

**The Constitution of the GracePointe Baptist Church of Amherst County
Ratified on December 4, 2005**

ARTICLE I – NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1- Name

The name of this body shall be GracePointe Baptist Church of Amherst County, also operating as GracePointe Baptist Church and GracePointe Church.

Section 2- Incorporation

GracePointe Baptist Church is not incorporated, and may or may not seek incorporation in the future. GracePointe Baptist Church is tax-exempt and gifts to GracePointe Baptist Church are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS Code § 508(c)(1)(A); IRS Publications 557 and 526.

Section 3- Purpose

This congregation is organized as a Church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes, including, but not limited to, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building, maintaining and operating of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, day-care centers, camps, nursing homes, and cemeteries, and any other ministries that the GracePointe Baptist Church may be led of God to establish.

GracePointe Baptist Church shall also ordain and license men to the Gospel ministry; evangelize the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; educate believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture; maintain, when able, missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country; and engage in any other ministry that GracePointe Baptist Church may decide, from time to time, to pursue in obedience to the will of God.

Section 4- Affiliation

GracePointe Baptist Church is an Independent Baptist Church, but may choose to fellowship with any association or fellowship that is consistent doctrinally, philosophically, and strategically with GracePointe Baptist Church. Such affiliation may be made by affirmation of the church body as presented by the pastor.

ARTICLE II - COVENANT

Having been brought, as we trust, by Divine Grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and having been baptized, upon the confession of our faith, into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do most seriously enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ. We engage, as God shall enable us, to walk together in brotherly love, to exercise in Christian care and watchfulness over each other, to participate in each other's joys, to endeavor, with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's sorrows, to strive for the advancement of our church in knowledge and holiness, to promote its prosperity and spirituality, to sustain its worship, ordinances and doctrines, to follow the leadership of our pastor as he is the shepherd under Christ, to contribute cheerfully to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all the world; to avail ourselves of the great privilege of prayer for ourselves and for others, to live rightly and watchfully in the world, and ever remembering our relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ as our Master, and King, to seek to live for His glory.

ARTICLE III - DOCTRINE

GracePointe Baptist Church's foundation is Jesus Christ, and what He teaches in His Word. This is known as a "doctrinal statement," a "statement of faith, or our essential beliefs. Without apology,

1. We believe that the Bible, composed of the Old and New Testaments, is inspired of God, and is of supreme and final authority in faith and life. We furthermore believe that God has preserved His Word completely in the form of accurate translations of various languages. Having a high view of the Scriptures and its preservation, we affirm the use of literal translations for worship and preaching, preferring translations from the Majority Text, taking the King James and New King James Versions as our official texts for preaching.
2. We believe in one God eternally in three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe that God the Father, the first Person of the Trinity, is the Creator and Sustainer of all things and thus initiates all things, orders and disposes all things according to His own purpose and grace.
4. We believe that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, and that He is true God and true man, and is the only and sufficient Mediator between God and man.

5. We believe in the personality of the Holy Spirit and that His ministry is to reveal Christ to men in the regeneration and sanctification of their souls.
6. We believe that man was created in the image of God, and that he sinned and thereby incurred spiritual death.
7. We believe in the vicarious (substitutionary) death of the Lord Jesus Christ for our sins, in the literal resurrection of His physical body, His physical ascension into Heaven, and His personal, physical, and visible future return to the earth; and salvation is received only through personal faith in Him.
8. We believe that salvation is by the grace of God, and is undeserved; that it is through faith in Christ alone, and not by any works that man can do; that a truly saved person cannot lose their salvation, but is "sealed" by Christ until the day of judgment.
9. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation and the eternal security in Christ through the testimony of God's Word and the inner witness of the Spirit.
10. We believe that every truly saved person has been given a new nature that controls the believer's spiritual life. All the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach (shame) upon their Savior and Lord. All claims to the total eradication (elimination) of sin in the mortal body are unscriptural. We further acknowledge that God, and thus our church, hates sin, not sinners.
11. We believe that baptism is immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; setting forth the essential facts in redemption—the death and resurrection of Christ; also essential facts in the experience of the believer—death to sin and resurrection to newness of life; and that the Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the Lord's death until He comes.
12. We believe that a New Testament Church is a body of believers thus baptized, associated for worship, service, the spread of the Gospel and the establishing of the Kingdom in all the world.
13. We believe that it is the obligation and responsibility of the saved to witness the truths of Holy Scripture by life and by word and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind.

