

Calvary Chapel Baptist Church

Gloucester, Massachusetts

Bylaws

Amended 2016

Article I NAME AND POLICY

This church shall be known as CALVARY CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH of Gloucester, Massachusetts.

It shall be independent of existing denominations regarding administration.

We are affiliated with the BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE and the NORTHEAST BAPTIST CONFERENCE.

It shall seek to have fellowship with all churches and Missions that hold to the Biblical Doctrines set forth in the statement of faith in these Bylaws.

Article II STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in the Eternal Godhead composed of the Trinity consisting of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2

We believe that the entire (plenary) Bible is the inspired Word of God and that it is the authority in all matters of Christian faith and practice.
John 1:1; 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 1:21

We believe in the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.
Matthew 1:18

We believe that when the Lord Jesus Christ died on Calvary's cross that it was for our sin, and that through His substitutionary atonement all who accept Him as their personal Savior have eternal life; that there is salvation in no other way, and that all who reject Him as their vicarious Savior are eternally lost.
John 3:16, 36; 14:6; 1 Peter 3:18; Acts 4:12; Romans 10:9-13

We believe in the convicting, regenerating and guiding power of the Holy Spirit.
John 14:17; 1 John 2:27

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe also in the bodily resurrection of the believer at His coming for His church, preceding the tribulation.
Ephesians 1:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Acts 1:3, 4:33; Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:12, 13, 20

We believe in the imminent premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in His personal and visible return to earth to set up His kingdom.
Matthew 24:42; Acts 1:11; James 5:8

We believe that water baptism is the immersion of the believer in water as a symbol of their spiritual union with Christ in death, burial, and resurrection.
Romans 6:3, 4; Colossians 2:12; Matthew 3:16; 1 Peter 3:21

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the observance by which believers commemorate and show the Lord's death until He comes.
1 Corinthians 11:23-26

We believe that the work of the church is to preach the Gospel to every person, to baptize believers, and to teach them to observe all that the Lord has commanded.
Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19, 20

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, we do now, in the presence of God and angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to educate our children religiously; to seek salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale or abuse of intoxicating drink as a beverage, or the sale or use of illegal drugs, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that, when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with another church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. Col. 3:12-17

Article IV CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

1. All who believe and sign the STATEMENT OF FAITH as of February 1964 shall be considered charter members
2. New members are to be received into this fellowship through public affirmation of faith, and by baptism by immersion, or by letter from churches that hold to sound doctrine. The pastor and deacons will interview perspective members and recommend them to the fellowship. Acts 2:47
3. Discipline – A member of this church may be questioned by the deacons and pastor for any sin that is a disgrace to the Christian faith, or for any opposition to the teachings of the church. If a member does not in a reasonable time confess his/her sin and change his/her ways, he/she may be brought before the church for dismissal. 1 Cor. 5:11-13

Article V SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School or Bible School is a part of this church in its efforts to give forth a true testimony for the Lord. Its finances are governed by the church and has the same treasurer.

Article VI OFFICERS, TEACHERS, SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. OFFICERS

Pastor
Two (2) or more Deacons
Two (2) or more Deaconesses
Board of Trustees (at least three)
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Church Clerk
Teachers of Sunday School
Missionary Chairman
Youth Ministries
FCS School Board

2. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nominating Committee
Audit Committee
Pulpit Committee

