13 Voting is by show of hands, except that, at the request of a member in good standing present at the meeting, a secret vote by written ballot shall be required.
- 4.14 Voting by proxy is not permitted.
- 4.15 A resolution in writing which is identified as an ordinary resolution and has been submitted to all the members and signed by a minimum of two-thirds of the members who would have been entitled to vote on it in person at a general meeting of the Society is as valid and effectual as an ordinary resolution as if it had been passed at a meeting of members duly called and constituted and shall be deemed to be an ordinary resolution in writing. Such ordinary resolution shall be filed with minutes of the proceedings of the members and shall be deemed to be passed on the date stated therein or, in the absence of such a date being stated, on the latest date stated on any counterpart.
- 4.16 A resolution in writing which is identified as a special resolution and has been signed by all the members who would have been entitled to vote on it in person at a general meeting of the Society is as valid and effectual as a special resolution as if it had been passed at a meeting of members duly called and constituted and shall be deemed to be a special resolution. Such a resolution may be in two or more counterparts which together shall be deemed to constitute one special resolution in writing. Such special resolution shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the members and shall be deemed to be passed on the date stated therein or, in the absence of such a date being stated, on the latest date stated on any counterpart.

## PART 5 - DIRECTORS

- 5.1 The Board may exercise all such powers and do all such acts and things as the Society may exercise and do, and which are not by these bylaws or by statute or otherwise lawfully directed or required to be exercised or done by the members in general meeting, but subject, nevertheless, to the provisions of:
- (a) all laws affecting the Society;
  - (b) these bylaws; and
  - (c) rules, not being inconsistent with these bylaws, which are made from time to time by the Society in general meeting.
- 5.2 No rule made by the Society in a general meeting invalidates a prior act of the Board that would have been valid if that rule had not been made.
- 5.3 The property and affairs of the Society shall be managed by the Board.
- 5.4 The number of directors shall be such number, not being less than seven, as may be determined from time to time by the directors. No act or proceeding of the Board is invalid by reason only of there being less than the prescribed number of directors in office.
- 5.5 Any member in good standing is eligible for election as a director, except any member who is:
- (a) an employee of the Society; or
  - (b) the spouse, parent or child of an employee of the Society.
- 5.6 Directors shall be elected by the members at a general meeting and shall take office commencing at the close of such meeting.
- 5.7 Elections for directors shall normally be held at the Spring Meeting and the term of office of elected directors shall normally be three years and the election of directors shall be arranged so that as nearly as possible one-third of the directors shall retire each year.
- 5.8 Directors may be elected to two consecutive terms.
- 5.9 The Governance Committee shall provide the members with a list of qualified candidates for election as directors. The Governance Committee shall nominate at least as many candidates as there are vacancies on the Board. Only those persons nominated by the Governance Committee may stand for election; nominations from the floor shall not be permitted for the office of director.

- 5.10 In elections where there are more candidates than vacant positions for directors, election shall be by secret ballot with the name of each duly nominated candidate appearing individually on the ballot. Candidates shall be deemed to be elected in order of those candidates receiving the most votes.
- 5.11 No member shall vote for more directors than the number of vacant positions for directors. Any ballot on which more names are voted for than there are vacant positions shall be deemed to be void.
- 5.12 Each director shall be required to wholeheartedly accept, adopt, and subscribe to all of the purposes, principles set out in the constitution and bylaws of the Society, including but not limited to section 18.2 of these Bylaws.
- 5.13 Every director serving a term of office shall retire from office at the close of the Spring Meeting in the fiscal year in which his or her term expires; but if no successor is elected and the result is that the number of directors would fall below three, the person previously elected as director shall continue to hold office until such time as successors directors are elected.
- 5.14 The members may remove a director before the expiration of his or her term of office by resolution passed at a general meeting by at least two-thirds of the votes cast by the members and may elect a successor to complete the term of office, but no director shall be removed until he or she has been given notice of the proposed action and an opportunity to be heard by the members at the general meeting.
- 5.15 Notwithstanding the foregoing bylaws, if a director ceases to hold office during his or her term for any reason other than removal by a resolution of the members, the Board may appoint a person as a replacement director to take the place of such director until the next Spring Meeting.
- 5.16 No act or proceeding of the Board is invalid by reason only of there being less than the prescribed number of directors in office.
- 5.17 A person shall cease to be a director of the Society:
- (a) upon the date which is the later of the date of delivering his or her resignation in writing to the Secretary of the Society or to the address of the Society and the effective date of resignation stated therein;
  - (b) upon his or her death;
  - (c) upon ceasing to be a member of the Society; or
  - (d) upon being removed by a resolution passed at a general meeting by at least two-thirds of the votes cast by the members.

- 5.18 The directors shall serve as such without remuneration and no director shall directly or indirectly receive any profit from his or her position as such from any business or affairs with the Society; provided that a director may be paid reasonable expenses incurred by him or her in the performance of his or her duties. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude any director from serving the Society as an employee or in any other capacity with compensation.
- 5.19 The Board shall have the power to make expenditures and loans whether or not secured or interest bearing for the purpose of furthering the purposes of the Society. The Board shall also have the power to enter into trust arrangements or contracts on behalf of the Society for the purpose of discharging obligations or conditions either imposed by a person donating, bequeathing, advancing or lending funds or property to the Society, or assumed by the Society in expectation of such donations, bequests advances or loans. Such arrangements or contracts shall be in accordance with the terms and conditions that the Board may prescribe.
- 5.20 The Board shall take such steps as it deems necessary to enable the Society to receive donations, bequests, funds, property, trusts, loans, contracts, agreements or benefits with the objective of furthering the purposes of the Society. The Board in its sole and absolute discretion may refuse to accept any donations, bequests, funds, property, trusts, loans, contracts, agreements or benefits.
- 5.21 In investing the funds of the Society, the Board shall not be limited to securities and investments in which trustees are authorized by law to invest but may make any investments which in its discretion are prudent. Subject to the provisions of the Societies Act, a director shall not be liable for any loss which may result from any such investment.

## **PART 6 - PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD**

- 6.1 A meeting of the Board may be held at any time and place determined by the Board, provided that five days' notice of such meeting shall be sent in writing to each director. However, no formal notice shall be necessary if all directors were present at a preceding meeting when the time and place of the meeting was determined or are present at the meeting or waive notice thereof in writing or give a prior verbal waiver to the Secretary of the Society. No notice of a meeting of the Board shall be required when the meeting is regularly scheduled.
- 6.2 The Board may from time to time fix the quorum necessary to transact business, and unless so fixed the quorum shall be a majority of the directors in office at the time when the meeting convenes.
- 6.3 The Chair of the Society shall chair all meetings of the Board, but if at any Board meeting the Chair is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the Vice Chair shall act as chair; but if neither is present the directors present may choose one of their number to chair that meeting.