14. We believe that the Holy Spirit distributes the spiritual gifts to all believers according to His grace for the edification of the Church and the glory of God. We are a non-Charismatic church; we are not anti-Charismatic.
15. We believe angels are spirit beings who function under the final authority and administration of God. Holy angels serve God through: worship, delivering divine messages, conveying divine revelation, inflicting divine judgments, influencing the leaders of governments, caring for God's people, and warring against the forces of Satan.
16. We believe that Satan is a created being, the author of sin and the cause of the fall of man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man. Evil angels, often referred to in Scripture as demons, act on Satan's behalf. Satan and his demons will be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire for their rebellion toward God.
17. We believe that Heaven is a literal place; that it is the eternal home of all the truly saved throughout the ages; that it is void of all sin, malice, and evil; and that in Heaven God reigns from His throne and that Jesus sits at His right hand.
18. We believe that Hell is a literal place and is the eternal abode of all unregenerate (unsaved) persons throughout all the ages; that Satan is not presently in Hell, but is the prince of this earth; that at the end time death and Hell will be cast into the Lake of Fire where Satan, his demons, and all lost people will be eternally separated from God.
19. We believe in the pre-Tribulational Rapture, which is the personal, bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ to take His Church (all truly saved persons, both alive and dead) from this earth to Heaven.
20. We believe the Rapture is followed by a seven-year period of Tribulation on the earth. At the end of this time, Christ will return to the earth with His saints and will reign for a thousand years. During this time all resurrected saints will reign with Christ over all the nations of the earth. This reign will be preceded by the overthrow of the Antichrist and the False Prophet, and by the removal of Satan from the world.
21. We believe the bodily resurrection of all mankind, the saved to eternal life with Christ in heaven, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment in the Lake of Fire.

22. We believe that marriage is intended by God to be between a man and a woman for a life-time.
23. We believe that human sexual orientation other than heterosexuality is contrary to God's Word and nature; however, we do not believe that homosexuality, bisexuality, and other non-heterosexual orientations are worse or more sinful than heterosexual sin, such as fornication (sex by people unmarried) and adultery (sex by a married person with someone other than their spouse).
24. We believe that human life begins at conception, and that it is sacred, both in the womb and throughout life; that all persons, born and unborn, are created in God's image and deserve the dignity of life without threat of harm.
25. Finally, since we believe that the Bible is inspired of God and is without error, any and all doctrines, philosophies, ideas, and values not presented in this statement of faith shall be considered in light of their adherence to or contradiction of the Bible. We unashamedly embrace such teachings that align with Scripture and reject such that do not.

ARTICLE IV - ASSOCIATION

The Government of this Church is vested in the body of baptized believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but may seek fellowship, mutual counsel and co-operation with other churches of like faith and order.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1- Reception of Members

Members may be received in the following manner: (1) by profession of faith in Christ as Savior, followed by immersion in water by authority of this Church; (2) upon promise of a letter of recommendation from another church of like faith and order, it being determined by this church that the person has been Scripturally baptized and otherwise qualified for membership; (3) by statement, where a letter of recommendation is not available, it being determined by this church that the person has been Scripturally baptized and otherwise qualified for membership; and (4) by restoration, having been excluded from this Church and giving evidence of repentance.

Before one shall be voted on for membership, he or she shall be examined as to his or her qualifications for membership by the pastor or his representative(s). One may be received into membership at a regular worship service at the recommendation of the pastor and by a majority vote of members present.

