

Constitution of Beck's Reformed Church

Adopted December 4, 2011

ARTICLE 1. NAME

1. The name of this church shall be Beck's Reformed Church, and said church is located at 2845 Beck's Church Road, Lexington in the State of North Carolina.

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE

1. The avowed purpose of this church shall be to worship God, to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to celebrate the Sacraments: to realize Christian Fellowship and Unity within this church and the Church Universal: to render loving service toward mankind; and to strive for righteousness, justice, and peace.

ARTICLE 3. AFFILIATION

1. The government of this church is vested solely in its members, who exercise the right of control in all its affairs. The church may associate with other like-minded associations and congregations for the advancement of common shared ministries but no arrangements may be entered into which would remove the complete control of rights or properties from the congregation of Beck's Reformed Church.

ARTICLE 4. DOCTRINE

1. The articles of faith of the congregation shall be those of the Reformed tradition. The historic creeds, the Heidelberg Catechism, the Reformed Confessions and the Holy Scriptures shall form the basis for doctrine.

2. This church acknowledges as its sole head, Jesus Christ, the son of God, and Savior of man. It acknowledges as brothers in Christ all who share in this confession. It looks to the Holy Scriptures, the infallible Word of God, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creed and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice among Evangelical Christians, it recognizes two Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion.

ARTICLE 5. MEMBERSHIP

1. Qualifications. Membership in this congregation shall be open to any person who desires to lead a Christian life, who has been baptized and confirmed in the Christian faith or has been baptized and a communicant member of another Christian Church; who acknowledged faith in the doctrine of our church and obligates himself to attend divine worship, to commune regularly and to contribute to the support of the church.

2. Transfers and Removal.

A. Any member may, upon his request, be granted a letter of transfer to another church within the Reformed tradition.

B. Any member desiring to join a church not in fellowship with our church may be dismissed with certificate of church membership forwarded to the church of his choice.

C. If for any other reasons a member presents a written request for release from membership obligations, the church shall patiently endeavor to secure his continuance in its fellowship; but failing in such effort, the consistory may grant the request and terminate his membership.

D. It shall be the obligation of the consistory to review the membership rolls each year and ascertain the standings of all its members. By vote of the consistory the name of any member may be taken from the church rolls up on the

occurrence of any one of the following conditions.

1. A member whose address and place of residence is unknown for a period of two years.
2. Any member who has not attended worship, communed or contributed to the support of the church for a period of two years shall have his name placed on a conditional membership list and, if after visitation or counsel of the consistory for a period of one year said member fails to activate himself with the church he shall be removed from the membership rolls of Beck's Reformed Church.
3. If any member persistently breaches his covenant vows, the consistory, after due notice to the member, and after faithful efforts on the part of the consistory to persuade the member to amend his ways may suspend or terminate his membership.

ARTICLE 6. GOVERNING BODY

1. The governing body of this church shall be the membership assembled in the church meetings duly called. The vote of a majority of members present at the meeting shall be the action of the church. A quorum shall consist of fifty members.

ARTICLE 7. CONSISTORY

1. The consistory shall be the executive body of this church. It shall be composed of the Pastor or Pastors, the Elders and Deacons. One-half of its members shall constitute a quorum.
2. The consistory shall organize itself at the first meeting of each fiscal year electing a president, vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer. The consistory shall form such committees as will serve the purpose of the church; shall have jurisdiction over, control, maintain and preserve its properties, and minister and control its business affairs, formulate congregational policies, manage and administer the program of the church and be responsible to the Congregation for promoting and maintaining the devotional, educational, and financial development of the church, through worship, Christian education, evangelism, community service and foreign missions, stewardship benevolence and Christian concern.
3. The congregation, upon recommendation by the Consistory may from time to time establish one or more trusts for whatever purposes it deems for the best interest of the church and its related activities.
4. The Consistory shall consist of six Elders and six Deacons, either men or women. Members shall serve a term of three years in office; then will not be eligible for re-election for a period of one year, except an Elder or Deacon filling and unexpired term can be re-nominated. At each Annual Congregational meeting two Elders and two Deacons shall be elected for a three-year term of office. The consistory shall nominate three Elders and Three Deacons and the congregation shall have the opportunity to nominate the same number from the floor. The two nominations receiving the highest number of votes for Elder shall be deemed elected. The two nominations receiving the highest number of votes for Deacon shall be deemed elected. Whenever a vacancy occurs for any reason before the term of office expires, the consistory shall appoint another church member to fill the un-expired term.
5. Nominations shall be given from the pulpit or by bulletin or letter at least two weeks before the congregational meeting held for election of Elders and Deacons. The congregational meeting for election of Elders and Deacons shall be held in the month of February each year.
6. The Consistory shall instruct the proper officers on all fiscal matters including the payment of bills; with quarterly review by the Consistory.
7. The Consistory may authorize any extraordinary expense if funds are available.
8. The Consistory shall meet at least once every month for the transaction of such business as may properly come before it. Special meetings are subject to the President's call.
9. Elders and/or Deacons are members of the church elected by the church and publicly ordained to or installed in their office. They shall assist and support the Pastor or Pastors in the spiritual affairs of the church. They shall provide the elements for the Lord's Supper and when invited by the Pastor, shall aid in their distribution. They shall have jurisdiction in matters of discipline except in the case of the Pastor. Elders and/or Deacons shall take heed to the high calling of their office, guarding faithfully all the spiritual interests of the church, maintaining order in the house of God, visiting the sick and ministering to the edification and comfort of all.

