



**WE ARE  
CROSSWAY**

# WE ARE CROSSWAY

## Covenant Members Handbook

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# MISSION STATEMENT

Because of the Gospel,  
Crossway Church exists to  
make disciples who; love Jesus,  
love His people,  
and live to make Him known –  
all to the glory of God.

#### **‘BECAUSE OF THE GOSPEL’**

The gospel or good news concerning Jesus Christ’s life, death, and resurrection is of first importance.<sup>1</sup> In fact, as the New Testament repeatedly emphasizes, the whole message of the Bible finds its fulfillment in Jesus’ ministry and message.<sup>2</sup> For this reason, we strive to make the person and work of Jesus Christ the focus of our life together as a church community. The good news about Jesus gives us our common hope and identity.<sup>3</sup> And, it is only through our faith in the gospel that we seek to follow Jesus in a manner that glorifies God.<sup>4</sup>

## **‘CROSSWAY CHURCH EXISTS TO MAKE DISCIPLES’**

Jesus’ commandment to “go and make disciples of all nations”<sup>5</sup> is the mission of the church until the end of the age. Under His authority and with His empowering presence,<sup>6</sup> Jesus commissioned His disciples to continue the mission He began with them.<sup>7</sup> The book of Acts and the New Testament epistles are the early record and outworking of that mission. Two thousand years later, our mission focuses on the same task – to make disciples.

A disciple is someone who is committed to faithfully following Jesus. Thus, discipleship is a lot more than simply believing the gospel or making a commitment to Christ. Rather, discipleship is the lifelong process of learning to bring all of our lives under Jesus’ loving lordship. The New Testament gives us an authoritative and detailed description of what this should look like. Jesus and the apostles regularly defined the Christian life in terms of obedience,<sup>8</sup> as such, we must guard against nominal or theoretical views of discipleship.

## **‘LOVE JESUS’**

First and foremost, disciples are defined by their love for Jesus.<sup>9</sup> If our love for Jesus is genuine, it will show itself in the way we:

1. Hope in His gospel;<sup>10</sup>
2. Submit to His lordship;<sup>11</sup>
3. Worship Him above all else;<sup>12</sup>
4. Trust Him in every situation;<sup>13</sup>
5. Obey His commandments.<sup>14</sup>

## **‘LOVE HIS PEOPLE’**

Second, Jesus’ disciples are defined by their love for His people.<sup>15</sup> Jesus commands His disciples to “love one another.”<sup>16</sup> If our love is genuine, it will show itself in the way we:

1. Commit to the church;<sup>17</sup>
2. Participate in disciple-making;<sup>18</sup>
3. Practice peacemaking;<sup>19</sup>
4. Sacrificially serve our brothers and sisters in Christ;<sup>20</sup>
5. Use our spiritual gifts to build up the church.<sup>21</sup>

## **‘LIVE TO MAKE HIM KNOWN’**

Third, Jesus’ disciples are defined by the way they live to make Him known.<sup>22</sup> This important commitment shows itself in the way we:

1. Share the gospel with non-Christians;<sup>23</sup>
2. Bless our neighbours;<sup>24</sup>
3. Live as a counter-culture;<sup>25</sup>
4. Persevere through different forms of opposition;<sup>26</sup>
5. Participate in reaching the nations for Christ.<sup>27</sup>

## **‘ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD’**

Jesus’ disciples are motivated to do everything they do for the glory of God.<sup>28</sup> To live in a way that honours God is the ultimate aim of everyone who has come into a living relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ.



## NOTES

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:3;

<sup>2</sup> John 5:39; Romans 1:1 – 4; Luke 24:25 – 27, 44; Hebrews 1:1;  
2 Timothy 3:15; Mark 1:15; 2 Corinthians 1:20;

<sup>3</sup> Galatians 2:20;

<sup>4</sup> Romans 1:5; 15:18; Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:11 – 14

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<sup>5</sup> Matthew 28:19;

<sup>6</sup> Matthew 28:18, 20;

<sup>7</sup> Mark 1:17;

<sup>8</sup> Matthew 28:20; Romans 1:5; 15:18;

<sup>9</sup> John 8:42; Ephesians 6:24; 1 Corinthians 16:22;

<sup>10</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:19; Ephesians 1:12; Colossians 1:23;

<sup>11</sup> Psalm 149:4; James 4:7, 10; 1 Peter 5:6;

<sup>12</sup> Matthew 28:17; Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 5:6 – 14;

<sup>13</sup> Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Colossians 1:23; 2 Timothy 3:14 – 15;

<sup>14</sup> John 14:15, 21, 23; 15:10

<sup>15</sup> John 13:34 – 35; 15:17; Romans 12:10; 13:8; 1 John 3:11, 23;

<sup>16</sup> John 13:34;

<sup>17</sup> Romans 12:4 – 5; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 18 – 19, 27;

Ephesians 2:22;

<sup>18</sup> Matthew 28:18 – 20; Ephesians 4:15 – 16; Romans 15:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:11;

<sup>19</sup> Matthew 5:9; 18:15 – 17; Romans 12:18; Galatians 6:1 – 2; James 3:18; Colossians 3:12 – 15; 16 Galatians 5:13 – 14; John 13:13 – 17; Matthew 25:34 – 40; Titus 3:14;

<sup>20</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:4 – 7; Romans 12:4 – 8;

<sup>21</sup> Matthew 5:12 – 16; John 13:34 – 35; 1 Peter 2:9, 12;

<sup>22</sup> Matthew 28:18 – 20; Mark 1:17; Acts 8:1, 4;

Romans 10:14 – 16;

<sup>23</sup> Galatians 6:10; Proverbs 3:27; 1 Thessalonians 5:15;

<sup>24</sup> Philippians 2:14 – 16; Romans 12:1 – 2; 1 Peter 2:11 – 12;

<sup>25</sup> Matthew 5:10-12; Luke 6:22; 2 Timothy 3:12;

<sup>26</sup> Romans 12:12; Revelation 2:1; James 1:12;

<sup>27</sup> Matthew 28:19; Psalm 96:3; Romans 10:13 – 15;

<sup>28</sup> Psalm 86:9; Matthew 28:18 – 20; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8 24; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 3:20 – 21; Romans 15:6

# COMPONENTS



# 'What does it mean to belong at Crossway Church?'

This is the question that *We Are Crossway* seeks to answer. This handbook is designed to help you understand and participate in the process of becoming an integrated covenant member of Crossway Church.

## **WE ARE CROSSWAY INVOLVES FOUR IMPORTANT COMPONENTS:**

1. Teaching – Four messages that unpack the meaning of covenant membership at Crossway Church.
2. Q&A – An optional question and answer period with the Crossway elders.
3. Elder Interview – Each individual or family has an interview with an elder.
4. Covenant Agreement – A solemn agreement to be signed annually.

## **TEACHING**

The *We Are Crossway* teaching material consists of four topical sermons preached at Crossway – the first four sermons in the *We Are Crossway* teaching series from January 2014. Each of the 30 – 40 minute sermons in this series are available in audio and video format at:

<http://www.crossway.ca/we-are-crossway>.

This allows potential members to go through much of the membership process at their own convenience.

The first three messages are based on a variety of Scriptures in order to give clear biblical support for the covenant membership we are invited to participate in – these messages take the form of an introduction; an outline of the benefits of covenant membership; and an outline of the responsibilities of membership. The final message unpacks our mission statement with Scripture in order to encourage our faithfulness to Christ's commandment to make disciples.

## **Q&A**

An annual Q&A will be held with the elders allowing for any questions regarding Covenant Membership to be answered. This is an optional event for anyone this may serve.

## **ELDER INTERVIEWS**

Elder interviews will be conducted after each prospective member has gone through the *We Are Crossway* teaching and, if they so choose, a membership Q&A meeting. Please come

prepared, having read this *We Are Crossway* handbook. Elder interviews can be part of a social-call, but must be understood to be a serious component of the membership process and covenant. Elder interviews can be conducted with individuals, or with entire families. Interviews should take no longer than one hour. At the conclusion of an interview, if both the individual/family and the elder are satisfied, the covenant agreement will be signed.

## **COVENANT AGREEMENT**

The Crossway Church covenant includes a statement of faith, the privileges of covenant membership, and the responsibilities of covenant membership. Though the covenant does help to define the relationships between members of the church, it is first and foremost a promise made to God as a commitment to seek his glory through the church above all (Eph. 5:25), by His grace and in His strength. The Covenant Agreement is more thoroughly explained in the following chapter.