- 6.4 If the person presiding as chair of the meeting of the Board wants to step down as chair for all or part of that meeting, he or she may designate an alternate to chair such meeting or portion thereof, and upon such designated alternative receiving the consent of a majority of the directors present at such meeting, he or she may preside as chair.
- 6.5 Any two directors may at any time, and the Secretary on the request of any two directors shall, convene a meeting of the Board.
- 6.6 For the purposes of the first meeting of the Board held immediately following the election of a director or directors at an annual or other general meeting, or for a meeting of the directors at which a director is appointed to fill a vacancy in the directors, it is not necessary to give notice of the meeting to the newly elected or appointed director or directors for the meeting to be properly constituted.
- 6.7 Resolutions proposed at a meeting of the Board must be seconded and the person chairing a meeting may move or propose a resolution.
- 6.8 Any issue at a meeting of the Board which is not required by these bylaws or the *Societies Act* to be decided by a resolution requiring more than a simple majority shall be decided by a Board resolution.
- 6.9 The person chairing a meeting may vote but, if he or she does so and the result is a tie, he or she shall not be permitted to vote again to break the tie and the resolution being voted on shall be deemed to have failed.
- 6.10 Voting shall be by show of hands or voice vote recorded by the secretary of the meeting except that, at the request of any one director, a secret vote by written ballot shall be required.
- 6.11 A Board resolution in writing which has been deposited with the Secretary is as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Board duly called and constituted. Such Board resolution may be in two or more counterparts which together shall be deemed to constitute one resolution in writing. Such resolution shall be filed with minutes of the proceedings of the Board and shall be deemed to be passed on the date stated therein or, in the absence of such a date being stated, on the latest date stated on any counterpart.

- 6.12 A director who may in fact be, or who may be reasonably perceived by an impartial observer to be, in a conflict of interest with the Society, or may reap any benefits, directly or indirectly, individually or as a part of the business or professional firm, as a result of any relationship with the Society or in any business transaction of the Society, shall disclose that fact to the Board, and shall not participate in any Board deliberation or vote regarding that relationship or business. No director shall receive preferential treatment in the application for, or receipt of, services of the Society. A director who fails to comply with this bylaw shall be subject to disciplinary measures by the Board, up to and including expulsion from the Board.

### **PART 7 - ADVISORY COUNCIL**

- 7.1 The Board may constitute an Advisory Council to provide advice and counsel to the Board on broad issues of policy and profile and may appoint worthy persons to it and determine the terms of each appointment.
- 7.2 The Board shall determine the size and composition and specific functions of the Advisory Council.
- 7.3 The Advisory Council shall not have the legal powers to direct the acts and operations of the Society.
- 7.4 The Advisory Council may hold meetings at such time and place as is determined by the Board and shall conform to any rules that may from time to time be imposed on it by the Board.

### **PART 8 - COMMITTEES**

- 8.1 The Board may delegate any, but not all, of its powers to committees which may be in whole or in part composed of director as it thinks fit.
- 8.2 A committee, in the exercise of the powers delegated to it, shall conform to any rules that may from time to time be imposed by the Board, and shall report every act or thing done in exercise of those powers at the next meeting of the Board held after it has been done, or at such other time or times as the Board directs.
- 8.3 The members of a committee may meet and adjourn as they think proper and meetings of committees shall be governed, with any necessary changes, by the rules set out in these bylaws governing proceedings of the Board.

- 8.4 A committee shall elect a chair of its meetings; but if no chair is elected, or if at a meeting the chair is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the directors present who are members of the committee shall choose one of their number to be chair of the meeting.
- 8.5 There shall be a Governance Committee consisting of three directors elected at the first regular Board meeting during each membership year. All members of the Governance Committee shall be at arm's length and a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The Governance Committee shall appoint the chair and secretary of the Governance Committee, both subject to Board approval. The responsibility of the Governance Committee shall include recruiting directors who reflect the mission and goals of the School and the diversity of the community, assessing the qualifications of candidates for election as directors and nominating a list of directors for election by the members of the Society. The Governance Committee shall also be responsible for the bylaws, Board ethics, Board operating policies, Board development and retention, evaluation, accountability, and conflict resolution related to governance of the Society. A Governance Committee member may be removed by a majority vote of the directors.
- 8.6 There shall be a Finance Committee consisting of three directors and two outside members elected at the first regular Board meeting during each membership year. The majority of members should not be members of management or employed by the school. All members of the Finance Committee shall be at arm's length and a majority of the members of the Finance Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Finance Committee shall appoint the chair and secretary of the Finance Committee, both subject to Board approval. The general responsibilities of the Finance Committee are to provide independent advice, assistance, and recommendations to the Board in oversight of the external audit functions of the Society, financial reporting, and internal audit. A Finance Committee member may be removed by a majority vote of the directors.
- 8.7 There shall be Membership Meeting Committee consisting of three directors elected at the first regular Board meeting during each membership year. The Board may at its discretion add up to two outside members to the Membership Meeting Committee. All members of the Membership Meeting Committee shall be at arm's length and a majority of the members of the Membership Meeting Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Governance Committee shall appoint the chair and secretary of the Membership Meeting Committee, both subject to Board approval. The general responsibilities of the Membership Meeting Committee are to maintain a current membership registry, review and make recommendations to the Board on membership criteria, ensure a program of member education is in place, where necessary investigate and make recommendations on member expulsions, and plan the annual general meetings and Spring Meetings as well as any other meetings or events designed to increase member engagement. A member of the Membership Meeting Committee may be removed by a majority vote of the directors.

- 8.8 The Board may create such standing and special committees, ad hoc committees or task forces as may from time to time be required. Any such committee shall limit its activities to the purpose or purposes for which it is appointed and shall have no powers except those specifically conferred by a Board resolution. Unless specifically designated as a standing committee, any special committee so created must be created for a specified time period only. Upon completion of the earlier of the specified time period or the task for which it was appointed, a special committee shall automatically be dissolved.

## **PART 9 - DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

- 9.1 As soon as practical after each Spring Meeting, the Board shall elect from among the directors a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary and such other officers as the directors may deem appropriate who each shall hold office until new officers are elected after the next following Spring Meeting.
- 9.2 A vacancy occurring in the office of an officer shall be filled for the unexpired term by the directors. The Board may remove officers by a resolution passed at a meeting of the Board by two-thirds majority vote of the directors present.
- 9.3 The Chair shall preside as chair at all meetings of the Society and the Board. The Chair shall supervise the other officers in the execution of their duties. The Chair shall be a member *ex officio* of all committees except the Governance Committee.
- 9.4 The Vice Chair shall, in the absence of the Chair, possess all of the powers and perform all of the duties of the Chair.
- 9.5 The Secretary shall be responsible for making the necessary arrangements for:
- (a) the issuance of notices of meetings of the Society, Board and Advisory Council;
  - (b) the keeping of minutes of all meetings of the Society, Board and Advisory Council;
  - (c) the custody of all records and documents of the Society;
  - (d) the custody of the common seal of the Society;
  - (e) the maintenance of the register of members; and
  - (f) the conduct of the correspondence of the Society.
- 9.6 If the Secretary is absent from any meeting of the Society or the Board, the directors present shall appoint another person to act as secretary at that meeting.



