

**Draft of Articles
I - IV of the**

Bylaws

**1905 Springfield Road
Kelowna, BC**

Red Italics mean that section or words are being moved elsewhere or deleted.
Blue bold means that section or words are moved from elsewhere or added.

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ARTICLE I - DEFINITIONS ASSOCIATION

Kelowna Trinity Baptist Church (hereinafter referred to as the “Trinity Church”) is a member of the North American Baptist Conference.

“Act” - the BC Societies Act, SBC 2015, c. 18, as amended from time to time and any statute enacted in substitution thereof, and in the case of such a substitution, any references in these bylaws to provisions of the Act shall be read as references to the substituted provisions thereof in the new statute or statutes.

“Adherent” - a person who regularly attends the services of Kelowna Trinity Baptist Church but who has not made a formal application for membership. An adherent shall not vote or participate at or need to be given notice of any General Meeting, but may attend any General Meeting.

“Bylaws” - the Bylaws of Kelowna Trinity Baptist Church filed with the BC Societies registrar. “DC” - Deacons Committee as described in Article VII.D.

“Elder” - a member of the Elder Board.

“Elder Board” or “EB” - the Elder Board of Trinity Church, including the Senior Pastor, acting as Directors of the Society.

“FOC” - Financial Oversight Committee described in Article VII.B.

“GC” - Governance Committee described in Article VII.E.

“Inactive Member” - a member without active status as described in Article IV.D.2.a.

“Member” - a member of Trinity Church as described in Article IV. A., B., and C.

“Membership Documents” - the documents used in the processing and onboarding of new members of Trinity Church and in the reaffirmation of membership.

“NC” - Nominating Committee described in Article VII.C.

“Trinity Church” - the legal entity incorporated as a non-profit society under the Act and named Kelowna Trinity Baptist Church.

ARTICLE II - STATEMENT OF FAITH ASSOCIATION

Kelowna Trinity Baptist Church (hereinafter referred to as *the* “Trinity Church”) is a member of the North American Baptist Conference.

As members of Kelowna Trinity Baptist Church, we believe in the following distinctive Christian principles:

- A) **The Bible:** *We believe the Bible is the absolutely reliable and inspired Word of God. The Bible has ultimate authority in matters of faith and conduct.*
- B) **The Trinity:** *We believe there is one living and true God, existing eternally in three equal persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. These three persons carry out different yet harmonious roles in creation, providence, and redemption.*
- 1) **God the Father:** *We believe in God the Father, an infinite personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. He takes a merciful interest in the lives of human beings. He hears and answers prayer. God the Father saves from sin and death everyone who comes to him through Jesus Christ.*
- ii) **God the Son:** *We believe in Jesus Christ, God's one and only Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. We believe in his sinless life, miracles, and teachings. He died in our place, was raised in his body from the dead and ascended into heaven where he continuously intercedes for his people.*
- iii) **God the Holy Spirit:** *We believe in God the Holy Spirit, sent into the world by God the Father and God the Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ for their salvation is regenerated, made holy, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives within every believer and is an unwavering helper, teacher, and guide.*
- C) **Regeneration:** *We believe all people are sinners by nature and choice, dominated by the power of sin. All people are guilty of breaking God's laws and are separated from God. In his mercy and love, God provided a Saviour for mankind. All who repent of their sins and accept by faith Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord are forgiven, regenerated by the Holy Spirit, and made perfect in the sight of God. Christians are justified by God's grace, not as a result of their good works or merit.*
- D) **The Church:**
- i) **The Universal Church:** *We believe in the universal church, the living spiritual body of Jesus Christ of which Jesus Christ is the head. Everyone who receives Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord is a member of the universal church.*
- ii) **The Local Church:** *We believe in the local church, a group of believers in Jesus Christ, publicly baptized by immersion following credible personal testimony of faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. The local church exists for worship, for advancing the work of the church, for sharing the responsibilities of the church, and for developing genuine Christian community. God has given the local church the primary task of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*
- E) **Spiritual Gifts:** *We believe God equips his church with all of the spiritual gifts necessary to accomplish the tasks he gives it. We believe every member of the body of Jesus Christ is given a spiritual gift(s). All spiritual gifts are intended to build up the members of the Christian community and not for selfish advantage. It is important that every Christian discovers and exercises their spiritual gift(s) in the service of Jesus Christ.*
- F) **Christian Conduct:** *We believe Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of all people. They should lead genuine Christian lives, nurturing their personal spiritual development, becoming more Christ-like in their character. They should*

worship and pray regularly, study and be obedient to God's Word, develop servants' hearts, be trustworthy in their dealings with others, pursue Christ honoring relationships, and be faithful stewards of all God entrusts to them.

