

# **STATUTES OF “THE REDEEMER BAPTIST CHURCH” TORONTO, CANADA**

## **CHAPTER I**

### **About the name, Nature, Longevity, Location and Objectives.**

#### **Art. 1.**

- a) We, the undersigned, have founded in Metropolitan Toronto (North York), in the province of Ontario, Canada, “The redeemer Baptist Church” as a religious, non-profit, non-political entity which hereinafter will be referred to as “the church”. The length of its duration is undefined, its location will be in Metropolitan Toronto, and it may establish missions in any part of the country and the world.
- b) This church shall maintain affiliation with the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Québec and with the Toronto area Association of Baptist churches.

#### **Art. 2. The Objectives of the church are:**

- a) The proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the coming of the Kingdom of God, from now to the end of time (Acts 1:8);
- b) To hold public worship service, and the “doctrine or teaching of the apostles, Christian sharing, the breaking of bread and prayers” (Acts 2:42) to educate its members and put in practice a Christian lifestyle through the faith in Christ;
- c) To strengthen the Christian sharing among church members, and with the other churches in Canada and other regions of the world;
- d) To give evangelical testimony to “the poor, the broken-hearted, the prisoners, the blind, the oppressed”, by means of programs of assistance that demonstrate God’s love;
- e) To adopt the confession of faith, the covenant and the following constitution:

## **CHAPTER II**

### **Confessions of Faith or Biblical-Theological Fundamentals**

#### **Art.3. We believe in the following Biblical-Theological Fundamentals:**

- a) There is only one God, Creator and sovereign, who exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit;
- b) Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary and who was a real person without sin; his miracles, atoning death, corporal resurrection and his return in person, power and glory are real;

- c) The Holy Spirit is God with us and fits us to believe and to grow. He also forms and equips the church through the gifts we use to serve our Lord, to be witnesses of Christ and to live a Christian life;
- d) Both, the Old and the New Testaments make up the Holy Scriptures and are of divine inspiration; the Bible is the permanent and infallible word of God and the final authority on the norms and practices of our faith. All those who wish to understand the Bible require the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- e) The regeneration of the human being is brought about by the Holy Spirit, creating new life; and the health and sanctification of the human being is caused by repentance before God and a faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- f) The unity of all believers is in the Holy Spirit; together we the church form the body of Christ.
- g) In obedience to the mandate and example of our Lord, we practice baptism of the believer and we participate in the Lord's Supper. Authorized by Christ, these are the rules of the church. Baptism is the immersion of the believer in water, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and is a sign of our union with Christ, through which we identify ourselves with his death and resurrection. Through baptism the individual is able to begin a Christian life and join a Christian community. The Lord's Supper is the repeated symbol to nurture and reunify the community.
- h) There will be a corporal resurrection of the just and the unjust; for some this will be a resurrection to life and for others it will be a resurrection to judgment.

### **CHAPTER III**

#### **Covenant of the Church**

“They entered into a covenant to seek the Lord, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and soul” 2 Chronicles 15:12.

**Art. 4. Believing that we have been led by the Holy Spirit to accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and having been baptized, by reason of our profession of faith, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now, in the presence of God, the angels and this church, in the most solemn manner and with pleasure we enter into the covenant with each other, as the body of Christ.**

**WE PROMISE**, assisted by the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; securing the advancement of this church through knowledge, health and well-being; promoting its prosperity and spiritually; maintaining its worship, teaching, discipline and theology; to contribute regularly and with pleasure in order to maintain the ministry and expenses of the church, alleviate the suffering of the poor and to spread the gospel to all nations.

**WE PROMISE**, to cultivate devotion to the family and the individual; to give our children religious instruction; to seek the salvation of our relatives, our friends and all others; to walk with care and discretion in this world; to be just in our actions, faithful in our promises to and within the church, with our fellow men and with God; to be above reproach in our lives, to avoid gossip, slader and extreme anger; to abstain from the sale and use of alcoholic beverages, drugs or any other vice which affects the testimony of Jesus Christ. To be fervent in our efforts to enlarge the Kingdom of God.

**WE PROMISE**, also, to take care of each other in christian love, remembering each other in our prayers; to help each other in sickness and misfortune; to cultivate Christian attitude and speak politely; to be slow to become offended and to always be ready for the reconciliation, abounding in the precepts and doctrines of our Savior to obtain it without delay.

