

# The Constitution of Calvary Baptist Church Show Low, Arizona

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**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH,**  
**SHOW LOW, ARIZONA**

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We, the members of Calvary Baptist Church of Show Low, Arizona, do ordain and establish the following Articles and Constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

## **ARTICLE 1 Name**

The incorporated name of this organization is: **Calvary Baptist Church of Show Low, Arizona, Inc.** We are a Conservative Baptist Church affiliated with the Southwest Conservative Baptist Association (SWCBA) and the Conservative Baptist Association of America.

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## **ARTICLE 2 Purpose**

The purpose of this church is to:

1. Reach the lost for Christ.
2. Conserve the fundamentals of our faith.
3. Preach, teach, and apply New Testament principles to living.
4. Edify our church body.
5. Positively influence our community for Christ.

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## **ARTICLE 3 Covenant**

Having, as we trust, been led by the Spirit of God to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ giving ourselves up to Him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully renew our covenant with each other. We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. We will walk together in brotherly love, as become the members of a Christian Church, exercise an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other, and faithfully admonish and entreat one another as occasion may require. We will avoid all gossip, backbiting and slander. We will be slow to take offense but always ready to seek reconciliation. We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor neglect to pray for ourselves and others. We will endeavor to bring up such as may at any time be under our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example to seek the salvation of our family and friends. We will rejoice at each other's happiness and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows. We will seek, by Divine aid, to live carefully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and remembering that, as we have been voluntarily buried by baptism and raised again from the symbolic grave, so there is on us a special obligation now to lead a new and holy life. We will work together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. We will 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 through all nations. We will, when we move from this place, as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this **Covenant** and the principles of God's Word. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

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## **ARTICLE 4 Doctrine**

We accept the Scriptures as our authority in matters of faith and practice, and adopt the following confessions of faith as our interpretation of the Bible doctrine.

### **1. Concerning the Scriptures**

We believe that the Holy Bible was written inerrant in its original languages by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter: that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried. *Places in the Bible Where Taught: II Timothy 3:16,17; Proverbs 30:5,6; Romans 2:12; Philippians 3:16; II Peter 1:20,21; John 16:12-15*

### **2. Concerning 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 honor, confidence and love; that in unity of the Godhead there are three persons, 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. *Places in the Bible Where Taught: I John 1:5; 4:8; Hebrews 1:3; 3:4; 11:5; Romans 1:20; Exodus 3:14; I Peter 1:15,16; Matthew 3:15-17; 28:19; I Corinthians 12:4-6; II Corinthians 12:9; Ephesians 2:8, 9; 4:4-6; John 5:6; 10:30; Job 11:7; Isaiah 55:8-11.*

### **3. Concerning the Holy Spirit and His Gifts**

We believe the Holy Spirit is the supernatural and sovereign Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit also indwells, sanctifies, instructs, empowers believers and seals them unto the day of redemption. Every believer has the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit from the moment of salvation and are to yield to His control. The Holy Spirit administers all spiritual gifts, intending that they be used in His church "until He comes." God the Holy Spirit is sovereign in the bestowing of all His gifts for the perfecting of the saints today. Speaking in tongues and the working of signs and miracles in the beginning days of the church were for the purpose of pointing to and authenticating the apostles as revealers of divine truth and were never intended to be characteristic of the lives of believers. *Places in the Bible where Taught: Genesis 1:2; Romans 8:9 I Corinthians 4:20,21; 12:4-11; II Corinthians 5:18;12:12 Ephesians 4:3-13; 5:18 John 14:16,17; 15:26; 16:13; I John 2:20,27; Hebrews 2:1-4.*

### **4. Concerning Creation**

We believe in the literal 24-hour; 7 day Genesis account of creation and that it is to be accepted literally and not figuratively: that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness and did not evolve from any lower form of life; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly through God's established

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law, that they should bring forth only "after their kind." *Places in the Bible Where Taught: Genesis 1 & 2; 1:26; Exodus 20:11; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:10; John 1:3; I Corinthians 15:22, 45.*

### 5. **Concerning the Fall of Man**

We believe that man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker. Through the temptation of Satan he voluntarily transgressed and fell from his holy state. The consequence is that all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God. Mankind is positively inclined to evil and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin without defense or excuse. *Places in the Bible Where Taught: Genesis 1:27; 3:1-24; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Acts 17:26-29; Romans 3:9-18; 5:12, 19; Psalm 51:5; Isaiah 53:6; Ezekiel 18:19,20; Galatians 3:22; Romans 5:12-19.*

