

Profile of Upper Laurel Baptist Church

NAME AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE

Upper Laurel Baptist Church, Inc. is located at 9940 U.S. Highway 23, Mars Hill, N.C. 28754.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. This Church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of the "Baptist Faith and Message", as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000, and hereby incorporates that statement into these By-Laws. The ordinance of the Church are Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

CHURCH COVENANT

The Church Body will read corporately the following Church Covenant the Sunday preceding the fifth (5th) Sunday:

Having been led as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and, on the 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.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of this Church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; 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.

We also engaged to maintain family and secret devotions, to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; 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 of, and use of, destructive drugs or intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to shun pornography; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

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.

We moreover engaged 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.

PURPOSE- MISSION STATEMENT

Purpose

The purpose of this body shall be to provide regular opportunities for public worship and fellowship; to sustain the doctrines of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, Christian Doctrine, and the ethics set forth in the Holy Bible as revealed Word of God, to nurture its members through a program of Christian Education and training, to channel its offerings to the support of the various objects of Christ's Kingdom, and to preach and propagate among all people the Gospel of the revelation of God through Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. It is the purpose of the Church to support, through regular and special gifts of its members, the local Church program, local missions and the world missions' program of the denomination.

Mission Statement

The mission of Upper Laurel Baptist Church Inc., 9940 U.S. Highway 23, Mars Hill, N.C. 28754 composed of baptized believers who share a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, is to be a redemptive body in Christ, praying that the Holy Spirit will **GROW** us together in **UNITY** of purpose through **WORSHIP**, exalting the Lord Jesus in **PROCLAMATION** and **WITNESS** looking up in **PRAYER**, looking out in our large area of **MINISTRY**, looking ahead with effective **OUTREACH**. Always striving to **LOVE** and **CARE** for all age groups and encouraging all believers and Christian families in **SPIRITUAL GROWTH**.

Associations/Relationships

This Church recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Southern Baptist churches. Insofar as it is practical, this Church will cooperate with and support the French Broad Baptist Association, Inc., the North Carolina Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention. We agree to participate in these organizations through our duly elected messengers and our support of the causes, which these organizations represent.

Upper Laurel Baptist Church Inc. is also involved in missions to include but not limited to Cooperative Program Giving, Associational Missions, State Missions, Annie Armstrong, Lottie Moon.

Worship Service

This Church shall meet regularly each Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening for preaching, instruction, evangelism, and for the worship of Almighty God. These meetings will be open to everyone and shall be conducted under the direction of the Pastor. Exceptions can be made by recommendation of the Deacons.

Marriage and Sexuality

This Church affirms that marriage is a sacred covenant, established by God, and is to be the union of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4–6).

Accordingly, this Church and its pastors will not participate in, officiate, bless, or affirm same-sex unions or same-sex marriages. Furthermore, the facilities and resources of this Church shall not be used for such purposes.

We believe that God offers redemption, forgiveness, and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and grace through Jesus Christ (1 John 1:9; Romans 10:9–10).

Homosexuality

This Church believes that all people are created in the image of God and are offered redemption through Jesus Christ. However, in accordance with the Word of God (Leviticus 22; Romans 1–2; 1 Corinthians 6), this Church affirms that a self-proclaimed homosexual or lesbian cannot be received into membership, hold office or position, or use the church facilities for marriage.

Membership may be extended upon evidence of a repentant heart, acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and a demonstrated commitment to live in accordance with biblical teaching.

Gender

This Church believes that God created humanity in His image as distinctly male and female (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:4). Gender is determined by God and revealed biologically at birth. Any attempt to alter, reject, or change one's God-given sex or to deny one's biological gender is contrary to God's design, sinful, and offensive to Him (Deuteronomy 22:5; Romans 1:26–27; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11). This Church believes that God created humanity in His image as distinctly

male and female (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:4). Gender is determined by God and revealed biologically at birth. Any attempt to alter, reject, or change one's God-given sex or to deny one's biological gender is contrary to God's design, sinful, and offensive to Him (Deuteronomy 22:5; Romans 1:26–27; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11).

Women

This Church believes that the office of pastor is reserved for a man of God, in accordance with the biblical pattern of church leadership (1 Timothy 2:12; 1 Timothy 3:1–7; Titus 1:5–9). Women, however, have a vital role and voice in the life and ministry of the Church. They serve as teachers, on committees, and in many other areas of service, using their God-given gifts to build up the body of Christ (Acts 18:26; Romans 16:1–2; Titus 2:3–5).

Pastor Profile

The pastor shall be a man of God, conservative, called of God to preach, stand on God's true word, and engage with all ages of the congregation. The pastor shall preach, provide biblical teachings, provide community engagement by visiting the sick and elderly, and attend all functions of the church including youth events.

Pastoral Duties

The Pastor shall have in charge the welfare and oversight of the Church; he shall be an ex-officio member of all organizations, departments and committees; he may call a special meeting of the Deacons or of any committee according to the procedures which are set forth in these By-Laws; he shall conduct religious services on stated and on special occasions, administer the ordinances, minister to the spiritual needs of the members of the Church and community; he may perform other duties that usually pertain to that office; he shall have special charge of the pulpit ministry and the worship services of the Church and shall, in cooperation with the Deacons, provide for pulpit supply when he is absent, and arranged for minister(s) to assist in revival meetings and special worship services. It shall be his special responsibility to win the lost to Christ; to minister to the spiritual needs of the members of the congregation, and through prayer and study to render effective preaching and pastoral ministries. The Body of Believers hereby states that in addition to the above duties as outlined for the Pastor, the Pastor will at no time, as long as he is serving as the Pastor of this church, perform a marriage of a self-proclaimed homosexual or lesbian couple. Such an act would result in immediate termination and loss of all benefits and severance pay.

Pastors Package

A competitive package will be offered that will reflect years of experience and education completed.