3. RULES

- A. These officers and teachers may meet at any time at the discretion of the pastor and the deacons, to consider matters of interest to the Church. They shall bring their decisions before the church to be ratified.
- B. All officers and Sunday School teachers shall be elected or appointed from the membership of the church, unless the pastor and deacons recommend teachers or other leaders who are not members.
- C. Officers shall be nominated by the nominating committee before the end of March, and the church shall elect the officers at the annual meeting.
- D. The nominating committee shall consist of the pastor, two deacons, one trustee, and two other members of the church. At the March business meeting this committee shall be selected by the pastor and endorsed by the church.
- E. The audit committee shall consist of two trustees and two other members of the church. The committee shall be appointed by the pastor or deacons at the March business meeting. This committee shall audit the treasurer's account in June and report its findings at the annual business meeting.
- F. The pulpit committee shall be elected in the absence of a pastor for the church, and shall consist of two deacons, one trustee, and two other members of the church. They shall select candidates for pastor who agree with the doctrinal position of the church. They shall arrange for pulpit presentation of a candidate. Only one candidate shall be considered at a time, at any given business meeting. That candidate, after being examined by the deacons and officers of the pulpit committee, and voted upon at a business meeting, shall be notified of his acceptance or rejection within one month of his pulpit presentation.
- G. Other committees may be appointed at the discretion of the church.

Article VII BUSINESS MEETING 1 Cor. 14:40

1. There shall be at least three business meetings a year, including the annual business meeting, to consider matters of interest to the church.
2. The annual business meeting shall be held during the month of June.
3. The quorum for any business meeting shall be one-fourth of the eligible active membership except for special matters.
4. Special matters of business shall require a three-fourths of the eligible active membership to constitute a quorum.
 - A. Special matters of business defined
 - 1) Calling or releasing a pastor
 - 2) Purchase or sale of real estate
 - 3) Dissolving of the church
 - 4) Dismissal of members
 - 5) Amendments to the by-laws
 - B. Voting Majority
 - 1) Two-thirds majority on these special matters of business required.
 - 2) Two weeks written notice of these special matters shall be given to the active eligible members before the business meeting is held.
5. Business meetings shall be announced two Sundays in advance.
6. No member under 16 years of age shall be entitled to vote.
7. No inactive member described under article VIII 3B9 shall be entitled to vote.
8. No Sunday School teacher or leader not a member has a vote.
9. A simple majority carries a vote, except in special matters of business
10. In the case of the voting for a pastoral candidate, any active member who has not heard the pastoral candidate speak at a service or heard or seen the audio/video tapes will not be allowed to vote. If a member is unable to attend the voting meeting, the individual must see one of the deacons for an absentee ballot to be submitted on or before the time the vote was taken. Exemption conditions include shut-ins or work. All other conditions are up to the discretion of the Deacon Board.

Article VIII RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS AND TEACHERS

1. The pastor, officers of the church and Sunday School, teachers of Sunday School and other leaders are required to sign the doctrinal statement of faith as outlined in these bylaws.
2. The pastor, officers of the church and Sunday School, teachers of Sunday School and other leaders are required to sign the Christian Conduct Promise that follows.

CHRISTIAN CONDUCT PROMISE

“As an official of this church, Sunday School teacher or other leader, I promise that I will separate myself unto God to live a life that is consistent with the instructions in the Word of God, striving to please Him in all I do. I will faithfully attend to my duties, and seek to foster a oneness of mind in the things of Christ among the brethren.”
Rom. 12:1-2, 1 John 2:15-17, Rom. 12:9-16

3. Specific responsibilities:

A. Pastor 1 Tim. 3:1-7, 2 Tim. 4:1-5

1. The pastor shall have the general supervision and oversight of the spiritual and social work of the church with all of its allied organizations. In particular his duties shall be those of a pastor and teacher.
2. The pastor shall be considered as a member of all committees except any committee appointed for the special purpose of considering matters in which the pastor is the interested party.
3. The pastor is the moderator at all business meetings, except in his absence one of the deacons will be appointed by the church. If the pastor wants to appoint someone to be a moderator in his place, he may do so with the agreement of the church.
4. The pastor is accountable to the deacon board and does not have the authority to abolish the board unless the board rejects any of the teachings of the statement of faith. This effort by the pastor has to be approved by the congregation.

