# Mount Calvary Baptist Church

## Constitution

## 2026

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# THE REVISED CONSTITUTION

# OF THE

# MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

# ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Proposed for adoption by the membership of Mount Calvary Baptist Church by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and members vote on April 11, 2026, to become effective April 11, , 2026

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Mount Calvary Baptist Church
**Revised Constitution**

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# PREAMBLE

Placing our faith wholly in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, we believe in the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit), the Virgin Birth, Jesus' death, burial, physical resurrection and ascension into heaven. We further believe in the teachings and practices of the Baptist Church and the principles for which the Church has stood.

1. The preeminence of Christ as our divine Lord and Master.

2. The supreme authority of the Bible, in its entirety, as our rule of faith and practice.

3. The right of an individual's interpretation of God's word as revealed to that person by the Holy Spirit.

4. The absolute separation of Church and state.

5. The regenerated (born again) Church membership.

6. Belief in the ordinance of baptism by immersion upon personal confession of faith, and Holy Communion, of the saints in obedience to the commands of Christ.

7. The solemn obligation of majority rule, guaranteeing equal rights of all: special privilege to none.

8. The spiritual unity of all believers for which the Master so earnestly prayed.

9. A World-Wide Missionary and Evangelism Program in obedience to the command of Christ.

10. We, therefore, unite together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ and adopt as our governing principles, order of worship and directive of service the following articles:

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## ARTICLE I - NAME

This body of Christian believers is an Incorporated Non-Profit 501-c-3 Entity in the State of Virginia; **Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Inc.** and is known and to operate as the **Mount Calvary Baptist Church** hereinafter referred to as the ("Church").

## ARTICLE II
## PURPOSE

The purpose for which this Church is formed is "the public worship of “Almighty God" according to the doctrine, faith, teachings and practices of the Baptist Church. It is also our desire to give visible form to our faith, fellowship and calling. We shall seek to fulfill this purpose through programs of Christian nurture; proclamation of the gospel; and ministering to human needs in our community and world in the name of Jesus Christ.

## ARTICLE III
## Mission Statement

God first reached out in love to us through Jesus Christ. Therefore, we the Mount Calvary Baptist Church, led by the Holy Spirit, will demonstrate God’s love through:

- **Worship** – We honor God through praise, prayer, and communion with Him (John 4:24; Hebrews 10:19-23)
- **Witness** – We share the good news of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ with all people. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:9)
- **Ministry** - We respond to the spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional need of our community and the world. (James 2:14; Matthew 25:35-36)
- **Discipleship** – We guide believers to grow toward Christian maturity in all areas of life through Bible Study and Christian Training. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 20:21; Ephesians 4:11-16)
- **Fellowship** – We nurture and strengthen one another as one body in Christ (1 John 1:3-7; Ephesians 4:16; Colossians 3:12-14)

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# ARTICLE IV
# TENETS OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE

The Church accepts the Scriptures as the revealed Will of God, the all sufficient rule of faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity adopts these Statements of Fundamental Truths and Doctrine.

**SECTION 1. The Scriptures Inspired:** The Bible is the inspired Word of God, a revelation from God to man, the infallible rule of faith and conduct, and is superior to conscience and reason, but not contrary to reason (2 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 Peter 1:23-25; Hebrews 4:12).

**SECTION 2. The One True Godhead:** The triune Godhead is comprised of three (3) separate and distinct personalities, The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, who are eternally self-existent, self-revealed and function as one entity. Jesus Christ, who is God manifested in the flesh, is the second member of the Godhead, co-equal and co-eternal with The Father and The Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 4:4-6; 2 Corin. 13:14).

**SECTION 3. Man, His Fall and Redemption:** Man was created good and upright, for God said, "Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness". But, man, by voluntary transgression, fell and his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ the Son of God (Genesis 1:26-31, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21).

**SECTION 4. The Salvation of Man:**

a) *Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.* On the cross Jesus Christ became sin and sickness providing both salvation and divine healing for all mankind (Psalm 103:3), being justified freely by His Grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. For by grace we are saved through faith. "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart--that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation" (Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 10:8-10).

b) *The Evidence of Salvation.* The inward evidence to the believer of his salvation, is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness. "And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us." (1 John 3:23); ... while you are waiting for these things to happen and for him to come, try hard to live without sinning; and be at peace with everyone so that he will be pleased with you when he returns (II Peter 3:14).

c) *Faith and Works.* Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ and not by human



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works; however, our works will determine the rewards for us in eternity (Romans 10:9-1 and II Corinthians 5:10).

