**Bylaws of**

**North American Baptist Northwest**

**ARTICLE 1 – NAME AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE**

1.1 The name of this corporation is NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST NORTHWEST (NABNW). NABNW is a voluntary association of Baptist churches in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and such other churches as may apply for membership and be accepted.

1.2 NABNW will act as the legal entity to transact any matters in and following the dissolution of The Central Pacific Association of North American Baptists, The Pacific Northwest Association of North American Baptists or other preceding organizations.

1.3 The principal office for the transaction of business activities and affairs of NABNW is located at 7190 NW Kaiser Rd, Portland, OR 97229. The location of the principal office may be changed by action of the Executive Team.

**ARTICLE 2 – PREAMBLE & MISSION**

2.1 NABNW exists to resource, network, and enable local churches to become Disciple-makingcongregations.

2.2 NABNW is an evangelical agency, committed to orthodoxy in its theological stance and to the North American Baptist Conference Statement of Beliefs. (Appendix I)

2.3 NABNW, as an expression of the Church of Jesus Christ, (1) shall provide resources to the local congregations and (2) shall provide a channel through which local congregations shall discharge their wider mission to NABNW and to all the world, a mission which stems from the obligation to declare and to make effective the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all areas of life.

2.4 NABNW has entered into a voluntary covenant of relationship with the North American Baptist Conference (NABC). Member churches of NABNW are also member churches of NABC.

2.5 This corporation is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes as specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**ARTICLE 3 – AUTHORITY, INDEMNIFICATION, AND MEMBERSHIP**

**3.1 AUTHORITY**

3.1.1 The ultimate authority within NABNW rests with the member congregations. Delegates of member congregations affirm the Executive Team and churches for membership or withdrawal, vote the annual budget, changes to these by-laws, and the purchase or sale of real property.

**3.2 Application for membership**

3.2.1 A church desiring membership shall make application to the secretary of NABNW in writing with written reports of its origin, development, organization, constitution and statement of faith.

3.2.2 A Credentials Committee appointed by the Executive Team will meet with the officers of the church and, after due consideration, will make recommendation to the Executive Team concerning the application.

3.2.3 The Executive Team will review and act upon the application and, if favorable, will recommend the applicant as a member church of NABNW to its delegates.

3.2.4   Church plants and unincorporated congregations are extended affiliate membership. All congregations applying for affiliate membership must meet these criteria:

·        Sign a statement of agreement with NABC Statement of Faith.

·        Be sponsored by an NABNW Congregation.

·        Be approved by the NABNW Executive Team.

·        Be operated (registered) as a ministry of the sponsor church if they are not

incorporated for purposes of insurance and any payroll (following all

applicable employment laws).

**3.3 Withdrawal of membership**

3.3.1 NABNW shall have the right to withdraw membership from a church charged with departing from Scriptural teachings as expressed in the North American Baptist Conference Statement of Beliefs and principles and practices common to North American Baptist churches.  Such action shall be taken only after thorough investigation and consideration by the NABNW Executive Team.  A three-fourths vote of the Executive Team in favor of such action is required for recommendation to the delegates for withdrawal.

3.3.2 NABNW shall have the right to withdraw membership from a church that is inactive in supporting the mission of the organization demonstrated through lack of participation and financial support. Such action shall be taken only after thorough investigation and consideration by the NABNW Executive Team.  A three-fourths vote of the Executive Team in favor of such action is required for recommendation to the delegates for withdrawal.

3.3.3 The NABNW Executive Team shall have the right to withdraw membership from an affiliated church charged with departing from Scriptural teachings as expressed in the North American Baptist Conference Statement of Beliefs and principles and practices common to North American Baptist churches.  Such action shall be taken only after thorough investigation and consideration by the NABNW Executive Team.  A three-fourths vote of the Executive Team in favor of such action is required.

**ARTICLE 4 – MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP**

**4.1 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

4.1.1 The annual membership meeting of NABNW will be held in the fourth quarter of each calendar year, at a date, time, and location to be determined by the Executive Team. At least 40 days notice of the Annual Meeting will be given to member churches.

**4.2 SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

4.2.1 The Executive Team or twenty percent or more of the member churches may call a special meeting of the membership of NABNW.

4.2.2 A special meeting of the membership, called by other than the Executive Team, shall be called by written request specifying the general nature of the business proposed to be transacted and submitted to the Chairperson of the Executive Team or to the Regional Minister.

