

***CONSTITUTION OF  
PERRY HALL BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.  
PERRY HALL, MARYLAND***

*(Revised November 22, 2015)*

## **1. STATEMENT OF NAME**

The name of this Church shall be Perry Hall Baptist Church, located at 3919 Schroeder Avenue in Perry Hall, Maryland, incorporated in the State of Maryland on February 29, 1960.

## **2. COVENANT**

Having been brought by divine grace to repentance and to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, we do now solemnly covenant with one another as God shall enable us by His Holy Spirit, that we will walk together in brotherly love; that we will exercise Christian care and watchfulness over one another, and faithfully warn, rebuke, or admonish one another as the case may require; that we will participate in one another's joys, and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear one another's burdens; that we will walk circumspectly, denying ungodliness and every worldly lust; that we will not forsake assembling for divine worship, nor omit the great duty of prayer; that we will cheerfully contribute for the maintenance of a faithful evangelical ministry among us for the aid of the poor and for the spreading of the Gospel over the world; and that through life we will seek to witness and live to the glory of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

## **3. CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution and Bylaws, adopted April 16, 1962, are established for and in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation for the Perry Hall Baptist Church, Incorporated. The Articles of Incorporation were approved and received for recording by the State of Maryland, Department of Assessments and Taxation, on February 29, 1960 and were also received and recorded in the records of Baltimore County, August 17, 1960. On November 22, 2015, the PHBC Congregation approved an Addendum to the Articles of Incorporation, and on Dec. 24, 2016 the revised Articles of Incorporation were filed with the State of Maryland.

### **ARTICLE I**

This assembly shall be known as the Perry Hall Baptist Church of Maryland. Its government is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body.

### **ARTICLE II – STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Church shall be:

- A. To obey the Great Commandment of Christ to love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and our neighbor as ourselves.
- B. To obey the Great Commission of Christ to reach the lost, by individually and corporately giving witness to the power of Christ, and by promoting the ministry of the Word at home and abroad.
- C. To carry out the Great Commission of Christ in discipling the believer, by maintaining regular services for both instruction and public worship, by administering the ordinances of the New Testament, and by providing such institutions and organizations as would equip our people to better serve Christ.

*Matt 22:37-39; Matt 28:19-20*

## ARTICLE III - DOCTRINE

### Section A. – The Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God without error in the original manuscripts and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has the Holy Spirit of God for its author, truth as its matter and salvation for its end; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us and, therefore, is and shall remain unto the end of the world, the supreme standard by which all human conduct and creeds shall be tried.

2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; Revelation 22:18-19.

### Section B. – The Trinity

God is known to men as three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – executing distinct but harmonious offices in the work of redemption.

#### 1. *The Father*

We believe in the personal existence of God, the Supreme Being Who is infinite and perfect. He possesses the attributes of eternity, self-existence, immutability, omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience, holiness, righteousness, justice, love, mercy, and grace. In holy love, He created and sustains by His immediate presence, all things. He is the Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Genesis 1:1; Malachi 3:6; Matthew 3:17; Titus 2:11-12.*

#### 2. *The Son*

We believe in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the Son of God, very God of very God; Who, in order to redeem fallen man from sin took on the form of man by the process of the virgin birth; that He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin; that He lived in perfect harmony with God and His laws; that He voluntarily suffered death and in so doing was the vicarious sacrifice for the sin of the race; that He physically and literally rose from the dead, ascended up on high and is now enthroned at the right hand of God as the Mediator between God and the sinner and as the High Priest and Advocate of the saint; that He shall return to take into His eternal presence all those who have accepted Him as Savior and have therefore been born again.

*John 1:14; 8:58; Acts 1:11.*

#### 3. *The Holy Spirit*

We believe in the Person of the Holy Spirit; that He is equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in Creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains Satan until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness and judgment; that he bears witness to the gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the Agent of the New Birth; that He baptizes, seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.

*John 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 5:3-4.*

### Section C. – Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God; that He has a threefold nature, physical, mental and spiritual; that his distinctive mark is his spiritual nature; that this is of like nature to God Himself and is

immortal and capable of immediate knowledge of God; that conscience and will make him morally a responsible being and that as such God deals with him.

We believe that man was created innocent, in perfect harmony with the moral government of God; that by voluntary transgression of the will of God and submitting to the Devil, he broke that harmony and became sinful; that without exception the race of man is morally corrupt; that by reason of conscience and will the individual is guilty and merits the wages of sin which is death; and that if persisted in, sin will work out complete and final ruin to him who does not forsake it in the experience of the new birth.

*Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7; 3:1-7; 1 Cor. 15:44-45; Rom. 3:10-11, 23; 6:23.*

#### Section D. – Salvation

We believe that it is impossible for man to save himself; that in order to be saved he must realize his need for the Savior, repent and receive Christ as his Savior, and thus be born again; that the new birth results in a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above comprehension, not by culture, character or the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith and newness of life.

*John 1:12; 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:8-9.*

#### Section E. – The Church

We believe that the church universal is an organism, the Body of Christ, those who have been redeemed out of every kindred, tongue, people and nation, and comprise the Bride of Christ. We believe that the local church is a body of professed believers in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, Savior and Lord who have covenanted together for worship, mutual edification and to work for the spreading of the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth.

The financial budget of the church will solely be supported by the free will giving of friends and members of the church. According to Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally to their local church for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

We believe that God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual. All that we have and are, we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the Glory of God and for helping others.

We believe that the ordinances of the church are two—Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Both ordinances are commanded by Christ and should faithfully be observed only by His followers. Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, and is symbolic of our death to sin and our resurrection to a new life in Him. We believe that it is a prerequisite to church membership. The Lord's Supper or Communion is the highest act of worship. It is a memorial of Christ's death for us and a symbol of His sustaining of our spiritual life and growth.

*Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-30.*

#### Section F. – Last Things

We believe in the literal bodily Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, including the Rapture of His Church prior to the Tribulation and Millennium, the resurrection of the just and of the unjust, and that the Lord Jesus Christ will judge the quick and the dead at His coming.

We believe that acceptance or failure to accept Jesus Christ as Savior seals eternal destiny; that there is no second chance to believe after death and that the future happiness of the righteous in Heaven and the future misery of the wicked in Hell will be complete and eternal.

*Acts 1:11; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.*

#### **ARTICLE IV – STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE, GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND SANCTITY OF LIFE**

Marriage - We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen. 2:18-25). We believe that God intends for sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4) We believe that God commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

Gender - We believe God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen. 1:26-27) Rejection of one’s biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

Sexuality - We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt.15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Perry Hall Baptist Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Perry Hall Baptist Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Perry Hall Baptist Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22)

Sanctity of Life – We believe that human life occurs at conception, and that the unborn child is a living human being created in God’s image (Genesis 1:26-27, 9:5-6). Abortion constitutes the unjustified, inexcusable taking of unborn human life (Exodus 21:22; Job 3:16; Psalm 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24, 49:1,5; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:44). Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Psalm 139)

#### **ARTICLE V - AMENDMENT**

This constitution may be amended at any properly called meeting, provided the amendment(s) shall have been presented in writing at a previously called meeting. A two-thirds vote of members present and voting at the called meeting is required for approval of amendment(s).