

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

For the more certain preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner, consistent and in cooperation with the purpose, objectives, and goals of Baptists and the Kingdom of God, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this Church and the freedom of action of this body, we do declare and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I -- NAME

The name of this body is "First Baptist Church of Herndon".

ARTICLE II – OUR PURPOSE

A. General - First Baptist Church of Herndon, is a caring family of faith, in the heritage of cooperative Baptists, located in the heart of Herndon, Virginia. The work of the Church is defined by the following five purposes: Worship, Reach, Teach, Care, and Send.

B. Worship Purpose - to regularly worship God: On a regular basis, to seek a conscious and intentional encounter with God through music, prayer, reading of the scriptures, preaching, fellowship, and other means, so that His power will energize us as individuals and as a congregation to live and to serve faithfully and to rejoice in His goodness.

C. Reach Purpose - to innovatively enlist and develop followers of Christ: To use every means available to make known the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to acquaint our community with the ministry of the Church, and invite a response to the working of the Holy Spirit in the lives of individuals.

D. Teach Purpose - to learn and apply God's teachings: To use a variety of means and methods to bring people together for the study of the scriptures and to consider their application to our daily tasks, that we might grow to be more like Christ ourselves, and learn to use the gifts given to us in leading and serving others in His name.

E. Care Purpose - to lovingly care for persons in need: Through individual relationships and structured groups, to help those in need, to care for those in distress, to cultivate a caring fellowship of loving concern, to walk together to provide encouragement and strength for life's journey, and together to discover

the resources of God for living victoriously.

F. Send Purpose - to support and participate in local and global mission efforts: To engage in cooperative ministry with Christians here and elsewhere who are working to fulfill God's command to preach the Gospel and make disciples of all nations.

ARTICLE III -- CONFESSION OF FAITH

We accept the Scriptures of the Old Testament and the New Testament as our authority in matters of faith and practice. We further believe that the teaching of Jesus our Lord is the sure and certain guide to the interpretation of these Scriptures.

We also affirm the historic faith of the early Church as handed down in the following words:

We believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit; we believe in the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

ARTICLE IV -- CHARACTER

A. POLITY -- The government of this Church is vested in the autonomous body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches.

B. DOCTRINE -- This Church receives the Scriptures as its authority in matters of faith and practice. Its understanding of Christian truth as contained therein is in essential accord with the belief of Baptist churches as indicated in the Confession of Faith in Article III of this Constitution.

ARTICLE V-- ORDINANCES

A. BAPTISM – The New Testament model of baptism is the immersion of a

believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in the newness of life in Jesus Christ.

Baptism shall be administered by the Senior Pastor or whomever else the Church shall authorize.

Baptism may be administered as an act of worship during any worship service.

B. COMMUNION – Communion is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the Church through partaking of bread and fruit of the vine commemorate the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate His return.

Open communion shall be observed at least quarterly and at such times as scheduled. Communion may be observed as an act of worship during any scheduled worship service or on an individual basis due to inability to attend worship. The Senior Pastor and Deacons shall be responsible for scheduling, preparing, and administering communion.

ARTICLE VI -- AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any regular business meeting of the Church provided each amendment has been presented in writing at a previous meeting and a copy of the proposed amendment is furnished to each member present. Amendments to the constitution must be approved by two-thirds vote of the members of the Church present. Approved amendments shall be attached to or integrated into the Constitution. The constitution in its entirety shall be available for Member review.

I, the undersigned Clerk for First Baptist Church of Herndon, do hereby certify that the above Constitution was adopted on _____ by the Members at a duly called meeting and that this Constitution is current and in operation as of that date.

Church Clerk

Date