

CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
UKIAH BIBLE CHURCH

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(ABRIDGED)

CONTENTS

	Page
ARTICLE I      NAME.....	1
ARTICLE II     PURPOSE.....	1
ARTICLE III    FORM.....	1
ARTICLE IV     MEMBERSHIP.....	2
ARTICLE V      DOCTRINAL STATEMENT.....	3
ARTICLE VI     GOVERNMENT.....	5

## **ARTICLE I. THE NAME**

The name of this church shall be: UKIAH BIBLE CHURCH

## **ARTICLE II. THE PURPOSE**

**Section I. Purpose:** The purpose of this church is to radiate the glory of God through: the salvation of souls, the edification of Christians through the teaching of the Scriptures, the proclamation of God's saving grace expressed in the shed blood and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross, the promotion of God-centered worship, and the defense of the faith once delivered.

## **ARTICLE III. THE FORM**

- A. Legal:** This church shall be a body corporate and shall be organized and formed in accordance with and conformance to the laws of the State of California.
- B. Location:** The church home shall be located in or near Ukiah, Mendocino County, State of California.
- C. Independence:** This church shall be an independent, self-governing, non-denominational, Bible-teaching church.
- D. Evangelism:** This church shall be characterized by an aggressive evangelistic ministry. Every appropriate means will be continually explored for the purpose of extending the gospel message to all who do not know Christ as Savior.
- E. Missions:** This church shall actively support mission outreach activities with our prayers, finances, and personal participation, and by identifying, encouraging, and training those led of the Holy Spirit to follow the Lord in full-time Christian service.
- F. Bible:** This church shall be known for its adherence to the teachings of the Bible and shall acknowledge no higher authority in any matter than the original words of the Holy Scriptures.

## **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP**

### **A. Qualifications:**

1. The members of this church shall be those who have personally accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior; who have borne testimony of their identification with Him in immersion baptism, whose purpose is to grow in grace and increase in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and who desire to live a life of separation from unrighteousness by a commitment to the gospel according to the exhortations of Scripture.
2. Persons desiring to be members of this local church should read and be in harmony with the Constitution of the Ukiah Bible Church and the Doctrinal Statement of the Ukiah Bible Church. The application process involves a written request for membership and an interview by church elder(s).
3. The church will keep a current directory of members who have indicated to the pastor their desire to have particular fellowship with the Ukiah Bible Church. The church will extend the right hand of membership in a public service to those who desire to make this association.

### **B. Discipline:**

1. Ukiah Bible Church shall practice church discipline in accordance to the Scriptural guidelines contained in Matthew 18:15-17. Other Scriptures to be considered include: Romans 16:17, 2Thessalonians 3:6, Titus 3:10, and Galatians 6:1-2.
2. Members are subject to being removed from fellowship pursuant to a finding of doctrinal or behavioral conduct not befitting the purpose of God for His church.
3. The Board of Elders (board) shall be responsible for deciding and initiating the necessary disciplinary action when such matters are brought to their attention. No action shall be taken by the board until the member has been confronted according to Matthew 18:15-17 and given opportunity to appear before the board at the time the matter is to be considered.

## ARTICLE V. DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

- A. The Bible:** We believe the Bible is the very word of God. It is given by the Holy Spirit, verbally inspired, absolutely inerrant in the original writings, and God-breathed. All sixty-six books are to be interpreted literally, grammatically and historically and represent the only infallible rule of faith and practice. We believe that as God's recorded word to man, there is only one true interpretation to any given passage; and that while there may be several relevant applications, the true meaning is binding on all generations.
- B. God:** We believe there is but one living and true God who is an infinite, all-knowing, perfect, all-powerful Spirit, existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
1. **God the Father:** As the first Person of the Trinity, God the Father orders and disposes of all things according to His own purposes. He is Creator of all things and is the only absolute, sovereign Ruler of the universe.
  2. **Jesus Christ:** God the Son is the co-equal, co-eternal second Person of the Trinity through whom God the Father created and now sustains all things (John 1:3; Col.1:15-17). In His incarnation He accepted all essential characteristics of humanity without surrendering His divine nature. He was born of a virgin and His incarnated purpose was to reveal God, redeem men, and rule over God's kingdom. He accomplished our redemption through the shedding of His blood and sacrificial death on the cross. His resurrection from the dead was physical and supernatural, and He now sits at the right hand of God the Father where He mediates as an advocate for those who would be saved.
  3. **The Holy Spirit:** A divine Person possessing all the attributes of deity, the Holy Spirit is co-eternal and co-substantial with the Father and the Son. He executes the divine will in creation, the incarnation of the Son, written revelation, and the work of salvation. The Holy Spirit came in this age at Pentecost, and His present activity includes convicting the world of sin, righteousness and judgment, glorifying Jesus, and transforming

believers into the image of Christ. He also comforts, instructs, empowers, seals, teaches, and gives gifts to all believers for the good of the Body of Christ. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of all spiritual gifts to believers and does, at His discretion, utilize them in the church.

