

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, BLOOMFIELD ONTARIO

I. Name of this Organization.

Emmanuel Baptist Church Bloomfield Ontario

II. Purpose or Mission Statement of this Church.

Relying on the enabling presence and power of God, our mission is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, to teach, baptize and disciple unto maturity in Christ.

III Covenant.

We believe that the Holy Spirit of God leads us to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour from sin, and having confessed this to be true of us and having confirmed our Faith in believers baptism by immersion, in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another to so live daily in obedience to the written scriptures (the Word of God), and in love for all the members, that the body of believers will be edified. (The Doctrines for Christian Living in Matt 22:37-39; John 13:34; Rom 13:8-10; 1 Cor 13:1).

IV. Statement of Faith.

1. The Bible,

We believe in the Divine inspiration of Holy Scripture (2 Peter 1:20,21; 2 Tim 3:16,17), and in the Bible as the complete inerrant Word of God (Deut 4:2). It is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

2. God:

We believe in one God (Deut 6:4), creator of all, Holy, Sovereign, Eternal, and existent In three co-equal personalities (Matt 3:16,17; Matt 28:19), for He is the self existent One (Exod 3:14), and the source of all life (Genesis 1:20-27).

3. Christ:

We believe that God the Son became man (John 1:14; Phil 2:5-7), being born of a virgin (Matt 1:18), He lived a sinless life (Heb 4:15) and died a substitutionary death (Heb 2:14; Heb 10:10-14) was bodily resurrected (John 21:14) and is now risen (1 Tim 3:16, Luke 24:46,51) and engaged in a mediatory ministry (1 Tim 2:5), We expect His imminent return (John 14:3, 1 Thess 4:17) and believe that all judgment is committed unto Him (John 5:22, 27), for all power and authority is His (Matt 28:18; 1 John 4:4).

4. The Holy Spirit:

We believe in the absolute deity and essential personality of the Holy Spirit who convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment (John 16:8), and who indwells each believer (Rom 8:11; 1 Cor 6:19) to regenerate (Titus 3:5), to seal (Eph 1:13,14), to guide (Rom 8:14) and to teach believers (John 14:26), He is to reveal Jesus Christ in us so that we may enjoy His gifts and use them appropriately, (Gal 5:22-25; 1 Cor 12:1-20; John 14:15-26).

5. Satan:

We believe that Satan exists as an evil personality and rules over fallen angels (Rev 12:7-9). He is to be resisted (1 Peter 5:8,9) by submitting to God (James 4:7)

6. Man:

We believe that man was created in the image of God, and that our first parents, by disobedience to God's express command, sinned and thereby the judgement of death was passed on all men (Rom 5:12) thus the whole world rests under condemnation, wrath and curses (Rom 3:14,19; Gal 3:10; Rom 5:18; John 3:36) and the entire nature of man, mentally, morally, spiritually and physically, is sadly affected (Eph 4:18; Jer 17:9-10; 2 Cor 4:4) so that the natural man has an aversion to God (Rom 8:7) and this leads constantly downward from which course mankind is totally unable to free himself or herself (Rom 7:18,23).

7. Salvation:

We believe that personal salvation is a divine gift (Eph 2:8-9) leading to repentance and a new life (2 Cor 5:17; Rom 12:2; 2 Peter 3:9) by affecting intellect, will and emotions through faith in the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ who gave Himself for our sakes and by His voluntary death (John 10:17,18) on the cross, He redeemed us with His blood (Eph 1:7; Heb,9:14). God accepted that sacrifice and raised our Lord from the grave (Rom 4:24,25) and placed Him on His throne above.

8. Angels:

We believe that there are angels, that they are created beings of God, doing His service, (Heb 1:13-14; Neh 9:6; Psalm 91:11; Ex 23:20-21).

9. Last things:

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ to this earth (Acts 1:10-11; Titus 2:13; 1 Thess 4:16-17). We believe in the resurrection of the just and unjust (Rev 20:12), in the eternal blessedness of the righteous (Rev 21:7), and in the eternal punishment of the wicked (Rev 21:8).

10. Local church:

We believe that a local church is a company of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, called out of this world and voluntarily associated with each other for instruction from God's Word the Bible.

It is set apart from the world under the Lordship of Christ and designed for the mutual edification of its members through the use and development of their divinely awarded gifts.

We believe that its officers are Pastor/Elders and deacons and that their offices, under the direction of Christ, are responsible for the spiritual and general welfare of the members.

