

**OUR DOCTRINAL STATEMENT
AND CONSTITUTION:**

Our Basic Biblical Beliefs

and

Bylaws for Ministry

TRINITY BIBLE CHURCH OF ALEDO

4936 E. I-20 Service Road South
Willow Park, Texas

(As Amended - December, 1996)

(As Amended – August, 2014)

(As Amended – September, 2018)

(As Amended – May, 2021)

(As Amended – March, 2022)

(As Amended – January, 2023)

(As Amended – April, 2023)

(As Amended – June, 2023)

(As Amended – July, 2025)

(As Amended – March, 2026)

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Trinity Bible Church, do adopt and establish the following articles to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this church shall be Trinity Bible Church of Aledo, Texas (hereinafter “Trinity Bible Church”). Trinity Bible Church is a local evangelical, denominationally unrelated church.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of Trinity Bible Church is to glorify God. Towards that end, our mission is to develop fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. We will endeavor to do this by providing for four basic experiences:

1. A vital worship experience characterized by living with an attitude of surrender to God.
2. A vital connection experience characterized by living in authentic community with one another.
3. A vital service experience characterized by living out God’s love for others.
4. A vital multiplying experience characterized by living to see Jesus reproduced in the lives of others.

ARTICLE III

STATEMENT OF DOCTRINE

Section 1: The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Bible to be the God-breathed Word of God. Its inspiration is verbal and total. Its authority is absolute. Its original manuscripts are inerrant. (Matt. 5:18; II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21)

We believe that all Scripture is to be interpreted in a plain, normal, or literal manner in light of history, grammar, literary devices and context.

Section 2: The Godhead

We believe in the one Triune God, existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, eternal in being, identical in essence, equal in power and glory and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deut. 6:4; II Cor. 13:14)

Section 3: The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God. However, as a result of Adam's sin, the human race fell into sin, became alienated from God, and is totally unable to regain its former position. (Gen. 1:26; 3:1-24; Rom. 3:23; 5:12; Eph. 2:12)

Section 4: The Person and Work of Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. We believe that He provided redemption from sin through His death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice. This redemption is sufficient for all men, but effective only for those who believe. We believe that salvation and future resurrection are guaranteed to all believers by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. We believe that Christ's atonement and resurrection ensure redemption from physical affliction for each and every believer in the eternal state, and that until such time, God heals some and not others depending on His wisdom and will. We believe that He will return again to earth in a literal, physical Second Coming. (John 1:1, 14, 18; Luke 1:35; Acts 1:11; Rom. 3:24-26; 9:24; II Cor. 12:7-10; Eph. 1:11; Rev. 21:4)

Section 5: The Person of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Person, the third Person of the Godhead. His ministry includes convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; regeneration; baptizing believers into the Body of Christ; permanently indwelling believers; sealing believers unto the day of redemption; bestowing spiritual gifts to each believer; and filling believers. (Matt. 28:19; John 3:3-7; 16:7-11; Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 3:16; 6:19; 12:4-13; Eph. 4:30; 5:18)

Section 6: Angels, Fallen and Unfallen

We believe that God created Lucifer and innumerable spiritual sinless beings called angels. Lucifer sinned through pride, desiring to be "like the Most High" and becoming Satan, fell from heaven with a company of demons who joined him in his unholy purpose to corrupt the human race, beginning with leading Adam and Eve into transgression. Satan was judged at the cross, but is still a usurper who rules as the "god of this world." He now appears as an "angel of light," counterfeiting the works of God, denying the sufficiency of Christ for salvation. At the Second Coming of Christ, Satan will be bound for one thousand years, then loosed for a season to deceive the nations, then finally defeated and "cast into the lake of fire and brimstone." (Gen. 3:1-19; Isa. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:11-19; Romans 5:12-14; II Cor. 4:3,4; 11:13-15; Eph. 6:10-12; Col. 2:15; II Thess. 2:4; I Tim. 3:6; 4:1-3; II Pet. 2:4; Jude 6; Rev. 20:1-3, 10)

We believe another company of angels serves God's purposes, sent forth as ministering spirits for those who shall inherit salvation. Man was created lower than the angels, but because of the incarnation of Christ, man has been lifted to a new sphere above the angels. (Luke 15:10; I Cor. 6:3; Eph. 1:21; Heb. 1:14; 2:6-10; Rev. 7:12)

Section 7: Salvation

We believe that salvation is a gift of God in grace and is received by man through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ whose precious blood was shed for the forgiveness of sins. (Eph. 1:17; 2:8-10; John 1:12; Titus 3:5)

