

# Victory Baptist Church

## Sherwood Park, Alberta

### Constitution and Statement of Faith

#### **PREAMBLE**

We, the members of Victory Baptist Church, in orderly manner do hereby establish the following principles by which we willingly and cheerfully, yet solemnly, agree to be governed.

#### **ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of this organization shall be Victory Baptist Church of Sherwood Park, Alberta.

#### **ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES**

1. To provide a spiritual fellowship for born again believers.
2. To provide a place of worship and prayer; a centre of training and edification for the whole family in Bible doctrine, stewardship, service, and continuous witnessing under the direction of the Holy Spirit.
3. To further the proclamation of the Gospel and the establishment of independent churches throughout the world.
4. To administer the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper.
5. To provide for the total education and training of the minds of our children.
6. To provide any ministries necessary to win the lost at home and abroad.

#### **ARTICLE III – CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been led by the Holy Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, the angels, and this assembly most joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage therefore, by the 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 give it sacred pre-eminence over all institutions of human origin; 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 throughout the world.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the 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 and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to practice separation from worldly activities; to abstain from anything that would cause a brother to stumble, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

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 offence, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rule of our Saviour to secure it without delay. We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible unite with some other fundamental

church of like faith and order, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

## **ARTICLE IV – STATEMENT OF FAITH**

### **Section 1 - The Scriptures**

We believe that the Bible is the inerrant, inspired Word of God; that the very words were spoken by God to holy men of old; that divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the Scriptures in the original manuscripts. Further, God has promised to preserve His pure Word free from loss or corruption throughout all generations. The Scriptures are the only complete and final revelation of the Word of God to man and are therefore our only rule for faith and practice. We accept the King James Bible as the only reliable English translation.

II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20, 21; Mark 12:36; Matthew 5:18; 24:35; Proverbs 30:5, 6; Psalm 119:89,160; Revelation 22:18, 19; Isaiah 40:8; Psalm 12:6, 7; I Peter 1:23-25. [Amended March 19, 2003]

### **Section 2 - The True God**

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God: an infinite, intelligent, perfect spirit and personal being; the creator, preserver, and supreme ruler of the universe; inexpressibly glorious in holiness and all other perfections and worthy of all possible honour, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three (3) persons: God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

John 4:24; Genesis 1:1; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; Exodus 15:11; Mark 12:30; Ephesians 2:18

### **Section 3 - The Person of Christ**

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ; that he is the very God by Whom and for Whom all things were created; that He was virgin born; that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and is God manifest in the flesh; that He lived a perfect, sinless life and gave Himself as a perfect sacrifice for the sins of all men; and that He rose bodily from the grave.

John 1:1-3,14; Matthew 1:18-25; II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 9:14,28; John 1:29; I Corinthians 15:4-8

### **Section 4 - The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person and not just an influence. We believe that He is equal with God the Father and God the Son; that He was active in creation; that He convicts of sin, judgment, and righteousness; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer; and that He calls individuals into Christian service and empowers and directs them in that service. We reject the modern charismatic movement with its unscriptural emphasis on speaking in tongues and other sign gifts.

John 14:16,17; John 16:7-14; Genesis 1:2; Matthew 28:19; Luke 24:49; Ephesians 1:13; Romans 8:14-16, 26; II Thessalonians 2:13; Acts 13:2-4; I Corinthians 12-14

### **Section 5 – Satan**

We believe that Satan was once a holy angel who enjoyed heavenly honours, but through wicked pride fell and drew after him a whole host of heavenly angels; that he is the enemy of God and every Christian; that he is the author of all false religions and present day apostasy and that he shall be punished for ever and ever with his fallen angels in the Lake of Fire.

Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:13-17; I Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:11; Revelation 12:9; Matthew 4:1-3; II Corinthians 11:13-15; Revelation 20:10

## **Section 6 – Creation**

We believe that the Genesis account of creation is literal and is the accurate historical record; that man, the universe, and all that is in it were created by God and not some process of evolution; that the six days of creation were literal twenty-four hour days.

Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:7,11,14,20,24,26,27; Exodus 20:11; Colossians 1:16,17; Hebrews 11:3

## **Section 7 – Man**

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners not by constraint, but by choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin without defense or excuse.

Genesis 1:27-31; Genesis 3:6-24; Isaiah 53:6; Ezekiel 18:19,20; Jeremiah 17:9; Isaiah 64:6; Romans 1:20; Romans 5:12,19,20

## **Section 8 – Salvation**

We believe that God in His love and mercy has provided eternal salvation through the perfect redemptive and substitutionary atonement of our Lord Jesus who bore all the sins of the world in His own body. The conditions of salvation are repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ; that it is totally of grace through faith, apart from any human works or effort, plus or minus nothing; that it is freely given to all who will receive it. Man cannot obtain salvation apart from the convicting and renewing work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

Romans 5:8; I Peter 2:24; I John 2:2; Acts 20:21; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 6:37,44; John 3:5; Romans 10:17

## **Section 9 - Blessings of Salvation**

We believe that all who are in Christ are justified, forgiven, imputed with Christ's righteousness, regenerated, given eternal life, adopted into the family of God, redeemed, given spiritual gift(s), sanctified, sealed, and eternally secure in Him. Therefore, all true believers will endure to the end.

Romans 5:1-9; Hebrews 10:17; I John 1:9; Romans 4:5-8; Titus 3:5; John 3:3-5; John 10:28; Ephesians 1:5,13; Colossians 1:14; I Corinthians 12:4-11; Hebrews 10:10; John 5:24; I John 5:4

## **Section 10 - The Local Church**

We believe that the local New Testament church is a visible assembly of baptized believers, associated by common faith and fellowship in the Gospel; observing the ordinance of baptism by immersion and the Lord's supper, governed by His Word, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its only scriptural officers are pastors and deacons whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the epistles I Timothy and Titus; that the mission of the church is found in the Great Commission; that each local church has the absolute right of self-government with Christ as the Head, free from the interference of any hierarchy of any individuals, churches, or organizations.

Matthew 18:17; Acts 2:41-47; I Corinthians 11:2; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; Matthew 28:19,20; Ephesians 5:23,24; I Peter 5:1-4; Acts 6:3-5; Acts 15:22

## **Section 11- Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; that it is commanded by our Lord and is to be practiced by the church; that it pictures the



**D. Sanctity of Life**

We believe that God is the Creator and Sustainer of all human life; therefore, all mankind has purpose. We believe that God has made us in His image; therefore, all mankind has intrinsic value. We believe that God is the Sovereign Lord of life; therefore, all mankind has the inherent right of life from conception to natural death. We believe that abortion, murder, suicide, and euthanasia are sinful.

Genesis 1:26; 9:6; Exodus 20:13; Job 1:21; Psalm 139:13-18; Jeremiah 1:5; Acts 17:24-28

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**ARTICLE V - AFFILIATION**

This church is an independent, self-governing, Baptist church under the headship of Christ and the leadership of a God given pastor. This church may voluntarily co-operate with other churches and Christian organizations of like faith and order. Any such affiliation shall in no way affect the rights, powers, or privileges of the church, either as it relates to its property or the operation of its affairs. Any affiliation shall not be considered permanent.

**ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP****Section 1 - Qualifications for Membership**

Any person, by professing faith in Jesus Christ as their Saviour, giving evidence of regeneration, having been scripturally baptized by immersion, and being in agreement with the covenant and statement of faith of this church may be received into membership by a majority vote of the members present at any regular service of this church.

**Section 2 - Reception of Members**

A person may be considered for membership upon recommendation of the pastor by:

- A. Being baptized by this church.
- B. A letter of recommendation from another church of like faith and order.
- C. Testimony of salvation and scriptural baptism.
- D. Restoration after having been disciplined and confession of his/her error and giving evidence of repentance.
- E. Where it is deemed expedient, the candidate shall appear before the pastor and deacons for advice and instruction before his/her name is presented for membership.

