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**CONSTITUTION**  
*of the*  
**CAPITOL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

*Adopted by the membership on May 17, 1998*  
*Revised by the membership on May 18, 2003, September 17, 2006,*  
*November 16, 2008, March 15, 2009, and September 21, 2014*

**Preamble**

Since it pleased Almighty God, by His Holy Spirit, to call certain of His servants to unite here in 1878 under the name Metropolitan Baptist Church of Washington, D.C., for the worship of God and the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and He has sustained and prospered this work to the present day; and

Whereas we, the members of Capitol Hill Baptist Church, having searched the Scriptures under the guidance of His Spirit, have recognized the need to reconstitute ourselves to more closely conform to His will for the Church in this age and prepare ourselves for greater efforts in His name;

Now therefore we, the members of Capitol Hill Baptist Church, do hereby organize ourselves in accord with the D.C. Nonprofit Corporation Act and adopt this Constitution as our articles of governance, to be interpreted at all times to reflect the character of and bring glory to Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Holy Bible and articulated in the standards set forth in the Statement of Faith (1878) and Covenant (1996) of this church.

**Article 1 – Name**

The name of this church is: Capitol Hill Baptist Church.

**Article 2 – Purpose**

This church exists by the grace of God, for the glory of God, which shall be the ultimate purpose in all its activities.

This church glorifies God by loving Him and obeying His commands through:  
Worshipping Him;

Equipping the saints through Bible instruction and study;

Proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through preaching and personal

evangelism, and any other means consistent with the teachings of Holy

Scripture;

Encouraging, supporting, and participating in missions work, local, domestic, and international;

Administering the ordinances of baptism and communion;

Encouraging Biblical fellowship among believers;

1 Serving other individuals, families, and churches by providing for physical,  
2 emotional, and spiritual needs, in the name of Jesus Christ; and  
3 Calling fellow churches to biblical faithfulness and purity through instruction and  
4 encouragement about the nature of the local church.  
5

### 6 **Article 3 – Membership**

7

#### 8 Section 1 – Qualifications

9 To qualify for membership in this church, a person must be a believer in Jesus  
10 Christ who gives evidence of regeneration, who has been baptized, in obedience to  
11 Christ, following his or her regeneration, and who wholeheartedly believes in the  
12 Christian faith as revealed in the Bible. Each member must agree to submit to the  
13 teaching of scripture as expressed in the Statement of Faith and must promise to keep the  
14 commitments expressed in the Church Covenant. The elders shall be responsible for  
15 determining each person's qualification for membership. In making this determination,  
16 they may rely on a person's profession of faith, or such other evidence, as the elders  
17 deem appropriate.  
18

#### 19 Section 2 – Admission of Members

20 To be admitted into church membership, applicants shall be ordinarily, but not  
21 necessarily, recommended by the elders for admission and must be accepted by vote of  
22 the members at any regular or special meeting of the members, and shall at that point  
23 relinquish their membership in other churches.  
24

#### 25 Section 3 – Duties and Privileges of Membership

26 In accord with the duties enumerated in the Church Covenant, each member shall  
27 be privileged and expected to participate in and contribute to the ministry and life of the  
28 church, consistent with God's leading and with the gifts, time, and material resources  
29 each has received from God. Only those shall be entitled to serve in the ministries of the  
30 church who are members of this congregation; non-members may serve on an ad-hoc  
31 basis with the approval of the elders. Notwithstanding, non-members may serve the  
32 church for purposes of administration and professional consultation.

33 Under Christ this congregation is governed by its members. Therefore, it is the  
34 privilege and responsibility of members to attend ~~all~~ members' meetings and vote on the  
35 election of officers, on decisions regarding membership status, and on such other matters  
36 as may be submitted to a vote.  
37

#### 38 Section 4 – Associate Membership

39 ~~Students and others temporarily residing in the Washington, D.C. area who are~~  
40 ~~members of an evangelical church may apply for associate membership. Qualifications~~  
41 ~~are identical to those for full membership as set out above, except that home church~~  
42 ~~membership must be retained. A letter of commendation will be sought from the~~  
43 ~~applicant's home church.~~

44 ~~Duties and privileges of associate members are the same as for other members~~  
45 ~~except that:~~

- (a) ~~when absent from the Washington, D.C. area for extended periods of time they are released from the responsibility to attend our church services;~~  
(b) ~~while they will be encouraged to participate in members' meetings they will not be eligible to stand for any office or to vote.~~