# COVENANT AGREEMENT



Because of the Gospel,  
Crossway Church exists to  
make disciples who; love Jesus,  
love His people,  
and live to make Him known –  
all to the glory of God.

## **INTRODUCTION**

As Christians, we are members of God's adopted family<sup>1</sup> and household<sup>2</sup> called to function, participate, and minister in a particular location as the body of Christ. A healthy body requires that each member do its part well. A healthy church requires the same: members who are sacrificially committed and well-equipped to do the works of service that God has prepared in advance for us to do.<sup>3</sup>

The Bible has a high view of membership in the local church. Thus, Crossway is the context where our members covenant together to believe the gospel and participate in the mission to make disciples who love Jesus, love his people, and live to make him known, all for the glory of God. In his loving



lordship, Jesus has placed us in these cities of Langley, Surrey, White Rock, and Abbotsford, among these people, at this time, for a reason.<sup>4</sup>

*"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them."*<sup>5</sup>

Being a member of Crossway Church is best expressed as 'being part of a family.'<sup>6</sup> All members are disciples of Jesus, unified by their identity in Him. This unity is expressed in the way we collaborate in loving Jesus, loving His people, and living to make Him known.

The Crossway covenant agreement is a covenant of *grace*, not law. It is an *aspirational* document, not a binding document. Inevitably there will be areas of the covenant that we each fail to keep – in such events we trust that grace will be extended as we remember that Jesus has borne both sides of the new covenant in His blood.<sup>7</sup>

The very nature of the Biblical view of covenant recognizes the priority of grace in our commitment. A Biblical covenant is a promise by which we obligate ourselves to one another in such a way that the obligation of one party is not dependent on the faithfulness of the other.<sup>8</sup>

Recognizing the priority of grace, however, does not negate the seriousness of our commitment to one another. Those who enter into covenant membership together are called to a higher degree of responsibility and service. At the same time, the elders and deacons covenant to serve the other members according to the pattern revealed in the Bible.

*"To be a member of a church is to make a public promise to live according to the Word and to support the work of the congregation. In the Bible this is called a covenant. Every believer is part of the church when we think about it as an organism (the Spiritual Body of Christ), but only by a public promise can someone be part of the church as an organization. A public promise, or covenant, is the basis for all society according to the Bible: marriage, employment, citizenship, church membership, etc., are all relationships of accountability. Membership in a church is not like membership in a social club or other organizations. Most organization members are consumers; the organization exists to serve them. The Church of Christ is a completely different community – membership means ministry and service, going from being a consumer to becoming a provider of God's love and care to others." – Tim Keller*

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

The statement of faith used by Crossway Church is the Gospel Coalition's statement of faith. Subservient to Scripture, it is the doctrinal basis of our covenant together.

### 1. THE TRIUNE GOD

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who know, love, and glorify one another. This one true and living God is infinitely perfect both in his love and in his holiness. He is the Creator of all things, visible and invisible, and is therefore worthy to receive all glory and adoration. Immortal and eternal, he perfectly and exhaustively knows the end from the beginning, sustains and sovereignly rules over all things, and providentially brings about his eternal good purposes to redeem a people for himself and restore his fallen creation, to the praise of his glorious grace.

### 2. REVELATION

God has graciously disclosed his existence and power in the created order, and has supremely revealed himself to fallen human beings in the person of his Son, the incarnate Word. Moreover, this God is a speaking God who by his Spirit has graciously disclosed himself in human words: we believe that God has inspired the words preserved in the Scriptures, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, which are both record and means of his saving work in the world. These writings alone constitute the verbally inspired Word of God, which is utterly authoritative and without error in the original writings, complete in its revelation of his will for salvation,

sufficient for all that God requires us to believe and do, and final in its authority over every domain of knowledge to which it speaks. We confess that both our finitude and our sinfulness preclude the possibility of knowing God's truth exhaustively, but we affirm that, enlightened by the Spirit of God, we can know God's revealed truth truly. The Bible is to be believed, as God's instruction, in all that it teaches; obeyed, as God's command, in all that it requires; and trusted, as God's pledge, in all that it promises. As God's people hear, believe, and do the Word, they are equipped as disciples of Christ and witnesses to the gospel.

### 3. CREATION OF HUMANITY

We believe that God created human beings, male and female, in his own image. Adam and Eve belonged to the created order that God himself declared to be very good, serving as God's agents to care for, manage, and govern creation, living in holy and devoted fellowship with their Maker. Men and women, equally made in the image of God, enjoy equal access to God by faith in Christ Jesus and are both called to move beyond passive self-indulgence to significant private and public engagement in family, church, and civic life. Adam and Eve were made to complement each other in a one-flesh union that establishes the only normative pattern of sexual relations for men and women, such that marriage ultimately serves as a type of the union between Christ and his church. In God's wise purposes, men and women are not simply interchangeable, but rather they complement each other in mutually enriching ways. God ordains that they assume distinctive roles which reflect the loving relationship between Christ and the church, the husband exercising headship in a way that displays the caring, sacrificial love of Christ, and

the wife submitting to her husband in a way that models the love of the church for her Lord. In the ministry of the church, both men and women are encouraged to serve Christ and to be developed to their full potential in the manifold ministries of the people of God. The distinctive leadership role within the church given to qualified men is grounded in creation, fall, and redemption and must not be sidelined by appeals to cultural developments.

#### 4. THE FALL

We believe that Adam, made in the image of God, distorted that image and forfeited his original blessedness – for himself and all his progeny – by falling into sin through Satan’s temptation. As a result, all human beings are alienated from God, corrupted in every aspect of their being (e.g., physically, mentally, volitionally, emotionally, spiritually) and condemned finally and irrevocably to death – apart from God’s own gracious intervention. The supreme need of all human beings is to be reconciled to the God under whose just and holy wrath we stand; the only hope of all human beings is the undeserved love of this same God, who alone can rescue us and restore us to himself.

#### 5. THE PLAN OF GOD

We believe that from all eternity God determined in grace to save a great multitude of guilty sinners from every tribe and language and people and nation, and to this end foreknew them and chose them. We believe that God justifies and sanctifies those who by grace have faith in Jesus, and that he will one day glorify them – all to the praise of his glorious grace. In love God commands and implores all people to repent and

believe, having set his saving love on those he has chosen and having ordained Christ to be their Redeemer.

## 6. THE GOSPEL

We believe that the gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ – God’s very wisdom. Utter folly to the world, even though it is the power of God to those who are being saved, this good news is christological, centering on the cross and resurrection: the gospel is not proclaimed if Christ is not proclaimed, and the authentic Christ has not been proclaimed if his death and resurrection are not central (the message is: “Christ died for our sins... [and] was raised”). This good news is biblical (his death and resurrection are according to the Scriptures), theological and salvific (Christ died for our sins, to reconcile us to God), historical (if the saving events did not happen, our faith is worthless, we are still in our sins, and we are to be pitied more than all others), apostolic (the message was entrusted to and transmitted by the apostles, who were witnesses of these saving events), and intensely personal (where it is received, believed, and held firmly, individual persons are saved).

## 7. THE REDEMPTION OF CHRIST

We believe that, moved by love and in obedience to his Father, the eternal Son became human: the Word became flesh, fully God and fully human being, one Person in two natures. The man Jesus, the promised Messiah of Israel, was conceived through the miraculous agency of the Holy Spirit, and was born of the virgin Mary. He perfectly obeyed his heavenly Father, lived a sinless life, performed miraculous signs, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead on the third day, and ascended into heaven. As the mediatorial

King, he is seated at the right hand of God the Father, exercising in heaven and on earth all of God's sovereignty, and is our High Priest and righteous Advocate. We believe that by his incarnation, life, death, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus Christ acted as our representative and substitute. He did this so that in him we might become the righteousness of God: on the cross he canceled sin, propitiated God, and, by bearing the full penalty of our sins, reconciled to God all those who believe. By his resurrection Christ Jesus was vindicated by his Father, broke the power of death and defeated Satan who once had power over it, and brought everlasting life to all his people; by his ascension he has been forever exalted as Lord and has prepared a place for us to be with him. We believe that salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved. Because God chose the lowly things of this world, the despised things, the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, no human being can ever boast before him – Christ Jesus has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.

