

CONSTITUTION OF WOODSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
Denver, Colorado
Preamble

Since the Bible admonishes us saying, *“Let all things be done decently and in order”* (I Corinthians 14:40), we, a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ, placing our faith wholly in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation, following the teachings and practices of Baptist doctrine, which includes baptism by immersion, those greatly distinctive principles for which they have ever stood, and accepting the whole Bible as our authoritative rule of faith and practice, do solemnly band ourselves together as a New Testament Church, and adopt for our government and plan of worship the following constitution by which we willingly and cheerfully agree to be governed.

Article I: Name and Entity

The name of this church shall be the **Woodside Baptist Church** of Denver, Colorado. The legal entity of the church shall be a nonprofit religious organization, chartered under the applicable statutes of the state of Colorado, and shall operate as set forth in the bylaws of the church.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this church shall be to make disciples of all men at home and abroad. It shall seek to attain this end through the public worship of God, the preaching of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, consistent Christian living by its members, personal evangelism (Matthew 28:19,20), missionary endeavors, Christian education, and benevolence. It shall seek the spiritual improvement of its members and friends through the teaching of the whole counsel of God as revealed in the Scriptures.

Article III: Locations

This church shall be one in name, government, and administration, regardless of the number of physical meeting places being utilized at any given time. The number of locations for meeting shall be as deemed necessary by the church itself.

Article IV: Autonomy

The government and administration of this church are vested in the body of believers who compose its membership. They are subject to the control of no outside ecclesiastical organization. However, this church recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among churches of like faith and practice, so long as the independence and autonomy of this church is maintained.

Article V: Statement of Faith

We believe the Bible to be verbally inspired by God in its original writings, that it is truth without any mixture of error, and is the sole rule of faith and practice for believers. We believe that God has supernaturally preserved His Word for us today. We believe that the King James Bible is the inspired and preserved Word of God.

We believe there is only one true God, coexisting in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three are coeternal and coequal for all eternity, each with distinct personalities, but all of one essence.

We believe that Adam was created in holiness in the image of God, but, by voluntary transgression, fell, and thus the whole race is now sinful by nature and practice, and is therefore under just condemnation to eternal separation from God.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God who entered into the world through the virgin birth and lived among us without sin as perfect man and perfect God.

We believe that Jesus Christ shed His blood on Calvary as a vicarious substitute for all sinners and that He was buried, rose again bodily, and ascended to the right hand of the Father, whence He will personally return to rapture His Church before the seven years of Great Tribulation followed by His pre-millennial return to earth to establish His Kingdom according to the Scriptures.

We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts sinners. He regenerates, sanctifies, indwells, and fills the believer for effective service.

We believe that men are born again by the Holy Spirit as they repent and believe the gospel message. We believe that we are justified by grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ without any mixture of works.

We believe in the priesthood of the believer and that God has made provision for each believer to be victorious by being led of the Spirit and not walking after the flesh.

We believe in the eternal security of the believer and that he is guaranteed eternal life and a resurrected glorified body at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe that a New Testament Church is an autonomous local group of believers, baptized by immersion, and actively engaged in fulfilling the Great Commission.

We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper constitute the only two ordinances of the church.

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost--the saved unto the resurrection of life eternal, and the lost unto the resurrection of eternal damnation. When the saved die, they are immediately in the presence of the Lord.

We believe that Satan is a person and that Hell is a place of eternal conscious punishment for him, his hosts, and all unbelievers.

We believe that churches are mandated by Scripture to abstain from all forms of compromise with unbelief. We believe that believers are commanded to fellowship only with those churches which follow scriptural methods. We believe that this mandate means, above all, complete separation from all forms of Modernism, including the World and National Council of Churches.

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God and sufficient for ministry use until Jesus comes. It declares itself to be the message of God and sets forth the principle that this message is to be interpreted as literally as possible within its historical and cultural background. We believe that we must follow the Scriptures and not emotions, avoiding the faddist and cultist deviation of our day, including the so-called Charismatic Movement. We further believe that, since the Scriptures are the inspired Word of God, we need to use the most accurate translation possible and avoid those translations and paraphrases of the Scripture which take liberties that are unwarranted. We will use the King James (Authorized) for general and church use.

Marriage, Divorce, and Re-marriage:

We believe that the only legitimate **marriage** is the joining of one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23).