~~Termination of associate membership as a disciplinary measure will be as it is for other members, except that the elders shall notify the pastor or elders of the home church of that termination. Associate membership will normally terminate immediately upon the ending of the period of temporary residence in the Washington, D.C. area.~~

#### Section 5-4 – On Church Discipline

Any member consistently neglectful of his or her duties or guilty of conduct by which the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be dishonored, and so opposing the welfare of the church and/or rendering doubtful a profession of faith, shall be subject to the admonition of the elders and the discipline of the church, according to the instructions of our Lord in Matthew 18: 15–17 and the example of scripture. Church discipline, then, should ordinarily be contemplated after individual private admonition has failed.

Church discipline can include admonition by the elders or congregation, ~~suspension from communion for a definite period~~, deposition from office, and excommunication (see Matthew 18: 15–17; ~~2 Thessalonians 3: 14–15~~; 1 Timothy 5: 19–20; 1 Corinthians 5: 4–5).

The purpose of such discipline should be 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);

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);

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);

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

Supremely for the glory of God by reflecting His holy character (see Deuteronomy 5: 11; I Kings 11: 2; II Chronicles 19: 2; Ezra 6: 21; Nehemiah 9: 2; Isaiah 52: 11; Ezekiel 36: 20; Matthew 5: 16; John 15: 8; 18: 17, 25; Romans 2: 24; 15: 5–6; II Corinthians 6: 14–7: 1; Ephesians 1: 4; 5: 27; I Peter 2: 12).

#### Section 6-5 – Termination of Membership

The church shall recognize the termination of a person's membership following his or her death, and it shall also recognize the termination of a person's membership

1 following his or her self-professed apostasy as confirmed by congregational vote.  
2 Additionally, the church, and may ~~do so~~ recognize the termination of a person's  
3 membership after he or she has voluntarily resigned or joined with another church.  
4 Membership may also be terminated as an act of church discipline (ordinarily, but not  
5 necessarily, at the recommendation of the elders) upon the vote of at least two-thirds of  
6 the members present at any regular or special meeting of the members.

7 The church shall have authority to refuse a member's voluntary resignation or  
8 transfer of membership to another church, either for the purpose of proceeding with a  
9 process of church discipline, or for any other biblical reason.

## 11 **Article 4 - Meetings**

### 13 Section 1 – Worship Meetings

14 Worship services shall be held each Lord's Day, and may be held throughout the  
15 week as the church determines.

### 17 Section 2 – Members' Meetings

18 In every meeting together, members shall act in that spirit of mutual trust,  
19 openness, and loving consideration which is appropriate within the body of our Lord  
20 Jesus Christ.

21 There shall be a regular members' meeting at least every other month, at some  
22 time apart from a public worship service agreed upon by the membership.

23 An elder designated by the elders shall preside as moderator at all members'  
24 meetings of the church. The elders shall see that the stated meetings of the church are  
25 regularly held and that required reports are submitted to the church by the responsible  
26 members.

27 Provided all constitutional provisions for notification have been met, a quorum  
28 shall be understood to be met by those members present. All votes shall be tallied based  
29 on the number of votes cast by members present.

30 A budget shall be approved by the membership at a members' meeting not more  
31 than three months after the start of the fiscal year. Congregational approval shall  
32 proceed, without amendment, as a single vote on the budget in its entirety. Prior to this  
33 approval and subject to the elders' discretion, expenditures may continue at the prior  
34 year's level.

35 At any regular or special members' meeting, officers may be elected and positions  
36 filled as needed, so long as all relevant constitutional requirements have been met.

37 Special members' meetings may be called as required by the elders, or at the  
38 written request, submitted to the elders, of five percent of the voting membership. The  
39 date, time, and purpose of any special meeting shall be announced at all public services  
40 of the church within two weeks preceding the meeting and posted at all entrances to the  
41 church during that time period. In the event of a written request from the members, the  
42 elders shall call a special meeting to be held within one month of their receipt of the  
43 request.

## 45 **Article 5 – Officers**

1           Section 1 – Summary

2           The Biblical offices in the church are elders and deacons. In addition, our church  
3 recognizes the administrative positions under this constitution of clerk and treasurer. All  
4 officers must be members of this church prior to assuming their responsibilities.