- 9.7 Notwithstanding the foregoing bylaws, the Board may appoint a person to serve as secretary of the Board to be responsible for preparation and custody of minutes of meetings of the Board and the correspondence of the Board.
- 9.8 The Board may appoint such officers, consultants, committees, agents or persons they think fit, and define the duties, responsibilities, remuneration and authority of such persons.

#### **PART 10 - SUPERINTENDENT**

- 10.1 The Board shall select and appoint a Superintendent of the Society for a fixed or indefinite term, and set the terms of his or her duties, responsibilities and employment.
- 10.2 The Superintendent shall be the chief executive officer of the Society. The Superintendent shall be an *ex officio* member of the Board and of all Board committees (other than the Governance Committee) and an employee of the Society. The Superintendent shall exercise general supervision over the business and affairs of the Society as assigned to the Superintendent by the Board and shall possess and exercise such powers and perform such other duties as are from time to time assigned to the Superintendent by the Board.
- 10.3 If the position of Superintendent becomes vacant, the Board shall strike an *ad hoc* committee comprised of no less than three directors whose responsibility shall be to recommend to the Board a process and timeline for selecting and appointing a new Superintendent, including methods of recruiting, screening, interviewing and selecting candidates. The Board shall not delegate to any committee the authority to finalize the appointment of a new Superintendent. The Board may decide to appoint an interim Superintendent, while a search for a Superintendent takes place.

#### **PART 11 - SEAL AND EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS**

- 11.1 The Board may provide a common seal for the Society and it shall have power from time to time to destroy a seal and substitute a new seal in its place.
- 11.2 The common seal shall be affixed only when authorized by a resolution of the Board, and then only in the presence of the persons prescribed in the resolution or, if no persons are prescribed, in the presence of any two directors.
- 11.3 Contracts not under seal and in the ordinary course of the Society's operations may be entered into on behalf of the Society by the Board or by any person authorized by the Board. The Board may at any time direct the manner in which, and the person or persons by whom, any particular instrument, contract or obligation of the Society may or shall be executed. In the absence of express authorization by the Board, an instrument, contract or obligation may be signed by any two directors.

- 11.4 The Board may, from time to time by Board resolution, appoint signing officers who shall have the authority to sign cheques and all banking documents on behalf of the Society.

## **PART 12 - BORROWING**

- 12.1 In order to carry out the purposes of the Society the Board may, on behalf of and in the name of the Society, raise or secure the payment or repayment of money in any manner it decides including the granting of guarantees, and in particular, but without limiting the foregoing, by the issue of debentures.
- 12.2 The Board may directly or indirectly give financial assistance to any other society incorporated under the *Societies Act*, by means of loan, guarantee or otherwise on behalf of the Society to secure performance of any present or future indebtedness, liability or obligation.
- 12.3 The members may by special resolution restrict the borrowing powers of the Board, but a restriction imposed expires at the next annual general meeting.

## **PART 13 - AUDITOR**

- 13.1 This part applies only where the Society is required or has resolved to have an auditor.
- 13.2 The first auditor shall be appointed by the directors who shall also fill all vacancies occurring in the office of auditor.
- 13.3 At each annual general meeting the Society shall appoint an auditor to hold office until he or she is re-elected or his or her successor is elected at the next annual general meeting in accordance with the procedures set out in the *Societies Act*.
- 13.4 An auditor may be removed by ordinary resolution in accordance with the procedures set out in the *Societies Act*.
- 13.5 An auditor shall be promptly informed in writing of appointment or removal.
- 13.6 No director, officer or employee of the Society shall be auditor.
- 13.7 The auditor may attend general meetings.

## PART 14 - NOTICES

- 14.1 A notice may be given to a member, either personally or by mail or by electronic mail or by facsimile to the member at the member's registered address or the member's e-mail address or facsimile numbers, as recorded in the Society's records.
- 14.2 A notice sent by mail shall be deemed to have been given on the third day following that on which the notice is posted, and in proving that notice has been given it is sufficient to prove that the notice was properly addressed and put in a Canadian post office receptacle. A notice sent by either electronic mail or facsimile shall be deemed to have been given on the date of transmission.
- 14.3 Notice of a general meeting shall be given only to:
- (a) every member shown on the register of members on the day notice is given, and
  - (b) the auditor if an auditor is appointed under these bylaws.
- 14.4 Notice may be given to the directors or to the Society by mail to the registered address of the Society.

## PART 15 - INDEMNIFICATION

- 15.1 Subject to the provisions of the *Societies Act*, every member of the Board or officer who has properly undertaken or is about to undertake any liability on behalf of the Society or any society controlled by it and their heirs, executors, administrators, or personal representatives respectively, shall from time to time and at all times, be indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds of the Society, from and against:
- (a) all costs, charges, and expenses whatsoever which such member of the Board or officer actually and reasonably sustains or incurs in or about any action, suit or proceeding which is brought, commenced, or prosecuted against him or her, or in respect of any act, deed, matter, or thing whatsoever, made, done, or permitted by him or her, in or about the execution of the duties of his or her office or in respect of any such liability; and
  - (b) all other costs, charges, and expenses which he or she actually and reasonably sustains or incurs in or about or in relation to the affairs thereof, except such costs, charges, or expenses as are occasioned by his or her own willful neglect or default
- provided that:
- (c) the member of the Board or officer acted honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Society; and

- (d) in the case of criminal or administrative proceedings, the member of the Board or officer had reasonable grounds for believing that their conduct was lawful.
- 15.2 The Society shall purchase and maintain insurance for the benefit of any or all directors or officers against personal liability incurred by any such person as a director or officer to the extent that it is reasonably available.

## **PART 16 - DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

- 16.1 The Society accepts the Bible as the inspired Word of God and believes that God desires that the Society and the members and directors of the Society resolve all disputes and that they be reconciled in their relationship in accordance with the principles stated in 1 Corinthians 6:1-8, Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 18:15-20 and other pertinent portions of the Bible.
- 16.2 Should the Society and the member or director of the Society not be able to resolve a claim or controversy arising out of these bylaws, or in respect of any legal relationship associated with it or from it, through consultation and negotiation in the spirit of mutual friendship and cooperation, any party may initiate mediated negotiation. All disputes remaining unsettled after mediation shall be referred to and finally resolved by arbitration in accordance with the *Arbitration Act*, RSBC 1995, c 55.
- 16.3 The place of mediation and arbitration shall be mutually agreed by the Society and the member or director. In the absence of agreement regarding the place of mediation and arbitration, the place of mediation and arbitration shall be Surrey, British Columbia. Both parties shall share the fee of the mediator and arbitrator equally.
- 16.4 The Society and the members and directors of the Society shall use their best efforts to conduct any dispute resolution procedures herein as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible. Notwithstanding this provision, either party may obtain a temporary injunction to enforce or preserve its rights or restrain any further violation or threatened violation of any restrictions or agreements contained herein for which monetary damages are not an adequate remedy until such rights can be pursued through arbitration.

