

**CONSTITUTION
OF
RINGGOLD BAPTIST CHURCH
RINGGOLD, VIRGINIA**

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of preserving the principles of our faith, governing this church in an orderly manner and ensuring the liberties and rights belonging to each church member, we do declare and establish this Constitution.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The congregation shall be known and designated as the RINGGOLD BAPTIST CHURCH.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this church is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ so as to win souls to Him as their Savior and Lord, to increase Christlikeness in its constituents, to serve the community of which it is a part in every possible Christian way, and to send its Christian influence throughout the world by supporting those activities which seek to spread the Gospel and aid the establishment of God's Kingdom.

ARTICLE III: CREED

We believe that the doctrines, laws of conduct, principles of organization, and discipline adopted by this church are those that are contained in the New Testament.

ARTICLE IV: ECCLESIASTICAL INDEPENDENCE

We believe that this church is an independent ecclesiastical body, and in matters of doctrine, order, and discipline is amenable to no other organization.

ARTICLE V: BONDS OF UNION WITH OTHER CHURCHES

We believe that the union of this church with the other churches of our Lord Jesus Christ is strictly a moral one, based upon a common faith, a reciprocal love, and a mutual cooperation in extending the Kingdom of the Redeemer. This church therefore extends to other churches and receives from them the advice and aid which the love of Christ requires.

ARTICLE VI: DOCTRINES OF THIS CHURCH

We believe that:

- the Holy Scriptures explicitly and plainly teach that the Bible is the inspired Word of God;
- there is but one God – existing eternally in unity as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
- all mankind is by nature sinful;
- the only method of salvation is through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ who became man and made an atonement for our sins by His suffering and death;
- the regeneration of the soul is affected by the purpose and immediate influence of the Holy Spirit;
- repentance is sorrow for sin and abandonment of it;

- faith is the hearty belief, reception and trust of the soul in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation;
- believers are justified for the sake of Christ's obedience and suffering;
- believers are adopted as sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty;
- sanctification by the indwelling Spirit of God subdues the love and reign of sin and promotes holiness of life and heart;
- good works must necessarily follow saving faith and Holy love;
- the renewed will persevere in holiness, being kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation;
- baptism is required of all the disciples of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost,
- a gospel church is a congregation of baptized believers;
- the Lord's Supper is an institution of Jesus Christ, to be solemnly and devoutly observed by a church of baptized believers, and that any other celebration of this ordinance is irregular and unscriptural;
- the first day of the week is the Lord's day to be kept sacred to pious purposes;
- there will be a resurrection of all mankind and the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment and the righteous into life eternal;
- God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a biological man, a biological woman, and Himself.

Article VII: Amendments

Section 1. This constitution may be amended, altered, or repealed by a two-thirds vote of members present at any business meeting of the church, provided that at least twenty members are present. The proposed change shall be given to the clerk in writing and presented to the church at a business meeting at least four weeks prior to the time the vote is taken.

Section 2. The official copy of this constitution shall be kept at the church office and a duplicate copy shall be kept by the clerk. All amendments or revisions thereof shall, after passage by the church, be added to the constitution. The constitution shall be made available to church members upon request.

Section 3. Whenever the constitution is reprinted, all changes then in effect shall take their proper place with the constitution and shall be dated according to the last adopted change thereof. The superseded copy of the official constitution shall then be retired from active use and shall be preserved as a historical document of this church.

Presented to the church on April 11, 2011; passed by majority vote on June 8, 2011

Presented to the church on December 9, 2015; passed by majority vote on February 10, 2016 (Article VI – Last bulleted item)

Betty Jo Foster, Chairman

Rev. Duane Caldwell

Mike Shelton

Suzanne Emerson

Melody Walley

Maude Coggin

Ray McDowell, Deacon