



# **SHUSWAP COMMUNITY CHURCH**

## INFORMATION for PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS *and* MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

*Membership happens at SCC when a believer pledges his/her partnership in the mission, beliefs, and life of the Church, and the church pledges to empower the believer's spiritual growth & missional effectiveness.*

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# WHAT IS MEMBERSHIP?

Membership happens at SCC when a believer pledges his/her partnership in the mission, beliefs, and life of the Church, and the church pledges to empower the believer's spiritual growth & missional effectiveness.

## **Ephesians 4:1-16**

*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup> But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." <sup>9</sup> (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

## **A member of SCC is someone who:**

- Seeks to live life with integrity, 4:1.
- Expresses humility, gentleness, and patience with a spirit changed by and displaying generosity, 4:2.
- Seeks to live harmoniously with those within the church, 4:2. (Assumes participation in relationship... personal, small groups, corporate worship).
- Refuses to argue about petty things, 4:3.
- Keeps the peace within the church by initiating the resolution of conflict, through proper channels, knowing that unresolved anger will lead to bitterness, 4:3.
- Is loyal and submissive to the church, 4:4.
- Believes in one God, forsaking all other religions and all other idols. 4:5.
- Believes in one salvation, and that through faith in Jesus Christ and His atoning

sacrifice for his/her sin 4:5.

- Has been baptized in obedience to Christ, as a public declaration of a life redeemed by and committed to Christ, 4:5.
- Is discovering how to use his or her spiritual gifts for the building up of the kingdom, 4:7.
- Looks for opportunities to share the gospel of grace, out of thanksgiving, 4:7.
- Believes in Jesus Christ, who is both the Son of God and God the Son, 4:9.
- Keeps the word of God central in his/her personal and corporate worship, 4:11.
- Welcomes the ministry of pastors, & teachers as essential to their own spiritual growth and effectiveness, 4:12.
- Participates in the work of evangelism, 4:12.
- Is growing in spiritual maturity through the use of various spiritual disciplines, 4:13.
- Is knowledgeable and protective of correct doctrine, 4:14.
- Lovingly speaks and receives truth, 4:15.
- Cherishes his/her role in the ministry of the church, that Christ's kingdom would grow for His glory alone, 4:16.

### **Members make up a church that is characterized by:**

Regeneration: Acts 2:38-41

The church is made up of individuals who are trusting in Jesus Christ for salvation, as demonstrated in baptism, and in worship takes ownership of the church's mission and values, agrees with core doctrine, and is generous with his/her resources, gifts, & priorities.

Qualified Leadership: Acts 4:35-5:2

That church leadership is made up of godly individuals who meet the specific criteria in scripture, and are willing to sacrifice their personal ambitions for the unity and growth of the church.

Preaching and worship: Acts 2:42, Romans 1:9, 12:1

Scripture is central to every area of church life, and that the impact of the cross is celebrated at all gatherings.

Rightly administered sacraments: Matthew. 28:19, 1 Corinthians 10:25

The church regularly remembers the sacrifice of Jesus by obeying his command to share in His supper. And that it regularly baptizes people who have confessed their faith in Christ as saviour.

Spirit Unity: Ephesians 4:2-3

The church submits itself to leadership of Jesus Christ through the unity of the Holy Spirit by seeking like-mindedness.

Holiness: Ephesians 5:25-27

Sin is repented of and when it isn't the leaders lovingly enact church discipline, for the purpose of restoration, that we might present ourselves blameless before Jesus.

Loving Community: Hebrews 10:24-25, Acts 2:42

Living together in fellowship, gathering together in friendship, & initiating the care of physical, emotional and spiritual needs, regardless of the cost or consequence.

Missional Community: Acts 2:47, 1 Cor. 9:22

Where the gospel is constantly & relevantly preached and made visible in the lives of its people, and their witness in the community.

### **Members Participate In The Mission Of The Church**

Our mission to make disciples and plant churches. We accomplish this together when we declare and demonstrate the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The leadership of SCC is made up of qualified leaders who are committed to empowering the membership's spiritual growth and missional effectiveness.