### 6. **Concerning the Way of Salvation**

We believe that salvation is wholly of God by grace on the basis of the redemption of Jesus Christ by the merit of His shed blood, not on the basis of human merit or works. The election of God does not contradict or negate the responsibility of man to repent and trust Christ as Savior and Lord. The unmerited favor that God grants to totally depraved sinners is not related to any initiative of their own part or to God's anticipation of what they might do by their own will, but is solely of His Sovereign Grace and Mercy. The redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. Out of deep gratitude for the undeserved Grace of God granted to us, and because our glorious God is so worthy of our total consecration, all the saved should live in such a manner as to demonstrate our adoring love to God so as not to bring reproach upon our Lord and Savior. *Places in the Bible Where Taught: Ephesians 2:8,9; John 3:16; 8:58; 10:30; Philippians 2:6-8; Acts 2:32; 16:27-31; Romans 3:21; 6:23; 10:9; I Peter 1:18-23, Acts 4:12.*

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### 7. **Concerning Justification and Sanctification**

We believe that we are declared righteous through faith in Jesus who bore the punishment of God for our sins. This act of justification is achieved not through any of our own works but by the works of Jesus whom we trust for our salvation. Justification does not rely on any prerequisite besides simple faith whereas sanctification can only take place once a person has become a believer and is therefore justified. Sanctification is the process of God working in us to set us apart to do His Will and His Work for His Good Pleasure. He guides our hearts through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and directs and leads our actions through His word, the Bible. Sanctification is a process that will continue in a believer until their death or the return of Christ. *Places in the Bible Where Taught: Galatians 2:16; Romans 3:21-25; 4:1; 5:1; 8-9; 18-21; Acts 13:38; Titus 3:5-7; John 6:37-40; 8:28; Philippians 1:6; Jude 24,25; I John 5:13; Romans 8:29-30; II Peter 1:4-7.*

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### 8. **Concerning Grace in Regeneration**

We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again. Regeneration consists of giving a holy disposition to the soul; that the soul is

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effected, in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine trust, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel. Its proper evidence should appear in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life. *Places in the Bible Where Taught: John 3:6,7; 16:8; I Peter 1:22,23; II Corinthians 5:17; I John 4:15f; Ephesians 4:17-20; Galatians 5:16-23; Matthew 7:16.*

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### 9. **Concerning Repentance, Faith and God's Purpose of Grace**

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties and are inseparable Graces, offered by God who has put the desire in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God, to be forever with Him for all Eternity. Being deeply convinced of our guilt and knowledgeable of the possibility of eternal damnation and separation from God, and completely helpless in ourselves to attain salvation and eternal companionship with God, we freely receive the Lord Jesus Christ as the only and all-sufficient means of Salvation. That by His willing Sacrifice we may turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for Mercy accepting his Sacrifice in order to make us free from sin and thereby able to be present with God. The condition of salvation excludes boasting, promotes humility, love, prayer, praise and Trust in God; actively imitates His free Mercy, and is the foundation of Christian assurances.

We believe that this election to Salvation is the eternal purpose of God. He graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners in a most glorious display of His Sovereign goodness being infinitely Free, Wise, Holy and Unchangeable. *Places in the Bible Where Taught: Mark 1:15; John 3:36; 15:16; Luke 18:13,14; 15:18-21; Romans 10:9-11, Ephesians 1:3-14; Acts 13:48; Jeremiah 31:31-34; II Timothy 1:8-10; Colossians 3:12; I Peter 2:9; Romans 8:29-30.*

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### 10. **Concerning a Gospel Church**

We believe in a visible, local church with the Lord Jesus Christ as its Head and highest authority. It is a congregation of immersed believers associated by Covenant in the Faith and fellowship of the Gospel; a voluntary and independent autonomous church. Each congregation recognizes its own democratic, self-containing government. It is a democracy with the power and right within itself to confess its own faith in accordance with the New Testament. We believe in observing the Ordinances of Christ which include Baptism and the Lord's Table. We are governed by His laws and exercise the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word.

