

THE GATHERING CHURCH CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ, building them up for the purpose of exalting Christ, edifying, equipping, and then enlisting the believer for the furtherance of the Gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit. Further, we desire to send disciples to the nations to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ through evangelizing those without Him and planting the Gospel that The Church might grow.

Article I: Name

This body shall be known as The Gathering Church, Ashe County, North Carolina.

Article II: Authority

God has ultimate authority over this body known as The Gathering Church. Believing that God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in Matthew 28:18 has authority in both heaven and on earth, He will guide us through the power of the Holy Spirit into all truth revealed in His revealed Word, The Holy Bible.

Believing that The Holy Bible is given by God as a revelation of Himself and who mankind is in relation to Him and believing the Bible to be inspired inerrant Word of God, it shall be our guide for all faith and practice.

Article III: Purpose

The purpose of this body shall be to provide opportunities for public worship, to sustain the ordinances, doctrines, and ethics set forth in the Protestant Bible for the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ; to nurture its members through the preaching of



the Protestant Bible, Christian education and counseling; to channel its offerings to the support of the objects of the Kingdom of God, and to propagate among all people the gospel of the Revelation of God through Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Article IV: Membership

Section I: The membership of this church shall be composed of persons who have given evidence of regeneration, who have been baptized by immersion, who have subscribed to the Constitution, and by-laws of this church, who are recommended to the congregation by the elders, and who have been received by vote of the church.

Persons who are actively and unrepentantly engaged in any sinful practice are not eligible for membership in the Church. Similarly, active and unrepentant engagement in any sinful practice is grounds for church discipline up to and including revocation of membership. A practice is "sinful" when it is contrary to the nature and character of God revealed in the teachings of the text of the Holy Bible. Being understood that God's grace is sufficient to cover any and all sin except the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.

Section II: A member of another church of like faith and order may be received by vote of the church upon receipt of a church letter from that church and approval and recommendation of the Elders.

Section III:

A: Anyone who has once been a member of a church, and has no regular church letter, may be received by approval and recommendation of the Elders and vote of the church.

B: Anyone with a desire to unite with this church and that person being from a different church and who has been baptized by immersion and given evidence of regeneration may be received by statement of faith, and approval and recommendation of the Elders and by vote of the Church.

Section IV: Church letters may be granted to any church of like faith and order. When letters are granted, membership in this church will terminate. Letters shall be granted to churches only and not to individuals.

Section V: When a member of this church joins an assembly (cult or other religion)



different in faith and order, membership in this church will terminate immediately.

Section VI: In considering the duties involved, members are expected first of all, to be faithful in all duties essential to the Christian life; faithful in the Word, to attend regularly the services of the church; to pray; to give systematically to its support and Kingdom causes; and to share in its organized work.

Section VII: The Elders and/or Church Clerk, by authority of the Church, may remove individuals from membership whom for a period of ninety days absent themselves from services when well and able to attend. These individuals will be pursued by the Elders of the church to understand and seek a solution to the individual's absence before removal.

Section VIII: Discipline. It shall be the practice of this Church to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. In case personal offense is given one member of the church by another, the offended member shall proceed strictly according to Matthew 18:15-17 and Matthew 5:23-24. Should some serious condition exist which would cause a member to become a liability to the general welfare of the church, the church will take action according to I Corinthians 5:4, 5:11; I Timothy 1:20 and Titus 3:10 to exclude such a member. A majority vote of the members present is required; and the church may proceed to declare the person to be no longer in the membership of the Church. A spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance shall exist in all such proceedings. The Church may restore to membership any person previously excluded, upon the request of the excluded person, and by vote of the church upon evidence of the excluded person's repentance and reformation.

