

# The Trinity Presbytery

## Articles of Association

In response to the manifold mercies of God in the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour, it is our desire to establish a biblical Presbyterian Church, to the glory of God and furtherance of His Kingdom.

The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded that His Church is to be established in every place in the world, in the form of local congregations under His government, for the worship of God, the edification of the saints, and the proclamation of His saving gospel to all mankind.

The Word of God contained in the Holy Scriptures is the supreme and final authority for all matters concerning the government of Christ's Church. Believing that in the Holy Scriptures the Lord Jesus Christ has commanded His Church to have a Presbyterian form of government, and that this is needful for the good order, flourishing and perfecting of His Church, we hereby establish a Presbyterian Church with the following order and characteristics:

1. Each congregation shall be governed by its own Session, composed of a plurality of elders called and set apart by God to shepherd His flock. These are to be godly men who have the gifts and graces required by the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). While some members of the Session may be set apart as Teaching Elders (Ministers) in order to be devoted to the ministry of the Word and sacraments, there is a parity of office and authority amongst all the elders, and they are to seek to serve one another in a spirit of mutual submission and love.
2. Christ has given each Session all the powers and authority needed to care for and govern His Church. Sessions are given the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven by Christ, the sole Head of the Church (Matthew 16:19), to preserve true doctrine and the preaching of the gospel, the right administration of the sacraments, and godliness and holiness in the Church through faithful and loving discipline, which are the marks of the true Church of God.
3. All elders shall faithfully subscribe to the Westminster Standards, comprising the Westminster Confession, and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, and shall teach and maintain no contrary doctrine. The public worship of the Church is to be practised in accordance with the Westminster Directory of Worship.
4. There is one Body of Christ, and therefore each Session is to seek to express this unity by forming a Presbytery of elders with other like-minded congregations. These congregations are to work together and support and encourage one another in matters of mutual interest and concern, to offer a united witness to the world, and to offer a court of appeal in matters of discipline. In due time, the Lord willing, for the better ordering of the Church a Constitution and Book of Church Order will be developed, agreed, and adopted in the spirit of the Presbytery being a wider and not a higher assembly, with limited powers. The Presbytery is to be a deliberative body, devoted to prayer, with all things done in love and a spirit of mutual submission.

Therefore, we agree to seek the mercy and grace of God to this end, and pray God will establish the work of our hands. Through the building up of a faithful and biblical Presbyterian Church, may His truth be proclaimed, sinners saved, and saints edified, all to the glory and praise of God.