BY-LAW 1

Section 1: QUALIFICATIONS; Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, may be received into membership provided there is acceptance of our Statement of faith and principles of EBC.

Article 1: All applicants for membership shall be examined by 2 Elders as to their Christian experience and doctrinal beliefs and shall be received into membership on the recommendation of the Elders, (after having attended for at least 6 months)

Article 2: The membership roll shall consist of active and inactive members.

- A. Active members are those consistent in attendance of church services and participate in the programmes of the church. They shall be eligible to vote.
- B. Inactive members are those who have left the community but desire to keep their membership with this church, and those described in Bylaw 1, Article 4 and Bylaw 1, Section 2. Inactive members are not eligible to vote, hold office or any ministry position.

Article 3: Transfers from other evangelical churches shall be handled as in Bylaw 1, Section 1, provided the clerk of this church will have requested and received from the previous church a letter of commendation. Likewise, for transfers to another church, if recommended by the Elders, a letter of commendation shall be written for the transferring member.

Article 4: Revision of the Roll: Those active members who have not attended Sunday church services and have not shown participation in other regular church activities will be considered for inactive status. This matter will be discussed by the Elders, then a letter will be sent to the member involved and unless a satisfactory reason is received inactive status will be recommended.

Section 2: DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS:

The Elders shall act as a committee to dispense discipline. Such action shall be according to the direction of God's Word and the Elders are to take action according to Biblical principles. Any member who has to be placed under discipline will automatically receive an inactive membership status.

Refer to Appendix and Ethical Conduct Policy of Emmanuel Baptist Church Bloomfield for explanation of behavioral expectations.

BY-LAW 2

CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Section 1: Meetings of Membership:

The government of this Church and the oversight of its affairs shall be by the Elders, with the consensus of the active membership/partners.

A duly called meeting of active membership/partners means, that it is properly announced at least two Sundays before the meeting date.

If a quorum of 51% of active membership/partners is not present the meeting shall be adjourned.

Article 1: There shall be regular meetings for business, duly announced from the pulpit on the Sunday previous.

Article 2: When electing trustees or matters where a vote is necessary, the announcement of the meeting shall be two Sundays in advance.

Article 3: In all matters where a vote is necessary, 75% of those active members/partners present shall be required. Persons submitting proxy votes, will be considered as present for the purpose of the vote. Proxy votes will be accepted from active members/partners only.

Article 4: There shall be an annual meeting of the membership at which reports from all programmes of the church shall be given and presentation of the church budget will be made for approval.

Article 5: The fiscal year runs from January 1st through December 31st.

Article 6: Questions of legal procedure not covered by the Constitution or Bylaws are to be decided by appeal to Robert's Rules of Order.

Article 7: Members/partners and non members are welcome to all business meetings of The church. Participation in discussion at these meetings will be limited to active Members/partners only unless otherwise stated.

BY-LAW 3

Section 1: Elders/deacons composition

These are recognized servants of the church whose qualifications are clearly set forth in scripture (1 Timothy 3:1-12 and Titus 1:5-9).

Article 1: New Elders are positioned by consensus of the members/partners upon the recommendation of the Elders. This recommendation will be made when a name has been presented, qualifications recognized according to the standards of Scripture and has been prayerfully considered by the Elders.

Article 2: The Elders and Deacons are to meet on a regular basis

Article 3: Any Elder or Deacon may be removed for cause by the Elders. On matters of scriptural discipline, the member shall be present to answer the charge.

Article 4: The Elders shall elect a Chairman. The Pastor shall be an Elder. All Elders shall be accountable to each other, and ultimately to the membership/partners.

Article 5: The Elders shall appoint all other committees and positions deemed necessary. These appointments shall be presented for consensus by the members/partners.

Article 6: The Elders are responsible for job descriptions for Pastor, hired staff and appointed positions.

Article 7: Deacons are appointed by the Elders and are positioned by consensus of the Members/partners.

Section 2: DUTIES

Article 1: The responsibility of the Elder shall be determined by the Eldership.

Article 2: The Chairman is to preside at regular and special meetings of Elders/Deacons and all Church business meetings.

Article 3: An Elder is to act in the absence of the Chairman.

BY-LAW 4

Article 1: The Church Clerk shall:

- A. Keep an accurate membership roll.
- B. Keep records/minutes of all Church meetings, motions etc.
- C. Carry on all correspondence relating to membership and such other matters as the church shall direct.