The purpose of such discipline should be

1. For the repentance, reconciliation, and spiritual growth of the individual disciplined (see Proverbs 15: 5; 29: 15; I Corinthians 4: 14; Ephesians 6: 4; I Timothy 3: 4-5; Hebrews 12: 1-11; Psalm 119: 115; 141: 5; Proverbs 17: 10; 25: 12; 27: 5; Ecclesiastes 7: 5; Matthew 7: 26-27; 18: 15-17; Luke 17: 3; Acts 2: 40; I Corinthians 5: 5; Galatians 6: 1-5; II Thessalonians 3: 6, 14-15; I Timothy 1: 20; Titus 1: 13-14; James 1: 22);
2. For the instruction in righteousness and good of other Christians, as an example to them (see Proverbs 13: 20; Romans 15: 14; I Corinthians 5: 11; 15: 33; Colossians 3:16; I Thessalonians 5:14 [note this is written to the whole



church, not just to leaders] I Timothy 5: 20; Titus 1: 11; Hebrews 10: 24–25);

3. For the purity of the church as a whole (see I Corinthians 5: 6–7; II Corinthians 13:10; Ephesians 5: 27; II John 10; Jude 24; Revelation 21: 2);
4. For the good of our corporate witness to non-Christians (see Proverbs 28: 7; Matthew 5: 13–16; John 13: 35; Acts 5: 1–14; Ephesians 5: 11; I Timothy 3:7; II Peter 2:2; I John 3: 10); and
5. Supremely for the glory of God by reflecting His Holy character

Section IX: Attendance and Participation

Persons who are actively and unrepentantly engaged in any sinful practice, while not eligible for membership, are invited and welcome to attend the Church. Such persons should be received with love and compassion. Such persons should also be exposed to the truth of the Holy Bible regarding sinful practices. A practice is “sinful” when it is contrary to the nature and character of God revealed in the teachings of the text of the Holy Bible. In addition to not being eligible for membership without first turning from sin, such persons may not participate in any leadership such as nursery volunteer, teacher, musician, or staff position, without first turning from sin.

Article V: Meetings

Section I: This church shall hold regular meetings for worship, prayer, preaching, teaching, training, and fellowship.

Section II: This church shall hold regular business meetings as hereinafter set forth in this Constitution and By-laws, for the disposition of all business matters not otherwise provided for, to hear reports from various church ministries and to consider other matters essential to the spiritual welfare and edification of the congregation.

Section III: 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: Government

The government of this church shall be congregational in nature led by a plurality of



Elders, and the final authority for the operation and management of the affairs of this church spiritual and temporal, shall be vested in the membership of the church under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Authority shall be exercised in the manner set forth in the bylaws, approve budgets, receive members and govern and conduct the affairs of this church.

Article VII: Officers

Section I: The officers of this church shall be Elders (staff elders shall be referred to as Pastors), Deacons, and other called professional leadership as needed, clerk, treasurer, and other officers as required to do the work of the church in any of its departments or organizations. The church shall elect all of these, with recommendation and approval by the Elders and all officers shall be members in good standing at the time of election.

Section II: The current officers of the said church are as follows:

Pastor: Scott Day

Pastor: Caison Jones

Deacon: Greg Poe

Deacon: David Hankins

Church Clerk: Marnie Trivette

Treasurer: Wendy Poe

Article VIII: Election and Duties of Officers

Section I: The Elders whenever required by law or practice, serve as the representatives of the church, having however only such powers in this capacity as are expressly granted by the church. Neither the Elders nor any other officer of the church shall have any power except as expressly authorized by the church, to bind the congregation in any manner, or act or speak in its behalf.

Section II: Elders / Pastors

A: Pastors (Staff Elders): As described in Article VII Section I Staff Elders will simply be referred to as Pastors at the Gathering Church with the distinction of Staff Elders being vocational ministers of the Gospel as opposed to non-staff Elders. It will be



the goal of the Elders (both staff and non-staff) to raise up the next generation of leadership (Elders) within the congregation for the purpose of carrying on the ministry. This will lessen the likelihood of having to search outside the congregation should a vacancy occur. When a man desires the position of Elder and meets the qualifications of an Elder, this individual will be brought before the congregation for a vote. A three-fourths vote is necessary for vote to pass and if so the Elders shall continue with ordination. However if a vacancy occurs and no man is available to serve as an Elder, the call of a Pastor shall take place at a meeting especially set for that purpose, of which at least two week's notice has been given to the membership. The election shall be upon the recommendation of the Elders and approved by the Church to seek out and nominate as a Pastor a minister of the Gospel whose Christian character and qualifications fit him for the office. (1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-16) The Elders shall bring only one name at a time for the consideration of the Church and no nominations shall be made except by the Elders. Election shall be by vote, with an affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present necessary for an extension of a call. Should the candidate recommended by the Elders fail to receive three-fourths vote, the Elders shall be instructed to seek out another candidate, and the meeting during which the vote was taken will be adjourned without debate.