We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one naturally-born man and one naturally-born woman for life, and children being a normal fruit of that relationship. We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins a naturally-born man and a naturally-born woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

We believe that marriage is a God-ordained institution, and as such it should be governed by what God has to say about it in the Bible. In an age when marriage is often looked upon as a temporary state, we stand unequivocally for the permanence of marriage. (Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:10; and Ephesians 5:22-

23)

We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are an heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction. (Genesis 1:26-28; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 127:3-5; Proverbs 19:18; 20:30; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mark. 10:6-12; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4, Colossians 3:18-21; Hebrews 13:4; and 1 Peter 3:1-7)

We believe that God disapproves of and forbids divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon. (Malachi 2:14-17; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 7:1-3; 1 Timothy 3:2, 12; and Titus 1:6, Genesis 1:27, Leviticus 20:13)

Role Of Man And Woman: We further believe that men and women are spiritually equal before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. (Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:18; and 1 Timothy 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)

Sexual Immorality: We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one naturally-born man and one naturally-born woman. We further believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a naturally-born man and a naturally-born woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity to be engaged in outside of marriage between a naturally-born man and a naturally-born woman. We believe that any form of adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, polygamy, incest, prostitution, pedophilia, zoophilia, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Genesis 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:1-30, 20:10-21; Romans 1: 26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; and

Hebrews 13:4)

Abortion: With respect to living, we believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion is murder of an unborn human life. We reject any teaching that abortions due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well-being of the mother are acceptable. We believe in the rights of the unborn – that from conception, a baby has all the rights given to it to live and to be protected from any legislation or decision to cease that life. We totally embrace adoption as a positive alternative to abortion. (Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5; 139:14-16; Proverbs 6:16-17, Isaiah 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; and Luke 1:44, Exodus 21:22-25)

Euthanasia: With respect to dying, we believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death. Thus, we believe that an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder contrary to the will of God. Discontinuing medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be a legitimate refusal of over-zealous treatment. (Exodus 20:13, 23:7; Matthew 5:21; and Acts 17:28)

Lawsuits Between Believers: We believe that Christians are biblically prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church in order to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for physical injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander (1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32; Matt. 18:15-17). We believe that automatic termination of membership takes effect with anyone who has brought a lawsuit against the church or another Christian.

Article VI: Membership

Section 1: The membership of this church shall consist of believers in Christ who have been baptized by immersion after salvation and who take the Holy Bible as their sole rule of faith and practice. Members must fully subscribe to the Statement of Faith contained herein (Article V). The classification and reception of members shall be as provided in the church bylaws.

Section 2: Persons may be received into membership who have given testimony of

their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, and who have been baptized by immersion after salvation.

Section 3. Procedure for admission and method of termination of membership shall be as provided in the church bylaws.

Article VII: Officers

The officers of this Church shall be Pastor, Pastoral staff, all members of deacons, treasurer, church clerk, financial secretary, Sunday school superintendent(s), or any other elected office of the church. The duties and qualifications for all officers and their respective terms of office shall be as provided in the bylaws of the church.

Article VIII: Office and Committees

The advisory office of this church shall be the office of Deacons. The duties of the Deacons shall be as provided in the church bylaws. Committees and their duties shall be as provided in the bylaws.

Article IX: Meetings

There shall be devotional meetings for worship and prayer, educational meetings, and meetings for the transaction of church financial matters, including an annual meeting, as shall be provided for in the church bylaws.

Article X: Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter this covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to abstain from all and any acts of immorality such as homosexuality, incest, adultery, fornication, uncleanness, pornography, and lasciviousness and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each

other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation; and, being mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure these without delay.

We, moreover, engage that when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Article XI: Non-Discrimination

This church does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin for membership.

Article XII: Political, Inurement, Dissolution

In the event of dissolution, all the assets remaining after payment of debts will be distributed and used exclusively for religious or charitable purposes, provided they be organizations described in Section 1.501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, being organizations which are declared exempt by the Federal Government. The procedure for selection shall be as stated in the bylaws of the church and:

1. That no part of the net earnings of the said corporation shall inure to the benefit of any private shareholder-individual.
2. That no part of the activities of the said corporation shall be to carry on propaganda or otherwise attempt to influence legislation and shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on the behalf of any candidate for public office.
3. Any funds distributed must go to a non-profit organization that agrees with the Statement of Faith as noted in Article V, preferably another independent fundamental Baptist church.

Article XIII – Facility and Grounds

Within the utilization of our church facilities and use of the surrounding grounds, we have adopted the following policy statement regarding marriage and weddings: those qualifying for marriage within and on church property and using the services of its pastors, must be members of Woodside Baptist Church or in agreement with the statement of faith and approved by the pastor, having met the standards of God's Word; and have not been married before, unless widowed. Same-sex marriages will not be allowed.