Section 8: The Eternal Security of the Believer

We believe that all true believers, once saved, are kept secure in Christ forever. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 29-30, 38-39)

Section 9: The Church

We believe that the Church is composed of all born-again believers and, as the Body and Bride of Christ, exists in two aspects, universal and local. The universal Church is that elect company of believers, baptized by the Holy Spirit into one spiritual organism, the Body of Christ. The local church is a group of like-minded believers voluntarily joined together to glorify God and His Son, Jesus Christ, to develop fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, and to administer the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and water baptism. (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:42; 8:3; 9:31; I Cor. 4:17; 11:23-27; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:11-13; 5:23-30; I Thess. 1:1)

Section 10: The Second Coming of Christ

We believe in the personal and imminent return of Jesus Christ. (Zech. 14:4-11; Matt. 24-25; John 14:1-3; Titus 2:13; I Thess. 1:10; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:4-10; Rev. 19-20) We believe the Kingdom of God is both present (Matt. 12:28; Lk. 17:20-21; Rom. 14:17; I Cor. 4:19-20; Col. 1:13) and will yet be fully consummated (Is. 24:23; 33:22; 52:7; Zech. 14:9-10; Matt. 6:10; 7:21-23; 8:11:12; Gal. 5:21; Eph. 5:5; II Tim. 4:18)

We believe that great humility is needed in interpreting the prophetic scriptures. We believe in allowing for some diversity of opinion in relation to the exact unfolding of future prophetic events. We believe that the purpose of Bible prophesy is more to motivate Christian holiness than to develop detailed prophetic chronologies. (I Pet. 1:10-16; II Pet. 3:9-13)

Section 11: The Eternal State

We believe that the souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation do at death immediately pass into His presence, and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body, when soul and body shall be reunited and associated with Him forever in glory; but the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery until the final judgment of the Great White Throne, when soul and body shall be reunited and cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting separation from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. (Luke 16:19-26; 23:43; II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; II Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 20:11-15)

Section 12: The Responsibility of Believers

We believe that all believers should seek to walk by the Spirit, not bringing reproach upon their Lord and Savior. (Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:16, 25; II Cor. 6:14; 7:1)

Section 13: Church Ordinances

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper to be observed by all believers until His return. (Matt. 28:19-20; I Cor. 11:23-26)

We believe that baptism is a public symbol of the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. (Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; I Pet. 3:21) We deny that baptism is necessary for salvation. The mode of baptism is primarily symbolic. Thus, since we believe that the original mode of baptism was probably by immersion, our preference is to baptize by immersion, unless there are physical limitations. Baptism shall be administered after a candidate has been examined by a pastor or Elder.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is also a public symbol of the believer's identification with Christ and His Body, the Church. It should be regularly observed. The Elders shall determine the frequency of its observance.

Section 14: Spiritual Gifts

We believe that spiritual gifts are divine enablement for spiritual service given by God to every Christian for the common good of the Church. We believe that, while God is free to give any gift at any time, the exercise of these gifts is to be done in accordance with the counsel of Scripture and for the glory of God alone. (Rom. 12:3-8; I Cor. 12:12-31; 14:20-22; Eph. 4:7-16; I Pet. 4:10-11)

Section 15: The Christian & Citizenry

We believe that Christians are – first and foremost – citizens of heaven, and that our primary allegiance is with Jesus Christ. (Eph. 2:19; Phil. 2:11, 3:20) Thus, we are to be in the world but not of the world. (John 17:15-18; I John 2:15-17; Rom. 12:2) We seek to engage the world through gospel ministry without adopting the world's philosophy and behaviors. (Matt. 5:14-16, 1 Cor. 9:19-23, 1 Pet. 2:12) We seek to appropriately honor those who have served our country, and our heavenly citizenship compels us to pray for our leaders and to submit to our governing authorities (unless ordered to disobey God). (Matt. 8:5-13; Acts 5:27-29, Rom. 13:1-7, Phil. 2:25; 1 Tim. 2:1-2; Titus 3:1, 1 Peter 2:17)

Section 16: Marriage and Sexuality

- (1) We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

- (2) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.
- (3) We believe that any form of sexual immorality, including but not limited to adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and pornography, or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex at birth, is sinful and offensive to God.
- (4) We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Trinity Bible Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Section on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.
- (5) We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.
- (6) We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. 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 the Church.
- (7) Trinity Bible Church will welcome into its worship services a person who is involved with the behavior described in subsections (2) through (3) above, but such a person will not be permitted to hold membership or a leadership role at Trinity Bible Church.

