

# Constitution

## Constitution of First Christian Church, Richlands, North Carolina

### PREAMBLE

We, the members of First Christian Church, Richlands, North Carolina, proclaim the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in faithful response to the will and purposes of God. We seek to bring forth in all persons, a faith and commitment to Jesus Christ. We choose to speak boldly to the day and the world in which we live, to work eagerly and cooperatively with all Christians to pursue the oneness of the body of Christ, and to make known the love of God for all mankind. By proclamation, we preserve and secure the principles of our faith and liberties of each individual member of the church, and do hereby adopt this constitution.

### ARTICLE I

#### NAME

The name of this congregation shall be First Christian Church. The church office is presently located at 124 Trott Road, Richlands, N.C. The church shall have full power and authority to change the principal office from one location to another.

### ARTICLE II

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of First Christian Church, Richlands, N.C., is to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to worship and serve God and to proclaim to the world the Great Commission of Jesus Christ as in Matthew 28:19-20, (NRSV): **“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

## ARTICLE III

### ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God.
2. We believe in the one true God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
3. We believe God eternally exists in three Persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
4. We believe that God's son, Jesus Christ, was born of the Virgin Mary, died on the cross for the remission of our sins, and arose and conquered death. He ascended into heaven where He sits at the right hand of the Father.
5. We believe that eternal salvation can be obtained by any who have faith in and receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.
6. We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ who inspires us to be His faithful servants until His Second Coming.
7. We believe that baptism is a testimony to our salvation, by calling on the gift of the Holy Spirit to actively guide us to be steadfast in the repentance of our sins and our pursuit of righteousness. We recognize this from the teachings of Jesus Christ taught through the words of the Apostle Peter in Acts 2:38 NRSV: **"Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."**
8. We believe in the sacrament of Holy Communion. The Lord's Supper is a means of grace through faith which allows us to commune with Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:26 states, **"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."**

## ARTICLE IV

### MARRIAGE DEFINED

We believe that God established marriage as only between a man and a woman (Genesis 1:28, Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19: 4-5, Mark 10: 6-9, I Corinthians 7: 2-6). Therefore, all marriages performed by the church or its ministers, regardless of ceremony location, will be between one man and one woman. The church only will recognize marriage that is intended by God and described in the word. This definition is further addressed in the Marriage Policy.

## ARTICLE V

### AFFILIATION

The church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denominational control; however, it recognizes the benefits of cooperation with other churches in the local and world mission. The church voluntarily affiliates with the Disciple Heritage Fellowship in its national expressions, and North Carolina Disciple Heritage Fellowship in its local expressions.

## ARTICLE VI

### MEMBERSHIP DEFINED

A member of this church consists of those who unite with this church by confession of faith. Anyone desiring to transfer their membership to this congregation, may do so by confession of faith. This congregation recognizes and accepts the guidelines set forth in Romans 10:9-10 NRSV: **“Because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.”**

## ARTICLE VII

### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The congregation shall conduct its ministry and affairs under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the right of exclusive self-government in all phases of its life and organization. This church will cooperate with and mutually work with other Christian organizations.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS**

As a non-profit organization, we will hold a minimum of one congregational meeting annually where active members will be given the opportunity to participate. Notice of all annual or special congregational meetings shall be announced in a minimum of two Sunday morning services and/or bulletins prior to the meeting. Mailed announcements or written/digital notice must be postmarked 14 days before the meeting. Purpose, date, time, and place of meeting shall be indicated in each notice or announcement. A vote of confidence shall be taken to give the ministerial and administrative staff an expression of approval and encouragement. The congregation will also vote on business matters as set forth by the church board.

Resident members must be present to vote at congregational meetings. Shut-in and Non-Resident/Military/Missionary Members may vote by signed written proxy for congregational meetings. Proxy votes must be received by the church office a minimum of 48 hours prior to the congregational meeting.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

In order to amend the Constitution of First Christian Church, Richlands, N.C., the following steps must be taken:

- a. The suggested amendment must be presented to the general board.
- b. A two-thirds vote of the general board must recommend the amendment.
- c. At a congregational meeting, a vote will be taken. The amendment will require a two-thirds vote to pass.

Any and all amendments to the constitution may be declared null and void upon the approval of a rewritten or new constitution by a two-thirds vote of the congregation in an annual or called meeting.