

# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE 1. NAME AND LOCATION

This Church body shall be known as Horizon Community Church (“Church”). located on 2430 Gum Road, Chesapeake, VA. 23321

## ARTICLE 2. INCORPORATION, VISION, MISSION, PURPOSES, AND PREROGATIVES

### Section 1. Incorporation

This Church shall be incorporated under the Virginia Nonstock Corporation Act.

### Section 2. Vision and Mission

#### VISION

To help people establish a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, teaching them to live out the Scriptures, and equipping them to become fully devoted followers of Christ.

#### MISSION

To lead people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ and to:

1. Have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
2. Grow in their relationship with God
3. Grow in Christ likeness in attitude and action
4. Develop a servant’s heart by using their gifts, talents, abilities, and finances to help build the body of Christ.
5. Intentionally seek to build relationships with others and to look for opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them.
6. Build Biblical community as seen in Acts 2:42-47.
7. Make disciples that make disciples.

### Section 3. Tax-Exempt Purposes

The Church is organized exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law).

### Section 4. Prerogatives

The Church may engage in all legal activities to fulfill its non-profit purposes as a religious, educational, and charitable corporation.

### **ARTICLE 3. STATEMENT OF FAITH**

Jesus Christ is the head of this Church, and preeminent in all things. The Bible is the highest doctrinal authority for Horizon Community Church. The following Biblical beliefs serve as our Confession of Faith.

#### **Trinity: God Is**

We believe there is only one true God, who eternally exists as a Trinity of equally divine persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (1) Each member of the Trinity thinks, acts, feels, speaks, and relates, because each is a person and not an impersonal force. Each member of the Trinity is equally God, sharing all the divine attributes. (2) Because love and community flow from the Trinity to us through the Holy Spirit, we seek to live in loving community with God and others.

#### **Revelation: God Speaks**

We believe that God reveals Himself to everyone everywhere through general revelation. (3) We believe it is only by special revelation that anyone comes to a saving knowledge of God. (4) We believe God has supremely revealed Himself through Jesus Christ, the Son of God and his incarnate Word. We believe that all of the divinely Holy Spirit inspired, inerrant, authoritative, sixty-six canonical books of the Bible reveal to us Jesus Christ. (5) Because God is a loving Father who speaks, we seek to hear from Him and test everything by the Word of God.

#### **Creation: God Makes**

We believe that God created the heavens and the earth out of nothing, and lovingly prepared them as a home in which to worship and enjoy Him. (6) Everything in creation and history is dependent upon God and is only good when functioning according to his intentions. God, the author and subject of history, will bring history to an end and create a new heaven and a new earth. (7) Because God is our Creator we worship Him alone and enjoy his creation gladly.

#### **Image: God Loves**

We believe that in love God created the first human beings, Adam and Eve, as male and female, equal in dignity, value, and worth, in order to mirror and reflect God as an act of worship and obedience. We believe that human beings, as God's sole image bearers, are under God and over lower creation, not to be pulled up like gods or pushed down like animals. (8) We believe that human life begins at conception and that an unborn baby is an image-bearer of God. (9) We believe that God created marriage solely for one man and one woman and created sex only for married couples. (10) Because God created human life and marriage, we value the sanctity of life and godly marriage.

### **Fall: God Judges**

We believe that God created this world in a perfect state. (11) In Eden, Satan tempted Eve to mistrust God's word, and she was deceived. (12) The sin committed by Adam, also called "original sin," has been imputed to all human beings except Jesus Christ. (13) All human beings are sinners by both nature and choice. (14) All fallen people are by nature sinners, children of wrath, and destined to death. (15) Because we are sinners in need of a Savior and new nature, we trust in Jesus Christ alone for new and eternal life and believe in the reality of spiritual warfare with Satan and demons.

### **Covenant: God Pursues**

We believe that God makes and keeps his covenant promises. (16) God's covenants reveal his loving grace and mercy, because although people deserve nothing but condemnation, God gives gracious, covenantal salvation. Because God has welcomed us into eternal covenant relationship, we seek to live in gracious loving relationship with Him and others.

### **Incarnation: God Comes**

We believe that the eternal Son of God and second person of the Trinity became flesh, adding humanity to his divinity, and entered into human history as the God-Man, Jesus Christ. (17) Jesus alone is one person with two natures, fully God and fully man. Jesus Christ is the Word, or Logos, of God because he is the personal, eternally existing Creator of the universe, distinct from, yet equal with the Father and Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem to redeem sinful man as the only mediator between God and man. (18) We believe that Jesus Christ, during the Incarnation, laid aside the continual exercise of his divine attributes and lived his sinless life by the power of the Holy Spirit. (19) Because He is both our Savior and example, we deeply love Jesus Christ and seek to live with and like Him by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Cross: God Dies**

We believe that Jesus Christ lived a perfectly righteous and sinless life, died in the place of sinners, fully absorbing the wrath of God, paying the just penalty for their sins and reconciling them to God. (20) As our substitute, on the cross Jesus Christ suffered and died in our place to forgive us, love us, cleanse us, and embrace us as the punishment for our sins was diverted from us to Jesus. (21) Because Jesus died for our sins we seek to humbly confess our sins to Jesus Christ and one another, put sin to death in our life, forgive one another, and happily invite others to do the same.

