

CONSTITUTION
of the
SOUTH RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH
of
STATESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Amended and Restated September 20, 2024

2
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preamble.....3

Article I
Name.....3

Article II
Objectives.....3

Article III
Statement of Basic Principles.....3

Article IV
Autonomy of the Local Church5

Article V
Church Covenant.....5

Article VI
Adoption and Amendments
Adoption6
Amendments.....6

3
**SOUTH RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH
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. This Constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual member of this church and the freedom of action of this body.

ARTICLE I - NAME

This body shall be known as the South River Baptist Church of Statesville, North Carolina, located on Chipley Ford Road.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES

It shall be the purpose of this Church:

To be a dynamic spiritual organism empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Christ with as many people as possible in our church, community, and throughout the world.

To be a worshiping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing His person and responding in obedience to His leadership.

To experience an increasingly meaningful fellowship with God and fellow believers.

To help people experience a growing knowledge of God and man.

To be a church that ministers unselfishly to persons in the community and world in Jesus' name.

To be a church whose purpose is to be Christ-like in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment of life, personality, and possessions to the Lordship of Christ.

ARTICLE III - STATEMENT OF BASIC BELIEFS

We believe in the inspiration, infallibility, and authority of the Bible as the Word of God.

We believe in the eternal God Who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the Divinity, Virgin Birth, Vicarious Death, Blood Atonement,

Resurrection, Ascension, Lordship and present intercessory ministry of Jesus Christ.

We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, to convict and regenerate men, to indwell, to guide, to teach, and to empower believers.

We believe that all have sinned and are lost without Jesus Christ as personal Savior.

We believe that water baptism, by immersion, and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed - after salvation and not as the means of salvation.

We believe that the membership of the church should be made up of nothing but born again believers: the true body of Christ.

We believe that the local church is autonomous under Jesus Christ and we believe in the separation of church and State.

We believe in the personal, bodily return of Jesus Christ and in the bodily resurrection of all the dead, the everlasting reward of believers is Heaven and the everlasting punishment of unbelievers is Hell.

We believe that man has not the ability to be righteous outside of the grace of God.

We believe in the Pre-Millennial, Second Coming of Jesus Christ before the Seven years of Tribulation and Thousand years of Jesus' Millennial reign.

We believe as a church, once a person has been convicted and drawn by the power of the Holy Spirit and received Jesus Christ as his forgiving and redeeming Lord he has an eternal security as a brother of the Lord Jesus Christ and a member of the body of Christ and has an eternal home in Heaven.

We believe in the personality of Satan as a vile, immoral, and corrupt perverter of all that God has created.

We believe that the Bible teaches that legitimate sexual relationships are exercised solely within the confines of biblical marriage and that any sex outside of biblical marriage is a sinful perversion of God's gift of sex. Therefore, all forms of sexual immorality including, but not limited to, adultery (*Exodus 20:14, Deuteronomy 5:18, Matthew 5:27-28*), fornication (*Matthew 15:19, Colossians 3:5-6*), homosexuality and bisexuality (*Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:26-27*), pedophilia (*Matthew 18:10*), incest (*Leviticus 18:6*), pornography (*Matthew 5:28*), and any attempt to change one's biological gender or act and dress as the opposite sex (*Genesis 1:27, Mark 10:6, Deuteronomy 22:5*) are sinful and an offense to God, our Creator (*1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Jude 7*).

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning, and that is the marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union as prescribed in the plenary word of God - the Holy Bible (*Genesis 2:22-24, Matthew 19:4-6*).

We believe that God intends all sexual intimacy, no matter what the form, to occur between a man and a woman in the confines of biblical marriage (*1 Corinthians 7:1-2, Hebrews 13:4*). Accordingly, this church, her Pastor, Staff, and members shall not conduct same-sex unions or wedding ceremonies contrary to the Holy Bible or the definition of marriage stated within this document, nor shall the church property or resources be used for such purposes.

We believe God intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Although divorced and remarried persons may hold positions of service in the Church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of Pastor or Deacon.

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified and unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We believe that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are un-acceptable.

We believe that each believer has been given the privilege of an audience before the throne of God through the intercession of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE IV - AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches. We will cooperate with other entities that share our doctrinal convictions (as stated in ARTICLE III) and seek to advance God's kingdom through sharing the gospel and God's goodness.

ARTICLE V - CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe by the 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, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

ADVANCEMENT OF THIS CHURCH: We engage: therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of this church; in knowledge, its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDS: We work to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

ALONE AND AT HOME: We engage to maintain family and secret devotions, to religiously educate our children, and to seek salvation of our kindred and acquaintances.

BEFORE THE WORLD: We strive to walk circumspectly in the world: to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements: and exemplary in our deportment: to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger: to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drink as a beverage: to use our influence to combat the abuse of drugs and the spread of pornography: and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

TOWARD ONE ANOTHER: We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love: to aid each other in sickness and distress; to remember each other in prayer: to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech: to be slow to take offense, and always ready for reconciliation: and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

WHEN WE MOVE: Moreover, we engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this Covenant and the principles of God's Word.

ARTICLE VI - ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

A. ADOPTION

This Constitution shall be considered adopted and in full force and effect if and when two-thirds (2/3) of the members voting at the business conference at which the vote is taken shall vote in favor. This vote shall be taken after formal presentation of the Constitution to the church.

B. AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended, altered, or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members voting at any special called church conference: provided that any proposal of such amendment, alteration or repeal shall have been given in writing to the Constitution and By-laws Committee for study and for recommendation to the

church. Vote on this recommendation shall be taken, at a church conference, not less than thirty (30) days, nor more than sixty (60) days, following the original presentation of the recommendation. The Constitution and By-laws Committee must make a recommendation within sixty (60) days.