**WE PROMISE**, finally, when we have to move from one place to another, we will join another congregation as quickly as possible, where we will be able to continue developing the intent of this Covenant and the principles of the Word of God.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **Statutes or Constitution of the Church**

#### **Art.5. Membership:**

- a) All those who profess faith in Jesus Christ and who demonstrate a true conversion, can be admitted to this church through baptism by immersion.
- b) Following the conversion, the candidates for baptism will normally receive instruction concerning their lives as Disciples of Christ. And, later, they will be examined by a reception committee made up of the pastor and other members of the church selected by the Council of Deacons.
- c) All those who present a letter of recommendation, certificate of transfer or certificate of baptism from other churches which hold the same faith and doctrine, the same principles and teachings, may be received as a member of the church.
- d) All those who have not been members of a Christian, evangelical new testament church but who have received scriptural baptism ca be received after demonstrating satisfactory behavior in their lives.
- e) Admission to the church will be considered by a general assembly of members and requires a unanimous vote. Those who object must make their objections known to a meeting of the Council of Deacons, which will carry out the necessary investigation, will report to the next regular meeting of the church. Those present may either uphold or reject the objections. Only a serious moral reason or important doctrinal reason is sufficient cause for a negative decision.

- f) Those members who move away must request a letter of recommendation to be used in order to join another church of the same faith and doctrine.

**Art. 6. These are the rights of the members:**

- a) To attend and participate as voting members in the session of the General Assembly, both ordinary and extraordinary.
- b) To elect and be elected as members of the governing board of the church and the Council of Deacons.
- c) To participate in all church activities.
- d) To receive a letter of transfer to be used to join any other church.
- e) The remaining rights conferred by the Statutes and the Internal rules of the church.

**Art.7. These are the responsibilities of the members:**

- a) To comply with the statutes, and rules of the church.
- b) To participate in General Assembly meetings, both ordinary and extraordinary.
- c) To contribute to achieving the goals of the church.
- d) To carry out with responsibility the duties to which they have been elected.

**Art. 8. Membership in the church can be lost for any of the following reasons:**

- a) Death.
- b) Renouncing membership in a letter directed to the Board.
- c) Exclusion agreed upon in the General Assembly due to the following reasons:
  - 1) Breaking the Statutes;
  - 2) Committing an outrage against the unity and essential interest of the church and,
  - 3) Making insubordinate actions.

**Art. 9. Member's Discipline:**

- a) Any member who has been absent, or hasn't had any communication with the church for 2 consecutive months, will be subject to an exhortation to continue with the church; however, if the member persists, membership will be removed from the roll because of the lack of interest of meeting with the church ( Heb. 10:25). Of course, this is not applicable to people who are unable to come due to sickness, age, temporary work out of the city or missionary work entrusted by the church. Nevertheless, no names will be

removed from the roll without previously submitting them to the Council of Deacons. Also, anybody who is found guilty before the Lord's Judgment will be dealt with under the guidance of the Holy Ghost and in accordance with the Holy Scriptures. The General Assembly could restore the member's capacity with recommendation of the Board and the Council of Deacons.

- b) If a member is guilty of an immoral act or any other serious error, it is incumbent on those who know about it, to seek out the member in question, and according to Evangelical rules, to encourage him/her to repent and confess his/her sin. If those who know the sinner are not successful, they must tell the sinner the intention of submitting the case to the Council of Deacons, in order to give the sinner the opportunity to present a defense.
- c) Any member who has been removed from the list of members for reasons of immorality may be reintegrated after confessing to their sins and providing adequate proof of repentance.
- d) No member if this church has the right to accuse another unless the proper preliminary procedures which Jesus Christ our Lord stated in the gospel of Matthew 18:15-20 have been followed.
- e) No member will be asked to appear before the church until the accusation has been brought to his/her attention and the member has been given the opportunity to respond. The exception to this is when it is impossible to notify the member in question.

#### **Art. 10. Government**

- a) The church will be democratically governed by a General Assembly and a Board.
- b) The General Assembly is the ultimate authority of the church and will be made up of all the members who are entered in the roll.
- c) The attributes of the General Assembly are:
  - 1) To approve, to revise and to abolish the Statutes and Internal rules of the church;
  - 2) To elect a pastor or pastors and the pastor's assistants of the church. Normally, after consulting and with the approval of the Baptist Convention of Ontario & Québec, the church will select its pastor and determine the length of the service. The salary and benefits offered to the selected pastor must be made after consulting the Convention. When either the pastor or the congregation wish to cancel the appointment, the Convention must again be consulted (The church is autonomous with respect to its internal functioning; but the spirit of John 17:21 and Acts 9:31 dictate the understanding of our interdependence as a family of churches).

