

# Sunset View Baptist Church

## Constitution

Revision # 2

As of  
10/19/2011

### **PREAMBLE**

We declare and affirm these principles in the light of the Holy Scriptures to govern the body in an orderly manner. The principles will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other churches.

### **ARTICLE I NAME AND ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT**

**SECTION 1.01:** This body shall be known as Sunset View Baptist Church, using facilities located at 11006 N. El Mirage Road, El Mirage, Arizona.

**SECTION 1.02:** This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, daycare centers, and camps; the evangelizing of the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; the educating of believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; and the maintaining of missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country.

### **ARTICLE II PURPOSE, MISSION, AND VALUES**

**SECTION 2.01:** The purpose of SVBC is to make disciples by going into the world, sharing the good news of Jesus and teaching God's Word. (Matt. 28:18-20)

**SECTION 2.02:** The mission of SVBC is to Reach Our Community for Christ. (Acts 1:8)

**SECTION 2.03:** The values of SVBC are:

- A. We will honor Jesus Christ with excellence in everything we do.
  - In our service
  - In our commitments
- B. We will base all of our preaching and teaching on the bible as we prepare people to live in today's world
  - Honoring the integrity of the scriptures
- C. We will work for positive relationships with all people
  - So we can share the good news of Jesus
  - So we can encourage other Christians
- D. We will make prayer a daily habit and source of power and strength in our lives.

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### **ARTICLE III STATEMENT OF FAITH**

SECTION 3.01: The Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. We believe that all members of this church should strive to live in accordance with this statement of faith and that all literature used in the church must be in complete agreement with this statement of faith.

SECTION 3.02: The church subscribes to the doctrinal statements of *The Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000 which is attached and incorporated by reference.

In addition, this church holds the following beliefs not covered in *The Baptist Faith and Message*.

- A. **The Holy Scriptures:** The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning, and all issues of interpretation and meaning shall be determined by the pastor. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)
- B. **The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers:** We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to sin. (John 10:28&29; Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15)
- C. **The Personality of Satan:** We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10)
- D. **Creation:** We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject all other theories of origin as false and unscriptural. (Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11)
- E. **Service in the Church by Divorced Persons:** Divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons can be greatly used of God for Christian service. Therefore, divorced or remarried person may hold positions of service in the church only after their specific circumstances have been examined by the Pastoral staff and active deacons of the church. The pastoral staff and active deacons of the church will prayerfully consider the circumstances of the divorce and the person's present circumstances as they relate to scripture, relying on the Holy Spirit for guidance. (Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6)
- F. **Lawsuits between Believers.** We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve

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personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for losses from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)

### **ARTICLE IV RELATIONSHIPS**

We are governed by the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Head of the body, the church, as He shall reveal His leadership to us through the Word of God and the Spirit of God. This church is subject to no other ecclesiastical body, but recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation, which are common among Southern Baptist churches. Insofar as is practicable, this church will cooperate with and support the Estrella Baptist Association, the Arizona Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

### **ARTICLE V COVENANT**

We, the members of Sunset View Baptist Church, having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, do now, in the presence of God, and this assembly, enter into a covenant with each other, as one body in Christ.

We, thereby agree, by the help of the Holy Spirit and with the Bible, the inspired Word of God as our guide, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge and holiness; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, discipline and doctrine; to observe the church ordinances of believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper as authorized by our local church; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to contribute cheerfully and regularly of God's tithes and our offerings to the support of the ministry and expenses of our church and to the spread of the gospel to all nations. We agree to encourage personal and family devotions; to educate our children according to our faith; to seek the salvation of the unbeliever; to be just in our dealings, reliable in our responsibilities, and an example to those around us; to use our influence to combat the abuse of all harmful substances; and to work untiringly for the advancement of the kingdom of our Savior by witnessing in words and actions.

We agree to walk in Christian harmony and watchfulness, giving and receiving assistance with meekness and affection; to pray for one another; to help each other in sickness and sorrow; to be slow to anger; to always be eager for reconciliation, seeking it without delay.

We further agree that, when we move from this area, 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.

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**ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS**

Changes to this constitution may be made at any Family Meeting of the church, provided that copies of each amendment have been presented in writing at the previous regular Family Meeting and that written copies have been made available to the church membership. Amendments shall be passed by two-thirds vote of all members of the church present and voting.

**ARTICLE VII ADOPTION**

**Section 7.01** - This constitution shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when two thirds of the members present and voting at the Family Meeting at which the vote is taken shall vote in favor of same.

**Section 7.02** - This constitution abolishes, supersedes, and takes the place of any constitution, rules, and bylaws and amendments that preceded it.

**Section 7.03** - A copy of this constitution and the bylaws shall at all times be kept by the church clerk and another copy shall be kept in the church office. All amendments and revisions shall, after passage by the vote of the church, be prepared by the church clerk and incorporated in the constitution and bylaws and made available to church members on request.

APPROVED AT FAMILY MEETING ON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Moderator/Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk/Date

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_