

CONSTITUTION  
SEAFORD BAPTIST CHURCH OF SEAFORD VIRGINIA  
November 4, 2015

PREAMBLE

For the certain preservation and security of the principles of the Christian faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the teachings of the Bible, we declare and establish this Constitution, trusting that by God's grace it preserves the liberties of each individual member of this Church and the freedom of action of this Church as it relates to other Churches of like faith and practice.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe that the Bible was written by those divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to humanity. The Bible is our supreme and final authority in faith and life. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

We believe in the one true living God, who eternally exists as the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus was God in the form of a man. (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38)

We believe that humanity was created in the image of God, but by free choice sinned against God and thereby incurred a separation from God his Creator, a spiritual death. All human beings are born with a sinful nature, and become guilty sinners in thought, word, and deed. (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 5:12-18)

We believe that Christ died on the cross for our sins according to the Scriptures. We believe that to obtain salvation one has to have personal faith to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior of their life. Christ shed His blood on the cross to provide eternal redemption for the believer. Salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. (John 3:16; Romans 3:23-26)

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, which commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead, and should include time of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. (Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-20)

We believe godly faith must demonstrate itself in godly living as outlined in various passages of Scripture. (1 Thessalonians 4:1-11; Hebrews 12:14-15)

We believe that God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and all that we are we owe to Him. We are therefore under obligation to serve Him with our time, talents, and material possessions, and should recognize all these are entrusted to us to use for the glory of God and to help others. (Acts 4:32-35; 2 Corinthians 9:6-9)

We affirm the doctrinal statement of the 2000 *The Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

## CHURCH COVENANT

Having been brought by God's grace to repent and believe in Jesus, having given ourselves to Him, and having been baptized following our profession of faith, we, relying on God's grace, joyfully enter into this covenant with each other to seek to walk worthy of the calling we have received by:

### GROWING IN CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- Through attending and participating in worship faithfully (Revelation 4:11, John 4:23-24)
- Through reading and studying God's Word (Joshua 1:8, Colossians 3:16-18)
- Through consistent prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)
- Through participation in a Sunday School class or small group (Hebrews 10:24-25)

### PROTECTING THE UNITY OF OUR CHURCH

- By working hard at relational harmony (Ephesians 4:1-6)
- Through practically meeting the needs of other believers (Acts 2:44-45, 1 John 3:16-18)
- By seeking to use our words for positive good (Ephesians 4:29)
- Through seeking reconciliation according to Matthew 18:15-17, when conflict arises with another member.

### LIVING OUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE GOSPEL TOWARD THE WORLD

- Through finding ways to share the good news of Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Through demonstrating the love of Jesus through hands on ministry to the community (Proverbs 21:13, Matthew 25:31-46)
- Through faithful financial giving to support the work of this Church and its ministry to the world (Malachi 3:10, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

### PARTICIPATING IN THE MINISTRY OF OUR CHURCH

- By discovering our gifts and talents (Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:7-11, 1 Corinthians 12, 1 Peter 4:10-11)
- By being equipped to serve by and with our pastors (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- By developing a servant's heart (Mark 10:45)

## ARTICLE 1 NAME

This body shall be known as Seaford Baptist Church of Seaford, Virginia

## ARTICLE 2 GOVERNMENT

This Constitution and associated Bylaws is intended to be the guidance for the government of this Church, under the authority of God as revealed in the Holy Bible. The authority of this Church is vested solely in the body of believers who compose it, and this Church recognizes no authority over it other than is defined by and in the Bible. This Church is not subject to control of any other ecclesiastical body, but this Church chooses to cooperate with other Churches of like faith.

Affiliation: This Church cooperates with the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, the Southern Baptist Convention, and other denominational associations as approved by the membership to promote the interests of the kingdom of Christ.