- To meet the criteria for church leadership (Pastor/Elder & Deacons) from Scripture (1 Tim. 3:1-13, 5:17-22, Titus. 1:5-9, 1 Pet. 5:1-4)
- To seek God's will for our church through prayer, scripture and the leading of the Holy Spirit (Ac. 20:28)
- To guide you in your spiritual growth through equipping (Eph. 4:11-13) and through pastoral care (Ja. 5:14).
- To provide teaching and counsel from Scripture, (Ac. 20:27-28).
- To guard the flock from false teachers, (Ac. 20:28-31)
- To exercise church discipline when necessary (Mt. 18:15-20, 1 Cor. 5, Gal. 6:1)
- To set the example for ministry and for godliness, joining with the membership in fulfilling its duties, (1 Cor. 11:1, Phil. 3:17, 1 Tim. 4:12)

# CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Adopted May 15, 2016

Amended February 27, 2017 (Added II,4.6)

## CONSTITUTION

1. NAME: The name of the society is “SHUSWAP COMMUNITY CHURCH,” hereafter referred to as the “church.”
2. PURPOSES: The purposes of the church are:
  - 2.1. To preach, teach, and advance the teachings of the Christian faith and religious tenets, doctrines and observances associated with that faith.
  - 2.2. To establish, maintain and support a house of worship with services conducted in accordance with the tenets and doctrines of the Christian faith.
  - 2.3. To contribute to, cooperate with, and support registered Canadian charitable organizations locally, nationally, and internationally, which carry out activities that are consistent with the purposes of the society and are defined as qualified donees described in subsection 149.1(1) of the Income Tax Act (Canada).
3. AFFILIATION: The church is affiliated with the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches in British Columbia and Yukon, as well as with the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Canada.
4. DOCTRINAL STATEMENT: The church adheres to the statement of faith of the church as of this date.
5. OPERATIONS: The operation of the church are carried on primarily in the Shuswap area of British Columbia.
6. CHARITABLE PURPOSES: The church exists unalterably as a non-profit organization, so that neither the church nor its individual members can use the church for anything but charitable purposes.
7. DISSOLUTION: Upon dissolution of the Church, the assets remaining after all costs, charges, and expenses properly incurred in the dissolution, and after payment of any arrears of salaries or wages including severances, and after payment of any other debts of the Church may be distributed, under the discretion of the membership, to the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches in British Columbia and Yukon by vote on a special resolution.

## BYLAWS

### INTERPRETATION

1. In these bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires:
  - 1.1. “Bylaws” means the bylaws of the church;
  - 1.2. “Church” means the society known as Shuswap Community Church;
  - 1.3. “Board” means the board of the church who are elected by the members and who for all purposes serve as the directors (as defined and required by the Society Act) of the church;
  - 1.4. “Business meeting” includes the annual general meeting and any special business meeting;
  - 1.5. “Society Act” means the Society Act of the Province of British Columbia from time to time in force and all amendments to it;
2. The definitions in the Society Act on the date these bylaws become effective apply to these bylaws.

### ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership Requirements: Those who desire to become members of the church must meet the following requirements:
  - 1.1. Trust Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.
  - 1.2. Publicly express faith in Christ through baptism.
  - 1.3. Agree with the Statement of Faith which will be provided to prospective members.
2. Membership Responsibilities: Members of the Church will strive to live out these responsibilities:
  - 2.1. To be committed to ongoing, personal, spiritual growth (Gal. 5:22:26).
  - 2.2. To express Jesus’ love in deeds and words, in the world in which they live (Matt. 28:19:20).
  - 2.3. To meet regularly with the church family (Ps. 150:1, Eph. 5:19:20).
  - 2.4. To support the church financially (2 Cor. 9:6:15).
  - 2.5. To be responsive and supportive to the leadership of the church (Heb. 13:17).
  - 2.6. To love, encourage, support and pray for one another (Rom. 12:10).
  - 2.7. To grow as a servant (Mk. 10:45).

3. Receiving New or Restored Members
  - 3.1. Applications for membership must be made through the board, with the exception of pastors and their spouses who have consented to act for the church, and who, by nature of their call are granted membership.
  - 3.2. All applicants for church membership are given a copy of the church's constitution & bylaws and statement of faith.
  - 3.3. All applicants are interviewed by two of the board or by such members as are duly appointed by the board.
  - 3.4. Upon a satisfactory interview, the interviewers make a recommendation to the board regarding their acceptance into membership.
  - 3.5. Upon unanimous approval by the board, new members are presented to the church.
  
