

**THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE
BATTLEGROUND COMMUNITY CHURCH, INC
KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA**

Preamble

For the purpose of preserving, propagating and making articulate the principles of our Faith, and to the end that this body of believing Christians may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with accepted tenets of Southern Baptist Churches, for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of the church, and in order to set forth the relationship of this body to other Baptist bodies, we do adopt and establish this Constitution.

Article I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be “**Battleground Community Church, Inc.**” of Kings Mountain, North Carolina, Cleveland County.

Article II. PURPOSE

The Battleground Community Church, Inc. is organized for the purpose of advancing and promoting the worship of God through the reading and study of the Holy Bible as the revealed word of God, the teaching and preaching of the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, conducting regular service of worship for the spiritual training, development and benefit of each member, the winning of souls to Jesus Christ, and the extension of His Kingdom through missionary activities throughout the world. This church shall be missionary in spirit extending the Gospel to the entire world. It shall promote and maintain the teachings and doctrine that Christian denomination universally known and designated as the Southern Baptist Denomination. It shall exist to provide regular opportunities for public worship, to sustain the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, the doctrines and ethics set forth in the New Testament for the church for our Lord Jesus Christ, and to channel its offerings to support of the objects and purposes set forth above. The church will have full power and authority to purchases, lease and acquire by gift, devise or bequest and to hold, mortgage, convey and dispose of all kinds of property, both real and personal, provided that the title to all property shall be vested in the church as Trustees hereinafter set forth.

Article III. CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, 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 do now, in the presence of God’s 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 doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly

to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, 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 kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealing faithful in our engagement, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feelings and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon possible, be united with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principle of God's word.

Article IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of this church shall be composed of persons who have given evidence of regeneration by the Spirit of God, who have been baptized by immersion, and who have subscribed to the church covenant, articles of faith and constitution of this church, and who have been received into membership by vote of the church. No person shall be barred because of race, gender, or nationality.

Section 2. A member of another Southern Baptist church of like faith may be received by a vote of the church upon promise of letter of transfer from the church where membership resides. The applying member will be in watch-care relationship until letter of transfer is received from the other church.

Section 3. Anyone who has once been a member of a Southern Baptist church of like faith, and in consequence of peculiar circumstance has lost that relationship is or is not able otherwise to secure a letter of transfer may be received into the fellowship of this church upon statement to the membership by a vote of the church.

Section 4. Application for membership under circumstance other than those described in Section 1, 2, and 3 above will be considered by the church in a member's meeting and the decision of the church will be final in each case.

Section 5. A letter of transfer to unite with another Southern Baptist church of like faith may be issued upon request to the church which the member is planning to join providing such member is in good standing. All such applications may be passed upon by the church in member's meeting.

Section 6. The church shall seek in every way possible to help members who move away to fulfill their covenant obligation, to wit, "when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word." Any person who affiliates with a church of another denomination will be automatically removed from the church roll.

Section 7. The church, after due notice and opportunity for hearing, and every possible kindly effort to make such action (according to Matthew 18) unnecessary, may upon majority vote, terminate the membership of a person in this body for reasons it consider sufficient to warrant such action.

Section 8. Persons who present themselves for membership upon profession of faith, and ask for baptism, shall not be baptized until they have completed the course of instruction designated by the pastor.

Section 9. It shall be the duty of the members of Battleground Community Church to honor, esteem, and love their elders, staff, and families, to pray for them constantly, and to manifest a tender regard for their reputation. (Hebrews 13:7, 17)

Section 10. It shall be the duty of the members of this church to attend its public worship on a regular schedule, (Hebrews 10:25) to cultivate personal holiness through Bible Study and personal and family devotions, to contribute according to the Biblical plan of tithes and offerings, to watch over and counsel one another in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress, to strive for the growth of the church in outreach and discipleship, and to govern their actions, words, and spirits by the precepts of God's Word.

Article V. MEETING

Section 1. This church shall hold regular meetings morning and of every Lord's Day for worship, teaching, training and fellowship.

Section 2. This church shall hold regular member meetings for the disposition of all business matters not otherwise provided for, to hear reports from the various church organizations, and to consider other matters essential to the spiritual welfare and prosperity of the congregation.

Section 3. Other meetings of the church as a whole or of authorized groups within the church may be set according to the needs of the congregation.

Article VI. OFFICERS

The officers of this church shall be a lead pastor/elder, elders, deacon, treasurer, and such other officers as may be required to do the work of the church in any of its department or organization. All of these shall be elected by the church and shall be members in good standing at the time of election except that a lead pastor need not be a member until after his call.

