

**New Hope Chapel**  
**Constitution**  
Proposed – November 2012

**Table of Contents**

<b>Preamble.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Article I – Constitution .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Article II – Name and Organization.....</b>	<b>2</b>
A. Name .....	2
B. Organization.....	2
<b>Article III – Purpose .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Article IV – Statement of Faith .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Article V – Membership.....</b>	<b>3</b>
A. Church Family:.....	3
B. Church Stewards:.....	3
<b>Article VI – Government .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Article VII – Disposition of Property .....</b>	<b>3</b>
A. Division .....	3
B. Dissolution .....	3
<b>Article VIII – Amendments.....</b>	<b>3</b>

## **Preamble**

We, the Church Stewards of New Hope Chapel (NHC), do ordain and establish the following articles, to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

## **Article I – Constitution and By-laws**

### **A. Constitution**

The following articles shall serve as the primary governing document for NHC. Any conflict which exists between this and other governing documents shall be governed entirely by the Constitution.

### **B. By-laws**

The Church Stewards shall establish, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, a set of By-laws that describes the daily administration of church business.

## **Article II – Name and Organization**

### **C. Name**

The name of our church (organization) shall be New Hope Chapel.

### **D. Organization**

The church was originally organized as a mission of the Baptist General Conference on June 1, 1987. It was incorporated (#D1908912) in the State of Maryland on May 3, 1987.

## **Article III – Purpose**

The purpose of NHC is to point people to Jesus: that they might know the love of God, live in the love of God, and share the love of God.

## **Article IV – Statement of Faith**

### **• The Word of God**

We believe the Bible is God's Word, verbally inspired and without error as originally written. We believe it is God's written revelation of Himself to mankind and has supreme authority in all matters of faith and life.

### **• The Trinity**

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – and that these are equal in every divine perfection and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption.

### **• God the Father**

We believe in God the Father, an infinite personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in affairs of people, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

### **• Jesus Christ**

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's unique Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal, visible return to earth.

### **• The Holy Spirit**

We believe in the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and who regenerates, sanctifies, and empowers all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide.

- **Salvation**  
We believe that all men are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who put their faith in Jesus Christ and are regenerated by the Holy Spirit are saved.
- **Sanctification**  
We believe that sanctification is the lifelong process of a believer's transformation into the likeness of God. We believe that this is God's calling for all who believe in Jesus, and that this transformation progresses through the believer's submission to the Lord.
- **The Church**  
We believe in the universal church, a living, spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members.
- **The Last Things**  
We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His Kingdom on earth. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal joy of believers, and the endless suffering of non-believers.

## **Article V – Membership**

### **A. Church Family:**

The Church Family is composed of those who regularly attend and engage in fellowship at NHC.

### **B. Church Stewards:**

1. Church Stewards are those from the Church Family who have made, in accordance with the NHC By-laws, the additional commitment to effectively operate NHC.
2. Church Stewards are the sole members of NHC with voting rights.

## **Article VI – Government**

The government of this church is vested in the Church Stewards as defined in Article V. The daily administration of the church business shall be conducted by the Pastor and the Elders as governed by the NHC By-laws, consistent with this Article.

## **Article VII – Disposition of Property**

### **A. Division**

In case of a church division, the church property shall belong to those Church Stewards who abide by this Constitution and the By-laws. Any controversy as to who is abiding by this Constitution and the By-laws shall be submitted to the Independent Arbitrator for NHC, as defined in the By-laws.

### **B. Dissolution**

If the church work cannot continue, a plan for the dissolution of church property shall be recommended by the Elders. The plan shall be confirmed at a special meeting of the remaining Church Stewards by simple-majority vote of those present. Church Stewards not present (as defined in the By-laws) at the meeting abdicate their voting rights.

## **Article VIII – Amendments**

Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed for adoption at a duly called congregational meeting by a majority of the Church Stewards present. Such amendments may be ratified at the following annual meeting provided that a quorum is present in person or by proxy, and is approved by a two-thirds majority vote.