## **PART 17 - MISCELLANEOUS**

- 17.1 Subject to the *Societies Act*, the directors shall from time to time in their discretion determine whether and to what extent and at what times and places and under what conditions or regulations the documents, including the books of account, of the Society and minutes of the meetings of the Board shall be open to the inspection of members of the Society not being directors. In the absence of such determination by the directors, the books of account, the minutes of the meetings of the Board and consent resolutions of the Board shall not be open to inspection by any member of the Society not being a director.

- 17.2 Any meeting of the Society, the Board or any committee may also be held, or any member, director or member of a committee may participate in any meeting of the Society, the Board or any committee, by conference call or similar communication equipment or device so long as all the members, directors or persons participating in the meeting can hear and respond to one another. All such members, directors or persons so participating in any such meeting shall be deemed to be present in person at the stated location of such meeting and, notwithstanding the foregoing bylaws, shall be entitled to vote by a voice vote recorded by the secretary of such meeting.
- 17.3 The rules governing when notice is deemed to have been given set out in these bylaws shall apply, with any necessary changes, to determine when a Board resolution shall be deemed to have been submitted to all of the directors and when an ordinary resolution shall be deemed to have been submitted to all of the members.
- 17.4 The Society shall have the right to subscribe to become a member of and to cooperate with any other society, corporation or association whose purposes or objectives are in whole or in part similar to the Society's purposes.

#### **PART 18 - PREVIOUSLY UNALTERABLE PROVISIONS**

- 18.1 The following provisions under this Part were previously unalterable and shall not be altered except by resolution of the Board sanctioned by a resolution passed at a general meeting by 90% of the votes cast by the members entitled to vote.
- 18.2 The basis of the Society is the Bible as understood in the contemporary testimony "Our World Belongs to God", (reprinted with permission from Our World Belongs to God (c) 1996 Faith Alive Christian Resources) and as such we affirm the following principles for education:
- (a) **Schools**
- That the purpose of Christian schools is to educate children for a life of obedience to their calling in this world as image-bearers of God; that this calling is to know God's Word and His Creation, to consecrate the whole of human life to God, to love their fellow humans and to be stewards in their God-given cultural task.
- (b) **Parents/guardians**
- That primarily the responsibility for education rests upon parents/guardians to whom children are entrusted by God, and that the Christian parents/guardians should accept this obligation in view of the covenantal relationship with God, established with believers and their children.

(c) **Teachers**

That Christian teachers, both in obedience to God and in cooperation with parents/guardians, have a unique pedagogical responsibility while educating the child in school.

(d) **Students**

That Christian schools must take into account the variety of abilities, needs and responsibilities of young persons; that the endowments and calling of young persons as God's image-bearers and their brokenness as sinners require that such learning goals and curricula will be selected as will best educate and prepare them to live fully as grateful and faithful Christians.

(e) **Community**

That because God's covenant embraces not only parents/guardians and their children but also the whole Christian community to which they belong, and because Christian education contributes directly to the advancement of God's Kingdom, it is the obligation not only of parents/guardians but also of the Christian community to establish and maintain Christian schools, to pray for, work for and give generously in their support.

(f) **Educational Freedom**

That Christian schools, organized and administrated in accordance with legitimate standards and provisions for day-schools, should be fully recognized in society as free to function according to these principles.

(g) **Our Testimony**

*Preamble*

1. As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world—  
which some seek to control, and others view with despair—  
we declare with joy and trust:  
Our world belongs to God!

For God's ownership of all things, see Psalm 24:1 (quoted in 1 Cor. 10:26), Job 41:11, and Deuteronomy 10:14. That this is also "our world"—given to the human race to keep and care for—is one of the themes of the creation stories in Genesis 1 and 2.

2. From the beginning, through all the crises of our times,  
until the kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever:  
Our world belongs to God! God is King: Let the earth be glad!  
Christ is victor: his rule has begun!  
The Spirit is at work: creation is renewed!  
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

For God's faithfulness, see, among many passages, Psalm 89, 117, 145; Romans 8:31-39; and Hebrews 1:23. For the victory of God in Christ and the rule of Christ, see 1 Corinthians 15:54-57, Philippians 2:9-11, and Revelation 1:13-18. For the Spirit's work renewing creation, see Genesis 1 and Romans 8.

3. Still, despair and rebellious pride fill the earth:  
some, crushed by failure or broken by pain,  
give up on life and hope and God;  
others, shaken, but still hoping for human triumph,  
work feverishly to realize their dreams.  
As believers in God, we also struggle with the spirits of this age,  
resisting them in the power of the Spirit,  
testing them by God's sure Word.

Psalm 2 expresses the rebellious spirit of the human race. See also Romans 1-3. Ephesians 6:10-17 describes the struggle of believers with the spirits of the age. On testing the spirits, see 1 John 4.

4. Our world, fallen into sin, has lost its first goodness,  
but God has not abandoned the work of his hands:  
our Maker preserves this world, sending seasons, sun, and rain,  
upholding all creatures, renewing the earth,  
promising a Savior, guiding all things to their purpose.

See Genesis 3; 9:8-16; Psalm 104, especially verse 30; Matthew 5:45; and Acts 14:17. For the promises of a Savior, see Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; 11:1-5; 42:1-7, 53; and Micah 5:2.

5. God holds this world with fierce love.  
Keeping his promise, he sends Jesus into the world,  
pours out the Holy Spirit, and announces the good news:  
sinners who repent and believe in Jesus  
live anew as members of the family of God—  
the firstfruits of a new creation.

For God's fierce love, see Hosea 11, especially verses 10-11. For statements of the gospel message, see John 3:1-21, Acts 2:36-39, Romans 10:7-11, and Ephesians 2:1-10. For "firstfruits," see Leviticus 23:9-14 and James 1:18.

6. We rejoice in the goodness of God,  
renounce the works of darkness,  
and dedicate ourselves to holy living.  
As covenant partners, set free for joyful obedience,  
we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in the world.  
With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended,  
we expect the Day of the Lord. We are confident that the light  
which shines in the present darkness  
will fill the earth when Christ appears.  
Come, Lord Jesus. Our world belongs to you.

Among the texts referenced in this paragraph, see Matthew 5:17-20, 48; John 1:1-5, 9-13; 3:19-21; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-5:11; 2 Peter 3; 1 John 2:7-11; and Revelation 22:20.

