

Summary of May 2026 revisions to the South Shores Church Constitution

The previous version was dated December 6, 1998, 27.5 years ago. The following is a summary of the changes of substance. Other changes were editorial in nature to be more direct and concise, with AI and other research tools used for broader view on the content of Constitutions for Churches like SSC. All changes were discussed and/or reviewed and approved by all Pastors, Staff and Deacons.

South Shores Church Statement of Faith was added to capture the language included in our website, promulgated by the Church in 2018/2019. This section replaces 'A Statement of Christian Responsibility' and 'Doctrinal Statement.'

Article II – Mission and Values was updated to capture the language included in our website, promulgated by the Church in 2018/2019.

Article III – Institutional Relationships was updated to reflect current affiliations and leave the door open to affiliate 'with other Christian organizations of like evangelical faith and practice' under the direction of the Senior Pastor and approval of the Board of Deacons.

Article IV - Membership was updated to:

- Add the current language of the Membership Covenant.
- Reference the 10-week Rooted program as a helpful step, along with an interview with a Pastor before presentation to the Board of Deacons for approval.
- Clarify Active versus Inactive members, absorbing what was categorized as 'Associate Member' into either Active or Inactive based on attendance and/or support.

Article V – Pastor and Staff was updated to:

- Clarify the composition and selection of a Pastoral Search Committee; the Moderator's role in convening such Committee; and requirement for notice to the congregation in advance of any presentation of a candidate. And that the Selection committee shall assist with the transition as needed.
- Clarify the procedure for membership voting on a Senior Pastoral Candidate.
- Clarify the procedure for dismissal of a Senior Pastor should the need arise.

Article VI – Church Government was updated to:

- Clarify the 3 officers of the church and their role as bona fide Deacons.
- Clarify the relationship between Church Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer/Finance Committee.

- Add the possibility of extending Church Officers (if deemed necessary) by congregational vote.
- Clarify qualifications for Board of Deacons and what constitutes quorum.
- Eliminate reference to named ministries, instead referencing that 'the Board of Deacons shall organize the life, service, budgeting, and function of the church around key ministries which may include missions, outreach, worship, children, youth, adult and senior ministries in response to the dynamic nature of our Church community.
- Clarify process for voting and quorum with regard to Business Meetings.

Article VII – Church Organizations and Unauthorized Projects was updated to:

- Allow for the use of specialized skills when needed without the requirement of membership.
- Eliminate the exclusion of overlapping meetings.
- Address the handling of Special offerings/Projects and approval authority and review requirements based on dollar value.

Article VIII – Conflict added in its entirety.

Article IX – Amendments added the process for notice to congregation of proposed amendments.

History of SSC was updated and summarized to be brief for the purpose of a constitution.