## 8. THE JUSTIFICATION OF SINNERS

We believe that Christ, by his obedience and death, fully discharged the debt of all those who are justified. By his sacrifice, he bore in our stead the punishment due us for our sins, making a proper, real, and full satisfaction to God's justice on our behalf. By his perfect obedience he satisfied the just demands of God on our behalf, since by faith alone that perfect obedience is credited to all who trust in Christ alone for their acceptance with God. Inasmuch as Christ was given by the Father for us, and his obedience and punishment were accepted in place of our own, freely and not for anything in us,

this justification is solely of free grace, in order that both the exact justice and the rich grace of God might be glorified in the justification of sinners. We believe that a zeal for personal and public obedience flows from this free justification.

## 9. THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that this salvation, attested in all Scripture and secured by Jesus Christ, is applied to his people by the Holy Spirit. Sent by the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ, and, as the other Paraclete, is present with and in believers. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and by his powerful and mysterious work regenerates spiritually dead sinners, awakening them to repentance and faith, and in him they are baptized into union with the Lord Jesus, such that they are justified before God by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. By the Spirit's agency, believers are renewed, sanctified, and adopted into God's family; they participate in the divine nature and receive his sovereignly distributed gifts. The Holy Spirit is himself the down payment of the promised inheritance, and in this age indwells, guides, instructs, equips, revives, and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

## 10. THE KINGDOM OF GOD

We believe that those who have been saved by the grace of God through union with Christ by faith and through regeneration by the Holy Spirit enter the kingdom of God and delight in the blessings of the new covenant: the forgiveness of sins, the inward transformation that awakens a desire to glorify, trust, and obey God, and the prospect of the glory yet to be revealed. Good works constitute indispensable evidence



of saving grace. Living as salt in a world that is decaying and light in a world that is dark, believers should neither withdraw into seclusion from the world, nor become indistinguishable from it: rather, we are to do good to the city, for all the glory and honor of the nations is to be offered up to the living God. Recognizing whose created order this is, and because we are citizens of God's kingdom, we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, doing good to all, especially to those who belong to the household of God. The kingdom of God, already present but not fully realized, is the exercise of God's sovereignty in the world toward the eventual redemption of all creation. The kingdom of God is an invasive power that plunders Satan's dark kingdom and regenerates and renovates through repentance and faith the lives of individuals rescued from that kingdom. It therefore inevitably establishes a new community of human life together under God.

## 11. GOD'S NEW PEOPLE

We believe that God's new covenant people have already come to the heavenly Jerusalem; they are already seated with Christ in the heavenlies. This universal church is manifest in local churches of which Christ is the only Head; thus each "local church" is, in fact, the church, the household of God, the assembly of the living God, and the pillar and foundation of the truth. The church is the body of Christ, the apple of his eye, graven on his hands, and he has pledged himself to her forever. The church is distinguished by her gospel message, her sacred ordinances, her discipline, her great mission, and, above all, by her love for God, and by her members' love for one another and for the world. Crucially, this gospel we cherish has both personal and corporate dimensions, neither of which may properly be overlooked. Christ Jesus is our peace: he has

not only brought about peace with God, but also peace between alienated peoples. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both Jew and Gentile to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. The church serves as a sign of God's future new world when its members live for the service of one another and their neighbors, rather than for self-focus. The church is the corporate dwelling place of God's Spirit, and the continuing witness to God in the world.

## 12. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordained by the Lord Jesus himself. The former is connected with entrance into the new covenant community, the latter with ongoing covenant renewal. Together they are simultaneously God's pledge to us, divinely ordained means of grace, our public vows of submission to the once crucified and now resurrected Christ, and anticipations of his return and of the consummation of all things.

## 13. THE RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS

We believe in the personal, glorious, and bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ with his holy angels, when he will exercise his role as final Judge, and his kingdom will be consummated. We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the just and the unjust – the unjust to judgment and eternal conscious punishment in hell, as our Lord himself taught, and the just to eternal blessedness in the presence of him who sits on the throne and of the Lamb, in the new heaven and the new earth, the home of righteousness. On that day the church will be presented faultless before God by the obedience, suffering and triumph

of Christ, all sin purged and its wretched effects forever banished. God will be all in all and his people will be enthralled by the immediacy of his ineffable holiness, and everything will be to the praise of his glorious grace.

## **THE PRIVILEGES OF COVENANT MEMBERSHIP: THE COMMITMENT OF THE ELDERS TO THE COVENANT MEMBERS**

- With the Lord's assistance, we covenant and commit to meeting and maintaining the qualification criteria clearly set out in the Scriptures,<sup>9</sup> by the grace of God.
- With the Lord's assistance, we covenant and commit to being steadfast and dedicated shepherds of Crossway's members as we seek to fulfill our mission together,<sup>10</sup> by the grace of God.
- With the Lord's assistance, we covenant and commit to seek God's will for Crossway to the best of our ability as we prayerfully study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit's lead,<sup>11</sup> by the grace of God.
- With the Lord's assistance, we covenant and commit to promote the maturity of the church by equipping the members for service,<sup>12</sup> by the grace of God.
- With the Lord's assistance, we covenant and commit to pray regularly for the members of the church, especially in times of sickness,<sup>13</sup> by the grace of God.

- With the Lord's assistance, we covenant and commit to provide faithful teaching and counsel from the Bible<sup>14</sup> and to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper,<sup>15</sup> by the grace of God.
- With the Lord's assistance, we covenant to be on guard against false teachers,<sup>16</sup> by the grace of God.
- With the Lord's assistance, we covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary<sup>17</sup> with a view to protecting the church and bringing about repentance and restoration, by the grace of God.
- With the Lord's assistance, we covenant to communicate clearly, frequently and honestly to the congregation. This includes family meetings, Sunday announcements, City posts, sync meetings, and other contexts,<sup>18</sup> by the grace of God.
- With the Lord's assistance, we covenant to set an example of what it means to follow Jesus as we join with you in fulfilling the duties of covenant membership,<sup>19</sup> by the grace of God.

## **THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF COVENANT MEMBERSHIP: THE COMMITMENT OF THE COVENANT MEMBERS TO ONE ANOTHER**

- I have read and understood the Crossway statement of faith and with the Lord's assistance will seek to promote

and protect what it teaches in the church. I will also do everything in my ability to encourage and maintain unity and peace throughout the church,<sup>20</sup> by the grace of God.

- With the Lord's assistance, I covenant to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final authority and arbiter on all issues that it specifically addresses.<sup>21</sup> I will also seek to be open and receptive to counsel informed by the Bible on matters it does not specifically address.
- With the Lord's assistance, I will maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, and fellowship. My relationship with the Lord will be evident through my participation in Sunday gatherings, service, and a life that seeks to glorify Jesus.<sup>22</sup>
- With the Lord's assistance, I will pursue the sacrament of baptism, (1) if I have not yet been baptized, and (2) if it does not impair my Biblically-informed conscience regarding any previous infant baptism I received.<sup>23</sup> I will support the practice of believers' baptism.
- With the Lord's assistance, I will steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, and treasure.<sup>24</sup> This includes regular, sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary, covenanted financial giving; service; and participation in community and discipling relationships, ideally Crossway community and discipleship groups.<sup>25</sup>
- With the Lord's assistance, I will regularly engage in prayer for my fellow covenant members<sup>20</sup> and for the elders of Crossway.<sup>27</sup>

- With the Lord's assistance, I will live as a witness to the Gospel<sup>28</sup> in the spheres of influence God has granted me.<sup>29</sup>
- With the Lord's assistance, I covenant to submit to discipline by God through his Holy Spirit, to follow biblical procedures for church discipline in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, to submit to righteous discipline when approached biblically by brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to discipline by church leadership if the need should ever arise. I will not leave Crossway whilst under church discipline.<sup>30</sup>
- With the Lord's assistance, I agree, by God's grace, to walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin so that I could live a new life;<sup>31</sup> I will practice complete chastity before marriage and complete fidelity in heterosexual marriage by abstaining from practices such as cohabitation, homosexuality, pornography, and fornication;<sup>32</sup> I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, and other sinful behavior as the Bible, and my conscience dictate.<sup>33</sup> Should I sin in such a manner, I agree to confess my sins to Christian brothers or sisters and seek help to put my sin to death.<sup>34</sup>

## NOTES

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<sup>1</sup> Galatians 4:4; Ephesians 1:5;