### *Creation*

7. Our world belongs to God—  
not to us or earthly powers, not to demons, fate, or chance.  
The earth is the Lord's.

For references, see the first paragraph.

8. In the beginning, God—  
Father, Word, and Spirit—  
called this world into being out of nothing,  
and gave it shape and order.

See Genesis 1, where Creator, Word, and Spirit call creation into order. For the role of the Word in creation and Jesus as the Word, see John 1:1-14.

9. God formed sky, land, and sea; stars above, moon and sun,  
making a world of color, beauty, and variety—  
a fitting home for plants and animals, and us—  
a place to work and play, worship and wonder,  
love and laugh.  
God rested and gave us rest.  
In the beginning everything was very good.

On creation, besides Genesis 1 and 2, see Psalm 19; 33:6-9; and 104.

10. Made in God's image  
to live in loving communion with our Maker,  
we are appointed earthkeepers and caretakers  
to tend the earth, enjoy it, and love our neighbors.  
God uses our skills for the unfolding and well-being of his world  
so that creation and all who live in it may flourish.

For the image of God, see Genesis 1:26-27; 9:6; Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10; and James 3:9.



11. Together, male and female, single and married,  
young and old—every hue and variety of humanity—  
we are called to represent God, for the Lord God made us all.  
Life is God’s gift to us, and we are called to foster  
the well-being of all the living, protecting from harm  
the unborn and the weak, the poor and the vulnerable.

See Genesis 1:26-27, Galatians 3:26-28, and Acts 2:5-11. On how we treat the vulnerable among us as a measure of justice, see Isaiah 1:15-17 and James 1:27.

12. Even now, as history unfolds in ways we know only in part,  
we are assured that God is with us in our world,  
holding all things in tender embrace  
and bending them to his purpose.  
The confidence that the Lord is faithful  
gives meaning to our days and hope to our years.  
The future is secure, for our world belongs to God.

For the providential care of God, see Isaiah 45:6-7, Matthew 6:25-34, and Luke 12:4-7.

### *Fall*

13. In the beginning of human history,  
our first parents walked with God.  
But rather than living by the Creator’s word of life,  
they listened to the serpent’s lie and fell into sin.  
In their rebellion they tried to be like God.  
As sinners, Adam and Eve feared  
the nearness of God and hid.

For the fall of humanity into sin, see Genesis 3. On the serpent, see, in addition to Genesis 3, Revelation 12:9 and 20:2.

14. Fallen in that first sin,  
we prove each day that apart from grace  
we are guilty sinners: we fail to thank God,  
we break God’s laws, we ignore our tasks.  
Looking for life without God, we find death;  
grasping for freedom outside the law,  
we trap ourselves in Satan's snares;  
pursuing pleasure, we lose the gift of joy.

For the effects of the fall on humanity, see especially Romans 1:18-3:18.

15. When humans deface God's image, the whole world suffers:  
we abuse the creation or idolize it;  
we are estranged from our Creator, from our neighbor,  
from our true selves, and from all that God has made.

On the defacing of God's image, see Romans 1:21-23; for the restoration of the image in Christ, see Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Ephesians 4:22-24, and Colossians 3:10.

16. All spheres of life—family and friendship,  
work and worship, school and state,  
play and art—bear the wounds of our rebellion.  
Sin is present everywhere—in pride of race,  
arrogance of nations, abuse of the weak and helpless,  
disregard for water, air, and soil,  
destruction of living creatures, slavery, murder, terror, and war,  
worship of false gods, the mistreatment of our bodies,  
and our frantic efforts to escape reality.  
We become victims of our own sin.

Among many passages, see Psalm 14 and 53, Amos 1-2, Romans 1:28-32, and Galatians 5:19-21.

17. In all our striving to excuse or save ourselves,  
we stand condemned before the God of truth.  
But our world, broken and scarred,  
still belongs to God, who holds it together  
and gives us hope.

See Psalm 62 and 89:28-37; Romans 5:3-11; 15:13; and Hebrews 11:1.

### *Redemption*

18. While justly angry, God did not turn away  
from a world bent on destruction but turned to face it in love.  
With patience and tender care the Lord set out  
on the long road of redemption to reclaim the lost as his people  
and the world as his kingdom.

For God's response to sin, see Genesis 3:9-15, John 3:16, and Luke 1:68-75; for the aim to restore the kingdom, see Revelation 11:15.

19. Although Adam and Eve were expelled  
from the garden and their days burdened  
by the weight of sin, the Lord held on to them in love  
and promised to crush the evil forces they had unleashed.

For God's kindness to Adam and Eve, see Genesis 3:15-19.

20. When evil filled the earth, God judged it with a flood  
but rescued Noah and his family and animals of every kind.  
He covenanted with all creatures that seasons will continue  
and that such destruction will not come again  
until the last day when the Lord returns  
to make all things new.

For God's promise not to repeat the flood, see Genesis 9:8-17, 1 Peter 2, and 2 Peter 3; for the final renewal, see Revelation 21:1-5.

21. The Lord promised to be God  
to Abraham, Sarah, and their children,  
calling them to walk faithfully before him  
and blessing the nations through them.  
God chose Israel to show the glory of his name,  
the power of his love, and the wisdom of his ways.  
The Lord gave them the law through Moses and led them  
by rulers and teachers, shaping a people  
in whom God is revealed—  
a light to the nations.

For God's promise to Abraham and to his people Israel, see Genesis 12:1-3, Deuteronomy 7-8, and Romans 9; for Abraham's children as the light to the nations, see Micah 6:8 and Isaiah 60.

22. When Israel spurned God's love—  
lusting after other gods, trusting in power and wealth,  
and hurting the weak—God scattered them among the nations,  
yet kept a faithful remnant and promised them the Messiah:  
a prophet to speak good news,  
a king to crush evil and rule the earth with justice,  
a priest to be sacrificed for sinners.  
God promised to forgive their sins  
and give them a new heart and a new spirit,  
moving them to walk in his ways.

For the scattering, see 2 Chronicles 36 and Isaiah 10:1-11; for the promises, see Isaiah 53, Jeremiah 31 and Ezekiel 36.

*Christ*

23. Remembering the promise to reconcile the world to himself,  
God joined our humanity in Jesus Christ—  
the eternal Word made flesh.  
He is the long-awaited Messiah,  
one with us and one with God, fully human and fully divine,  
conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

For Jesus as the incarnate Son of God, see Luke 1:31-35, John 1:1-14, and Hebrews 1:2-3.

24. As the second Adam, Jesus chose the path we had rejected.  
In his baptism and temptations, teaching and miracles,  
battles with demons and friendships with sinners,  
Jesus lived a full and righteous human life before us.  
As God's true Son, he lovingly obeyed the Father  
and made present in deed and word the coming rule of God.

