



CONSTITUTION
AUGUST 2019

WEST END BAPTIST CHURCH

Constitution

I. Preamble

For the more certain preservation and security of the principles of our faith and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this church, and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relationships with other churches or denominational bodies, we do declare and establish this constitution.

II. Name

This body shall be known as the West End Baptist Church, located at 6506 Boydton Plank Road, North Dinwiddie, Virginia 23803.

III. Nonprofit Status

The Church is organized and shall be operated exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended.

IV. Mission

Practicing our faith from a biblical, Baptist perspective, we are called to share God's grace in our community; to offer love, hope and healing; to express gratitude, praise, and devotion to God; to make disciples and nurture faith development; to share our talents and resources generously and joyfully; to find balance between work, mission, service and rest.

V. Our Core Values

- 1. We accept God's grace and forgiveness. (John 3:16; Romans 10:13; Eph. 2: 8-9)**
We welcome everyone who wants to explore God's grace and to join in the faith journey.
- 2. We worship to express our gratitude, praise and devotion to God. (Psalm 100; Heb. 10:19-25; Mark 12:30-31)**
We value time with the Lord together with other believers. We will strive for excellence, authenticity, and passion in our worship. We will encourage one another to study, pray, and worship daily.
- 3. We intentionally make disciples, nurture them, and teach them the way of faith. (Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 12:1-7; 1 Tim. 1:5, 13-14, 2:1-2)**
Christ commanded us to make disciples and to teach them his ways. We give priority to training believers so they can better understand their commitment, recognize their gifts, and discover effective ways to serve the Lord.

4. We believe the Bible and make it the foundation of our faith and practice. (Deut. 6:4-9; Psalm 119:105; 2 Tim 3:16-17)

The Bible reveals God to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Using Jesus' teachings as our guide, we interpret the Bible and apply it in our lives to become more Christ-like.

5. We offer love, help, and healing to those in need. (Matt. 9:36; Rom. 12:9-13; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; James 1:27; Luke 6:32-33; Matt. 25:14-30)

We are willing to take risks to accomplish this mission. We partner with others of like spirit to touch our community, nation and world in the name of Jesus. We are ready to explain why the Gospel has filled us with hope.

6. We are stewards of God's resources. (Matt. 6:19-34, 12:18-23; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 12:13-21, 47-48; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7)

Recognizing that all of our resources come from God, we strive to manage them responsibly. God has blessed us abundantly so we commit to generously sharing our time, talents, and financial resources in proportion to our blessings.

7. We acknowledge the need to balance work, mission, service and rest. (Genesis 2:1-2; Matthew 11:28; Luke 6:1-11; Luke 12:15)

We affirm Jesus' Sabbath principle—the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. Life consists not only in doing the work of the church, but also in recreation, reflection and realignment of our lives with God's principles for living. We call on all members to do their part so that no one is over-burdened and everyone can balance work and rest.

VI. Statement of Faith

We believe in...

- One God, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, revealed as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- the Holy Scriptures as God's inspired word, and our only rule of faith and practice.
- the sinful nature of man evidenced in his inclination to sin
- God's saving grace and unconditional love
- the way of salvation offered by Jesus Christ as man's redeemer.
- the free offer of a new spiritual beginning and eternal life to all who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and commit themselves to follow him.
- in the guilt of those rejecting the offer of new life in Christ.
- the necessity of being "born again" or "born from above," of confession of sin, and repentance towards God, and faith in Jesus Christ.
- being declared as "right" in our relationship with God and in becoming part of the family of God by adoption as "children of God."
- Christian Ministry as established according to the will and plan of God
- the organization of the local and visible church of redeemed believers
- baptism as the initiatory rite of a new believer
- the Lord's Supper as a memorial supper testifying to the redemptive work

- the promised return of Jesus Christ.
- the ability of the Holy Spirit to keep all believers secure in God's grace and in obedience to God's directing until called to their eternal home.
- the present life as man's only opportunity to respond to saving grace, in the soul's entrance at death into a state of union with God or separation from God.
- the final resurrection, at which time God will welcome to His Eternal Kingdom all who have followed Jesus Christ as Lord of their life, in the judgment and eternal separation of all who rejected God's word, grace and salvation offered to them in Christ.

VII. Church Covenant

Since we have committed ourselves to Jesus Christ and have experienced the acceptance, forgiveness, and redemption of God our Father, we covenant together as members of this church that with God's help through the guiding presence of his Spirit:

We will walk together in brotherly love.

We will show loving care for one another and encourage, counsel and admonish one another.

We will assemble faithfully for worship and fellowship and will pray earnestly for others as well as for ourselves.

We will endeavor to bring up those under our care "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

We will seek, by Christian example and personal effort, to win others to Christ and to encourage their growth toward Christian maturity.

We will share one another's joys and endeavor to bear one another's burdens-and sorrows.

We will oppose all conduct, which compromises our Christian faith and will uphold high standards of Christian morality.

We will prove the reality of our conversion by living godly, fruitful lives.

We will maintain a faithful ministry of worship, witness, education, fellowship, and service.

We will be faithful stewards of our resources and abilities in sharing the gospel with people of all nations.

As a result of this covenant relationship, we will seek earnestly to live to the glory of God who brought us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

VIII. Polity and Relationships

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. This church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body. This church recognizes and sustains the obligation of mutual counsel and cooperation with other bodies as may be deemed appropriate to the objectives of this body. Insofar as is practical this church will cooperate with and support the Petersburg Baptist Association, the Baptist General Association of Virginia, and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. This church shall, by consent of its members, associate with other national organizations as it deems advisable and helpful to the ministries of this church.

IX. Governance

In the day-to-day business operation of this body, recommendations are made by appropriate Ministry Service Groups (MSG) and councils to the church for approval. No one member, group, or employee has the authority to obligate the Church for any activity or expense not already approved. Expenditures are made in accordance with budget guidelines. The church shall not be obligated for any expense, whether budgeted or not, unless the Church Treasurer has verified that there is sufficient money to cover that expense.

X. Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any regular or called business meeting of the church by a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting, provided that three (3) successive weeks' notice of the proposed amendment(s) have been published in the church bulletin and announcement made of the meeting at a regular Sunday church service.