### **Resurrection: God Saves**

We believe that Jesus Christ, after dying on the cross, arose bodily from the grave on the third day, appearing to many witnesses and proving that he was physically alive. (22) Through faith we are united with the risen Christ, raised with Christ, and granted the same Holy Spirit power

that raised Christ. (23) The benefits of Jesus' resurrection include the forgiveness of sins, justification, sanctification, and ultimately glorification. (24) We believe that justification through the work of Jesus Christ is possible by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone. (25) His righteousness is imparted to us at the time of saving faith, simultaneous with our justification, and brings us new life by the Holy Spirit, who regenerates us with a new nature and begins sanctifying us to become increasingly more like Jesus. (25) Because Jesus is alive forever, we confidently trust that one day we will likewise rise from our grave to live together as God's people with Him forever.

### **Church: God Sends**

We believe that the local church is a community of regenerated believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord, and that the universal Church is comprised of all God's people in all times and places. (27) In obedience to Scripture, Christians organize under qualified leadership, gather regularly for preaching and worship, observe the sacraments of baptism and Communion, are unified by the Spirit in love, are corrected for holiness, and scatter to fulfill the great commandment and the great commission as missionaries to the world. (28) Because we are members of God's universal Church, we partner with other Christian local Churches and ministries for Kingdom ministry and are devoted to building up our local Church family.

### **Worship: God Transforms**

We believe that human beings, made in the image of God the Trinity (who is Himself a worshiping community), are unceasing worshipers created to continually outpour all they are, all they do, and all they can ever become to God. Worship includes praise, proclamation, service, participation, sacrifice, and submission. (29) We believe that the corporate worship of a local Church is to be God-centered. (30) We believe that the corporate Church worship should include Bible preaching, the sacraments, prayer, Scripture reading, financial giving, and singing and music. (31) Because we are worshippers, we embrace all of life, including our corporate Church gatherings, as an opportunity to passionately worship God in practical ways.

### **Stewardship: God Gives**

We believe that Christians are to be stewards who gladly acknowledge that they belong to the Lord, that everything they have belongs to the Lord, and that everything ultimately belongs to the Lord. (32) Stewards should value both work and Sabbath so that their time and energy are well managed. (33) We believe that all spiritual gifts are a special grace of the Holy Spirit, given to us at our new birth to serve the mission of Jesus, and continue to the present age. (34) Because God has been generous to us, we seek to love and serve others as generous and wise stewards for God.

### **Kingdom: God Reigns**

We believe that God created humans with a spirit and body tightly joined together. (35) Death is not normal or natural, but an enemy, the consequence of sin. (36) Death is the tearing apart of these two intertwined parts and the cessation of life on this earth. The body goes to the grave and

the spirit goes to face judgment before God. (37) Upon Jesus' second coming, there will be a bodily resurrection for everyone, to either eternal salvation or condemnation. (38) The time between Jesus' resurrection and our resurrection is a lengthy ministry season of love, grace, and mercy as news of the gospel goes forth, inviting sinners to repent of sin and enjoy the present and future salvation of Jesus Christ. (39) Because our eternal home is in the Kingdom of God, as we journey home our mission is to joyfully invite others to join us while we throw parties, have fun, and make friends to practice for eternity.

\*\*\*Scriptural references available upon request and are kept in the administrative office.

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired word of God and as the only basis for our belief and we accept the Bible as our manual for living.

### **CORE VALUES**

We will honor Christ and His Church with integrity.

If we live with integrity nothing else matters.

If we don't live with integrity nothing else matters.

We are all about the "capital C" Church.

The local Church is the hope of the world, and we know we can accomplish infinitely more together than apart.

We will enjoy ministry together.

Nothing is more fun than serving God with people you love.

We will do anything short of sin to reach people who don't know Christ.

To reach people no one is reaching, we'll have to do things no one is doing.

We always bring our best.

Excellence honors God and inspires people.

We give up things we love for things we love even more.

It's an honor to sacrifice for Christ and His Church.

We are spiritual contributors not spiritual consumers.

The Church does not exist for us. We are the Church and we exist for the world.

We are faith-filled, big-thinking, risk takers.

We'll never insult God with small thinking and safe living.

We will lead the way with irrational generosity.

We truly believe it is more blessed to give than to receive.

We will love people.

We will seek to bring hope to the hopeless, healing for the broken, deliverance to those who are bound, and help to those in need.

#### **ARTICLE 4. CHURCH ORDINANCES**

##### **Section 1. Baptism**

A person who receives Jesus Christ as Savior; who professes Him publicly; and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord, will be received for Baptism.

- A. Baptism will be by immersion in water.
- B. Baptism will be performed by the Pastor or whomever the Church approves.
- C. Baptism will be administered as an act of worship during any worship service.
- D. The Church welcomes all others who have received other methods of Baptism, such as sprinkling or pouring, if the person placed their faith in Jesus Christ before the Baptism and knew they were making a public profession of their acceptance of Jesus Christ as their personal savior.

##### **Section 2. The Lord's Supper**

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby any Christ Follower, through taking of bread and juice, commemorates the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and anticipates His Second Coming. The Lord's Supper will be observed regularly. and will be led by the Pastor or Church Leaders.

#### **ARTICLE 5. AFFILIATION**

The Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denominational control. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation with other churches in missions and ministry, this Church voluntarily affiliates with other like-minded agencies and/or institutions regarding missions and ministries.

#### **ARTICLE 6. AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly called and noticed meeting of the membership, provided the proposed amendment has been provided in writing to the membership no less than two (2) weeks before the meeting.