In Romans 5:12-21, Christ is designated the second Adam. Hebrews 2:10-18 and 4:14-5:2 teach about his life of righteous humanity; the announcement of the kingdom is found, among other places, in Mark 1:1, 14, 15.

25. Standing in our place, Jesus suffered during his years on earth,  
especially in the tortures of the cross.  
He carried God's judgment on our sin—  
his sacrifice removed our guilt.  
God raised him from the dead:  
he walked out of the grave, conqueror of sin and death—  
Lord of Life! We are set right with God,  
given new life, and called to walk with him  
in freedom from sin's dominion.

For Jesus' lifelong suffering, see Hebrews 5:7-10. All four of the gospel passion accounts portray the depths of his suffering on the cross. Jesus' resurrection victory is proclaimed often, especially in Matthew 28:1-10 and 1 Corinthians 15:20-28.

26. Being both divine and human, Jesus is the only mediator.  
He alone paid the debt of our sin; there is no other Savior.  
We are chosen in Christ to become like him in every way.  
God's electing love sustains our hope:  
God's grace is free to save sinners who offer nothing  
but their need for mercy.

Christ is shown to be our mediator in 1 Timothy 2:5 and Hebrews 9:11-15, and our only Savior in John 14:6 and Acts 4:12. For our election in Christ to be like Christ, see Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 3:18, and Ephesians 1:3-4.

27. Jesus ascended in triumph,  
raising our humanity to the heavenly throne.  
All authority, glory, and sovereign power are given to him.  
There he hears our prayers and pleads our cause before the Father.  
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

For Christ's universal authority and intercession as ascended Lord, see Matthew 28:18, Psalm 2:12, 1 John 2:1-2, and Hebrews 7:25. For the ascension of our humanity with him, see Hebrews 4:14-16; Ephesians 1:20-22; 2:6; and Colossians 3:1-4.

### *The Spirit*

28. At Pentecost, promises old and new are fulfilled.  
The ascended Jesus becomes the baptizer,  
drenching his followers with his Spirit,  
creating a new community  
where Father, Son, and Holy Spirit make their home.  
Revived and filled with the breath of God,  
women and men, young and old, dream dreams  
and see visions.

On the fulfillment of promises at Pentecost along with dreams and visions, see Acts 2:16-21. On the ascended Jesus as baptizer and also the imagery of drenching in baptism of the Spirit, see Luke 3:16; John 1:32-33; 20:22; and Acts 2:32-33. On the Spirit creating a new community, note Acts 2:41-47 following Pentecost. On the Father, Son, and Spirit making their home with God's people, see John 14:15-24.

29. The Spirit renews our hearts and moves us to faith,  
leads us into truth, and helps us to pray,  
stands by us in our need,  
and makes our obedience fresh and vibrant.  
God the Spirit lavishes gifts on the church  
in astonishing variety— prophecy, encouragement, healing,  
teaching, service, tongues, discernment—  
equipping each member to build up the body of Christ  
and to serve our neighbors.

On the Spirit's work of renewing our hearts, see Titus 3:4-7; moving us to faith, Romans 5:1-5; leading us into truth, John 16:13; helping us to pray, Romans 8:26-27; standing by us in our need, Hebrews 2:18; and making our obedience fresh and vibrant, Romans 8:1-11. On the Spirit's gifts, see 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12:3-8.

30. The Spirit gathers people from every tongue, tribe, and nation into the unity of the body of Christ. Anointed and sent by the Spirit, the church is thrust into the world, ambassadors of God's peace, announcing forgiveness and reconciliation, proclaiming the good news of grace. Going before them and with them, the Spirit convinces the world of sin and pleads the cause of Christ. Men and women, impelled by the Spirit, go next door and far away into science and art, media and marketplace—every area of life, pointing to the reign of God with what they do and say.

On the gathering of all nations, see Revelation 7:9-17; on the Spirit and the church's mission, John 20:21-22, Luke 24:49, and Acts 1:8; on the church's mission as ambassadors, 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; on the work of the Spirit in the world, John 16:7-11; and on the breadth of the church's mission in the Spirit, Philippians 1:27-2:15.

#### *Revelation*

31. God gives this world many ways to know him. The creation shows his power and majesty. He speaks through prophets, poets, and apostles, and, most eloquently, through the Son. The Spirit, active from the beginning, moved human beings to write the Word of God and opens our hearts to God's voice.

For general revelation, see Romans 1 and Acts 14; for the inspiration of the Bible, see 1 Timothy 3:14-17 and 2 Peter 1:16-21; and for the full revelation in Christ, see Hebrews 1 and Colossians 1.

32. The Bible is the Word of God, the record and tool of his redeeming work. It is the Word of truth, breath of God, fully reliable in leading us to know God and to walk with Jesus Christ in new life.

For the nature of Scripture, see Luke 1:1-4, John 20:30-31, Acts 8:26-39, James 1:18, and references in paragraph 31.

33. The Bible tells the story of God's mighty acts  
in the unfolding of covenant history.  
As one revelation in two testaments  
the Bible reveals God's will  
and the sweep of God's redeeming work.  
Illumined and equipped by the Spirit,  
disciples of Jesus hear and do the Word,  
witnessing to the good news that our world belongs to God,  
who loves it deeply.

For God's mighty acts, see Acts 2 and 7; for our instruction, see Matthew 16:13-19, 1 Corinthians 10:1-11, 2 Timothy 3:14-17, and James 1:19-27.

*God's New People*

34. In our world, where many journey alone,  
nameless in the bustling crowd, Satan and his evil forces  
seek whom they may scatter and isolate;  
but God, by his gracious choosing in Christ,  
gathers a new community—those who by God's gift  
put their trust in Christ. In the new community  
all are welcome: the homeless come home,  
the broken find healing, the sinner makes a new start;  
the despised are esteemed, the least are honored,  
and the last are first. Here the Spirit guides and grace abounds.

For the new community, see 1 Peter 2:4-7; for the attacks of Satan, 1 Peter 5:8-11; for the gracious welcome, Matthew 11:28-30 and 1 Peter 5:5-7.

35. The church is the fellowship of those  
who confess Jesus as Lord.  
She is the bride of Christ, his chosen partner,  
loved by Jesus and loving him:  
delighting in his presence, seeking him in prayer—  
silent before the mystery of his love.

For the confession, see Matthew 10:32-33; for the church as the bride of Christ, see Ephesians 2:6; 5:21-33; 1 John 3:11-17; 4:13-21; and Revelation 21:9.

36. Our new life in Christ is celebrated and nourished  
in the fellowship of congregations, where we praise God's name,  
hear the Word proclaimed, learn God's ways,  
confess our sins, offer our prayers and gifts,  
and celebrate the sacraments.

For the church's worship, see Matthew 6:5-15; 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-47; Romans 10; and 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.

