

Constitution and ByLaws of

Renaissance Church

Article 1: Affiliation

This constitution recognizes and acknowledges and appreciates the role of Conservative Baptist Association of Southern California in helping to initiate Renaissance Church. Renaissance Church is affiliated with the Conservative Baptist Association of America, and the Conservative Baptist Association of Southern California.

Article 2: Name

The name of this church shall be Renaissance Church located in the city of Norco California. Riverside County, CA.

Article 3: Vision

Renaissance Church will be a community of believers who are bringing praise to the Lord and glory to His name through personal and corporate study of His word and worship, through serving one another sacrificially with Christ as our model, through sharing the gospel of Christ with our neighbors.

Article 4: Mission

The mission of Renaissance Church is to bring glory and honor to the Lord by seeking serving and sharing the Love, Wisdom and Redemptive plan of God.

Article 5: Statement of Faith

5.1 The Bible

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, complete as the revelation of God's will for salvation and the supreme and final authority in all matters to which they speak. (II Timothy 3:16,17; II Peter 1:21)

5.2 God

We believe in one God, eternally existing in Three Persons; God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit; yet being only one God. God the Father, an infinite personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love, concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, hears and answers prayer, and saves from sin and death all who come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24)

5.3 Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived by the Holy

Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross a sinless sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He is now our High Priest and Advocate. (Isaiah 7:14; John 1:1, 10:30; Luke 2:52; Philippians 2: 58; Hebrews 4:14-16)

5.4 The Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is a Person and is fully God. He regenerates, baptizes and seals into the body of Christ, indwells every believer, guides and empowers believers, and gives gifts to all believers to be used in ministry so that the church functions properly. (John 16:8-11, 13-15; Romans 8:14-17; Ephesians 1:13-14)

5.5 Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

We believe that God created man, male and female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image of God and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning; the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, sexual, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen 2:18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between man and a woman. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10). We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the Renaissance Church as the local body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to Renaissance Church's members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Renaissance Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender and Sexuality (Matt 5:16, Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22). We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11). We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Renaissance Church.

5.6 Regeneration

We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only such as receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit and, thus, become children of God. (1 John 1:12; 3:3; 3:16-17; Romans 6:23)

5.7 The Ordinances

We believe that Christ has commanded us to observe the two New Testament ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper. These two ordinances are observed in obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ as acts of love and devotion, and are not set forth in Scripture as a condition of salvation. We teach and practice immersion as the form of baptism for believers. We view the Lord's Supper as a memorial of our Lord's death, and the elements as symbols of His body and blood. Under usual circumstances, the sacraments should be administered by an officer of church to believers who are gathered; nevertheless, communion may be administered by a church officer outside of a larger gathering under special circumstances (i.e. hospital visits,

remote meetings, retreats, and other smaller gatherings). (Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47,48; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, 33)

5.8 The Church Universal

We believe that the Church is the spiritual body of which Christ is the Head. We believe that the true Church is composed of all persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the Body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:22-23)

5.9 The Church Local

We believe that only those who are, thus, members of the true Church shall be eligible for membership in the local church. (II Corinthians 6:14)

5.10 Religious Liberty

We also believe in the interdependence of local churches and the mutual submission of believers to each other in love. We are a local church that is self-governing in function and free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority. (I Timothy 3; Titus 1)

5.11 Last Things

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and lost, the eternal existence of all people either in heaven or hell, in divine judgments, rewards and punishments. (Revelation 20:11-15; Revelation 21)

Article 6: Membership

6.1 General Membership Requirements:

To become a member, one must have:

- a. Experienced Christian conversion by grace through faith.
- b. Publicly expressed this faith in believer's baptism.
- c. Read and willingly subscribe to the Purpose and Statement of Faith
- d. Subscribed to the Membership Covenant
- e. Be at least 16 years of age

6.2 Procedure

Requests for membership shall be made directly or indirectly (Communication Card, note, call to office, etc) to a Church Staff Member or Elder. The applicant may then be enrolled in a membership class. With completion of the membership class, and the confidence that all the requirements are fulfilled, the Pastor in charge of the class shall make a motion to the Elder Board for approval of membership. Approved members will be welcomed and affirmed by the congregation at a designated worship service.