**Section 3 - Dismissal from Membership**

A person may be removed from the membership roll by:

- A. A letter of transfer sent, upon request of the member, to another church of like faith and order.
- B. Death.
- C. Erasure: Members who are known to have joined some other church or those who request to have their names removed from the membership roll may be erased from the roll by action of the church.
- D. Deletion: A yearly review of the membership roll shall be conducted by the pastor and deacons. Any member who has not been in attendance or contributed to the church for a period of six (6) months, without reasonable excuse, shall be notified in writing and given one (1) month to reply. If a favourable reply is not received from the member in question, he shall be deleted from the membership roll. The above does not apply to members who are physically prevented from active membership.
- E. Exclusion. See Article VI; Section 4.

**Section 4 - Discipline of Members**

Discipline is that procedure including teaching, training, admonition, and rebuke, both private and public, with

the view of helping the individual grow in grace, mature in faith, break off from worldliness, and live a godly life. The erring individual shall be dealt with in a humble, loving manner, with hope of restoration in mind. At such time that a member shall refuse such help it may be necessary to exclude him from membership. The manner and method of discipline shall follow the principles set forth in Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 5:1-5,11-13; and II Corinthians 2:6-8.

- A. Concerning differences between individuals, or sins not generally known, the wronged party shall follow the procedure set forth in Matthew 18:15-17. Until these scriptures have been followed, the church will not receive any accusation against another individual.
- B. Matters of formal accusation shall be:
  - 1. Public sins or sins known by the church or the general public.
  - 2. Holding to and propagating false doctrine.
  - 3. Failure to abide by the Church Covenant.
- C. Charges must be made in writing, signed, and presented to the pastor. The pastor shall give at least one week's notice in writing, with the charges stated, to the accused member for him/her to appear at a designated meeting for a hearing. If the accused member fails to appear, the church may proceed with the hearing. The accused may call to his aid another church member to speak for him/her. The written testimony of an unconverted person may be admitted, but no oral testimony shall be given by such.
- D. A member formally accused shall be automatically suspended from any office or position, and is deprived of his right to vote.
- E. At the close of the hearing, the congregation, who are voting members, shall vote by ballot to determine if the accused is guilty. If the accused is found guilty by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote, he must be excluded. The statement of exclusion, including reasons and admonitions, shall be sent to the person by mail.
- F. After sufficient time has elapsed, and the excluded person's repentance is proven to be genuine, he may again apply for membership in accordance with Article VI, Section 2, Paragraph D.

## **Section 5 - Duties of members**

The duties of a member shall be those set forth in the Church Covenant. (Article III)

## **ARTICLE VII - FINANCES**

### **Section 1 - Financial policy**

This church shall be supported by the voluntary giving of tithes and offerings by God's people. We believe that every Christian should seek to give systematically, regularly, proportionately, sacrificially, and cheerfully of his substance to the Lord's work (Malachi 3:8-10; I Corinthians 16:1,2; II Corinthians 8:1-5; II Corinthians 9:6-8). No means such as raffles, suppers, bingo, rummage sales, or the like shall be used to raise money for the support of the church.

### **Section 2 - Fiscal year**

The fiscal year shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

### **Section 3 - Non-profit**

The church shall be carried on without purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other accretions to the church shall be used in promoting its objectives and purposes.

## **ARTICLE VIII – GOVERNMENT**

### **Section 1 – Authority**

The government of this church is vested in its membership.

### **Section 2 – Officers**

The officers of this church shall be the pastor(s) and deacons. From among them shall be elected a church clerk, church treasurer, head usher, and Sunday School superintendent. Other minor offices may be created by this church from time to time as deemed necessary.