4. Status of Members:
  - 4.1. "Active members in good standing" include all members received into membership who have not been dismissed or placed on the inactive list. Only active resident members in good standing, who are 18 years and older, are eligible to vote.
  - 4.2. "Non-resident members" are members in good standing who are living too far away to regularly attend the weekly services of the church, or for reasons of health cannot attend regularly, but who maintain contact with the church.
  - 4.3. "Inactive members" are those who have been absent from the church for a period of twelve months or more.
  
5. Removing and Reinstating Members: Members may be removed from or reinstated to church membership under the following conditions:
  - 5.1. Removal: Members may be removed by a vote of the board and presented at the next business meeting under the following conditions:
    - 5.1.1. Assuming a new permanent residence out of the area.
    - 5.1.2. Requesting to be released from membership.
    - 5.1.3. Death.
    - 5.1.4. Inactive members who have not responded to efforts to re-establish them as active members.
  
  - 5.2. Discipline/Reinstatement of Members: Where sin is bringing reproach to the name of Christ, the church, or the church's ministry, the procedure outlined by Christ in Matthew 18:15-20 is to be followed:
    - 5.2.1. A private meeting with the parties involved and a Pastor and/or Elder should be arranged to lovingly confront the member.



- 5.2.2. If the member refuses to listen, then one or two witnesses will be taken along in an attempt to restore the sinning member. The desire is to keep the process of restoration in as limited a circle as is possible.
- 5.2.3. If the member refuses to listen to the two or three, the board will request a meeting with all parties involved.
- 5.2.4. If the member refuses to heed the counsel of the board, the board determines the appropriate action, which may include removal from membership by vote of the board. This information will be communicated to members. (Matt. 18:17; 1 Cor. 5:11:23; 2 Thess. 3:6:14).
- 5.2.5. Any member thus removed may be reinstated to membership upon repentance and restoration as determined by the pastors/elders and board. The process for reinstatement follows Article I, 3. "Receiving New or Restored Members".

## ARTICLE II: LEADERSHIP

- 1. Pastors: It is the duty of pastors to pray, proclaim God's word, and oversee the spiritual health, direction, and ministry of the church. The lead pastor provides leadership to the staff and church family in collaboration with the other pastors, elders, and the board so the church's purpose is being accomplished. All pastors are automatically elders but are not voting members of the Board.
  - 1.1. Qualifications: Pastors must meet the character requirements of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
  - 1.2. Duties: The particular duties of each pastor shall be specified by a job description. The job descriptions shall be reviewed at least annually by the board.
  - 1.3. Selection:
    - 1.3.1. The Lead Pastor: A search team is elected by the members, at a special business meeting or the annual general meeting, to interview and select candidates. The search team consists of a minimum of five members, the majority of which are not from the board. However, at least one member of the search team is from the board. Once selected, the search team follows an agreed upon church policy for obtaining a candidate, resulting in the best available candidate being presented to the board. Upon approval of the board, the candidate is given opportunity to interact with the church, and to preach in all regular worship services. The members then vote on a special resolution at a business meeting on whether or not to extend a call.
    - 1.3.2. Other Pastoral Staff: Other pastoral staff are hired by a search team comprised of the lead pastor, one member of the board, and three members of the congregation who represent the ministry areas most affected by the pastoral staff being hired.

The search team is appointed by the board. Information will be communicated to the church throughout the hiring process.

- 1.3.3. Other Staff: Administrative staff, interns, and any other support staff or contractors will be hired or appointed by the pastor giving direct oversight to the position with the agreement of the lead pastor and within the financial parameters of the annual budget as approved by the members.
- 1.4. Term: Any pastor or other staff may resign with at least one month written notice unless otherwise agreed to by the board. To dismiss a lead pastor, a special business meeting must be called to vote on an ordinary resolution. To dismiss any pastoral staff position other than the lead pastor, a majority vote of the board is required. Dismissal of any other staff is the responsibility of the pastor giving direct oversight to the position with the agreement of the lead pastor. This information will be communicated to the church. Any staff member dismissed may appeal to the board according to an agreed upon policy.
- 1.5. Remuneration and Evaluation: Pastoral and other staff are remunerated according to terms mutually agreed on and worked out at the time of their call to ministry and employment at the church and reviewed on an annual basis.
- 1.6. Accountability: The lead pastor is accountable to the board of the church. All other staff are accountable to the lead pastor or the ministry staff giving direct oversight to the position.
2. Board: The board is responsible for the effective operation of the church. The board affirms the vision, approves the goals, oversees membership, and has authority to act on behalf of the church on all matters not specifically reserved for the members, pastors, or other staff .
  - 2.1. Qualifications : Board members must be active members in good standing for at least one year, and demonstrate the character qualities outlined in 1 Tim. 3:8-13.
  - 2.2. Term: Each elected member of the board serves for three years, for no more than two successive terms, and must have a minimum of one year off the board following two successive terms. A reasonable attempt will be made to stagger the terms of the board in order to retain approximately half of the board in any given year.
  - 2.3. Composition: The board consists of no less than five and no more than eleven voting members. Best efforts will be made to ensure fair representation proportional to campus size. The lead pastor is a non-voting, ex-officio member of the board. The specific number of positions to be filled each year is determined by