6.3 Membership Responsibilities

Members are expected to be willing to assume the responsibilities of membership. They shall strive to, among other things:

- a. Progress in obedience to Christ (John 14:15)
- b. Worship regularly with the church family (Heb 9:24-27)
- c. Serve faithfully in ministry in cooperation with the Church Staff (1 Peter 4:10; 1 Cor

12:17).

- d. Support financially the church ministry through prayerful, consistent and sacrificial giving (2 Cor 9:615).
- e. Influence their network of friends, relatives and associates to become Christ's disciples (Matt 28:1920).
- f. Participate in the church's smaller group setting to stimulate fellowship, care, prayer, and discipleship (Heb 10:2425; Acts 2:4249)
- g. Be responsive to the church leadership (Heb 13:7)

6.4 Rights

Membership in this church shall not vest in any member any proprietary rights in this corporation. However, it will entitle the member to vote on those matters submitted to the congregation or to the church membership as a whole. Voting privileges are restricted to members who have passed their 16 birthday. Those under 18 may be excluded from church meetings by the Elders if subject matter to be addressed is deemed inappropriate for a minor. Only persons whose names stand on the membership roll of the church on the day of any meeting of the church, may be entitled to vote. Membership is required for all commissions and ministry positions so designed by the Elder Board.

6.5 Removal and Discipline

Members may be removed from the church roll by the Elder Board because of:

- a. Transfer to another church
- b. Request for release
- c. Death
- d. Inactivity – Members who fail to assume the responsibilities of membership over a period of 6 months may be dropped from the membership roll.
- e. Church Discipline: All members of the church are expected to conduct their lives according to the standard set forth in the Scriptures.
 - (1) Individuals who are clearly aware of known sin by a brother or sister in Christ, should lovingly confront such a one on the matter. The goal is always restoration of an offender to God and body of Christ.
 - (2) If a member does not respond, and the two cannot agree on the matter, then a third witness should be brought into the disagreement so that all facts can be confirmed and reconciled. Clear sin should be identified and counsel given regarding the matter.
 - (3) If repentance of known and identified sin is not forthcoming, then the Elder Board shall request a meeting with the parties.
 - (4) If the board concurs that repentance is needed and the offending member does not respond, the board may move to make public the disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from membership. Members will be instructed to withdraw fellowship from a non repentant member (Matt 18; I Cor 5)

Article 7 Leadership

7.1 Elder Board

Christ is the head of the church universal and in this local body administering His rule through the Elders who are nominated by the Elder Board and affirmed by the members.

- a. Qualifications: Elders shall be men aspiring to the office being recognized as having the character requirements in the qualifications of 1 Tim 3:17; Titus 1:69 and 1 Peter 5:13. Except for full time Pastors they shall have been an active member for at least one year.
- b. Number: Appropriate to effectively fulfill the responsibilities of eldership as outlined in section 7-C.
- c. Duties: The Elder Board shall have general oversight of all congregational matters and perform all functions necessary to the discharge of this responsibility. Such duties shall include the authority to:
 - (1) guard the faith and make sure that doctrine is taught Biblically according to the Statement of Faith.
 - (2) To assist and provide counsel to the Church staff in setting the spiritual goals of the congregation and maintaining the effective and efficient operation of the congregation.
 - (3) Select, recommend and remove all the officers, committees, boards, pastoral staff, and employees of the congregation; prescribe duties for them as may not be inconsistent with the Constitution and By Laws; fix their terms of office and their compensation; to create the annual budget with the input of the church staff.
 - (4) Receive and disburse all congregational funds; to generally conduct, manage, and Direct the activities and affairs of the congregation; and to make such rules and regulations thereof not inconsistent with the Constitution and ByLaws as it may seem best.
 - (5) Dissolution of the corporation.
 - (6) Appointment of Missionary candidates and Missionary projects.
- d. The Elders must seek member approval regarding:
 - (1) Affirmation of Elders
 - (2) Hiring of the Senior Pastor
 - (3) Amending the Constitution and ByLaws
 - (4) Acquisition or disposal of real property.
- e. Appointment. Recommendations to fill the office of Elder shall occur as elder board determines the need. The current Elder Board shall review all nominations and determine each nominee's qualifications. The Board of Elders shall then publicly post the approved nominees for at least two Sundays prior to final appointment. The Elders shall be elected through a special confirmation meeting when needed.
- f. Termination of Service. Elders serve an indefinite term at the discretion of the elder board. Any Elder may resign effective upon giving written notice to the Chairman of the board. Any Elder may be removed from office for any reason by the unanimous vote of the remainder of the Elder Board.
- g. Meetings. Regular meeting of the Elder Board shall be held without call or notice on a set day of each month, as determined by the Board. Special meeting may be called at any time by order of the Chairman or the Senior Pastor or by a quorum of the members of the Board. These meetings shall be held any time by notice given personally or by phone.
- h. Quorum. A simple majority of the Board of Elders serving shall constitute a quorum.
- i. Decisions. Decisions shall be reached after prayerful consideration by unanimous

