

CONSTITUTION

of



Mooreville, NC

Last Amended:

December 2025

Preamble

We, the members of Eastside Baptist Church adopt this constitution and bylaws as our articles of governance. These will be interpreted at all times in a way that reflects the character of Jesus Christ and bring Him glory, as revealed in the Holy Bible and articulated in the statement of faith and covenant of this church.

Article I – Name

The name of this church is Eastside Baptist Church of Mooresville, North Carolina.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to maintain an independent church whose autonomy shall be preserved and one in which Christians by united effort will:

1. Preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified (I Cor. 2:2).
2. Rejoice in worshipping corporately and individually (John 4:23)
3. Earnestly contend for the faith (Jude 3).
4. Actively support local and global ministries that are true to Scripture (Phil. 4:15-17).
5. Promote true fellowship among God's people, especially among the members of this Church (I John 1:7).
6. Rejoice in and practice the Lord's Supper and Baptism of believers (1 Cor. 11; Acts 2: 41)
7. Engage in the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20).

Article III – Article of Faith

Section 1 – The Scriptures

We believe that the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God (God-breathed). We believe that the Scripture is inerrant in the original manuscripts, infallible, and immutable. Scripture has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31, 32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32)

Section 2 – The Godhead

We believe in one triune God, eternally existent in three distinct persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, having the same divine essence, glorious attributes and eternal purpose as revealed in the Bible. Each person is wholly and fully God, yet there is only one God. (Genesis 1:1, 26; John 1:1, 3; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19, 20; Ephesians 4:5, 6)

Section 3 – The Person and Work of God the Father

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He infallibly knows all that will come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (Luke 10:21,22; Matthew 23:9; John 3:16; 6:27; Romans 1:7; I Timothy 1:1, 2; 2:5, 6; I Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6)

Section 4 – The Person and Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ became man without ceasing to be God. He is the virgin-born Son of God conceived of the Holy Spirit. We believe that Christ made possible our redemption through His death on the cross through his substitutionary atonement for sinners. 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. He serves as our High Priest representing God to man and man to God. (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1; 20:28; Romans 9:5; 8:32; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:21-23; John 20:30, 31; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:4; Acts 1:11; Romans 5:6-8; 6:9, 10; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:28; I Timothy 3:16)

Section 5 – The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third distinct member of the Triune God. We believe that the present ministry of the Holy Spirit involves indwelling and empowering believers. He is a divine teacher who assists believers to understand and apply the Scriptures. We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, of judgment and of righteousness. He is the agent of salvation; He seals, sanctifies, gives gifts, and helps the believer. (John 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26, 27; John 16:9-14; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 5:22-26)

Section 6 – The Human Condition

We believe that humanity was created in the perfect image of God. However, through Adam's choice of sin all mankind has inherited a sinful nature and falls under God's judgment. All humanity are sinfully depraved being spiritually dead under the rule of Satan. (Genesis 1:27,31; 2:16; 3:6-24; 6:12; Acts 17:26; Romans 1:18,20,32; 2:1-16; 3:9-19; 5:12,15-19; Isaiah 53:6; Ephesians 2:3; Galatians 3:10,22; Ezekiel 18:19,20)

Section 8 – Salvation

We believe that salvation is our rescue from sin and death. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, only on the basis of Jesus Christ's substitutionary death, burial, and resurrection. Believers are reconciled with God through Jesus Christ and we are adopted into God's family. We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by this Good News (Gospel) of Jesus. God holds each individual accountable to accept this free gift through faith and repentance. This is shown by a renewed mind, will, and a life of

righteousness. We believe in the eternal security of the believer. (John 3:14-21, 5:24; Romans 3:22-24, 10:9-13; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; 1 John 1:9)

Section 9 – The Eternal State

We believe in Christ's imminent, physical, visible and personal return to take believers to heaven. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all people, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. Christians will rejoice in God's presence in heaven, which is a place of perfection, beauty, and joy. (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; Rev 20:5-6, 12-13)

Note: The above Articles of Faith are not viewed as exhaustive but present our concise understanding of Scripture. 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 potential members who support the Articles of Faith and constitution of this church are received by a majority vote of members present. Under Christ this congregation is governed by its members.

Section 2

Each member shall maintain a Christian testimony by:

1. Consistently rejoicing with God's church in worship and service.
2. Living a sanctified life as the Bible teaches
3. Sharing their faith with others

Section 3

Each member shall support God's church in every area:

1. Prayerfully
2. Financially, with our offerings as God enables
3. Willingly utilizing their gifts and talents for the ministry of the church
4. Showing a Christ-like concern for other believers

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 Elder(s) and admonished in regards to their 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.

