

WOLFVILLE UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH CONSTITUTION
Adopted at the Church Business Meeting 16 September, 1998
Modified 21 September, 2005

Article I NAME

The members of this Church were first united by a “Solemn Covenant” in 1765 as “The Baptist Church of Christ in Horton”, and remained active for several years under the pastoral care of Elder Ebenezer Moulton (1765-1770) and Elder Joseph Reed (1770-1772). Several continuing members, together with others, covenanted on October 29, 1778, as “The Baptist Church of Horton”. The Church was incorporated on April 13, 1857, under the name “The First Baptist Church of Horton”; it became known, by an Act of Parliament passed February 16, 1896, as “The Wolfville Baptist Church”; and following the union of 1906 of the Regular and Free Baptist conventions of the Maritime Provinces, it was renamed “The Wolfville United Baptist Church”.

Article II THE DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

This Church shall be affiliated with the Eastern Valley United Baptist Association, the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches, Canadian Baptist Ministries, and the Baptist World Alliance, with a view to cooperating in the denominational enterprises and other such enterprises, which may be approved by the Church.

Article III STATEMENT OF MISSION

The Wolfville United Baptist Church recognizes as its mission the following, which it believes to be in harmony with the purpose of Christ’s Church as described in the New Testament:

- A. To praise God in public worship.
- B. To proclaim publicly the good news of God’s redeeming love.
- C. To provide instruction in the Christian Faith, and to encourage the life-long study of the Scriptures as a guide to right living.
- D. To sustain the fellowship of Christian love for the spiritual growth of believers and as a witness to unbelievers.
- E. To advance God’s kingdom through personal witness, evangelism, and missionary outreach.
- F. To serve Christ by meeting human needs in the church, in the community, and around the world.

Article IV MEMBERSHIP

A. Anyone who gives evidence of new life by acceptance of Jesus Christ as both Saviour and Lord, and desires to confess Him publicly, and who is in accord with Baptist doctrine and practice, may, upon the recommendation of the Board of Deacons and the vote of the Church, become a member.

1. Further this Church practises baptism by immersion, where practical, upon profession of faith. Therefore those requesting membership in this Church shall be baptized believers.
 2. When transferring from another Baptist Church, the letter of transfer would normally state the status granted to the believer in that church. Without such a letter, a person applying for membership may be accepted on the basis of his/her profession of faith.
 3. Those who transfer from another denomination, which does not practise believers' baptism, may be granted Associate Membership. They shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of regular members, except on any question affecting the status of this Church within the United Baptist Convention or Baptist denomination.
- B. This Church will give a letter of transfer, or dismissal, or retirement upon application by a member, or recommendation by the Board of Deacons.

ARTICLE V PASTORAL AND CHURCH PERSONNEL

- A. **PASTOR(S)** – There shall be a senior pastor and other pastoral staff as determined by the Church membership from time to time. As a minister, the pastor is called to serve. He/she has the oversight and superintendence of all interests of the Church and of all the departments of its work, and he/she should feel responsible for the guardianship and watch care entrusted to him/her.
- B. **DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** – if provision is approved for such a person by the Church, this person shall provide leadership in developing, implementing, overseeing and evaluating a comprehensive program of Christian Education.
- C. **CLERK OF MEMBERSHIP** – this Clerk shall be the custodian of the Church Roll Book. He/she shall keep an accurate record of membership and shall report on the state of the Church membership at all regularly constituted Business Meetings.
- D. **CLERK OF RECORD** – this Clerk shall take minutes at Church Business Meetings.
- E. **TREASURER** – the Treasurer shall have charge of the funds of the Church keeping a separate bank account for same, and (except for Deacons' Needy Fund) shall make payments only when authorized by the Church (i.e. Board of Finance or Board of Trustees).
- F. **MODERATOR** – There shall be a Moderator who normally chairs all business meetings of the Church.
- G. **CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT** – Under the direction of the Board of Christian Education the Church School Superintendent shall have the supervision of its teachers, and shall have responsibility for the efficiency of its procedure.

ARTICLE VI STANDING BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

A. **STANDING BOARDS** – The Standing Boards of the Church shall be Deacons, Trustees, Finance, Christian Education and Global Ministries. All the Standing Boards shall report at least once a year to the Church.

1. **DEACONS' BOARD** – The Deacons' Board shall act as counselors and assistants to the Ministers in advancing the spiritual interests of the Church. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Deacons to review all problems of conflict that may arise, settling the same in the spirit of good will and Christian charity.

2. **BOARD OF TRUSTEES** – The Trustees shall be the custodians of the Church property, holding the Real and Personal property in trust, and shall exercise the functions vested in them by the Provincial Statutes.

3. **BOARD OF FINANCE** – The functions of the Board of Finance shall be the general care of the finances of the Church including the short and long-range financial planning, budget preparation, budget presentation, fund-raising, purchasing all supplies for the Church, approving all bills for payment, except where otherwise provided for, and presenting to the Annual Meeting of the Church an audited financial statement of the previous year's operations.

4. **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** – There shall be a Board of Christian Education which will function as a planning and coordinating board for the overall program of Christian Education in the Church.

5. **BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES** – The function of the Board of Global Ministries will be to develop, within the congregation, an awareness of Christian mission overseas and in Canada.

B. **STANDING COMMITTEES** – The Standing Committees of the Church shall be Music, Nominating, Licensing and Personnel.

1. **MUSIC COMMITTEE** – The Music Committee shall have the general oversight of the music of the Church, and make such recommendations to the Church as may be necessary.

2. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** – The Nominating Committee shall nominate all Officers, and Standing Boards and Standing Committees to the Church for election. The Committee shall post a list of such nominations in the vestibule of the Church not less than one week before the Church Meeting in November at which time the Report of the Nominating Committee is presented to the Church.

3. **LICENSING COMMITTEE** – The Licensing Committee shall receive all applications for a license to preach and shall make appropriate recommendations to the Church for action.

4. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** – The Personnel Committee shall attend to all matters related to employment for all church staff, excluding the ministers.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

- A. The Church shall meet regularly for worship, fellowship, and business purposes as outlined in the By-Laws.
- B. There shall be a Church Meeting for the election of Officers, Boards and Committees and for the approval of the Church Budget during the month of November.
- C. The Annual Church Meeting will be held in September wherein standing boards and committees will present a review of their current activities and a presentation of agreed objectives for the ensuing year.
- D. In addition to the regular business meetings of the church, special business meetings may be called at any time by the Senior Pastor, or by the Moderator, or on the signed petition of at least ten Church members, provided that notice is given in the Bulletin at least two Sundays in advance of the meeting stating the main purpose of the special business meeting.
- E. Twenty-five members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII BY-LAWS

The Church shall enact By-Laws in accordance with this Constitution.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

- A. The Church may make amendments to the Constitution at any regular or special church meeting, provided that the notice of motion is submitted to a previous church meeting, at least three months prior to final adoption.
- B. The amendment must be approved by a three-quarter majority of the votes cast.