

CONSTITUTION
Revised and Updated
February, 2010

Article I, Name

The name of this congregation is: **AJAX BAPTIST CHURCH**
"Ministering the Changeless Christ in a changing world."
Since 14 December 1945

And
Incorporated in the Province of Ontario, 9 April 1979.

Article II, Objects

The objects of this church are as follows:

1. To glorify God.
2. To assemble for corporate worship, Biblical instruction and exhortation.
3. To observe the divinely appointed ordinances.
4. To evangelize the community and to further the world-wide proclamation of the Gospel.
5. To exercise loving discipline of its members in accordance with the standards of Scripture.

Article III, Covenant

Having been led by the Spirit of God to repent and to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost upon profession of faith, we solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

1. **By the aid of the Holy Spirit we promise to:**
 - 1.1. Walk together in Christian love.
 - 1.2. Attend the worship services of this church.

1.3. Participate in its observance of the ordinances, believe and proclaim its doctrines, live in accordance with its standards and subject ourselves to its discipline.

1.4. Contribute cheerfully and regularly to its ministry at home and abroad.

2. By the aid of the Holy Spirit we also promise to:

2.1. Maintain private and family devotions.

2.2. Bring up our children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

2.3. Seek salvation of relatives, friends and indeed of all with whom we come in contact.

2.4. Be exemplary in our deportment, just in our dealings and faithful in our engagements.

3. By the aid of the Holy Spirit we further promise to:

3.1. Pray for one another.

3.2. Cultivate Christian sympathy and to aid each other in sickness and distress.

3.3. Be courteous in speech, slow to take offence and eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit.

Ajax Baptist Church Our Statement of Faith

I. Bible: We believe the Bible to be the complete Word of God; that the sixty-six books, as originally written, comprising the Old and New Testament were verbally inspired by the Spirit of God and were entirely free from error; that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice and the true basis of Christian Union.

II. God: We believe in one God, Creator of all, holy, sovereign, eternal, existing in three equal Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

III. Christ: We believe in the absolute and essential deity of Jesus Christ, in His eternal existence with the Father in pre-incarnate glory, in His virgin birth, sinless life, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection, triumphant ascension, mediatorial ministry and personal return.

IV. The Holy Spirit: We believe in the absolute and essential deity and personality of the Holy Spirit Who convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, Who regenerates, sanctifies, illuminates and comforts those who believe in Jesus Christ.

V. Satan: We believe that Satan, exists as an evil personality, the originator of sin, the arch-enemy of God and man.

VI. Man: We believe that man was divinely created in the image of God; that he sinned, becoming guilty before God, resulting in total depravity, thereby incurring physical and spiritual death.

VII. Salvation: We believe that salvation is by the sovereign, electing grace of God; that by the appointment of the Father, Christ voluntarily suffered a vicarious expiatory and propitiatory death; that justification is by faith alone in the all-sufficient sacrifice and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and that those whom God has effectually called shall be divinely preserved and finally perfected in the image of the Lord.

VIII. Future Things: We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ; in the resurrection of the just and unjust; in the eternal blessedness of the redeemed and in the judgment and conscious, eternal punishment of the wicked.

IX. The Local Church: We believe that a church is a company of immersed believers, called out from the world, separated unto the Lord Jesus, voluntarily associated for the ministry of the Word, the mutual edification of its members, the propagation of the faith and the observance of the ordinances. We believe it is a sovereign independent body, exercising its own divinely awarded gifts, precepts and privileges under the Lordship of Christ, the Great Head of the church. We believe that its officers are pastors and deacons.

X. Ordinances: We believe that there are only two ordinances for the church regularly observed in the New Testament in the following order:

XI. Baptism which is the immersion of the believer in water, whereby he obeys Christ's command and sets forth his identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

XII. The Lord's Supper which is the memorial wherein the believer partakes of the two elements, bread and wine, which symbolize the Lord's body and shed blood, proclaiming His death until He come.

XIII. The Church and State: We believe in the entire separation of church and state.

XIV. Religious Liberty: We believe in religious liberty, that every man has the right to practice and propagate his beliefs.

XV. The Lord's Day: We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day and that, in a special sense, it is the divinely appointed day for worship and spiritual exercise.

XVI. Civil Government: We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honoured and obeyed, except only in the things opposed to the Word of God and to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the only Lord of the conscience and Prince of the kings of the earth.

AJAX BAPTIST CHURCH BY-LAWS

1. General Procedure

In regulating its spiritual affairs and business the Ajax Baptist Church in the Town of Ajax, Ontario shall be governed (in all areas as each may apply) by the teachings and examples of the Scriptures, its Constitution, the Religious Institutions Act of the Province of Ontario and the By-Laws which the church shall from time to time adopt. The church shall have the power to make, alter, amend or discard any By-Laws at an Annual or special business meeting, provided notice of such intended action is given at the time that the meeting is announced to the membership.