the existing board. The chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer are selected by the board. The secretary and treasurer may cause to carry out their respective functions through church staff.

3. Elders : Elders oversee the spiritual care of the church. They ensure that the church is pursuing its Biblical purpose and remains true to essential Biblical doctrines. Together with the pastoral staff, elders pray for the spiritual growth and purity of the church and its members and provide counsel and discipline for church members when needed. Elders develop the vision of the church in collaboration with the pastors and board. All elders who are not pastoral staff are voting members of the board.
  - 3.1. Qualifications : Elders must be active members in good standing for at least one year, and demonstrate the character qualities outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
  - 3.2. Term : Elders serve for three-year terms and may be elected for no more than two successive terms and must have one year off following two successive terms. Elders may resign with good reason by giving thirty days written notice unless otherwise agreed upon by the board.
  - 3.3. Composition : Elders constitute no less than three and no more than five voting members of the board.
4. Selection and Removal of Board Members and Elders:
  - 4.1. During the month of November, the nominating committee accepts nominations from all SCC campuses for board and elder positions. As required, the nominating committee may themselves place additional names of members into nomination for the board and elders.
  - 4.2. During December and January, all nominees are interviewed by the nominating committee for the purpose of evaluation. On the basis of this evaluation, the nominating committee presents to the board a list of board member and elder candidates. All those not chosen as candidates will be informed of the reason for the decision.
  - 4.3. During the first three weeks of February, the names of board and elder candidates will be posted for the church to see. If there is a good reason why one of the candidates should not be in leadership, it is the responsibility of church members to inform a member of the nominating committee, which will meet with both individuals to attempt a resolution. If no resolution is forthcoming, the issue will be brought to the board, which will prayerfully consider an appropriate response.
  - 4.4. At the annual general meeting held within the first 60 days of the year, members vote by ordinary resolution to elect the board members and elders.

- 4.5. Removal : A board member or elder may resign by giving thirty days written notice unless otherwise agreed upon by the board. Failure to perform duties is treated as a resignation including absence from three consecutive regular board meetings without reasonable cause. The board may request a formal resignation, or recommend that the members remove the person from the board by ordinary resolution.
- 4.6. Replacement: In the event that a board member resigns his/her position as a board member, or is unable to serve his/her term to completion, the nominating committee will recommend for board approval, a suitable person to fill the vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting.

### ARTICLE III: ORGANIZATIONAL AND BUSINESS MATTERS

1. Nominating Committee: At the annual meeting, a nominating committee is elected for a one-year term by ordinary resolution. It consists of the lead pastor, a member of the board and three active members in good standing who are not on the board.
2. Business Meetings
  - 2.1. Annual General Meeting – Within 60 days of the fiscal year end, a congregational meeting is held to celebrate what God is doing, to elect/affirm the board and elders, to conduct membership transactions, to accept the financial statements and approve the budget, to elect the nominating committee, and to conduct other business as needed. A parliamentarian may be appointed to preside over the meeting.
  - 2.2. Special Business Meetings – Special meetings may be called by the board as needed. At least two weeks written notice or an announcement for two successive weeks during worship services are required for a special business meeting. The board must call a special meeting upon receiving a written petition signed by ten percent of the resident voting membership, with a specific statement of the business intended.
  - 2.3. Board Meetings : Board meetings are held monthly and additional meetings as needed.
  - 2.4. Quorum – For all business meetings a quorum consists of 25% of active resident members in good standing. A majority forms a quorum for board meetings.
  - 2.5. Ordinary resolutions require a quorum of at least 25% of active resident members and require at least a 50% plus one vote to pass.

