

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE OX HILL BAPTIST CHURCH CORPORATION**

Chantilly, VA

Adopted November 7, 2021

Amended September 17, 2023

Amended May 19, 2024

## **PREAMBLE**

For the more certain preservations and security of the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner, consistent and in cooperation with the purpose, objectives, and goals of Baptists and the Kingdom of God, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this church and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith, we do declare this constitution.

## **ARTICLE I. Name**

The name of the corporation is Ox Hill Baptist Church Corporation, hereinafter referred to as the "Church".

## **ARTICLE II. Affiliations of the Church**

The Government of the Church is vested in the body of believers who compose it and is subject to the control or direction of no other individual, group or any body, ecclesiastical or otherwise, but it voluntarily and as an autonomous body recognizes and sustains its obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches. In an effort to further the Great Commission, this Church shall be affiliated with the NorthStar Church Network, the Baptist General Association of Virginia, the Baptist World Alliance, the Mid-Atlantic Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and any other entities the Church deems appropriate, giving diligent support to their programs, so long as such programs do not infringe upon our rights as a spiritual democracy.

## **ARTICLE III. ARTICLES OF FAITH**

**A. God.** There is but one God, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of all things. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections, and is the one to whom all creatures owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. God is revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

**B. Scriptures.** The scripture of the Old and New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God, and are the only sufficient, certain, and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ and is to be interpreted under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**C. Humanity.** We believe that although created in God's image, all people, because of sin, are separated from God and God's purpose for their lives and are subject to eternal separation apart from salvation through Jesus Christ.

**D. Salvation.** We believe that salvation is possible only through the work Jesus Christ, who died once for the sins of all people in all generations. Salvation is wholly by grace through faith and is entirely apart from humanity's effort or good works. We believe that salvation comes through Christ via repentance. Salvation is the forgiveness of sin, adoption into the family of God, eternal life, the impartation of a new nature, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and entrance into a personal relationship with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that true believers give evidence of their salvation by growing in faith and good works, in the conviction of sin, and in Christ-like character.

**E. Church.** We believe that the Church (universal) is the precious bride of Christ for whom Jesus will return, and that it is the Body of Christ of which Jesus is the head and the ruler. We believe that this Body of Christ is manifested through local congregations of professed believers.

We recognize the gifts and callings of men and women as equal to serve in ministry and leadership capacities within the Church (local), both as laypersons and clergy. We recognize on the Lord's Day we exercise worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private.

**F. Sacred Ordinances.** We believe in the New Testament Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper and that they are sacred and meaningful symbols of the new covenant. We practice Baptism as the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in the newness of life in Christ Jesus.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience which professed believers, through partaking of bread and fruit of the vine, commemorate the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate His return.

**G. Freedom.** Under the Lordship of Christ, we believe in the freedom of individual conscience and in the priesthood of each believer. Since religious liberty is granted to us by God, we also affirm that a free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and that this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all people, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

## **ARTICLE IV. CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior,

And on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

We do now, in the presence of God, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love;

To strive for the advancement of this Church, in knowledge, holiness, fellowship, and Christian service;

To promote its prosperity and spirituality;

To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines;

To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, acts of charity, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations;

To maintain family and private devotions;

To educate and nurture all in the Christian way of life;

To be faithful in our practice of spiritual disciplines;

To seek the salvation of our family and neighbors;

To walk circumspectly in the world;

To be just in our dealings, faithful in our duties, and exemplary in our behavior;

To be encouraging in word and speech, saying only what is helpful in building up one another;

To carefully discern how our actions impact the world;

To be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior;

To watch over one another in brotherly love;

To remember each other in prayer;

To aid each other in sickness and distress;

To cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech;

To be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation; and mindful of the teachings of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We moreover covenant that when we move from this community, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

#### **ARTICLE IV. AMENDMENTS**

Changes to the Constitution may be made at any business meeting, General or Special, provided each amendment has been presented in writing at a previous meeting at least one month prior to the meeting at which the changes are voted upon. Proposed amendments shall be published at least two weeks prior to the business meeting at which the changes are voted (along with notification of the meeting at which the vote will be taken.) Amendments to the Constitution must be approved by two-thirds vote of all Active Members present.