

BYLAWS
Calvary Baptist Church of Helena, Montana
Adopted February 3, 2013

PREAMBLE

We declare and establish these Bylaws to preserve and perpetuate the principles of our common Christian faith and to govern this body in an orderly and Biblical manner so that we are able to accomplish our God-given purpose.

ARTICLE I. NAME

This body will be known as the Calvary Baptist Church of Helena, Montana.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE STATEMENT

Our purpose is to glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31) and to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that Jesus has commanded (Matthew 28:18-20).

ARTICLE III. DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

This church believes that the Bible is the only source of authority for all matters of faith and practice. We accept as our Statement of Faith the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

ARTICLE IV. RELATIONSHIPS

Calvary Baptist Church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but recognizes and sustains a relationship of mutual cooperation among Southern Baptist churches. Insofar as practical, this church will cooperate with and support the Treasure State Baptist Association, the Montana Southern Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

ARTICLE V. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Qualifications for Membership

This church is comprised of persons who profess a personal faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, have been baptized by immersion according to the New Testament, are actively following the Lord Jesus Christ in Christian discipleship, and who affirm the Purpose Statement (Article II), Doctrinal Statement (Article III), and Church Covenant of Calvary Baptist Church.

Section 2. Admission of Members

A person may be received for membership in the following way:

1. Attend a Membership Class taught by the elders. At the conclusion of the Membership Class the applicant will be asked to affirm the church's Purpose Statement, Doctrinal Statement, and Church Covenant.
2. Upon successful completion of the Membership Class the elders shall recommended the applicants to the church for admission and they shall be

accepted by a majority vote of the active members present at any regular business meeting.

Section 3. Duties and Privileges of Members

It is the privilege and expectation of every member to be faithful in attending worship, discipleship, prayer, serving, giving, and being active witnesses in the world. Only active members of this church, who are over 16 years of age, are entitled to one vote on matters requiring a church vote, provided the member is present. Proxy voting is prohibited.

An active member is a member who is faithful in upholding his/her membership responsibilities which includes attending worship services regularly. Exceptions to this will be made in the following instances:

1. Homebound due to medical reasons or age.
2. Dual residency (e.g. members who winter at another location).
3. Extended vacations.
4. Serving in the military.
5. Serving as missionaries.

An inactive member is a member who has become delinquent in upholding his/her membership responsibilities. An inactive member will not be allowed to vote. Inactivity may also result in being excluded from membership.

An inactive member can become active again by meeting with the elders and the elders recommending a change in status to the church at any regular business meeting. The change shall be accepted by a majority vote of the active members present.

Section 4. Discipline of Members

If any member conducts himself/herself in a manner which is not in harmony with the Scriptures, and for which he/she does not show evidence of repentance, the sinning member shall be subject to the admonition and discipline of the church. This church will make every effort to adhere to the principles of church discipline as set forth in the Scriptures (See Matthew 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, Galatians 6:1-2, Philippians 4:2-3, 1 Timothy 5:17-21, Titus 3:10-11, and 3 John 1:9-10). The guiding motivation behind church discipline is love and restoration.

The general pattern for church discipline will follow Matthew 18:15-20 except in cases of public immorality, false teaching, and divisiveness that require immediate action.

1. The sinning member shall be confronted one-on-one (Matthew 18:15).
2. If the sinning member does not turn from his/her sin, the sinning member shall be confronted with one or two others who act as witnesses to the proceedings (Matthew 18:16). If the sinning member still does not turn from his/her sin, the involvement of the elders shall be sought. The elders will talk to the sinning member.

3. If the sinning member does not turn from his/her sin or is not responsive the elders will “tell it to the church” (Matthew 18:17a), and if there is still no repentance the sinning member will be removed from the fellowship and membership of the church (Matthew 18:17b) by a majority vote of the active members present at any regular business meeting. Written notice shall be sent to the sinning member, both of the intent to follow this final procedure, and when this procedure has been completed.
4. The church shall have authority to refuse a member's voluntary resignation or transfer of membership for the purpose of avoiding the process of church discipline. If, after dismissal, the sinning member demonstrates repentance, and requests reinstatement, he/she will be publicly restored to membership by a majority vote of the active members present at any regular business meeting (2 Corinthians 2:6-7).

Section 5. Termination of Membership

Membership may be terminated in the following ways:

1. Death.
2. Joining another church.
3. Resignation.
4. Exclusion by action of this church due to discipline or inactivity.

ARTICLE VI. CHURCH MEETINGS

Section 1. Worship Services

The church shall meet regularly each Sunday for worship, preaching, teaching, prayer, evangelism, and fellowship. The church may schedule any other meetings that are essential for accomplishing the purpose of the church. These meetings will be open to everyone and shall be conducted under the oversight of the elders.

Section 2. Business Meetings

This church will seek to conduct its business under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Business meetings shall be held at least quarterly or as the church deems necessary. An elder shall serve as moderator of the church. In the absence of an elder, his designee will preside.

There will be an annual business meeting within 45 days of the beginning of the fiscal year to approve the budget for the coming year, elect officers, fill positions as needed, and to pray for the church. Business meetings shall follow the procedures stated in Roberts Rules of Order.

Section 3. Special Business Meetings

A special business meeting may be called by the elders or a Pastor Search Team. Notice of the subject, date, time, and location shall be announced at a regular worship service or in the bulletin of the church at least three days in advance of the meeting.

Section 4. Quorum

A quorum for any regular or special business meeting consists of active members who attend the business meeting provided it has been properly called.

ARTICLE VII. LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The Church

This church is an autonomous body of believers under the authority of Jesus Christ and the Word of God. This church recognizes the Biblical offices of elders and deacons.

