

Constitution

Warrenton Baptist Church

Revision 2015-A
1/25/2015

(Formally Approved in Business Session on 1/25/2015)

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14 **CONSTITUTION OF WARRENTON BAPTIST CHURCH**

15 ***Introduction***

16 This Constitution establishes the form of governance for Warrenton Baptist Church (WBC) and
17 delegates certain, limited, and enumerated powers to Pastors, Church Staff, and elected Deacons,
18 Officers, and Directors of WBC.

19 ***Preamble***

20 We declare and establish this Constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith, and
21 to govern the body of WBC in an orderly manner. This Constitution will preserve the liberties of
22 each individual WBC Member and the freedom of action of this body in relation to other
23 churches.

24 ***Article I. Name***

25 Warrenton Baptist Church (WBC) was established as an unincorporated body of believers on
26 August 27, 1849 at 123 Main Street, Warrenton, Virginia. WBC was formally established as a
27 corporation in the state of Virginia on **date**. The name of this church corporation is Warrenton
28 Baptist Church and hereinafter also referred to as the “Church” or “WBC.”

29 ***Article II. Mission***

30 The mission of Warrenton Baptist Church as adopted by the Members is “To Know Christ and
31 Make Him Known”.

32 ***Article III. Core Values***

33 The core values of Warrenton Baptist Church as adopted by the Members are:

- 34 1. Unity in Christ,
- 35 2. Worship and Praise,
- 36 3. Teaching and Preaching,
- 37 4. Giving, Missions and Ministry,
- 38 5. Fellowship, and
- 39 6. Prayer.

40 ***Article IV. Statement of Faith***

41 The Holy Bible is the inspired word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. WBC
42 subscribes to the doctrinal statement of "The Baptist Faith and Message" as adopted by the
43 Southern Baptist Convention in 1963.

44 ***Article V. Relationships***

45 The government of WBC is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the
46 control of no other ecclesiastical body. Insofar as is practical, WBC will cooperate with and
47 support the NorthStar Church Network, the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV), the
48 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), and the Baptist
49 World Alliance (BWA). Warrenton Baptist Church is autonomous and maintains the right to
50 govern its own affairs. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation with other churches,
51 the Bylaws may provide for cooperation or affiliation with other groups or organizations.

52 ***Article VI. Church Covenant***

53 Having been, as we trust, brought by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ, and to give
54 ourselves wholly to Him, we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant with each other, to Walk
55 Together in Him, With Brotherly Love, to His glory, as our common Lord. We do therefore, in
56 His strength, engage –

57 That, we will exercise a Christian care and watchfulness over each other, and faithfully warn,
58 exhort, and admonish each other, as occasion may require.

59 That, we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, but will uphold the public
60 worship of God, and the ordinances of His house.

61 That, we will not omit closet and family religion at home, nor neglect the great duty of
62 religiously training our children, and those under our care, for the service of Christ, and the
63 enjoyment of heaven:

64 That, as we are the light of the world, and salt of the Earth, we will seek divine aid to enable us
65 to deny ungodliness, and every worldly lust, and to walk circumspectly in the world, that we may
66 win the souls of men:

67 That, we will cheerfully contribute of our property, according as God has prospered us, for the
68 maintenance of a faithful and evangelical ministry among us, for the support of the poor, and to
69 spread the Gospel over the earth:

70 That, we will, in all conditions, even ‘til death, strive to live to the glory of Him, who hath called
71 us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

72 “And may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great
73 Shepherd of the Sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every
74 good work, to do His will, working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus
75 Christ; to whom be glory, forever and ever. Amen”

76 ***Article VII. Ordinances***

77 **Section A. Baptism**

78 A person who receives Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith; who professes Him publicly at
79 any worship service; and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord, shall be received
80 for baptism.

- 81 1. Baptism shall be by immersion in water.
- 82 2. Baptism shall be administered by the Senior Pastor or whomever the Senior Pastor
83 authorizes.
- 84 3. Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship during any worship service.
- 85 4. A person professing Christ and failing to be baptized after a reasonable length of time
86 shall be counseled by the Senior Pastor and/or staff and Deacons. If negative interest is
87 ascertained, he shall be deleted from those awaiting baptism.

88 **Section B. The Lord's Supper**

89 The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of WBC, through partaking
90 of the bread and fruit of the vine, commemorate the death of Jesus Christ, and anticipate His
91 second coming. The Lord's Supper shall be observed monthly, preferably the first Sunday, or as
92 otherwise scheduled. The Lord's Supper shall be observed in the morning or evening. The Senior
93 Pastor, the Deacons, and whomever the Senior Pastor authorizes shall be responsible for the
94 administration of the Lord's Supper.

95 ***Article VIII. Organization and Membership***

96 The head of Warrenton Baptist Church is Jesus Christ, and the body is comprised of His
97 believers who have agreed to join together in a church to worship and pray, study God's word,
98 fellowship with one another, minister to others, and witness to the world. The organization and
99 government of Warrenton Baptist Church is vested in the individual voting Members, who
100 constitute a local body of believers. The Members have responsibilities and privileges as set
101 forth in the Bylaws. Procedures for receiving and terminating membership in Warrenton Baptist
102 Church are set forth in the Bylaws.

103 ***Article IX. Amendments***

104 An amendment to any part or all of this Constitution may be proposed by the Ministry Council or
105 by a petition signed by five percent (5%) of the Members of WBC. The proposed amendment(s)
106 must first be submitted in writing to the Clerk who will present it to the Ministry Council for
107 review. The Ministry Council will consider the best approach to accommodate the proposal and
108 prepare a recommendation for WBC Member review. The proposal and Ministry Council
109 recommendation shall then be placed on the agenda for WBC Member review at a future annual
110 or special called business meeting, subject to the following restrictions:

- 111 1. Notice of the motion to review the proposal and Ministry Council recommendation must
112 be published to WBC Members at least twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the vote
113 on the proposal.
- 114 2. Copies of the proposal and Ministry Council recommendation shall be available to WBC
115 Members in the principal church office within seven (7) calendar days after the Ministry
116 Council prepares its recommendation and shall continue to be available in that office
117 until the Members of WBC vote on the proposal.
- 118 3. The proposal and Ministry Council recommendation shall be provided in written form
119 within the Sunday worship bulletin or appropriate inserts for two (2) consecutive Sundays
120 prior to the business meeting at which the proposal will be voted upon.
- 121 4. To pass the proposed amendment(s) to this Constitution, three-fourths (3/4) majority of
122 those voting Members of WBC present need to approve the amendment(s) at a properly
123 held meeting of the Membership requiring a quorum of nine percent (9%) of the
124 Members. If quorum is not met, then another meeting shall be called, with proper notice
125 given. As the second meeting on the same subject(s), quorum shall be satisfied by the
126 number of WBC Members present at the start of the meeting.

127 *-END-*

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DOCUMENT CHANGE LOG

No.	Revision	Date	Description of Change
1	2015-A	1/25/2015	Initial document release approved in WBC business session held 1/25/2015.

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