
Church Constitution

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08/26/2012



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08/26/2012	Church Conference	1.1	
03/02/2012	Minor Formatting	1.0	Reformat document & corrected numbering.
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Constitution

Preamble

We declare and establish this Constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the body in an orderly manner, consistent with the accepted tenets of the Southern Baptist Convention. This Constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in relation to other churches of the same faith.

Article 1

Name

- 1.1 This body shall be known as South Point Baptist Church, Inc., located at 124 Horsley Avenue, Belmont, North Carolina.

Article 2

Purpose

- 2.1 South Point Baptist Church, Inc. is organized for the purpose of proclaiming the Word of God as contained in the Holy Bible. This church shall be missionary in spirit and shall promote the beliefs published in the Baptist Faith and Message, as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Article 3

Church Covenant

- 3.1 Having been led, as we believe, by the Holy 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 and this assembly, solemnly and sincerely enter into this covenant with God and one another, as one body of Christ. We do vow, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; 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 expenses of the church, the relief of the needy, and the spread of the gospel within our community, our nation, and around the world.
- 3.2 We also promise to maintain family and private devotions, to educate our children in the Christian faith, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances, to walk circumspectly in the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our relationships and exemplary in our attitudes and behavior, to avoid all things which would affect others in a harmful or hurtful way, to

abstain for anything which could cause harm to our bodies, minds, or spirits, and to be zealous in our effort to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

- 3.3 We further pledge to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember one another in prayer, to aid one another in crisis, to cultivate Christian compassion in our response to others and courtesy in speech, to be slow to take offense, always seeking means of reconciliation, being mindful of the teachings of our Savior to maintain harmony with our Christian brothers and unity within our fellowship.
- 3.4 We moreover vow that when we move from this community, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and live by principles of God's word.

Article 4 Property

- 4.1 All real and personal property shall be held in the name of the Corporation - South Point Baptist Church, Inc. If at any time this Church (Corporation) shall determine to alter the quality of its beliefs and practices so as in important respects to be at variance with the character described in its Bylaws and Statement of Faith of this Church, if the decision is by less than three-fourths (3/4) vote of those present and voting at a regular business meeting of the Church, it is understood that the rights of the church property shall inure in the part of the congregation which shall agree to continue to use the property for the purpose for which it was purchased and has been to that time maintained.

Article 5 Polity and Relationships

- 5.1 The government of this church is vested in the body of the believers who compose it. Persons who are duly received by the members shall constitute the membership.
- 5.2 All internal groups created and empowered by the church shall report to and be accountable only to the church, unless otherwise specified by church action.
- 5.3 This church recognizes no superior ecclesiastical jurisdiction, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation, which are common among Baptist churches. Insofar as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the Greater Gaston Baptist Association, the Baptist Convention of North Carolina, and the Southern Baptist Convention.
- 5.4 Any new affiliation or connection, which the church, or any organized group within the church, may assume with any group, organization or association, will be subject to the approval of the church by a majority vote of members present at any regular business meeting of the church. Should such affiliation require anything beyond voluntary support and cooperation, then affiliation with this group, organization or association will be not allowed.

Article 6 Ordinances

- 6.1 The ordinances of the church are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism by immersion is required for membership. As the Lord's Supper is to be celebrated by all Christians, the church welcomes visiting Christians from other churches to participate.

Baptism: *"Christian 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 faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper."*

The Lord's Supper: *"The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming."*

Matthew 3: 13-17

Matthew 26: 26-30

Matthew 28: 19-20

Mark 1: 9-11

Mark 14: 22-26

Luke 3: 21-22

Luke 22: 19-20

John 3: 23

Acts 2: 41-42

Acts 8: 35-39

Acts 16: 30-33

Acts 20: 7

Romans 6:3-5

I Corinthians 10: 16, 21

I Corinthians 11: 23-29

Colossians 2: 12

Article 7 Membership

- 7.1 The church shall be composed of members received into the fellowship of the church as set forth in the By-Laws.

Article 8
Organization

- 8.1 The church shall have such officers, committees, organizations, and meetings as set forth in the By-Laws.

Article 9
Amendments

- 9.1 Any article, section, or paragraph of the Constitution may be amended with the concurrence of a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at any regular business meeting of the church, provided that such alterations or amendments have been distinctly stated and properly publicized and submitted to the membership in writing at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the vote in a regular scheduled church conference. A quorum for amending the Constitution shall be ten (10) percent of the resident members.
- 9.2 When there is a need to revise the Constitution, the proposed revisions will be presented to a Constitution and By-Laws Committee for their consideration and recommendation to the church.