We seek to extend the Gospel to the ends of the earth. We believe the only Scriptural offices that exist in today's church are the offices of Bishop, Pastor, Elder and Deacon whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus. *Places in the Bible Where Taught: Matthew 18:18-20; 28:19-20; Acts 11:21-26; II John 7-11; I Corinthians 12:12-31; John 14:15; 15:14; Ephesians 4:4-12; I Timothy 3:1-13; Philippians 1:1-2.*

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### 11. **Concerning Baptism and The Lord's Supper**

We believe that both Christian baptism and the Lord's supper are each a

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memorial, a symbol and a prophecy. We believe that Christian baptism is not required for salvation but is an act of obedience and identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. The process is the bodily immersion in water of a believer, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This shows a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the Lord's Supper. Believers, by the sacred use of bread and fruit of the vine do commemorate together the Lord's death until He comes. Participating in the Lord's Supper is preceded always by solemn self-examination. *Places in the Bible Where Taught: Romans 6:3-11; Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-29; 28:19,20; Ephesians 4:5; I Corinthians 11:23-28; 12:13; Acts 2:38, 41-42; 8:36-39; Colossians 2:12; Luke 22:14-20.*

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### 12. Concerning the State of the Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His sight. All such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death. *Places in the Bible Where Taught: Romans 1:17; 5:9; Malachi 3:18; Genesis 18:23; Acts 10:34,35; I John 3:7,8,36; 1 Peter 4:18; Isaiah. 55:6,7; Matthew. 7:13,14*

### 13. Concerning the Resurrection

We believe the Scriptures clearly teach that Jesus rose from the dead bodily. His grave was emptied of its contents. He appeared to the disciples after His resurrection in many convincing manifestations. He now exists in His glorified body at God's right hand and there will be a resurrection of the righteous and a resurrection of the wicked, separated in time. The bodies of the righteous will conform to the glorified body of the Lord Jesus Christ. *Places in the Bible Where Taught: Matthew 18:1-8; I Corinthians 15:1-58; John 11:25; Acts 1:3; 10:39-41; 24:15; Mark 16:19; I Peter 3:22; Philippians 3:21.*

### 14. Concerning the Return of The Lord

We believe in the imminent pre-tribulation (seven years) rapture of the redeemed and the pre-millennial return of the Lord. The Lord Jesus Christ will rapture His redeemed after which He will personally and visibly return with His saints to establish His millennial kingdom upon the earth to reign as King with power and great glory and that at the end of the millennium a solemn separation will take place. The wicked will be judged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy. This judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven and hell, on principles of righteousness. *Places in the Bible Where Taught: John 14:3; I Thessalonians 4:16-18; II Thessalonians 2:1-10; Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7; 20:5-15; Matthew 24:30,31; II Peter 2:9; Philippians 3:20; I John 3:2,3; Daniel 9:24-27; Zachariah 14:4-5.*

### 15. Concerning Church Discipline and Restoration

We believe discipline is an important part of the Christian life. The Church is to deal with any sin or offense problems. The intention of Church discipline is to pursue and maintain purity in the Church and to seek reconciliation and

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restoration. *Places in the Bible Where Taught:* Heb 12:10, I Cor 9:25-27, I Tim 3:4-5, Gal 6:1.

## ARTICLE 5, Membership

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### Section 1

- A. Any person may be received by baptism on professing saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. Persons may be received on their Christian experience provided they have been baptized according to the doctrines of this church.
- C. Persons may be received by transfer of church letter from churches of like faith and conviction.
- D. All candidates for church membership shall appear personally before a Pastor and Elder(s) who shall pass upon their qualifications and prescribe any restrictions they may deem advisable for the best interest of the church.
- E. Having been recommended by the Pastor and Elders, the candidate(s) shall then be submitted to the church for acceptance or rejection.

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### Section 2

Membership in this church may be dissolved by letter of dismissal to churches of like faith and conviction, by dropping from church roll, by exclusion because of refusal to walk with the church, or by death.

### Section 3

- A. Letters of transfer may be granted to any member in good and regular standing. Such letters must be addressed to some particular church of the same faith and order as this church and sent by the Clerk to the Pastor or Clerk of the church to which the member is joined.
- B. If, because of change of faith or other reasons not involving un-biblical conduct, a member in regular standing requests in writing to be released from his covenant obligations, the church shall patiently endeavor to secure his continuance in its fellowship. Failing in such effort, the church may grant the request and terminate such membership.
- C. Members failing to support the church by their attendance within a period of three months, without legitimate excuse, may be placed on the "inactive" list, upon recommendation of the elders and then affirmed by a majority vote of the church at a business meeting and so lose their right of franchise and suffrage. Members on the "inactive" list may be reinstated through an affirmation of the congregation.
- D. Should a member become an offense to the church and to its good name by reason of immoral or un-biblical conduct, or by the persistent breach of their Covenant vows, the church, on recommendation of the Elders, may suspend or terminate their membership.