- 3) To elect publicly the members of the Board, and to replace those who do not fulfill their duties.
  - 4) To elect the Council of Deacons which should have no less than 3 and no more than 7 members (Acts 6:1); for a term of 3 consecutive years, and one third of the council will be elected each year.
  - 5) To approve the annual budget of the church.
  - 6) To approve the financial reports which are submitted by the Board every four months as well as the Annual Report and the work plan which will be developed each year.
  - 7) To approve the acquisition or alienation, at any title, of Real Estate suggested by the Board.
  - 8) To resolve, before anything, matters unforeseen in these Statutes and Regulations of the church.
  - 9) To name the financial auditor.
- d) The General Assembly shall meet ordinarily every four months and extraordinarily at any time if it is required due to circumstances. This meeting will be called by the president or secretary of the Board or by written petition to the members indicating the motive of the meeting. Calling a meeting of the General Assembly must be done in writing at least eight days ahead of time with notice of the day, place, hour and agenda.
- e) The General Assembly will meet in first calling with the presence of half plus One of the registered members; if after thirty minutes of the scheduled time there is no quorum, a second calling is made and the meeting is held with the present members.
- f) Except for those cases specified by the Statutes, decisions reached by the General Assembly require the votes of half plus one of the present members.
- g) Voting at the General Assembly will be done in a public manner unless there has been an agreement to hold a secret ballot.
- h) The Board is the body responsible of governing the church. It has a president, a Vice-President, a Secretary of acts, archives and statistics, a Secretary of correspondence and public relations, a Treasurer, 3 Trustees, a Superintendent and two deputies. All will be elected for a two-year period and can be reelected for a further two-year. They are responsible for carrying out their duties from the moment of election. They will perform their duties until the new Board is elected, and the new members take over.
- i) Responsibilities of the Board:
- 1) Ensure that the Statutes and Regulations of the church are followed.
  - 2) Prepare the annual budget and the year-end report of the church to be submitted to the General Assembly.
  - 3) To understand and approve the work plans of the commissions named by the General Assembly and to approve at the necessary time, its acts and submit it to the General Assembly.

- 4) To take the necessary measures to increase the size of the congregation and the complementation of the work plans which support this goal.
  - 5) To sign any bind of agreement in order to achieve the goals, previously authorized by the General Assembly, empowering the trustees for this respective purpose.
  - 6) To send an ordinary or extraordinary meeting notice of the General Assembly to the members.
  - 7) To guarantee the legal right to the church to own and deal its inheritance.
  - 8) To resolve al that which is not the responsibility of the General Assembly.
- j) The Board will meet once a month and at other times as necessary. The President will call regular meeting and special meeting will be requested by four members of the Board.

**ART 11. The Officers and their responsibilities:**

- a) The normal activities of the church are the responsibility of church members in general and the pastor and his or her deacons in particular.
- b) The responsibilities of the president are:
  - 1) To preside all sessions of the General Assembly and the Board.
  - 2) To call extraordinary meeting of the general assembly when the Board deems this necessary.
  - 3) And other responsibilities as requested by the General Assembly, and/or the Board.
- c) The responsibilities of the Vice-President:
  - 1) To stand in for the President when he or she is absent.
  - 2) To work in collaboration with the President.
  - 3) And other responsibilities as requested by the General Assembly and/or the Board.
- d) The responsibilities of the Secretary of acts, archives, and statistics:
  - 1) To take note in the book of minutes for the General Assembly and the board meetings.
  - 2) To write out the certifications of the church books of minutes when it is requested.
  - 3) Call members to General Assembly meeting with prior authorization by the Board.
  - 4) To keep members informed of the decisions taken by the church.
  - 5) To keep track of church records as necessary.
  - 6) To maintain the files of the church.
  - 7) Monitor member attendance and that of visitors.

- e) Responsibilities of the Secretary of correspondence and public relations:
  - 1). To receive and send out church correspondence as directed by the Board.
  - 2). Attend to people invited to the church on special occasions.
  - 3). Maintain close communication with membership and with others Churches.
  - 4). Work together with the secretary of acts, archives and statistics.
  - 5). And other responsibilities as requested by the General Assembly and/or the Board.
- f). Responsibilities of the Treasurer:
  - 1). The bookkeeping for the church.
  - 2). To confidentially receive and manage the offerings of the members.
  - 3). To take care of the assets of the church together with the President and the Trustees.
  - 4). Deposit church funds in the Bank.
  - 5). To present monthly statements on income and expenses to the Board or when requested by the Board.
  - 6). To present an annual financial report to the General Assembly.
  - 7). To distribute the funds authorized by the Board for small expenses and those authorized by the General Assembly for large purchases.
  - 8). To assist the Board and the Council of Deacons to respond to questions regarding the church's funds and to give his/her opinion or answers on such questions.
- g). The responsibilities of the trustees:
  - 1). To give legal representation to the church.
  - 2). Monitor compliance with statutes and regulations as well as the resolutions of the General Assembly of the Board.
  - 3). To confer with prior authorization of the Board and the General Assembly.
  - 4). And other responsibilities as requested by the General Assembly and the Board, the statutes and/or regulations of the church.
- h). The responsibilities of the Superintendent:
  - 1). Preside over the meeting of the teachers of the Sunday Bible School.
  - 2). To select teachers for different classes.
  - 3). To monitor the work of the Sunday School in general.
  - 4). Select and evaluate together with the pastor, the Sunday School Materials.
  - 5). To present a monthly report or as required, on his/her work to the Board and to report annually to the General Assembly.