5  
6           Section 2 – Elders

7           The elders shall be comprised of not less than three men who satisfy the  
8 qualifications for the office of elder set forth in I Timothy 3: 1–7 and Titus 1: 6–9. ~~and a~~  
9 No elder shall hold the office of deacon during his tenure.

10          Subject to the will of the congregation, the elders shall oversee the ministry and  
11 resources of the church. In keeping with the principles set forth in Acts 6: 1–6 and I  
12 Peter 5: 1–4, the elders shall devote their time to prayer, the ministry of the Word (by  
13 teaching and encouraging sound doctrine), and shepherding God’s flock.

14          The church shall recognize men gifted and willing to serve in this calling, in  
15 accordance with the constitutional provisions on elections. These men shall be received  
16 as gifts of Christ to His church and set apart as elders. This recognition shall be  
17 reaffirmed by the church triennially. After an elder, other than the senior or associate  
18 pastor(s), has served two consecutive three-year terms, he may only be elected to the  
19 office of elder after at least one year.

20          An elder's term of office may be terminated by resignation or by dismissal. Any  
21 two members with reason to believe that an elder should be dismissed should express  
22 such concern to the elders and, if need be, to the congregation. Any such action shall be  
23 done in accordance with the instructions of our Lord in Matthew 18: 15–17 and I  
24 Timothy 5: 17–21. Any of the elders may be dismissed by a two-thirds vote of the  
25 members at any members’ meeting of the church.

26          The elders shall take particular responsibility to examine and instruct prospective  
27 members, examine and recommend all prospective candidates for offices and positions,  
28 oversee the work of the deacons and appointed church agents and committees, conduct  
29 worship services, administer the ordinances of baptism and communion, equip the  
30 membership for the work of the ministry, encourage sound doctrine and practice,  
31 admonish and correct error, oversee the process of church discipline, coordinate and  
32 promote the ministries of the church, and mobilize the church for world missions.

33 Further, tThe elders should seek ~~are further~~ to ensure that all who minister the Word to  
34 the congregation, including outside speakers, share-affirm our fundamental gospel  
35 convictions and do not teach our church anything contrary to the Statement of Faith.

36          The elders may establish ministry positions or committees to assist them in  
37 fulfilling their responsibilities. The elders may also propose funding for new paid staff  
38 positions. The membership shall approve all candidates to fill the positions of senior and  
39 associate pastor. The scope and approval of job descriptions for any staff position shall  
40 reside in the hands of those with hiring authority for that position.

41 ~~The elders shall have primary responsibility for the employment, supervision, and~~  
42 ~~evaluation of staff members. This responsibility may, on a case-by-case basis, be~~  
43 ~~delegated to another staff member.~~

44          Each year the elders, after consultation with the deacons, the deaconesses, and the  
45 membership, shall present to the church an itemized budget. This budget shall be  
46 presented for discussion at a regular or specially-called budget meeting and called up for

1 a vote at the following members' meeting. No money shall be solicited by or on behalf  
2 of the church or any of its ministries without the approval of the elders.

3 The elders shall elect a chairman of elders' meetings and shall also elect one of  
4 their number to serve as moderator of members' meetings. For purposes of compliance  
5 with the nonprofit corporation laws of the District of Columbia, the elders shall elect one  
6 of their number to serve as the president of the corporation.

### 7 8 Section 3 – The Senior Pastor

9 The senior pastor shall be an elder. He shall perform the duties of an elder  
10 described in Section 2, above, and shall be recognized by the church as particularly gifted  
11 and called to the full-time ministry of preaching and teaching.

12 His call shall not be subject to the triennial reaffirmation or to the term limitation  
13 set out in Article 5, Section 2, for elders. His call shall be defined as per Article 6,  
14 Section 3.

15 He shall preach on the Lord's Day, administer the ordinances of baptism and  
16 communion, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office, or as set forth  
17 in the constitution.

18 The senior pastor shall have primary responsibility for the supervision and  
19 evaluation of staff members. This responsibility may, on a case-by-case basis, be  
20 delegated to another staff member.

21 In the absence or incapacity of the senior pastor the elders shall assume  
22 responsibility for his duties, any of which can be delegated.

### 23 24 Section 4 – Associate Pastors

25 The church may call additional pastors whose relationship to the senior pastor is  
26 that of associate.

27 An associate pastor shall be an elder. He shall perform the duties of an elder  
28 described in Section 2, above, and shall be recognized by the church as particularly gifted  
29 and called to the full-time ministry of preaching and teaching.

