

Constitution and By-Laws of  
McCall Baptist Church  
McCall, Idaho

**PREAMBLE**

Relying upon the faith wholly in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation and believing in those great distinctive Baptist principles for which Baptists have ever stood:

1. The eternal deity of Jesus Christ.
2. The Bible, God's inerrant standard of faith and practices.
3. Regenerated membership.
4. Immersion as the scriptural mode of Baptism.
5. Positional, progressive and perfect sanctification.
6. Priesthood of every believer.
7. Soul-liberty
8. Separation of church and state
9. Autonomy of the local church

We thus join together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ and adopt for government and plan of worship and service, the following declaration of faith, Constitution and By-laws.

**DECLARATION OF FAITH**

We, as New Testament believers, enthusiastically accept the historical Baptist belief that a scriptural local church is to be composed only of people who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and should be or have been baptized as a testimony of their personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ deserves the very best from each of the members of this church. We believe that any habit, practice, association, or affection, which hinders spiritual growth and an ever-deepening knowledge of the Lord Jesus, should be laid aside. We desire our testimony to be used in directing lost souls to Christ. When you become a member of this church you enter into a fellowship which exists foremost to glorify our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Therefore, we commit to honor Christ with our lives through obedience to His written Word: thus allowing all areas of ministry to conform to His Word, and believers to be transformed into His likeness.

## **WHAT WE BELIEVE**

Because the Bible is the complete, true and sufficient Word of God, holding absolute authority for the church and the individual, we believe and teach:

Jesus Christ as the one and only begotten Son of God, is fully Jehovah God (the second person of the trinity) (John 1:1-14). In Mary's womb, He joined to His divine nature, a human nature and was virgin born, thus becoming 'God-man' (Philippians 2:5-7; Hebrews 10:5-10).

Jesus was tempted by Satan but remained sinless because He was and is God, and it is impossible for God to sin (Deuteronomy 32:3-4). Still, the temptations were both valid and real to the God-man. Oh, how he can sympathize with us (Hebrews 4:15-16).

Christ was literally crucified on the cross, His blood becoming the sufficient cleansing for our sins. He died and was buried. Then on the third day, He physically arose in victory over sin and death (1st Corinthians 1-5).

He who truly believes that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God is rescued from eternity in hell and given eternal life (Salvation – John 20:31).

The next prophetic event will be the taking up into heaven of all believers, 'The Rapture,' (1st Thessalonians 4:15-17).

Then following the tribulation, Christ will return to the earth with us, His glorified saints, to establish His literal rule over all the earth for 1,000 years (The Millennial Kingdom), and we will rule with Him (Jude 14-15).

This is our destiny as Sons of God (Romans 8). Saving faith is by grace alone and not by works of merit that we can do (Ephesians 2:8-9).

*(See statement of faith /attached for greater detail)*

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **Article 1 – Name**

The name of the church shall be: McCall Baptist Church

## **Article 2 – Purpose**

The purpose of this church shall be to:

Provide Sound Doctrinal Teaching and good Theology- (the gospel of Jesus Christ);  
Devoted Fellowship; Communion and corporate and private Prayer (Acts 2:42)

## **Article 3 - Associations**

As an independent Baptist Church, we voluntarily choose to fellowship with:

1. The General Association of Regular Baptist Churches (GARBC)
2. The Baptist Network Northwest (BNN)
3. The Idaho Regular Baptist Camp, Inc. (Camp Pinewood)
4. The Southern Fellowship of Regular Baptist Churches and the Treasure Valley Association of Regular Baptist Churches

## **Article 4 - Membership**

### Section A. Qualifications of Membership

The membership of the church shall be restricted to those who profess personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and evidence the fruit of the Spirit; (Galatians 5:22, 23); to those who have been baptized or will be baptized and acknowledge agreement with the Declaration of Faith.