B: Duties of Staff Elders / Pastors: The Staff Elders / Pastors shall have charge of the welfare and oversight of the Church; they shall provide leadership mainly in the preaching / teaching / equipping ministry of the Church seeking to lead the Church in making disciples of Jesus Christ. They will also give supervision to other ministries within the Church. They may call special meetings for the Deacons, or other Church organizations according to the procedures set forth in the By-laws. They shall conduct services on stated and special occasions, administer the ordinances, and minister to the spiritual needs of members of the Church and community. They shall seek to disciple future Elders and Deacons/Deaconesses for the furtherance of the Gospel Ministry, and provide leadership in equipping the Church to evangelize. The Elders shall be responsible to the congregation in exerting leadership in discharging the duties listed above, with both the Elders and the Church seeking to follow the will of God through the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

C. Non-Staff Elders: As described in Article VII Section I The duties and authority of non-staff Elders shall be equal to that of Staff Elders/ Pastors with the understanding that they are not called to vocational ministry as such but desire to be involved in the leadership ministry of the Church. The ministry of these Elders



will be more limited in time and scope as they seek to fulfill God's call on their lives and ministry.

D. Termination of a Pastor / Elder: The relationship between a Pastor / Elder and the Church may be dissolved upon request of either the Pastor / Elder or the Church. In either case, at least 60 days notice shall be given of termination of the relationship, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon, with both Pastor / Elder and Church seeking to follow the will of God through the leadership of the Holy Spirit. In the event of serious rupture in the fellowship concerning the Pastor / Elder and his work, the following rules should be set forth:

(1) It is expected that the Pastor / Elder and the Elders shall sit down in Christian love to settle the problems or disagreement.

(2) If no agreement can be reached by this meeting, the Elders will bring this matter before the Church for a vote to terminate the relationship.

(3) This vote shall be taken on a Sunday morning after a two-week's notification.

(4) A three-fourths favorable vote must be received for the Pastor / Elder to remain in his position.

Section III. Deacons and Deaconesses:

A. There shall be Deacons/Deaconess(s) as the Church decides who shall be chosen from the membership of the Church and who possess the Scriptural qualifications. They shall at all times consider themselves as Servants of the Church. The recommendation of the candidate(s) shall come from the Church and meet the requirements of 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3-5. If the candidate(s) is willing and meets the qualifications, they shall be set apart for this service and prayed for in a special service as soon as possible. Upon voluntary request of a Deacon/Deaconess, or by the Church, his or her name may be removed from this service.

B. Deacons/ Deaconess(s) shall be subject to the limitations set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws. They shall not have power, except as expressly authorized by the Church, to purchase or sell or encumber any real or personal property, to install or remove staff, or to bind the Church to any contract.



Section IV: Clerk

The Church Clerk shall be chosen by the Church. The Church Clerk shall keep a record of all the actions of the Church, except as otherwise herein provided. The Clerk is responsible for keeping a register of the names of members, with dates of admission, dismissal, or death, together with a record of baptism. The Clerk shall issue letters of dismissal voted by the Church, preserve on file all communications and written official reports, and give legal notice of all meetings where such notice is necessary as indicated in the By-Laws. The Church may delegate some of the clerical responsibilities to a Church secretary or may choose an assistant. All Church records are Church property and should be properly safeguarded by the Church Clerk. The Clerk shall serve whenever required by law or practice as the Secretary of the Church.

Section V: Treasurer

The treasurer shall be chosen by the Church. The Treasurer shall receive, preserve, and pay out, all money or things of value paid or given to the Church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements, and may delegate some of the clerical responsibilities to the Church Secretary. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to render to the Church at regular business meetings an itemized report of the receipts and disbursements for the preceding month. All books, records, and accounts kept by the Treasurer shall be the property of the Church and should be properly safeguarded by the Treasurer.

