



THE COVENANT CHURCH OF HARRISBURG

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I NAME

1. The organization shall be known as The Covenant Church of Harrisburg, Inc. by which name it is incorporated under the laws of the state of North Carolina, and hereinafter-designated 'Church'. The terms 'congregation' and 'membership' are herein used interchangeably and designate the corporate body of all members of the church.

ARTICLE II ARTICLES OF FAITH

All Articles of Faith are to be interpreted and understood to be in harmony with the Holy Scriptures and a summary of our position in relation to the doctrines of the Christian faith is as follows:

GOD – We believe in the only true God eternally existing in three persons as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – each possessing divine perfection and worthy of the same worship and obedience. He, as Creator and sovereign ruler of the universe, is righteous in all His ways and holy in all His works.

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| 1. Mark 12:29 | 5. Revelation 4:11 |
| 2. Isaiah 45:22 | 6. John 1:3 |
| 3. John 15:26 | 7. Hebrews 1:1-3 |
| 4. Matthew 28:19 | 8. Deuteronomy 32:4 |

THE BIBLE – We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament in their entirety to be the infallible Word of God, given by inspiration of God, in the sense that the Holy Ghost gave the very words of the sacred writing to holy men of old, and that His divine inspiration extends fully to all parts of these writings, historical, poetical, doctrinal and prophetic. We further believe that the Scriptures, from first to last, center about our Lord Jesus Christ, His person and work, His first and second coming; and, therefore, every portion of the Old and New Testament is ordained of God for our instruction. We fully accept the Scriptures as being inerrant in the original writings, and the only infallible rule of faith and life.

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| 1. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 | 4. 1Corinthians 2:13 |
| 2. 2 Timothy 3:16 | 5. Luke 24:27 |
| 3. 2 Peter 1:19-21 | 6. Psalm 119:105 |

MAN AND SIN – We believe that man was directly created by God in His own image, holy and upright; that through the historic fall into sin, man came under God’s condemnation, and that in consequence, the whole human race is dead in trespasses and sin and subject to its judgement: death and hell. We believe that this total depravity extends to every child of Adam because he is born into this world with a sinful nature. We further believe that without God’s provision for salvation in His Son, Jesus Christ, no one can enter the Kingdom of God, that no degree of reformation, no educational attainment, no cultural or philanthropic achievement, no religious ordinance can help a sinner toward the Kingdom.

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| 1. Genesis 2:7 | 5. Romans 3:10-12 |
| 2. Genesis 1:26 | 6. John 3:18 |
| 3. Romans 5:12 | 7. John 3:5 |
| 4. Ephesians 2:1 | 8. Isaiah 64:6 |

JESUS CHRIST – We believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, who became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, and that He lived a sinless life that He might reveal God. We believe He accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice and full propitiation for our sins, and that our redemption is made sure to us by His literal, bodily resurrection from the dead. We further believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is now in heaven, exalted at the right hand of God, where as the High Priest for His people, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor and Advocate. We believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord, Savior, Great Physician, Deliverer, Baptizer and King.

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| 1. John 1:1-2 | 9. Hebrews 4:14-16 |
| 2. Colossians 1:15, 19, 2:9 | 10. Luke 2:11 |
| 3. John 1:14 | 11. Acts 10:38 |
| 4. Philippians 2:6-8 | 12. Luke 3:16, 7:22, 4:18-19 |
| 5. Luke 1:35 | 13. Philippians 2:9-11 |
| 6. Hebrews 4:15 | 14. Acts 1:5, 2:4 |
| 7. Romans 3:24-25 | 15. Revelation 19:16 |
| 8. 1 Peter 1:3-5 | |

SALVATION – We believe that salvation from sin is a free gift offered by God through His Grace and receive by personal repentance from sin and by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins, and that no repentance or penance, no resolution or sincere effort, no membership in nor submission to any church or its rules or regulations can in the very least add to the value of that precious blood or the merit of the redemptive work wrought on Calvary.

We further believe that it is the privilege of all who are born again by the Spirit through faith in Christ, to be assured of their salvation from the time of their conversion, and that this confidence is based wholly upon the testimony of God in His written Word.

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| 1. Ephesians 2:8-9 | 4. 1 John 5:10-13 |
| 2. John 1:12 | 5. Romans 8:1 |
| 3. 1 Peter 1:18-23 | 6. Romans 8:38-39 |

ORDINANCES – We believe that the ordinances of Water Baptism and The Lord’s Supper are of perpetual obligation in the church. We recognize as valid both immersion and effusion (pouring or sprinkling), leaving the preference of the mode of baptism to the candidate.