Section 17: Christian Unity

We recognize that the New Testament places a high priority on the unity of the Church. (Jn. 13:34-35; 17:20-23; Acts 4:32; Gal. 3:27-29; I Cor. 1:10-17; II Cor. 13:11; Eph. 4:1-6; Phil. 2:1-5, 14; Titus 3:9-11; Jas. 2:1-13; I John 4) Thus we desire to follow the maxim of the early Church: "In essentials unity, in non-essentials diversity, and in all things charity." In other words, we desire to:

- (1) clearly affirm the clearly revealed (i.e., the foundational doctrines of the Christian faith);
- (2) be less dogmatic regarding issues not as exhaustively revealed or readily discerned (i.e., allow for some diversity); and
- (3) emphasize the essentials of the Christian faith and preserve the unity of the Church (i.e., without sacrificing our essential doctrines).

Thus, dogmatism and intolerance are virtues when foundational doctrines of the faith are in dispute. However, regarding less clearly revealed doctrines, dogmatism and intolerance are vices. Humility and the preserving of unity are virtues Christians should manifest regarding less exhaustively revealed issues.

Furthermore, Christians today face many issues which the Bible does not directly address and are issues of Christian liberty (e.g., the nature of schooling which a particular Christian family chooses). Regarding such issues, each Christian is to be guided by the principles of Romans 14-15 and I Corinthians 8-10. Often, different Christians will validly come to different conclusions regarding such issues. Regarding these issues, Christians are not to judge one another or demand that others conform to their viewpoint.

ARTICLE IV

GOVERNMENT

Section 1: Authority

The government of Trinity Bible Church, under the headship of Jesus Christ, is vested in the Elders (collectively the “Elders”; individually an “Elder”).

Section 2: Succession

In the absence of at least two qualified Elders, the Deacons shall govern Trinity Bible Church until two qualified Elders are available.

In the event of succession, reference in this constitution to the Elders shall refer to the duly appointed governing Deacons.

ARTICLE V

LEADERSHIP

Section 1: The Officers

The officers of Trinity Bible Church shall consist of the Elders and the Deacons.

Section 2: The Elders

- (1) Qualifications: The qualifications are specifically set forth in I Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Anyone seeking the office of Elder must evidence growth and desire in the development of these character qualities.
- (2) Selection:
 - (a) Elders will be nominated by the Elders and confirmed by the congregation, as qualified men are available and as they are needed by the church.
 - (b) Elders will be appointed for a three (3) year term. At the end of that term, they may begin a one (1) year sabbatical leave or after prayer and consideration they may renew their commitment for another three (3) year term. A mandatory sabbatical leave of one

(1) year is required at the end of the second (2nd) consecutive term (after the sixth (6th) year). The vocational staff is not subject to triennial appointment nor to the sabbatical leave.

- (c) After a one (1) year sabbatical leave, former Elders become eligible for reappointment as an Elder. It is not necessary for them to repeat the confirmation process.
- (d) Candidates for Elder, nominated by the Elders, must be confirmed by Trinity Bible Church. The Elders will announce any candidate for Elder thirty (30) days before their official appointment. During these thirty (30) days, the members of Trinity Bible Church are responsible for praying about this candidate and giving feedback to the Elders as to the candidates being considered for appointment. The final decision as to the candidate's appointment will be made by the Elders.

(3) Duties and Responsibilities:

- (a) Duties: It shall be the duties of all Elders to care for Trinity Bible Church and its spiritual condition, guard the purity of doctrine and life of Trinity Bible Church, discipline members of Trinity Bible Church in accordance with the Word of God, counsel the needy, comfort the afflicted, pray for the sick, and supervise the operation of Trinity Bible Church and its various organizations.
- (b) Corporate Accountability: It shall be the responsibility of the Elders to fulfill at least the following requirements:
 - (1) To provide financial accountability to Trinity Bible Church on at least a semi-annual basis.
 - (2) To provide for at least an annual meeting of the membership of Trinity Bible Church.
- (4) Termination: The Elders shall at any time divest an Elder from his office who: (i) shows himself by person or attitude to be disturbing the purity, peace, unity or ministry of Trinity Bible Church; (ii) refuses to support the constitutional standards; or (iii) violates the biblical qualifications for an Elder. An individual's service as an Elder may also be terminated by his resignation.

Section 3: The Deacons

- (1) Qualifications: The qualifications of Deacons are set forth in I Tim. 3:8-13. Anyone considered for the office of Deacon must evidence growth and desire in the development of these qualities.
- (2) Selection: Same as that for an elder.