Article IX: General

Section I: License. When a male member announces to the Church that he feels the call to be an elder/pastor, the Church by majority vote, may license him as an acknowledgement of his call to the ministry and encouragement to make preparation for it. The Clerk of the Church may furnish the member with a certificate of license as his credential. It is understood that state law shall govern the performance of civil duties by the member.

Section II: Ordination. In the event this Church has been requested to ordain a member who has been called as a Pastor / Elder the following procedure shall be followed: The Church will express its approval by a vote of three-fourths of the members present at any regularly arranged business meeting of the Church. Then the Elders shall examine the candidate concerning his fitness for ministry according



to the Scriptural qualifications as stated in Article VIII section II, and give report back to the Church two weeks prior to ordination. Then in the event the report of the Elders is favorable to the Church, the Elders shall proceed with the ordination.

Section III: Associations. We recognize the need to associate with other churches, organizations and mission endeavors in making a larger impact for Kingdom purposes, and the furtherance of the gospel. To this end, we believe as the Lord leads to unite ourselves with others for the purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ. A meeting to vote on such an association will require two weeks notice. In order to associate formally as a church, a three-quarters vote of the members present shall be required.

Section IV: Property Holding. It is agreed that the securing and maintaining of real property, buildings, and equipment by this Church shall be for the express purpose of providing facilities for public worship and for the engagement upon the missionary, educational, and benevolent interests of this Church, or the character and in the spirit of the Constitution and Articles of Faith of this Church.

The property of this Church shall be and remain vested in the membership of this Church. In the event of a division, the property of this Church shall be retained by that portion of the membership representing a majority voting in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Constitution.

No real property of this Church shall be encumbered, sold, given, or pledged without the concurrence of a three-fourths majority of the members present at a meeting called for the special purpose of considering the said transfer of property, the notice to be given two weeks prior in the regular Sunday worship service, stating the purpose and time of the said meeting.

Section V: Financial.

Debt. Believing that the Bible puts forth principles concerning the management of money with the particular focus on the warning against debt, it is the conviction of this Church to never borrow money. Thus it will be the practice of this Church to operate and fulfill its mission by faith in what the Lord supplies through regular giving of its members and/or special gifts from others.

Missions. We believe that Jesus clearly commanded that the Church does not exist to merely meet the needs of its own, but also others, with an emphasis on the Great Commission. To this end, as long as possible and as the Lord leads we will



devote at least but not limited to 10% of our church offerings to the furtherance of the gospel through missions both domestic and international.

Article X: Adoption and Amendments

Section I: This Constitution shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect as and when a majority of the members present and voting at a regular Sunday morning worship service at which vote is taken, shall vote in favor of the same. This vote shall not be taken less than thirty days after a formal presentation of the Constitution to the Church. Presentation of the Constitution to the membership of the Church shall be made at a regular business meeting with each family given a copy of the proposed Constitution. All debate and discussion regarding the adoption of the Constitution or any provision thereof shall be limited to the business meeting at which the same was presented and at succeeding regular business meetings of the Church until formal vote is taken, as above provided. There shall be no discussion or debate at the Sunday morning worship service when a vote is taken.

Section II: This Constitution may be amended, altered, or repealed by two-thirds vote of the membership present and voting at a regular Sunday morning worship service of the Church, provided, however that such an amendment, alteration, or repeal was given to the Clerk in writing; and this proposed change shall be presented to the Church at least thirty days prior to the time the vote was taken. Discussion and debate of the proposed amendment, alteration, or repeal shall be limited to the last business meeting of the Church preceding the Sunday morning worship service at which vote was taken. There shall be no discussion or debate regarding the amendment, alteration, or repeal at the Sunday morning worship service when the vote is taken.

-----By-Laws-----

Article I: Meeting

Section I. The Church shall hold regular business meetings monthly. The Pastors / Elders may call special business meetings at such time as they may be needed, with reasonable notice of the time and place of meeting given to the congregation. A Pastor / Elder shall serve as the Moderator of the business sessions of the Church. In the absence of a Pastor / Elder some other person can be chosen by the Church,



to serve as Moderator.

