

Constitution of Greenbrier Road Baptist Church  
1235 Greenbrier Dear Road Anniston, AL

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PREAMBLE

For the purpose of preserving and making secure the principles of our faith and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner, consistent with the teachings of the New Testament and the accepted tenants of the Southern Baptist Churches, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this church, and to preserve the freedom of action of this church with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith, we do declare and establish this Constitution.

NAME

This body shall be known as GREENBRIER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH of Anniston, Alabama.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this church body shall be first and foremost to seek and save the lost. We shall provide regular opportunities for public worship; to sustain the ordinances, doctrines and ethics set forth in the New Testament for the church of our Lord Jesus Christ; to teach and train its members through a program of Christian education; to support with its offerings all phases of the Lord's work; and to preach and propagate among "All" people the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the end that lost souls should be saved.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

ARTICLE I

THE SCRIPTURES: We believe that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God, and in the original manuscripts it was verbally (every word) inspired; that God, the Holy Spirit, is its author; that the salvation of sinners is its end, and that eternal truth without any mixture of error is its content; that it is indestructible and forever settled in heaven; and that it is the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. II Timothy 3:14-17 and II Peter 1:19-21

ARTICLE II

II. TRINITY: God is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being.

A. GOD THE FATHER: We believe there is one and only one living and true God, an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe, infinite in love and holiness and all other perfections, to whom we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. John 4:24, 15:26; Romans 1:20; Hebrews 3:4; Psalm 83:18, 147:5; Jeremiah 10:10; Revelation 4:11

B. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ was and is and shall be the eternal Son of God, co-equal with the Father and Holy Spirit; that He was with the Father and the Holy Spirit in the beginning (John 1:1); that He came to earth being supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary; that He was God in the flesh; that while here on earth He lived a sinless and spotless life; that He died a supernatural and vicarious death upon the cross for the sins of mankind; that He bodily rose from the dead the third day; and that He ascended to the right hand of God from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead and to reign eternally.

C. THE HOLY SPIRIT: We believe that God in this age manifests Himself through the Holy Spirit, who possesses distinct personal attributes; that He is eternally co-existent with the Father and the Son: that His basic ministries are conviction of sin, regeneration of the heart upon faith, guiding, helping and empowering believers to live godly lives. We believe that all believers are indwelt by Him, and that those who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit may be progressively filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit by appropriating faith. The fruit of the Spirit in the believer's life is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. In all things, the Holy Spirit is to glorify Christ. (Galatians 5:22,23: John 16:1-15)

#### ARTICLE III

THE FALL OF MAN: We believe man was created by the special act of God in a state of perfect innocence under the law of his Maker; but by willful and voluntary disobedience and transgression he fell from that perfect state of innocence, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners by nature and by choice, and being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, and positively inclined to evil, is therefore under the just condemnation of God to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse. Genesis 1:27, 1:31, 2:16, 3:6-24; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 1:18, 1:20, 1:32, 2:1-16, 3:9-19, 3:23, 5:15-19, 8:7; John 3:16; Psalm 51:5.

#### ARTICLE IV

THE WAY OF SALVATION: We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly and only through the grace of God by faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; that saved sinners are sustained and kept by the power of God through the shed blood of Christ and the intercessory work of Christ on our behalf at the right hand of God; and that anyone who is thus truly saved is eternally saved and can never be lost. John 1:1-14, 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Matthew 18:11-14; John 10:27-30; Philippians 2:5-8; Isaiah 53:45; Hebrews 2:9-18.

#### ARTICLE V

REGENERATION: We believe that in order to be saved every sinner must be regenerated or born again; that the agents in this new birth are the Word of God and the Holy Spirit; that these two work together in the heart, bringing conviction of sin and conversion; that by it we become partakers of the divine nature and a transformed life that leads us to love all men and to practice righteousness; that one is born again or regenerated the moment he believes in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

#### ARTICLE VI

PROVIDENCE: God from eternity decrees or permits all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs and governs all creatures and all events; yet so as not in anywise to be the author or approver of sin not to destroy the free will and responsibility of man.

#### ARTICLE VII

ELECTION: Election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, thus leading to the freeness of salvation. John 3:16

#### ARTICLE VIII

THE MEDIATOR: Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is the divinely appointed mediator between God and man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, yet without sin, He perfectly fulfilled the law, suffered and died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried, and rose again on the third day, and ascended to His Father, at whose right hand He ever lives to make intercession for His people. He is the only mediator, the prophet, priest and the king of the church, and sovereign of the universe.