Article VII. ELECTION AND DUTIES OF CHURCH OFFICERS

1. LEAD PASTOR

Section 1. Call: Whenever a vacancy occurs, a pastor shall be called by the church to serve until the relationship is dissolved at the request of either the pastor or the church. If the relationship is dissolved at the request of either the pastor or the church, at least sixty days written notice shall be given of the termination of the relationship, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon. In any instance, both pastor and church shall seek to follow the will of God through the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

The call of the pastor shall take place at a meeting especially set for the purposes, of which at least one week's written notice has been given the membership. The election shall be upon recommendation of special committee recommended by the elders and approved by the church to seek out and nominate as

pastor a minister of the gospel whose Christian character and qualifications fit him for the office. The committee shall bring only one name at a time for the consideration of the church, and no nomination shall be made except by the committee. Election shall be by standing vote or by ballot at the discretion of congregation, with an affirmative vote of four-fifths of those members present and voting necessary for an extension of a call. Should the minister recommended by the committee fail to receive a four-fifths vote, the committee will be instructed to seek out another minister and the meeting at which the vote was taken be adjourned without debate.

Section 2. Duties: The lead pastor duties are four-fold- as a preacher, to proclaim the whole Gospel; as bishops to superintend the work of the church; as pastor, to be shepherd of the flock; and as minister, to serve the people for Jesus' sake. He shall have general oversight of the church in all departments of its work, be moderator for church meetings under the guidelines set forth in the article on church government, be the ex officio member of all church committees. He may call a special meeting of the elders or any committee according to procedures which are set forth in the By-Laws; he shall conduct religious services on stated and on special occasions, and administer the ordinances; be responsible for doctrinal instruction of all who come on profession of faith; minister to the spiritual needs of the members of the church and the community; he shall perform other duties that usually pertain to the office; he shall have special charge of the pulpit ministry of the church, and shall provide for pulpit supply when he is absent, and shall arrange for minister to assist in revival meetings, and workers to assist in other special services required by the church. It shall be his special duty by equipping the congregation for training in witnessing to those who are unsaved in the community, and to train members in how to minister to one another in meeting the needs of the entire congregation. (Ephesians 4:11-13)

Section 3. The lead pastor shall be in charge of and oversee the duties of all staff members and the hiring of staff members will be entrusted to the lead pastor and the elders.

1. ELDERS

The church shall have a plurality of Elders, and a man who aspires to the office of overseer shall notify the elders in writing and upon recommendation of the elders, his name will be brought before the membership for affirmation. Elders shall hold title to all church property for the benefit of those members who adhere and submit to the regular order of the church and who follow the established usages, customs, doctrines, practices and organization of the church, together with its connections with other denominational bodies (Southern Baptist) whether a majority or a minority of the membership. The Elders shall execute all contracts, deeds, mortgages, and/or other instruments when authorized to do so by the church in conference. Upon death, resignation, or inability to serve of any of the Elders a successor shall be elected by the church in a members meeting called for this purpose. Elders shall serve for a term of three years, with one Elder elected each year; having served as an Elder during a previous term will not disqualify a member for re-election. Battleground Community Church will have both salaried and non-salaried elders.

Section 1. Purpose: The purpose of the office of Elder is to shepherd the flock of God called Parkwood Baptist Church to fulfill the purpose of the church.

Section 2. Qualifications: Elders shall be men from the congregation who meet the qualifications of an Elder as set forth by the Word of God. They shall endeavor by God's grace to live and serve conforming fully to the standards found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-3, and Hebrews 13:17.

Section 3. Responsibilities: Elders shall take particular responsibility to:

- examine and instruct prospective members,
- examine and recommend all prospective candidates for offices and positions,
- oversee the work of the deacons and appointed church officers and committees,
- conduct worship services,
- administer the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper,
- equip the congregation for the work of the ministry,
- encourage sound doctrine and practice,
- admonish and correct error,
- oversee the process of church discipline,
- coordinate and promote the ministries of the church,
- oversee the church budget and finances,
- and mobilize the church for world missions.

The Elders are further to ensure that all who minister the Word of God to the congregation, including outside speakers, share the congregation's fundamental convictions. The Elders may establish ministry positions or committees to assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities. The Elders may also propose funding for new paid staff positions. The congregation shall approve all candidates to fill the positions of Lead Pastor and other full-time pastoral positions. The Elders shall have primary responsibility for the employment, supervision, and evaluation of staff members. This responsibility may, on a case-by-case basis, be delegated.

The Elders shall meet no less than monthly for the purpose of mutual accountability and effective teamwork.

Section 4. Organization: The Lead Pastor/Elder shall be considered the "first among equals" within the Elders. He will be responsible for the primary preaching/teaching responsibilities of the church. In addition, he will be considered the leader among leaders and will serve as the primary spokesperson of the Elders to the congregation. The Elders shall be seen as a team of equals. Therefore, there will be no hierarchy among the Elders. The Elders will select from among themselves a person to serve as the Elders meeting facilitator, a position of function not authority. In addition, the Elders will select from among themselves a moderator for the members meetings of the church.