### Section B. Manner of Receiving Members.

Candidates may become members of this church in one of two ways:

1. A desire to join with this body of believers at McCall Baptist and upon profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, he and/or she shall meet with the Pastor and an Elder and upon agreement with Declaration of Faith the Pastor will present the name at any church meeting for welcoming.
2. Letter from prior church of same or similar faith on Christian experience and baptism and meeting with the Pastor and an Elder, the Pastor will present the name at any church meeting for welcoming

### Section C. Termination of Membership

1. By death.
2. By inactivity  
Membership rolls will be revised at least annually to keep such rolls current. Members that have demonstrated a lack of interest and/or attendance at church services for a continuous period of 6 months and lacking any unusual reasons such as being away for the winter (snowbirds)

- Or infirmity, or in missions, work out of the area and after visitation for the purpose of reconciliation or restoration by the Pastor and or Elders; may be dropped by unanimous approval of elder board and pastor.
3. By joining another local church in which visitation by the pastor for determination or restoration is unsuccessful – will be automatically removed from membership
  4. By written request by the member.
  5. By disciplinary reasons for the sake of restoration – 1 Cor. 5:1-13

#### Section D. Conduct of Members

We believe that all saved individuals should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon God; and that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded by God (Romans 12:1, 2; 16:17, 18; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:18; Colossians 3:1-17; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; James 1:27; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11)

### **Article 5 - Officers**

#### Section A. Elected Officers

The principal offices of this church are Pastor, Elders, and Deacons. The church shall elect the Pastor (s) through a process that will include Elders, a pastoral call board and congregational approval. Elders and Deacons shall be selected by Elders and approved by congregational approval. Elders can appoint other officers as herein specified. All officers and committee members whether elected or appointed shall be members of this church, lead sound Christians lives and require a majority vote and serve, unless otherwise specified, for a minimum of 1 year.

#### Section B. Pastor

##### 1. Qualifications

- a. The pastor shall meet the New Testament standards as given in I Timothy 3:1-7.
- b. The pastor shall be in accord with this Constitution (including the Preamble and Declaration of Faith).
- c. The pastor should be Biblically sound and able to teach and preach sound doctrine and should be able to defend what is taught. In essence the pastor should meet the various admonitions found in 1 Timothy (1:3-5; 18; 2:1; 3:1-7; 4:1-16; 5:1-22; 6:3-20;) 2 Timothy (1 and 2; 3:14-15; 4:1-5); Titus (1:5-9; 2:1-15; 3:1-10)
- d. Pastor should have had some formal training/education in Theology/Bible (This may be waived by elders and 90% vote of the congregation)

## 2. Duties

- a. The pastor, as an under-shepherd of Christ's local church shall: preach the Word of God, administer the ordinances, shepherd the church and lead it in the fulfillment of its equipping task (Ephesians 4:12), and publicly extend the right hand of fellowship to new members on behalf of the church.
- b. The pastor shall have direct supervisory oversight and responsibility for all paid staff members, with continuing accountability to the board of Elders for their conduct and ministry.
- c. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, boards, and auxiliary organizations of the church.
- d. See attached Job Description for Pastoral staff

## 3. Calling

- a. The pulpit committee shall be the board of Elders and members from the congregation.
- b. Preliminary investigation shall begin as soon as possible after the resignation, removal, or death of a pastor. A minister of the gospel who is of good report, sound in doctrine, biblical in separation and Baptist by conviction, shall be invited to meet with the pulpit committee, supply the pulpit for a Sunday or longer, and state whether or not he is willing to be considered for the pastorate. Only recommendations from the pulpit committee shall be considered. Candidates must be unanimously recommended by the pulpit committee before being presented to the church for a vote within three weeks after time of candidacy. A special church business meeting shall be called by the elders to consider a call for the prospective pastor. A notice of this meeting and its purpose must be read from the pulpit on two successive Sundays previous. A ninety percent (90%) vote of the members present and voting is required to call a pastor. To avoid confusion, only one perspective pastoral candidate shall be considered at one time.
- c. Moving expenses of the incoming pastor shall be paid by the church unless otherwise agreed upon.