Section 2- Termination of Membership

Membership may be terminated as follows: (1) by death; (2) by letter of dismissal, issued to a church of like faith and order with which a member has united, (3) by withdrawal of fellowship; and (4) by removal under the necessity of church discipline (see Article V Section 3).

Section 3- Discipline of members

Except as otherwise provided in matters of discipline we shall follow the Scriptural procedure as outlined in the New Testament, (Matt. 18:15-17; I Cor. 5:4-13; II Thes. 3:6).

Section 4- Associate Membership

One may be an associate member of this church if he or she is a short-term resident of the area, such as a student or temporary worker, desires to fellowship with this church yet maintain membership in another church of like faith and practice, or otherwise desires to associate temporarily or in absentia. Associate members may not vote or hold an elected office, and must subscribe to the Articles of Faith and Church Covenant of this constitution.

Section 5- Dual Membership

One may be a member of this church while holding a membership in another church of like faith and practice as long as: (1) the other church to which he or she belongs approves of this arrangement; (2) he or she is a member in good standing at the other church; and (3) he or she does not maintain affiliation with a third church. Dual Membership members are considered Associate Members and may not vote or hold an elected office, and must subscribe to the Articles of Faith and Church Covenant of this constitution.

Section 6- Attendance

While this church shall not have "active" and "inactive" rolls (we will simply maintain a membership roll), only those who attend and give (financially) regularly shall have the privilege to vote and hold elected offices. "Regular attendance" shall be determined by the pastor or other official church leaders, and is not disputable.

Section 7- Active Membership Defined

Active members are those members who attend regularly and give (financially) regularly, as determined by the pastor for attendance, and the treasurer and/or trustees for giving.

Section 8- Issues Disqualifying Someone from Membership

In an age of increasing worldly influence on the church and Christian home, it is necessary that this church takes a clear yet compassionate stand against what the Bible communicates as immoral or sinful. Therefore, GracePointe Baptist Church does not allow people to join our fellowship as official members if they are knowingly involved in open sin, such as practicing homosexuality, cohabitation (defined as a couple living together as sexual partners outside the confines of marriage), promiscuity, public drunkenness, illegal acts, or any other behavior that violates the clear dictates of Scripture.

However, we encourage and welcome any and all persons who desire to attend our services, and we strive to demonstrate to all persons the love of God through Christ. Firmly believing that God hates sin, but loves sinners, we endeavor to emulate the love and compassion of our Savior.

ARTICLE VI - PASTOR AND LEADERS

Section 1- General Statements

The Church shall elect a Pastor and trustees as may be needed with four weeks notice from the pulpit. The Church may elect other leaders as may be needed with ample notice from the pulpit.

The pastor and leaders shall be members of the Church and shall deserve the respect and support of the Church in their respective duties. All shall be responsible for the orderly conduct of services and functions under their leadership, subject to the approval of the Church. They shall be expected to prepare themselves by Bible study and otherwise, attend workers meetings, and make regular reports of the work under their leadership, as required by the Church.

This shall not prohibit the election of a man as Pastor who is not a member of the Church at the time of his election.

The Pastor and trustees shall be elected for an indefinite period at any meeting of the Church called for such purpose.

Section 2- Founding Pastor

The founding pastor is Rev. Dr. Gregory K. Tyree, who became pastor by affirmation by all present at a pre-charter service, which was held on September 18, 2005, and who shall serve as pastor until such time as he resigns or the church calls for his resignation, which must be by 75% vote of all active members (as determined by Article V Section 7). The founding pastor may not be released for any reason other than: (1) he has been proven to have had a moral failure as determined by Scriptural qualifications, (2) he has been proven to teach doctrines that are contrary to the doctrinal statement of GracePointe Baptist Church as outlined in Article III; and (3) he resigns by his own free will.

Section 3- Pastor

The qualifications and duties of the Pastor are set forth in the scriptures (I Tim. 3rd Chapter, I Tim. 5:17, Heb. 13:7,17,24, I Pet. 5:1-5).

