

CONSTITUTION

of



Mooresville, NC

Last Amended:

July 25, 1999

Preamble

For the purpose of preserving and making secure the principles of our faith and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner, consistent with the teachings of the New Testament, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this church, and to preserve the freedom of action of this church with respect to its relationship with other churches of the same faith, we do declare and establish this constitution.

Article I – Name

This body shall be known as Eastside Baptist Church of Mooresville, North Carolina. It shall always remain Independent, Fundamental and Pre-millennial.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of this church shall be to provide a place of worship, to preach and teach the Word of God, to instruct in Christian living, to evangelize at home and abroad, to urge its members to support the Lord's work through prayer and giving and participation in its ministries, to the end that souls will be saved and that the glory will be brought to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Article III – Article of Faith

Section 1 – The Scriptures

- A. We believe that the sixty-six books of the Old and new Testaments were “God-breathed,” or given by the inspiration of God.
- B. We believe that the Scriptures are inerrant and infallible, and therefore are the final authority for faith and practice.

Section 2 – The Godhead

We believe in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as distinct and equal Persons in one God.

Section 3 – The Person and Work of Christ

- A. We believe that Jesus Christ is the virgin-born Son of God.
- B. We believe that Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as the substitutionary atonement for sinners.
- C. We believe that our justification is made sure by Christ's bodily resurrection, ascension to Heaven and present reign at the Father's right hand.

Section 4 – The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

- A. We believe that the present ministry of the Holy Spirit involves indwelling and empowering believers.
- B. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures.
- C. We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, of judgment and of righteousness; He is the agent in the New Birth and seals, endues, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.

Section 5 – The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God, but that through Adam's sin, the human race fall; in consequence of this sin, all mankind are now sinners, alienated from God and are utterly unable to remedy their lost condition.

Section 6 – Morality

- A. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage.
- B. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex.
- C. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman.
- D. We believe wholeheartedly in the sanctity of life. We therefore oppose abortion for any reason.

Section 7 – Salvation

- A. We believe that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone, solely on the basis of the finished work of Jesus Christ.
- B. We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the responsibility of each individual to accept this free gift through repentance and faith.
- C. We believe in the eternal security of the believer; but that this liberty that we enjoy, by the grace of God, in no way implies a license to live in sin.

Section 8 – The Return of Christ

We believe in Christ's imminent, physical, visible and personal return.

Note: The above Articles of Faith are in no way intended to be exhaustive. God's Word, the Bible, is "a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path." God's Holy Word is our final authority in all matters.

Article IV – Membership

Section 1

The membership shall be composed of individuals, who give public testimony acknowledging themselves as sinners before God, having received Christ as personal Savior and having been scripturally baptized by immersion. All members are received by a majority vote of active members and should support the Articles of Faith and constitution of this church.

Section 2

Former members who have been dismissed from this church may be restored upon confession of their errors, giving evidence of their repentance and requesting membership.

Article V – Church Discipline

Section 1

Matters of offense between members shall be dealt with in accordance with the scriptures found in Matthew 18:15-17.

Section 2

If a member is suspected of open sin, he or she shall be visited by the Pastor and one or two deacons. At this time, the particular sin will be discussed and an invitation given to the accused to repent, if guilty. If not guilty of the accused sin, and it seems appropriate, his or her innocence shall be made known to the congregation.

Section 3

If the individual is guilty and does not repent, he or she shall be notified that the matter will be brought before the congregation on a given date, and that if repentance is not made, he or she will be dismissed from the membership of the church by a majority vote of the membership present at a duly-called business meeting of the church.

Section 4

If a member does not attend this church for a period of three months, except when due to unavoidable circumstances, he or she shall be visited by the Pastor and admonished in regards to his responsibility to the church in the light of the Bible. If the member does not become active within the subsequent three month period, he or she shall be dropped from the church roll and notified of the action.

Article VI – Duties of the Members

Section 1

Each member shall maintain a Christian testimony by:

- A. Attendance at regular appointed meetings
- B. Living a separated life as the Bible teaches
- C. Sharing his faith with others

Section 2

Each member shall support his church in every phase:

- A. Prayerfully
- B. Financially, with his tithes and offerings
- C. Willingly helping within his qualifications when asked to do so
- D. Showing a Christian concern for the brethren
- E. Saying only favorable things about the church, the Pastor, the church officers, fellow members and all church policies

Section 3

No member of the church can abridge the right to speech, assembly or association.

Article VII – Ordinances

Section 1 – Baptism

Only those having publicly professed Christ as Savior shall, by the Pastor or some other person authorized by the church, be immersed in water as soon as possible after salvation in accordance with the Scriptures (Romans 6:4).

Section 2 – Lord's Supper

To this table shall be invited all who are born again and in fellowship with the Lord. Membership shall have no bearing.

Article VIII – Officers

Section 1

No one may hold office in the church under the age of eighteen (18) and all officers must be members and the duties of all officers are considered a ministry of the church.

