



# Colosse Baptist Church Constitution

Presented to church for feedback at October 2013 and January 2014 quarterly business meetings. Approved at the April 28, 2014 quarterly business meeting.

Contains church name, mission statement, statement of faith, relationships, covenant, and constitution/bylaws amendment process.

# Colosse Baptist Church Constitution

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## Preamble

We declare and establish this constitution for the preservation and security of the principles of our faith and that this body, known as Colosse Baptist Church, may be governed in an orderly manner. We fully acknowledge that the church is not a building, organization, club, or other entity, but by Biblical definition, is made up of individuals who have and maintain a loving relationship with Jesus Christ, our Savior, and have committed themselves to membership in this body of believers.

## Article I – Name

This church known as Colosse Baptist Church located in West Point, Virginia is incorporated in accordance with the laws of the State of Virginia as a nonprofit organization.

## Article II – Mission Statement

It is the mission of Colosse Baptist Church to grow a loving church of members dedicated to serving others and sharing the salvation of Jesus Christ.

## Article III – Purpose Statement

1. Worship God as a fellowship of believers, in the power of the Holy Spirit, under the lordship of Jesus Christ.
2. Minister to each other and to the entire world.
3. Lead the lost to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ both in our community and around the world.
4. Nurture Christian growth through preaching, teaching, and fellowship.

## Article IV – Statement of Faith

We, the members of Colosse Baptist Church:

1. Affirm our belief in, and acknowledge our desire to uphold by consistent Christian living, the principles of the New Testament doctrine.
2. Acknowledge Jesus Christ as our divine Lord and Savior.
3. Recognize the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God and the basis for our beliefs, practices, and statement of faith. This church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of “The Baptist Faith and Message” as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963”.

## Article V – Relationships

1. Respect the right of private interpretation of the scriptures and the competency of the individual communing with God.
2. Support the separation of state from the church.
3. Recognize complete independence of the local church and its interdependence in fellowship with the Dover Baptist Association and the Virginia Baptist Mission Board, and other Baptist churches.

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4. Decisions will be based on majority rule (excluding changes to Constitution and Bylaws, guaranteeing equal rights to all and special privileges to none.
5. Strive to obtain spiritual unity of all believers.

### Article VI - Covenant

We, the members of Colosse Baptist Church in West Point, Virginia having been led, as we believe, by the Holy Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ by profession of faith, having been baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son and 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.

We, therefore, agree, by the help of the Holy Spirit and with the Bible, the inspired Word of God as our guide to:

1. Walk together in Christian love, harmony and watchfulness. Give and receive Christian instruction with meekness and affection and provide a Christian example to those around us.
2. Promote and sustain spirituality through worship, discipline and doctrine.
3. Observe the church ordinances of baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper as authorized by our local church.
4. Support marriage as a commitment between a man and a woman based on Genesis 2:24 and Matthew 19:5.
5. Contribute cheerfully and regularly of God's tithes and our offerings to support the ministry of our church and to spread the gospel to all nations.
6. Encourage personal and family devotions and educate our children according to our faith.
7. Seek the salvation of the unbeliever and treat all persons with respect.
8. Be reliable in our responsibilities and always seek to advance the kingdom of our Savior.
9. Use our influence to combat the abuse of all substances that are harmful to our bodies which are the temples of God.
10. Pray for one another and help each other in times of sickness and sorrow.
11. Be slow to get angry and always be eager for a quick reconciliation.

### Article VII – Constitution or Bylaw Amendments

Proposed changes to the constitution or bylaw:

1. Must be provided in writing to the chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee at least 30 days prior to a quarterly business meeting of the church.
2. Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee or designated representative will present changes to the quarterly business meeting.
3. After discussion and changes (if any) during the quarterly business meeting, the proposed amendment will be presented for confirmation. A majority vote (2/3 vote) of the members present and voting is required at a quarterly business meeting.

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4. If a special business meeting is required, the Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee will schedule the meeting in conjunction with Chairman of Deacons and will provide a notice stating the date, time, and reason for special business meeting at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

### **Article VIII – Adoption of Constitution and Bylaws**

This constitution the bylaws (separate document) shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when two thirds of the members present and voting at a quarterly or special business meeting vote to adopt the constitution and/or Bylaws. A formal presentation of the constitution shall be made to the church at least 30 days prior to a vote.

This constitution abolishes, supersedes, and takes the place of any constitution, rules, bylaws, or amendments that preceded it.

A copy of this constitution shall be available to all church members.

All approved amendments or changes to the constitution or bylaws will be done by the constitution committee and a revised document shall be available to a church member upon request.

### **Article IX – Church Council**

A church council shall be comprised of:

- A. Pastor.
- B. Chairman of Deacons.
- C. As listed in Church Bylaws, all directors and chairpersons of committees (or other designated representative) involved in planning activities, trips, or events requiring the use of church facilities, equipment, or church-owned vehicles.
- D. Men in Ministry Director.
- E. Woman’s Missionary Union Director.

The pastor shall serve as chairperson. The Church Council serves as the administrative body of the church and shall meet to create a master calendar of church events and coordinate the use of church vehicles, equipment, and facilities.

**Responsibilities of all officers, directors and committees as approved by the church are included in Colosse Baptist Church Bylaws.**

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### **2012-2014 Constitution and Bylaws Committee:**

Chairperson: Jeff Walton

Members: Franklin McGowan, Rose Rice, and Gaynell Smith

### **2014-2015 Constitution and Bylaws Committee:**

Jeff Walton, Gaynell Smith and Rose Rice

### **Recap of action taken to constitution:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
January 2014	Constitution presented to the church for review.
April 2014	Constitution approved with change to the statement "Support separation of church and state" to "Support separation of church from state."
October 2014	Recommended and approved changing the wording "Support separation of church from state" to "Support the separation of state from the church."