

Articles of Association

of

Hudson's Hope Chapel

an Unincorporated Association in British Columbia, Canada

Article 1 - Name

The name of the association shall be Hudson's Hope Chapel.

Article 2 - Nature and Status

Hudson's Hope Chapel ["The Chapel"] is a Christian church operating initially as an unincorporated association in the province of British Columbia, Canada. It exists for religious and not-for-profit purposes in accordance with the Christian faith as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

Article 3 - Doctrinal Commitment

1. The Chapel is to be led, at its inception, by **Luke Hughes-Bunger**, a qualified Elder, licensed minister, and Chaplain in good standing with *The Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Canada* ["The Fellowship"], who shall serve as founding *Elder (Lead Pastor)*.
2. The Chapel is governed in accordance with a **Statement of Faith**, publicly available at:
<https://hhchapel.ca/what-we-believe/>
3. In view with Article 3.1, while acknowledging that at the time of its inception *The Chapel* is not a itself member church of *The Fellowship*, we also affirm and accept the **Statement of Faith** of *The Fellowship*, in recognition of our Lead Pastor's accreditation and employment as a Fellowship Chaplain. This statement is publicly available at: <https://www.fellowship.ca/WhatWeBelieve>
4. These doctrinal standards shall serve as the final interpretive authority for all matters of faith, life, and practice.

Article 4 - Purpose

Hudson's Hope Chapel exists to glorify God by making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ in Hudson's Hope and the surrounding Peace region of British Columbia. The Chapel pursues sincere worship, faithful teaching, authentic fellowship, and demonstrable love for God and neighbour.

In particular, the church:

- Gathers weekly for worship, prayer, and the study of Scripture;
- Proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ;
- Encourages and equips believers for spiritual growth and service;
- Ministers to the practical and spiritual needs of the local community
- Offers a welcoming environment for those exploring faith in Jesus.

Article 5 - Membership

1. **Eligibility:** Membership is open to all baptized believers who affirm the Chapel's Statement of Faith and are committed to participating in the life and worship of the church.
2. **Admission:** Prospective members must complete a membership application affirming their agreement with the Statement of Faith and their desire to join. Final acceptance is subject to the approval of the elders.
3. **Privileges and Responsibilities:** Members are expected to participate in the spiritual, communal, and practical life of the church and are eligible to vote on matters requiring congregational input as outlined in these Articles.

Article 6 - Governance and Leadership

The Chapel affirm that there are only two specified New Testament Biblical offices in the church: **Elders** and **Deacons**.

The Chapel shall be overseen and administered by a combined board of Elders and Deacons, who together shall be responsible up the civil and spiritual governance of The Chapel.

Elders and Deacons are made up of qualified members, in good standing, of The Chapel.

6.1 Elders

- **Elders** (also known as pastors or overseers) are biblically qualified men (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9) who provide spiritual oversight, teaching, pastoral care, and leadership.
- The **Lead Pastor** is an elder, with all roles and responsibilities of the same, and is to serve on the elder and deacon board as *first among equals*, in accordance with biblical patterns (eg, Acts 15:13; 21:18; 1 Cor 15:7; Gal 1:19; 2:12). This includes serving as the *ex-officio* Chairperson of all board and member meetings.
- Additional qualified Elders are to be identified and nominated by the existing elders, and confirmed by the members.
- Elders are called, and therefore serve for life, *unless* they resign, retire, or are **disqualified and removed** according to biblical principles.
- In accordance with scripture (Eph. 4:11; 1 Tim. 3:2; 5:17; Titus 1:9; Heb. 13:17) Elders are primarily responsible for:
 - Teaching and preaching the Word;
 - Protecting sound doctrine;
 - Shepherding the church;
 - Governing the church, especially in spiritual matters;
 - Recommending elder candidates to the membership.

6.2 Deacons

- Deacons are men and women who are appointed to serve the practical and logistical needs of the church, in accordance with the patterns and qualifications of Acts 6:1-6 and 1 Tim 3:8-13.
- Deacons are identified and nominated by the membership, and confirmed by the members and Elders.
- Deacons may be appointed to serve:
 - For life (subject to resignation, retirement, or disqualification), *or*
 - For a fixed term, which may either be eligible for re-election (by member vote) or for a specific time (e.g., until the completion a particular project or fulfilment of a ministry need).
- Specific deacon roles include (but are not limited to):
 - **Secretary** - responsible for administrative needs and record-keeping.
 - **Treasurer** - responsible for financial management and reporting.

- Any and all required civil official roles are to be filled only by persons qualified to serve as an elder or deacon.

6.3 The Board

The Board is composed of all active elders and deacons.

The plurality of duly appointed Elders are to serve as the primary decision-makers in all spiritual and doctrinal matters, while Deacons shall serve on the board in an advisory and supporting capacity.

Article 7 - Meetings

1. An **Annual General Meeting** (AGM) shall be held each year for the purpose of reporting, membership decisions, and affirming leadership.
2. Additional **special meetings** of members may be called:
 - a: By the elders; or
 - b: By the written request of *either* three voting members, *or* one-third of all voting members, whichever is fewer.
3. A quorum for any general or special meeting shall consist of *either*: Three members, *or* Ten percent (10%) of all members; whichever is greater.
4. Notwithstanding the above requirements, the following decisions will normally require an affirmative vote by two-thirds (2/3) majority of **all** voting members:
 - Appointment of a pastoral elder;
 - Removal of an elder or deacon;
 - Affiliation or disaffiliation with other churches, denominations, or networks;
 - Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation;
 - Amendments to the Statement of Faith;
 - Dissolution of the association. *Or*
 - Any other member decision specified as such by the unanimous agreement of the elder board.

However, if the elders unanimously affirm the proposed decision, a lower majority threshold may be specified at their discretion.

Article 8 - Dissolution and Property

1. In the event of dissolution, the elders shall determine the appropriate distribution of the association's assets, provided such assets are transferred to one or more registered Canadian charities with similar purposes.

2. **Personal assets belonging to members** that may have been made available to the church (e.g., homes used for meetings, vehicles, computers or electronic equipment, or other personal assets) remain the *sole* and *exclusive property* of those members. These shall not be considered assets of the association, even if regularly used in ministry, listed as contact addresses, used as venues, or routinely used by the association in the course of ministry, unless explicitly transferred to the association.

Article 9 - Amendments

These Articles may be amended only by a two-thirds majority vote of the full membership, subject to the exceptions laid out in Article 7.3.4. Any amendment must be consistent with the doctrinal foundation and purposes outlined in Articles 3 and 4.

Article 10 - Adoption

These Articles of Incorporation shall be effective upon adoption by the founding members of Hudson's Hope Chapel and shall remain in effect until amended or replaced by due process in accordance with Article 9.

Adopted as written by the founding members of Hudson's Hope Chapel, on this

_____ day of _____, in the year _____.

Founding Members

Luke Hughes-Bunger, Elder (Lead Pastor) _____

Ruth Hughes-Bunger _____