- G) **Ordinances:** *We believe Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church:*
- i) **Baptism:** *Christian baptism is the public immersion of a believer in water in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.*
 - ii) **The Lord's Supper:** *Jesus Christ established the Lord's Supper as a remembrance of his death.*

These ordinances should be observed and administered until Jesus Christ returns to Earth.

- H) **Religious Liberty:** *We believe every human being has direct access to God and is personally responsible to God in matters of faith. Each church must be independent and free from interference by religious or political authorities. The church and state must be kept separate as they have different functions. They must be free to fulfill their duties without the command or sponsorship of the other.*

- I) **Church Cooperation:** *We believe local churches can promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in associations. These associations exist and function by the will of the participating churches. Cooperation in associations is voluntary and may be changed at any time by a decision of the local church.*

- J) **End Times:** *We believe in the personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to Earth and in the establishment of his kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal happiness of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.*

ARTICLE III - CHURCH COVENANT STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

As members of Trinity Church and as a member church of the North American Baptist Conference, we accept the current version of the Statement of Beliefs and the Affirmation of Marriage as adopted by the Triennial delegates of the North American Baptist Conference on July 5, 2012. See Appendix A.

As members of Kelowna Trinity Baptist Church (hereinafter referred to as the "Church"), saved by grace through Jesus Christ, publicly baptized by immersion as believers and committed to being his devoted followers, we make the following covenant with God and with one another:

We agree to strive to advance the Church in its pursuit of holiness, knowledge and worship of God, and obedience to God's Word including believer's baptism and communion.

We agree to be active participants in the life of the Church, praying for its growth and sharing in its work, discovering and exercising our spiritual gifts, contributing to its ministries with our resources and tithes, supporting its vision and values for the purpose of helping people begin and continue a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.

We agree to protect the unity of the Church, promoting its doctrine, supporting its leadership, and acting in love towards one another.

We agree to live in authentic Christian community, extending grace and acceptance to all, caring and praying for one another, especially in times of need.

We agree to lead genuine Christian lives, nurturing our personal spiritual development, worshipping God and praying regularly, studying and being obedient to God's Word, developing servants' hearts, being trustworthy in our dealings with others, pursuing Christ honoring relationships, and being faithful stewards of all God entrusts to us.

We covenant these things with God and with one another, "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6)

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

A. Qualifications of Members

Members of the Church are approved for membership by the **Elder** Board *of Elders* (or its designate). Members give credible personal testimony of faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and demonstrate obedience to biblical teaching including public baptism by immersion as believers. They accept the responsibilities and expectations of membership as expressed in the Church Covenant, the Statement of **Beliefs Faith, the Membership Pledge, and the Statement of Commitment and other onboarding documents, hereafter referred to as "membership documents," as detailed in the Elder Policy Manual, as an indication of their intent to adhere to these responsibilities and expectations.**

B. Admission of Members

Candidates for Church membership receive membership instruction and are interviewed by **representatives from the Deacon Committee** *the Board of Elders (or its designate)* to determine readiness for membership. Membership candidates must **meet the Qualifications of Members as noted in Article IV.A. (above).** *give credible personal testimony of faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and demonstrate obedience to biblical teaching including public baptism by immersion as believers or give personal testimony of having been previously publicly baptized by immersion as believers. Candidates accept the responsibilities and expectations of membership as expressed in the Church Covenant, the Statement of Faith, and the Membership Pledge; signing the Statement of Commitment as an indication of their intent to adhere to these responsibilities and expectations.* Candidates are approved and received into Church membership by the **Elder** Board *of Elders* (or its designate) **and announced to the membership at the next Membership Meeting. Membership starts when the candidate is approved and received into Church membership by the EB.**

