

DUNKIRK BAPTIST CHURCH CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

This Constitution serves to:

- Preserve and secure the principles of our faith;
- Establish the framework to govern the church body; and
- Preserve the autonomy of the Church body.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The body shall be known as Dunkirk Baptist Church. The principle address shall be 11275 Southern Maryland Blvd., Dunkirk, MD 20754.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE, POLITY AND INCORPORATION

SECTION A - PURPOSE

The body exists to advance Christian faith by spreading the good news of salvation and emphasizing an individual's relationship with Jesus Christ.

In accordance with Scripture and our spiritual beliefs, we will strive to:

- Maintain regular times of corporate prayer and worship (John 4:23-24);
- Provide religious instruction and Christian discipleship (1 Tim. 4:6);
- Engage in Christian fellowship, ministry, and service (Heb. 10:24-25); and
- Participate in Christian missions and evangelism (Mt. 28:19-20).

SECTION B - POLITY

The body is governed by its membership and not controlled by any other organization. Recognizing the benefits of cooperation, the body will maintain cooperative status with the Southern Baptist Convention, State Baptist Convention, and local Baptist association.

SECTION C - INCORPORATION

The body is incorporated as a 501c(3) corporation in accordance with the laws of the State of Maryland.

ARTICLE III STATEMENT OF FAITH

The body accepts the Baptist Faith and Message as currently adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

ARTICLE IV STATEMENTS

SECTION A - FINAL AUTHORITY OF DOCTRINE

The body believes that:

- The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs;
- The Bible is the ultimate source of all that we believe; and
- In matters of disagreement, the Senior Pastor in consultation with the Deacons, shall serve as the final interpretative authority for the meaning and application of Biblical teaching.

SECTION B – MARRIAGE

The body maintains the belief that God ordained marriage as a covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself. In keeping with this belief, the body shall:

- Recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman;
- Participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman; and
- Allow its facilities and property to host weddings only between one man and one woman.

SECTION C – FACILITY USE

The body believes that the church facilities and property were provided through the provenance of God and the sacrificial giving of His people. The facilities and property shall be utilized in a manner that glorifies God and is consistent with our accepted Statement of Faith.

Although not generally available for public use, permission may be given to approved non-members and community groups to utilize the church facilities and property for non-church related events so long as:

- Approved individuals and groups respect the sacredness of the facilities and property;
- The activities and/or events do not contradict our accepted Statement of Faith; and,
- The activities and/or events do not violate the church's 501c(3) status.

In matters of disagreement, the Senior Pastor in consultation with the Trustees, shall serve as the final authority in the use of church facilities and property.

ARTICLE V ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT

SECTION A - ADOPTION

This Constitution shall be considered adopted and in effect upon two-thirds of the members present and voting affirmative at the regular business meeting during which the

vote is taken. This vote shall take place at a separate regular business meeting following presentation to the church.

SECTION B - AMENDMENTS

Changes in the constitution may be made at any regular or special called business meeting of the church provided each amendment shall have been presented in writing at a previous business meeting and copies of the proposed amendment made available in the church office upon request. Amendments to the constitution shall be by two-thirds vote of church members present and voting.

**Approved and adopted by unanimous vote at the
March 19, 2018 regular Business Meeting**