37. God meets us in the sacraments, communicating grace to us  
by means of water, bread, and wine.  
In baptism, whether of the newly born  
or newly converted, God reminds and assures us  
of our union with Christ in covenant love,  
the washing away of our sin, and the gift of the Holy Spirit—  
expecting our love and trust in return.

Matthew 3:13-17, with Matthew 28:19, establishes baptism as a gospel sacrament. That baptism is for children as well as adults and is accompanied by the gift of the Spirit is indicated in Acts 2:28-29. Titus 3:5 calls baptism a washing away of sins. Romans 6:1-11 and Galatians 3:27 show how it forms us as members of Christ. 1 Corinthians 10:1-10 indicates that baptism in itself is not a guarantee of salvation.

38. In the Lord's Supper, Christ offers  
his own crucified body and shed blood to his people,  
assuring them a share in his death and resurrection.  
By the Holy Spirit, he feeds us with his resurrection life  
and binds us to each other as we share one loaf and cup.  
We receive this food gladly, believing, as we eat,  
that Jesus is our life-giving food and drink  
and that he will come again  
to call us to the wedding feast of the Lamb.

Matthew 26:17-29 and parallels establish the Lord's Supper as a gospel sacrament. On the meaning of the Lord's Supper, see 1 Corinthians 5:7-8; 8:1-13; 10:14-21; and 11:23-26. See also Jesus' strong words on his presence in the Lord's Supper in John 6:48-58.

39. The church is a gathering of forgiven sinners called to be holy.  
Saved by the patient grace of God, we deal patiently with others  
and together confess our need for grace and forgiveness.  
Restored in Christ's presence, shaped by his life,  
this new community lives out  
the ongoing story of God's reconciling love,  
announces the new creation,  
and works for a world of justice and peace.

On the church as a forgiven community called to be holy, see Ephesians 1:3-7; on dealing with one another patiently, Galatians 6:1-5 and Colossians 3:12-14; on the need for confession and restoration, 1 John 1:8-2:6; and on living out God's reconciling love as part of a new creation, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 and 1 John 3:16-17.



40. We grieve that the church,  
which shares one Spirit, one faith, one hope,  
and spans all time, place, race, and language,  
has become a broken communion in a broken world.  
When we struggle for the truth of the gospel  
and for the righteousness God demands,  
we pray for wisdom and courage.  
When our pride or blindness  
hinders the unity of God's household,  
we seek forgiveness.  
We marvel that the Lord gathers the broken pieces  
to do his work and that he blesses us still  
with joy, new members, and surprising evidences of unity.  
We commit ourselves to seeking and expressing  
the oneness of all who follow Jesus,  
and we pray for brothers and sisters who suffer for the faith.

On the unity of the church, see John 17:20-23 and Ephesians 2:11-22; 4:1-16.

*The Mission of God's People*

41. Joining the mission of God, the church is sent  
with the gospel of the kingdom  
to call everyone to know and follow Christ  
and to proclaim to all the assurance that in the name of Jesus  
there is forgiveness of sin  
and new life for all who repent and believe.  
The Spirit calls all members to embrace God's mission  
in their neighborhoods and in the world:  
to feed the hungry, bring water to the thirsty,  
welcome the stranger, clothe the naked,  
care for the sick, and free the prisoner.  
We repent of leaving this work to a few,  
for this mission is central to our being.

On our part in God's mission, see Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 14:45-49, and John 17:18; on seeing our mission beyond our local community, Matthew 24:14 and Acts 13:1-3; on meeting the needs of people, Matthew 25:31-46 and Luke 4:18-19; and on the centrality of mission to our being, John 20:21.

42. In a world estranged from God,  
where happiness and peace are offered in many names  
and millions face confusing choices,  
we witness—with respect for followers of other ways—  
to the only one in whose name salvation is found:  
Jesus Christ. In Jesus, God reconciles the world to himself.  
God loves all creation; his compassion knows no bounds.

On the exclusive claims of Christ, see John 14:6 and Acts 4:12; on God's love and compassion for the world, see Matthew 9:36-38 and John 3:16.

43. Jesus Christ rules over all. To follow this Lord is  
to serve him wherever we are without fitting in,  
light in darkness, salt in a spoiling world.

On the rule of Christ over the whole world, see Philippians 2:9-11, Colossians 1:15-20, and Revelation 11:15; on being light, salt, and not fitting in, see Matthew 5:13-16 and Romans 12:1-2.

44. Life is a gift from God's hand, who created all things.  
Receiving this gift thankfully, with reverence for the Creator,  
we protest and resist  
all that harms, abuses, or diminishes the gift of life,  
whether by abortion, pollution, gluttony,  
addiction, or foolish risks. Because it is a sacred trust,  
we treat all life with awe and respect,  
especially when it is most vulnerable—  
whether growing in the womb, touched by disability or disease,  
or drawing a last breath. When forced to make decisions  
at life's raw edges, we seek wisdom in community,  
guided by God's Word and Spirit.

On respect for all life, see Deuteronomy 5:17 and Psalm 104:14-30 and 139:14-16. Our very bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

45. Since God made us male and female in his image,  
we respect each other as equals,  
not flaunting or exploiting our sexuality.  
While our roles and capacities may differ,  
we are careful not to confine God's gifts and calling  
to the shape of our cultural patterns or expectations.  
Sexuality is disordered in our fallen world—  
brokenness, abuse, pornography, and loneliness are the result—  
but Christ's renewing work gives hope  
for order and healing  
and surrounds suffering persons with compassionate community.

Male and female, we are all made in God's image: Genesis 1:26-27 and Galatians 3:27. On sexual disorder as a result of sin, see Romans 1:24 and 1 Corinthians 6:15-20.

46. We are the family of God,  
serving Christ together in Christian community.  
Single for a time or a life, devoted to the work of God,  
we offer our love and service to the building of the kingdom.  
Married, in relationships of lifelong loyalty,  
we offer our lives to the same work:  
building the kingdom, teaching and modeling the ways of the Lord  
so our children may know Jesus as Lord  
and learn to use their gifts in lives of joyful service.  
In friendship and family life, singleness and marriage,  
as parents and children, we reflect the covenant love of God.  
We lament the prevalence of divorce  
and of selfish individualism in our societies.  
We belong to God.

See the apostle Paul's discussion of singleness and marriage in 1 Corinthians 7. On the importance of teaching and modeling the ways of the Lord, see Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Proverbs 22:6, and Ephesians 6:1-4. Jesus' teaching on divorce is found in Matthew 19:1-12 and Mark 10:1-12. That we together reflect the love of God is taught in John 13:34-35 and all of 1 John.

47. Serving the Lord in whom all things hold together,  
we support sound education in our communities,  
and we foster schools and teaching  
in which God's truth shines in all learning.  
All students, without regard to abilities, race, or wealth,  
bear God's image and deserve an education  
that helps them use their gifts fully.