ARTICLE 8. TRUSTEES

1. Trustees are members of the church appointed by the consistory and installed to their office. They shall have the care and custody of the property of the church as a sacred trust; whether real or personal, in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and By-laws and under the directions of the Consistory.

2. The trustees shall elect a chairman of the Trustees.

3. The trustees shall consist of at least three members. These shall be members in good standing.

4. The Board of Trustees in the churches name may sue or be sued, acquire by purchase, gift, devise, bequest, or otherwise and own, hold, invest, reinvest or dispose of property both real and personal for such work as the church may undertake and may purchase, own, receive, hold, manage, care for, and transfer, rent, lease, mortgage and otherwise encumber, sell, assign, transfer, and convey such property for the general purposes of the church. In the event of the borrowing of funds or pledging of church securities shall be done only by the' recommendation of the consistory and approval of the congregation by a majority vote. This being done at a duly called meeting. They may receive and hold in trust both real and personal property and invest and reinvest the same and make any contracts for promoting objects and purposes of the church.

ARTICLE 9. PASTOR

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Church and Ministry Committee, appointed by the consistory, to seek a candidate for a vacancy in the office of pastor.

2. As soon as a pastoral vacancy occurs, it shall be reported to the congregation.

3. In filling a vacancy or in securing supply ministers for the period of vacancy the Church and Ministry committee may seek the counsel of other Reformed Churches or bodies.

4. The Church and Ministry Committee may seek to secure relevant information about any minister whom it wishes to consider for the vacancy.

5. The Church and Ministry Committee of Beck's Reformed Church shall, upon approval from the Consistory, establish means of announcing the vacancy through those sources which would prove helpful in securing names of potential candidates for the vacancy.

6. The Church and Ministry Committee shall present to the consistory the name of the candidate it recommends to fill the vacancy and the consistory shall present it to the church. A favorable vote from the church constitutes a call.

7. In a call, the terms of the relationship shall be stated, including the agreement of the church and the person to the terms of that call. A copy of the call and its terms shall be filed with the legal representative of the congregation and with the person called.

8. When a minister accepts a call to this church, the church and the minister shall establish a service of recognition of the office of ministry to which they have been called. Other Reformed Churches or Reformed officials may be invited to participate.

9. The Pastor shall be elected for an indefinite period. In order to terminate this relationship, three month notice shall be given by either party. The Procedure shall be in accordance with the contractual terms of the call and those which express Christian love.

10. When either party decides to terminate the relationship, the termination shall be by action of the Consistory, and notice of such termination shall be sent by the President of the Consistory. The Senior Pastor may appeal to the congregation for confirmation if either the Senior Pastor or the Consistory believes that the termination is not in the will of the congregation. In such cases, a duly called meeting of the Church shall be announced in accordance with the Constitution and a simple secret ballot shall be taken to affirm or reject the decision of the Consistory.

11. Brotherly discipline of the Pastor shall be in conformity with Holy Scripture and other Reformed pastor's or officials may be called in if requested and agreed upon by the Consistory and the minister involved in the brotherly discipline.

12. The church may, with the aid of the existing ministerial staff of the church, choose an Associate or Assistant Pastor (s). Any Assistant or Associate Pastor (s) shall be terminated by the joint approval of the Senior Pastor and Consistory and shall not have the right of appeal to the congregation. The Senior Pastor shall have charge of the spiritual welfare of the church with the assistance of the Consistory. He shall have charge of arrangements and advisements for devotional and other meetings held within the sanctuary. Ministers, other than the senior minister, shall not perform any ministerial act or officiate in any way in the church without the expressed consent of the Senior Pastor.

ARTICLE 10. PROPERTY

1. Upon dissolution of the church, its assets and all property and interest of which it shall then be possessed, including any devise, bequest, gift, or grant contained in any will or other instrument, in trust or otherwise, made before or after such dissolution, shall be transferred to the Cemetery Fund of Beck's Reformed Church. However, it is specifically provided that the assets of any trust previously established or hereafter established by the church, shall be disbursed as provided in said trust agreement.

ARTICLE 11. CHURCH MEETINGS

1. The annual meeting of the church shall be held in the month of February. At this meeting, the Consistory, the officers of the committees of the church, the Pastor (s), may submit recommendations.

2. All organizations, if requested, shall give annual reports to the congregation in the month of February.

3. Special church meetings may be called by the Consistory or by a petition to the Consistory signed by not less than 30 members. The Consistory shall call such meetings within three weeks from receipt of the petition, and two weeks notice of such meetings shall be made from the pulpit two Sundays prior.

ARTICLE 12. STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Cemetery Committee

A. It shall be the purpose of the Cemetery Committee of Beck's Reformed Church to watch faithfully over the care and up-keep of the burial grounds of the church; to keep said plots neat and trimmed at all times; to supervise the location of grave plots.

B. It shall consist of 8 members duly elected by the congregation. Committee members shall serve a term of four years and be eligible for re-election. There shall be election of two members each year at the annual Congregational Meeting.

2. The Church School

A. The Church School shall include all phases of Christian Education within the Congregation.

B. Responsibility for planning and administration of the educational work of the congregation shall be vested in the Board of Christian Education responsible to the Consistory and/ or the church.

ARTICLE 13. RULES OF ORDER

1. Robert Rules of order shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by this Constitution and/or By-laws.

ARTICLE 14. AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to this Constitution and/or By-laws may be made at any duly called church meeting by a two-thirds affirmatively vote of the members present, public announcement of the text of the proposed amendments having been made two weeks prior to the meeting.