<sup>2</sup> Ephesians 2:19;

<sup>3</sup> Eph. 2:10; 4:12

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<sup>4</sup> Acts 17:26 – 27;

<sup>5</sup> Romans 12:3 – 8;

<sup>6</sup> Galatians 4:4; Ephesians 1:5;

<sup>7</sup> Matthew 26:28; Jeremiah 31:34;

<sup>8</sup> Ezekiel 20:44; 36:22; Psalm 76:11; Hosea 2:19 – 20; 3:1;

2 Timothy 2:13

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<sup>9</sup> 1 Timothy 3:1 – 13; 5:17 – 22; Titus 1:5 – 9; 1 Peter 5:1 – 4;

<sup>10</sup> Acts 11:23; John 10:13; 2 Tim. 4:5;

<sup>11</sup> Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1 – 5;

<sup>12</sup> Ephesians 4:11 – 13;

<sup>13</sup> James 5:14

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<sup>14</sup> Acts 20:27 – 28; Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:17 – 18

<sup>15</sup> Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23 – 29;

<sup>16</sup> Titus 1:9; Acts 20:28 – 31;

<sup>17</sup> Matthew 18:15 – 20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1;

<sup>18</sup> Acts 11:22; Ephesians 4:25; 1 Timothy 4:12;

<sup>19</sup> 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philemon 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12;  
Hebrews 13:7 – 8

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<sup>20</sup> Ephesians 4:1 – 3; Hebrews 13:7, 17;  
<sup>21</sup> Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:16 – 17;  
<sup>22</sup> Psalm 105:1 – 2; Psalm 119:97; Acts 2:42 – 47;  
Hebrews 10:23 – 25; 2 Peter 1:3;  
<sup>23</sup> John 3:5; Acts 2:28; 1 Corinthians 12:13;  
<sup>24</sup> Proverbs 3:9 – 10; Romans 12:1 – 2; Galatians 5:22 – 26;  
Ephesians 4:1 – 16; 5:15 – 18;  
<sup>25</sup> Romans 12:1 – 8; 2 Corinthians 8 – 9; 12:7 – 31;  
1 Peter 4:10 – 11;  
<sup>26</sup> Ephesians 6:18;  
<sup>27</sup> 1 Thessalonians 5:25

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<sup>28</sup> Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19;  
<sup>29</sup> Acts 17:26 – 27;  
<sup>30</sup> Psalm 141:5; Matthew 18:15 – 17; 1 Corinthians 5:1 – 5; 2  
Corinthians 2:5 – 8; Galatians 6:1 – 5, 8; 1 Timothy 5:20;  
2 Timothy 2:25; Titus 1:9; 3:10 – 11; Hebrews 12:5 – 11;  
Revelation 2:5 – 7, 14 – 25;  
<sup>31</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:17;  
<sup>32</sup> Job 31:1; Proverbs 5; Romans 13:12 – 14;  
1 Corinthians 6:9 – 7:16; Hebrews 13:4;  
<sup>33</sup> 1 Corinthians 8:7; Galatians 5:19 – 21;  
<sup>34</sup> Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5; 1 John 1:6 – 10





## MY COVENANT COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION OF CROSSWAY CHURCH

*"Because of the Gospel, Crossway Church exists to make disciples who; love Jesus, love His people, and live to make Him known – all to the glory of God."*

I have read the mission statement of Crossway Church and, by the grace of God, commit to participate in this mission alongside my Brothers and Sisters.

I understand the covenant and that this covenant obligates me to the members of Crossway Church and is an acknowledgment of my submission to the elders of the church. I accept the responsibility to notify Crossway leadership if at any time I can no longer commit to this covenant, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Crossway Church.

Name of Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Interviewing Elder: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

Now that you're officially a covenant member, see how you can get involved in the following chapter.

# MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

A church is only as strong as it's average member's involvement. Covenant membership recognizes that we each need one another for our life as a family to work well. Just like a family each one of us is served and serves.

The information in this section of the Covenant Member Handbook should help you understand a little of why we do what we do; and how you can be involved.

## **SUNDAY GATHERINGS**

At Crossway gospel priorities determine worship choices. That's why each week much time is spent working on the Sunday liturgy. Telling the gospel from beginning to end during our Sunday gathering fuels the hearts of God's people for our mission together.

People's choices to join a church are often preference based: 'Do I like the music, the children's ministry, the preacher?'; 'Is he funny? Does he have the ability to keep me awake, etc.?' If we build a church on preferences it will never fulfill God's mission. His mission is to minister the gospel to one another when we gather and then represent it well when we scatter. Thus we require the entire gathering to tell the Gospel story – this has led to the very intentional way Crossway's liturgy, or 'order of service', is crafted.

Every Sunday begins with a **call to worship** at 10:00 am sharp. Please be there. The gospel story begins with a call coming from our Great God. It's God who invites us to come before him. He is the One initiating. He's the One calling us to come and worship.

In response to his call, in response to who he is and what he has done we lift our voices in songs of **adoration and exaltation** because he has initiated and called us to himself.

And as we behold his greatness and majesty, holiness, we see ourselves for who we really are, sinners deserving of judgment and death, and so we take a moment to pause to **confess our sins** before our great and awesome God.

As we confess our sins we remind one another that because of Jesus Christ and his work on our behalf we have full **assurance of pardon**, full assurance that our past sins, present and future sins are all paid for.

This reminder overwhelms our hearts with **thanksgiving and gratitude**. Nothing can change our status before God. We are his forever!

We respond in singing songs of thanksgiving and gratitude. We also respond with our **giving** of tithes and offerings. We're saying as part of our worship, "Jesus, you are Lord of my life, Lord of everything, my time, my talents, and my treasure."

We then spend some time offering **petitions and intercession** before the Lord. Prayer is the key to all we do. Each week we have various people lift up various requests to the only one who is able to help us.

We then take a 5 minute break to dismiss our children to Children's ministry and then return to hear **God's Word preached**.

Here at Crossway we value greatly the preaching of God's Word. God's Word is our rule for faith and practice. Week in and week out we walk through a book of the bible seeking to exegete the text and give practical application.

After the preaching of God's Word we transition to **the Lord's Supper**. Here at the Table, where Jesus is the host, we remember what he has once and for all accomplished on our behalf – and we meet with Him through this special means of grace.

We then take some time to respond to what we've heard in song, and have prayer teams available to pray for those in need.

Finally, we are sent out with a **benediction**. A benediction is pronounced by an elder as an expression of hope and encouragement to God's people and a reminder that God who is rich in mercy goes with us as we go and will keep us till the end in his love. The benediction does not function to end

our worship, but merely transitions us from worshipping in our 'gathered' state to worshipping in our 'scattered' state.

All of these components together – the call to worship; songs of exaltation and adoration; confession of sin; assurance of pardon; thanksgiving and giving; prayers and petitions; the preached Word of God; the Lord's Supper; songs of gratitude; and the benediction – all work together to remind us of the good news of the Gospel from the beginning of our gatherings until the end. Our worship pleases God when we represent His Son through it. This is our hope for each and every Sunday gathering.

## **WHY COMMUNITY GROUPS?**

Community Groups usually meet twice a month during the week in order to share a meal together. Groups gather in particular regions in order to provide the proximity that fosters frequent fellowship. They are intended to be a place where we build deeper friendships with Brothers and Sisters in Christ as well as demonstrate hospitality to our non-Christian friends and neighbours. Although the atmosphere is casual and conversational, Community Groups are vital for providing the necessary time and space for listening and sharing that are necessary for all healthy relationships. Community groups function as a 'front door' to Crossway, where newcomers can feel welcome and begin to develop relationships with members of Crossway.

## WHY DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS?

Discipleship Groups are designed to help a small group (3 – 4) of people of the same gender grow in their faithfulness to following Jesus Christ. By focusing on the application of Biblical truth in the context of accountable relationships, these groups encourage each of us to be active and involved in the mission to make disciples. As we take on the role of discipling one another, we get to participate in God's supernatural work of conforming us to the image of Christ.

There are currently two available materials for discipleship groups, available at the Info Centre:

### 1. *MULTIPLY* – Francis Chan

This discipleship curriculum contains a book with various discipleship oriented content and activities. It is accompanied by video and by other resources online to help make this an effective discipling tool for us.