Section 5. The Elders are accountable to and report to the congregation.

Section 6. Term: Non-salaried Elders will serve a term of 3 years with eligibility to renew for one additional term. After two terms, a non-salaried Elder must take one year of rest. Salaried Elders will serve continually with the expectation of an 8-12 week sabbatical to be taken every 7 years. The terms of a sabbatical are set forth in the Personnel Manual of Battleground Community Church.

The number of Elders will be determined by the number of God called and qualified men in the congregation. The minimum number of Elders will be 3. At any given time, there will be more non-salaried than salaried Elders, except in such a case that salaried Elders must make up the minimum number.

Section 7. Selection: Salaried Elders shall carry the title of Pastor and shall be selected individually by a congregational balloted vote of least a three fourths majority of church members present and voting at a members' meeting.

The Elders will recommend the addition of any Pastoral position to the congregation with a job description and salary. The congregation must approve the position with a three fourths majority of church members present and voting in a members' meeting.

The Elders shall seek out and recommend any salaried Elder and/or other Pastoral Staff to the congregation.

Section 8. Non-Salaried Elder selection will take place annually on or before the first Sunday of November. Elders, who are currently serving, will supervise the selection process.

A. A man must let his desire be known to the Elders

- Submitted in writing by the first Sunday of April.
- Acknowledged with one-on-one meeting(s) with an Elder
- Confirmation of qualifications, call, and ability to fulfill the duties of the office will be secured by the Elders.

B. A man must be trained by a standard training for all potential Elders.

C. A man is then recommended by the Elders for appointment by the church.

The recommendation(s) must be issued in writing to the congregation two months prior to the congregational vote. The congregation will be given opportunity to respond to the recommendation(s) in writing. If through the process of Matthew 18, a man is deemed to be unworthy of service due to something being uncovered by a member of the congregation, his name will be removed.

The list of nominees will be presented to the congregation for a vote. A congregational balloted vote of a three fourths majority of church members present and voting will be required to elect the slate of nominees.

D. An Elder's term of office may be terminated by resignation or dismissal. In accordance with 1 Timothy 5:19-20, any two members with reason to believe that an Elder should be dismissed should express such a concern to the Elders and, if need be, to the congregation. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions in Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Timothy 5:17-21. Any of the Elders may be dismissed with a three fourths majority vote of church members present and voting at a members' meeting of the church.

1. DEACONS

Section 1. Purpose: The purpose of the office of Deacon is to serve the Body of Christ primarily through the meeting of physical and practical needs so that the Church can fulfill its purpose and the Elders can fulfill their responsibilities.

Section 2. Qualifications: Deacons shall be men from the congregation who meet the qualifications of a Deacon as they are set forth by the Word of God. They shall endeavor by God's grace to live and serve conforming fully to the standards found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3.

Section 3. Responsibilities & Organization: Deacons will have primary responsibility for the serving roles of the Church in keeping with Acts 6:3. Each deacon will be given a primary area of responsibility to carry out and if needed, he will be expected to recruit the necessary people from beyond the Deacon body to fulfill the task. The areas of responsibility will include but are not limited to regular visitation of homebound and hospital visitation, preparation of baptism, communion, and other needs as determined by the elders. In addition, Deacons will be called on to assist those in the congregation with physical and material needs. Deacons are expected to look after the widows, single mothers, fatherless children, and homebound. Deacons will give primary leadership, in consultation with the Elders, to the distribution of benevolence within the congregation. They will be prepared to take on a responsibility that would assist the Elders in their ministry.

1. TREASURER

The treasurer shall be elected upon recommendation of the Church Nominating Committee. The person serving shall be eligible for re-election. The duties of the treasurer are as follows:

1. Verify monthly all monies received by the church are deposited in and credited in and credited by the depository.
2. Approve invoices and other items for payment,
3. Sign checks, countersigned by another person(s), who is (are) designated by the Finance Committee.
4. Maintain books and records- recording receipts and disbursements and other accounting transaction.
5. Review monthly all checks written.
6. Render a monthly financial report to the church.
7. Review the financial report with the Finance Committee.

The treasurer may delegate some of his/her duties but remain responsible and accountable for the proper execution of such duties so delegated. All books and record are property of the church and are subject to an annual audit at the discretion of the Finance Committee. The treasurer shall, upon invitation, meet with the elders, and shall be ex-officio member of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Article VIII. CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Section 1. The Government of this church shall be congregational in nature and shall be vested in the membership.

