

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Preamble

For the purpose of persevering and making secure the principles of our faith and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of the church and to set for the relationship of this body to other bodies of the same faith, we do declare and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE II.

Name and Affiliation

SECTION 2.01 LEGAL NAME

The name of this corporation is East Hickory Baptist Church, Hickory NC. This corporation will be further referred to in this constitution as the "church". The church may be referred to in publicity and other means in shortened terms such as 'East Hickory Church' or 'East Hickory'.

SECTION 2.02 AFFILIATIONS

The church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of denominational control. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation with other churches in fulfillment of its purpose, the church may voluntarily affiliate with other churches and conventions by a passing vote of the pastors. The affiliations of the church will be public knowledge in a forum approved by the pastors.

The church is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention for the purpose of missions and ministry through the Cooperative Program.

SECTION 2.03 NON-PROFIT STATUS

The church is a non-profit corporation under the laws of the state of North Carolina so long as such ruling remains valid and applicable to the church. The exemption is granted under the Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3).

SECTION 2.04 DISSOLUTION AND MERGERS

In the event of a voluntary dissolution of the church, the net assets of the church shall be distributed to a like-minded church or association of churches for the purpose of continued Gospel work. The distribution will be in accordance with a passing vote of the remaining active members as defined in the church's bylaws. In the event of a merger of the church with another church, then the net assets of the church shall be contributed to the surviving entity.

ARTICLE III.

Articles of Faith

SECTION 3.01 MISSION

The mission of the church is to make much of Jesus and bring glory to God by making disciples with a deep, intentional commitment to Christ Jesus, the community in which we live as well at the community of believers and to show compassion to all people for the purpose of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are committed to doing this through simple and relational means.

SECTION 3.02 STATEMENT OF BASIC BELIEF

The following beliefs represent the core orthodox beliefs from a biblical and historical perspective. While church members are not required to fully understand or articulate all aspects of these beliefs, the explicit rejection of any one of these particular beliefs disqualifies one from membership in the East Hickory Baptist Church of Hickory NC. Revisions of this statement to more clearly align to the Scriptures remain at the discretion of the pastors, with the consent of the members of the church. For a more detailed treatment of our basic beliefs see the Faith and Doctrine.

We believe...

- The Scriptures are true, authoritative and sufficient (Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
- There is only one God (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-6; Isaiah 46:9-10; John 17:3; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; 1 Timothy 2:5).
- We believe in the Trinity of the Godhead; there is one God (1) eternally existing in three equal but distinct persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (2) He is All-knowing, All-present, All-powerful, All-loving, Just, Eternal, Never-changing, and Holy).
Deut. 6:4 Matt. 28:18-19; II Cor. 13:14 Jer. 32:17,27; Psalm 139; 1 John 4:16; Romans 3:4-6; Rev. 4:8-10; Is. 40:28; Hab. 1:12
- I am, along with all humanity (Christ excluded), by birth and action a sinner (Genesis 6:5; Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23; 5:8, 12-21; 7:18; Ephesians 2:1-3).
- The deserved penalty for sin is death, both physical and spiritual (Genesis 2:15-17; Genesis 3:19; Romans 5:12; 6:23; James 1:14-15).
- Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, was born of a virgin and is both fully God and fully human (Man Matthew 1:20; Luke 2:52; John 1:1-4, 14; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-3).
- Jesus Christ died as my substitute to pay the penalty for my sin (John 1:29; 10:1-18; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 1:4; 1 Peter 3:18).
- Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead (Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-53; John 1:20-21:25; 1 Corinthians 15:12-34).
- Jesus Christ physically ascended into heaven and will one day physically return (John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 1:7).
- There will be a future and distinct final resurrections of the dead. Those who trust in Jesus Christ alone will be raised to eternal reward. Those who have not trusted in Jesus Christ will be raised to eternal punishment (Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15).
- Only by trusting in the person and work of Jesus Christ alone can I be reconciled to God and experience true life and joy (John 3:18, 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:21-26; 1 Timothy 2:5-6).

ARTICLE IV

Governance

SECTION 4.01 DEFINITION

The Church is to be recognized as a Jesus ruled, pastor (plurality of elders) led and congregation-ally accountable church in accordance with the principles laid down in the New Testament.

The overall policy, direction and management of the ministry, operations and finances of the church shall be vested in the pastors / elder body. The pastors with the elders are designated as the directors of this corporation as the term is defined and used in the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act. Subject to the provisions and limitations of the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act, any limitations in the Articles of Incorporation, this constitution and the church's bylaws, all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the pastors with the elders.

The church body made of confessing members who adhere to the member agreement (Bylaws Section 102) are to remain the final authority in matters of property ownership, the yearly budget, church discipline and changes to the bylaws, constitution and faith and doctrine.

SECTION 4.02 PUBLIC WORSHIP

Meetings for public worship shall be held at such times and places as may be provided for under the direction of the pastors with the elders.

SECTION 4.03 CHURCH BUSINESS MEETINGS

The pastors with the elders shall have the authority to call church conferences (business meeting) or special meetings as needed. At least one church conference will be held annually.

SECTION 4.04 AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution may be amended by a recommendation of the pastors with the elders and a two thirds majority vote of the congregation.

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