### **Section 3 – Pastor**

#### **A. His qualifications**

1. He shall meet the qualifications specified in Acts 6:4; I Timothy 3:1-7; II Timothy 4:1-5; and Titus 1:5-9.
2. He must be of Baptist conviction and accept and practice the statement of faith contained within this constitution.

#### **B. His duties**

1. The spiritual and temporal oversight of the church.
2. The preacher for the congregation.
3. The administrator of the ordinances.
4. The moderator of all business meetings, both of the congregation and the deacons; when the church finds itself without a pastor, the chairman of the deacons shall act as moderator.
5. The administrator of the Sunday school.
6. The employment and termination of all paid personnel.
7. The ex-officio member of all committees.
8. He shall obtain pulpit supply in his absence and enlist all special speakers.
9. He shall seek to lead the church in achieving the objectives and purposes contained within this constitution.  
(See Article II)

#### **C. His benefits**

1. A salary adequate for meeting the financial needs of his family, according to the amount decided upon by the church.
2. He shall also be given an annual two-week vacation with pay, and allowed one week for Bible conferences with pay.

#### **D. His call and dismissal**

1. When the church finds itself without a pastor, the deacon board shall be the pulpit committee. It shall be the duty of this committee to supply speakers for the pulpit and to correspond with, discuss, observe, and consult personally with any candidate for the pastorate. The committee shall recommend and bring to the consideration of the church only one name at a time. Election shall be by secret ballot, an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the total voting membership being necessary for the calling or dismissal of a pastor. The pastor, thus elected, shall continue for an indefinite term which shall terminate upon thirty days written notice by the church.
2. No election or dismissal of a pastor shall take place except at a meeting called for the purpose, of which public notice has been given by the deacons in the public services for two (2) consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting. A three-fourths (3/4) vote by secret ballot of the total voting membership shall be necessary for the removal of a pastor. No vote of dismissal shall be considered against the pastor except on the grounds of immorality, preaching false doctrine, or not fulfilling the duties of a pastor as set forth in this constitution.

### **Section 4 - Assistant to the Pastor (if any)**

- A. He must meet the same qualifications and maintain the same high standards of conduct as the pastor.

- B. He shall assist the pastor in carrying out his duties.
- C. He shall serve the church under the direct supervision of the pastor.
- D. He shall receive benefits as decided upon by the church.

#### **Section 5 - Deacons (if any)**

- A. Their qualifications
  1. He must meet the scriptural qualifications of Acts 6:1-6 and I Timothy 3:8-13.
  2. He must be of legal age.
  3. He must be a member in good standing.
- B. Their election
  1. There shall be at least three (3) deacons (if qualified men are available); the number of deacons being determined by the pastor. See Acts 6:3.B
  2. The term of office shall be two (2) years, arranged to end alternately, and deacons may be re-elected if still qualified.
  3. Deacons shall be elected at the annual business meeting.
- C. Their duties
  1. To be servants to the pastor and the church.
  2. They shall be the trustees of the church.
  3. They shall be responsible for the maintenance of the church property.
  4. They shall assist the pastor in the administration of the ordinances of the church.
  5. They shall be the pulpit committee when the church is without a pastor.
  6. They shall elect among themselves a chairman.
  7. They shall serve on the nominating committee with the pastor.
  8. They shall be an advisory council to the pastor on matters of church business.

#### **Section 6 - Church Treasurer**

- A. He shall be elected for a one (1) year term at the annual business meeting. He shall previously have been elected a deacon.
- B. His duties shall be to count, record, and deposit all offerings; pay all bills and salaries; to keep an accurate record of all expenditures and issue a monthly report to the church; to prepare a report for the annual business meeting; and to keep a record of individual giving and issue receipts.

#### **Section 7 - Church Clerk**

- A. He shall be elected for a one (1) year term at the annual business meeting. He shall previously have been elected a deacon.
- B. His duties shall be to keep a record of the minutes of all church business meetings; to keep an accurate record of the church membership; to keep a record of the attendance of all meetings; to issue certificates of baptism and letters of membership; to keep a record of any interesting events in the history of this church; and to prepare a report for the annual business meeting.

