

BEREA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

CONSTITUTION As Presented August 2010

PREAMBLE

We declare this to be a sovereign and democratic Baptist Church under the lordship of Jesus Christ. This constitution is for the preservation and security of the principles of our faith that this church body may be governed in an orderly manner and for the promotion of our fellowship and work.

ARTICLE I – NAME AND INCORPORATION

Section 1 - The name of this body shall be the BEREA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of Greenville, Greenville County, South Carolina.

Section 2 - This church was organized December 23, 1843 as Berea Baptist Church. The name was changed to Berea First Baptist Church on July 11, 1965 and was incorporated under that name in accordance with the laws of the State of South Carolina governing religious bodies on August 15, 1974.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES

The purpose of this church shall be to foster and maintain the public worship of God to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ, and to promote Christian fellowship and growth in the grace and knowledge of Christ among its members.

ARTICLE III – DOCTRINE, STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1 - The church receives the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God and as its authority in matters of faith and practice. As its Articles of Faith, this church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of "The Baptist Faith and Message" adopted by the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention on June 14, 2000.

Section 2 - The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body. This church shall voluntarily cooperate with other Baptist bodies as the church may hereafter become affiliated, so long as such cooperation does not violate the autonomy of this church and the doctrines adopted by the church. These relationships with other bodies may be discontinued by the method provided for the amending of this Constitution.

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 Lord 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 so now, in the presence of God 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 and holiness; to promote its discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the church, the ministries and missions in which it engages, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our family and acquaintances; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in

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our conduct; 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 pray for one another; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the teaching of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with another church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

ARTICLE V – ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1 - This constitution shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect when a majority of the members present at the business meeting, at which time the vote is taken, shall vote in favor of adopting it. There will be at least two weeks notice of such meeting.

Section 2 - This constitution may be amended, altered, or repealed by a two-thirds vote of one-third of the resident membership, provided that such proposed change shall be presented to the church at least thirty days prior to the time the vote is taken.