Section 2. Church Conference: A Church Conference shall be held on the third Sunday night of the first month of each quarter following the regular meeting of the elders, or as soon thereafter as possible, and at such times as may be necessary. Major issues, such as financial dealings, employee and personnel dealings shall be brought before the church on Sundays at the recommendations of the Lead Pastor or designated elder. Special meeting may be called by the Lead Pastor or by the body of Elders when necessary. At least one week's written notice and stated purpose must be given for all special meetings; but this rule must not be construed so as to prevent the church, when assembled on any occasion whatever, from transaction business concerning which there is no division of sentiment in the membership. Motions relating to the expenditure of funds in excess of \$200 must be referred to the Budget and Finance Committee for their recommendation.

Section 3. Moderator: The Lead Pastor of the church shall preside as church moderator; in his absence, or at his request, an elder shall preside as vice-moderator; in the absence of the moderator and vice-moderator, and the Lead Pastor shall designate some other member in good standing to preside.

Section 4. Quorum: A Quorum shall consist of those members present and voting at a regular or called conference.

Section 5. Minutes: The church clerk shall keep minutes of each meeting and shall record the approximate number present, whether a quorum was present and what actions were taken by the church.

Article IX. AFFILIATION

Section 1. This church is a free, autonomous, independent body, congregational in nature with authority to determine for itself in the manner set forth in this constitution, free of any outside control, authority or power, whether governmental or otherwise the use of it property and all church policies.

Section 2. Association: The church recognized the value and mutual helpfulness in the voluntary association of churches which are in such agreement in faith and practice as to make possible a spirit of fellowship and goodwill. It is recognized that association and cooperation between such churches will influence the good will. It is recognized that association and cooperation between such churches will influence the missionary, educational and benevolent interest of each other. The church does, therefore, declare its intention as far as conscience will allow to work in mutual cooperation with other Southern Baptist groups.

Section 3. Affiliation: This church is affiliated with the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association.

Section 4. Cooperation: This church shall be deemed to be in friendly cooperation with the aims and purposes of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and of the Southern Baptist Convention, as set forth in the constitution of these autonomous bodies and through duly elected messengers will participate in their deliberative assembled, and shall as we are able, support the missionary, benevolent, and educational program of each. In the interest of cooperation and to strengthen our ties with the Southern Baptist Convention, the members of this church accept and endorse THE BAPTIST FAITH AND

MESSAGE as prepared and approved by the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14, 2000, with the understanding that any follower of Christ can partake of the Lord's Supper (BFM VII.)

Section 5. Discontinuance of Affiliation and/or Cooperation The calling of a church conference for the purpose of voting and withdrawal from affiliation with the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association and/or discontinuance of cooperation with the Baptist State Convention and/or the Southern Baptist Convention will require that written notice be sent to each resident member of the church, stating the purpose and time of said conference. Action to withdraw to be valid must be carried by vote of three-fourths of the members present and voting; a quorum for such a meeting must consist of 60% of the resident adult members; in case of such action to withdraw, transfer of property shall be effected in accordance with the will of three-fourths majority. In the event of serious rupture in fellowship at this point and the necessity of such action as set forth, it is expected that the various factions of the church will sit down in Christian love and in the spirit of conciliation and mutual helpfulness, prayerfully seek to effectuate reconciliation or an agreeable basis of division, each being mindful of the Beatitude which says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

Article X. STATEMENT OF BIBLICAL BELIEF REGARDING MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY

We believe and affirm that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: a single, exclusive covenantal union between one biological man and one biological woman for life, sanctioned by God as delineated in Scripture. God created human beings as male and female (Gen. 1:27). The complementary, relational nature of the human race as "male and female" reflects the created order given by God when He created human beings "in His image" (Gen. 1:26-27; 5:1, 3; 9:6; 1 Cor. 11:7; James 3:9; Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:23-24; Col. 3:10). It is with joy in our finitude that we are to receive the gift of being either male or female.

We believe and affirm that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe and affirm from teaching of Scripture that any other form of sexual conduct, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexuality, gender reassignment, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, polygamy or pornography is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe and affirm that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the Church as the local body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all church members, those employed by the church, or those who serve as volunteers in any capacity, shall abide by and agree to this Statement of Biblical Belief Regarding Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly by the grace of God.

Article XI. ADOPTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This constitution shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when two-thirds of the members present at the business meeting at which vote is taken shall vote in favor of same.

Section 2. This constitution may be amended, altered or repealed, by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular business meeting of the church provided, however that such amendment, alteration, or repeal shall have been given to the Church Clerk in writing; and the proposed change shall have been

presented to the church members in writing at least 30 days prior to the time the vote is taken, with the time at which the church conference to consider such action shall be held to be indicated to the congregation.