### 2. *ONE TO ONE BIBLE READING* – David Helm

Perhaps your group would like to grow in their ability to read, study, and apply Scripture together in community, an important element of discipleship together? David Helm's book will greatly assist in this area.



## MINISTRIES



CROSSWAYKIDS



CROSSCULTURE



WOMEN'S



INFO CENTRE



COFFEE BAR



MUSIC



SOUND



RECORDING



PROJECTION



GRAPHICS



VIDEO



SET DESIGN



SETUP



USHERS



LORD'S SUPPER



COUNTING



SECURITY



PARKING



HOSPITALITY



WEB



LOCAL MISSIONS



GLOBAL MISSIONS



COMMUNITY



DISCIPLESHIP

## MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Crossway Church is affiliated with the C2C Network and shares C2C's values, described below:

### GOSPEL CENTERED

*Gospel Centered means that the person and work of Jesus Christ MUST be at the center in each of our plants. Rather than focusing on some particular "cause" we want to focus on a "person." That person, and His NAME is where salvation is found, so we unapologetically keep the gospel message at the center of our mission, our preaching, our lives, and our strategies.*

### SPIRIT LED

*Being Spirit-Led simply means that we rely totally upon the Spirit of God to call planters into the harvest, to lead us to the locations where He has already chosen to establish His church, and to provide all the resources we need to carry out His work. This IS after all HIS church, so we strive to depend totally upon the leadership of the Holy Spirit, through His Word, His people, and the clarion call of His voice! Prayer saturation is perhaps the key "spiritual strategy" that we see as our part – the rest we rely totally upon Him!*

### MISSION FOCUSED

*"Mission-focused" reminds us of the outward "face" the church MUST have if we are going to be faithful to the commission of Jesus Christ. We are a SENT people and are called to live "on mission" for Him.*

## **THE CITY**

The City is our private online social network – a place to find out about our community life together. The City allows you to connect with groups and ministries you are involved in. It's a safe place to share prayer requests and praise reports; and to coordinate practical helps such as meals and service. Once you have a City account, you decide what kind of content you would like to receive and how often. You can sign up for the City at the Info Centre.

## **COVENANT MEMBER VOTING RIGHTS**

Covenant members have voting rights in a simple majority vote on the following items: denominational affiliation, new spending items over \$25,000 in a fiscal year, and entering into any debt. Such votes will occur during our regularly scheduled family meetings or at extraordinary family meetings, announced at least two weeks in advance.

# BYLAWS

## **PART I – INTERPRETATION**

1.1 In these bylaws and the constitution of the Society, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) “address of the Society” means the address of the Society as filed from time to time with the Registrar in the Notice of Address;
- (b) “Advisory Council” means the council appointed by the Board in accordance with these bylaws;
- (c) “Board” means the Elders acting as authorized by the constitution and these bylaws in managing or supervising the management of the affairs of the Society and exercising the powers of the Society;
- (d) “Board resolution” means:
  - (i) a resolution passed at a meeting of the Board by a simple majority of the votes cast by those Elders entitled to vote at such a meeting; or
  - (ii) a resolution that has been submitted to all of the Elders and consented to in writing by 75% of the Elders who would have been entitled to vote on it in person at a meeting of the Board;
- (e) “bylaws” means the bylaws of the Society as filed in the office of the Registrar;
- (f) “Chairman” means a person elected to the office of Chairman in accordance with these bylaws but such office

holder may, with the approval of a Board resolution, use the title Chair, Chairperson or Chairwoman in substitution for the title "Chairman";

(g) "constitution" means the constitution of the Society as filed in the office of the Registrar;

(h) "directors" means those persons who have become directors (Elders) in accordance with these bylaws and have not ceased to be directors, and a "director" means any one of them.

(i) "Elders" means those persons who have become directors (Elders) in accordance with these bylaws and have not ceased to be directors, and an "Elder" means any one of them;

(j) "members" means those persons who have become members in accordance with these bylaws and have not ceased to be members, and a "member" means any one of them;

(k) "ordinary resolution" means:

(i) a resolution passed at a general meeting of the Society by a simple majority of the votes cast by those members entitled to vote at such meeting; or

(ii) a resolution that has been submitted to all of the members and consented to in writing by 75% of the members who would have been entitled to vote on it in person at a general meeting of the Society;

(l) "Patron" means a person appointed by the Board to be a Patron of the Society;

(m) "registered address" of a member or Elder means the address of that person as recorded in the register of members or the register of Elders;

(n) "Registrar" means the Registrar of Companies of the Province of British Columbia;

(o) "Secretary" means a person elected to the office of Secretary in accordance with these bylaws;

(p) "Society" means **Crossway Community Church**, the British Columbia Society;

(q) "Society Act" means the *Society Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 433 as amended from time to time;

(r) "special resolution" means:

(i) a resolution passed at a general meeting of the Society by a majority of not less than 75% of the votes cast by those members entitled to vote at such meeting; or

(ii) a resolution consented to in writing by every member who would have been entitled to vote in person at a general meeting of the Society.

(s) "Treasurer" means a person elected to the office of Treasurer in accordance with these bylaws.



1.2 Except where they conflict with the definitions contained in these bylaws, the definitions in the *Society Act* on the date these bylaws become effective apply to these bylaws and the constitution.

## **PART II – MEMBERSHIP**

2.1 The persons who are the directors (Elders) of the Society as at the date of adoption of these bylaws shall be the members of the Society. Thereafter, upon being elected or appointed as an Elder of the Society, that person thereupon becomes a member of the Society, and upon ceasing to be an Elder of the Society, that person shall thereupon cease to be a member.

2.2 Membership in the Society shall be limited to persons committed to furthering the purposes of the Society set out in its Constitution and who wholeheartedly accept, adopt and subscribe in writing to all of the Tenets of Faith set out in the constitution and the Tenets of Faith set out in the Elders' Affirmation of Faith. Persons desiring to become members shall give credible profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. They shall indicate a desire to live in harmony with the body of believers, shall be regular financial supporters of the Society, recognizing that the Society approves the principle of tithing; and shall have attended services of the Society regularly for a period of at least three months.

2.3 There shall be no annual membership dues.

2.4 A member may withdraw from the Society by delivering his or her resignation in writing to the Secretary of the Society or delivering it to the address of the Society.

2.5 A person shall immediately cease to be a member of the Society:

(a) upon the date which is the later of the date of delivering his or her resignation in writing to the Secretary of the Society or to the address of the Society and the effective date of the resignation stated therein; or

(b) upon his or her death; or

(c) upon ceasing to be an Elder of the Society.

2.6 The membership of a person in the Society is not transferable.

2.7 All members are deemed to be in good standing.

### **PART III – MEETINGS OF MEMBERS**

3.1 The general meetings of the Society shall be held at such time and place, in accordance with the *Society Act*, as the Board shall decide.

3.2 Every general meeting other than an annual general meeting is an extraordinary general meeting.

3.3 The Board may, whenever it thinks fit, or shall, if so requested by a majority of the members of the Society, convene an extraordinary general meeting.

3.4 The Society shall give not less than 14 days written notice of a general meeting to its members entitled to receive notice;

but those members may waive or reduce the period of notice for a particular meeting by unanimous consent in writing.

3.5 Notice of a general meeting shall specify the place, the day and the hour of the meeting.

3.6 The accidental omission to give notice of a general meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice by, any of the members entitled to receive notice does not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.

3.7 An annual general meeting shall be held at least once in every calendar year and not more than 15 months after the holding of the last preceding annual general meeting.

## **PART IV – PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

4.1 Special business is:

(a) all business at an extraordinary general meeting except the adoption of rules of order; and

(b) all business that is transacted at an annual general meeting, except;

(i) the adoption of rules or order;

(ii) consideration of the financial statements;

(iii) consideration of the report of the Elders;

(iv) consideration of the report of the auditor;

(v) the election of the directors (Elders);

(vi) the appointment of the auditor; and

(vii) such other business that, under these bylaws or any governing statutes, ought to be transacted at an annual general meeting, or business which is brought under consideration by the report of the Elders if the report was issued with the notice of the meeting.

4.2 No business, other than the election of a person to chair the meeting and the adjournment or termination of the meeting, shall be conducted at a general meeting at a time when a quorum is not present.

4.3 If at any time during a general meeting there ceases to be a quorum present, business then in progress shall be suspended until there is a quorum present or until the meeting is adjourned or terminated.

