

# Harpeth Baptist Church

*"Holding forth the Word of Life"*

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## **CONSTITUTION OF HARPETH BAPTIST CHURCH**

We the members of HARPETH BAPTIST CHURCH in orderly manner do hereby establish the following principles by which we mutually agree to be governed in the affairs of our church.

### **ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of this church shall be HARPETH BAPTIST CHURCH of Kingston Springs, Tennessee.

### **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

1. To lead men and women to a personal faith in Christ as Savior.
2. To teach believers the Word of God so that they may serve Christ effectively at home and abroad.

### **ARTICLE III – DOCTRINE**

A doctrinal statement is attached.

### **ARTICLE IV – AFFILIATION**

This church shall be an independent church and is denominationally unrelated.

### **ARTICLE V – ORDINANCES**

1. Water Baptism
2. Lord's Supper

These ordinances shall be administered as the Elders decide.

### **ARTICLE VI – GOVERNMENT**

The government of this church under the Lordship of Christ and through the leadership of the Holy Spirit is vested in its members.

### **ARTICLE VII – VOTING MEMBERS**

1. The voting members shall be 18 years old or older.
2. Business Meeting: The church may be called together for the transaction of any legitimate business by a majority vote of the Board or by the Elders.
3. This Constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at a duly called business meeting provided the proposed amendment has been approved by the Board and an effort has been made to contact all the members with a two weeks notice given.

### **ARTICLE VIII – MEMBERSHIP**

We accept members in the following ways:

1. Confession of Faith in Christ as personal Savior and Lord.
2. A letter of recommendation from another church or a statement of faith in Christ if for some reason they are not able to obtain a letter.
3. Agree to be governed by this constitution and its duly adopted amendments.
4. Accept in its entirety the Doctrinal Statement.

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## ARTICLE IX – CHURCH OFFICERS

1. Pastor / Elder
  - a. A Pastor shall be chosen by a two-thirds vote of the membership (present and voting).
  - b. His tenure of office shall be for an indefinite period of time.
  - c. The relationship to be dissolved by mutual agreement after at least thirty days notice.
  - d. The services of a Pastor can be terminated by a majority vote of members present and voting after a two weeks’ notice has been given by announcing from pulpit and church bulletin.
2. Deacon
3. Board — The Church Board shall consist of active Elders, Deacons, and Trustees.
4. Officers – The Board shall decide as needed.

## ARTICLE X – TRANSLATION

The King James Version shall be used in the pulpit and all other classes.

## ARTICLE XI – MISSIONS

All missionaries receiving support in any manner must first be approved by the Elders and Deacons and a majority vote of the congregation.

## ARTICLE XII – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

There shall be an annual business meeting and election of officers in the month of December each year with officers taking office January 1<sup>st</sup>.

## ARTICLE XIII – PLACE OF BUSINESS MEETING

All business meetings of the members shall take place at the church building.

## ARTICLE XIV – OFFERINGS OR GIFTS

Gifts and offerings by members and friends of the church are the approved means of financial support of this church. Sales, benefits, and other such means of raising funds in the name of the church violate the principle of personal Christian stewardship and are not approved. No gifts, grants, or donations from any agency which would violate the principle of Separation of Church and State shall be approved.

## ARTICLE XV

No committee, officer, or employee shall have any authority except to make recommendations to the church and to carry out the expressed will of the church.

## ARTICLE XVI

Except where it is contrary to this constitution, Robert Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of the business meeting.