vote in a spirit of humility, with each voting member regarding one another before himself.

- j. Right of Inspection. The Senior Pastor and every Elder shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect all books, records, documents and the physical properties of the church excluding individual donation records.
- k. Appointed Boards and Committees. To promote efficient handling of congregational matters, the Elder Board may appoint various boards, committees, and councils from within the congregation. These boards, committees, and councils shall perform tasks solely in accordance with the duties and powers specifically delegated by the Elder Board. These appointed boards, committees, and councils shall exist for the period specified by the Elder Board. The methods of raising funds by any group or organization with the congregation shall be subject to approval of the Elder Board. No organization may be formed within the congregation without the approval of the Elder Board.

Article 8 Senior Pastor and Pastoral Staff

8.1 Senior Pastor

- a. The Senior Pastor shall be called to serve for an indefinite period of time. He shall serve as the President of the Corporation and be authorized to cosign any legal document with the Secretary or Treasurer.
- b. He shall perform all the scriptural duties of his office, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, have freedom in the public worship services to preach the Word of God, to the edification of the believers and regeneration of the lost. He shall have responsibility for the stated services of worship and work to equip the congregation under the guidance of the Elder Board.
- c. The Senior Pastor will recommend to the Elders the pastoral positions he feels necessary to fulfill the ministry needs of the church and will be responsible for day to day supervision of the Pastoral staff. With a vision for staff unity and effectiveness, he will be responsible for hiring and terminating members of the pastoral staff with the concurrence of the Elders.
- d. The Senior Pastor shall be consulted in all matters affecting the life and policy of the church. By virtue of his office, a Senior Pastor shall have power of address and be an exofficio member of all boards, and councils of the congregation.
- e. The Senior Pastor's job description and compensation shall be reviewed annually by the Elder Board. The Elders shall establish and maintain a job description for all Staff members.
- f. The Senior Pastor may resign or the Elder Board reserves the right to dismiss him for cause after thoroughly seeking reconciliation per Article 6; section E. A vote for removal must be unanimously agreed upon by the elder board.
- g. The affirmation of a Senior Pastor must receive 3/4 of the church members vote.

Article 9: Officers of the Church

- a. Chairman. The Chairman of the Elder Board is the Senior Pastor by virtue of his office. He shall preside at all meetings of the Elder Board. He shall serve as an exofficio member of all boards and committees. He shall have such powers and duties as prescribed by the Elder Board and insure that the Constitution and ByLaws be enforced.

b. Secretary. The Secretary of the Elder Board shall serve as the Secretary of the corporation and the congregation. The Secretary shall keep or cause to be kept a book of minutes of all the Elder Board meetings as well as a church membership register, showing the names of the members of the congregation. He shall be authorized to cosign any legal document with the President and Treasurer. He shall have such powers and duties prescribed by the Elder Board. In the absence or disability of the Chairman, the Secretary shall perform all duties of the Chairman.

c. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be a member in good standing appointed by the Elders to serve as the treasurer of the corporation and the congregation. The Treasurer shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct accounts of the properties, finances and business transaction of the corporation and congregation. The books of account shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection by any member of the Elder Board. The Treasurer shall insure that the deposits and disbursement of all corporate funds be handled as ordered by the Elder Board. He shall make available a monthly financial report at each regular Elder Board meeting and an annual report at the end of the fiscal year. He shall be authorized to cosign any legal document with the President and Secretary. He shall have such powers and duties as prescribed by the Elder Board.