4.4 A quorum at a general meeting is the greater of one-third of the members or three members present.

4.5 If within 30 minutes from the time appointed for a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting, if convened on the requisition of members, shall be terminated; but in any other case, it shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week, at the same time and place, and if, at the adjourned meeting, a quorum is not present within 30 minutes from the time appointed for the meeting, the members present shall constitute a quorum.

4.6 The Chairman of the Society shall, subject to a Board resolution appointing another person, chair all general meetings; but if at any general meeting the Chairman, or such alternate person appointed by a Board resolution, is not present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting or requests that he or she not chair that meeting, the members present may choose one of their number to chair that meeting.

4.7 If a person presiding as chair of a general meeting wants to step down as chair for all or part of that meeting, he or she may designate an alternate, to chair such meeting or portion thereof, and upon such designated alternate receiving the consent of the majority of the members present at such meeting, he or she may preside as chair.

4.8 A general meeting may be adjourned from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.

4.9 It is not necessary to give notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting except where a meeting is adjourned for more than 14 days, in which case notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of the original meeting.

4.10 All resolutions proposed at a general meeting must be seconded. The person chairing such a meeting may move or propose a resolution.

4.11 Any issue at a general meeting which is not required by these bylaws or the *Society Act* to be decided by a special resolution shall be decided by an ordinary resolution.

4.12 A member in good standing is entitled to one vote.

4.13 The person chairing a general meeting may vote but, if he or she does so and the result is a tie, shall not be permitted to vote again to break the tie and the resolution being voted on shall be deemed to have failed.

4.14 Voting shall be by show of hands or voice vote recorded by the secretary of the meeting; except that, at the request of any two members present at the meeting, a secret vote by written ballot shall be required.

4.15 Voting by proxy is permitted provided that the proxy has previously been appointed in writing by the member appointing the proxy and the proxy has the written appointment at the meeting. However, a permanent proxy or a proxy entitling a person or member to vote at other than one meeting and any adjournment of that meeting is void. In the case of written proxy votes on specific issues, such written proxy votes are also to be counted and added to the total of votes by hand or voice.

4.16 A resolution in writing which is identified as an ordinary resolution and has been submitted to all the members and signed by a minimum of 75% of the members who would have been entitled to vote on it in person at a general meeting of the Society is as valid and effectual as an ordinary resolution as if it had been passed at a meeting of members duly called and constituted and shall be deemed to be an ordinary resolution in writing. Such ordinary resolution shall be filed with minutes of the proceedings of the members and shall be deemed to be passed on the date stated therein or, in the absence of such a date being stated, on the latest date stated on any counterpart.

4.17 A resolution in writing which is identified as a special resolution and has been signed by all the members who would have been entitled to vote on it in person at a general meeting of the Society is as valid and effectual as a special resolution as if it had been passed at a meeting of members duly called and constituted and shall be deemed to be a special resolution. Such a resolution may be in two or more counterparts which together shall be deemed to constitute one special resolution in writing. Such special resolution shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the members and shall be deemed to be passed on the date stated therein or, in the absence of such a date being stated, on the latest date stated on any counterpart.

## **PART V – DIRECTORS (ELDERS)**

5.1 The Board may exercise all such powers and do all such acts and things as the Society may exercise and do, and which are not by these bylaws or by statute or otherwise lawfully directed or required to be exercised or done by the members in general meeting, but subject, nevertheless, to the provisions of:

- (a) all laws affecting the Society;
- (b) these bylaws; and
- (c) rules, not being inconsistent with these bylaws, which are made from time to time by the Society in general meeting.

5.2 No rule made by the Society in a general meeting invalidates a prior act of the Board that would have been valid if that rule had not been made.

5.3 The property and the affairs of the Society shall be managed by the Board. The directors shall be Elders of the Society.

5.4 The number of Elders shall be such number, not being less than five (5), as may be determined from time to time by ordinary resolution. A majority of the elected Elders must reside in Canada and be at arm's length with each other.

5.5 Elected Elders shall be elected by the members at a general meeting and shall take office commencing at the close of such meeting.

5.6 Elections for elected Elders shall normally be held at the annual general meeting and the term of office of elected Elders shall normally be three (3) years. However the members may by resolution determine that some or all vacant elected Elders' positions shall have a term of less than three years, the length of such term to be determined by the members at their discretion. For purposes of calculating the duration of an elected director's term of office, the term shall be deemed to commence at the close of the annual general meeting at which such Elder was elected. If, however, the Elder was elected at an extraordinary general meeting his or her term of office shall be deemed to have commenced at the close of the annual general meeting next following such extraordinary general meeting.

5.7 Elders may be elected to consecutive terms.

5.8 In elections where there are more candidates than vacant positions for elected Elders, election shall be by secret ballot with the name of each duly nominated candidate appearing



individually on the ballot. Candidates shall be deemed to be elected in order of those candidates receiving the most votes.

5.9 No member shall vote for more elected Elders than the number of vacant positions for elected Elders. Any ballot on which more names are voted for than there are vacant positions shall be deemed to be void.

5.10 Notwithstanding any other bylaws, the persons who are the Elders at the time of the adoption of these bylaws shall continue to be the Elders for the balance of their remaining term.

5.11 Each Elder shall be required to wholeheartedly accept, adopt, and subscribe in writing to the purposes and the Tenets of Faith set out in the constitution of the Society and to the Tenets of Faith set out in the Elders' Affirmation of Faith.

5.12 Every Elder serving a term of office shall retire from office at the close of the annual general meeting in the year in which his or her term expires; but if no successor is elected and the result is that the number of Elders would fall below three, the person previously elected as Elder shall continue to hold office until such time as successor Elders are elected.

5.13 Every Elder shall unreservedly subscribe to and support the purposes of the Society.

5.14 The members may by special resolution remove an elected Elder before the expiration of such director's term of office and may elect a person as a replacement Elder and determine the term of such replacement director.

5.15 Notwithstanding the foregoing bylaws, if an Elder ceases to hold office during his or her term for any reason other than removal by ordinary resolution, the Board may appoint a person as a replacement Elder to take the place of such Elder until the next annual general meeting.

5.16 No act or proceeding of the Board is invalid by reason only of there being less than the prescribed number of Elders in office.

5.17 A person shall immediately cease to be an Elder of the Society:

- (a) upon the date which is the later of the date of delivering his or her resignation in writing to the Secretary of the Society or to the address of the Society and the effective date of the resignation stated therein; or

- (b) upon his or her death; or

- (c) upon ceasing to be a member of the Society; or

- (d) upon being removed by an special resolution.

5.18 The members shall give to a director, seven (7) days notice either orally or in writing of a proposed resolution to remove him or her from Eldership in the Society, and such notice shall be accompanied by a brief statement of the reason or reasons for the proposed removal. The person who is the subject of the proposed resolution shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the meeting before the resolution is put to a vote. All Elders of the Society agree that any of the following

shall be full and sufficient reasons for removal from Eldership in the Society:

- (a) unethical conduct occurring under the auspices of the Society;
- (b) unrepentant immoral conduct not in accordance with the moral precepts set out in the Old Testament and the New Testament of the Holy Bible;
- (c) unrepentant sexually immoral conduct including adultery and homosexual practice;
- (d) serious un-Christian conduct in contravention of the Holy Bible;
- (e) doctrine deemed to be heretical by the Elders.

5.19 Elders, as such, shall not receive any stated remuneration for their services, but, by resolution of the Board, expenses of their attendance may be allowed for their attendance at each regular or special meeting of the Board. The Elders shall serve as such without remuneration and no Elder shall directly or indirectly receive any profit from his position as such; provided that an Elder may be paid reasonable expenses incurred by him in the performance of his duties. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude any Elder from serving the Society as an officer or in any other capacity without compensation. The Elders shall serve as such without remuneration and no Elder shall directly or indirectly receive any profit from his position as such or from any business or affairs with the Society; provided that an Elder may be paid reasonable

expenses incurred by him in the performance of his duties.

5.20 The Board shall have the power to make expenditures and loans whether or not secured or interest bearing for the purpose of furthering the purposes of the Society. The Board shall also have the power to enter into trust arrangements or contracts on behalf of the Society for the purpose of discharging obligations or conditions either imposed by a person donating, bequeathing, advancing or lending funds or property to the Society, or assumed by the Society in expectation of such donations, bequests advances or loans. Such arrangements or contracts shall be in accordance with the terms and conditions that the Board may prescribe.