He shall be the president of the organization. He shall be the leader of the Church, in charge of all services and ordinances except as herein provided, Moderator of all business meetings (except when his call, dismissal or discipline is involved), and ex-officio member (with voting rights) of all taskforces, leadership teams, and departments of Church work. In the event the Pastor does not serve as Moderator of the Church, his representative shall moderate such meetings.

Section 4- The Pastor and Church Discipline

If anyone makes an accusation of the pastor regarding a supposed moral failure or doctrinal heresy, the following steps must be made: (1) the accuser must approach the pastor in person concerning the charge, and seek clarification and agreement (email, mail, voicemail, text message, or any other non-personal communication is unacceptable); (2) if step one is ineffective, the accuser must approach the pastor personally, as defined in step one, with one witness, as long as the pastor has been given prior notice to such an accusation, and is able to have a witness on his behalf at such a meeting; (3) if step two is ineffective, and real proof has been produced of the pastor's violation, he may be taken before the congregation so that the issue may be resolved; (4) if the pastor is proven innocent, the charges shall be withdrawn; if he is found to be guilty, he shall be asked to confess his sin and rectify his actions. The church may choose to restore him as long as he exemplifies a repentant attitude, seeks help concerning his sin, and ceases to continue in such sin, and as long as such sin has not rendered him disqualified from the ministry, as given in the Scriptures. Outside counsel should be sought in such matters.

Section 5- Deacons

Deacons may be appointed by the pastor as needed and shall assist him in looking after the temporal and spiritual affairs of the Church, ministering to the needy of the Church, preparing for the ordinances, visiting church members, evangelism, and, unless otherwise provided, be in charge of usher service and receiving the offerings. GracePointe Baptist Church does not mandate that there be deacons, and the establishment of and number of deacons shall be determined by the pastor or a church leadership team under the pastor's recommendation. In any case the deacons shall not constitute a board of the church, but shall serve the church as a "fellowship of deacons" in keeping with the spirit of Acts Chapter Six. The qualifications for deacon shall be the same as for the pastor.

Section 6- Trustees

All fiscal matters of the Church, including the management of funds, property, and assets, shall be under the general oversight of the trustees, duly elected by the Church at a properly called business meeting. There shall be a minimum of one trustee, and no maximum number.

The Trustees shall be the custodians of the property of the Church, shall supervise the auditing of the books of the Treasurer, and handle all legal transactions for the Church. They shall have no power to buy, sell, lease or transfer any Church property without specific vote of the Church authorizing such action. No alteration or sale of Church property may be made without the recommendation of the pastor and the trustees and approval of the Church. Two-thirds of the trustees (and all, if less than three) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Trustees shall be active members of GracePointe Baptist (See Article V Section 7) Church, have the highest of ethical and spiritual qualities, and maintain a good testimony within and out of the church. The trustees shall not be a governing board, but shall serve under the authority of the pastor and the congregation.

Section 7- Clerk

The church clerk shall be an elected or appointed office, depending on the needs of the Church. If non-elected, the clerk shall be appointed by the pastor. The clerk shall keep a suitable record of the actions of the Church, and report the same as the Church shall require. He or she shall keep a register of names and addresses of the members, with dates and manner of admission and dismissal, and shall notify all officers and appointees of their election or appointment, and members of actions against them. He or she shall be in charge of all correspondence for the Church, unless otherwise provided. His or her records

shall be the property of the Church, open to inspection by any active member, and the records shall be delivered to the Clerk elected or appointed to succeed him or her.

Section 8- Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be elected by the church at its regular business meeting, and shall receive, hold and disburse all moneys and other securities belonging to the Church as directed by the Church. He or she shall keep a record of receipts and expenditures and report regularly as the Church may require. He or she shall furnish bond if required, the cost of which shall be paid by the Church. All records of the Treasurer are the property of the Church, shall be audited under the supervision of the trustees, and the records shall be delivered to the Treasurer elected or appointed to succeed him.

