

# **DALESBURG BAPTIST CHURCH**

30503 466<sup>th</sup> Avenue Beresford, SD 57004

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Our purpose as members of Dalesburg Baptist Church is to help bring people into a living relationship with God through receiving Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and, with God's wisdom, to help them mature in Christ through worship, study, fellowship, and ministry, all to the glory of God.

(Adopted by our church as our statement of purpose)

## **CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been led by the Holy Spirit of God to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and to confess Him as Lord, and on confession of this faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly agree to live within the following framework with one another, as one body in Christ, to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him.

We promise by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to forsake the ways of sin and to walk together in Christian love and in the paths of righteousness. With this in view, we agree to strive together for both the peace and purity of this church; to sustain its worship and steadfastly to cherish and hold its ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute, as faithful stewards, such time, talent, and money, in the measure that God prospers each of us, that the responsibility for the work of the local church and the worldwide ministry of spreading the gospel be faithfully and effectively discharged.

We also agree to maintain family and private devotions; to teach the Bible to our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to be just in our dealings and faithful in our engagements; to be an example in our conduct; to avoid unkind words and unrighteous anger; to abstain from membership in any secret organization and from every form of evil; to combine zeal and knowledge in our efforts to advance the cause of our Savior; to make Christ first in all things both spiritual and temporal.

We believe that term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church.

We further agree to give and receive admonition with meekness and affection; to remember each other in prayer, and to aid each other in case of 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, mindful of the Scriptures, to seek it without delay; to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return.

We moreover agree that when we move from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some local church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of the Word of God.

## **AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH**

### **1. The Word of God**

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (John 17:17; Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

### **2. The Trinity**

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. (Matthew 28:19; John 1:1-4; 1 John 5:7)

### **3. God the Father**

We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of each person, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (John 3:16, 17; John 4:24; John 17:5)

### **4. Jesus Christ**

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth. (Isaiah 7:14; John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 1:2, 3; 1 John 1:7)

### **5. The Holy Spirit**

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide. (John 14:26; John 16:7-15; Romans 8:14-17; Ephesians 1:13,14).

## **6. Humanity**

We believe God created all humankind male and female to reflect His image. As such, human beings of every ethnicity, age, ability, as well as the pre-born deserve dignity, protection, honor, respect, and Christian love. Because Adam and Eve's free choice to sin, God's image in all humankind has become distorted and relationship with God has become disrupted. We believe that human gender and sex are a gift from God and should not be redefined or altered. (Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 139:13-14; Romans 1:18-27; Romans 5:12; Colossians 3:12-14; Titus 3:1-5; Revelation 7:9)

## **7. Regeneration**

We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are; therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit. (John 1:12, 13; John 3:13, 16, 17; Acts 20:21; Ephesians 2:1-9; Titus 3:5)

## **8. The Church**

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local Church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world. (Matthew 16:16-18; Acts 2:38-41; Ephesians 2:19-22; Ephesians 5:25-27)

## **9. The Ordinances**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41, 42; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32)

## **10. Christian Conduct**

We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others; that their conduct should be blameless before the world; that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 2:14-16; Colossians 3:17-23; 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18)

## **11. Christian Marriage**

We believe that Christian marriage is a sacred institution ordained by God for the well-being and propagation of humankind. It is a covenant representing the spiritual and physical union into which one man and one woman may enter for the glory of God, symbolizing the relationship of Christ to His church. As the sign of this covenant, sexual activity is reserved exclusively for the marriage relationship. According to the scriptural ideal, marriage requires sacrificial love and faithfulness to each other for life. (Genesis 1:27-28; Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:1-12; Ephesians 5:21-33; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Hebrews 13:4)

## **12. Religious Liberty**

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each Church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that, therefore, church and state must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other. (1 Timothy 2:5)

## **13. Church Cooperation**

We believe that local Churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in an association of churches. Such an organization, whether it is the Converge or one of its regional districts, exists and functions by the will of the Churches. Cooperation in this association is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary independent basis.