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E. Any request to be removed from membership by a member in the disciplinary process will not be honored.

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E. Any request to be removed from membership by a member in the disciplinary process will not be honored.

## **Section 4**

Any person whose membership has been terminated or made inactive may be restored through the new member process.

## **ARTICLE 6. Ordinances**

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### **Section 1**

Those professing saving faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior shall be baptized by immersion in water in accordance with Scriptural teaching.

### **Section 2**

The Lord's Supper (Communion) shall be served to the assembled church by the Senior Pastor or his designee, at the occasion(s) decided upon by the leadership. Since it is the Lord's table, none who are His shall be barred, but an explanation of the meaning of the ordinance shall be given.

## **ARTICLE 7. Officers**

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The officers of the church shall meet the spiritual qualifications of their office: Pastors and Elders, as given in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-14; Deacons as given in I Timothy 3:8-13. All officers shall be of good Christian expression as outlined in Galatians 5:19-23, and in the church covenant.

### **Section 1 – Leadership Body**

**A. Senior Pastor** The Senior Pastor shall be the chief undershepherd in service to the Great Shepherd as defined in 1 Peter 5:1-4. Any candidate for the office of church Senior Pastor shall meet the following qualifications:

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1. He shall be a male.
2. He shall be favorably aligned with the traditional Baptist Distinctives and supportive of the Conservative Baptist movement.
- 3.** He shall have a minimum of an undergraduate degree from an acceptable four-year college.

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**B. Associate Pastors** The church may call additional pastors, upon the recommendation of the Senior Pastor and Elders, who are recognized by the church as needed to assist the Senior Pastor in the performance of his regular duties, perform any other duties as usually pertain to the office of pastor, or which may be specifically assigned to him by the Senior Pastor.

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**C. Lay Pastors** The church may call additional lay pastors, upon the recommendation of the Senior Pastor and Elders, who are needed to fulfill specific roles and needs of the church. Lay pastors must be gifted and called to work in their area of ministry.

**D. Elders** The qualifications for Elder shall be as prescribed and set forth in the New Testament (1 Timothy 3:1-7).

**E. Deacons** The qualifications for Deacon shall be as prescribed and set forth in the New Testament (Acts 6:3 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13).

## **Section 2 Lay Officers**

Deacons, Elders, Lay Pastors, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Church Clerk, Bible Fellowship Director, Chief Usher, Building Superintendent. NOTE: See By-Laws for duties of officers.

## **ARTICLE 8 Commissions**

### **Section 1 - Nominating Commission**

Three (3) members of the Leadership Body along with three (3) additional members appointed by the church, shall constitute the Nominating Commission.

### **Section 2 - Pulpit Commission**

The Elders will serve as the Pulpit Commission, with three (3) additional members that will be appointed by the church.

### **Section 3 - Missions Commission**

This Commission shall consist of three (3) or more members elected by the church to serve for one year. The chairman will be a member of the Leadership Body.

### **Section 4 - Worship Commission**

The church shall elect a Worship Commission of three (3) or more members to serve for one year, and shall be chaired by the Worship Coordinator.

### **Section 5 - Finance Commission**

This Commission shall consist of a Deacon, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and at least three (3) additional members nominated by the Nominating Commission and elected by the membership each year. The Deacon member shall act as chairman of the Commission.

### **Section 6 - Auditing Commission**

The church shall appoint an outside auditor or an Auditing Commission of up to three (3) members.

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### **ARTICLE 9 Suffrage**

All active members in good standing, who have reached their sixteenth birthday, shall be entitled to vote in all regular business matters of the church. However, members under the age of 18 may not vote on major legal and financial transactions of the church.

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### **ARTICLE 10 Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended or revised by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active church membership at any duly-called business meeting of the church. A two-week notice and statement of the amendment revisions shall be given in writing prior to the meeting date.

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**Section 1 - Advisory Board** There shall be an official Advisory Board which shall consist of the Leadership Body, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Bible Fellowship Director, Church Clerk, Building Superintendent, Worship Coordinator, and Commission Chairs. This Board shall meet as needed to consider the general operation and business of the church. Any recommendations must be approved by the church. The Leadership Body Chair shall serve as chairman.

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**Section 4 - Christian Education Commission** This Commission shall consist of the Pastor, Sunday School Superintendent, Christian Education Director, one or more representatives from the Leadership Body, as appointed by them, and the director of each education department of the church.