Article 10 Church Meetings

10.1 Annual Church Meeting

The Annual Church meeting will consist of a review of church vision, mission and the yearly budget. The Elders will determine time and place, and will oversee the process. The agenda, planned by the Board of Elders will be communicated to the congregation. Business to be conducted will be confined to matters contained in the agenda.

10.2 Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by an action of the Elders. A special meeting must be announced by the Elders within ten (10) days after receiving a request for that purpose.

10.3 Notice of Meetings

Notice of all meetings may occur in one of two ways: (1) Notice will be published for two regularly scheduled weekend services of the church; (2) The congregation will receive written notice by mail and an announcement in one regularly scheduled weekend service.

10.4 Church Meeting Protocol

All matters in regular and special church meetings will be decided by two thirds (2/3) vote, with the exception of the affirming of a Senior Pastor which requires a 3/4 majority vote.

Confirmation of Elders, amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and the affirming of the Senior Pastor will be decided by secret ballot.

10.5 Quorums and Voting Rights

A quorum at any church business meeting requiring a vote will consist of at least twenty five (25) percent of members. In the event a quorum is not present, those members present will discuss the issues that were to be voted on at this meeting and a vote will be taken. This vote will then be forwarded to the Elders as a recommendation. In this case, the Elders will make the

final decision. Absentee ballots can be furnished for members upon their request. Such ballots must be returned to the Church Clerk before the counting of ballots.

Article 11: Facility Usage

11.1 Facility Usage

The church's facilities were provided through God's benevolence and by the sacrificial generosity of church members. The church desires that its facilities be used for the fellowship of the Body of Christ and always to God's glory. Although the facilities are not generally open to the public, we make our facilities available to approved non-member persons and groups as a witness to our faith, in a spirit of Christian charity, and as a means of demonstrating the Gospel of Jesus Christ in practice.

However, facility use will not be permitted to persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs, or advancing, advocating, or engaging in practices that conflict with the church's faith or moral teachings, which are summarized in, among other places, the church's constitution and bylaws. Nor may facilities be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed by the pastor as inconsistent with, or contrary to the church's faith or moral teachings. The pastor, or his official designee, is the final decision-maker on whether a person or group is allowed to use church facilities.

This restricted facility use policy is necessary for two important reasons. First, the church may not in good conscience materially cooperate in activities or beliefs that are contrary to its faith. Allowing its facilities to be used for purposes that contradict the church's beliefs would be material cooperation with that activity, and would be a grave violation of the church's faith and religious practice. See 2 Corinthians 6:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:22.

Second, it is very important to the church that it presents a consistent message to the community, which the church staff and members conscientiously maintain as part of their witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To allow facilities to be used by groups or persons who express beliefs or engage in practices contrary to the church's faith would have a severe negative impact on the message that the church strives to promote. It could also be a source of confusion and scandal to church members and the community because they may reasonably perceive that by allowing use of our facilities, the church is in agreement with the beliefs or practices of the persons or groups using church facilities.

Therefore, in no event shall persons or groups who hold, advance, or advocate beliefs, or advance, advocate, or engage in practices that contradict the church's faith may use any church facility. Nor may facilities be used in any way that contradicts the church's faith. This policy applies to all church facilities, regardless of whether the facilities are connected to the church's sanctuary, because the church sees all of its property as holy and set apart to worship God. See Colossians 3:17.

11.2 Approved Users and Priority of Use

The pastor or official designee must approve all uses of church facilities. Priority shall generally be given to members of the church, their immediate families, and organized groups that are part of the ministry, organization, or sponsored activities of the church. Church facilities and

equipment will be made available to non-members or outside groups meeting the following qualifications:

- a. Groups or persons requesting facility use must affirm that their beliefs and practices and planned uses of the facilities are in harmony with the church's faith and practice.
- b. The group or person seeking facility use must submit a signed "Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form.
- c. The group or person seeking facility use must be willing to take responsibility for the facilities and equipment used and must agree to abide by the church's rules of conduct for facility use, as stated in the "Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form. and as described in any additional instructions by church staff.

Article 12: Dissolution

In the event of corporate dissolution, property and assets of the corporation shall be dispersed to evangelical religious organizations as designated by the corporation. No private person or persons will receive any personal benefits from such disbursements. Renaissance Church Constitution and By-Laws