

WOLFFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH CONSTITUTION
Adopted at the Church Business Meeting, 24 April 2024

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, and as amended in 1911, as “The Wolfville Baptist Church”; and following the union of 1906 of the Regular and Free Baptist Conventions of the Maritime Provinces, it was known as “The Wolfville United Baptist Church”. In 2011, the church affirmed itself as the “Wolfville Baptist Church”.

Article II

THE DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

This Church shall be affiliated with the Eastern Valley Baptist Association, the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada, 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

Wolfville 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 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. Membership at Wolfville Baptist Church is granted upon a personal profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, a sincere commitment to godly living, and an agreement to support the Church and abide by the Church’s Covenant, and subject to the recommendation of the Board of Deacons and the vote of the Church. Further this Church practises baptism by immersion, where practical, upon profession of faith.
- B. 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 the believer’s profession of faith.

- C. Membership at Wolfville Baptist Church is open to individuals transferring from another Christian church, upon a demonstration of faith in Jesus and godly character, and subject to the recommendation of the Board of Deacons and the vote of the Church.
- D. Any member who is in good standing shall be entitled to a letter of recommendation from this Church when transferring membership to another Baptist church. Any member who wishes to unite with a church of another Christian denomination may be provided with a letter of introduction.

Article V

PASTORAL AND CHURCH PERSONNEL

A. PASTOR(S)

There shall be pastoral staff as determined by the Church membership. The pastoral staff shall care for the Church and provide overall leadership to the Church in its fellowship and outreach to the community.

B. CLERK OF MEMBERSHIP

This Clerk shall keep an accurate record of Church membership. The Clerk shall report changes in Church membership at the Annual Meeting and supply official membership data as required.

C. CLERK OF RECORD

This Clerk shall keep, and provide as required, an accurate record of minutes and all decisions made at the Church Business Meetings.

D. TREASURER

The Treasurer shall be responsible to maintain accurate financial records, and to establish and oversee the church's financial procedures. The Treasurer shall, with the Board of Management, supervise the investments of the Church.

E. MODERATOR

There shall be a Moderator who normally presides over business meetings of the Church.

Article VI

STANDING BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

A. STANDING BOARDS

The Standing Boards of the Church shall be Deacons, Management, Christian Education, and Global Ministries. All the Standing Boards shall report at least once a year to the Church.

1. BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons shall act as counselors and assistants to the Pastors in advancing the spiritual interests of the Church. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Deacons to review and resolve conflicts as required.

2. BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management shall serve as the custodians of the Church's real property and financial resources and shall exercise all the functions vested in The Trustees by the Provincial Statutes as referenced in the Statutes of Nova Scotia 1857, Chapter 56, An Act to incorporate the Trustees of The First Baptist Church at Horton. The Board of Management shall oversee all matters related to the employment of the church staff, excluding the Pastoral Staff.

3. BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Board of Christian Education, working in cooperation with the Diaconate, shall plan and coordinate the overall program of Christian Education in the Church.

4. BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

The Board of Global Ministries shall promote within the congregation the awareness of, and involvement in, local and global ministry needs and opportunities.

B. STANDING COMMITTEES

The Standing Committees of the Church shall be the Music and Nominating Committees.

1. MUSIC COMMITTEE

The Music Committee shall be responsible for all areas of the church's music in conjunction with the Pastoral Staff.

2. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee shall receive names of nominees from Standing Boards and Committees to fill vacancies, present these names to the church for approval; and maintain a list of all serving members.

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 February wherein standing boards and committees will provide a review of their current activities and objectives for the ensuing year.
- D. Additional business meetings of the congregation will be held in May and September.
- E. In addition to the regular business meetings of the church, special business meetings may be called at any time by the Moderator, or on the signed petition of at least ten Church members, provided that notice is given at least two Sundays in advance of the meeting stating the main purpose of the special business meeting.
- F. 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 two months prior to final adoption.
- B. The amendment must be approved by a three-quarter majority of the votes cast.