

# **CONSTITUTION OF FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH OF EDMONTON**

*February 15, 2007*

## **PREAMBLE**

As members of this church we unite ourselves as one body of Christian believers to effectively carry out the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20). We declare and establish this constitution for the preservation and security of our faith, and so that this body may be governed in an orderly manner.

## **Article I. NAME**

The name of this church shall be Filipino International Baptist Church of Edmonton.

## **Article II. OBJECTIVES**

The objective(s) of this church shall be:

- 1) To be witnesses of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and in deed to the people of our church, city, province, country and the world in which we live (Acts 1:8).
- 2) To worship the Triune God, seeking to respond in obedience to His leadership, according to the Scriptures.
- 3) To instruct, equip, and train Christians for ministry and service.
- 4) To fellowship together.
- 5) To serve each other as members of the same local church as well as to serve the community in which we live.

## **Article III. MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of this church shall be:

- 1) To Praise God
- 2) To Proclaim His Message
- 3) To Prepare His people for service, in our community and beyond

*Luke 4:18-19, Mark 1:2-3, Matthew 28:19-20, John 20:31*

**Article IV. STATEMENT OF FAITH**

The statement of faith for Filipino International Baptist Church of Edmonton shall be the doctrinal statement of “The Baptist Faith and Message” (2000 of later editions). A copy of this statement is available upon request, or can be found at ( [www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net) ).

**Article V. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The organizational structure of Filipino International Baptist Church of Edmonton will include a leadership team, comprising of the pastor and the leaders, as set out in the church bylaws.

**Article VI. CHARITABLE STATUS**

Filipino International Baptist Church of Edmonton shall carry out all of the above objectives without purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other gains, to the church, shall be used in promoting its objectives.

**Article VII. DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the dissolution of this church, all remaining assets, after payment of liabilities, shall be distributed to the Canadian Convention of Souther Baptist.

**Article VIII. AMENDMENTS**

Changes to this constitution can only be made at special business meeting as outlined in our bylaws.

**Article IX. CERTIFICATION**

We certify that this Constitution is the governing document for the operation of this church.

# **BYLAWS of FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH OF EDMONTON**

*February 15, 2007*

## **Article I. CHURCH COVENANT**

I have received Christ as my Lord and Savior and have been baptized by immersion in water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, being in agreement with Filipino International Baptist Church, in their statements, strategy, and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with this church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

### **1) I Will Protect the Unity of my Church**

- By following the example of Jesus Christ
- By acting in love toward other members
- By refusing to gossip
- By following the leaders

*Matt 21:25-28, Rom 14:19, I Peter 1:22, Heb 13:17*

### **2) I Will Share the Responsibility of my Church**

- By praying for growth
- By sharing my faith with the lost
- By inviting the people to attend
- By warmly welcoming those who visit

*I Thess. 1:1-2, Matt 28:19-20, Luke 14:23, Rom 15:7*

### **3) I Will Serve the Ministry of My Church**

- by discovering my gifts and talents
- by being taught to serve with the leaders
- by developing a servant's heart

*I Peter 4:10, Eph 4:11-12, Phil 2:3-4, 7*

### **4) I Will Support the Testimony of My Church**

- by attending faithfully
- by living a godly life
- by spending time reading God's Word
- by developing a lifestyle of prayer
- by giving regularly

*Heb 10:25, II Tim 2:15, I Cor 16:2*

## **5) I will do my Part to Fulfill the Church's Mission**

- By Praising God
- By Proclaiming His Message
- By Preparing His people for service

*Luke 4:18-19, Mark 1:2-3, Matthew 28:19-20, John 20:31*

## **Article II. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

### **1. General**

Membership in this Church shall consist of all persons who meet the following qualifications.

### **2. Qualifications for Membership**

- a) One who has confessed Jesus as his/her personal Lord and Savior and has been baptized in the membership of this church following an examination of his/her Christian experience.
- b) A baptized believer coming by statement or letter of transfer from a church of like faith, and order, after he/she has been examined by the church as to his/her Christian faith.
- c) Having completed our membership class.
- d) Having made a commitment to abide by the church Covenant.

### **3. Responsibilities of Membership are described in the Church Covenant**

The responsibilities of membership are described in the Church Covenant.

### **4. Voting Rights of Membership**

Every member shall have the right to vote:

- a) On matters concerning the church.
- b) Each member is entitled to one vote.
- c) Voting by proxy is prohibited.

### **5. Active Church Membership**

An active church member is a member that attends a worship service once in the past six months.

### **6. Termination of Membership**

Membership shall be revoked for the following reasons:

- a) Transfer of membership to another Church.
- b) By personal request of the member.
- c) Exclusion by action of this Church.
- d) Death

## **7. Discipline**

The purpose of discipline is reconciliation rather than punishment.

Should some serious condition exist which would case a member, to become, a liability to the general welfare of the church, the Pastor and leaders will take very reasonable measure to resolve the problem in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17. If it becomes necessary for the church to tae action to exclude a member, a 90% vote of the members is required for the church to remove an individual from the membership roll.

A Spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance shall pervade all such proceedings. The Church may restore to membership any person previously excluded, upon request of the excluded person, and by amendment of the church upon evidence of the excluded person's repentance and reformation.

## **8. Waiver of Claim**

Notwithstanding anything else contained herein, membership in this local church shall be on the condition that disciplinary action of the member and termination of membership in the manner herein provided shall not give the suspended member cause for legal action against the Pastor or any member taking part in the suspension proceedings or the Church.

## **Article III. CHURCH LEADERS**

The Filipino International Baptist Church, leaders, shall be known as - The Leadership Team.

All who serve as leaders of this church shall be members of this church.

The responsibility of this team is to insure that the work of the church is being carried out. This includes: policy making, reporting and planning church activities, monitoring church health, working with the budget and creating and disbanding committees.

The Leadership team shall comprise of the Pastor(s), the Moderator, Church Clerk, Church Treasurer and the leaders of the five Church Spiritual functions: Discipleship, Evangelism, Ministry, Fellowship and Worship.

If deemed necessary, the leadership team may vote, to spend five percent, over the church budget - on an annual basis.

- (a) Quorum, is to be 60% team members
- (b) Leaders are to be elected every two years.
- (c) A leadership team member must be spiritually mature and have been a Church member for a minimum of one year.
- (d) The Leadership team is to meet every first Sunday of the month, or as required.

#### **Article IV. SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS OF CHURCH LEADERS**

##### **Pastor(s):**

The primary task of Pastors of Filipino International Baptist Church is to prepare God's people for the work of ministry. With this in mind, Pastors will administrate, equip, teach and shepherd the church toward the mission a of this church. Pastors must be leaders of high character, as stated in ( I Timothy 3:1-7 ), ( I Peter 5:1-4 ).

- a) Pastor(s): Must be licensed to preach or an ordained minister.
- b) A pastor shall continue in office until he resigns or until his resignation is requested.
- c) A 90% church vote is required to either instate or remove a pastor.
- d) Are ex-officio of all team and committee meetings.

##### **Moderator:**

The moderator shall be elected by the church membership. He/She shall preside over all business and leaders team meetings. He/She is not allowed to bring a motion on to the floor or vote unless a tiebreak is required. The Moderator is to lead a business meeting using Robert's Rules of Order.

##### **Treasurer:**

The treasurer shall be elected by the church membership. He/She shall receive, preserve, and pay out, upon receipt of vouchers approved and signed by authorized personnel, all money or things of value paid or given to the church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. The treasurer shall assist the Finance Committee in the preparation of the annual budget, and report to the church at regular business meetings.

##### **Clerk:**

The clerk shall be elected by the church membership. He/She shall keep in suitable book a record of all actions of a church business meeting. The clerk is responsible for keeping a register of the names of members, with dates of admission, dismissing, or death, together with a record of baptisms.

**Discipleship Leader:**

The Discipleship Leader is responsible for church training and developing curriculum for the whole church.

1. Training Leaders and potential Leaders.
2. Provide training and material for the Small Groups
3. Provide training and materials for Sunday School for all ages
4. Coordinates with all Small groups leaders, and Sunday School teachers

**Evangelism Leader:**

The Evangelism Leader is responsible for the Church outreach program.

1. Develop witnessing strategies and curriculum
2. Develop the Mission program locally and globally
3. Works closely with the Ministry Leader for outreach programs.

**Worship Leader:**

The Worship Leader works closely with the Pastor/Pastors in developing a wholesome worship.

1. Train and develop worship leaders
2. Train and develop Musicians
3. Train and develop Ushers and Greeters and Lord Suppers servers
4. Look after the upkeep of instruments and other tools used for worship.
5. Develop programs for special occasions like Christmas, Easter and other worship events.

**Ministry Leader:**

The Ministry Leader is responsible for coordinating the different ministries of the church such as:

1. Youth Ministry
2. Single's Ministry
3. Couple's Ministry
4. Young Mother's Ministry
5. Visitation Visitor's Ministry

**Fellowship Leader:**

Responsible for promoting a wholesome fellowship for the church.

1. Train and assign people for kitchen help during church functions
2. Prepare the elements for Lord Supper
3. Responsible for Kitchen supplies

**Article V. Business Meetings**

1. Regular business meeting, that deal with budget items and normal church activities, reports, replacing church officers and team leaders, require a quorum of 20% of active church membership present. Voting shall be counted by raising of hands.
  - (a) When business in a regular meeting is not easily dealt with, it will be deemed, special business
  - (b) Shall be held quarterly, or as required
  - (c) Voting by proxy is not allowed
  - (d) If within thirty minutes from the set time, quorum is not present the meeting shall be canceled
  
2. Special business meetings, that deal with the calling of a Pastor, church discipline, changes to the constitution and by-laws, as well as all other special business, require a quorum of 50% of active church membership. Voting shall be counted by the raising of hands or by secret ballot - as required.
  - (a) Two meetings will be required in consecutive weeks, to complete this meeting.
  - (b) Notice must be given one week in advance of this meeting
  - (c) Voting by proxy is not allowed
  - (d) Shall be held whenever needed

**Article VI. Certification**

We certify that these bylaws are for the operation of this church.