5.21 The Board shall take such steps as it deems necessary to enable the Society to receive donations, bequests, funds, property, trusts, contracts, agreements and benefits for the purposes of furthering the purposes of the Society. The Board in its sole and absolute discretion may refuse to accept any donation, bequest, trust, loan, contract or property.

5.22 In investing the funds of the Society, the Board shall not be limited to securities and investments in which trustees are authorized by law to invest but may make any investments which in its opinion are prudent. Subject to the provisions of the *Society Act*, an Elder shall not be liable for any loss which may result from any such investment.

## **PART VI – PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD**

6.1 A meeting of the Board may be held at any time and place determined by the Board, provided that 5 days' notice of such meeting shall be sent in writing to each director. However, no formal notice shall be necessary if all Elders were present at the preceding meeting when the time and place of the meeting were determined or are present at the meeting or waive notice thereof in writing or give a prior verbal waiver to the Secretary of the Society.

6.2 The Board may from time to time fix the quorum necessary to transact business, and unless so fixed the quorum shall be two-thirds of the Elders in office at the time when the meeting convenes.

6.3 The Chairman of the Society shall, subject to a Board resolution appointing another person, chair all meetings of the Board, but if at any Board meeting the Chairman or such alternate person appointed by a Board resolution is not present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, or requests that he or she not chair that meeting, the Elders present may choose one of their number to chair that meeting.

6.4 If the person presiding as chair of a meeting of the Board wants to step down as chair for all or part of that meeting, he or she may designate an alternate to chair such meeting or portion thereof, and upon such designated alternate receiving the consent of a majority of the Elders present at such meeting, he or she may preside as chair.

6.5 Any two Elders may at any time, and the Secretary on the request of any two Elders shall, convene a meeting of the Board.

6.6 For the purposes of the first meeting of the Board held immediately following the election of an Elder or Elders at an annual or other general meeting, it is not necessary to give notice of the meeting to the newly elected Elder or Elders for the meeting to be properly constituted.

6.7 All resolutions proposed at a meeting of the Board must be seconded. The person chairing a meeting may move or propose a resolution.

6.8 Any issue at a meeting of the Board which is not required by these bylaws or the *Society Act* to be decided by a resolution requiring more than a simple majority shall be decided by a Board resolution.

6.9 The person chairing a meeting may vote but, if he or she does so and the result is a tie, he or she shall not be permitted to vote again to break the tie and the resolution being voted on shall be deemed to have failed.

6.10 Voting shall be by show of hands or voice vote recorded by the secretary of the meeting except that, at the request of any one director, a secret vote by written ballot shall be required.

6.11 A Board resolution in writing which has been deposited with the Secretary is as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Board duly called and constituted. Such Board resolution may be in two or more counterparts which together shall be deemed to constitute one resolution in writing. Such resolution shall be filed with minutes of the proceedings of the Board and shall be deemed to be passed

on the date stated therein or, in the absence of such a date being stated, on the latest date stated on any counterpart.

6.12 An Elder who contemplates being or is temporarily absent from British Columbia may, by letter, facsimile or email, send or deliver to the address of the Society a waiver of notice of any meeting of the Board for a period not longer than one year and may, at any time, withdraw the waiver in like manner. Until the waiver is withdrawn:

(a) no notice of meetings of the Board need be sent to that director; and

(b) any and all meetings of the Board, notice of which has not been given to that Elder shall, if a quorum is present, be valid and effective.

## **PART VII – PATRONS**

7.1 The Board may appoint prominent persons and office holders to be Patrons of the Society.

7.2 The function and number of Patrons and the terms of each appointment shall be determined by the Board.

## **PART VIII – ADVISORY COUNCIL**

8.1 The Board may constitute an Advisory Council to provide advice and counsel to the Board on broad issues of policy and profile and may appoint worthy persons to it and determine the terms of each appointment.

8.2 The Board shall determine the size and composition and specific functions of the Advisory Council.

8.3 The Advisory Council shall not have the legal powers to direct the acts and operations of the Society.

8.4 The Advisory Council may hold meetings at such time and place as is determined by the Board and shall conform to any rules that may from time to time be imposed on it by the Board.

## **PART IX – COMMITTEES**

9.1 The Board may delegate any, but not all, of its powers to committees which may be in whole or in part composed of Elders as it thinks fit.

9.2 A committee, in the exercise of the powers delegated to it, shall conform to any rules that may from time to time be imposed by the Board, and shall report every act or thing done in exercise of those powers at the next meeting of the Board held after it has been done, or at such other time or times as the Board directs.

9.3 The members of a committee may meet and adjourn as they think proper and meetings of committees shall be governed *mutatis mutandis* by the rules set out in these bylaws governing proceedings of the Board.

9.4 There shall be a Finance and Audit Committee consisting of three (3) Elders elected at the first regular board meeting during each membership year. All members of the Committee



shall be at arm's length and a majority of the members of this Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Chairman shall appoint the chairperson of the Committee and the Committee may appoint its own secretary. In addition to advising the board in regard to all the financial aspects of the Society's operations, the responsibility of the Committee shall include making recommendations to the board regarding the annual and periodic budgets and the financial statements of the Society and the reports and activities of the auditor. A Finance and Audit Committee member may be removed by a majority vote of the Elders.

9.5 There may be an Executive Committee consisting of Elders of which there must be at least two (2).

9.6 Subject to the control of the Board, the Executive Committee shall have power to transact all business of the Society in the interim between meetings of the Board. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the chair of the Executive Committee.

9.7 The Board may create such standing and special committees as may from time to time be required. Any such committee shall limit its activities to the purpose or purposes for which it is appointed, and shall have no powers except those specifically conferred by a Board resolution. Unless specifically designated as a standing committee, any special committee so created must be created for a specified time period only. Upon completion of the earlier of the specified time period or the task for which it was appointed, a special committee shall automatically be dissolved.

## **PART X – DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

10.1 At the first meeting of the Board held after an annual general meeting, the Board shall elect from among the Elders a Chairman who shall hold office until the first meeting of the Board held after the next following annual general meeting.

10.2 The Board shall appoint a Secretary and Treasurer and may appoint and remove such other officers of the Society as it deems necessary and determine the duties, responsibilities, term and remuneration, if any, of all officers. Each officer shall be required to wholeheartedly accept, adopt and subscribe in writing to the purposes and the Tenets of Faith set out in the constitution of the Society and to the Tenets of Faith set out in the Elders' Affirmation of Faith.

10.3 An Elder may be removed as an officer by a resolution passed at a meeting of the Board by a majority of not less than two-thirds (2/3<sup>rds</sup>) of the Elders present.

10.4 Should the Chairman or any other officer for any reason not be able to complete his or her term, the Board shall elect a replacement without delay.

10.5 The Secretary shall be responsible for making the necessary arrangements for:

- (a) the issuance of notices of meetings of the Society, Board and Advisory Council;
- (b) the keeping of minutes of all meetings of the Society, Board and Advisory Council;

- (c) the custody of all records and documents of the Society except those required to be kept by the Treasurer;
- (d) the custody of the common seal of the Society;
- (e) the maintenance of the register of members; and
- (f) the conduct of the correspondence of the Society.

10.6 The Treasurer shall be responsible for making the necessary arrangements for:

- (a) the keeping of such financial records, reports and returns including books of account as are necessary to comply with the *Society Act* and the *Income Tax Act*; and
- (b) the rendering of financial statement to the Elders, members and others when required.

10.7 If the Secretary is absent from any meeting of the Society or the Board, the Elders present shall appoint another person to act as secretary at that meeting.

10.8 The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by one person who shall be known as the Secretary-Treasurer.

10.9 Notwithstanding the foregoing bylaws, the Board may appoint a secretary of the Board to be responsible for preparation and custody of minutes of meetings of the Board and the correspondence of the Board.

## **PART XI – EMPLOYEES & VOLUNTEERS**

11.1 The Board may select and appoint employees of the Society for a fixed or indefinite terms, and set the terms of their respective duties, responsibilities and employment.

11.2. The Board may establish ministry teams, appoint deacons, select and appoint volunteers of the Society, and set the terms of their respective duties and responsibilities.

## **PART XII – SEAL**

12.1 The Board may provide a common seal for the Society and it shall have power from time to time to destroy a seal and substitute a new seal in its place.

