

# CONSTITUTION

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## **Warrenton Baptist Church**

Revision 2015-B  
11/8/2015

*(Formally Approved at the Annual Business Meeting held 11/8/2015)*

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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 churches.

23 ***Article I. Name***

24 Warrenton Baptist Church (WBC) was established as an unincorporated body of believers on  
25 August 27, 1849 at 123 Main Street, Warrenton, Virginia. WBC was formally established as a  
26 corporation in the state of Virginia on March 20, 2015. The name of this church corporation is  
27 Warrenton Baptist Church and hereinafter also referred to as the “Church” or “WBC.”

28 ***Article II. Mission***

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

31 ***Article III. Core Values***

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

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

39 ***Article IV. Statement of Faith***

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

43 ***Article V. Relationships***

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

51 ***Article VI. Church Covenant***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

75 ***Article VII. Ordinances***

76 **Section A. Baptism**

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

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

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

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

94 ***Article VIII. Organization and Membership***

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

102 ***Article IX. Amendments***

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

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

126 *-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.
2	2015-B	11/8/2015	<b>Update with the following change approved at the WBC Annual Business Meeting held 11/8/2015:</b> 1. <u>Administrative change</u> : Included formal date of WBC Incorporation. [Article I. Name (Line #26)]

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