4.2.3 The Chairperson of the Executive Team or the Regional Minister shall cause notice in writing to be given promptly to the member churches stating that a meeting will be held at a time and place specified by the Executive Team, provided that the meeting shall be held no less than 30, and no more than 120 days, from the date of notice.

**4.3 QUORUM**

4.3.1 A quorum shall consist of ten percent of the eligible delegates from member churches based upon the most recent statistics available to NABNW.

**4.4 DELEGATES**

4.4.1 The number of delegates from each church includes the Lead Pastor and one additional delegate for each 25 members.

4.4.2 Each member of the Executive Team and the Regional Minister shall be an ex-officio delegate in addition to delegates enumerated in 4.4.1.

4.4.3 Each delegate present at an annual or special meeting shall have one vote.

4.4.4 Absentee and/or proxy votes are not allowed.

4.4.5 Each affiliated church is allowed one delegate.

**ARTICLE 5 –EXECUTIVE TEAM & OFFICERS**

5.1 The Executive Team shall consist of the eight members elected by NABNW delegates and the Regional Minister.

5.2 NABNW OFFICERS – The officers of NABNW shall be elected by the Executive Team, from members of the Executive Team. The officers shall consist of a Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer.

5.3 NABNW shall indemnify any Executive Team member, employee, or agent of this corporation for liability incurred by such person in the appropriate exercise of his or her duties with respect to the corporation.

5.4 Nominations will be brought to the delegates for affirmation by the Executive Team.

**5.5**  **TERMS OF OFFICE**

5.5.1 The NABNW Officers, with the exception of the Regional Minister, shall be affirmed annually by a majority vote at the first Executive Team meeting following the annual meeting. The Regional Minister shall serve at the pleasure of the Executive Team.

5.5.2 Elected Executive Team members shall be elected to a three-year term and will not serve more than two consecutive full terms. Terms will be staggered.

5.5.3 The election of a new Regional Minister shall require an affirmative vote of seventy-five percent of the Executive Team at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose. The Regional Minister shall be presented for affirmation to the delegates at the next regional meeting.

5.5.4 The dismissal of the Regional Minister shall require the affirmative vote of a seventy-five percent of the Executive Team members then holding office, excluding the Regional Minister.

**5.6 DUTIES**

5.6.1 **Regional Minister**

• Serve as Primary Vision Caster for the organization ofNABNW and exercise primary supervision, direction, and control over NABNW’s activities and affairs.

• Represent NABNW.

• Sign legal documents as instructed by the Executive Team.

• Provide for an Annual Report of the Region’s work to the member churches.

• Submit an annual budget to the Executive Team.

* Represent NABNW and participate in North American Baptist Conference (NABC) matters as prescribed by the NAB Constitution.

5.6.2 **Chairperson of the Executive Team**

• Chair the meetings of the membership of NABNW or appoint a person to do so in their place.

• Chair the meetings of the Executive Team or appoint a person to do so in their place.

• Represent NABNW.

• Shall be an ex-officio member of any team or committee reporting to the Executive Team.

• Sign legal documents as instructed by the Executive Team.

* Assure that an annual financial examination be performed at the end of each fiscal year.

5.6.3 **Secretary**

• Keep or cause to be kept accurate minutes of all meetings, proceedings and actions of the annual membership meeting, special membership meetings, and of the Executive Team.

• Make minutes available.

• Sign legal documents as instructed by the Executive Team.

• Give notice of all meetings of the member churches and of the Executive Team in a manner consistent with these bylaws and with NABNW’s policies and procedures.

5.6.4 **Treasurer**

• Periodically review established procedures to ensure that the following are accomplished (unless otherwise designated in operating procedures adopted by the Executive Team):

1) That all funds and securities of the corporation are provided adequate custody and that all such funds in the name of the corporation are deposited in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected by the Executive Team.

2) That monies due and payable to the corporation from any source whatsoever are collected and received and that proper receipts are given.

3) That the funds of the corporation are disbursed as directed by the Executive Team, and that proper vouchers are provided for such disbursements.

4) That adequate and correct accounts of the corporation’s properties and business transactions, including amounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains, and losses are maintained.

5) That the books of account and financial records are available to any officer of the corporation or to his agent or attorney upon request at reasonable times and places.

6) That a complete and accurate account of any or all transactions as treasurer, and of the financial condition of the corporation, is rendered to the Chairperson of the Executive Team, Regional Minister, Executive Team members, or member churches upon request but not less than annually.