30 His call shall not be subject to the triennial reaffirmation or to the term limitation  
31 set out in Article 5, Section 2, for elders. His call shall be defined as per Article 6,  
32 Section 4.

33 He shall assist the senior pastor in the performance of his regular duties and shall  
34 perform any other duties as usually pertain to the office of pastor, or as set forth in the  
35 constitution, or which may be specifically assigned to him by the congregation.

36 In the absence or incapacity of the senior pastor for defined periods of time (such  
37 as sabbatical or illness), the associate pastor(s) shall assume the responsibility for his  
38 duties under the oversight of the elders.

### 39 40 Section 5 – Assistant Pastors

41 The church may call additional pastors, from within the congregation only, whose  
42 relationship to the senior pastor is that of assistant.

43 An assistant pastor shall be an elder. He shall perform the duties of an elder  
44 described in Section 2, above, and shall be recognized by the church as particularly gifted  
45 and called to the full-time ministry of preaching and teaching.



1 His call shall be subject to the triennial reaffirmation and term limitation set out in  
2 Article 5, section 2, for elders. His call shall be defined as per Article 6, Section 5

3 He shall assist the senior pastor and associate pastor(s) in the performance of their  
4 regular duties, and shall perform any other duties as usually pertain to the office of  
5 pastor. The elders shall define the responsibilities of the assistant pastor(s).  
6

#### 7 Section 6 – Senior Pastoral Assistants

8 With the approval of the elders, the senior pastor may hire additional staff to  
9 assist with pastoral ministry, designated as senior pastoral assistants. These shall not be  
10 pastors, though they may be recognized as elders should they be nominated by the elders  
11 and elected by the congregation, in accordance with Article 5, Section 2. Should the  
12 congregation recognize a senior pastoral assistant as an elder, he will assume the title and  
13 responsibilities of assistant pastor as described in Article 5, Section 5.

14 The elders shall define the responsibilities of the senior pastoral assistant(s).  
15 They shall serve at the will of the elders for an initial term up to four years, though that  
16 term may be extended with the approval of the elders.  
17

#### 18 Section 7 – Pastoral Assistants

19 The senior pastor may hire additional staff to assist with pastoral ministry,  
20 designated as pastoral assistants. These shall not be pastors, though they may be  
21 recognized as elders should they be nominated by the elders and elected by the  
22 congregation, in accordance with Article 5, Section 2.

23 The senior pastor shall assign the responsibilities of the pastoral assistant(s).  
24 They shall serve at the will of the senior pastor for a term of one year, though that term  
25 may be extended with the approval of the elders.  
26

#### 27 Section 8 – Deacons & Deaconesses

28 The office of deacon is described in I Timothy 3: 8–13 ~~and Acts 6: 1–7~~. The  
29 church shall recognize, in accordance with the constitutional provisions on elections, men  
30 and women who are giving of themselves in service to the church, and who possess  
31 particular gifts of service. In keeping with the principles set forth in Acts 6:1-6, These  
32 members shall be received as gifts of Christ to His church and set apart as deacons and  
33 deaconesses. They shall be elected to one term lasting for a maximum of three years and  
34 may only be elected to another term after one year.

35 Deacons and deaconesses shall care for the temporal needs of members, attend to  
36 the accommodations for public worship, and encourage and support those able to help  
37 others and those with gifts of administration.

38 The elders, with assistance from the deacons and deaconesses shall receive, hold,  
39 and disburse a fund for benevolence, reporting on its use to the elders at their request, and  
40 reporting to the church its total receipts and total disbursements only.

41 The deacons and deaconesses, with the agreement of the elders, may establish  
42 unpaid administrative positions or committees of members to assist them in fulfilling  
43 their responsibilities in the church.  
44

#### 45 Section 9 – Clerk

1 It shall be the duty of the clerk to record the minutes of all regular and special  
2 members' meetings of the church, to preserve an accurate roll of the membership, and to  
3 render reports as requested by the ~~pastor, the elders, the deacons,~~ or the church.

4 The clerk, who shall be a member in good standing, shall be nominated by the  
5 elders and elected by the congregation to serve a term of ~~one~~three years.

6 In the absence or incapacity of the clerk, the elders shall appoint a member to  
7 perform the duties of the church clerk.

