

Northstar Church

CONSTITUTION

Amended & Restated

July 27, 2025

ARTICLE 1. NAME AND LOCATION

The name of this Church shall be Northstar Church (“Church”), which shall be located in Blacksburg, Virginia and other locations as determined by the Board of Directors (“Elder Board” or “Elders”).

ARTICLE 2. INCORPORATION AND PURPOSE

Section 1. Incorporation

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

Section 2. Purpose

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 3. Prerogatives

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

ARTICLE 3. STATEMENT OF FAITH

Unless otherwise noted, all quoted scripture is taken from the *English Standard Version*.

Section 1: Theology

At Northstar, our theology is based solely on the Word of God, the Bible. We seek to model a lifestyle of obedience to the teachings revealed in Scripture and resist a “head knowledge” only form of Christianity which only leads to pride and stagnation.

“This ‘knowledge’ puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.” (1 Cor. 8:1-3)

We hope to be like the Bereans in Acts 17:11:

“Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”

We affirm the great theological confessions of the past including:

The Apostles' Creed (ca. AD 180)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Nicene Creed (AD 325)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

In the essential beliefs that follow, we ask agreement. In non-essential beliefs (matters relating to such issues as the timing of end-time events, how often to celebrate communion, and other

debatable matters) we allow liberty. Toward those who differ with us we show love and respect.

“In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.” (Peter Meiderlin, 1627)

Section 2: Doctrinal Statement

In addition to the below, below Northstar Church also upholds the statement of faith presented within the Baptist Faith & Message 2000, which can be found at the following website: *bfm.sbc.net*.

1. ABOUT GOD:

We believe in one God, who exists eternally as three coequal and coeternal distinct persons, namely, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, each of whom is fully God, yet there is one God.

2. ABOUT THE FATHER

The Father is the first person of the Trinity. God the Father is the creator and ruler of the universe. He is all wise, all seeing and all understanding. His basic attitudes toward us are love and compassion, yet He is also capable of anger and wrath. God created all people and will one day judge all people by the standards set out in His Word. God desires a relationship with us and sent His Son Jesus Christ to make that relationship possible. God is discovered in the pages of both the Old and New Testaments.

3. ABOUT JESUS CHRIST:

Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the promised Messiah of Israel. Jesus was born in Bethlehem to a virgin and lived under the authority of his parents until he began his public ministry. He labored and taught for a little over three years in Israel, was tempted and tested by Satan, performed miracles, spoke often to the masses and selected twelve men to be His disciples. His life, lived out in dynamic relationship to His Father, provides a practical example of godly living and effective ministry for all of his followers throughout the ages. His story is told in four biographies in the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Jesus was betrayed by one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot. His death was demanded by the Jewish religious leaders, and he was crucified by the Romans. He arose from the dead after three days and later ascended to be with His Father in heaven. By the sacrifice of His life and His resurrection, He made possible forgiveness of sin and eternal life for all who choose to believe

in Him. He is the founder and head of the church. At a future date, known only to the Father, He will return to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

4. ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT:

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, and He is given to all who place their faith in Jesus Christ. The Spirit imparts peace, power, inspiration, encouragement, understanding and leadership to all believers who submit themselves to His working. He also gives to believers unique spiritual gifts that enable them to minister to the church family. The Spirit works with non-believers by moving and leading them to confess their sin and believe in Jesus Christ.

5. ABOUT THE BIBLE:

The Bible, in its entirety, is the infallible, inerrant, and inspired Word of God; it is divine revelation that carries the full weight of God's authority and to which we are obliged to submit. The Bible was written by men under the leadership and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Because it is God's Word, it can be trusted to be thoroughly accurate, reliable, practical and relevant to every generation and to people of all cultures. The first eleven chapters of Genesis which deal with creation, the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve, the fall, and the flood are not myth, but accurate history. Both Old and New Testaments are authoritative and instructive, and each is worthy of the believer's study. The Bible is to be read, studied and meditated upon consistently by all who wish to grow in Christian maturity. It is the basis and guide for all teaching in the church. It sets the behavioral standards for all who name the name of Christ. All of scripture was given to help us live in response to being loved - to help us understand that we are loved. It shows us - plainly, clearly, logically - what a loved people should do in response to such great, everlasting and sacrificial love.

6. ABOUT PEOPLE:

Human beings were created by God and fashioned in his image. God's desire for all people is that they know, love, serve and live with Him for eternity. Adam's sin and rebellion against God the Creator severed this perfect relationship between God and his people. We believe that people are born into this sin and continue to choose to disobey God and thereby sin against Him. This sin separates us from God and is deserving of death. Salvation is offered to all who accept and embrace Jesus Christ and his sacrifice for them on the cross. Brought into right relationship with God, people are capable of great creativity and highly effective ministry. Apart from God, all people are capable of the darkest evils. After death, people who have given their hearts to God in faith, trusting Him alone for their salvation, are destined to live forever in heaven with Him. Those who do not know God will live forever in hell without Him.

7. ABOUT THE CHURCH:

The church is people - all who belong to God through faith in Jesus. Collectively, the church is God's primary instrument on earth to make known the good news of the gospel. The church is the chief means by which people are helped to mature in the faith and encouraged to use their gifts in ministry. The church is a family which provides nurture, encouragement, protection, fellowship and even correction to all family members.

8. ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE:

Beliefs must translate into life; otherwise they are only words. At Northstar, we place a special emphasis on living out our beliefs in the following areas.

Biblically-Based Living

We test our attitudes and actions by the Word of God. When faced with a decision, we must always ask, "What does the Bible say about this?" We encourage daily Bible reading and study. The Word of God is the guide for all we do.

Circumspect behavior and moral purity

We guard our own and the church's reputation by living pure and godly lives. In our language, relationships, habits at work, and family life we refuse to do or say anything that would cause our own testimony to be harmed or would bring reproach on Northstar Church. We keep ourselves from profanity, sexual immorality and displays of any behavior that would be clearly seen as uncharacteristic of a follower of Jesus Christ. We take pains to avoid even the appearance of evil.

Outward focus

We purposely cultivate an outward focus that makes us aware of our responsibility to people who do not know Christ. We are God's ambassadors, and in that role we develop friendships with non-churched people, invite them to church and small groups, and share, when appropriate, our own testimony of how God has been at work in our lives. In addition, we are prepared to share the content of the Gospel with all with whom we are given the blessing of influencing.

"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame." (1 Peter 3.15-16)

Section 3: Affiliation

Northstar is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, and our theological tenants are in harmony with those of most Baptist churches. Still, we appreciate and love those of other traditions and denominations.

ARTICLE 4. POLITY AND AFFILIATION

The Church is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. The Elder Board is vested with the authority to associate and network with state and national entities that best represent the beliefs and convictions of the Church.

ARTICLE 5. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a duly called and noticed meeting of the membership (see Bylaws, Article 1, section 5).

ADOPTED by Northstar Church on this 20th day of July, 2025.

Secretary