7) That the financial statements to be included in any required reports are prepared and certified as needed, but not less than annually.

8) Shall be bonded.

In general, perform all duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Articles of Incorporation of the corporation, or by these Bylaws or which may be assigned to him or her from time to time by the Executive Team.

**5.7 REMOVAL AND RESIGNATION**

5.7.1 **OFFICERS:** Any officer may be removed from office for cause by a majority vote of the Executive Team at any time. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Executive Team or to the chairperson or secretary of the corporation. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of receipt of such notice or at any later date specified therein and, unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective. The provisions of this Section shall be superseded by any conflicting terms of a contract that has been approved or ratified by the Executive Team relating to the employment of any officer of the corporation.

5.7.2 **EXECUTIVE TEAM MEMBERS:** Any member of the Executive Team may be removed from office for cause by the Executive Team at any time with a majority vote. Any member of the Executive Team may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Executive Team or to the chairperson or secretary of the corporation. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of receipt of such notice or at any later date specified therein and, unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

**5.8 VACANCIES**

5.8.1 Any mid-term vacancy caused by the death, resignation, removal, disqualification or otherwise, of any officer shall be filled by the Executive Team.

• In the event of a vacancy in any office other than that of Chairperson, such vacancy may be filled temporarily by appointment by the Chairperson until such time as the Executive Team shall fill the vacancy.

* Vacancies occurring in offices appointed at the discretion of the Executive Team may be filled as the Executive Team shall determine until the next annual meeting.

**5.9 COMPENSATION**

5.9.1 The Executive Team serves NABNW on a voluntary basis, with the exception of the Regional Minister.

**5.10 QUALIFICATIONS**

5.10.1 Each Executive Team Member must:

• Be a participating member in good standing of an NABNW member congregation.

• Support NABNW’s mission, vision, and values. (Appendix II)

• Support NABNW’s leadership*.*

• Commit to attending all regular and special meetings of the Executive Team.

**5.11 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

5.11.1 The Executive Team will provide broad parameters, resources, and sound financial management for the accomplishment of NABNW’s mission, and:

• Transact any business as may be referred to the Executive Team at an annual or special meeting and any other business as may properly come before the Executive Team.

• Hire, receive the resignation of or terminate employment of the Regional Minister and appoint an Interim or Acting Regional Minister when the position becomes vacant in accordance with Article 5.3.

• Adopt, amend, and repeal NABNW policies and procedures.

• Assist, encourage, and support the accomplishment of NABNW’s mission.

• Adopt NABNW’s annual budget and submit to delegates for affirmation.

• Receive and review reports from NABNW teams and committees.

• Authorize capital funds campaigns.

• Fill any vacancies on the Executive Team when they occur.

• Maintain oversight of property of every kind owned by NABNW.

**5.12 COMMITTEES**

5.12.1 The Executive Team may establish committees as deemed necessary to accomplish the mission, vision and values of NABNW.

5.12.2 The committees established by the Executive Team shall meet as often as deemed necessary to meet their duties.

5.12.3 **Credentials Committee**

1. Shall be appointed by the Executive Team in accordance with Article 5.10.1 when a candidate is presented by a member church for review.
2. Shall review and provide recommendation regarding the recognition of the ordination of pastors ordained by non-NAB ordination councils when requested by a member church.
3. Shall review the personal testimony, ordination statement and interview any prospective candidate that has been recommended by their church for ordination. The committee will then give their recommendation regarding the candidate to the local church. If the recommendation is to proceed with ordination, the local church will call an ordination council from NABNW churches. The council will then make the final recommendation regarding the ordination to the local church. NAB recognizes ordinations that have been recommended by the NABNW ordination council in conjunction with ordination by a local NABNW church.

**5.13 MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE TEAM**

5.13.1 The Executive Team shall meet at least three times per year, including electronic meetings.

5.13.2 Written notice of meetings of the Executive Team shall be given 14 days in advance.

5.13.3 A quorum for meetings of the Executive Team shall be a majority of the members of the Executive Team.

5.13.4 Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or Regional Minister or upon petition to the Chairperson or Regional Minister or upon petition to the Chairperson by two Executive Team members. Notice of special meetings called will be given one day in advance of the meeting with the business of the meeting stated in the notice.

**5.14 GENERAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

5.14.1 The NABNW Executive Team Chairperson will represent NABNW on the North American Baptist General Council. If more than one representative is allowed, they shall be appointed by the NABNW Executive Team. Expenses for travel to and from NAB General Council meetings will be reimbursed by NABNW.