8 For purposes of compliance with the nonprofit corporation laws of the District of  
9 Columbia, the clerk shall serve as the secretary of the corporation.

10 The church clerk shall ensure that dated copies of the most recent revision of this  
11 constitution shall be available for all church members.

#### 12 13 Section 10 – Treasurer

14 The treasurer, who shall not be an active elder, deacon, or paid church staff  
15 member, shall be a member in good standing. The treasurer shall support the elders in  
16 providing oversight of the financial and accounting activities of the church, shall not have  
17 custody of church funds, and shall ensure that all funds and securities of the church are  
18 properly secured in such banks, financial institutions, or depositories as appropriate. The  
19 treasurer shall also be responsible for presenting regular reports of the account balances,  
20 revenues and expenses of the church at each members' meeting. ~~The~~is responsibility  
21 may be delegated with the approval of the elders. The treasurer shall also ~~ensure~~see that  
22 full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements are kept in books belonging to  
23 the church, and that adequate controls are implemented to ~~guarantee~~ensure that all funds  
24 belonging to the church are appropriately handled by any officer, employee, or agent of  
25 the church. The treasurer shall render to the elders, ~~annually, or~~ whenever they may  
26 require it, an account of all ~~transactions~~activities as treasurer and of the financial  
27 condition of the church.

28 The treasurer shall be nominated by the elders and elected by the congregation to  
29 serve a term of ~~one~~three years.

### 30 31 **Article 6 – Elections**

#### 32 33 Section 1 – Principles

34 The process for church elections shall be interpreted and carried out to fulfill the  
35 following principles:

36 Substantial prayer, both individually and corporately, should be an integral part of  
37 the election process;

38 Nominations should proceed with the support of the elders;

39 All candidates for church office should be treated with the grace, kindness, and  
40 honesty appropriate in evaluating fellow members;

41 The election process shall express that spirit of mutual trust, openness, and loving  
42 consideration that is appropriate within the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### 43 44 Section 2 – Selection of Officers

45 The election of officers shall be held at a members' meeting of the church.

46 Names of nominees to serve as elders, deacons, deaconesses, clerk, or treasurer shall be



1 presented by the elders at the previous members' meeting (providing that previous  
2 meeting occurred at least eight weeks prior), and the election shall proceed as directed by  
3 the moderator.

4 The elders should seek recommendations and involvement from the general  
5 membership in the nomination process. Any member with reason to believe that a  
6 nominated candidate is unqualified for an office should express such concern to the  
7 elders. Members intending to speak in opposition to a candidate should express their  
8 objection to the elders as far in advance as possible before the relevant church members'  
9 meeting.

10 The moderator shall declare elected all men receiving a ~~75%~~two-thirds majority  
11 of all votes cast for the office of elder at a regularly-scheduled members meeting. For all  
12 other offices, the moderator shall declare elected all persons receiving a simple majority  
13 of all votes cast; abstentions will not be considered as votes cast.

14 The persons elected shall assume their respective offices upon election, unless  
15 another date has been specifically designated.

### 16 17 Section 3 – Calling of the Senior Pastor

18 In the calling of any man to this position, the same basic process of calling an  
19 elder must be followed. In addition, however, the church must be given adequate  
20 opportunity to assess the preaching gifts of any potential senior pastor and, before being  
21 asked to express its judgment, must receive assurance from the elders that, having  
22 interviewed the man concerned, they are in no doubt as to his wholehearted assent to the  
23 Statement of Faith and Church Covenant. Notice of the nomination of a man to be  
24 elected to membership and called as senior pastor (which shall include, if necessary,  
25 election to membership of his wife if he is married) must be given at two Sunday  
26 morning services following the nomination, prior to the vote at a members' meeting.

### 27 28 Section 4 – Calling of Associate Pastor

29 In the calling of any man to the position of associate pastor, the same basic  
30 process of calling an elder must be followed. In addition, however, the church must be  
31 given adequate opportunity to assess the preaching gifts of any potential associate pastor  
32 and, before being asked to express its judgment, must receive assurance from the elders  
33 that, having interviewed the man concerned, they are in no doubt as to his wholehearted  
34 assent to the Statement of Faith and Church Covenant. Notice of the nomination of a  
35 man to be called as associate pastor (which shall include, if necessary, election to  
36 membership of him and his wife if he is married) must be given at two Sunday morning  
37 services following the nomination, prior to the vote at a members' meeting.