- (3) Duties and Responsibilities: Deacons shall be under the authority of the Elders. The role of the Deacon is that of service to the Elders and Trinity Bible Church. The duties and responsibilities of the Deacons shall be in accordance with the services deemed necessary by the Elders. (It is mandatory that Deacons will support this Constitution.)
- (4) Termination: Same as that for an Elder.

Section 4: Vocational Staff

- (1) Selection: Upon resignation or dismissal of pastoral staff, the Elders or their duly appointed representatives shall serve as the committee to seek a suitable replacement if one is deemed necessary. Once a suitable candidate has been found, this person shall be presented to the members of Trinity Bible Church through a variety of means before the offer of employment is made.
- (2) Duties and Responsibilities: Generally, vocational staff will serve in the same way as other Elders or Deacons except that they will be able to devote full or part time to the work of ministry. Specific job descriptions shall be developed according to needs of the church and may then be reviewed and edited by the Elders as seen fit. All staff and Deacons will ultimately be accountable to the Elders.
- (3) Remuneration: Salary, reimbursable expenses, allowances, and vacations will be approved by the Elders.
- (4) Termination: Same as that for an Elder except that the Elders may also terminate a staff person for failing to adequately fulfill his or her staff duties or acting in violation of this Doctrinal Statement and Constitution.

ARTICLE VI

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Membership Defined

- To become a member of Trinity Bible Church, one must complete the membership process and sign the Foundations of Unity form – committing to fulfill the expectations of a member (detailed below).

Section 2: Membership Expectations (Foundations for Unity)

Having believed in Jesus Christ alone as Savior and Lord, and having declared so publicly through baptism, a member of TBC is expected to...

1. WORSHIP—Living with an attitude of surrender to God, by...

...regularly attending one of TBC's worship services.

...committing to grow in God's grace and truth through spiritual disciplines (such as prayer and Bible study).

...giving of my time, talents and treasures to God.

...following the leaders.

• "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18)."

• "For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice it... (Ezra 7:10)."

• "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship (Rom. 12:1)."

• "Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering (1 Corinthians 16:2)."

• "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you (Hebrews 13:17)."

• "They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer (Acts 2:42)."

2. CONNECT —Living in authentic community with one another, by...

...participating in one of TBC's various connection groups.

...acting in love toward other TBC members.

...speaking only words that build up others.

• "Let us not give up meeting together... but let us encourage one another (Heb. 10:25)."

• "Have a sincere love for other believers, love one another earnestly with all you heart (1 Peter 1:22)."

• "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs (Ephesians 4:29)."

3. SERVE—Living out God's love to others, by...

...discovering my gifts and exercising them in ministry to my TBC family.

...participating in a local outreach (annually).

...inviting the lost to TBC, and warmly welcoming those who visit.

...supporting a missionary family.

- “Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you (1 Peter 4:10).”

- “[God] gave...some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (Ephesians 4:11-12).”

- “The Master said to the servant, Go out to the roads and country lanes, and urge the people there to come so my house will be full (Luke 14:23).”

- “So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified (Romans 15:7).”

4. MULTIPLY – Living to see Jesus reproduced in others

...making disciples that make disciples

...starting connection groups that start connection groups

...planting churches that plant churches

- Matthew 28:18-20, Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- Acts 2:46, Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

- Acts 13:1-3, Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers... While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Section 3: Church Discipline

Members or regular attendees who are found to be conducting their lives in a manner clearly and openly contrary to New Testament teaching, or who are propagating doctrines distorting the person and work of Jesus Christ, will be approached by one or more of the Elders in the manner set forth in Matthew 18:15-17. The purposes of this process are the correction of the one in sin (I Cor. 5:5) and the protection of the Church’s purity. (I Cor. 5:6-8) The primary goal of this process is restoration. (Gal. 6:1; II Cor. 2:5-8; Jas. 5:19-20)

Section 4: Teachers

Members who endeavor to teach God’s Word through Trinity Bible Church must sign the “Teaching for Unity” agreement as an expressed commitment to teach in accordance with the Doctrinal Statement.

ARTICLE VII

MISSIONS

In accordance with the command of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:45-49; John 20:21; Acts 1:8), we eagerly desire to be used by the Lord in missionary enterprise. We recognize the place of the local church in praying for missions, giving to missions, and setting apart those the Lord has called to take the Gospel to the unsaved. (Acts 13:1-3; Phil. 4:14-16)

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS

After serious prayer and consideration, the Constitution may be changed or altered by the Elders upon unanimous consent in order to best meet the needs of the Body.

March 2026 Amendment

- Section 2.2 (b) Add: At the end of that term, **they may begin a one (1) year sabbatical leave, or after prayer and consideration** they may renew their commitment for another three (3) year term.