**ARTICLE 6 – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

6.1 In all circumstances not specifically covered by these bylaws, Robert’s Rules of Order shall be used as the basis of parliamentary authority. The Chairperson of the Executive Team shall appoint a parliamentarian prior to each annual or special meeting of the member churches.

**ARTICLE 7 – AMENDMENTS**

7.1 These bylaws may be amended at any annual or special meeting of NABNW delegates. Each proposed amendment must be presented to the Executive Team not less than 90 days prior to the annual or special meeting at which such proposed amendment is to be considered and acted upon.

7.2 Notice of a meeting at which a change in the bylaws will be considered shall be given to member churches at least 40 days in advance of such meeting.

7.3 An affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of delegates present is required for passage of amendments to the bylaws, except amendments to Article 2.4 altering the voluntary covenant of relationship with NAB. These shall require an affirmative vote of a three-fourths majority of delegates present from the member churches of NABNW.

7.4 Appendices referred to in these by-laws may be added to or amended by the NABNW Executive Team without notification or approval of member churches and/or their delegates.

**ARTICLE 8 – IRC 501(C) (3) TAX EXEMPTION PROVISIONS**

**8.1 LIMITATION ON ACTIVITIES**

8.1.1 No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation [except as otherwise provided by Section 501(h) of the Internal Revenue Code], and this corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

8.1.2 Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Bylaws, this corporation shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**8.2 PROHIBITION AGAINST PRIVATE INUREMENT**

8.2.1 No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, Executive Team members or trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation.

**8.3 DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS**

8.3.1 Upon the dissolution of this corporation, any assets remaining after payment or provision for payment of all debts and liabilities of this corporation shall be distributed to the North American Baptist Conference or another 501(c)(3) with a similar mission. Such distribution shall be made in accordance with all applicable provisions of the laws of the State of Oregon.

8.3.2 An affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of delegates present is required for dissolution.

**ARTICLE 9 – CONSTRUCTION AND TERMS**

9.1 If there is any conflict between the provisions of these Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation, the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation shall govern.

9.2 Should any of the provisions or portions of these Bylaws be held unenforceable or invalid for any reason, the remaining provisions and portions of these Bylaws shall be unaffected by such holding.

9.3 All references in these Bylaws to the Articles of Incorporation shall be to the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation filed with an office of the state of Oregon and used to establish the legal existence of this corporation.

9.4 All references in these Bylaws to a section or sections of the Internal Revenue Code shall be to such sections of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended or to corresponding provisions of any future federal tax code.

**Appendix I**

**North American Conference Statement of Beliefs**

Preface

Baptists, since their beginnings, repeatedly have composed confessions which expressed the doctrinal consensus among related churches. In principle, however, Baptists always have insisted that no statement of faith can be considered creedally binding even upon concurring congregations. The purpose of their doctrinal summaries was to explain to other Christians and to the larger society what Baptists believed and practiced. Within and among Baptist churches, statements of faith also provided a standard for instruction, counsel and fellowship.

We, as the North American Baptist Conference, presently feel the need to state more fully our Baptist understanding of the Christian faith. The purpose that guided us in writing and the use that we intend for this declaration are

1. To further the sense of identity and the spirit of unity within our North American Baptist Conference by declaring our common doctrinal understanding;
2. To provide a basis for doctrinal instruction within our Conference;
3. To provide a basis for doctrinal discussions in the hiring of Conference personnel;
4. To serve as a reference point when opinions differ;
5. To provide a basis for doctrinal discussion in admitting new churches and new pastors into our various associations;
6. To provide a doctrinal guide for new churches; and
7. To give a doctrinal witness beyond our Conference.

In continuity with our immediate forefathers and the larger fellowship of Baptists throughout history, we seek to practice and propagate by God’s grace the following convictions:

1. We believe the Bible is God’s Word given by divine inspiration, the record of God’s revelation of Himself to humanity (II Timothy 3:16). It is trustworthy, sufficient, without error—the supreme authority and guide for all doctrine and conduct (I Peter 1:23-25; John 17:17; II Timothy 3:16-17.) It is the truth by which God brings people into a saving relationship with Himself and leads them to Christian maturity (John 20:31, I John 5:9-12; Matthew 4:4; I Peter 2:2).

