

**CONSTITUTION  
OAKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH  
King George, Virginia**

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

This body shall be known as **OAKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH** of King George County, Virginia.

**ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

The purpose of Oakland Baptist Church is to glorify God and to lead the people of our community and the world to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and to help them grow to spiritual maturity.

**ARTICLE III - STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God and as the only basis for our beliefs.

**WHAT WE BELIEVE**

1. **ABOUT GOD:** God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God; we call this the Trinity (Genesis 1:1,26,27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14).
2. **ABOUT JESUS CHRIST:** Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a sinless human life, and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to His Father's right hand where He is head of the church and intercedes for believers and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords (Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14,15; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14,15; Titus 2:13).
3. **ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT:** The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make us aware of our need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when that person is saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily (2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18).

4. ABOUT THE BIBLE: The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. It is a divine authoritative standard for every age and every life. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105,160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5).
5. ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS: People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2).
6. ABOUT SALVATION: Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's means of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled lives and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his or her life by faith (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1).
7. ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY: Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security (John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10, 14; 1 Peter 1:3-5).
8. ABOUT ETERNITY: People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence (John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15; 1 Corinthians 2:6-9).
9. ABOUT BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER: Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming (Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12).

10. ABOUT MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY: God has established marriage as a lifelong, exclusive relationship between one man and one woman and all intimate sexual activity outside the marriage relationship, whether heterosexual, homosexual, or otherwise, is immoral and therefore sin (Genesis 2:24-25; Exodus 20:14, 17, 22:19; Leviticus 18:22-23, 20:13, 15-16; Matthew 19:4-6, 9; Romans 1:18-31; I Corinthians 6:9-10, 15-20; I Timothy 1:8-11; Jude 7). God created the human race male and female, and all conduct with the intent to adopt a gender other than one's birth gender is immoral and therefore sin (Genesis 1:27; Deuteronomy 22:5).

#### **ARTICLE IV - DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Oakland Baptist Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs independent of any denominational control. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation with other churches in world missions, this church cooperates with the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, the Baptist General Association of Virginia, and the Southern Baptist Convention in matters of mutual concern. The Church may affiliate with any like-minded churches, associations, or denominations as it decides to further its purposes.

#### **ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP**

Anyone who has made a personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation and has been baptized by immersion as a testimony of salvation is eligible for membership in this church. All members shall sign a membership covenant agreeing to abide by the Church's Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies. Additional requirements for membership in this church may be specified in the Bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE VI – BYLAWS**

The membership shall have the sole power to enact bylaws. Bylaws shall be enacted under adopted rules of order and shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of members present at a called Membership Meeting in order to pass. No bylaw shall have precedence over this Constitution.

#### **ARTICLE VII - ORGANIZATION**

The organization of the church shall be defined in the Bylaws. These Bylaws shall include, as necessary, specific processes and guidance for the design and staffing of the organization necessary to support the purposes of the church.

#### **ARTICLE VIII - OFFICERS**

Officers of the church shall consist of the President/Senior Pastor, Clerk/Secretary, Treasurer, and others, as specified in the Bylaws.

**ARTICLE IX - MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

A meeting of the membership shall be held at least once annually to adopt an annual budget and consider other business as necessary as specified in the Bylaws. Additional business meetings may be scheduled and conducted as specified in the Bylaws.

**ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this Constitution may be made by a three-quarter-majority (3/4) vote of the regular members present at a membership meeting scheduled specifically to consider such amendments. This meeting shall be scheduled to take place immediately following the conclusion of Sunday morning services. All amendments shall be initiated by the Leadership Team, then submitted to the regular members for a vote, and must have been read at no fewer than two business meetings prior to meeting for the vote.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Oakland Baptist Church