- i) Responsibilities of the deputies:
  - 1). To substitute for members of the Board who are absent or who are Unable to attend, as designated by the Board.
  - 2). To carry out the duties assigned by the General Assembly and/or the Board.
  - 3). To work together with other Board members to carry out his/her functions
- j) The responsibilities of the Council of Deacons:
  - 1). Manage the funds destined for the poor of the church.
  - 2). Assist the pastor in maintaining discipline.
  - 3). To make the necessary arrangements for a preacher when the pastor is away.
  - 4). To assist the pastor in his spiritual and temporal duties.
  - 5). To ensure the conduction of the church and maintain good work relations with the pastor or pastors.
  - 6). To assure that the membership roll reflects the true situation of the church and make recommendations on the same.

**ART 12. To be a member of the Board of the Council of Deacons it is required:**

- a) To be an active member in good standing of the church.
- b) To have an attitude of service and Christian Testimony.
- c) To have the capacity to carry out higher responsibilities.
- d) The members of the Council of Deacons will be chosen according to the guiding principle established in Timothy 3:8-12.
- e) To comply with the regulations of the church.

**ART 13. About the pastor, pastors or assistant pastors:**

The pastor or pastors are responsible for the following:

1. To offer spiritual guidance to the church and to orient, inform, and present ideas on work plans to the Board in order to meet the goals of the General Plan.
2. To preach the Word of God.
3. Administer the Evangelical Ordinances (Baptism and the Lord's Supper).
4. If he/she has been called to the ministry and recognized by the church, to maintain the Marriage Register.
5. To give guidance to all religious education within the church; to be an ex-officio member of the Board, the Council of Deacons and all other committees.
6. To oversee the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly and the Board.

7. To participate in meetings of the General Assembly and Board but without a vote.
8. To carry out responsibilities mentioned in the Status and Regulations of the church and all those conceded by the General Assembly and the Board.
9. The assistant pastor must work closely with the pastor and act as substitute in his/her absence, previously agreed upon by the Board.

**ART.14. About the committees:**

- a) In order to accomplish the evangelical work and to achieve the goals of the church, the Board will create the necessary committees.
- b) A Nominations Committee will be formed to identify people capable of carrying out the responsibilities listed in article 10, section c, number 4 and section h. A list of conditions will be presented to the Board three weeks before the Annual General Assembly meeting and will be sure that those who are nominated will accept. The church can select a member of General Assembly to join the committee; this must be done at least two months ahead of time. When the time for Nomination is over, this committee will be dissolved.

**ART. 15. About the assets:**

- a) The assets of the church are:
  - 1) The voluntary offering of the members.
  - 2) The donations, the inheritances and legacies made to the church.
  - 3) All the material possessions, Real Estate, rights and values acquired under the law.
  - 4) All other income that the church receives for any legal activities it promotes.

**ART. 16. About Dissolution and Liquidation:**

- a) The church may be dissolved by order of law or with the agreement of two thirds of the member meeting at an extraordinary session of the General Assembly called for this purpose.
- b) Once it is agreed that the church will be dissolved, a liquidation committee will be appointed. Any remaining possessions of the church will be donated to the Baptist Convention of Ontario & Québec.

**ART. 17. General Orders:**

- a) The beginning of the fiscal year will be January first and it will end on December thirty-first.
- b) To modify or eliminate the current Statutes, a favorable vote of more than sixty percent at an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly is required.
- c) If a member of the church is unhappy with the decision made by the Board or a committee, an appeal to the church can be made. The support of other members is needed.

- d) Groups or societies linked to the church can be organized and will be subordinate to the church.
- e) All committees, societies, groups and organizations formed within the church must present an annual report at the yearly meeting of the General Assembly.  
The church will be represented at the annual Assembly of the Baptist Convention of Ontario & Québec by the pastor and two delegates for the first fifty church members and one for each additional fifth