- 2.6. Special resolutions require a quorum of at least 25% of active resident members and require at least a 75% vote to pass. A minimum of four weeks' notice must be given to members regarding the nature of a special resolution.
- 2.7. Voting : Voting at the annual general meeting and special business meetings is done by show of hands unless otherwise requested or determined by the board.
- 2.8. Proxy voting : Proxy voting is not permitted.
- 2.9. Rules of Order – The current version of “Robert’s Rules of Order” applies for all business meetings.
3. General Regulations
  - 3.1. Financial Regulations
    - 3.1.1. Fiscal Year : The fiscal year starts January 1<sup>st</sup> and runs until December 31<sup>st</sup>.
    - 3.1.2. Availability of Records : With the exception of the personal giving records of donors, all books and records including minutes of business meetings are available for inspection during regular office hours at the church office.
    - 3.1.3. Audit : The financial records of the church should be audited or reviewed prior to the annual meeting by an auditor appointed by the board.
    - 3.1.4. Borrowing Powers : In order to carry out the purposes of the church, the board may, on behalf of and in the name of the church, raise or secure the payment or repayment of money in the manner it decides, and in particular, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, by the issue of debentures. No debenture, mortgage or other charge against the real property of the church shall be issued without the sanction of a special resolution vote.
    - 3.1.5. Investing Powers
      - 3.1.5.1. The board may invest the money and manage the other property of the church in a manner that the Board considers to be prudent and in the best interests of the Church upon approval by special resolution vote.
      - 3.1.5.2. Subject to the provision of the Society Act, a member of the board is not liable for any loss which may result from any such investment.
    - 3.1.6. Signing Authority : All cheques, bills of exchange or other orders for payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the

church are signed by any two of four members of the church designated by the board to have signing authority.

- 3.1.7. Board Members and Elders – Board members and elders who are not pastoral staff serve without remuneration nor receive any profit from their positions whether directly or indirectly, provided that they may be paid reasonable expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties.
- 3.2. Amendments – The constitution and bylaws may be amended at any Annual General Meeting or Special Business Meeting of the church by a special resolution vote. Amendments to the constitution and bylaws cannot take effect until they have been filed with the BC Registry Services.
- 3.3. Organic Division – In the event of organic division within the membership, the property and assets will belong to those members who abide by the constitution (including the statement of faith) and bylaws of the society. In the case where two or more parties claim to abide by the constitution and bylaws, the board must request that the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches in British Columbia and Yukon (or its successor by name change) arbitrate the dispute and its decision will be final.

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

## I. OF THE SCRIPTURES

We believe the Holy Bible to be that collection of sixty-six books from Genesis to Revelation which, as originally written, was objectively the very Word of God; that it was written by men supernaturally moved; that it is verbally and plenary inspired; that it is truth without any admixture of error; and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to men; the true centre of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

## II. OF THE TRINITY

1. We believe that there is one, and only one, living, eternal and true God; an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the Creator and the Supreme ruler of Heaven and earth inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honour, faith and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, executing distinct and harmonious offices in the work of redemption.
2. We believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God; that He is truly and eternally God, equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit; that for our redemption He took upon himself the nature of unfallen man; that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in a unique and miraculous manner, and was born of Mary, a virgin; that in the one Person of Christ there are two natures, the Divine and the human, each distinct, and indissolubly united; that being tempted in the flesh He lived a sinless life; that He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; that the third day He arose bodily from the tomb and manifested Himself for forty days to His disciples; that in His glorified body He ascended to the Father; that as High Priest He ever lives to make intercession for His own; that according to His promise He will come again in person, visibly, with power and great glory.
3. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in creation; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; that he bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and in testimony; that He is the agent of regeneration; that He dwells in every believer from the moment of his conversion; that every believer is baptized in the Spirit by Christ; that He fills the believer as control is yielded to Christ; that the evidence of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the life.

## III. OF THE DEVIL, OR SATAN

We believe that Satan is a person; that he is the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world; that he is man's great tempter, the enemy of God and His

Christ, the accuser of the saints; that he is the author of all false religions, the inspirer of all apostasy, and the chief of all the powers of darkness; that he with his principalities is overcome by our appropriation of Christ's victory on Calvary; that he along with his hosts is destined to final defeat at the hands of God's Son, and to suffer eternal punishment in a place prepared for him and his angels.

#### IV. OF THE CREATION

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that man's creation was not by evolution or change of species or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal life and vegetable life were effected by special creation, and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind".

