

PREAMBLE FOR THE PARKLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH CONSTITUTION

Rev. Ambrose Nyangao

Senior Pastor

Date: 27th January 2023

1. OUR IDENTITY

Parklands Baptist Church is non-profit organization that is registered under the societies Act of Kenya. PBC was inaugurated as a church in 1976 with a registered congregation of 45 members who were represented by mostly American missionaries and Kenyan teenagers. This congregation has since grown to be a large church of more than a 10 thousand regular attendants.

PBC is a Great Commission church seeking to reach every person with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have an open invitation where all are encouraged to be part of the fellowship with the purpose of being discipled into maturity through letting their Kingdom light to shine so that others may see their good works and give glory to our Father in heaven.

To make this happen we are a purpose-driven church seeking to be effective through five areas of ministry: Member Care, Maturity, Magnification, Ministry Identification and Leadership Development [M.I.L.D.] and Missions. We believe that every member should be engaged in all these ministries.

PBC has a congregational type of governance. The membership under the Lordship of Jesus Christ is mandated to guide the decisions of the church. This is done through the forum of the Church Business/ Members' meeting. Here the issues of the church are discussed openly and decisions made concerning the church. The Business meeting is guided through the leadership of the Church Moderator. The Moderator represents a team that we call the Church Council that helps guide the church in the agenda of its activities.

PBC has ordained ministers who make up the Pastoral team led by the Senior Pastor. This team gives the church its overall spiritual leadership and helps communicate and expound on God's vision for the church. This team is supported by the Deacons' Board who are an ordained group of persons who also help the Pastoral team in the spiritual guidance and nourishment of the church. This team is officially called the Pastors' and Deacons' Board [PDB].

Parklands Baptist Church is affiliated to the BARCON and the Baptist Convention of Kenya [BCOK] for purposes of unity of the saints and the evangelization of the gospel. These groups have their origins within the Southern Baptist Convention, USA.

2. OUR VISION AND PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God and its principles proclaimed to every person, godly leaders raised and our communities and the world influenced positively by applying these principles as a way of life.

- The Gospel of the Kingdom Proclaimed

This is our core purpose of existence. This is what makes us a Great Commission church. We exist to proclaim the gospel. This is done through preaching, teaching and healing. The world was alienated from God through sin. Jesus Christ came and reconciled the world to God through His blood sacrifice on the cross. Now mankind needs to know that God has opened the door for them to be reconciled to Him. This is the good news that we must proclaim to the nations. This message when believed, results in eternal life being given to those who believe. It is by grace that we are saved.

This reconciliation ushers in the kingdom of God into our hearts. This is why the teaching and expounding of this gospel is vital to those who have believed. The Gospel must be taught to equip these believers to grow into maturity so that they can in turn proclaim this gospel to others.

The healing part of the gospel is vital. Many come into salvation wounded, broken and bound in so many ways. The gospel must be applied to heal and bring wholeness to those who believe. They are to be healed in their spirit, soul, and body. This then extends into the community as kingdom principles are shared to bring enlightenment to the people on how to live wholesome lives day by day. It is a healing of relationships at all levels.

- Godly Leaders raised

This is a very vital part of the mandate that we have as a church. Discipleship is the foundation of a strong church. Discipleship is simply the process of bringing believers to a place of maturity so that they can be the leaders that will make a difference in the community. Godly leaders are a result of the process of discipleship. The leaders are raised so that they can be the lights and the salt of the earth. The influence we exert is not to lay it over others but to become servant leaders to those we serve. Jesus is our great example of servanthood.

- Our communities influenced positively through kingdom principles of God's word

We are mandated to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. This is what we mean by influencing our communities positively. The five avenues that we use to do this are expressed through:

- MEMBER CARE (Fellowship)
- MATURITY (Discipleship)
- MAGNIFICATION (Worship)
- MINISTRY IDENTIFICATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (Service)
- MISSIONS (Evangelism)

We rely on the revealed Word of God to us to show us how to be practical Christians to our world. We love God with all our hearts so that we can love our neighbours as ourselves. This is the Great Commandment.

3. OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

We are a Baptist Church in terms of our beliefs and base our beliefs on the authority of the HOLY SCRIPTURES made up of the Old and New Testaments. We also follow statements in the document called the BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE. Our final authority is the revelation of the HOLY SCRIPTURES.

II Tim 3:16-17 says,

“All Scriptures is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be fully equipped ready for every good work.”

The following is a summary of some of our fundamental beliefs.