## **14. The Last Things**

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked. (John 5:28, 29; Revelation 20:1-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:31- 46)

## **CONSTITUTION OF DALESBURG BAPTIST CHURCH**

### **I. MEETINGS FOR THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS**

- A. The annual business meeting shall be in the month of January as decided by the church at the last quarterly business meeting.
- B. The church shall hold four quarterly business meetings, one each in April, July, October, and the annual meeting in January.
- C. Special business meetings - The Board of Deacons, the Board of Trustees, the Board of Christian Education, or the pastor, may call for a special business meeting to take care of any business that cannot wait until the quarterly business meetings. The special business meeting should be announced from the pulpit at least two Sundays prior to the meeting.
- D. Fifteen percent of the resident membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any and all business brought before the church at that meeting.
- E. The rules of order shall be Robert's Rules of Order as a guide to proper conduct of all business meetings of the church.

### **II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- A. All elected officers of this church shall come from the membership only and shall be elected at the annual meeting.
- B. A Nominating Committee of 3 – 5 from the church membership shall be elected at the October quarterly business meeting and their duties shall be to choose eligible members for filling the vacancies and to contact those members as to their willingness to serve and then to present these names to the church as the ballot at the annual meeting.
- C. All elected officers shall be for a term of three years (in a rotating cycle) except for chairman, church clerk, treasurer, and financial secretary, which shall each be for a period of one year.
- D. There shall be 3 – 5 deacons with their terms of office to be alternated so as to elect not more than two or three new officers each year.
- E. There shall be 3 – 5 deaconesses with their terms of office to be alternated so as to elect not more than two or three new officers each year.
- F. There shall be 3 – 5 trustees, with their terms of office to be alternated so as not to elect more than two or three new officers each year.
- G. There shall be 3 – 5 Christian Education Board members with their terms of office to be alternated so as not to elect more than two or three new officers each year.
- H. As deemed necessary, standing committees of the church shall be appointed annually.
- I. Any officer or member of a committee who does not live up to the standards of Christian conduct stated in the Church Covenant shall be subject to dismissal from their position by the governing church board to which they are accountable after all normal attempts are made to restore them to repentance and renewed fellowship.

III. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS & COMMITTEES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. Board of Deacons

The Deacon Board of this Church shall have final authority in all matters of church governance, as set forth and described in the Constitution.

The board of deacons shall have the power and duty:

1. to attend to the spiritual affairs of the church in conjunction with the pastor.
2. to assist the pastor in promoting the various church services, including the Communion service.
3. to assist in the visitation of the church.
4. to cooperate and work with the pastor to increase the usefulness of the church in the community.
5. to examine the prospective candidates for baptism and membership upon the request of the pastor, and to make a recommendation to the church as to their fitness.
6. to review with the pastor the church membership at least once a year to determine if any members are not in good standing.
7. to administer and dispense the money from the Deacon Fund.
8. as deemed necessary, standing committees of the Board of Deacons shall be appointed annually.

B. Board of Deaconesses

It shall be the duty of the deaconesses to cooperate with the pastor and deacons in the following areas of service:

1. to assist in the preparation for the administration of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper.
2. to help in caring for the poor and other charitable service.
3. to represent the church in visitation.
4. as deemed necessary, standing committees of the Board of Deaconesses shall be appointed annually.

C. Board of Trustees

The board of trustees shall have the power and duty:

1. to hold in trust and exercise supervision over all the physical and financial property of the church, including the cemetery.
2. to arrange for all needed repairs, minor alterations, and additions within the amounts set in the annual budget. In case of emergency, this limit is not applicable.
3. to represent the church in all legal matters.
4. As deemed necessary, standing committees of the Board of Trustees shall be appointed annually.
5. cemetery committee (sub-committee)

This committee shall consist of 3 – 5 members including a secretary-treasurer. The cemetery committee shall have the power and duty:

- a) to administer the cemetery policy as adopted by the church.
- b) to administer the sale and proceeds from the sale of lots.
- c) to receive all cemetery funds and be responsible for a record of the same.
- d) to keep an updated plotting record of the cemetery.
- e) to conduct all correspondence concerning the cemetery, such as letter-writing, gift acknowledgments, and historical searches.

D. Board of Christian Education

The board of Christian Education shall have the power & duty:

1. to provide tools and disciple individuals of all ages in God's Word.
2. to provide leadership and curriculum training to various groups within the church.
3. to provide coordination and communication within the church's educational ministry.
4. as deemed necessary, standing committees of the Board of Christian Education shall be appointed annually.

E. Chairman

The chairman shall:

1. discharge the administrative duties of the pastor in his absence at the request of the pastor or the church.
2. be the pastor's consultant and counselor.
3. be the moderator of church business meetings; in their absence, the chairman of the deacon board shall be the acting chairman.