Section 5

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

Article V – Church Discipline

Church discipline aims to restore a sinning believer to holiness and fellowship within the church community. It also protecting the church from the influence of sin and upholding the integrity of its witness. It is a loving process focused on repentance and reconciliation. Church discipline can involve various steps, from private counsel to formal actions like temporary suspension from certain church privileges or even, in extreme cases, removal from membership. The aim is always restoration and reconciliation, not punishment. (1 Peter 1:16; Hebrews 12:11; Matthew 18:15-18; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15)

Section 1

Personal and spiritual offenses between members will be dealt with according to the pattern found in Matthew 18:15-17. (For further guidance refer to our “Becoming Peacemakers” document)

Section 2

If a member is living in unrepentant public sin, he or she shall be visited by an elder and one or two church leadership. At this time, the particular sin will be discussed and if guilty an invitation will be given to repent. If not guilty or if repentance is needed and made, then we can rejoice reconciliation is accomplished.

Section 3

If the individual is guilty and does not repent, he or she shall be notified that their unrepentant rebellion will be brought before the congregation on a given date. If repentance is not made, they 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.

Article VI – Ordinances

Section 1 – Baptism

Only people having publicly professed Christ as Savior shall be baptized. Baptism is commanded by Scripture but is separate from God's work of salvation. We believe Scripture teaches baptism by immersion, symbolizing new life, as an act of obedience and testimony after salvation. An Elder (or some other person authorized by the church) will immerse the person in water as a public testimony of the internal spiritual reality of salvation. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 8:26-40; 1 Corinthians 1:17; Colossians 2:12)

Section 2 – Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus Christ himself to be a reminder to believers of all Christ accomplished through his sacrificial death. It is meant to be a time of remembrance, of purification, of celebration, and gratitude. Every believer living in repentant obedience to God is welcome to take part in the Lord's Supper. We commit to celebrating the Lord's Supper regularly as commanded in Scripture. (Matthew 26:26-29; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 5:7-8, 11:17-34; Hebrews 8:6, 9:15)

Article VII – Officers

Section 1

The biblical offices in the church are elders and deacons. In addition, our church will recognize other administrative positions such as treasurer, secretary, or any other needed administrative role as determined by Elders and Deacons. Biblically, the elders serve as the spiritual leadership of the church while the deacons coordinate the physical service of the church. The Elders and Deacons will serve as the legal representatives of the church. In the absence of biblically qualified men to serve as elders or deacons, trustworthy men from the congregation will be appointed by the congregation to serve as the legal representatives of this church. All officers must be members of this church prior to assuming their responsibilities.

Section 2 – Elders

Scripture consistently describes churches having multiple elders in leadership (Acts 14:23; Acts 20:17; Titus 1:5; James 5:14; etc.). Our desire is to have multiple biblically qualified elders elected and leading our church. The Elders shall be comprised of men who satisfy the qualifications for the office of elder set forth in I Timothy 3: 1–7 and Titus 1: 6–9. Subject to the will of the congregation, the elders shall oversee the ministry of the church. In keeping with the principles set forth in Acts 6: 1–6 and I Peter 5: 1–4, the elders shall devote their time to prayer, the ministry of the Word (by teaching and encouraging sound doctrine), and shepherding God's flock.

The Elders can be comprised of both Staff and Non-Staff Elders. After an elder is recognized and called, he is approved by a congregational vote to serve. He will serve for 3 years before needing to be reaffirmed by the church. After an elder, other than the staff pastor(s), has served two consecutive three-year terms, he may only be elected to the office of elder after at least one year. No elder shall hold the office of deacon during his tenure. An elder's term of office may be terminated by resignation or by dismissal. Any two church members with reason to believe that an elder should be dismissed should express the concern to the elders and, if need be, to the congregation. Any action shall be done according to the instructions in Matthew 18:15–17 and I Timothy 5:17–21. Any of the elders may be dismissed by a two-thirds vote of the members at a special members' meeting called for that purpose. This meeting will require at minimum two weeks notice when called.

The elders may establish ministry positions or committees to assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities. The elders may elect a chairman of elders' meetings and should also elect one of their number to serve as moderator of members' meetings.

Section 3 – Lead Pastor

The lead pastor shall be an elder. He performs the duties of an elder described in Section 2 and is recognized by the church as particularly gifted and called to the full-time ministry of preaching and teaching. He is responsible for the church's public services, including preaching and the administration of the ordinances of baptism and communion; and performing other duties that pertain to that office. In the absence or incapacity of the senior pastor the elders will assume responsibility for his duties, any of which can be delegated.