2. We believe in the one living and true God, perfect in wisdom, sovereignty, holiness, justice, mercy and love (I Timothy 1:17; Psalm 86:15; Deuteronomy 32:3-4). He exists eternally in three coequal persons who act together in creation, providence and redemption (Genesis 1:26; I Peter 1:2; Hebrews 1:1-3).

1. The Father reigns with providential care over all life and history in the created universe. He hears and answers prayer (I Chronicles 29:11-13; Matthew 7:11). He initiated salvation by sending His Son, and He is Father to those who by faith accept His Son as Lord and Savior (I John 4:9-10; John 3:16; John 1:12; Acts 16:31).
2. The Son became man, Jesus Christ, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary (John 1:14; Matthew 1:18). Being fully God and fully man, He revealed God through His sinless life, miracles and teaching (John 14:9; Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 4:23-24). He provided salvation through His atoning death in our place and by His bodily resurrection (I Corinthians 15:3-4; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 4:23-25). He ascended into heaven where He rules over all creation (Philippians 2:5-11). He intercedes for all believers and dwells in them as their ever-present Lord (Romans 8:34; John 14:23).
3. The Holy Spirit inspired men to write the Scriptures (II Peter 1:21). Through this Word, He convicts individuals of their sinfulness and of the righteousness of Christ, draws them to the Savior, and bears witness to their new birth (James 1:18; John 16:7-11; I Thessalonians 1:5-6; Romans 8:16). At regeneration and conversion, the believer is baptized in the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12:13). The Spirit indwells, seals and gives spiritual gifts to all believers for ministry in the church and society (Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 12:5-8; I Peter 4:10). He empowers, guides, teaches, fills, sanctifies and produces the fruit of Christlikeness in all who yield to Him (Acts 4:31; Romans 8:14; I Corinthians 2:10-13; Ephesians 5:18; II Thessalonians 2:13; Galatians 5:16; 22-23).

3. We believe God created an order of spiritual beings called angels to serve Him and do His will (Psalm 148:1-5; Colossians 1:16). The holy angels are obedient spirits ministering to the heirs of salvation and glorifying God (Hebrews 1:6-7; 13-14). Certain angels, called demons, Satan being their chief, through deliberate choice revolted and fell from their exalted position (Revelation 12:7-9). They now tempt individuals to rebel against God (I Timothy 4:1; I Peter 5:8). Their destiny in hell has been sealed by Christ’s victory over sin and death (Hebrews 2:14; Revelation 20:10).

4. We believe God created man in His own image to have fellowship with Himself and to be steward over His creation (Genesis 1:26-28). As a result, each person is unique, possesses dignity and is worthy of respect (Psalm 139:13-17). Through the temptation of Satan, Adam chose to disobey God; this brought sin and death to the human race and suffering to all creation (Genesis 3; Romans 5:12-21; 8-22). Therefore, everyone is born with a sinful nature and needs to be reconciled to God (Romans 3:9-18, 23). Satan tempts people to rebel against God, even those who love Him (Ephesians 4:27; II Corinthians 2:11; Matthew 16:23). Nonetheless, everyone is personally responsible to God for thoughts, actions and beliefs and has the right to approach Him directly through Jesus Christ, the only mediator (Romans 14:12; I Timothy 2:5).

5. We believe salvation is redemption by Christ of the whole person from sin and death (II Timothy 1:9-10; I Thessalonians 5:23). It is offered as a free gift by God to all and must be received personally through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ (I Timothy 2:4; Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 20:21). An individual is united to Christ by the regeneration of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27). As a child of God, the believer is acquitted of all guilt and brought into a new relationship of peace (Romans 5:1). Christians grow as the Holy Spirit enables them to understand and obey the Word of God (II Peter 3:18; Ephesians 4:15; I Thessalonians 3:12).

6. We believe the Church is the body of which Christ is the head and all who believe in Him are members (Ephesians 1:22-23; Romans 12:4-5). Christians are commanded to be baptized upon profession of faith and to unite with a local church for mutual encouragement and growth in discipleship through worship, nurture, service and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world (Acts 2:41-42, 47; Luke 24:45-48). Each church is a self-governing body under the lordship of Christ with all members sharing responsibility (Acts 13:1-3; 14:26-28). The form of government is understood to be congregational (Matthew 18:17; Acts 6:3-6; 15:22-23).

