

MONUMENTS BAPTIST CHURCH

CONSTITUTION

We declare and establish this Constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the body in a decent and orderly manner. This Constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in relation to other churches.

1. Name and Affiliation

This congregation shall be called Monuments Baptist Church and shall affiliate itself with the Southern Hills Association of Baptist Churches, with the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, and with the Southern Baptist Convention.

2. Government

This congregation is a New Testament Church of the Lord Jesus Christ; an autonomous local body of baptized believers associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel. The government of this Church shall be vested in its active members.

3. Authority

The Scriptures alone shall be recognized as the only infallible guide in determining faith and order. We follow the "Baptist Faith & Message" adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000, as a formal statement of our doctrinal positions.

4. Mission Statement

In a day when many churches have become so worldly and have compromised and diluted the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we want to build a church that returns to the basic core beliefs of the Bible. In this endeavor it is our goal to follow the Great Commission, and to lay down monuments for future generations where we can show what God has done in the past and show by our faith that God will continue to do great things in the future.

Matthew 28:18-20, Joshua 4:1-7

5. Church Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and having been baptized, and being in agreement with Monuments Baptist Church's constitution, bylaws and covenant, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with Monuments Baptist Church. In doing so, I commit myself to God, the scriptures and to the other members to do the following:

- A. I will protect the unity of my church
 - by acting in love toward other members
 - by refusing to gossip
 - by supporting our leadership
- B. I will share the responsibility of my church
 - by praying for its growth
 - by inviting the unchurched to attend
 - by warmly welcoming those who visit
- C. I will serve the ministry of my church
 - by discovering and using my gifts and talents
 - by being equipped to serve with my pastor
 - by developing a servant's heart

- D. I will support the testimony of my church
- by attending faithfully
 - by living a Godly life
 - by giving regularly

6. Our Declaration of Faith

To set forth the teachings which we as a congregation believe, we have chosen the Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14, 2000. The following is a brief statement of these beliefs, however, the fuller statement as published by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention shall be our declaration of Faith.

I. THE SCRIPTURES

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.

II. GOD

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience.

A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purpose of His grace.

B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and Man.

C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He calls men to the Savior and effects regeneration. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

III. MAN

God made man in His own image, male and female as the crowning work of His creation. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

IV. SALVATION

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. Regeneration is a work of God's grace. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Sanctification is the experience by which the believer is set apart to God's purpose. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

V. GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, institutes, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. All true believers endure to the end. Believers may fall into sin, yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

VI. THE CHURCH

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, and operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

VII. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is the first act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

VIII. THE LORD'S DAY

The first day of the week is the Lord's day. It is a Christian institution to commemorate the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion.

IX. THE KINGDOM

The Kingdom of God is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ.

X. LAST THINGS

According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness.

XI. EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

XII. EDUCATION

In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

XIII. STEWARDSHIP

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual, all that we have and are we owe to Him. We are therefore under obligation to serve Him with our time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all things as entrusted to us to use for the glory of God and for helping others.

XIV. COOPERATION

Members of New Testament Churches and their organizations should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's kingdom, however, we recognize that such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches.

XV. THE CHRISTIAN AND THE SOCIAL ORDER

In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We believe in providing for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick, including life from conception to natural death.

XVI. PEACE AND WAR

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. To seek the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and to pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

XVII. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all persons, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by civil power. The church in turn should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work.

XVIII. THE FAMILY

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline.

7. CHURCH OFFICERS

Pastor (and other Ministers) Qualifications

- A. The basic requirements for a pastor are found in the word of God, and these are above any other consideration.

This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop [*pastor/minister*], he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife [*he must be married, a marriage in which neither the husband or his wife has been divorced*], vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. (I Timothy 3:1-7)

The church should know the candidates experience of Salvation and Call to the gospel ministry, also his doctrinal view of the Bible, Evangelism, Missions, and his commitment to the Lordship of Christ.

- B. The pastor shall practice Biblical stewardship.

Deacons Qualifications

- A. The basic requirements for a deacon are found in the word of God, and these are above any other consideration.

Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife [*he must be married or a widower, he and his wife never divorced*], ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. (I Timothy 3:8-13)

The deacon shall have a wife who is not a gossip, not a cause of disharmony, and fully committed to the church and its leadership.

8. CONDUCTING CHURCH AFFAIRS

The conduct of the affairs of Monuments Baptist Church not addressed in the Articles of Incorporation or this Constitution will be outlined in the bylaws of Monuments Baptist Church. These bylaws define the churches organizational structure, the rights of members in the structure, and the procedures by which these rights may be exercised.

9. QUORUM

The quorum consists of those who attend the business meeting, provided it is a stated meeting or one that has been properly called. At least one-fourth (1/4) of the voting member's averaged attendance in the preceding four weeks Sunday Worship Service will constitute a quorum. Absentee ballots do not figure into the quorum calculation.

10. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution may be amended by an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the members present and voting at a regular business meeting, provided the amendments shall have been presented in writing to the church one month prior to the stated meeting. There must be a quorum for this vote to take place.

Ratified by action of the church in its business meeting on _____.

Moderator: _____

Church Clerk _____