

## CONSTITUTION

### PREAMBLE

We, the members of Ball Camp Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee, do declare and establish this constitution to provide for the preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and to ensure that this body may be governed in an orderly manner. This Constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual member of this church and the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other churches.

### ARTICLE I. NAME

This body shall be known as the Ball Camp Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee, located at 2412 Ball Camp-Byington Road (hereafter referred to as the Church).

### ARTICLE II. PURPOSE & MISSION

United by the Grace of God in Christian experience we declare our purpose as a body of baptized believers is:

- To be a dynamic, spiritual body, empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Christ with as many people as possible in our church, in our community, and throughout the world.
- To be a worshipping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing His person, and responding in obedience to His leadership.
- To experience an increasingly meaningful fellowship with God and fellow believers.
- To help people experience a growing knowledge of God and man.
- To minister unselfishly to persons in the community in Jesus' name.
- To be Christ-like in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment of life, personality, and possessions to the lordship of Christ.

### ARTICLE III. ARTICLES OF FAITH

The Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. The church subscribes to the doctrinal statements as found in the Word of God and supported by

the Gospels. We band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to everyone.

#### ARTICLE IV. ORDINANCES

The ordinances of this church are Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

A. Baptism

A person who receives Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith, who professes Him publicly at any worship service, and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord, shall be received for baptism. Baptism shall be by immersion symbolizing the death and the burial of the old life and the resurrection, and new life in Christ. Baptism shall be administered by an ordained staff member or by whomever the Church shall authorize.

B. The Lord's Supper

A symbolic act whereby Christians, through the partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, commemorate the life, death, resurrection and return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Senior Pastor, ordained staff member, Deacons or whomever the Church may authorize shall be responsible for administering and serving the Lord's Supper

#### ARTICLE V. COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on 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, angels, and this assembly, 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 and comfort; 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 expense of the church, and the relief of the poor and those in need, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions, to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspect in the world; to be just in our dealings; faithful in our engagements; and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, back-biting, intoxication and excessive anger; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in Christian love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling

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

ARTICLE VI. CHARACTER

A. Polity

The government of this Church is vested in the body of baptized believers, who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligation of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among baptist churches.

B. Partnership

This Church shall be a cooperating member of the Knox County Association of Baptists, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Southern Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and The Baptist World Alliance.

C. Doctrine

This Church receives the Bible as the Word of God and its authority in matters of faith and practice.

ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this Church is a covenant relationship between Christ and the individual and between the Church and the individual. This relationship includes a conversion experience in which the individual becomes a new person in Christ; a public profession of that faith; believer's baptism; and a desire to be an active part of this local body, supporting it in word and deed. The covenant relationship is not only with God, but also with the other members of the body; and under God's leadership through Christ the members become committed to each other to do the work of the Church.

The Bylaws of this congregation shall set forth the procedure for admission, watch care, discipline, and dismissal of membership.

ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The officers and organization of this Church shall be: employed professional staff, lay coordinators of leadership teams, lay officers, lay leadership teams, committees, and

departments required to effectively carry out the purpose of this Church. Any officer and/or organization may be eliminated, changed, or added as the Church may choose to eliminate, change, or add from time to time in accordance with the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENT

Any amendment to this Constitution shall be proposed in writing at a regular business meeting of this Church, and shall not be voted upon earlier than four weeks after initial presentation. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting at the business meeting shall be required to amend this Constitution.

During the period of the presentation of the amendment and the vote upon it, the amendment shall be made available in print and electronic media.

Revised, June 2019 from version dated April 2, 2007

- ARTICLE III
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