Section 9- Boards and Committees

GracePointe Baptist Church shall have no boards or standing committees, but shall be governed by the Church according to the Bible and under the direction of the pastor. Leadership teams, taskforces, etc. may be established for limited-terms and for specific reasons as deemed necessary by the pastor.

Section 10- Staff

Any and all paid staff shall be hired, and may be fired or released, by the pastor, as long as the church approves the creation of the staff position (i.e. youth pastor, music director, etc.) and as long as the remuneration of such a staff person is within the approved budget. The pastor shall solicit feedback from the congregation and the church leaders, but reserves the right to hire or dismiss any staff person for any reason.

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

Section 1- Meeting for Worship

The church shall meet for public worship on the first day of the week, and may meet on a midweek evening for prayer and Bible study, and at such other times as the pastor may determine.

Section 2- The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper shall typically be observed by the Church on the first Sunday of the month. If this is not practicable, a date and time shall be set by the pastor with prior notice given from the pulpit and with due consideration given to those who will serve the Supper.

Section 4- Meeting for Business

At any of the regular meetings for worship, the Church may, without special notice, act upon the reception of members, in accordance with Article V.

The regular meeting for Business shall be held once a year during the month of January, and shall be announced at least two weeks in advance from the pulpit. The fiscal year shall begin on January 1.

Special meetings for business may be called by the Pastor, the particular object of the meeting being clearly stated from the pulpit at least two weeks in advance, except for business which is deemed urgent, which may be announced immediately before the meeting.

The annual Church business meeting (or special meetings) shall be for the following purposes: (1) to approve the annual budget; (2) to elect officers (when needed); (3) to buy or sell property; (4) to amend the constitution; (5) and such business as deemed necessary by the pastor. All other church business, including the compensation of the pastor and staff, day-to-day operations, and other normal and necessary business shall be conducted by the trustees and/or deacons under the leadership of the pastor.

Section 5- Voting

All active members, as defined in Article V Section 7, shall be entitled to vote on all business matters as defined in Article VII Section 4. Except for the amendment of the Constitution and the calling or releasing of the pastor, all matters shall be determined by a simple majority of members present voting. There shall be no proxy voting.

Section 6- Quorum

A quorum for business meetings shall consist of the active members present at the business meeting, unless it is deemed by the pastor that another method of calculating the quorum is necessary.

When voting to call or release the pastor (except for the founding pastor), or when amending the constitution, a quorum shall consist of 75% of active members as determined by the church roll at the time of such a meeting. A majority at such a meeting shall consist of 75% of all active members present.

Section 7- Rules of Order

The order of business shall be as follows: Prayer, Reading of Minutes, Treasurer's report, and other various reports, unfinished business, new business, adjournment.

Except as otherwise provided, business shall be loosely conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order (most current edition), or by some other form of decorum deemed appropriate by the pastor or his appointed moderator.

Section 8- The Pastor and Meetings

No business meeting, trustee meeting, leadership meeting, or official ministry team or taskforce meeting shall take place without the pastor's knowledge and at the exclusion of the pastor, unless deemed appropriate by the pastor.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENT

This constitution may be amended by three-fourths vote cast at a business meeting called for the specific purpose of such amendments, as presented by the pastor, so long as a quorum of 75% of active members are present at such a meeting. Notice shall be given in writing, read from the pulpit on the morning services of the first day of the week for the four Sundays prior to this vote, and posted on the bulletin board or published in the Church bulletin.

ARTICLE IX- DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of GracePointe Baptist Church, the Trustees shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all liabilities of GracePointe Baptist Church, dispose of all assets of the Church to such an organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes, as GracePointe Baptist Church determines. Assets may be distributed only to organizations which agree substantially with GracePointe Baptist Church's Statement of Faith.

ARTICLE X – ENACTING CLAUSE

This constitution was ratified by the GracePointe Baptist Church of Amherst County on December 4, 2005.