B. DEACONS

1 Tim. 3:8-13

1. There shall be at least two deacons.
2. They shall serve the elements of the Lord's Supper.
3. They shall aid the pastor in matters relating to the spiritual welfare of the church.
4. They shall meet once a month for prayer.
5. They shall examine all desiring membership.
6. They shall have the responsibility to ensure that new officers sign the doctrinal statement and Christian Conduct Promise following the annual business meeting.
7. They shall regulate the funds used for benevolence. Acts 6:1-6
8. They shall visit the sick whenever possible.
9. They shall renew the membership role every year preceding the annual meeting and after thorough investigation, shall present names for transfer to an inactive list; because in the unanimous opinion of the board, they through absence for a year from services have become inactive. Such members shall be dropped from the roll after one year on the inactive list. These members shall be notified by the deacons.
10. They shall contact all members regarding business meetings.

C. DEACONESSES

Titus 2:3-5

1. There shall be at least two deaconesses.
2. They shall prepare the elements of the Lord's Supper.
3. They shall make it their duty to send cards to the sick and flowers when suggested by the pastor, deacons or church.
4. They shall visit the sick whenever possible.
5. They shall, under the direction of the pastor and deacons, deal with matters involving the women of the church.
6. They shall meet bi-monthly with the deacons for prayer.
7. They shall help to contact all members regarding business meetings, along with the deacons.

D. TREASURER AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY

1. It shall be the duty of the financial secretary to keep an accurate account of all funds received. The financial secretary shall make a report in the church worship folder of all funds received each month. The financial secretary shall also give a report of funds received at each business meeting. At the annual meeting the financial secretary shall give a report of funds received for the year. The treasurer shall give a report of funds disbursed at each business meeting. At the annual meeting the treasurer shall give a report of the money disbursed for the year and the balance in the treasury as of May 31st.
2. The treasurer shall sign all checks for disbursing of funds. Checks may also require a second signature as regulated by the church.
3. There shall be an annual audit of the financial secretary's and the treasurer's accounts.
 - Financial secretary to be added as a signature for the bank.
 - Financial secretary and assistant to be elected to count money weekly.

E. CLERK

1. It shall be the duty of the clerk to record all business of the church in a suitable book. The clerk shall preserve all documents. It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep a record of all members showing date and manner of admission and dismissal.
2. A report of the business transacted shall be reported at the following business meeting.
3. The clerk shall give a copy of the bylaws to each new member.
1 Cor. 14:40

F. TRUSTEES

1 Cor. 12:4-7, 28

1. There shall be at least three trustees.
2. The treasurer is required to make the trustees aware of the financial status of the church.
3. They shall regulate all business transactions voted on by the church.
4. They shall make recommendations to the church for buildings, repairs, furnishings, etc.
5. They shall try to organize work groups to help keep the buildings, etc. in good repair.
6. They shall be able to spend up to \$200.00 without contacting the church body for such work, except in the case of emergency.

G. TEACHERS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

1. They shall faithfully teach the Word, pray for their class and contact absentees of their class.
2. When unable to attend Sunday School, they will, if possible, at all times inform the pastor or deacons or other person in charge in ample time to arrange for another teacher.
3. Junior and teen departments shall be taught the bylaws.

H. MISSIONARY COMMITTEE

1. They shall seek to encourage the missionary interest of the church.
2. They shall assist the pastor with an annual missionary conference.

I. FAITH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

1. All members of the FCS School Board must be members of Calvary Chapel.
2. The FCS School Board is responsible to fill any vacancies that arise on the board subject to the approval of the deacons.

Article IX ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS

These bylaws may be changed or additions made by a two-thirds vote at a regular business meeting as regulated by Article VII 4, relative to quorum, providing two weeks notice has been given to the members.

With this exception, the doctrinal statements cannot be changed, or Christian Conduct Promise for officers cannot be changed, unless there is 100% vote of the church.

All Scripture references included in the above are added by unanimous vote at the January 20, 1990 annual business meeting. The Scripture is added to Biblically backup the church bylaws.