Article 2: The Church Treasurer shall:

- A. Keep an accurate account of all monies received and disbursed.
- B. Be responsible for banking on behalf of the Church.
- C. Pay current accounts i.e. utilities, salaries etc. as set out in the budget.
- D. Prepare interim financial statements for Church business meetings.
- E. Supply the auditor with such records as may be required to audit the Church books/accounts.

Article 3: The Church's finances are entirely dependent on free will offerings, envelopes designating use are to be provided, figures to be kept in strict confidence.

Article 4: Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws:

The Constitution and By-laws may be amended at any duly called business meeting of the Church. The motion of amendment shall be given in writing to Elders at least one month prior to that meeting

PRINCIPLES OF RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

BAPTISM: Applicants for Baptism, as defined by our constitution, shall be interviewed by the Pastor and Elder(s) as to the meaning of Believer's Baptism, and if ratified by the Elders, arrangements shall be made by the Pastor for a Baptismal Service.

Biblically, the best illustration of a Christian's transfer from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of our Lord is through immersion in the water typifying His death, burial and resurrection to a new life.

Baptism is a heart issue, as a person grows in the Faith a desire to be identified with Christ will result in an eagerness to go through the waters of Baptism.

It is the duty of the Elders to encourage all members to be Baptized by immersion, and in so doing demonstrate a closer walk with Jesus our suffering saviour.

COMMUNION: The Lord's Supper shall be observed on a regular basis.

BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION:

For new member applicants the board recommends, that they take part in our Church's Biblical Foundations course (See outline below), to become more grounded in what Emmanuel Baptist Church stands for.

“Go and Make Disciples”

Those of us whom have been “born again”, call ourselves Christians, Rightly so, however the first followers of Jesus were known as belonging to the Way. It was not until some 10 years after the conversion of Paul, that the title “Christian” was given. Christian means “Christmen”. It is our responsibility to live up to our name and represent Jesus Christ well. Clearly, this takes more than a mental assent to our belief in Him. So then, how are we to take hold of this principle and live it out? As those whom belong to the Way, we are on a journey that has a beginning and a destination. The Christian life is a process that cannot be worked out in isolation. It requires mutual accountability within the body of God's people, that is the Church It requires equipping so that we can discover the Grace that God has for each of us, so that we can be effective in His service. We are not left to muddle through, because Jesus has provided for us the means whereby we can travel the Way and accomplish what God has prepared for us.

Listen to what Paul has to say, “*Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you*” (Phil.3:17)

Before we dismiss these words too easily, concluding that Paul was an exceptional man and that it would be proud statement to say the same; let's take some time to examine what he is saying, In modern terms, Paul was a mentor, he took others under his wing. He was speaking from a place of experience and confidence. He knew what his calling was and understood that he was able to fulfill it by the grace of God. He expected no less from others who were more mature in the faith, that's why he said, “take note of those....” He did not see himself as being unique in his mentoring role, but expected this to be the normal standard of Christian relationship.

He was instructing newer Christians to actively seek out those whose example they could follow. What should a mentor look like? Take time to identify someone who is mature in the faith, who demonstrates the Way by good character and a clear understanding with the ability to explain the truth as recorded in God's Word.

Of course, Paul was not saying anything new. Jesus had already laid out this responsibility. After the Resurrection, He gave some instructions to the eleven remaining disciples, which set the pattern for the future of the church. He said, "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me .Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*" (Mat.28:18-20)

Jesus' clear expectation was more than conversion, it was discipleship. It is not an option, it is a requirement. Let us take seriously Jesus' words and honor Him by being and making disciples. Perhaps you are one who has been on the Way for many years but discipleship has not been part of your journey. Don't let that stop you. God has not finished with you yet. Take every opportunity to finish your race well.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS COURSE
By The Elders of Emmanuel Baptist Church

Paul, in his letter to the Corinthian Church, stressed the importance of laying good foundations of truth. Without them, it is impossible to build a strong overcoming Christian life. Unless we have the correct foundations, we will never understand the importance of unity in the faith, neither will we grow into the maturity described in the New Testament letter to the Ephesians. Let us be clear that when we refer to foundations, we are not thinking of simplistic ideas or equating them to baby steps. Rather, we should recognize that foundations are indispensable building blocks of Christian Faith. Foundational truths include complex ideas that are necessary for us to grasp at the beginning of our Christian walk. Of course, the ideal situation would be that all take the opportunity to study these things at the outset of our Christian journey. In reality many believers have never had that opportunity. Many other believers do not see the need and so, often, our churches exist with conflicting ideas which promote a low level of understanding and faith.