- C. **Angels:** We believe angels are spirit beings created by God. Holy angels exist to worship God and minister to the saints. Fallen angels have rebelled against God and are enemies of Him and His plan. Their purpose, led by Satan, is to thwart the purpose of God on earth with regard to mankind.
- D. **Man:** Man was originally created by God, in His image, innocent of sin and with a rational, volitional nature. Man was created to serve and glorify God and enjoy Him forever; but through Adam's sin of disobedience (Genesis 3), man incurred the penalty of physical as well as spiritual death and became subject to God's wrath. Man can do nothing to save himself. Because all men are in Adam, a nature corrupted by Adam's sin has been transmitted to all men in all subsequent ages.
- E. **Salvation:** Salvation is wholly of God by grace alone, through faith alone. Salvation is made available to man on the basis of the merit of the shed blood of Jesus Christ and not, in any way, on the basis of human merit or works. Regeneration is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which the divine nature, energy and life are given. The redeemed, once saved, are kept secure in Christ forever (John 6:37). The redeemed, once called, are to be separated from sin unto a life which pursues holiness (Romans 12:1-2).
- F. **The Church:** Those who place their trust in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united, spiritual body (called the church [1 Corinthians 12:13]), of which Christ is the head (Ephesians 1:22). The church, begun at Pentecost, will be completed at the rapture. Its purpose is to cooperate with the plan of God by loving Him, worshiping Him, obeying Him, instructing believers, and evangelizing the lost.

## **G. Last Things:**

1. The next major, biblical event is the rapture of the church. This is the return of Jesus for His bride (the church), which occurs just prior to the seven-year tribulation (1 Thess. 4:16-17).
2. Immediately following the rapture of the church from the earth, the righteous judgments of God will be poured out upon an unbelieving world. These judgments will be climaxed by the literal, bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory (Rev. 19:11-16).
3. The physical, second coming of Christ to occupy the throne of David (Matt. 25:31) will establish the Messianic kingdom on earth for a thousand years. During this time the resurrected saints will reign with Him over all the nations on earth. Israel will be restored to their promised land (Ezekiel 36), and the millennial reign will be characterized by harmony, justice, peace, and long life.
4. Following the release and final defeat of Satan at the end of the millennial reign, both he and the unsaved resurrected dead will be judged and committed to an eternal conscious punishment in the lake of fire. The saved will enter the eternal state of glory with God, and the earth will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:10). A new earth will replace it, upon which the New Jerusalem will reside. The entire kingdom will then be delivered up to God the Father that He may reign forever and ever.

## **ARTICLE VI. GOVERNMENT**

- A.** The supreme authority for the Ukiah Bible Church is Christ, and the order, discipline, and worship are appointed through His sovereignty. The mediation of Christ's rule in this church is vested in the Board of Elders in adherence to the New Testament pattern of church leadership.

## **B. Board of Elders:**

### 1. Function:

- a. The Board of Elders is the executive arm of the church and its members with regard to relations with employees, members, branch works, and other churches and organizations. The Board of Elders shall have whole and complete operative discretion, both generally and specifically, with regard to all aspects of the church's ministry and business.
- b. Excepting an emergency, all major items of business affecting the operations of the church shall be brought to the attention of the Elder Board for consideration during a monthly board meeting.

### 2. Qualifications:

- a. The Board of Elders shall consist of men who are anointed by God to mediate His rule, recognized by the church leadership and congregation as qualified, and who know the distinctive call of God upon their life to undertake eldership responsibility.
- b. An elder of this church shall be a man who meets all the requirements set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, which include the following:
  1. He is to be blameless and of good reputation within the fellowship and within the community.
  2. He shall be a one-woman man, if married, having control of his home and children.
  3. He must be a man of self-control, sober, temperate and patient, not given to violence.
  4. He must be hospitable, and one who does not desire money gained through questionable means.

5. He must be a seasoned and mature man with a shepherd's heart, having the feeding and guardianship of God's flock as his main concern, being a lover of truth, defender of sound doctrine, and teacher of the Christian lifestyle by example and precept.
  6. He must be a man who is committed to a life of prayer (Acts 6:1-4).
3. Selection of Elders: The process for selection shall be as follows:
- a. Elder candidates shall be identified by the existing Board of Elders as potential elders.
  - b. A preliminary interview will be conducted by an existing elder or the pastor to determine qualifications and personal call to church leadership.
  - c. The candidate shall then be presented before the church body with a request for responses pertaining to his reputation and fitness for leadership.
  - d. After a period of no less than 30 days to allow for responses from the church body, the candidate, finding approval, will be installed to the Elder Board in a public service with prayer and laying on of hands by the existing elders.
4. Term of Office: The term of office for an elder is open and shall terminate only under the following conditions:
- a. Failure to maintain any one of the standards set forth under Elder Qualifications.
  - b. Failure to cooperate in both attitude and execution with the purpose of this church as set forth in Article II, as determined by an Elder Board decision.
  - c. A personal desire to withdraw from active eldership.
  - d. A change in residence that removes him from the area.

