

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FOR CHESTER GAP BAPTIST CHURCH

Preamble

This Articles of Incorporation shares facts and information about Chester Gap Baptist Church, 41 Waterfall Road, Chester Gap, Virginia 22623. For the preservation and security of the principles of our faith and for the purpose of governing ourselves as a body of believers in an orderly manner, we do declare and establish this Articles of Incorporation.

These documents supersede and replace all previous Articles of Incorporations, by-laws, procedures, and similar documents.

Article I Name

The name of this body shall be the Chester Gap Baptist Church of Chester Gap, Virginia. The church is also referred to as Chester Gap Baptist Church.

Article II History

Section A Articles of Incorporation of Church

Chester Gap Baptist Church of Chester Gap was established in 1958 as a mission of Shiloh Baptist Association and constituted as a church August 16, 1987, in the County of Rappahannock, and Commonwealth of Virginia.

Section B Date of Incorporation and Supporting Information

Chester Gap Baptist Church of Chester Gap, Virginia was incorporated the 9th day of May 2008 AD. The certificate of incorporation is registered in the Secretary of State's Office, State of Virginia.

Article III Vision Statement

Our Vision Statement is "A CHURCH FOR PEOPLE TO PRAY PASSIONATELY, GIVE SACRIFICALLY, GO CONFIDENTLY TO SHARE THE GOSPEL, AND MATURE BELIEVERS."

Article IV Statement of Purpose/Mission

Members of the body of Christ at Chester Gap Baptist Church, believe it their purpose to glorify God and lift Him up as the only one living and true God; Praying, Giving, Going

Praying passionately for God's work to be fulfilled in us and through us. Matthew 6 (The Lord's Prayer) we desire to be used in His Kingdom purpose.

Giving sacrificially is precisely what Christ did for us. In Psalm 67 we are reminded how blessed we are as a people and may we use the blessing bestowed upon us to impact lives, care for those in need, and expand the ministry of the church.

While it is essential that we pray and give, it is a mandate from Christ in the Great Commission that we too go. May we go confidently using a strategy based on Acts 1:8. *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come to you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Our mission is to reach the lost for Christ within our community and spread outward beyond our community. We will promote Christian fellowship and spiritual growth through Bible study, worship, and prayer to equip God's people for His service.

Article V Doctrinal Statement - Articles of Faith

This church receives the Scriptures as its authority in matters of faith and practice. Its understanding of Christian truth as contained therein is in essential accord with the belief of other Southern Baptists. As its Articles of Faith, this church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of *"The Baptist Faith and Message -2000"* adopted by the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Article VI Church Covenant - A Responsive Reading To Encourage Us In Our Faith

Pastor - By what common experience do we enter into spiritual fellowship and covenant relations with one another?

Congregation - Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of 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.

Pastor - What is the bond of our union with one another?

Congregation - We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love.

Pastor - What are our privileges and duties in this church?

Congregation - To strive for the advancement of this church in the knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines.

Pastor - What vows do we gladly make as stewards of what God entrusts to us?

Congregation - 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 through all nations.

Pastor - What gracious tasks do we humbly assume?

Congregation - We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances.

Pastor - To what manner of life and conversation are we solemnly pledged?

Congregation - 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 and use of illegal drugs and intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

Pastor - Since one is our Master, even Christ, and all we are brethren, by what fraternal ministries are we to strengthen each other and adorn the teachings of our Lord and Savior?

Congregation - 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.

Pastor - What is our agreement when we move from this community?

Congregation - 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.

Pastor - What benediction concludes our Covenant?

Congregation - And may the God of peace who brought again from the dead the Great

Shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an eternal covenant, even our Lord Jesus, make us perfect in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Article VII Statement of Observing Ordinances

Chester Gap Baptist Church observes the ordinances of Baptism following the example of the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Lord's Supper as in Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20, John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5, 1 Corinthians 10:16, 21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

Article VIII Statement of Polity

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is an autonomous body subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body. This body shall operate as a Theocracy (God Centered) under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Article IX Relationships/Affiliation/Statement of Cooperation

The cooperation of Chester Gap Baptist Church will be with the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia and the Southern Baptist Convention, or such similar New Testament believing bodies as the church may hereafter become affiliated with, so long as such cooperation does not violate the autonomy of the local church.

Article X Statement of Spiritual Guidance

We affirm the Doctrine of the Priesthood of the Believer, which states that every individual believer can communicate directly with God to receive guidance. We encourage people to make use of the wisdom of the servant roles of Pastor and Deacon under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit. 1 Peter 2:5-9.

Article XI Dissolution

In the unforeseeable and unfortunate event that the church body shall dissolve and no longer exist, all property and assets of the church shall be transferred to a Christ-centered nonprofit approved by the remaining members.