

CONSTITUTION OF TRINITY CHURCH

PURPOSE AND ARTICLES OF FAITH

The purpose of Trinity Church is to glorify The God of Scripture through promoting His worship, evangelizing sinners, and edifying the saints. Trinity Church adopts as the expression of its doctrinal beliefs the London Confession of Faith of 1689.

COVENANT

Having been brought by the grace of God to believe on Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and recognizing His authority and will explicitly revealed in the Scripture alone, we join together in Trinity Church as members of one another.

We commit ourselves to the proclamation of the whole counsel of God in our own geographical sphere and in other parts of the world.

We covenant together to worship God faithfully in the appointed times of public assembly and in private. We agree to the pursuit of holiness in our church body, in our homes, and in our individual lives. In this pursuit, we take the Scriptures as our guide and the Holy Spirit as our Sanctifier.

We agree to love one another as Christ has loved us and to follow the directives of Scripture that regulate our relationships to one another.

BY-LAWS

I. Government

1. Christ alone is Head of His church and He governs and leads the church through those officers He calls and equips. The two offices that are to function in the church are elder and deacon. (Phil.1:1; I Tim. 3:1-13)
2. It is also evident from the New Testament that the actions and common consent of the congregation often had an important role in the governing and functioning of the church. (Acts. 6:1-6; 15:22)
3. Elders are given the oversight of and rule in the local assembly. It is their obligation to watch over the flock by faithful ministry of the Word and prayer. It is clear from the New Testament that normally each local church had a plurality of elders. Elders are to be men of godly example, and their necessary qualifications are explicitly set forth in the Scriptures. (Acts 20:28; 6:4; 20:17; Phil. 1:1; I Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)
4. Deacons shall be responsible to care for the physical and material concerns of the church as a whole. (Acts 6:1-6) They shall, on behalf of the church, be watchful for the material needs of individuals in the assembly. The deacons shall at the end of the calendar year submit to the eldership and congregation a budget for the following year. The budget will be approved by a majority vote of the congregation at a duly called congregational meeting. The deacons will be responsible to administer the budget.

5. When a decision touches the spheres of responsibility of the eldership and diaconate, both groups of officers shall jointly lead the congregation in the decision-making process.

II. Membership

1. Any person who professes repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, who has a manner of life consistent with this profession, who expresses substantial agreement with the doctrines and aims of the church, and who is willing to submit to its government, shall be eligible for membership in it.
2. A person who desires to become a member of this church shall be interviewed by the elders. The elders shall examine the person relative to the matters stated in the immediately preceding paragraph. If the elders are satisfied that the person meets the requirements for membership, they shall announce this to the congregation. Time will be allowed for any member to privately express objections to the eldership. If no objection is raised which the elders consider to be valid, the person who has applied for membership will be formally received into membership at a stated meeting of the church.
3. Membership can be terminated by death, transfer to another church of evangelical faith, or by the exercise of church discipline as prescribed in Matt. 18:15-17; I Cor. 5:1-13; II Thess.3:6-15. Any act of ex-communication will be carried out by the congregation under the guidance of the eldership.

III. Election of Officers

1. Candidates for the offices of elder and deacon shall be commended to the congregation by the eldership. The commendation will be based on the conviction of the eldership that the candidates are gifted and qualified for the office according to I Tim. 3:1-13; and Titus 1:5-9.
2. Candidates shall be commended to the congregation one month prior to a duly called congregational meeting. Members of the congregation shall be encouraged to express to the eldership any concerns or questions about candidates. Election of the candidates shall be by a two-thirds majority of the eligible membership present at the duly called congregational meeting.

IV. Recommendations to the Congregation

1. All recommendations calling for the consent of the congregation shall be made by the eldership, the diaconate, or by a committee appointed by the eldership or diaconate. No recommendations for congregational consent shall be made from the floor by an individual member.
2. In all those matters involving the vote of the congregation, only those members in good standing and at least eighteen years of age shall be eligible to vote.

V. Amendments

1. These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the congregation.
2. Any amendment must be recommended to the congregation by the eldership at least one month prior to a duly called congregational meeting.

LBC CHAPTER 26, PARAGRAPH 15

In cases of difficulties or differences, either in point of doctrine or administration, wherein either the churches in general are concerned, or any one church, in their peace, union, and edification; or any member of members of any church are injured, in or by any proceedings in censures not agreeable to truth and order: it is according to the mind of Christ, that many churches holding communion together, do, by their messengers, meet to consider, and give their advice in or about that matter in difference to be reported to all the churches concerned; howbeit these messengers assembled are not entrusted with any church-power properly so called; or with any jurisdiction over the churches themselves, to exercise any censures either over any churches or persons; or to impose their determination on the churches or offices.

Acts 15:2; 4; 6; 2; 23; 25. 2 Cor.1:24; I John 4:1

RESOLVED: Whereas our London Confession of Faith of 1689 makes provision in Chapter 26, paragraph 15 for the direct involvement of other churches in the life of Trinity Church in times of peculiar need or crisis; and whereas our Confession defines these other churches as “churches holding communion together;” we the members of Trinity Church do designate the following sister churches as being the only churches so defined by our Confession: **The Grace Reformed Baptist Church of Mebane, N.C.; The Emmanuel Baptist Church of Verona, VA; The Emmanuel Baptist Church of Coconut Creek, Fl; The Reformed Baptist Church of Richmond, VA; The Trinity Baptist Church of Montville, NJ; The Grace Baptist Church of Flemington, NJ; The Reformed Baptist Church of Grand Rapids MI; The Albany Baptist Church of Albany, NY; and the Ballston Lake Baptist Church of Ballston Lake, NY.** As members of Trinity Church of Roanoke we thank God that our communion with other churches is broader than the particular churches here designated, but the churches here designated shall be the only churches to whom we shall apply chapter 26, paragraph 15 of our Confession until such a time as we alter this resolution framed and adopted on December 7, 1994.