F. Church Secretary (Clerk)

The clerk shall:

1. keep a complete and permanent record of all business meetings held and of all business transacted by the church.
2. keep a record of the members of the church, with the date of admission to the church, and their dismissal therefrom or their death.
3. prepare and sign all letters of dismissal and transfer.
4. attend to all correspondence of the church not otherwise provided for.
5. report at the annual business meeting concerning the work of the church as covered by this record.
6. have charge of the publication of the official notices of the church, unless otherwise arranged for, and shall cooperate with the church officers in keeping the membership of the church informed as to its affairs.
7. In the absence of the church secretary, the Deacon board secretary will be the acting church secretary.

#### G. Financial Secretary

The financial secretary shall:

1. be responsible to receive, record and receipt contributions to the church.
2. receive all church funds and deposit them in the bank and be responsible for a record of the same.

#### H. Church Treasurer

The church treasurer shall:

1. make all disbursements of the church funds and report quarterly to the church.
2. provide a written report of all church funds for the annual report.

### IV. PASTOR AND PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP

- A. The pastor shall perform all of the Scriptural duties of his office and have freedom of the pulpit under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The pastor shall also perform such other duties in connection with the work of the church as shall be delegated to and accepted by him. He shall be an ex-officio member of all organizations, boards, and committees, except the pulpit committee.
- B. The pastor must subscribe to all tenets of the church covenant and constitution.
- C. The call of the pastor is to be at least a 90% vote of the voting members present.
- D. The Dissolution of the Pastoral Relationship
  1. When a pastor resigns, the letter of resignation shall be read to the Deacon Board. The Deacon Board shall present the letter of resignation to the church and make recommendation to the church regarding the date of dissolution of the pastoral relationship at a regular or special business meeting. The date of dissolution shall be no more than sixty (60) or less than thirty (30) days after the acceptance of the resignation by the church unless recommended by the Deacon Board. If, in the judgment of the church, the continuance of the pastor's ministry shall be undesirable, the relationship may be discontinued immediately, but the salary shall be continued for thirty (30) days.
  2. Any proposal to dismiss a pastor shall be referred to the Deacon Board for consideration and counsel with the pastor if necessary, in an attempt to correct the grievances. If the grievances are not or cannot be corrected, the church may dissolve the pastoral relationship upon recommendation from the Deacon Board and carried by a quorum majority written ballot vote at a business meeting. The Deacon Board shall be required to present to the church any written request for the dismissal of a pastor when signed by twenty percent (20%) of the qualified voting membership of the church. Such action shall be taken at a special business meeting and a quorum majority written ballot vote shall be necessary to carry the motion for dismissal. In the event that such petition fails to carry the majority vote, all Deacon Board members signing such a petition shall automatically relinquish their office.



V. MINISTRY STAFF

- A. The ministry staff shall work in conjunction with the pastor in performing the pastoral duties of the church and other duties in connection with the work of the church as shall be delegated to and accepted by them.
- B. Ministry staff must subscribe to all tenets of the church covenant and constitution.
- C. The call of ministry staff is to be at least a 90% vote of the voting members present.

VI. MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURE AND REQUIREMENTS

The membership of this Church shall be composed of individuals who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and affirm the tenets of the Church Constitution, and who offer evidence, by their confession and their conduct, that they are living in accord with their affirmations and this Constitution and are actively pursuing and continuing in a vital fellowship with the Lord, Jesus Christ.

A. Application for membership

Any applicant for admission to the membership of this church shall make application to the pastor or board of deacons, who shall present a recommendation at the meeting of the church when the applicant shall present his testimony and application before the church body.

B. Admission for membership

1. Admission by baptism

Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, giving evidence of regeneration, and adopting the views of faith and practice held by this church may, upon baptism by immersion, be received into its membership.

2. Admission by letter

Members of other Baptist churches may be received by virtue of their letter, which certifies their baptism by immersion and membership in good standing, being duly transferred from the church.

3. Admission by profession of faith

Persons who are not members of other churches, but who have been immersed upon the profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and who accept the views of faith and practice as approved by this church, may be received into membership by virtue of their experience.