## ARTICLE IX

REPENTANCE: We believe that repentance and faith are Scriptural necessities to regeneration and are also inseparable graces; that both of these are wrought in the inner man by the Holy Spirit; that when one repents and believes in Christ, he will turn to God with contrition and confession, calling on God for mercy. Romans 10:13

## ARTICLE X

JUSTIFICATION: We believe that justification and righteousness are inseparably united in the Scriptures; that justification may be defined as the judicial act of God whereby He justly declares righteous one who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ; that the believing sinner is justified because Christ, having borne the sinner's sins on the cross, has been "made unto him righteousness," (I Corinthians 1:30); that the saved, justified sinner has been in God's court, only to find that nothing is laid to his charge (Romans 8:1) and that justification secures for us every spiritual blessing that is needed for time and eternity.

## ARTICLE XI

SANCTIFICATION: We believe that the word sanctification means primarily to set apart anyone or anything wholly for God's use; that scriptural sanctification is in three tenses: we were sanctified in Christ eternally when we accepted Christ as Savior and Lord; we are now being sanctified daily through the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit and the cleansing of the Word of God and prayer; and that we shall be completely sanctified when we meet Christ in our resurrection bodies; that by daily and progressive sanctification we gradually grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ. II Peter 3:18

## ARTICLE XII

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS: We believe that those whom God had accepted in the beloved, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end; and though they may fall, through neglect and temptation, into sin, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach upon the church, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be renewed again unto repentance, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. I Peter 1:3-5

## ARTICLE XIII

THE CHURCH: A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

*Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.*

#### ARTICLE XIV

THE UNIVERSAL BODY OF CHRIST: We believe that in the New Testament the Holy Spirit refers to the universal body of Christ, sometimes called the Church, and that the body is made up of all accept Christ as his Savior and Lord. I Corinthians 12:13

#### ARTICLE XV

BELIEVERS' BAPTISM: Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper. Matthew 3:13-17; Romans 6:1-10; I Corinthians 12:13

#### ARTICLE XVI

THE LORD'S SUPPER: The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby Christians, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming. Luke 22:14-20; I Corinthians 11:17-34

#### ARTICLE XVII

THE LORD'S DAY: The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.

#### ARTICLE XVIII

THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD: We believe that the Scriptures clearly teach that Jesus rose from the dead, and because He lives, we shall also live after death; that the Scriptures teach that there will be two great resurrections: all the dead in Christ shall rise first (I Thessalonians 4:16-17 and Revelation 20:5), and appear in heaven before Christ at the Judgment Seat (II Corinthians 5:10), and all the wicked dead shall be raised together to stand before God at the Great White Throne and those found unrighteous will be consigned to eternity in hell.(Revelation 20:11-15) These two resurrections will be separated by the one thousand year reign of Christ on this earth.

#### ARTICLE XIX

CIVIL GOVERNMENT AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: We believe that civil government is to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except in those things that are contrary to the Word of God and opposed to the will of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Romans 13); that the Church and state should be separate and that the Church should not resort to civil power or authority to carry on its work; that the Christian ideal is a free Church in a free state; that the Church has the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by any civil power.

## ARTICLE XX

EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS: We believe that it is the duty of every Christian man and woman, and the duty of every Church of Christ to seek to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth (Matt. 28:19-20); that the new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others; that missionary effort on the part of all believers rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life. It is also expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teaching of Christ; that it is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other means sanctioned by the gospel of Christ (Acts 1:5-8).

## ARTICLE XXI

STEWARDSHIP: We believe that God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him; that we have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in our possessions; that we are therefore under obligation to serve Him with our time, talents and material possessions by storehouse tithing; that we should recognize all these as entrusted to us to use for the glory of God and helping others; that all Christians should cheerfully, regularly, and liberally contribute of their means to advancing the Redeemer's cause on earth (Luke 12:42; 16:1-8; Titus 1:7; II Cor. 8:1-19; 12:1-15)(Mal.3:10).

## CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality, to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel of Christ through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to rear our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale or use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

## AMENDMENTS

Any part of this constitution may be amended, altered, or repealed by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members present at any regular business conference of the Church, provided that such amendment, alteration or repeal has been given to the church clerk in writing, and this proposed change has been presented to the Church at least thirty (30) days prior to the time the vote is taken.

## CHARTER

Section I – Polity: The government of this Church is vested in the body of believers, who compose it, and 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 churches of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Section II – Doctrine: The Church receives the Scriptures as its authority in matters of faith and practice. Its understanding of Christian truth as contained therein is in essential with the belief of the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention as indicated in the Articles of Faith herewith.