C. Rights and Obligations of Members

1. Under the lordship of Jesus Christ, the membership of *the Trinity* Church is the source of authority in the Church. The membership is ultimately responsible and accountable to Jesus Christ for the ministry of *the Trinity* Church including its obedience to biblical principles, its effectiveness in accomplishing its purposes, the method by which *the Trinity* Church is governed, and the adequacy of its resources to carry out ministry.
2. Individual members of *the Trinity* Church are responsible and accountable for striving to advance *the Trinity* Church in its pursuit of holiness, worship and knowledge of God and obedience to God's Word, for being active participants in the life of *the Trinity* Church through praying for its growth and sharing in its work, for discovering and exercising their spiritual gift(s) and contributing to its ministries with their resources and tithes, for protecting the unity of *the Trinity* Church and living together in authentic Christian Community, for leading genuine Christian lives and nurturing their personal spiritual development.
3. Members in Good Standing
 - a) Members in good standing are those members that participate in the life and work of the Church including public worship and Church activities and support the Church financially.
 - i) **Notwithstanding**, Members prevented by a legitimate reason from participating in the life and work of *the Trinity* Church including public worship and Church activities and supporting the Church financially may be maintained as members in good standing at the decision of the **Elder Board of Elders (or its designate)**.
 - b) Members in good standing have the right to participate in Membership meetings, to nominate candidates for elected positions, to be nominated as candidates for elected positions, and to serve in elected positions.

4. Church Covenant:

As members of Kelowna Trinity Baptist Church (hereinafter referred to as *the "Trinity Church"*), saved by grace through Jesus Christ, publicly baptized by immersion as believers and committed to being his devoted followers, we make the following covenant with God and with one another:

We agree to strive to advance *the Trinity* Church in its pursuit of holiness, knowledge and worship of God, and obedience to God's Word including believer's baptism and communion.

We agree to be active participants in the life of *the Trinity* Church, praying for its growth and sharing in its work, discovering and exercising our spiritual gifts, contributing to its ministries with our resources and tithes, supporting its vision and values for the purpose of helping people begin and continue a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.

We agree to protect the unity of *the Trinity* Church, promoting its doctrine, supporting its leadership, and acting in love towards one another.

We agree to live in authentic Christian community, extending grace and acceptance to all, caring and praying for one another, especially in times of need.

We agree to lead genuine Christian lives, nurturing our personal spiritual development, worshipping God and praying regularly, studying and being obedient to God’s Word, developing servants’ hearts, being trustworthy in our dealings with others, pursuing Christ honoring relationships, and being faithful stewards of all God entrusts to us.

We covenant these things with God and with one another, “being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6)

D. Termination of Membership

Membership may be terminated by any of the following methods:

1. Transfer. At the request of a member, the Board of Elders (or its designate) may write a letter of transfer to another church of similar faith.

1. Resignation. At the request of a member, membership may be withdrawn.

2. Removal. At the decision of the **Elder** Board *of Elders (or its designate)*, members in the following situations may have their names removed from the membership roll.

a) Members who have joined another church without requesting a letter of transfer.

a) Members who have not participated in the life and work of **the Trinity** Church including public worship and Church activities, nor supported the Church financially for a period of two (2) years, unless prevented from doing so by some legitimate reason, will be placed on an “Inactive Members List”.

i) Members placed on the “Inactive Members List” that continue to be inactive in the life and work of **the Trinity** Church and unsupportive of **the Trinity** Church financially for one (1) additional year, unless prevented from doing so by some legitimate reason, will be removed from membership. The **Elder** Board *of Elders (or its designate)* will attempt to contact inactive members prior to any action taking place.

ii) Inactive members as identified in Article IV. *Section D 2ab* may be reinstated by the **Elder** Board *of Elders (or its designate)* upon evidence of the inactive member’s return to regular participation in the life and work of **the Trinity** Church and financial support of **the Trinity** Church.

iii) Inactive members prevented by a legitimate reason from participating in the life and work of **the Trinity** Church including public worship and Church activities and supporting **the Trinity** Church financially may be maintained on the “Inactive Members List” at the decision of the **Elder** Board **of Elders (or its designate)**.

3. Restoration: The goal is to restore inactive members to active membership through the restoration process implemented by the Deacon Committee and defined in the Elder Board Policy Manual.

3. 4. Exclusion. Members may be excluded from Church membership by a vote of the **Elder** Board *of Elders (or its designate)* in cases where members persistently disregard their **membership commitments** *Church Covenant, the Statement of Faith, the Membership Pledge, and/or Statement of Commitment* or are involved in situations that negatively reflect on Christian character and where credible efforts at restoration have been made without success.

- a) Excluded members as identified in Article **IV** // Section D.4 may be reinstated by the **Elder** Board *of Elders (or its designate)* upon the member's confession of error, repentance, and demonstration of willingness to fulfill their **commitment as stated in the membership documents**, *Church Covenant, the Statement of Faith, the Membership Pledge and the Statement of Commitment*, and any other conditions established by the **Elder** Board *of Elders (or its designate)*.
4. Death.