Section 2 – Pastor

Before a candidate shall be considered, the Deacon Board shall investigate the man according to his education, his business affairs, his previous pastorates and his qualifications in accordance with 1 Timothy 3:1-7. They shall seek to determine his doctrinal beliefs, and his spiritual, emotional and moral stability. The candidate shall, in their presence, affirm his belief concerning the Articles of Faith and constitution of Eastside Baptist. After having preached as a candidate, the Pastor shall be called for an indefinite term by a two-thirds majority vote of members present at an officially called business meeting and the candidate shall be notified of the action within seven (7) days after a decision has been reached.

Note: Only one candidate shall be considered at a time.

Section 3 – Duties of the Pastor

He shall be in charge of the welfare and oversight of the church. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or groups. Subject to the approval of the deacons and on the condition that they shall become a member of the church upon assuming their duties, the Pastor may hire associates and assistants to assist the Pastor in carrying out his God-given responsibilities. All church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the Pastor. The Pastor shall be the sole authorized counselor for the church.

Section 4 – Dismissing the Pastor

A Pastor can be dismissed by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at an officially called business meeting after the matter has been discussed by the deacons and they deem it necessary to vote on the matter. Any complaint against the Pastor shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Deacon Board in writing and signed by the complainers. No verbal report shall be discussed in any manner. The two reasons for dismissal are:

- A. Conduct unbecoming to a minister
- B. Preaching or teaching false doctrine

Section 5 – Deacons

- A. Qualifications – These shall be the same as we find in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-8.
- B. Number – The church shall elect from its male membership not less than three men to serve as deacons. They shall be elected to serve for a period of three years. They cannot succeed themselves for a period of one year, unless other qualified men are not available within the church membership. There shall always be an uneven number of active deacons.
- C. Election – The Pastor and active deacons shall recommend to the church the need for additional deacons. After the church has passed the motion that additional

deacons are needed, the Pastor and the deacons, after prayerful and careful consideration, shall submit to the congregation the names of qualified men for the purpose of selecting the men needed to fill the positions. There shall always be more names offered for voting than needed.

- D. Duties – They shall visit the sick, prepare and distribute the elements of the Lord’s Supper, cooperate with and assist the Pastor in the performance of his duties, and assist in such matters as revivals, Bible conferences and visitation. They shall also see that the Pastor’s material needs are met. They shall elect the chairman of their own committee once each year. They shall arrange for a speaker when the church is without a pastor. They shall meet at least bi-monthly with the Pastor to discuss the spiritual and material welfare of the church. They shall seek out members of the church that are in material need and use the alms of the church for their relief.

Section 6 – Trustees

The deacons shall serve as trustees of the church. Duties of the deacons serving as Trustees shall consist of taking care of the physical properties of the church, to hold, repair, invest and preserve the same. The trustees are at all times servants of the church and subject to its actions. The trustees shall not have authority to sell, lease, rent, give away or dispose of in any manner church property, nor to mortgage or encumber the same with debt without majority vote of members at a duly-called business meeting. Agreeable to the provision of the Act of Incorporation and the laws of the state, the trustees shall represent the church in all its business affairs. The trustees may not disburse more than five hundred dollars (\$500) for any one church expenditure, or a maximum of one thousand (\$1000) per month, without congregational approval.

Section 7 – Secretary/Clerk

Shall be elected for a period of one year and keep a complete record of all the official acts of the church. The secretary shall also keep a complete list of those who are members of the church and their current addresses. The secretary shall also perform such duties as prescribed by the church.

Section 8 – Sunday School Superintendent

Shall be elected for a period of one year and shall be in charge of the Sunday School program, including the appointment of teachers and children’s workers, under the direction of the Pastor and with the approval of the Deacons.

Section 9 – Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be elected for a period of one year. He shall be responsible for the counting and depositing of all church funds. He shall be responsible for the proper payment of the church bills and accounting of all funds. He shall give financial reports to

the church once monthly. An internal audit of the church's financial records may be conducted at any time, but at least quarterly, by an individual designated by the Board of Deacons.

Section 10 – Financial Secretary

Shall be elected for a period of one year and shall be in charge of recording the envelope system and shall issue a statement at the end of each year to each individual for income tax purposes. The Financial Secretary may be the same individual as the Treasurer.

Section 11 – Chairman of the Ushers

He shall be elected for a period of one year. He may appoint as many aides as he needs. He shall be responsible for seating the people comfortably, and preventing all interruptions and disturbances. He shall receive, through supervision, the offerings at all services. The money shall be counted in his presence and turned over to the treasurer for deposit. When necessary, he shall help with parking.

Article IX – Committees

Any committee that may be needed for the operation of the church shall be made up at a business meeting of the church.

Article X – Finances

Section 1

The fiscal year shall coincide with the calendar year.

Section 2

No monies shall be raised by the church or any of its auxiliaries except by freewill offering. Such methods as sales, serving of meals, bazaars and amusements shall not be practiced. This article can never be amended, changed or removed from this constitution.

Article XI – Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any business meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of members present, providing notice of such proposed amendment shall have been given in writing at a previous business meeting.

Article XII – Dissolution

The dissolution of Eastside Baptist Church must be approved by a majority vote of members present at a business meeting called to vote on said dissolution. After every encumbrance has been satisfied, all remaining assets shall be transferred to one or more organizations of like faith and practice. The identification of such organizations and the allocation of assets to each shall be determined by a majority vote of members present at the same business meeting with the dissolution resolution has been passed. This article can never be amended, changed or removed from this constitution.