## C. Deacons:

1. Function: The Board of Deacons shall consist of men anointed by God, recognized by the church leadership and congregation as qualified, and who have felt the distinctive call of God upon their lives to undertake deaconship responsibility. These responsibilities include administration, shepherding, and caring for the flock. They differ from elders only in the absence of the teaching function.
2. Qualifications: A deacon of this church shall be a man who meets all the requirements set forth in 1 Timothy 3:8-10, 12-13.
3. Selection of Deacons: The selection process shall be as follows:
  - a. Deacon candidates shall be identified by the Board of Elders as men who have met the biblical qualifications for deaconship responsibility.
  - b. A preliminary interview will be conducted by an existing elder to determine qualifications and call to leadership.
  - c. Deacon candidates shall be presented before the church body with a request for responses pertaining to reputation and fitness for leadership.
  - d. After a period of no less than 30 days to allow for responses from the church body, the candidate, finding approval, will be installed to the Deacon Board in a public service by prayer and laying on of hands by the existing elders.
4. Term of Office: The term of office for a deacon is open and shall terminate only under the following conditions:
  - a. Failure to maintain any one of the standards set forth under deacon qualifications.
  - b. Failure to cooperate in both attitude and execution with the purpose of this church as set forth in Article II, as determined by an Elder Board decision.

- c. A personal desire to withdraw from active deaconship.
- d. A change in residence that removes him from the area.

**D. Deaconesses:**

1. Function: The Board of Deaconesses shall consist of women anointed by God, recognized by the church leadership and congregation as qualified, and who have felt the distinctive call of God upon their lives to undertake deaconess responsibility.
2. Qualifications: A deaconess of this church shall be a woman who meets all the requirements set forth in 1 Timothy 3:11.
3. Selection of Deaconesses: The process for selection shall be as follows:
  - a. Deaconess candidates shall be identified by the existing Board of Elders as meeting biblical criteria for that office.
  - b. A preliminary interview will be conducted by existing elders to determine qualifications and personal call to the position of deaconess.
  - c. Deaconess candidates shall be presented before the church body with a request for responses pertaining to reputation and fitness for service.
  - d. After a period of no less than 30 days the candidate, finding approval, will be installed to the Deaconess Board in a public service with prayer and laying on of hands by the Board of Elders.
4. Term of Office: The term of office for a Deaconess is open and shall terminate only under the following conditions:
  - a. Failure to maintain any one of the standards set forth under Deaconess Qualifications.

- b. Failure to cooperate in both attitude and execution with the purpose of this church as set forth in Article II, as determined by an Elder Board decision.
- c. A personal desire to withdraw from active leadership.
- d. A change in residence that removes her from the area.

**E. Compensated Pastors:**

1. Qualifications:

- a. He will have met all the qualifications for an elder as set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
- b. He will have an evident call to pastoral ministry, which is obvious to the Board of Elders and the church congregation.
- c. He shall have unwavering devotion to the word of God, believing it to be inspired, inerrant and complete in its original writings.
- d. He shall have a shepherd's heart with a specific concern for the spiritual welfare of Ukiah Bible Church, second only to his personal devotion to God, his own life and his family.
- e. He shall be an able teacher by example and precept and shall have the care and feeding of the flock of God as his first priority in ministry.
- f. He shall be cooperative with the Elder Board, presenting to them on a regular basis his vision for ministry regarding Ukiah Bible Church.
- g. He shall be a progressive student of the Word of God and have a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures.
- h. He shall be a capable leader in the overseeing of the ministries of the church and shall maintain the general supervision of the church on a day-to-day basis.

- i. He shall be included in all Elder Board meetings and shall be an ex-officio member of all church boards.
2. Term of Office: The senior pastor's term of office will be open. If at any time his personal belief, preaching or teaching fails to be in full accord with Biblical principles and/or the doctrinal standards and statement of this church, his services as pastor shall be terminated. His termination shall be effected by a decision of the Elder Board.
3. Compensation:
  - a. The senior pastor shall be compensated as adequately as feasible depending upon the financial condition of the church. The Board of Elders shall review his performance annually, and his salary shall be increased annually in January by an amount at least equal to the cost-of-living index.
  - b. The Board of Elders may, at its discretion, establish other forms of compensation such as paid vacation time, personal insurances, and retirement.
4. Accountability: The senior pastor shall be totally and ultimately accountable to the Board of Elders with regard to every aspect of his personal life, ministry objectives, and the doctrinal position of the Ukiah Bible Church as stated in Article II