Here, at Emmanuel, it is our desire that everyone should take hold of everything that God has For us. That is why we have implemented a short series of studies to introduce all believers to essential aspects of truth. The series provides an overview and is completed in six weeks. We invite you to join us to examine what the Bible says about:

1. **Knowing God.** Here we seek to answer questions on subjects like the trinity, incarnation, the Kingdom of God and Jesus' return.
2. **Regeneration and Baptism.** What does it mean to be born again and is there only one Biblical teaching on baptism?
3. **The work of the Holy Spirit.** We examine how the Holy Spirit is actively involved in the life of the Christian and look at the topic of spiritual gifts.
4. **The essential Christian.** The study deals with the daily life of the believer and tackles subjects like prayer, the breaking of bread and holiness.
5. **The essential Church**
 - a) **Leadership and Equipping.** Here we look at leadership in the Church and their role in helping believers discover whom they are in Christ and their place in the body. We, also, consider whether there is a place for apostles and prophets in the contemporary Church.
 - b) **Members of the body.** This is an opportunity to see how to apply the way our gifts, time and money relate to the local Church. What does God have to say about it and where do our responsibilities lie?

Handling of Church Collections: A counting system by two members and a money safe on church premises to hold funds until bank deposit procedure takes place.

Pastor and Appointed Workers

Section 1: Senior Pastor:

1. The calling or dismissal of a Pastor shall be made upon the recommendation of the Elders with the consensus of the active members/partners present at a duly called business meeting.
2. The duties of a Pastor are primarily to minister the Word of God to the congregation do the work of an evangelist, visit and promote a spiritual atmosphere in the congregation consistent with Biblical standards.

Section 2: Assistant Pastor and Appointed Workers:

Duties: as may be necessary for Christian Education and/or support of the Pastor.

Section 3: The Church recognizes all the gift ministries as appointed by Christ and defined in Ephesians 4 (authority gifts).

Ministry Teams.

1. Team Leaders: Ministry team leaders will be appointed by the Elders as necessary, and shall be accountable to the Elders.
2. All ministry team members, from our church, must abide by the constitution and By-laws and will be responsible to sign the Statement of Faith and Ethical Conduct Policy of the Church annually in September of each year.
3. Junior members: Junior members will be accepted into the church upto the age of 18 (when they then are eligible to apply for full membership). All junior members will have the opportunity to give input into all areas of the Church relevant to their activity.

Other Organizations.

This Church is willing to co-operate with other evangelical and para-church organisations that exist to support and strengthen the ministry of the church and it's members. This does not imply that these organizations are extentions of Emmanuel Baptist Church's programmes or substitutes for them.

My Personal Volunteer Lifestyle Commitment

As a Volunteer of Emmanuel Baptist Church, I agree with the Doctrinal Standard of this Church and will uphold them at all times.

I will seek to strengthen and edify the Church body, I will reject any form of discrimination on race or ethnicity, I will encourage a spirit of unity among all Volunteers and with Church staff, submitting to those in leadership.

I acknowledge that violations of the aforementioned standards include substance abuse, sexual harassment or assault, misappropriation of funds, dishonesty or fraud in business or illegal transactions and guilt in a criminal offence. If at any time I fail to uphold these standards, I will submit myself to church discipline and be prepared to resign my position.

I affirm both singleness and marriage as Biblical lifestyles within the Christian community, I affirm that marriage is an exclusive life partnership of love and faithfulness between a man and a woman. Sexual union is reserved for marriage, celibacy is required of the unmarried and each Christian is called to a life of sexual purity in both thought and action. I affirm that any sexual activity outside of marriage is a violation of Biblical standards.

As a Volunteer I affirm my agreement with, and commitment to Emmanuel Baptist Church's Statement of Faith and Volunteer Lifestyle Commitment as set out herein, I will adhere to the practices and by-laws outlined in the Current Constitution of Emmanuel Baptist Church, including Principles of Practice, as well as the Ethical Conduct Policy for Fellowship Churches, Appendix "A" through "E", and such other directives as the leadership of Emmanuel Baptist Church may, from time to time require in the best interest of the Church. If at any time my beliefs change or my conduct becomes inconsistent with the standards set out herein, I will inform the Pastor or acting leadership of Emmanuel Baptist Church and to resign my position forthwith if requested.

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____