## ARTICLE 3 OBJECTIVES

We believe that the local church is a body of baptized believers established by the Lord Jesus Christ to glorify God, to seek the salvation of the lost, to provide a place for believers to worship, to provide instruction in the Christian faith, to minister to the needs of people in the community, to work in cooperation with other believers for local and worldwide evangelism and discipleship, and to develop Christlike fellowship among believers.

## ARTICLE 4 MEMBERSHIP

Every candidate for membership to this body, by the grace of God and through the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit, shall publicly confess their personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Upon affirmation by the congregation, in accordance with the Church Bylaws, they shall be received into the membership. If not previously baptized by immersion, they shall be baptized according to Article 2, Section 2 of the Church Bylaws.

Members commit to making the will of the Lord Jesus Christ supreme in their own lives and in their relations with the fellowship of this Church as well as in all other contacts with society. Furthermore, they should seek to support and undergird this fellowship with their continual and persistent prayers, regular attendance, joyful labors, and consistent contributions. By the power of the Holy Spirit, members also commit to personal integrity, gentleness in their dealings with others, and abstaining from things or practices which may bring harm to their faith or the faith of another.

## ARTICLE 5 ORDINANCES

We agree that each believer is commanded to be baptized by immersion in water to bear witness to their faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of our Savior and to symbolize their own position before God with respect to sin and that such immersion is a prerequisite to church membership.

We also believe that God would have every believer regularly participate in the Lord's Supper as an act of obedience to memorialize the pierced body and the shed blood of the Lord and to be mindful of and looking forward to His second coming.

## ARTICLE 6 DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

We believe that Marriage unites one man and one woman in a lifetime commitment to each other (Genesis 2:23-24; Matthew 19:4-6). Marriage provides for intimate companionship, pure sexual expression (Genesis 2:25; Ephesians 5:31-33), procreation, and reflects the relationship of Christ and the church (Genesis 1:28; Proverbs 5:15-19; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5). A husband is commanded to love his wife as Christ loved the church. A wife is commanded to submit to her husband as the church submits to Christ (Ephesians 5:22-33).

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman and Himself, and because we see weddings as worship ceremonies, the facilities and property of Seaford Baptist Church shall only host weddings between one biological man and one biological woman. Further, the pastors and ministerial staff of Seaford Baptist Church shall only conduct and/or solemnize marriages between one biological man and one biological woman.

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance (Genesis 2:24; Genesis 19:5 & 13; Genesis 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1, 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4). Such a sinful pattern, if not repented will be a barrier to membership and leadership in this body of believers.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking his mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed towards any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church.

## ARTICLE 7 OFFICERS

The scriptural officers of this Church are the Pastor (or Pastors) and Deacons, all of whom shall be members of this Church and shall be elected by the church membership.

Except as otherwise provided herein, church officers shall have, exercise, and perform those duties as stated in the Church Bylaws and normally ascribed to their respective offices.

## ARTICLE 8 CONDUCT OF CHURCH BUSINESS AND FISCAL AFFAIRS

This Constitution and associated Church Bylaws shall govern the conduct of church business and fiscal affairs.

*Robert's Rules of Order*, Revised, shall be utilized to guide the conduct of Church Conferences.

## ARTICLE 9 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

These articles may be amended upon a two-thirds vote of the members present, with a minimum quorum of fifty (50) members, at any regular Church Conferences of the Church, provided that all of the following procedures have been followed:

- The proposed written amendment has been presented to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for review at least one month prior to presenting a written amendment at a regular Church Conference.
- The proposed written amendment has been presented at a previous Church Conference for discussion by the membership.
- The proposed amendment has been announced on a Sunday morning at least two weeks before the vote is taken to amend.

Copies of such proposed amendments shall be available upon request by any member at the time of the initial presentation and at the time specified for the vote.

## ARTICLE 10 REPEAL OF PREVIOUS CONSTITUTION

This Constitution supersedes and repeals any Constitutions previously adopted by Seaford Baptist Church.

**(End of Constitution)**