For the importance of education, see Deuteronomy 6:1-9 and Proverbs 4:1-9; for the need for God's light, Psalm 119:105; for the central place of Christ, Colossians 1:17; for equal acceptance, James 2:1-13.

48. Our work is a calling from God. We work for more than wages and manage for more than profit so that mutual respect and the just use of goods and skills may shape the workplace. While we earn or profit, we love our neighbors by providing useful products and services. In our global economy we advocate meaningful work and fair wages for all. Out of the Lord's generosity to us, we give freely and gladly of our money and time.

For the place of work, see Genesis 2:15, Exodus 20:9, Ephesians 6:5-9, and 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; for justice in the workplace, Ezekiel 34 and James 5:1-5; for generosity, 2 Corinthians 9 and 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12.

49. Rest and leisure are gifts from God that relax us and set us free to discover and to explore. But we confess that often our addiction to busyness allows our tools and toys to invade our rest and that an internet world with its temptations distorts our leisure. Reminding each other that our Maker rested and gave us rest, we seek to rest more trustingly and to entertain ourselves more simply.

For rest, see Genesis 2:2-3 and Deuteronomy 5:12-15; for the discriminating use of leisure, Philippians 4:8-9 and Ephesians 4:17-32.

50. Grateful for advances in science and technology, we participate in their development, fostering care for creation and respect for the gift of life. We welcome discoveries that prevent or cure diseases and that help support healthy lives. We respect embryonic life, approaching each new discovery, whether of science or of medical technique, with careful thought, seeking the will of God.

In Genesis 1:28-31 and 9:1-7, God gives to humanity the right and responsibility to develop and care for creation; for a reflection on the limitations of human technology and need for divine wisdom, see Job 28; for the continuing goodness of creation and the need for a prayerful approach to what we use of it, see 1 Timothy 4:4-5.

51. We lament that our abuse of creation has brought lasting damage to the world we have been given: polluting streams and soil, poisoning the air, altering the climate, and damaging the earth. We commit ourselves to honor all God's creatures and to protect them from abuse and extinction, for our world belongs to God.

Genesis 1:28-29; 7:1-5; Psalm 8; and Romans 8:18-25 teach that we are entrusted with caring for the earth.

52. We obey God first; we respect the authorities that rule, for they are established by God: we pray for our rulers, and we work to influence governments—resisting them only when Christ and conscience demand. We are thankful for the freedoms enjoyed by citizens of many lands; we grieve with those who live under oppression, and we seek for them the liberty to live without fear.

Romans 13:1-7 teaches respect for governing authorities (see also 1 Peter 2:13-17); Revelation 13 illustrates government gone wrong. Colossians 1:16 teaches that authority and power come from Christ; Ephesians 6:12 warns us that authority and power can become infected by evil.

53. We call on all governments to do public justice and to protect the rights and freedoms of individuals, groups, and institutions so that each may do their tasks. We urge governments and pledge ourselves to safeguard children and the elderly from abuse and exploitation, to bring justice to the poor and oppressed, and to promote the freedom to speak, work, worship, and associate.

That governments are called to justice generally and that how a government treats the poor and the weak is a key indicator of a society's commitment to justice is taught in all the prophets and in psalms like Psalm 72.

54. Followers of the Prince of Peace are called to be peacemakers,  
promoting harmony and order and restoring what is broken.  
We call on our governments to work for peace  
and to restore just relationships.  
We deplore the spread of weapons  
in our world and on our streets  
with the risks they bring and the horrors they threaten.  
We call on all nations to reduce their arsenals  
to what is needed in the defense of justice and freedom.  
We pledge to walk in ways of peace,  
confessing that our world belongs to God;  
he is our sure defense.

Isaiah 2:1-4 expresses God's will for peace, and Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers . . ." (Matthew 5:9).

#### *New Creation*

55. Our hope for a new creation is not tied to what humans can do,  
for we believe that one day every challenge to God's rule  
will be crushed. His kingdom will fully come,  
and the Lord will rule. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

On this hope, see 1 Peter 1:3-12, 2 Peter 3:3-13, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11, and Revelation 11:15.

56. We long for that day when our bodies are raised,  
the Lord wipes away our tears,  
and we dwell forever in the presence of God.  
We will take our place in the new creation,  
where there will be no more death  
or mourning or crying or pain, and the Lord will be our light.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come.

For the coming of the kingdom of God, see Matthew 24, Acts 1:10-11, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11, and Revelation 19:11-16. 1 Corinthians 15 speaks of the resurrection of the body, Revelation 21:4 of the wiping away of tears, and Revelation 21:22-27 of the light of heaven.

57. On that day we will see our Savior face to face,  
sacrificed Lamb and triumphant King, just and gracious.  
He will set all things right, judge evil, and condemn the wicked.  
We face that day without fear, for the Judge is our Savior,  
whose shed blood declares us righteous.  
We live confidently, anticipating his coming,  
offering him our daily lives—our acts of kindness,  
our loyalty, and our love—knowing that he will weave  
even our sins and sorrows into his sovereign purpose.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Revelation 5 describes the Lion and the Lamb. For the just judgments of the Lord, see Revelation 19:1-10. A picture of the multitude of those declared righteous in Christ is found in Revelation 7:9-17. The concept of God weaving all things together is found, among other places, in Romans 8:28-39.

58. With the whole creation we join the song:  
“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and praise!”  
He has made us a kingdom of priests  
to serve our God, and we will reign on earth.  
God will be all in all.  
righteousness and peace will flourish,  
everything will be made new, and every eye will see at last  
that our world belongs to God  
Hallelujah! Come, Lord Jesus!

For the imagery of this paragraph, see Exodus 19:5-6, Isaiah 40, 1 Peter 2:9-10, and Revelation 4-5

- 18.3 The activities and purposes of the Society shall be carried on without purpose of monetary or economic gain for its members, and any income, profits or other accretions to the Society shall be used in promoting the purposes of the Society.
- 18.4 The Society may only be amalgamated with one or more other societies each of which must be a non-profit organization or a registered charity if, upon such amalgamation, all property, assets and accumulated income of the Society pass to and vest in the amalgamated society.

18.5 In the event of the winding-up or dissolution of the Society, and funds or assets of the Society remains after satisfaction of its debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such Christian educational organizations that are registered charities pursuant to the provisions of the Income Tax Act (Canada) from time to time in effect as shall be determined by the members of the Society, and if effect cannot be given to the aforesaid provisions, such funds shall be given or transferred to such organizations that are registered charities pursuant to the provisions of the Income Tax Act (Canada) which have purposes similar to those of the Society.

## **PART 19 - BYLAWS**

- 19.1 On being admitted to membership, each member is entitled to and upon request the Society shall provide him or her with a copy of the constitution and bylaws of the Society.
- 19.2 These bylaws shall not be altered or added to except by resolution of the Board sanctioned by a special resolution.

Dated November \_\_\_, 2021