The Congregation will appoint a search committee made up of the elders, deacons, and any spiritually-mature men and women from the congregation deemed appropriate. Before a candidate for Lead Pastor shall be considered, the search committee will 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 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.

He shall be in charge of the welfare and oversight of the church. He shall be an ex-officio member of any committees or groups. The Lead Pastor may hire assistants and other non-pastoral staff to assist the Pastor in carrying out his God-given responsibilities. This is subject to the approval of the other elders and on the condition that they shall become a member of the church upon assuming their duties. All church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of 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 other elders and deacons and they deem it necessary to vote on the matter. Any complaint against the Pastor shall be submitted to the other elders and deacons in writing and signed by the complainers. No verbal report shall be discussed in any manner. The two reasons for dismissal are: (1) Conduct unbecoming to a minister, and (2) Preaching or teaching heretical doctrine.

Section 4 – Deacons

The deacons of the church will be men who satisfy the spiritual qualification found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-8. Our desire is to have multiple biblically qualified deacons serving our church. 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. The desire is a minimum of three active deacons (contingent on their biblical qualification). The Elders and active deacons shall recommend to the church any need for additional deacons. After the church has passed the motion that additional deacons are needed, the Elders 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.

The deacons will seek to care for the temporal needs of members, visit the sick, cooperate with and assist the Pastor in the performance of his duties, encourage and support those able to help others. The deacons, with the agreement of the elders, may establish unpaid administrative positions or committees of members to assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities in the church. Deacons will oversee taking care of the physical properties of the church, to hold, repair, invest, and preserve the same. The deacons are at all times servants of the church and subject to its actions. The deacons shall not have authority to sell, lease, rent, give away, or dispose of church property in any manner. They also cannot mortgage or encumber the church with debt without a 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 deacons, with assistance from the elders will receive, hold, and disburse a fund for benevolence, reporting on its use to the elders at their request, and reporting to the church its total receipts and total disbursements only.

Section 6 – Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be appointed by the deacons. He or She shall be responsible for the counting and depositing of all church funds. He or She will be responsible for the proper payment of the church bills and accounting of all funds. He or She will give financial reports to the Deacons monthly. An internal audit of the church's financial records may be conducted at any time, but at least annually, by an individual designated by the Board of Deacons.

Section 7 – Church Employees

In addition to Staff Elders, the Church may employ additional personnel. The Elders or their representatives will be responsible for determining the duties of and the hiring or firing of such personnel.

Article IX – Administration

Section 1 - Committees

Any committee that may be needed for the operation of the church may be suggested by the elders or deacons and shall be formed at a business meeting of the church. Any committee no longer needed may be disbanded by majority vote at a business meeting of the church.

Section 2 – Business Meetings

The Annual Meeting. The annual meeting will be held ideally during the last month of the Church fiscal year for the purpose of calling or reaffirming officers, reviewing proposed budgets and other business. Officers called at the annual meeting will begin their duties at the start of the new fiscal year.

Meetings for New Memberships. These meetings can be convened during any regular worship service as needed in order to vote in believers seeking membership in this congregation.

Special Meetings. The Elders or 20% of the members of the Church in good standing, may call for a special meeting. Notice of the meeting shall be given from the pulpit or by other notification, the particular object of such meeting being clearly stated in the notice. In the calling of special meetings for purposes where an interval after advance notice is required by provision in these Bylaws or according to law, such provisions will be observed. Notice will be given at least one week in advance for meetings on especially important matters not otherwise provided for.

Quorum. Any number of members constitute a quorum at any ordinary meeting of the Church. At meetings dealing with particular matters stipulated in these Bylaws, the quorums specifically given will apply.

Article X – Finances

Section 1

The fiscal year shall coincide with the calendar year.

Section 2

The deacons will have authority to disburse up to 1% of the annual budget for any single non-budgeted church expenditure without congregational approval.

Section 3

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of purposes set forth herein.

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 duly called business meeting with a minimum of two weeks separation before the business meeting to vote on the amendments.

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. Notice of such proposed dissolution shall have been given in writing at a duly called business meeting with a minimum of two weeks separation before the business meeting to vote on the dissolution. After every encumbrance has been satisfied, all remaining assets shall be transferred to one or more organizations of like faith and practice which are likewise 501(c)(3) tax exempt. 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 when the dissolution resolution has been passed. This article can never be removed from this constitution.