- Concerning God

We believe in the triune God (Elohim) revealed to us through our Lord Jesus Christ. God is revealed to us as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This is the ones of God that we believe in. The trinity is involved in the redemption of Man. God is the Source and the Upholder of the universe. All things begin and end with Him. God is Spirit and is to be compared with no-one else. God is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent. God is unchanging and self-existent. From everlasting to everlasting God is. God has revealed Himself through His covenant name of Jehovah—I AM WHO I AM.

[Gen 1:1-3; John 1:1-4; John 10:30; Heb 1:1-3; Isa 45:5-6; Mal 3:6; Psa 90:1-2; Exo 3:14]

- Concerning Spiritual authority

We believe that the Holy Scriptures are our ultimate spiritual authority in what we believe and practice. These scriptures are revealed to us through the Holy Spirit who is given to us to guide every believer into all truth. Therefore, these scriptures are to be studied diligently and practiced.

[II Tim 3:15-17; John 6:63; Mat 4:4; Psa 19:1-7; John 15:26; II Tim 2:15]

- Concerning Salvation

We believe that salvation has come through none other than Jesus Christ the Son of the living God. Salvation is attained by grace through faith. It is a gift to those who confess Jesus as Lord and rely on His sacrificial act on the cross. We believe that salvation is for here and now and is available to everyone who puts his trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ at Calvary.

[Eph 2:4-10; Rom 10:9-13; II Cor 6:2; Rom 1:16-17]

- Concerning Discipleship

We believe that it is vital for every believer to be disciplined in their faith. Discipleship is a process of Christian growth into maturity. It is every individual attaining the stature of Christ through obedience of His word and the work of the Holy Spirit in them. Discipleship then results in the fruit of righteousness and blessing to those around. Discipleship reflects the character of Christ to the world. Discipleship involves baptizing those who believe and teaching them to obey all that the Lord has commanded them.

[Mat 28:18-20; Col 2:6-7; Eph 4:12-16; Eph 5:10-17; Col 3:1-3; II Tim 2:2; Mk 16:15-17; II Tim 2:15]

- Concerning Worship

We believe in the private and corporate worship of the believers. God created us to worship Him. God seeks for worshippers who worship Him in spirit and in truth. Worship may take on many styles of expression. The important thing is that this worship is primarily directed to God and seeks intimacy and fellowship with God. Worship also brings the body of believers together for purposes of fellowship and encouragement and being equipped for service.

[Mat 6:6-7; Psa 134:1-3; Heb 10:24-25; John 4:20-24; Acts 2:42-47]

- Concerning Heaven

We believe in the after-life. Believers have their home in the presence of God which we call heaven. Heaven is God's throne and the abode of the angels and spiritual beings who are in constant worship and fellowship with God. Heaven is not an achievement but the dwelling place of those who have put their trust in Jesus Christ. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven. That is why heaven can only be accessed through the Lord Jesus Christ for He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

[John 14:1-6; II Cor 5:1-8; Psa 110:1; Psa 115:16; I Thes 4:13-18]

- Concerning Hell

We believe that hell is the abode of all that is opposed to God and His righteousness. It is a real place and those who have rejected salvation offered through Christ find their eternal abode there. Satan and his fallen angels find their place there. It is a place of eternal damnation. It was not created for humankind. But those who reject God's kingdom find themselves there in the final judgement.

[Mat 5:22; Lk 12:5; Lk 10:15; Lk 18:9; Acts 2:31; Rev 1:18; Rev 20:13-14]

- Concerning Mankind

We believe that man is a creation of God and not an accidental evolution. Man is created in the image of God and has a definite purpose for existence. Man was created to glorify God and to bring honor to Him. Man is created male and female. Man's maleness and femaleness finds equal standing before God. God loves Man and seeks that Man love Him in return. We believe that God seeks to dwell in men and women and show Himself mighty on their behalf. All men and women of all races and tribes are equal and special to God.

[Gen 1:26-27; Gen 2:1-24; Psa 8:4-9; Rev 4:11; John 3:16; Rev 7:9-10]

- Concerning the Church

We believe that the Church is the universal Body of Christ. Jesus Christ is the Head of the church and its life. This is not a religious body but a spiritual one made up of all who have confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and have receive eternal life by faith. The church is the executive arm of the Kingdom of God. It is the 'ecclesia' or the 'called out ones' built on the foundation of the revelation of Christ. The church is expressed locally through believers who come together under one banner of faith in every community.