#### **Section 8 – Vacancies**

Any of the above offices shall be filled only if qualified men are available. If there are no qualified men the office shall be considered vacant until a qualified man is found. The church, by majority vote, may temporarily appoint a member to fill an office until a qualified man is found.

**Section 9 - Salaried Employees**

The calling and dismissal of salaried employees such as secretaries, custodians, teachers, etc., shall be the responsibility of the pastor.

**Section 10 - Dismissal of Officers**

No election or dismissal of officers shall take place except at a meeting called for that purpose, of which public notice has been given by the deacons in the public services for two (2) consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting. A three-fourths (3/4) vote by secret ballot of the members present shall be necessary for the removal of an officer. No vote of dismissal shall be considered against an officer except on the grounds of failure to meet the Scriptural qualifications (see Article VIII, Section 5A) and/or failure to fulfill his duties.

**Section 11 - Commencement of Office**

All elected officers shall begin office on the first Sunday of March.

**ARTICLE IX – MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS****Section 1 - Regular services**

The regular services of this church shall be Sunday School, Sunday morning and evening services, mid-week services, plus any services announced by the pastor.

**Section 2 - Monthly business meetings**

The monthly business meeting shall be held on the third Wednesday of each month. [Amended February 18, 1987]

**Section 3 - Annual business meeting**

The annual business meeting shall be held on the fourth Wednesday of January.  
[Amended February 18, 1987]

**Section 4 - Necessary business meetings**

Necessary business meetings may be called at any time by the pastor or deacons.

**Section 5 - Nominating committee**

The nominating committee shall present a list to the congregation of qualified men to fill the vacant offices at least two (2) Sundays before the annual business meeting, and make recommendations for any office that may become vacant during the year.

**Section 6 - Voting members**

Those members who are eighteen (18) years of age, resident (currently living in the general area), regular in attendance (having attended at least three (3) services in the previous month), and in good standing may vote in any business meeting.[Amended May 8, 1996]

**Section 7 – Quorum**

A quorum of two-thirds (66%) of the voting members shall be required for all business meetings except where otherwise stated. A three-fourths (3/4) vote is required to carry any measure. However, in keeping with I Corinthians 1:10, we should endeavour to have a unanimous decision. [Amended May 8, 1996]

**Section 8 - Order of business**

Except where it is contrary to this constitution, Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of the business meetings.

**Section 9 - Voting By Absentee Ballot**

A voting member may submit his/her vote in advance of a business meeting if he/she will be unable to attend that business meeting. A valid absentee ballot must have the question of business written out, must have the absentee voter’s decision written out, and must be signed by the absentee voter.

**ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended at any regular business meeting providing notice has been given of the proposed amendment(s) for at least two (2) Sundays prior.

**ARTICLE XI - DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the dissolution or winding up of this church the remaining members by majority vote shall distribute all remaining assets, after payment of liabilities, to one or more churches or Christian organizations which are in agreement with the objectives and statement of faith of this constitution.

**ARTICLE XII – ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION**

This constitution stands effective as of the thirtieth (30th) day of September, 1982.

**AMENDMENTS**

**AMMENDMENT 1**

Article IX, Sections 2 and 3, are amended as follows: The monthly business meeting shall be held on the third Wednesday of each month. The annual business meeting shall be held on the fourth Wednesday of January. Amended February 18, 1987

**AMMENDMENT 2**

Voting member (Article IX, Section 6) is revised as follows: Those members who are 18 years of age, resident (currently living in the general area), regular in attendance having attended at least three (3) services in the previous month, and in good standing may vote in any business meeting. Amended May 8, 1996

**AMMENDMENT 3**

Article IX, Section 7 is amended after the words “voting member” to include: However, in keeping with I Corinthians 1:10, we should endeavour to have a unanimous decision. Amended May 8, 1986