## 4. Compensation

- a. The pastor's salary shall be reviewed annually by the board of Elders.
- b. The pastor shall have an annual vacation, the time and extent to be agreed upon by the pastor and the board of elders.

## 5. Dismissal

- a. The office of pastor shall be a continuous office, and shall be terminated by one of the following:
  - (1) The acceptance of his resignation.
  - (2) By his death, or sustained health impairment that would prohibit the fulfillment of his duties as a pastor.
  - (3) By a contrary majority vote at a duly called business meeting to consider pastoral relations. A prior meeting between the

pastor and the elder board to determine pastoral relations – whether theological differences or a violation of Biblical qualifications or other, must have taken place and a recommendation to bring this to the congregation for consideration must have been posted or read from the pulpit 2 weeks prior to the meeting. A majority vote of membership is needed to dismiss the pastor. When this meeting is scheduled by the board of elders to consider pastoral relations, the pastor may be suspended immediately from all duties by a majority vote of the board of elders.

6. Associate/Assistant Pastor(s)

- a. Associate and/or assistant pastoral staff positions may be added or deleted upon recommendation of the board of elders, and with the approval of a ninety percent (90%) majority vote of the congregation at any regular or special business meeting called for that purpose. The associate/assistant pastoral position must be approved in the above manner prior to calling an individual to the newly-created position.
- b. Additional pastoral staff shall be subject to the pastoral qualifications, calling, compensation and dismissal provisions outlined in Article V, Section B of this constitution. As to the duties, a general description shall be included in the call.
- c. All associate and/or assistant pastoral staff shall be accountable to the senior pastor as to job function and coordination of ministry.

Section C. Elders

1. Elders must meet those Biblical qualifications of 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. They need to be mature men that have a good reputation, and desire the office of elder. Their term is for 3 years and may be re-elected after 1 year of rest.
2. Duties - Distribute the elements at the Lord's Supper; Administer a benevolent fund (for the benefit of the church); Assist the pastor in visitation; Serve as an advisory board to work with the pastor in superintending all the affairs of the church; Assist the pastor in promoting the spiritual life of the church; Constitute the pulpit committee; Arrange for pulpit supply in the absence of the pastor; Constitute the church officer nomination committee; The chairman of the board shall preside over business meetings;. At least one elder shall be assigned to each major standing committee as designated by the board; Special speakers will be selected by the pastor and elders. They shall make reports at the regular and annual meetings of the church as needed. They may present written recommendation of items of finance to the church.

Section D. Deacons

1. Not less than 2 men shall be selected annually. They shall be men who meet the qualifications in Acts 6:3 and 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:8-13. Term is for a minimum of 1 year
2. Duties - Since the temporal affairs of the church are legitimately embraced in the duties of the deaconate according to the Scriptures, and since the deacons are elected in such a way as to comply with the statutes of the State of Idaho, the board of deacons shall, in transactions involving the state and other temporal agencies, constitute officially, and be known as the directors of the McCall Baptist Church, McCall Idaho. To the extent consistent with the provisions of this Constitution, the deacons, shall, in exercising their office as directors and along with the Pastor and Elders, have all legal power and authority normally residing in directors of a corporation including, without limitation, the power and authority when such actions are duly approved to perform the following acts on behalf of the church: The deacons shall perform the following special duties. They shall have charge of the property of the church but shall not sell, mortgage or otherwise encumber the real estate or other property of the church without consent of Pastor, Elders and two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the church present at a special meeting called for that purpose by church notice given at least two weeks previously and approved by elder board and sr. Pastor. They shall plan for the raising, collecting, and safeguarding of the funds, both current and benevolent, needed by the church, and shall encourage each member of the church to enter into its financial support

