

ARTICLE ONE: NAME

1.1 The name of this organization shall be:

The Buckley Gospel Tabernacle

ARTICLE TWO: PURPOSE

2.1 The purposes of this organization shall be as follows:

Vision: Changed lives

Mission: Love God, love people, make disciples

ARTICLE THREE: STATEMENT OF FAITH

3.1 **The Triune God**

We believe that the one and only true God is Spirit; self existent, eternal, infinite, personal, and unchangeable; perfect in every good attribute and work; omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent; creator and sustainer of all things; eternally existent in three persons Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Exodus 34:6; Deuteronomy 32:4; Matthew 28:19)

-God the Father

We believe that the Father is self – existent, neither begotten nor proceeding; the external Father of the Lord Jesus Christ; the Author of salvation; the Father of all who are begotten into newness of life through faith in Christ. (Psalm 90:2; 1Peter 1:3)

-God the Son

We believe in the Deity of Christ; in His eternal generation from the Father, in His incarnation, whereby He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, thereby uniting the divine and the human nature in His one unique person; in His sinless life and His vicarious death to make atonement for the sins of the world; in His bodily resurrection and ascension to the Father; in His present

mediatorial work for the believer; and in His imminent coming in power and glory. (Hebrews 1:8; Acts 2:22-25)

-God the Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the person of the Holy Trinity who lives within the believer. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, empowers us to live a holy life, counsels, comforts and guides us in truth. (John 15:26; Acts 15:8-9)

3.2 **The Bible**

We believe that the Bible, consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, is the Word of God given by divine inspiration, inerrant in the original manuscript, and is the unchanging authority in matters of Christian faith and practices. (John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

3.3 **Man**

We believe that mankind was created by God, in His own image, but because of Adam's sin (disobedience) man inherits a corrupt nature that inclines him to do wrong. Man cannot save himself by his own will or works. (Genesis 1:27; Genesis 3; Romans 5:12) We believe that gender is sacred as created by God, and that men and women have equal value before God.

3.4 **Salvation**

Salvation is accomplished by Grace, through Faith. Jesus Christ, the living Son of God, was given by God, as a sacrifice for the sins of all men. Christ died on the cross to mend the relationship between God and man which has been broken by man's sin of disobedience. Belief and faith in Jesus Christ, recognizing him as Lord and Savior, gives men and women the free gift of eternal life. (John 3:16-18; Romans 3:22-24; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9)

3.5 **Sanctification**

We believe that sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit to cleanse the heart, indwell the person of the believer, and direct and empower a life dedicated to the will of God. (1 Corinthians 1:30-31; Philippians 2:12-13; 2 Thessalonians 2:13)

3.6 **The Church**

We believe that the invisible and universal church is an organism composed of all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, who have been called out from the world, separated from sin, and vitally united by faith to Christ, its head and sovereign Lord. (Ephesians 1:22-23; Hebrews 12:23)

3.7 **The Second Coming of Christ (Heaven and Hell)**

We believe that those who have not accepted Christ as their personal Savior and are unrepentant, will be judged by God in His perfect justice and doomed to eternal punishment. We believe in the personal return of Jesus Christ to receive His believers into heaven and eternal life. The time of His return is unknown but may be at any moment. This is the glorious hope of all of God's children. (Matthew 25:31-46; 1 Corinthians 15:50-54; 2 Corinthians 5:10; John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17)

ARTICLE FOUR: CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP AND CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

4.1 **Ordinances**

The Bible teaches the observance of two ordinances:

a) **Baptism**

We believe that baptism by water is the symbol of one's union by faith with Christ in death, burial, and resurrection; constitutes a public confession of faith in Christ; and is the answer of a good conscience toward God. Baptism, preferably by immersion, is for those who give evidence of having been born again, and is restricted to those of an age of accountability. (Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Peter 3:21)

b) **The Lord's Supper**

The Lord's supper is a memorial of Christ's death; a center of communion and fellowship; a testimony to saving faith; and a visible seal of Christ's redemptive covenant. It is to be observed only by the true child of God, and is open to all true

believers. The Scriptures strongly urge that one examine himself before partaking of this ordinance. (1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

4.2 **Discipleship**

We believe the overarching aim of discipleship is for the Christian to live a life of obedience to God, summarized in the following Scriptures:

The Great Commandment –“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: “Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30)

The Great Commission – “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.” (Matthew 28:19-20a)

“My command is this: love each other as I have loved you.” (John 15:12)

We believe that Scripture teaches that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone (Romans and Galatians). We also affirm that the true believer’s life will display the fruit of the Holy Spirit’s work (Galatians 5) and be marked by obedience.

“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another counselor to be with you forever--the Spirit of truth.” (John 14:15-17a)

“Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” (James 2:17b)

4.3 **Christian Conduct**

Where the Bible speaks, we speak; where the Bible is silent, we are silent, in essentials – unity; in opinions – liberty; and in all things – love.

We believe that legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within covenant marriage between one man and one woman. The Bible deems all other sexual activities as sin. (1 Corinthians 6:18)

We believe that marriage is defined solely as the union of one man and one woman. This union was originated by God and affirmed by Jesus. This definition excludes same-sex, transgender and polygamous unions. (Genesis 2:20; Matthew 19:4-6)

We will faithfully follow these scripturally supported definitions of gender, sexuality and marriage in the teachings and practices of this church, her staff and members. At the same time, The Tabernacle will provide an environment that welcomes people who struggle with sexual sin. We seek to love all people in Jesus' name, pointing them towards Christ's power to forgive and heal.

On matters of discipleship, conduct and practice, members should always remember the personal and communal implications as set forth in the following Scriptures:

“Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.” (Philippians 2:12)

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” (Ephesians 4:3-5)

Jesus' Prayer For All Believers “That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (John 17:21)

The follower of Christ is expected to personally pursue God in obedience, prayer, worship, and in strengthening that comes through the fellowship of believers. Furthermore, members are expected to submit to the organizational leadership and spiritual accountability of the church elders and pastors, and to pray faithfully for them. Members are expected to participate as they are gifted and able in the edification of the church body. (Romans 12)

The Christian must carefully consider the teachings of Scripture, which is our authority on matters of Christian conduct, and to faithfully obey the prompting of the Holy Spirit. On moral issues that are clearly set forth in Scripture, the member is expected to strictly adhere. On matters that are unclear or open to interpretation, the member is expected to, “Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing

judgement on disputable matters,... to not put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way," and to "make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification." (Romans 14:1, 13, 19)

Please also consider the following guiding Scriptures: Romans 12:1; Galatians 5:19-26; Ephesians 5:1-5; Colossians 3:12-14; Psalm 139; Matthew 5:32; Romans 1:24-31; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; James 4:11, 5:9; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 1 Corinthians 6:9-12, 20; Ephesians 5:18; Colossians 3:5-10.