12.2 The common seal shall be affixed only when authorized by a resolution of the Board, and then only in the presence of the persons prescribed in the resolution or, if no persons are prescribed, in the presence of any two Elders.

## **PART XIII – BORROWING**

13.1 In order to carry out the purposes of the Society the Board may, on behalf of and in the name of the Society, raise or secure the payment or repayment of money in any manner it decides including the granting of guarantees, and in particular, but without limiting the foregoing, by the issue of debentures.

13.2 No debenture shall be issued without the authorization of a special resolution.

## **PART XIV – AUDITOR**

14.1 The first auditor shall be appointed by the Board which shall also fill any vacancy occurring in the office of auditor.

14.2 At each annual general meeting, the Society shall appoint an auditor to hold office until he or she is reappointed or his or her successor is appointed at the next following annual general meeting in accordance with the procedures set out in the *Society Act*.

14.3 An auditor may be removed by ordinary resolution in accordance with the procedures set out in the *Society Act*.

14.4 An auditor shall be promptly informed in writing of his appointment or removal.

14.5 No director, officer or employee of the Society shall be the auditor.

14.6 The auditor may attend general meetings.

## **PART XV – NOTICES**

15.1 A notice may be given to a member, either personally or by mail or by electronic mail or by facsimile to the member at the member's registered address or the member's e-mail address as recorded in the Society's minute book.

15.2 A notice sent by mail shall be deemed to have been given on the third day following that on which the notice is posted, and in proving that notice has been given it is sufficient to

prove that the notice was properly addressed and put in a Canadian post office receptacle. In the case of notice by either electronic mail or facsimile, an acknowledgment of receipt by return facsimile or electronic mail shall be obtained from the member.

15.3 Notice of a general meeting shall be given only to:

- (a) every member shown on the register of members on the day notice is given, and
- (b) the auditor.

## **PART XVI – MISCELLANEOUS**

16.1 The Elders shall from time to time determine whether and to what extent and at what times and places and under what conditions or regulations the documents, including the books of account, of the Society and minutes of the meetings of the Board shall be open to the inspection of members of the Society not being Elders. In the absence of such determination by the Elders, the documents, including the books of account, of the Society shall not be open to inspection by any member of the Society not being a director.

16.2 Any meeting of the Society, the Board, the Advisory Council or any committee may also be held, or any member, Elder or member of the Advisory Council or the committee may participate in any meeting of the Society, the Board, the Advisory Council or any committee, by conference call or similar communication equipment or device so long as all the members, Elders, members of the Advisory Council or per-

sons participating in the meeting can hear and respond to one another. All such members, Elders, members of the Advisory Council or persons so participating in any such meeting shall be deemed to be present in person at the stated location of such meeting and, notwithstanding the foregoing bylaws, shall be entitled to vote by a voice vote recorded by the secretary of such meeting.

16.3 The rules governing when notice is deemed to have been given set out in these bylaws shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to determine when a Board resolution shall be deemed to have been submitted to all of the Elders and when an ordinary resolution shall be deemed to have been submitted to all of the members.

16.4 The Society shall have the right to subscribe to become a member of and to cooperate with any other society, corporation or association whose purposes or objectives are in whole or in part similar to the Society's purposes.

16.5 Subject to an order of the Registrar pursuant to the *Society Act* stating that the Society is a "reporting society" as defined under the *Society Act*, the Society shall be deemed not to be a "reporting society".

16.6 The Society may establish and maintain one or more branch societies with the powers, not exceeding the powers of the Society, that the Society confers.

16.7 The Society shall be deemed not to be a subsidiary of any other society or corporation.

## PART XVII – INDEMNIFICATION

17.1 Subject to the provisions of the *Society Act*, each Elder or officer of the Society shall be indemnified by the Society against expenses reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with any action, suit or proceeding to which he or she may be made a party by reason of his or her being or having been an officer or Elder of the Society, except in relation to matters as to which he or she shall be finally adjudged in such action, suit or proceeding to have been derelict in the performance of his or her duty as an officer or director. “Derelict” shall mean grossly negligent, criminally negligent or intentionally engaged in tortious conduct with the intent to defraud, deceive, misrepresent or take advantage improperly of an opportunity available to the Society.

17.2 Subject to the provisions of the *Society Act*, the Board is authorized from time to time to give indemnities to any Elder or other person who has undertaken or is about to undertake any liability on behalf of the Society or any society or corporation controlled by it, and to secure such Elder or other person against loss by mortgage and charge on the whole or any part of the real and personal property of the Society by way of security, and any action from time to time taken by the Elders under this paragraph shall not require approval or confirmation by the members.

17.3 The Board in its discretion may submit any contract, act or transaction for approval, ratification or confirmation at any annual general meeting or at any extraordinary general meeting of the members called for the purpose of considering the same and any contract, act or transaction that may be approved, ratified or confirmed by an ordinary resolution



(unless any different or additional requirement is imposed by the *Society Act* or these bylaws) shall be as valid and as binding upon the Society and upon all the members as though it had been approved, ratified and confirmed by every member of the Society.

17.4 Subject to the provisions of the *Society Act*, no Elder or officer for the time being of the Society shall be liable for the acts, neglects or defaults of any other Elder or officer of the Society or for joining in any receipt or act for conformity or for any loss, damage or expense happening to the Society through the insufficiency or deficiency of title to any property acquired by order of the Elders for or on behalf of the Society, or for the insufficiency or deficiency of any security in or upon which any of the moneys of or belonging to the Society shall be placed out or invested, or for any loss or damage arising from the bankruptcy, insolvency or tortious act of any person, firm or corporation with whom or with which any funds or property of the Society shall be lodged or deposited, or for any other loss, damage or misfortune whatsoever which may happen in the execution of the duties of his or her respective office or trust or in relation thereto, unless all or any of the same shall happen by or through the wilful act, default or neglect of such Elder or officer.

17.5 The Society shall, to the full extent permitted by the *Society Act*, indemnify and hold harmless, every person heretofore, now or hereafter serving as an Elder or officer of the Society and his or her heirs and legal representatives.

17.6 Expenses incurred with respect to any claim, action, suit or proceeding may be advanced by the Society prior to the final disposition thereof in the discretion of the Board

and upon receipt of an undertaking satisfactory in form and amount to the Board by or on behalf of the recipient to repay such amount unless it is ultimately determined that he or she is entitled to indemnification hereunder.

17.7 The Society shall apply to the Court for any approval of the Court which may be required to make the indemnities herein effective and enforceable. Each Elder of the Society on being elected and each officer of the Society on being elected or appointed shall be deemed to have contracted with the Society upon the terms of the foregoing indemnities. Such indemnities shall continue in effect with regard to actions arising out of the term each Elder or officer held such office notwithstanding that he or she no longer continues to hold such office.

17.8 The failure of an Elder or officer of the Society to comply with the provisions of the *Society Act* or of the constitution or these bylaws shall not invalidate any indemnity to which he or she is entitled under this part.

17.9 The Society may purchase and maintain insurance for the benefit of any or all Elders or officers against personal liability incurred by any such person as an Elder or officer.

## **PART XVIII – DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

18.1 All disputes that may arise in the Society including but not limited to all disputes concerning the interpretation, application, operation or alleged breach of the constitution and the bylaws shall be resolved as follows. The parties to the dispute shall select a mediator and where the parties cannot agree,

the Board shall select one. The mediator shall schedule and hold a meeting with the parties for the purpose of hearing and discussing the facts and disputes, with the goal of seeking reconciliation of the disputing parties and a resolution of the dispute which shall be reduced to writing by the parties and be acceptable to the parties.

18.2 In the event that mediation fails to achieve a satisfactory resolution to the dispute, the parties shall seek to reconcile their dispute by arbitration in accordance with the following process. The parties to the dispute shall select a single arbitrator, and, if they cannot agree, then each party shall choose one arbitrator and these arbitrators shall choose a third arbitrator who shall be the chair of an arbitration panel.

18.3 The cost of the mediation and arbitration shall be borne equally by the parties to the dispute.

18.4 The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the *Commercial Arbitration Act*, RSBC 1996, c.55 and amendments thereto, except sections 4 and 26(1).

## **PART XIX – BYLAWS**

19.1 On being admitted to membership, each member is entitled to and upon request the Society shall provide him or her with a copy of the constitution and bylaws of the Society.

19.2 These bylaws shall not be altered or added to except by special resolution.

Dated this 15 day of May, 2012

