

# **Stewartstown Baptist Church**

## **Stewartstown, PA**

### **Constitution**

#### **Preamble**

We declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the body in an orderly manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each Church member and the freedom of action of this body in relation to other Churches or organizations.

#### **Article I.**

##### **The Name**

The body shall be known as the Stewartstown Baptist Church of Stewartstown, Pennsylvania located at 18631 Five Forks Road. Stewartstown Baptist Church is incorporated in the State of Pennsylvania as a Domestic Nonprofit Corporation (Corporation number 8376 839).

#### **Article II.**

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of Stewartstown Baptist Church is to glorify God (Ephesians 3:21) by building itself up in the faith (Ephesians 4:11-16), by instruction of the Word (2 Timothy 2:2, 15; 3:16-17), by fellowship (Acts 2:47; 1 John 1:3), by keeping the ordinances (Luke 22:19; Acts 2:38-42) and by communicating the gospel to the entire world for the purpose of making disciples of all peoples (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2:42).

#### **Article III.**

##### **Statement of Faith**

1. We believe the Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God, without any error, the all-sufficient authority in matters of faith, doctrine, and Christian living.
2. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ, and that He is true God and true man. He died on the cross for our sins. He rose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven where He sits at the right hand of the Father and is now our High Priest and Advocate.
4. We believe that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost. Only through regeneration by the work of the Holy Spirit can man's salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
5. We believe that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is through this unique gift that God reveals the

union between Christ and His church. Further, God provides for the man and the woman in marriage, the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people.

6. We believe that eternal salvation is the free gift of God, entirely apart from man's works, and is possessed by any and all who have faith in and receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.
7. We believe in a regenerated church membership: individuals must understand their personal need for Jesus Christ and accept Him as their personal Lord and Savior.
8. We believe that baptism is by immersion and the Lord's Supper is a memorial to His suffering and death on the cross. These two ordinances are to be observed by the church in its present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means for man's salvation.
9. We believe in the personal, bodily, imminent, and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ and that His Second Coming inspires believers for dynamic and zealous life and service for Him while waiting for His return.
10. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, the everlasting blessedness of the saved in heaven, and the everlasting punishment and separation from God of the unsaved in hell.
11. We subscribe to the "Baptist Faith and Message" as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in the year 2000 as our larger statement of faith with scriptural references.<sup>1</sup>

#### Article IV. **Government**

The government of this church is entrusted in the members. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches. Insofar as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the Keystone Baptist Association, the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey and the Southern Baptist Convention.

In the event of the dissolution or disbanding of the Stewartstown Baptist Church, all property, assets, and holdings will revert to the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey, or its successor in interest. The organization prohibits the use of any surplus funds for private inurement to any person in the event of the sale or dissolution of the organization.

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<sup>1</sup> "The 2000 Baptist Faith & Message" <http://www.sbc.net/bfm2000/bfm2000.asp>, accessed 12/14/2015

Adopted July 22, 2012

Amended May 15, 2016

Article V.  
**Amendments**

Proposed amendments to the Constitution will be submitted in writing to the active deacons. A date for a special business meeting to amend this Constitution will be announced for at least two consecutive weeks prior to the meeting and a text of the changes made available to the membership during this period. Amendments will be adopted if approved by a two-thirds majority vote by the members present at this meeting consisting of a quorum of 20% of the active church membership.