

**Constitution
of
Stithton Baptist Church**

ARTICLE 1 – GENERAL

Because it is the desire of this assembly to be constituted a Christian church, and to have all its matters of worship, belief, and business to be conducted in an orderly manner and in agreement with Holy Scripture, the members of Stithton Baptist Church, do agree to and adopt this Constitution as a replacement to any previous document.

Section 1.1 - Legal Name. The name of the corporation on record with the Office of the Secretary of State is Stithton Baptist Church, Incorporated (“the church”). This church was organized January 9, 1887 and incorporated January 23, 1964.

Section 1.2 – Location. The principal office for business transactions of the church is 95 Park Ave., Radcliff, Kentucky 40160.

Section 1.3 – Autonomy. The church is autonomous, maintains the right to govern its own affairs independent of denominational control and is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body. The church may, in its sole discretion, voluntarily affiliate with other churches, conventions, and/or groups. Insofar as it is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the Severns Valley Association of Baptists, the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Section 1.4 - Non-Profit Status. The church is a non-profit corporation organized under Kentucky law.

Section 1.5 – Dissolution. In the event of dissolution of the corporation, no part of the corporation's earnings or assets shall inure to the benefit of any of its members; the residual assets of the corporation shall be distributed to one of more organizations which themselves are exempt as organizations described in sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding sections of any prior or future law, or to the federal, state, or local government for exclusive public purpose.

Section 1.6 – Rights Established by the First Amendment. The church has a spiritual and faith-based purpose as guided by the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures. It is entitled to the protections of the free exercise of religion clause of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and any similar provisions or protections of the Kentucky Constitution, in all matters, including but not limited to: doctrine, governance, church discipline, conduct and morality.

Section 1.7 - No Contractual Obligation. Nothing contained in this Constitution, the church bylaws, church policies, or other documents shall be construed to create any contractual obligations, express or implied, between the church and any of its members, employees, volunteers, or other persons.

ARTICLE 2 – MISSION AND PURPOSE

Section 2.1 – Mission. The church exists to proclaim and share the gospel of Jesus Christ. The church's mission is to love God, love people, and make disciples through evangelism, discipleship, and worship.

Section 2.2 – Purpose. The specific purpose for which the corporation is organized is to establish and oversee places of worship; conduct the work of Christian evangelism; create and maintain departments necessary to support Christian missionary activities; license, ordain, and oversee ministers of the Gospel of Christ; and engage in activities which are necessary, suitable, and convenient for the accomplishment of that purpose.

ARTICLE 3 - ARTICLES OF FAITH

The beliefs of the church are found in The Baptist Faith and Message, which was adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14, 2000. We believe it to contain instruments of doctrinal accountability. We state that these are doctrines we hold precious and as essential to the Baptist tradition of faith and practice. (Copies are available in the church office; it is also online at <https://bfm.sbc.net/> .)

ARTICLE 4 - GOVERNANCE AND AUTHORITY

Section 4.1 – Members. Jesus Christ is the head of the church. Governance of the church is vested in the members that compose it in a congregational form of church governance. The members retain authority to govern in the following matters:

Calling and dismissing the senior pastor.

Calling pastoral staff.

Approving persons for membership.

Approving at-large laypersons serving on the Church Council.

Electing officers, deacons, and committee members.

Adopting the church’s constitution and bylaws.

Approving the church’s annual budget.

Borrowing money other than consistent with the church budget.

Purchasing, selling or encumbering real property.

Approving the appointment of one or more temporary trustee(s) to affix their signatures to legal documents involving the sale, lease, mortgage, or purchase, of real property, but they shall have no power to so act without a specific, documented vote of the church authorizing each action.

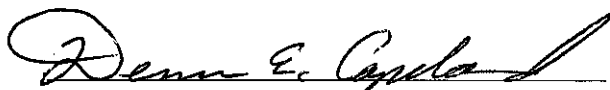
Establishing a mission church or other church campuses.

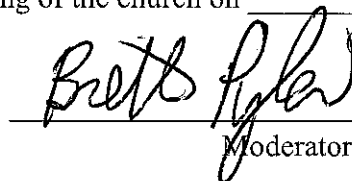
Approving the membership of a senior pastor search team.

Section 4.2 - Church Council. The Church Council shall serve as the church’s board of directors.

RATIFICATION

This Constitution was approved at a general business meeting of the church on _____.


Senior Pastor

 (date)
Moderator