**SECTION 5. Ordinances:**

**Baptism in Water:** The ordinance of baptism by a burial with Christ should be observed as commanded in the Scriptures by all who have really repented and in their hearts have truly believed on Christ as Savior and Lord. In so doing, they declare to the world that they have died with Jesus and that they have also been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. (Matt. 28:19; Acts 10:47, 48; Romans 6:4).

**The Lord's Supper:** "And when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, 'This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup" (1 Cor. 11:24; 25, 28).

**Section 6. The Holy Spirit**: The Holy Spirit has come into the world to reveal and glorify Jesus Christ and to apply the saving work of Christ to men. He convicts and draws sinners to Christ, imparts new life unto them, seals them until the day of redemption, leads and aides them in a life of holiness unto God not fulfilling the lust of the flesh, and equips them for service and work in God's Kingdom bearing spiritual fruit unto the glory of God. Every believer is called to live under the power of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; I Corinthians 12:1-31). With the baptism of the Holy Spirit comes an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His works (Acts 2:42), and a manifestation of the fruit and gifts of the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-26; Romans 12:3-9; I Corinthians 12:1-31).

**Section 7. The Sacrament of Marriage:** We believe in adherence to Biblical Principles, to include marriage being divinely ordained by God and consisting only of the assembly in marriage between "one man and one woman". Under no other circumstances will a wedding outside of this Biblical doctrine and divine intent take place on the properties of the Church or be performed by any clergy of the Church (Gen. 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:21-33).

**SECTION 8. The Promise of the Father:** All believers are entitled to, and should ardently expect and earnestly seek, the promise of the Father, the Baptism in the Holy Ghost and Fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This

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wonderful experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 2:38; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9).

**SECTION 9. Sanctification:** is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication to God (Romans 12:1, 2; I Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). The Scriptures teach that the goal of believers is to pursue a life of "holiness without which no one can see God" (Hebrews 12:14). Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to be obedient to God's command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (I Peter 1:15, 16). Sanctification is the process whereby we are saved from the power of sin in our lives through a commitment to the spiritual disciplines of prayer, daily devotions and worship, the study of God's Word, and the fellowship of believers (Romans 6:1-13; Romans 8:1, 2, 13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12; I Peter 1:5).

**SECTION 10. The Church:** The church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in Heaven (Ephesians 1:22; 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23).

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# ARTICLE V

# CHURCH COVENANT- 2024

## Church Covenant

As a Church Body and Member, this is our covenant (promise) to God and each other:

**MINISTER** - By what common and gracious experiences do we enter into spiritual fellowship and covenant relations with God and with one another?

**CONGREGATION** - 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 Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ

**MINISTER** - What is the great bond of our union with God and each other?

**CONGREGATION** - We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love.

**MINISTER** - What are our great privileges and duties in this, our own church?

**CONGREGATION** - To strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort: to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines.

**MINISTER** - What vows do we gladly make as stewards of that which God has entrusted to us?

**CONGREGATION** - 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 throughout all nations.

**MINISTER** - For the sake of our homes and our loved ones, what gracious tasks do we humbly assume?

**CONGREGATION** - We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to educate religiously our children to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances.

**MINISTER** - For the sake of the unsaved for whom our Saviour died, to what manner of life and conversation are we solemnly and sincerely pledged?

**CONGREGATION** - To walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment, to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger, abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

**MINISTER** - Since one is our Master, even Christ, and we all are brethren, by what fraternal ministries are we to strengthen each other and adorn the teachings of our Lord and Saviour?

**CONGREGATION** - 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 feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Saviour to seek it without delay.

**MINISTER AND CONGREGATION** - Humbly confessing our past sins, we pray for grace and strength to keep these, our holy vows, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord - Amen.

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## ARTICLE VI
## CHURCH AFFILIATIONS

We pledge membership in the National Baptist Convention USA, the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention, the Baptist General Convention - Virginia and the Northern Virginia Baptist Association. Withdrawal or disassociation with the organization can only be done by a constitutional amendment. The constitutional amendment must be submitted as a resolution at a Church meeting by the Ministry of Deacons.

## ARTICLE VII
## AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended and/or revised at any Church meeting by an eighty percent (80%) vote of active members present. The existing articles of the constitution and the proposed amendment stating the change shall be read from the pulpit or briefed in special forum on a day for two (2) consecutive weeks to all attending members of the Church.

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