2. Affiliation

- 2.1 This church is a member of the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Canada.
- 2.2 This church is a member of the FEB Central Region of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Canada.
- 2.3 This church is a member of the Central Lake Ontario Association of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Canada.

3. Membership

3.1 Qualifications:

- 3.1.1 The new birth (John 3:3-7).
- 3.1.2 Baptism by immersion in water.
- 3.1.3 Agreement with the Constitution and Statement of Faith.
- 3.1.4 Application for membership may be made to the pastor, or to one of the deacons, after which the applicant is interviewed by two deacons, a report of the interview is given to the church, after which a vote is taken upon the application.
- 3.1.5 **Active membership**
 - 3.1.5.1 Application for membership is approved by the Board of Deacons and voted in acceptance by the majority of active members of the Congregation.

3.1.6 Inactive membership

3.1.6.1 The member is placed in inactive status when he/she has completely abstained from any church activities (Article III, Covenant 1.2) for more than twelve (12) consecutive months. A letter from the Board of Deacons must be sent to the member to advise his/her imminent change in membership status. The member will have thirty (30) days to respond. Such letter will not be sent to members unable to attend due to health or other long term considerations.

3.1.7 Membership Suspension/ Removal for Cause:

3.1.7.1 Any member with inappropriate behaviour is subject to suspension or immediate removal from membership pending a recommendation from the Board of Deacons.

3.1.7.2 For membership suspension, a letter from the Board of Deacons must be sent to the member to advise suspension duration and if feasible, provide assistance to return to active membership status.

3.1.7.3 For membership removal, a letter from the Board of Deacons must be sent to the member to advise of his/her imminent removal from membership.

3.1.8 Membership removal

3.1.8.1 The member is removed from membership upon his/her request. A letter from the Board of Deacons must be sent to the member to confirm his/her request. Members will be removed from inactive status after two (2) years.

4. Government:

4.1 The government of the church is democratic in its nature, with each member 16 years or older having the privilege of actively participating in the business of the church, with a due regard for order in the assembly.

4.2 The Annual Meeting to be held no later than the last Wednesday of February of each year.

4.3 The Annual Meeting will include the receiving of reports for the previous year and the adopting of the Church budget for the current year.

- 4.4 Financial Updates no less than quarterly shall be published in the Church Sunday bulletin.
 - 4.5 Special meetings may be called as necessary by the pastor, the deacons or 10 members. Notice for such meetings to be given at least two Sundays prior to such meetings. Twenty-five percent of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum at all business meetings.
 - 4.6 A 66% approval of those present and voting is necessary to carry any motion in connection with the business of the church. Voting will be done by a show of hands unless a ballot or a recorded vote is called for.
 - 4.7 The pastor, or one of the deacons, shall preside at all business meetings of the church.
 - 4.8 All candidates for any elected position must be members in good standing.
5. **Organization:**
- 5.1 **Officers:**
 - 5.1.1 **Pastor:** He is the shepherd and overseer of the church.
 - 5.1.1.1 He shall conduct the regular services of the church, have the over-sight of the spiritual welfare of the church in conjunction with the deacons and they shall organize and develop the church's strength to its fullest potential.
 - 5.1.1.2 He may act as moderator of all meetings of the church.
 - 5.1.1.3 He shall be an ex-officio member of all boards, committees and organizations of the church.
 - 5.1.1.4 He shall be called by the church upon recommendation of the pulpit committee. The election to be publicly announced four successive Sundays before a vote may be taken and a majority of 80% of those casting ballots shall be necessary to extend a call by the church.
 - 5.1.1.5 The Pastor shall be required to yearly reaffirm his fidelity to the Gospel by reaffirming his agreement with the church covenant and constitution in the presence of the Board of Deacons at the first Board meeting following the Annual Business Meeting.
 - 5.1.1.6 The dismissal of a Pastor shall be upon 66% vote of the members present at a duly called business meeting - the nature of the said meeting having been clearly announced for four consecutive Sundays prior to such a meeting.

- 5.1.1.7 The Pastor's services shall terminate immediately following dismissal.
- 5.1.1.8 Upon the hire of a new Pastor, all positions except the Board of Deacons shall offer their resignation to the Board.