[Mat 16:16-19; Col 1:18-20; I Cor 12:12-13; Rom 12:3-7; Acts 2:37-47]

- Concerning World Vision

We believe that we have a world vision to reach the entire world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. God loved the world. We are sent into the world to make disciples and to bring the light of Christ

to every corner. We witness through the power of the Holy Spirit and so we are empowered world changers.

[Mat 28:18-20; Mk 16:15-20; Rom 1:16; John 3:16; Mat 5:13-16]

- Concerning Sin

We believe that sin is the falling short of the holy standard of God. Sin is the breaking of the stated moral law of God. Sin brings separation between God and Man. The wages of sin is death or eternal separation from God. God has done something about sin by paying the penalty of this sin with the shed blood of His Son Jesus Christ. Through the blood we are now reconciled back to God.

[Gen 3:1-15; Rom 3:10-24; Isa 59:1-2; Rom 5:12-21; Rom 6:23; Isa 53:4-6; Heb 9:11-12; II Cor 5:18-21]

- Concerning Satan

We believe that Satan is the archangel who rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven. Satan means adversary or enemy of God. Satan is the head of the demonic world and the rebellious system of sin and disharmony in the universe. Satan is a defeated foe who continues to fight against the purposes of God. His end is already determined by God and he and all his angels will be cast forever into the lake of fire.

[Ezk 28:12-19; Isa 14:12-20; Gen 3:1-15; Rev 12:1-11; John 8:44; Rev 20:1-15]

- Concerning the Kingdom of God

We believe that the kingdom of God is God's reign and domain in the universe. The kingdom of God is the righteous system that God has put in place to rule the universe. The kingdom of God is headed by the King of kings and the Lord of lords Jesus Christ. Believers are born again citizens of this kingdom. This kingdom is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. This is the system that God desires be established upon the earth. Believers are ambassadors of this kingdom. In this kingdom believers are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God. This is a kingdom of light and life.

[Gen 1:1; Psa 24:1; Psa 8:1-9; Isa 45:5-6; Mat 6:25-33; Mat 12:28; John 18:36; Mat 6:10; Rev 19:16; II Cor 5:20; Rev 1:5-6; I Pet 2:9-10; James 1:17]

- Concerning the End-Time

We believe that the world has the end scheduled for it. We believe in the Second coming of Jesus Christ which will be pre-ceded by the rapture of the saints. This will then bring into play the seven-year tribulation period. It will be a time of great trouble for the entire world. The antichrist will be revealed and his reign will come to an end when the Son of God appears at the end of the seven-year period. The Lord Jesus Christ will then reign for a 1000 years headquartered in Jerusalem. During this time, satan will have been bound in the bottom-less pit for 1000 years. At the end of this time, satan will be released for a while. God will then bring upon him the ultimate judgement and satan and all who rebelled against the reign of God will be thrown into the lake of fire. This is known as the second death. After this the system of the world as we know it will be destroyed. A new heaven and a new earth will be brought into being by God. The new and eternal age will then begin.

[Mat 13:38-43; Mat 24:6-8; Mat 24:27-51; I Thes 4:13-18; II Thes 2:3-12; II Pet 3:1-14; Rev 21:1-27]

- Concerning Education

We believe in knowledge. The people of God perish for lack of knowledge. We believe in the importance of everyone on earth to be educated formally and informally. We believe in education that will enhance the human race to be a people of responsibility and vision. We believe in the education that will nurture the whole person—spirit, soul and body. We believe that this education should mature people to be responsible citizens at all levels. We believe in education that gives God his place of honor and respect.

[Hosea 4:6; Prov 24:3-6; Lk 2:52; Mat 5:13-16; John 8:32-36; Prov 2:1-5; Prov 8:1-20; Col 1:27-28; Col 2:3]

- Concerning the State

We believe in the separation of the Church and State. We believe that God is the head of the church and the head of state. He has given responsibility to people to govern themselves according to right moral principles and values that are articulated in the Scriptures. These are principles that honor God, respect every human being, give freedom of expression to all religions and faiths without discrimination. The state then must create an environment that enhances the well-being of all its citizens.

[Mat 16:16-19; Rom 13:1-7; Mat 28:18; John 18:36-37; I Tim 2:1-8; II Tim 3:16-17; I Pet 2:13-17]

Conclusion

We believe that we are in a great season and time when the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ is around the corner. It is our prayer that as a church that is so divinely located, we are reaching out and touching the globe with the gospel. Our desire will be to be faithful to our calling and to live a life that is worthy of that call. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of this church, and we are servants of the Most High God, and filled with the Holy Spirit for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. Amen.