1. Matthew 28:19, Acts 2:38
2. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

ANGELS AND DEMONS – We believe in the personal existence of unseen spirits in the world who contend for the souls of men, some furthering and others, under Satan, opposing the purposes of God.

1. Colossians 1:16
2. 1 Peter 5:8
3. Hebrews 1:7
4. 2 Corinthians 11:14
5. Revelation 12:9-12

THE SECOND COMING – We believe that the next great event in the fulfillment of prophecy is the bodily, personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ to receive to Himself His own, who are alive and also all those who have died trusting Him. This is our blessed hope. We further believe that this event will be followed by the Great Tribulation, after which Christ will return to earth with His saints to begin His millennial reign.

Further, we do not believe that the world will be converted to Christ during this present age, but rather is hastening toward judgement. We believe that the prophecies concerning Israel being restored to her own land and apostasy in the professing Church are being fulfilled, thereby indicating the luminance of the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. John 14:3, Acts 1:11
2. 1 Corinthians 15:23-24
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
3. Titus 2:13
4. Matthew 24:21-28
5. Matthew 24:29-31
6. Zechariah 14:1-5,
Revelation 19:15-16, 20:4
7. 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 2 Peter 3:1-7
8. Jeremiah 23:7-8, Amos 9:14-15
9. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8
Matthew 24:12

HEAVEN AND HELL – We believe in the bodily resurrection and everlasting blessedness of believers, and in the bodily resurrection of unbelievers to final judgement and everlasting punishment. By this we mean that we believe that the souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation do at death immediately pass into His presence and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His second coming.

Further, we believe that the soul of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery until the final judgement, when soul and body shall be united and cast into the lake of fire to be separated from God and punished forever.

1. 1 Corinthians 15:12-21
2. 2 Corinthians 5:1
3. John 5:28-29
4. 2 Corinthians 5:8
5. Luke 16:19-31
6. Revelation 20:11-15
7. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9

ARTICLE III
STANDARDS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

We BELIEVE THAT THE scriptures enjoin a life in which a Christian gives witness to his union with Christ by manifesting the fruit of the indwelling Spirit in his life.

We believe that the Christian life should be characterized by love for obedience to God's Word, love toward all men (even those considered to be enemies), kindness, humility, honesty, fidelity and integrity in all family, social, business and professional relationships.

We believe that the Christian will be increasingly sensitive to the sin of his own heart, and will yield to Christ as Lord of his life for victory over pride, self-seeking, jealousy, a critical spirit, bitterness and all other characteristics of the old nature. We believe that, as the Christian permits God to work in his heart, he will separate himself from those things which tend to hinder the work of the Holy Spirit in his life and which impair the capacities of body, mind or spirit, realizing these are gifts of God for which he is accountable and which are to be separated unto God for His purposes. Moreover, we believe that the Christian should desire to mature in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and become increasingly sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as to any practices which hinder his relationship with Christ and others. As the Christian is made aware of such things, he will, regardless of the standards of others, discontinue such practices. "Let us not therefore judge one another anymore: but judge this rather that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way" (Romans 14:13).

While it is understood that being born again through faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior, baptism and acceptance of the foregoing Articles of Faith are the basis for membership in Covenant Church of Harrisburg. We recommend to all members and any who are seeking membership to prayerfully seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit concerning their attitude toward the Scriptural standards of the Christian life as outlined in this statement.

1. Galatians 5:22-23
2. Philippians 1:9-11
3. Romans 6:11-14

4. Romans 12:1-2
5. Romans 14:13

ARTICLE VI
INDEPENDENT STATUS

This church, while desiring to cooperate with all groups of true believers in furthering the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, is incorporated as an unaffiliated organization. Affiliation with an established denomination can be considered only with three-fourths (3/4) vote of the total session and after approval, by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active members at a duly called congregational meeting.

ARTICLE V
GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH

The government of this church is vested in its membership, which constitutes the congregation and is facilitated through the session of the church.

ARTICLE VI
RIGHTS OF THE CHURCH

The Corporation of the church, through its duly elected officers, shall have sole title to its real property and shall be sole owner of any equity it may have in any real property.

ARTICLE VII
AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by the following procedure:
Amendments may originate only in the session. An amendment may be adopted by the session only after consideration in at least two (2) regular monthly meetings, of which all members of the session of the church shall have been previously and duly notified in email/writing, including the text of the proposed amendment. Adoption of amendments shall require a favorable vote by three-fourths (3/4) of the members of the session. This shall then be taken to the congregation, but only after copies of the proposed amendment have been emailed/mailed to all the active members and this is then followed by two (2) Sundays in which the proposed amendment is read before the congregation. All of this must precede a vote on an amendment. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the congregation is required to carry such an amendment in keeping with Article VI of the by-laws.