Ministry teams shall be formed as needed in order to carry out the purpose of the church as defined in Article II. The elders shall recommend to the church individuals to serve on ministry teams at any regular business meeting. Those individuals shall be accepted by a majority vote of the active members present.

Section 2. Elders

There are three words used in the New Testament for leadership in the local church. These are elder, overseer, and pastor. All three terms refer to the same office and describe the various aspects of leadership, oversight, and care for the body of Christ. This office is reserved for men only (1 Timothy 2:8-3:7) and shall consist of a plurality of qualified men (Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 5:17; Titus 1:5; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:1). The church shall recognize and affirm these men as gifts of Christ to the church (Ephesians 4:8-11).

The church shall call a man to serve as pastor/lead elder (referred to as pastor hereinafter). He shall be one of the elders. The pastor shall be recognized by the church as particularly gifted and called to the full-time ministry of preaching and teaching. The pastor along with the elders shall provide leadership, oversight, and care for the body of Christ.

1. Responsibilities of Elders

- a. Devoting themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:4; 1 Timothy 4:13, 5:17).
- b. Leading the church to fulfill its mission and purpose (1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; 1 Timothy 3:14-16).
- c. Providing leadership, spiritual care, and protection for the saints (Hebrews 13:7, 17; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- d. Equipping the saints for the work of ministry (Eph. 4:11-16). This would include coordinating, promoting, and overseeing the ministries of the church; examining and instructing new members through a new member class; and recommending to the church individuals to serve in various ministries.
- e. Overseeing the process of electing elders and deacons to office (Acts 6:1-7; Acts 14:23; 2 Tim. 2:2; Titus 1:5).

- f. Overseeing the process of church discipline and restoration (Matthew 18:15-20).

2. Qualifications of Elders

The elders shall meet the qualifications outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.

3. Selection of Elders

- a. The elders shall seek involvement and recommendations from the active membership in the selection process. Any recommendations shall be made to the elders.
- b. Elder candidates shall be publicly examined with regard to their doctrine and manner of life (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). Any member of the church with reason to believe that a candidate is unqualified for this office should express such concerns to the elders as soon as possible.
- c. The elders shall present elder candidates to the church at any regular business meeting. Elders shall be affirmed by a three-fourths vote of the active members present at any regular business meeting of the church. Abstentions will not be counted as votes cast. Voting shall be by secret ballot. Elders who have been affirmed by the church shall be appointed to service (Acts 14:23; 2 Timothy 2:2; Titus 1:5).
- d. If the church is in need of a pastor, a Pastor Search Team shall be appointed by the church to seek a pastor. The team shall recommend a candidate to the church. A pastor shall be affirmed by a three-fourths vote of the active members present at a special business meeting called for that purpose. Abstentions will not be counted as votes cast. Voting shall be by secret ballot. Only one pastoral candidate is to be presented to the church for consideration at a time.

4. Dismissal of Elders

Elders shall serve until they resign, are physically unable to serve, or are dismissed from office. An elder who has fallen into serious error or scandal and is no longer above reproach (1 Timothy 3:2) may be dismissed by a three-fourths vote of the active members present at a special business meeting called for that purpose.

Section 3. Deacons

The office of deacon is mentioned in Acts 6:1-7, Philippians 1:1, and 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

1. Qualifications of Deacons

Deacons shall meet the qualifications outlined in Acts 6:1-7 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

2. Responsibilities of Deacons

Deacons are servants who shall offer any service that allows the elders to devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:4). The type of service deacons render shall include:

- a. The primary task of administering a benevolence fund to the poor, needy, and suffering of the body (Acts 6:1-2).
- b. At the discretion of the elders, caring for other needs that may arise so that the unity of the body is maintained (Acts 6:1, 5) and to support the elders as they devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:4).

3. Selection of Deacons

- a. The elders shall seek involvement and recommendations from the active membership in the selection process (Acts 6:3, 6). Any recommendations shall be made to the elders.
- b. Deacon candidates shall be publicly examined with regard to their doctrine and manner of life (1 Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6:3). Any member with reason to believe that a candidate is unqualified for this office should express such concerns to the elders as soon as possible.
- c. The elders shall present deacon candidates to the church at any regular business meeting. Deacons shall be affirmed by a three-fourths vote of the active members present at any regular business meeting of the church. Abstentions will not be counted as votes cast. Voting shall be by secret ballot. Deacons who have been affirmed by the church shall be appointed to service (Acts 6:6).

4. Dismissal of Deacons

Deacons shall serve until they resign, are physically unable to serve, or are dismissed from office. A deacon who has fallen into serious error or scandal and is no longer blameless (1 Timothy 3:10) may be dismissed by a three-fourths vote of the active members present at a special business meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE VIII. CORPORATE OFFICERS

This church recognizes the following officers for purposes of compliance with the nonprofit corporation laws of the state of Montana: President, Treasurer, and Clerk. These officers shall also serve as the Directors of the corporation.

The elders shall recommend individuals to the church to serve as officers of the church. They shall be affirmed by a majority vote of the active members present at any regular business meeting.

ARTICLE IX. CHURCH PROPERTY

In the event this church should ever dissolve, the church building and all its assets shall be transferred to the Montana Southern Baptist Convention.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

These bylaws shall be amended in the following way:

1. The amendment must be introduced by written motion at any regular business meeting.
2. A written copy of the amendment must be published at least twice in any weekly church publication prior to being voted on.
3. Written copies of the proposed amendment shall be made available at the church.
4. Amendments to these bylaws shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the active members present at any regular business meeting. Abstentions will not be counted as votes cast.