5.1.2 Deacons

- 5.1.2.1 Deacons shall seek to follow the biblical ideals set out in the scriptures, and in particular, I Timothy 3:1-13 and Acts 6:1-6.
- 5.1.2.2 The Board of Deacons shall consist of a minimum of four Church members; to a maximum of eight Church members according to the current needs of the church.
- 5.1.2.3 The Deacons shall appoint their own Chairman and Secretary immediately after the annual business meeting. They shall hold about ten meetings a year. A quorum shall consist of one-third members plus the Pastor.
- 5.1.2.4 They shall be the pastor's counsellors and assistants in the work of the church, in things both temporal and spiritual.
- 5.1.2.5 They shall assist the Pastor in exercising supervision of the work of the church in all its agencies, and have full authority to decide upon the character of all meetings held within the church building, or connected with the church.
- 5.1.2.6 Authority: The Deacons' Board is the highest Court of the Church, next to the Church when gathered in a properly constituted business meeting. Its authority however, is expressly advisory and consultative except where the Church or Constitution delegate to it administrative powers.
- 5.1.2.7 The Deacons' Board shall visit the sick at home and in hospital, they shall visit the homes of the sorrowing, needy, new members, new families and any other home in which they can minister Christ.
- 5.1.2.8 The Deacons' Board will be expected to do everything in their power to maintain the spirit of the Church's Covenant by example, and by tactful concern for the unity of the Lord's people and tranquillity of the Lord's house.
- 5.1.2.9 They are the nominating committee for the election of all committees.
- 5.1.2.10 They will call a special business meeting to elect a pulpit committee if and when the office of pastor is vacant.
- 5.1.2.11 The term of office for Deacons shall be until the following Annual General Meeting or upon resignation. The Deacon will be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.
- 5.1.2.12 Vacancies may be filled by appointment of the Board until the next annual meeting, at which time the appointee will be eligible for election.

5.1.2.12 Two Deacons shall act as signing officers for the Church.

5.1.3 The Church Clerk

5.1.3.1 The Church Clerk shall be elected annually at the annual business meeting and shall act as secretary at all Business Meetings of the church. The Church Clerk has the following additional duties:

5.1.3.2 To direct the attention of the Pastor and other officers of the church to such matters of Business as require attention;

5.1.3.3 To supply denominational bodies with such data as they require;

5.1.3.4 To be custodian of the Church Roll Book;

5.1.3.5 To report on the status of the church membership at each annual meeting.

5.1.4 The Treasurer

5.1.4.1 The Treasurer shall be elected annually at the annual business meeting.

5.1.4.2 The duties of the Treasurer are:

5.1.4.3 To maintain the accounting records of the church;

5.1.4.4 To be responsible for all church funds,

5.1.4.5 To prepare financial statements for presentation at the Board meetings, and at Church Business meetings;

5.1.4.6 To pay all bills chargeable to the church Account and to keep accurate records of the same;

5.1.4.7 To present audited Financial Statements of receipts and disbursements compared to budget at the annual business meeting;

5.1.4.8 To report outstanding accounts at the end of the Church's Financial Year;

5.1.4.9 To pay all salaried personnel;

5.1.4.10 To act as a signing officer of the Church.

5.1.5 The Envelope Secretary

5.1.5.1 The Envelope Secretary shall be elected annually at the Annual Business meeting. The duties of the Envelope Secretary are:

5.1.5.2 To maintain records of envelope contributions according to envelope number and name;

5.1.5.3 To mail annual receipts for income tax purposes to contributors;

5.1.5.4 To provide boxes of envelopes for presentation to new members at the occasion of their reception into the church;

- 5.1.5.5 To order and distribute offering envelopes annually before the first Sunday in January;
- 5.1.5.6 To furnish reports as required at Church Business meeting;
- 5.1.5.7 To keep the identity and contributions of individual contributors confidential, but to provide a summary, by number of contributors in various categories, at the Annual Business meeting.

5.2 Committees:

- 5.2.1 Shall be appointed, and dissolved as the need arises, at the Annual Business Meeting of the Church or upon recommendation of the Deacons' Board,
- 5.2.2 Such committees shall be formed to further the work of the gospel and shall be accountable to the Board of Deacons at all times.
- 5.2.3 All persons working with children shall be subject to a Criminal Reference Check and be current within two (2) years.
- 5.2.4 There shall be two (2) persons working in the nursery at all times.
- 5.2.5 The chairmen of all committees and organizations will report to the church in the Annual Reports at the Annual meeting in February.

6. Amendments:

- 6.1 The Constitution, or its by-laws, may be changed at an Annual Business meeting, or at a special meeting for which eight weeks' notice has been given. Proposed amendments must be considered at a meeting of the Board of Deacons at least one month before such a meeting. An exact copy of the proposed amendment shall be distributed to all active members at least four weeks before such a meeting and Amendments must be passed by a two-thirds (66% quorum) majority of the membership present.

7. Constitutional Review:

- 7.1. The Constitution shall be formally reviewed every five years.