### 38 39 Section 5 – Calling of Assistant Pastor

40 The calling of any man to the position of assistant pastor requires that that man  
41 have been recognized and called by the congregation to the office of elder, according to  
42 the process described in Article 6, Section 2. Such a man may then be called by the  
43 elders to serve as assistant pastor with defined duties for a fixed period of time specified  
44 by the elders in the terms of his call.

## 45 46 **Article 7 – Indemnification**

1  
2 Section 1 – Mandatory Indemnification

3 If a legal claim or criminal allegation is made against a person because he or she  
4 is or was an officer, employee, or agent of the church, the church shall provide  
5 indemnification against liability and costs incurred in defending against the claim if the  
6 elders determine that the person acted (a) in good faith, (b) with the care an ordinarily  
7 prudent person in a similar position would exercise under similar circumstances, and (c)  
8 in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the church, and  
9 the person had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful.

10  
11 Section 2 – Permissive Indemnification

12 At the discretion of the elders, the church also may indemnify any person who  
13 acted in good faith and reasonably believed that his or her conduct was in the church's  
14 best interest and not unlawful.

15  
16 Section 3 – Procedure

17 If a quorum of the elders is not available for an indemnification determination  
18 because of the number of elders seeking indemnification, the requisite determination may  
19 be made by the membership or by special legal counsel appointed by the membership.

20  
21 **Article 8 – Dispute Resolution**

22  
23 Believing that the Bible commands Christians to make every effort to live at  
24 peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian Church  
25 (see, e.g., Matthew 18: 15–20, I Corinthians 6: 1–8), the church shall require its members  
26 to resolve conflict ordinary civil disputes among themselves according to biblically based  
27 principles, without reliance on the secular courts. In the case of criminal activity within  
28 the congregation, the State has a God-given responsibility to protect the peace and  
29 security of its citizens that should be supported and encouraged. Consistent with its call  
30 to peacemaking, the church shall encourage the use of biblically based principles to  
31 resolve disputes between itself and those outside the church, whether Christian or pagan  
32 and whether individuals or corporate entities.

33  
34 **Article 9 – Deviations of Practice**

35  
36 If a church member believes the church to be out of accord with this constitution,  
37 he or she should inform an elder. When the elders determine that the church is out of  
38 accord with this constitution, they must provide an update at each members' meeting  
39 until the situation is remedied.

40  
41 **Article ~~9~~10 – Amendments**

42  
43 The Statement of Faith and Church Covenant may be amended by a ~~three~~two-  
44 ~~quarters-thirds~~ vote of the members present and voting at a members' meeting, provided  
45 the amendment shall have been offered in writing at the previous members' meeting, and

1 shall have been announced from the pulpit at church services two successive Sundays  
2 prior to such vote.

3 This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present  
4 and voting at a members' meeting, provided the amendment shall have been offered in  
5 writing at the previous members' meeting, and shall have been announced from the pulpit  
6 at church services two successive Sundays prior to such vote.

7 The revised version of this constitution shall be made available to all church  
8 members by the church clerk.

## 9 10 Article 11 – Dissolution

11  
12 In the event that the elders of the church determine that there is reasonable cause to  
13 dissolve the Capitol Hill Baptist Church as a corporate entity, the elders shall recommend  
14 dissolution to the membership. The elders shall call a special members' meeting as set  
15 out in Article 4, Section 2. Notice of the meeting shall be sent in writing to the  
16 membership and posted at all entrances to the church building no less than sixty days  
17 prior to the meeting. The notice shall state that the purpose of the meeting is to consider  
18 dissolution of the corporation and how the assets of the corporation will be distributed  
19 after all creditors have been paid. At least two-thirds of the members present at the  
20 meeting must vote in the affirmative to approve the proposal of dissolution.

21  
22 After approval of dissolution by the members, all of the corporation's debts shall be fully  
23 satisfied. None of its assets or holdings shall be divided among the members or other  
24 individuals, but shall be irrevocably designated, as approved by a simple majority of the  
25 members present at a members' meeting, to one or more religious organizations which  
26 meet the qualifications described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and  
27 which are in agreement with the letter and spirit of the Statement of Faith. Any such  
28 assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of exclusively for such exempt purposes by a  
29 court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the corporation is then  
30 located.