

CONSTITUTION OF MOUNT VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH BOONE, NC, INC.

Constitution

Preamble

For the purpose of preserving and making secure the principles of our faith and to the end that this body be governed in an orderly manner, consistent with the accepted tenets of a missionary Baptist church, as taught in the New Testament, and likewise, aiming to establish ourselves in Christ and Bible-centered devotion, at the same time enjoying maximum harmony in all local church endeavors and business procedures, we do hereby adopt and set in operation this Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE I – NAME

This body shall be known as the Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Boone, NC, INC. (hereinafter the “Church”).

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

For the purpose of clarification in principle and operation, our Church shall adhere to the view that: "A church is a body of baptized believers on a credible confession of faith; having New Testament officers of pastors and Deacons; perpetuating the ordinances; self-governing in policy; voluntarily banded together for worship, fellowship, work and the world-wide proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

ARTICLE III - MODE OF GOVERNMENT

Section 1 – Church Government - Autonomy

While considering fraternal and associational relations with other churches of like faith and order, this Church shall be, in respect to all its affairs, a self-governing congregation, subject to no other ecclesiastical authority.

Section 2 – Mode of Self-Government

The government of this Church shall be congregational in nature, and the final authority for the operation and management of the affairs of this body, spiritual and temporal, shall be vested in the membership of the Church, which authority shall be exercised in the manner set forth in the Bylaws. Members alone shall have authority to adopt and amend Bylaws, approve budgets, receive members and

govern and conduct the affairs of this Church. (These words are directly from the Articles of Incorporation filed in 2002.)

Section 3 – Accountability to the Church

All classes, organizations, and committees, created and empowered by the Church shall report to and be accountable to the Church only.

ARTICLE IV - DOCTRINE AND CHURCH COVENANT

Section 1 – Doctrinal Statement

The Church embraces the doctrinal statement of “The Baptist Faith and Message” (hereinafter referred to as Articles of Faith) as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention June 14, 2000.

These foundational beliefs are summarized below.

The Bible

We believe that the Holy Bible is God’s written revelation of Himself, being fully written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit through human authors. We believe that it is entirely true, is sufficient, and has complete authority in all matters of life and faith.

God

We believe that there is one living and true God, who is the Creator of all things and Ruler of all things. We believe that God eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that these are without division of nature or being and co-equal in every divine perfection.

God the Father

We believe that God the Father orders and directs all things according to His own purpose, pleasure and grace. We believe that He graciously involves Himself in the affairs of mankind, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God’s only begotten Son and became flesh and was fully God and fully man. We believe in His virgin conception by the Holy Spirit and that He led a sinless life in complete obedience to God, the Father. We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins as a substitutionary sacrifice and that all who believe in Him are declared righteous on the basis of His shed blood. We believe in His bodily resurrection, ascension into Heaven, continual intercession for His people, and His personal and visible return to earth.

Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is present in the world to convict the world of sin and to reveal their need for Christ. We believe that He regenerates, seals and sets apart the believer to a holy life, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide.

The Fall of Man

We believe that God created man and woman in His own image and free from sin, but they willfully sinned against Him and thereby incurred physical, spiritual, and eternal death, which is separation from God. We also believe that as a result, all human beings have been born with a nature of sin that is opposed to God and His law, and are in need of salvation through Christ.

Salvation

We believe that salvation from our sin can only come from faith in the finished and completed work of Jesus Christ. Salvation is not based upon any work or accomplishment of man, and that we cannot add to the work of Christ or complete it by our own acts. We believe that all who trust Christ for their salvation are redeemed and secure forever.

The Church

We believe that all those who place faith in Christ are part of the universal church, a living spiritual body of which the Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe that God has called individual believers to live in community together for the purpose of encouragement, accountability and maturity of one another. We believe that God has established offices of leadership and organization in the local church, consisting of pastor/elder and deacons to lead and serve the body.

Section 2 – Marriage and Sexuality

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the Church.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We recognize God's only plan for marriage as the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Accordingly, this Church, its pastors, staff and members will not participate in, officiate, bless, or affirm same-sex unions or same-sex marriages, nor shall its property or resources be used for such purposes.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to

change one's God given sex or gender, or disagreement with one's biological gender, is sinful and offensive to God. (Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:26-27; I Corinthians 5:9)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a Biblical role model to the Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

Section 3 - Divorce

In support of strong marriages and families, we also realize that our fallen world creates the reality of divorce. Since failure to keep the marriage covenant is sin, the Church must exercise a ministry of reconciliation and call marriage partners to confession, forgiveness, reconciliation, and renewed obedience. We seek to be redemptive and compassionate to those who have experienced divorce, knowing the Gospel provides forgiveness of sin through confession and repentance.

