

Constitution of Cedarhome Baptist Church of Stanwood, Washington

ARTICLE I - Name and organization

1. Name: The name of this church shall be: Cedarhome Baptist Church of Stanwood, Washington.
2. Organization: The organization took place on February 28, 1890.
3. Incorporation: This organization was incorporated in the State of Washington on February 17, 1903 as the First Swedish Baptist Church of Cedarhome, which name was commonly discontinued about 1922 in favor of the name, Cedarhome Baptist Church, the latter name being formally accepted by church action on February 18, 1959.

ARTICLE II - 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. *II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20,21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31,32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32*
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. *Genesis 1:1,26; John 1:1,3; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19,20; Ephesians 4:5,6*
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 men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and eternal death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. *Luke 10:21,22; Matthew 23:9; John 3:16; 6:27; Romans 1:7; I Timothy 1:1,2; 2:5,6; I Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6*
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. *Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1; 20:28; Romans 9:5; 8:46; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:21-23; John 20:30, 31; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:4; Acts 1:11; Romans 5:6-8; 6:9,10; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:28; I Timothy 3:16*
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 14:16,17,26; 15:26,27; John 16:9-14; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 5:22-26*

6. **REGENERATION:** We believe that all men 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. *Genesis 1:26; 5:2; Genesis 3; Genesis 2:17; 3:19; Eccl. 2:11; John 3:14; 5:24; John 5:30; 7:13; 8:12; 10:26; Romans 9:22; II Thessalonians 1:9; Rev. 19:3,20; 20:10; 14, 15; 21:18; Psalm 51:7; Jeremiah 17:9; James 1:14; Romans 3:19; 5:19; Proverbs 28:13; I John 1:9; John 3:16; John 1:13; II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:1*
7. **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. *Ephesians 2:19-22; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:19-21; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:23-25*
8. **CHRISTIAN CONDUCT:** We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well being of his fellow man; that his conduct should be blameless before the world; that he should be a faithful steward of his possessions; and that he should seek to realize for himself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. *I Corinthians 10:31; Romans 12:1-3; Hebrews 12:1-2; John 14:15,23-24; I John 2:3-6; II Corinthians 9:6-9; I Corinthians 4:2; Col. 1:9-10*
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 the believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that Christ instituted the Lord's Supper 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; Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 11:23-26*
10. **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; and 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. *I Timothy 2:5; Romans 14:7-9,12*
11. **CHURCH COOPERATION:** We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether a regional or district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. This church is affiliated with the Columbia Baptist Conference and the Baptist General Conference and may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary independent basis. *Acts 15:36,41; 16:5; I Corinthians 16:1; Galatians 1:1-3; Revelations 1:4,10,11.*
12. **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 joy of the righteous and the endless suffering of the wicked. *Matthew 16:27; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Phil. 3:20; I Thessalonians 4:15; II Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13; I Corinthians 4:5; I Corinthians 15; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20:4-6,11-15*

ARTICLE III: Our 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 and joyfully covenant 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 engage 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 as God prospers each of us, that the responsibility for the work of the local church and the world-wide ministry of spreading the Gospel be faithfully and effectively discharged.

We believe that all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are called to a life of separation from worldly and sinful practices and should abstain from such amusements and practices and habits as will cause others to stumble or bring reproach upon the name of Jesus. A positive Christian life should include active participation in individual and family worship, regular church attendance and support, exemplary Christian conduct and witnessing to a lost world.

We further engage 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 offence, 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 engage 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.

ARTICLE IV – Our Commission

The purpose of the church shall be:

1. To worship God according to the teachings of His Word.
2. To practice the precepts and example of our Lord Jesus Christ as set forth in the New Testament record.
3. To obey Christ's great commission through the preaching of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in order to lead people to a personal commitment of themselves to Him as Savior and Lord.
4. To provide for the preaching and teaching of the Word of God, the administration of the New Testament ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper and the evangelization of the World through our missionary endeavors.
5. To teach and instruct believers and to assist them in the development of a consistent Christian character.
6. To minister to the needs of our community.

ARTICLE V - Government

Section 1 – The government of the church is vested in the active membership consisting of persons who confess faith on the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, who give evidence of regeneration by a life consistent with their profession and with the views of faith, doctrine and practice of this Church, who have been baptized by immersion and who have been received into its membership according to the By-Laws of this Church.

Section 2 – The Board of Directors shall be the Board of Elders.

Section 3 – The fiscal year of the church shall be from March 1 through the last day of February, inclusive.

ARTICLE VI - Leadership and Organization

1. Under the authority of Jesus Christ and the Word of God, the Congregation of the Church is the final authority within this local Church. This authority is normally exercised through the election of officers to govern the Church. However, the vote of the membership of this Church at a properly called meeting, as provided in the By-Laws, shall be required to effect the following actions:

- a. Accept members into the Church, give letters of transfer or recommendation to members, or drop members from the Church roll;
- b. Elect officers of the Church;
- c. Discipline members by dismissing them and discipline officers by removing them from office;
- d. Approve annual budgets of the Church and approve any transactions regarding real property;
- e. Accept, reject, or otherwise dispose of any matter submitted to the membership of the Church by the Board of Elders, or raised by motion at a business meeting;
- f. Adopt, amend, or repeal the Constitution or By-Laws of this church;
- g. Approve the call, job description and initial salary of Vocational Pastors and Ministers.

2. The offices of the Church shall be Elder and Deacon. The purpose of the officers of the Church is to lovingly govern, care for, and equip the membership to do the work of the ministry.

3. The leadership of the Church shall be vested in the Board of Elders who is responsible for governing the Church, teaching the Word and tending the flock of God in this Church. The Elders shall be equal in authority but may be specialized in function.

4. Deacons shall assist the Board of Elders by performing services of advice, administration and implementation.

ARTICLE VII - The Church Property

1. In the event of a division of this Church, from which may God in His mercy save us, the property of this Church shall belong to that group of such division as represents the largest portion of the Church membership before recognizing a division therein provided such group is loyal to this constitution; otherwise it shall belong to the group remaining loyal to this constitution though it may not be the largest group in such division. Should any controversy arise as to whether such loyalty exists, the question shall be submitted to the Ruling Board of the Columbia Baptist Conference (ConvergeNW), and their decision shall be final. Should such a division occur, this Constitution and Bylaws may not be changed and/or amended prior to the decision of the Columbia Baptist Conference (ConvergeNW).

2. Should a condition arise at any time in the future when for any reason, the Church work cannot continue, the Church property shall be transferred to the Columbia Baptist Conference (ConvergeNW) or its successor.

3. Should conditions arise where a consolidation with another church of the same denomination be advisable, the Board of Elders shall be authorized by the Church to negotiate the terms of such consolidation in so far as the property of this Church is concerned.

ARTICLE VIII - Revisions, Additions and Amendments

1. Revisions, additions or amendments of this constitution recommended by the Elder Board may be made only in the following manner:
 - a. by a majority vote of the membership, or a two-thirds majority of those members present and voting at such meeting, provided at least fifty (50%) of the active membership of the Church is present at such meeting; and

 - b. after presentation by written motion at a special business meeting; and

 - c. if notice of the proposed change or addition has been given, in writing and from the pulpit on at least two Sundays in the interim period between said meetings.