

# CONSTITUTION

## PREAMBLE

We, the members of this assembly, desiring God's blessing to prosper and sustain spiritual growth in this assembly, aiming to establish ourselves in the Lord Jesus Christ and Bible centered loyalty; for the purpose of preserving, propagating, and articulating the principles of our faith while enjoying the harmony and unity of all local church endeavors and business procedures; for preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this church; and the freedom of action of this assembly with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith; do declare and establish this constitution.

## ARTICLE I: NAME

This assembly shall be known as Berea Baptist Church of Hiddenite, Alexander County, North Carolina.

## ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this Church shall be to provide regular opportunities for public worship; to sustain the ordinances, doctrines, and ethics set forth in the New Testament for the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ; to nurture its members through a program of Christian education; to channel its offerings to the support of the objects of the Redeemer's Kingdom; and to preach and propagate among all people the gospel of the revelation of God through Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

### Section 1: The Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:20-21.

### Section 2: God the Father

There is one and only one living and true God; an intelligent, spiritual, and tri-personal Being; the Creator, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe, infinite in holiness and all other perfections; to Whom we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. John 4:24; Mark 12:29-30.

### Section 3: God the Son

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Spirit without a human father, born of a virgin and is truly man, that His deity is absolute, wholly unique and singular. I Tim. 2:5-6; Luke 1:27, 35; John 10:32.

### Section 4: God the Holy Spirit

We believe in the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, who is the divine interpreter of the infallible Word. John 14:26; 16:7-15; I John 5:7.

### Section 5: The Fall of Man

We believe, according to the teachings of the Scripture, that man was created a moral being in the image of God and after His likeness, but by voluntary transgression, fell from his original sinless state. In consequence, the whole human race was involved in guilt, making all mankind now sinners, depraved in nature, spiritually dead, and hopeless apart from divine grace. Gen. 3:1-19; Rom. 5:15-19.

### Section 6: Death of Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are freely justified and stand before God accepted in the character and merit of Jesus Christ. Isa. 53:5-6; Matt. 20:28; Rom. 3:21-26; Eph. 1:5-6.

## Section 7: The Resurrection of Christ

We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of Christ; that His body which was raised from the dead according to the Scriptures was a literal body consisting of flesh and bone. Matt. 28:9; Luke 24:3-7, 36-43; John 20:11-18, 27.

## Section 8: The Way of Salvation

We believe that all born-again persons are eternally secure in Christ since the Scripture teaches that our justification before God rests alone upon the finished work of Christ. John 1:1-14; Heb. 7:25; I John 4:10.

## Section 9: The Church

We believe that the Church, as the Body of Christ, is a visible assembly of baptized believers; that the local assembly is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, and observing the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and acknowledging Christ as the true Head of the Church.  
Matt. 28:20; Acts 2:41-42, 47; I Cor. 1:1-13, 11:2.

## Section 10: The Obligation to Holiness

We believe that all believers, in the Lord Jesus Christ, are called into a life of separation from the world. Rom. 12:2; I Cor. 6:9-10; I Thess. 5:22.

A: 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 marital sex. We believe God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance.  
Gen. 2:24; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:23-32; I Cor. 6:9-10; Eph. 4:17-24;  
Titus 1:15-16; II Pet. 2:4-9; Jude vs. 4-9.

B: We believe that Christ Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises of God's Holy Word. We therefore stand opposed to the tongues movement, believing it not to be of God. We will not permit its teaching, either directly or by inference, in the Church, Sunday School, training classes, or any other meeting sponsored by Berea Baptist Church. We take our stand on the Word of God, not the experiences of men. Acts 2:1-15; I Cor. 13:8-10; Rev. 22:18.

## Section 11: The Evangelization of the World

We believe in the evangelization of the world, placing emphasis upon the task of reaching the individual with the gospel and its implications; and that no humanitarian and philanthropic schemes may be substituted for the preaching of the Cross. Matt.28:18; Mark 16:15; Rom.10:14-15.

## Section 12: Bible Interpretation

We believe in accepting the literal teaching of the Word. Therefore every declaration is to be taken in its primary, ordinary, literal, and its most obvious meaning unless the facts of context and the well-defined laws of language clearly indicate the terms either to be symbolic or figurative, and not literal. Prov. 30:5; Luke 11:28; John 5:39; Rom.1:1-2; Heb. 4:12; II Pet. 1:2; Rev. 22:19.

## Section 13: Creation

We believe in the Genesis account of creation which teaches that all things found their origin in God, Who created by His own fiat, instantaneously every living thing after its kind. Gen. 1:2; Eccl. 7:29; Isa. 40:12; Heb. 11:3.

## Section 14: The Return of Christ

We believe, according to Scripture, in the sure return of the Lord Jesus Christ; that His second coming will be a literal, bodily, personal return; that His coming for His Bride, the Church, constitutes the "Blessed Hope" set before us, for which we should be constantly looking. We believe that His coming will be premillennial. I Cor. 15:52; I Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 20:4-6.

## Section 15: Satan

We believe in the reality of the person of Satan, "that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world." Job 2:2; Isa. 14:12-17; I Pet. 5:8; Rev. 12:9-10.