Section II. The Bible shall at all times govern the order of Church business meetings. At any time the meeting of the church begins to stray from Biblical order, the meeting can be suspended till a further date, or disbanded altogether as the Elders and/or members see fit.

Section III. The Church shall have the final say on all matters, being led by the Holy Spirit and in obedience to God and His Word.

Article II: Special Ministries / Organizations

Special ministries and organizations can be created as desired by the Church under the leadership of the Elders.

Article III. Adoption and Amendments

Section I. These by-laws shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when a majority of the members present at the business meeting at which vote is taken shall vote in favor of it. This vote shall be taken not less than thirty days after formal presentation of the by-laws to the Church.

Section II. Any of the rules in these By-Laws may be amended, altered, or repealed, by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at any regular business meeting of the Church, provided, however, that notice and proposal of such amendment, alteration, or repeal must be given in writing at the preceding regular business meeting of the Church.

Article IV.

Section I. The adoption of this Constitution and By-Laws shall effect a repeal of all previously adopted rules in conflict herewith.

Section II. A copy of this Constitution and By-Laws shall and at all times be kept in the Clerk's records and another copy shall be kept in the church office, and all amendments to and revisions thereof shall after passage by the church, be prepared by the clerk and reflected in the copies of the Constitution and By-Laws and made available to the church members generally upon request.

Prepared, compiled, and completed by the founding Pastors of The Gathering Church 2012



Updated: 4/22/2017



APPENDIX A: CHURCH COVENANT

“Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord in faith and repentance; and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and of the Holy Spirit, 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.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to not forsake the gathering of ourselves together; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge and holiness; to give it a place in our affections, prayers and services above every organization of human origin; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, towards its expenses, for the support of a faithful and evangelical ministry among us, the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. In case of difference of opinion in the church, we will strive to avoid a contentious spirit, and if we cannot unanimously agree, we will cheerfully recognize the right of the majority to govern.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotion; to study diligently the Word of God; to disciple and educate our children in Christian faith and practice; to pray for and preach the Gospel to our friends, family and acquaintances; to walk carefully in the world; to be kind and just to all, faithful in the service we promise others; endeavoring in the purity of heart and good will towards all men to exemplify and commend our holy faith.

We further engage to watch over, to pray for, to exhort and stir up each other unto every good word and work; to guard each other’s reputation, not needlessly exposing the infirmities of others; to participate in each other’s joys, and with tender sympathy bear one another’s burdens and sorrows; to cultivate Christian courtesy; to be slow to give or take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, being mindful of the rules of the Savior in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew, to secure it without delay; and through life, amid evil report, and good report, to seek



to live to the glory of God, who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

When we remove ourselves from this place, we engage as soon as possible to unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen."



APPENDIX B: ARTICLES OF FAITH

We hold to the 2nd London Baptist Confession of Faith summarized in these primary doctrines.

I. The Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the divine and final authority for Christian faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, the complete revelation of God's will for the salvation of men, infallible, and God-breathed.

II. The Triune God of the Bible

We believe in one Triune God, creator of all things, infinitely perfect, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who are co-eternal in being, co-eternal in nature, and co-equal in power and glory.

III. Jesus Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, became man without ceasing to be God in order to reveal God and redeem sinful man. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through his life, death, and resurrection. The Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice, and our justification is made sure by His literal and physical resurrection from the dead. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, where He is exalted at the right hand of God, and where He acts as our High Priest, our representative, our intercessor, and our advocate. We believe the Lord Jesus Christ is coming again to judge the living and the dead.



IV. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He who is a person who convicts, regenerates, indwells, guides, instructs, and empowers believers for the Christian Life.

V. The Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God, but through Adam's sin, a sinful nature was imputed to all men, and all men became separated from God. Man is totally depraved and unable to save himself. Only through the regeneration of the Holy Spirit can man attain salvation and be restored in his relationship with God.

VI. Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God achieved by the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection. Those means are the only grounds for justification and salvation for those who place their faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

VII. The Church

We believe that the church is composed of those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ, having been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We believe in the local church which is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 18:22; 20:17; 1 Timothy 3:1-3; Titus 1:5-11). We believe in the autonomy of the local church. The Church is marked by expository preaching of the Scriptures and the practice of the two sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Baptism.

