

CONSTITUTION
of the
Mount Moriah Baptist Church - Ballsville, Virginia

ARTICLE I — NAME

The name of this church shall be called the Mount Moriah Baptist Church.

ARTICLE II — PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be the preaching and teaching of the Word of God, the administration of the ordinances of the New Testament, the spiritual improvement of the members, ministering to its own community, and the spread of the gospel in all the earth.

ARTICLE III — MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

Every candidate for admission to the church shall be received by baptism by immersion, by statement or by letter from a church of like faith by majority vote.

Section 2

DISMISSION OF MEMBERS

A letter of transfer may be granted at any regular or special business meeting of the church by a majority vote to any member in good and regular standing who wishes to unite with any other Baptist Church, or a certificate of Christian character to any member wishing to unite with another evangelical church.

Letters of transfer or certificate of Christian standing will not be granted except of specifically names churches.

Persons possessing letters of transfer, or certificates of Christian standing from this church, and not uniting with any other church, shall be denied the right of participation in any business meeting.

Persons possessing letters of dismission from this church who desire to again become active members, may do so in the accepted way as set forth in Section 1 of this article.

Section 3
SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS

Any member who has not attended regular services for a period of one year shall be automatically put on an In-Active Membership List.

Any person whose name is on the In-Active Membership List shall not be privileged to participate or vote at any business meeting of the church.

Section 4
DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

As to personal differences between members the parties involved shall try to settle their differences by the method laid down by our Savior in Matthew 18:15-16.

ARTICLE IV — OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Section 1
PASTOR

The pastor shall be elected at a special or regular meeting of the church, public notice of such action having been given from the pulpit two Sunday's immediately preceding the date of meeting and two-thirds of the ballots cast shall be necessary for his election.

The pastor shall continue in office until he resigns or until his ministry is terminated at a special meeting called for that purpose in the following manner. Should it occur that any considerable number of the membership of the church believe that the ministry of the pastor is completed, a special meeting of the church may be called by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Deacons for the purpose of taking a vote of confidence. Notice of such meeting shall be given on two successive Sundays immediately preceding the meeting. At such meeting the chairman shall state that a vote of confidence has been called for but shall allow no public discussion of the matter and shall proceed to take a vote by ballot. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present shall be necessary to give a vote of confidence, which shall mean that the ministry of the pastor shall continue. Should the vote of confidence not be sustained, it shall thereby be due notice to the pastor that his term of office shall cease at a time not more than two months from date of vote. However, the Board of Deacons shall have authority to terminate the pastor's ministry at any time within the two month period, should they deem it to be for the best interests of the church to do so. In such cases, the full two months regular salary shall be allowed.

Section 2
DEACONS

The Board of Deacons shall consist of as many members as the church deems necessary. Their term of office shall continue as long as they are in fellowship with the church.

It shall be the duty of the deacons to engage actively in all spiritual work of the church; seek out such members as need special help and encouragement; visit the sick; distribute the elements of the Lord's Supper; advise and aid the pastor in all matters relating to the spiritual interests of the church.

Section 3
TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees shall consist of a minimum of three members and must be approved by the church by a majority vote. Their term of office shall continue as long as they are in fellowship with the church.

It shall be the duty of the trustees to supervise the care of all buildings and property of any kind whatsoever belonging to the church. They shall not sell, mortgage, or otherwise encumber the real estate of the church without the consent of the church at a meeting of the church, notice thereof having been given from the pulpit at two consecutive Sunday morning services immediately preceding such meeting.

Section 4
CLERK

At each annual business meeting a clerk shall be elected by a majority vote from the membership of the church. It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep an exact record of all business meetings of the church. The Clerk shall make out all letters of dismissal, and conduct such correspondence as may be directed.

Section 5
TREASURER

At each annual business meeting a treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote from the membership of the church. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive and disburse all monies of the church and keep an accurate written record of all transactions.

ARTICLE V — STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1 EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

The pastor shall be ex-officio member of all boards and committees of the church.

Section 2 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A Nominating Committee shall be elected from the floor at a regular meeting of the Church and shall consist of 7 members, including at least 2 deacons and department heads, the remaining shall be elected by nominations from the floor.

ARTICLE VI — DECLARATION OF FAITH

The New Hampshire Confession Revised shall be the confession of faith of the church.