#### V. OF THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Creator, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state; in consequence of which all men are now sinful, and all are sinners not only by constraint but of choice; and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse; that man in his fallen state is in a condition of total depravity by which is meant his utter incapacity to receive the things of the Spirit of God apart from the quickening grace of the Holy Spirit.

#### VI. OF THE ATONEMENT FOR SIN

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly by grace; that it is through the mediatorial office of the Son of God, Who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honoured the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and expiatory atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted in the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place bearing the penalty of God's Holy Law, shedding His precious blood; the Just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that having risen bodily from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven, and is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and all-sufficient Saviour.

#### VII. OF ELECTION

We believe that election is the eternal act of God's sovereign grace by which He chooses, calls, justifies and glorifies sinners; that it is effectuated by the Holy Spirit through God's Word in drawing sinners to Christ so that their wills are freely brought into compliance with God's elective purpose; that it excludes all human boasting; that it is demonstrated in believers by their personal faith in Christ, their love to God and their desire for holiness; that it is the ground of the believer's assurance and promotes humility and service.



## VIII. OF THE NEW CREATION

We believe that in order to be saved a sinner must be born again through personal faith in Jesus Christ; that the new birth is a new creation; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life as the gift of God; that such is kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation and shall never perish; that the new birth is brought about in a miraculous manner above man's comprehension wholly and solely by the grace of God through the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth; that its proper evidence appears in the fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life.

## IX. OF JUSTIFICATION

We believe that justification is the great blessing by which God accepts, accounts and declares man as righteous; that it includes pardon from the guilt and condemnation of all his sin, the gift of eternal life on principles of divine righteousness; that it is bestowed by grace through faith solely upon the grounds of Christ's perfect life, and expiatory death whereby the righteousness of Christ is imputed to the believing sinner.

## X. OF SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is primarily the believer's position in Christ by the grace of the new Testament sealed to the believer by the blood of the everlasting covenant whereby he is set apart unto God as the recipient of all heavenly perfections; that it is also a process by which the believer sets himself apart from sin to God in the gradual attaining of moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in his heart and in obedience to the Word of God; that it will culminate in the glorious and eternal state of entire sanctification at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## XI. OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

We believe that the church is a congregation of baptized believers organized according to the New Testament pattern, associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel, and observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws, and exercising the rights, and privileges invested in it by His Word; that its officers are pastors (or elders or bishops) and deacons, whose qualifications and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures; that the true mission of the church is found in our Lord's commission, namely: to evangelize, to baptize, and to teach believers to observe all that the Lord commanded; that the church has absolute right of self-government free from any outside interference, and that the one and only superintendent is Christ, acting through the Holy Spirit in harmony with the Word of God; that in all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline or benevolence, the will of the church is final, that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in the furtherance of the Gospel and in contending for the faith, and that each church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its co-operation.

## XII. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; that it is the direct command of Christ; that it shows forth the believer's union with the crucified, buried and risen Christ, and his death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is a condition of church membership and according to the Scriptural order baptism should precede the observance of the Lord's supper in which members of the church by the use of bread and wine after solemn self-examination are to commemorate together the death of Christ.

## XIII. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that civil government is divinely appointed for the interests and good order of society; that the individual should fulfill faithfully his responsibilities as a good citizen; that magistrates should be conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the revealed will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience; that the church should remain distinct and separate from the state, and that there should be no intrusion of the one into the affairs of the other.

## XIV. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

We believe that there is an essential difference in the nature, belief and practice of the righteous and the wicked; that those who through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and set apart by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in God's esteem, and those who continue in impenitence and unbelief are wicked in His sight and under the curse; that this distinction holds even after death, that the righteous depart to be with Christ, and are in a state of conscious blessedness awaiting the resurrection of the just and the receiving of their glorified bodies; that the wicked depart to Hades where they are in conscious torment until the final resurrection and judgment; at which time the righteous enter into everlasting felicity in Heaven and the wicked into everlasting conscious suffering in Hell.



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name:	Date:
Address:	Phone:
	Email:

Which SCC Campus do you regularly attend?
How long have you been attending?
Are you involved in any SCC Ministries?
Have you had a believer's baptism by immersion? When?
Are you currently a member of another church?

I have read the Information for Prospective Members for Shuswap Community Church and agree to be interviewed prior to acceptance into membership.	
x _____	Date: _____

Interviewed by: ( <i>names &amp; signatures</i> )	Date: _____
_____	x _____
_____	x _____

Marked as "Active" in Sunergo

Letter Sent