The ordinances of the church are baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20). It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer’s identification with the death, burial and resurrection of the Savior Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-5). The Lord’s Supper is the partaking of the bread and of the cup by believers together as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ. It is an act of thankful dedication to Him and serves to unite His people until He returns (I Corinthians 11:23-26).

To express unity in Christ, local churches form associations and a conference for mutual counsel, fellowship and a more effective fulfillment of Christ’s commission (Acts 15; I Corinthians 6:1-3).

7. We believe religious liberty, rooted in Scripture, is the inalienable right of all individuals to freedom of conscience with ultimate accountability to God (Genesis 1:27; John 8:32; II Corinthians 3:17; Romans 8:21; Acts 5:29). Church and state exist by the will of God. Each has distinctive concerns and responsibilities, free from control by the other (Matthew 22:21). Christians should pray for civil leaders, and obey and support government in matters not contrary to Scripture (I Timothy 2:1-4; Romans 13:1-7; I Peter 2:13-16). The state should guarantee religious liberty to all persons and groups regardless of their religious preferences, consistent with the common good.

8. We believe Christians, individually and collectively, are salt and light in society (Matthew 5:13-16). In a Christlike spirit, they oppose greed, selfishness and vice; they promote truth, justice and peace; they aid the needy and preserve the dignity of people of all races and conditions (Hebrews 13:5; Luke 9:23; Titus 2:12; Philippians 4:8-9; I John 3:16-17; James 2:1-4).

We affirm the family as the basic unit of society and seek to preserve its integrity and stability (Genesis 2:21-25; Ephesians 6:1-4).

9. We believe God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring all things to their appropriate end and establish the new heaven and the new earth (Ephesians 1:9-10, Revelation 21:1). The certain hope of the Christian is that Jesus Christ will return to the earth suddenly, personally and visibly in glory according to His promise (Titus 2:13; Revelation 1:7; 3:11; John 14:1-3). The dead will be raised, and Christ will judge mankind in righteousness (John 5:28-29). The unrighteous will be consigned to the everlasting punishment prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25-41, 46; Revelation 20;10). The righteous, in their resurrected and glorified bodies, will receive their reward and dwell forever with the Lord (Philippians 3:20-21; II Corinthians 5:10; I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

*Adopted by the North American Baptist Conference delegates, August 10-15, 1982, at Niagara Falls, New York.*

**Addendum adopted by the General Council on Saturday, June 1, 2002**

**ELDER LED CONGREGATIONAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT**

Church government forms today vary considerably, including several versions of elder or staff led models. Our Statement of Beliefs states that we believe the Biblical model for Church government is Congregational. To answer the question on what this means, the General Council passed a resolution stating that our understanding of congregational government includes the following:

*“Membership is available and attainable to all adult believers within the congregation, who should be able to vote on at least the following issues:*

1. *Call/dismissal of the head pastor*
2. *Affirmation/confirmation of members of the governing board*
3. *Buying and selling of property*
4. *Amendments to the constitution and by-laws*
5. *Dissolution of the church”*

**Appendix II**

**NABNW**

**Mission, Vision & Values**

**MISSION:**

NABNW exists to resource, network & enable local churches to become disciple-making congregations.

**VISION**

We envision a God empowered movement of 30 congregations engaged in multiplication by 2013.

We envision a Christ-centered movement that revitalizes existing churches throughout the Northwest. It will be a movement that results in new disciples and new congregations that can reach the least-churched to the most-churched in the region.

We see thousands of servant leaders emerging from our churches, equipped in leading transformational ministries in our region and around the world.

We will seek strategic partnerships with likeminded organizations, creating synergy to accomplish the mission God has given NABNW.

**VALUES:**

We value mission: Mission is making disciples and multiplying congregations.

(Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:42-47; Acts 9:31; Acts 11:19-21; Acts 14:21-28)

We value the local church: The local church is designed by God to accomplish His mission in the world. (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18-23)

We value faithfulness: NABNW will assist churches in determining strategies to faithfully attain their mission.

We value fruitfulness: NABNW will assist churches in measuring their progress as they implement strategies to accomplish mission. (Matthew 25; John 15; Philippians 1:22; Colossians 1:1-6; Galatians 5:22-26)

We value leadership: Leadership is developing emerging servant leaders in the local church. (Ephesians 4:11-13; Hebrews 13:7)

We value strategic partnerships: We can accomplish more together than we can alone. (Acts 11:25-30; Acts 13:2-3; Romans 16:1-16)

**Appendix III**

**NABNW Organizational Chart**