Section 4 - Abortion

Procreation is a gift from God, a precious trust reserved for marriage. At the moment of conception, a new human being enters the universe a being created in God's image, deserving our protection from all types of abortion. (Jeremiah 1:4-5; Amos 1:13; Isaiah 46:3; Deuteronomy 30:15-19; Psalm 100:3; 127:3-5; 139).

Section 5 - Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior,

And on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

We do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort;

To promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines;

To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expense of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to Biblically educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;

To walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our lifestyle;

To avoid all dissension and gossip;

To seek God's help and wisdom in abstaining from anything that compromises one's Christian testimony, which brings unwarranted harm to the body, or jeopardizes our own or another's faith. This would include the abuse of any drugs, foods, drink, or immoral practices.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love;

To remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech;

To be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

Should we leave this fellowship we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

ARTICLE V – MISSIONS

This Church shall be in the New Testament sense a mission-minded body. In fulfilling this crowning goal, utmost regard shall be shown for the doctrinal emphasis set forth in Article IV. Neither the Church nor any auxiliary group shall lend financial aid to fields or missionaries not in accord with the doctrinal platform as set forth in Article IV.

ARTICLE VI - AFFILIATION WITH ASSOCIATIONS AND CONVENTIONS

Section 1 – Church Cooperation

We recognize that there is mutual benefit in the association of churches who are in such agreement in faith and practice as to encourage the spirit of fellowship and good will. We also recognize that there have been devised, through the voluntary cooperation of churches of like faith and order, organizations whose purpose is to implement the missionary, educational, and benevolent interests and obligations of the individual Christian and his church family.

Section 2 – Associational Memberships

We believe the Three Forks Baptist Association, the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention are organizations which promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ through missions, education, and benevolence consistent with the Constitution and the Articles of Faith of this Church. We, therefore, agree to participate in these organizations through our duly elected messengers and voluntary support of the causes which these organizations represent, so long as such cooperation does not violate the autonomy of the Church and the doctrines and Articles of Faith adopted by the Church.

ARTICLE VII - PROPERTY (Definition and Scope)

Section 1 – Church Property

The property shall be understood to include all land, buildings, furniture, equipment, stocks, bonds, money on deposit in the bank, or Church money in possession of Church representatives though it is not deposited in the bank or otherwise invested. It shall, likewise, include all physical assets acquired by the Church at a later date.

Section 2 – Documents of Ownership

The Directors, provided by law and the action of the Church, shall be defined as the following: the deacon chairman, deacon vice chairman, deacon secretary, and church treasurer. Directors shall execute on behalf of the corporation all legal documents relating to Church property as the Church may direct. All deeds and other evidences of title shall be kept in a fireproof location and shall be accessible and available to the deacons and other Church officers upon request. Directors shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any real property of the Church without a specific vote of the Church authorizing such action.

Section 3 - Property Holding

In the event that a majority of the congregation shall vote not to adhere to the doctrinal statement in Article IV, all property of every kind and description will be held in trust for the group voting to adhere to this doctrinal statement.

ARTICLE VIII - ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1 – Amendment Process

Proposed constitutional amendments shall be submitted to the church clerk in writing at a scheduled business meeting without discussion. The church clerk shall forward the proposal to the Church Constitution and Bylaws Committee for consideration. The Constitution may be amended only at a meeting called for that purpose.

Section 2 – Notification of Amendment Process

The Senior Pastor, his designee, or Deacon Officers shall notify the Church membership of proposed amendment(s) to the Constitution via written notice and

Sunday morning service pulpit announcements. Notification will occur at least two weeks before any proposed amendment(s) will be formally discussed at a Church business meeting. A minimum of four weeks from the time of official notification is required for a vote on the proposed amendment(s).

The notice shall specify the dates and location of the Church business meeting(s) when the proposed amendment(s) will be discussed. The notice shall also state how members may obtain a copy of the proposed amendment(s).

Following discussion and further committee review, a second written notice and Sunday morning service pulpit announcements pertaining to the proposed amendment shall be sent to the Church body, including minutes of previous discussion(s) and indicating the location and time of the proposed amendment vote.

Section 3 – Voting on Amendments

This Constitution shall only be amended by a three-fourths vote by written ballot of the members present at the properly called business meeting of the Church.

For purposes of a constitutional vote, a quorum shall be fifty percent of the average Sunday School attendance of six months prior to the vote. No proxy or absentee ballots will be allowed.

Section 4 – Record of Amendment

Upon passage of the amended constitution, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall submit to the clerk the approved and revised Constitution.

Approved January 31, 2016