C. Release of membership

1. Release to other Baptist churches

A letter of transfer for the purpose of uniting with some other Baptist church of like faith and order shall be granted to members in good standing by a majority vote of the voting members present at any business meeting of the church and shall be sent to the church with which the member wishes to unite.

2. Release to non-Baptist churches

Any member in good standing who desires to unite with a church of some other denomination may, by a majority vote of the voting members present at any business meeting of the church, be granted a certificate of Christian standing and termination of membership.

3. Release of deceased members

The names of members who pass on to be with the Lord shall, without action of the church, be removed from the membership of this church and filed accordingly.

D. Joining the membership

1. Members may be received into the church membership or dismissed from the church membership at any regular service or business meeting of the church.

E. Restrictions of membership

1. No person shall be eligible for membership in this church unless, at the time of entering into such membership, he shall renounce his connection with any church of which he may theretofore have been a member. Any person who, being a member of this church, shall join any other church, whether Baptist or any other faith, shall immediately, upon joining such other church, cease to be a member of this church.
2. No person shall be eligible for membership in this church unless he renounces membership in any secret or subversive organization.

F. Discipline of the membership

1. The pastor and deacons shall constitute a committee on delinquents. They shall seek to interview all members who are violating their Christian obligations or conducting themselves in such manner as to bring reproach upon the church, and shall endeavor to restore them to the path of duty. Failing to receive satisfactory evidence of repentance and reformation, the deacon board shall recommend a course of discipline to the church.
2. Any member who does not live up to the standards of church membership and Christian conduct described above shall be subject to dismissal from the church membership after all normal attempts are made to restore them to repentance and renewed fellowship.
3. In all cases of grievance between members, the offenders shall be dealt with in accordance with the rules laid down in Matthew 18:15-17, which reads as follows: "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. Further, no public charge shall be made until this course of action has been pursued; and then when charges are made, they shall be in writing and submitted to the Board of Deacons for proper study and recommendations to the church.

VII. ACQUISITION OR DISPOSITION OF CHURCH PROPERTY

A. Acquisition or Sale of Property

Notice of any business meeting at which decisions are made to buy, sell, or mortgage real estate or construct buildings shall be publicly posted and announced from the pulpit two weeks in advance, stating the object of the meeting. Before action obligating the church can be taken, the acquisition, disposition, or construction must be approved by two-thirds majority of the members present at a business meeting called for that purpose.

B. Division

In case of the organic division of the church membership, the church property shall belong to those who abide by this constitution. Should any controversy arise as to who is abiding by this constitution, the question shall be submitted to the overseers of the Converge Heartland District (or its successor) and their decision shall be final.

C. Dissolution

Should conditions arise when for any reason the church work cannot continue, the church property shall be transferred to the Converge Heartland District (or its successor) with provisions, if needed, for the perpetual care of the cemetery.

D. Consolidation

Should consolidation with another church of the same denomination be thought advisable, the board of trustees (or the negotiating team with trustee representation and input) shall negotiate the terms related to property for approval by the church.

VIII. INDEMNIFICATION STATEMENT

The church shall indemnify any and all persons who may serve or have served at any time in a leadership-level position or as a member of a board or of any committee or organization of the church, against any and all expenses, including amounts paid upon judgments, counsel fees, and amounts paid in settlements (before and after suit is commenced) actually and necessarily incurred by such persons in connection with the defense or settlement of any claim, action, suit or proceeding in which they, or any of them, are made parties, or a party, or which may be asserted against any of them or any of them by reason of being or having been in one or more of the aforesaid positions of responsibility with the church, except in relation to matters as to which any such person shall be adjudged in any action, suit, or proceeding to be liable for his own negligence or misconduct in the performance of his duties. Such indemnification shall be in addition to any other rights to which those indemnified may be entitled under any law, agreement, or otherwise.

IX. AMENDMENTS TO THIS CONSTITUTION

This constitution may be amended by a formal motion at any regular business meeting, provided such motion has been reviewed by the church boards. The proposed motion must be posted for a period of no less than two weeks, and no action shall be taken on such motion until the next regular business meeting. A two-thirds majority of the voting members present at the business meeting shall be required to amend the constitution.

X. ADOPTION OF THIS CONSTITUTION

This constitution was adopted July 10, 2022, and supersedes any previous constitution and all amendments thereto. This constitution of the Dalesburg Baptist Church, Beresford, South Dakota, is effective on July 10, 2022.