

CONSTITUTION
SEAFORD BAPTIST CHURCH OF SEAFORD VIRGINIA
Draft July 2009

PREAMBLE

For the certain preservation and security of the principles of the Christian Faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the teachings of the Bible, we declare and establish this Constitution, trusting that by God's grace it preserve the liberties of each individual member of this Church and the freedom of action of this Church as it relates to other Churches of like faith and practice.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe that the Bible was written by those divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to humanity. The Bible is our supreme and final authority in faith and life. (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21)

We believe in the one true living God, who eternally exists as the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14)

We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus was God in the form of a man. (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38)

We believe that humanity was created in the image of God, but by free choice sinned against God and thereby incurred a separation from God his Creator, a spiritual death. All human beings are born with a sinful nature, and become guilty sinners in thought, word, and deed. (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 5:12-18)

We believe that Christ died on the cross for our sins according to the Scriptures. We believe that to obtain salvation one has to have personal faith to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior of their life. Christ shed His blood on the cross to provide eternal redemption for the believer. Salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. (John 3:16; Romans 3:23-26)

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day that it commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead, that it and should include time of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. (Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-20)

We believe godly faith must demonstrate itself in godly living as outlined in various passages of Scripture. (I Thessalonians 4:1-11; Hebrews 12:14-15)

We believe that God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and all that we are we owe to Him. We are therefore under obligation to serve Him with our time, talents, and material possessions, and should recognize all these are entrusted to us to use for the glory of God and to help others. (Acts 4:32-35; II Corinthians 9:6-9)

We affirm the doctrinal statement of the current version of *The Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been brought by God's grace to repent and believe in Jesus, having given ourselves to Him, and having been baptized following our profession of faith; we, relying on God's grace, joyfully enter into this covenant with each other to seek to walk worthy of the calling we have received by . . .

GROWING IN CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER (Ephesians 4:1, 13-15)

- Through attending and participating in worship faithfully (Revelation 4:11, John 4:23-24)
- Through reading and studying God's word (Joshua 1:8, Colossians 3:16-18)
- Through consistent prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)
- Through participation in a Sunday School class or small group (Hebrews 10:24-25)

PROTECTING THE UNITY OF OUR CHURCH (Ephesians 4:1-5)

- By working hard at relational harmony (Ephesians 4:1-6)
- Through practically meeting the needs of other believers (Acts 2:44-45, 1 John 3:16-18)
- By seeking to use our words for positive good (Ephesians 4:29)
- Through seeking reconciliation according to Matthew 18:15-17, when conflict arises with another member.

LIVING OUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE GOSPEL TOWARD THE WORLD

- Through finding ways to share the good news of Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Through demonstrating the love of Jesus through hands on ministry to the community (Proverbs 21:13, Matthew 25:31-46)
- Through faithful financial giving to support the work of this Church and its ministry to the world (Malachi 3:10, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

PARTICIPATING IN THE MINISTRY OF OUR CHURCH

- By discovering our gifts and talents (Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:7-11, 1 Corinthians 12, 1 Peter 4:10-11)
- By being equipped to serve by and with our pastors (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- By developing a servant's heart (Mark 10:45)

ARTICLE 1 NAME

This body shall be known as Seaford Baptist Church of Seaford Virginia

ARTICLE 2 GOVERNMENT

This Constitution and associated Bylaws is intended to be the guidance for the government of this Church, under the authority of God as revealed in the Holy Bible. The authority of this Church is vested solely in the body of believers who compose it, and this Church recognizes no authority over it other than is defined by and in the Bible. This Church is not subject to control of any other ecclesiastical body, but this Church chooses to cooperate with other Churches of like faith.

Affiliation: This Church cooperates with the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, the Southern Baptist Convention, and other denominational associations as approved by the membership to promote the interests of the Kingdom of Christ.

ARTICLE 3 OBJECTIVES

We believe that the local church is a body of baptized believers established by the Lord Jesus Christ to glorify God, to seek the salvation of the lost, to provide a place for believers to worship, to provide instruction in the Christian faith, to minister to the needs of people in the community, to work in cooperation with other believers for local and worldwide evangelism and discipleship, and to develop Christ-like fellowship among believers.

ARTICLE 4 MEMBERSHIP

Every candidate for membership to this body, by the grace of God and through the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit, shall publicly confess their personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Upon affirmation by the congregation, in accordance with the Church Bylaws, they shall be received into the membership. If not previously baptized by immersion, they shall be baptized according to the Bylaws of the Church.

Members commit to making the will of the Lord Jesus Christ supreme in their own lives and in their relations with the fellowship of this Church as well as in all other contacts with society. Furthermore they should seek to support and undergird this fellowship with their continual and persistent prayers, regular attendance, joyful labors and consistent contributions. By the power of the Holy Spirit, members also commit to personal integrity, gentleness in their dealings with others, and abstaining from things or practices which may bring harm to our faith or the faith of another.

ARTICLE 5 ORDINANCES

We agree that each believer is commanded to be baptized by immersion in water to bear witness to their faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of our Savior and to symbolize their own position before God with respect to sin and that such immersion is a prerequisite to Church membership.

We also believe that God would have every believer regularly participate in the Lord's Supper as an act of obedience to memorialize the pierced body and the shed blood of the Lord and to be mindful of and looking forward to His second coming.

ARTICLE 6 OFFICERS

The scriptural officers of this Church are the Pastor (or Pastors) and Deacons, all of whom shall be members of this Church and shall be elected by the church membership.

Except as otherwise provided herein, Church Officers shall have, exercise, and perform those duties as stated in the Church Bylaws and normally ascribed to their respective offices.

ARTICLE 7 CONDUCT OF CHURCH BUSINESS AND FISCAL AFFAIRS

This Constitution and associated Church Bylaws shall govern the conduct of Church business and fiscal affairs.

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall be utilized to guide the conduct of Church Conferences.

ARTICLE 8 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

These articles may be amended upon a two-thirds vote of the members present, with a minimum quorum of 50 members, at any regular Church Conferences of the Church, provided that all of the following procedures have been followed:

- The proposed written amendment has been presented to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for review at least one month prior to presenting a written amendment at a regular Church Conference.
- The proposed written amendment has been presented at a previous Church Conference for discussion by the membership.
- The proposed amendment has been announced on a previous Sunday morning at least two weeks before the vote is taken to amend.

Copies of such proposed amendments shall be available upon request by any member at the time of the initial presentation and at the time specified for the vote.

ARTICLE 9 REPEAL OF PREVIOUS CONSTITUTION

This Constitution supersedes and repeals any Constitutions previously adapted by Seaford Baptist Church.

(End of Constitution)

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