#### Section E. Other Church Offices

1. Christian Education Director – (Appointed by the pastor(s) and elders)  
The Christian Education Director shall be general executive of the Sunday school and, together with the pastor, youth pastor and elders, shall make plans for organizing and directing of its activities. This function may be shared by more than one person. They shall select any assistant personnel, department heads, teachers, and workers. All selections shall be made for one year. Selections and removals will be with the approval of the elder board. The Christian Education Director in consultation with the pastor, youth pastor, and elders shall appoint personnel, approve curriculum, administer budgeted funds and oversee all Christian education ministries of the church, including: teen ministries, Awana, Bible studies, children's ministries, Vacation Bible School and others as may be designated.
2. Clerk – (Elected by the church)  
It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep an accurate record of all business meetings of the church and a complete alphabetical and chronological record of the date and manner of admission and dismissal of members of both the active and inactive rolls. The Clerk shall conduct the official correspondence of the church regarding business meetings and membership as directed by the church.

3. Treasurer – (Elected by the church) - Financial Secretary (appointed by Elders)

The Treasurer along with the Financial Secretary shall receive and keep, in designated depositories, all moneys of the church. Payments from funds in the custody of the Treasurer shall be made only by check, signed by the Treasurer, or Pastor or Elder Board. They shall be responsible for the designation of a bank for general banking and depository for securities and other valuables of the church. They may also assign to church officers, boards or standing committees, certain responsibilities to be performed at the direction of the elder board. They shall have the custody of the Seal. The Treasurer shall keep accounts of all such funds and shall submit an annual report and any additional reports which may be requested by the church or board of elders. The Treasurer, shall count all moneys received and shall deposit them in the bank in the name of the church. They shall keep a record of all income and shall give reports of the income of the church at all regular business meetings. Members of the elder board may substitute for either or both the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer in their absence.

5. Music Director – (Appointed by the pastor(s) and elders)

The Music Director shall provide oversight for all music of the church. The Music Director shall arrange for special music, arrange to have a pianist for church services, be responsible for the choir and choir director, and shall be responsible for insuring that a song leader is available for all services

6. Ushers – (Appointed by the pastor(s) and deacons)

It shall be the duty of the ushers to welcome visitors, assist with seating, receive the offering and assure the comfort of the congregation through control of the heating, ventilation, and lighting of the building. They shall meet as soon as possible after their appointment to select their chairman, and discuss proper procedures with the previous usher chairman. They shall be sufficiently organized so that at least two ushers will be at every service in sufficient time before the service starts to greet everyone as they arrive. They shall keep a record of the attendance at all services and report same. They shall provide the security of the church building during and after services.

## **Article 6 – Meetings**

### Section A. For Worship

Unless otherwise noted, the church shall meet for public worship on Sunday. Meetings shall also be held regularly for prayer, praise, and Bible study during the week and after Sunday church service. The Lords Supper will be on the first Sunday of each month. Special meetings can be called by Pastor and Elders for evangelism, missionary work or Bible study.

## Section B. For Business

The annual meeting of officers and other business shall take place in January each year. Newly elected officers shall take office the following Sunday. Business meetings and special meetings for church business can be called by the elders, deacons and pastor on an as-need basis provided notice has been given one week in advance as a regular scheduled meeting of the church, in writing. A quorum of 20% of active voting members is required to transact business. All ballots in elections are by secret ballot and absentee ballots are placed inside a sealed envelope with date cast and members' signature on outside of envelope. The Chairman of the Elder board will be the moderator of all meetings or the Pastor in absence of the Elder board chairman. Roberts Rules of Order are adopted as a general guide for business meetings.

### **Article 7 - Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year shall be Jan to Dec or the calendar year.

### **Article 8 - Amendments**

This constitution may be repealed or amended at the annual meeting or any other meeting called for that purpose. This action requires a 2 week notice and requires a 2/3 majority of voting members present. Any proposed amendment must be in writing and submitted to the church 2 weeks prior to the meeting which it is to be considered.