ARTICLE VII — AMENDMENTS

Section 1

This Constitution may be amended at any regular business meeting of the church, or at a meeting called for that purpose, by a two-thirds vote of the member present, provided notice of such amendment shall have been given in writing at a regular meeting of the church at least three months previously.

BY-LAWS

1. The Lord's Supper is to be observed every fifth Sunday.
2. The following shall not be allowed to originate on the church property: gambling, dancing, drinking, church suppers for the purpose of raising money.
3. In matters of Parliamentary Law we shall abide by Kerfoot's.
4. The By-Laws may be amended at any regular business meeting by a vote of two-thirds majority.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

I. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally inspired and the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore, has truth without any admixture of error for its matter. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried. II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:19-20.

II. Of the True God

We believe there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite Spirit, the Maker and supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing; distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. Exodus 20:2,3; I Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11; I John 5:7

III. Of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the Agent in the new birth; that He seals, endures, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer. John 14:16, 17; Matt. 28:19; Heb. 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Gen. 1:1-3; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5,6; Eph. 1:13-14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Rom. 8:14, 16, 26, 27.

IV. Of the Devil, or Satan

We believe in the personality of Satan, that he is the unholy god of this age, and the author of all the powers of darkness, and is destined to the judgement of an eternal justice in the lake of fire. Matt. 4:1-3; 2 Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:10.

V. Of Creation

We accept the Genesis account of creation and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution. Gen. 1 and 2; Col. 1:16, 17; John 1:3.

VI. Of the Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not only by constraint, but of choice; and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse. Gen. 3:1-6, 24; Rom. 5:10-19; Rom. 1:18, 32

VII. Of the Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can be born or woman, and that He is both the Son of God and God, the Son. Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:4.

VIII. Of the Atonement for Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, Who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust; Christ, the Lord, bearing our sin in His own body on the tree; that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior. Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24; John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14; Isal. 53:4-7; Rom. 3:25; I John 4:10; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21.

IX. Of Grace in the New Creation

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and received eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life. John 3:3; 2 Cor. 5:17; I John 5:1; John 3:6,7; Acts 16: 30-33; 2 Pet. 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1; 2 Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:13; John 3:8.

X.Of Justification

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification;

- (a) That Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life, on principles of righteousness;
- (b) That it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done; but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed to us.

Acts 13:39; Isa. 53:11; Zech. 13:1; Rom. 8:1; Rom. 5:1,9.

XI. Of Faith and Salvation

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. Acts 16:31.

XII. Of the Local Church

We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers are pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only Superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. Acts 2:41, 42; I Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22, 23; Eph. 4:11; Acts 20:17-28; I Tim. 3:1-7; Col 1:18; Eph. 5:23-24; Acts 15:13-18.

XIII. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life, that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. Acts. 8:26-30; John 3:23; Rom. 6:3-5; Matt. 3:16; Col. 2:12; I Cor. 11:23-28.

XIV. Of the Security of the Saints

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ. Phil. 1:6; John 10:28, 29; Rom. 8:35-39; Jude 1, (RV).

XV. Of the Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through-faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. Mal. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Rom. 6:17, 18; I John 5:19; Rom. 7:6; Rom. 6:23; Prov. 14:32; Luke 6:25; Matt. 25:35-41; John 8:21.

XVI. Of Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed; except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ Who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth. Rom. 13:1-7; 2 Sam. 23:3; Exod. 18:21, 22; Acts 23:5; Matt. 22:21; Acts 5:20; Acts 4:19, 20; Dan. 3:17, 19

XVII. Of the Resurrection, Personal, Visible, Premillennial Return of Christ, and Related Events

- (a) We believe in the Bodily Resurrection. Matt. 28:6,7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; I Cor. 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6
- (b) The Ascension. Acts 1:9-11; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Rev. 3:21; Heb. 12:2
- (c) The High Priesthood. Heb. 8:6; I Tim. 2:5; I John 2:1; Heb. 2:17; Heb. 5:9, 10.
- (d) The Second Coming. John 14:3; Acts 1:11; I Thes. 4:16; James 5:8; Heb. 9:28
- (e) The Resurrection of the Righteous Dead. I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:42-44, 52
- (f) The Change of the Living in Christ. I Cor. 15:51-53; I Thess. 4:13-18; Phil 3:20, 21
- (g) The Throne of David. Luke 1:32; Isa. 9:6, 7; Acts 2:29, 30.
- (h) The Millennial Reign. I Cor. 15:25; Isa. 32:1; Isa. 11:4,5; Psa. 72:8; Rev. 20:6,14