**AMMENDMENT 4**

Voting By Absentee Ballot Article IX Section 9 A voting member may submit his/her vote in advance of a business meeting if he/she will be unable to attend that business meeting. A valid absentee ballot must have the question of business written out, must have the absentee voter’s decision written out, and must be signed by the absentee voter. Amended May,1996

**AMMENDMENT 5**

Statement of Faith (Article IV, Section 1) is revised as follows: We believe that the Bible is the inerrant, inspired Word of God; that the very words were spoken by God to holy men of old; that the divine inspiration extends fully and equally to all parts of the Scriptures in the original manuscripts. *Further, God has promised to preserve His pure Word free from loss or corruption throughout all generations.* The Scriptures are the only complete and final revelation of the Word of God to man and therefore are our only rule for faith and practice. We accept the King James Bible as the only reliable English translation.

II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20, 21; Mark 12:36; Matthew 5:18; 24:35; Proverbs 30:5, 6; Psalm 119:89,160; Revelation 22:18, 19; Isaiah 40:8; Psalm 12:6, 7; I Peter 1:23-25 Amended March 19, 2003

**AMMENDMENT 6**

Statement of Faith (Article IV) is revised by adding Section 15

**Section 15 – Contemporary Issues [Amended October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006]**

**A. The Family and Sexuality**

We believe that God has ordained marriage and the family; that marriage is one man and one woman lawfully joined together for life; that marriage is to continue until death and that divorce is not the plan of God. For the protection of society and the family, God commands that sexual relations are only lawful between a husband and wife in the bonds of marriage; therefore, adultery, homosexuality, and fornication are sinful. Realizing many individuals have violated God’s standard, we desire to reach out and help them find deliverance and freedom from sin through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

Genesis 2:24; Leviticus 18:22; Matthew 19:3-9; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

**B. Gender Distinctions**

We believe that God views men and women equal in importance, but distinct in roles; that the spiritual leadership and offices of pastor and deacon are limited to qualified men.

Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:18-23; 1 Timothy 2:12; 3:2, 12

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**C. Separation and Co-operation**

We believe that fellowship is to be based upon obedience to the Word of God; therefore, we must separate from all churches and movements that deviate from the Scriptures. We do seek to co-operate with Bible-believing churches of like faith and order.

Psalm 133:1-3; Amos 3:3; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 1 John 1:6, 7; Jude 3

**D. Sanctity of Life**

We believe that God is the Creator and Sustainer of all human life; therefore, all mankind has purpose. We believe that God has made us in His image; therefore, all mankind has intrinsic value. We believe that God is the Sovereign Lord of life; therefore, all mankind has the inherent right of life from conception to natural death. We believe that abortion, murder, suicide, and euthanasia are sinful.

Genesis 1:26; 9:6; Exodus 20:13; Job 1:21; Psalm 139:13-18; Jeremiah 1:5; Acts 17:24-28

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**POLICY CONCERNING RECEIPTS FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES**

On January 15, 1986, Victory Baptist Church of Sherwood Park decided by unanimous vote, due to measures brought in by the Canadian government in 1977, not to issue receipts for income tax purposes or be registered as a charitable organization with Revenue Canada.

These measures give Revenue Canada the power to control how a registered church spends money, saves money, and gives support to missionaries. Revenue Canada also has the power to arbitrarily, without a trial, revoke a charitable organization's registration and cause it to cease operation by means of "a special tax equal to the fair market value of all its assets."

We believe these controls violate the Biblical teaching of the separation of church and state and the lordship of Christ, which Baptists have historically held. "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." (Mark 12:17) "He [Christ] is the head of the body, the church." (Colossians 1:18) Therefore, Victory Baptist Church, in obedience to the Scriptures, cannot seek registration with Revenue Canada until the law should be suitably changed.

After thorough research and considerable discussion, the policy was reaffirmed by majority vote on May 8, 1996.