

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

In order to preserve and secure the principles of our faith, to govern the church body in an orderly manner, to preserve liberties for ourselves and our posterity, to insure freedom of action for this Church in relation to other organizations, we do hereby ordain and establish this constitution.

Article I **Name, Incorporation & Location**

The name of this Church is The First Baptist Church of Bellville, Texas. The Church is authorized under warrant of the Holy Bible and is incorporated under and by virtue of the laws of The State of Texas. It is constituted as a nonprofit organization. The office and principal place of activity for the Church is located at 504 East Strauss, Bellville, Texas 77418.

Article II **Purpose**

In order to follow the teachings of the New Testament, to carry out the mandates of the Great Commission and to glorify The Lord God, we declare our purpose:

- First: We will maintain the worship of God in spirit and in truth and observe the Christian ordinances of Baptism and The Lord's Supper.
- Second: We will share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ with the people in our community and to the ends of the earth through missionary enterprises.
- Third: We will encourage the development of Christ-like behavior in every member of this Church through the study of Christian principles as revealed in the Bible.
- Fourth: We will develop a loving fellowship among the members of this Church.
- Fifth: We will minister unselfishly to members of this Church, community and the world

Article III **Statement of Basic Beliefs**

We affirm the Holy Bible to be the divinely inspired written word of God and the final authority for our faith and behavior.

We ascribe to the doctrinal statement of the Baptist faith and message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention on June 14,2000.

Article IV **Church Covenant**

Having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and 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 a 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 in spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, doctrines, and discipline; 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 engage 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 and/or use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to use our influence to combat the abuse of drugs and the spread of pornography; and 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 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 the covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Article V **Church Government**

- Section 1.** This Church is an independent self-governing unit in accordance with biblical principles. It recognizes no control by any other ecclesiastical body or authority. It acknowledges only the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the direction of the Holy Spirit.
- Section 2.** The government of this church is in the control of the members, each with equal suffrage. Any authority or privilege granted, or task or duty assigned, will be at the will of the church and will in no sense be considered as irrevocably vesting such power or privilege in any individual, committee, or organization. Powers to granted will be only such as are necessary to the performance of the assignment.
- Section 3.** This constitution and the bylaws or other rules which will be made in pursuant thereof will be the supreme law of this church, but always in conformity with the Bible. This constitution supersedes all other constitutions, bylaws, or rules of any organization within or without the church.
- Section 4.** Interpretation and meaning of this constitution will be the privilege, but not the prerogative, of the deacons. Any member dissatisfied with such interpretation will have the right to appeal to the church in regular conference, and the decision there will be final and binding.

Article VI **Cooperation**

This Church is a cooperating Southern Baptist Church. It will work with other Churches of like faith and order through the San Felipe Association, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

This cooperation will be manifested by contributing money, electing and sending messengers to the various meetings and by the services of the pastor and other members as officers, board members, and committees when invited to serve.

This Church will cooperate with Churches of other denominations in the bettering of the local community and other causes when such cooperation does not compromise its beliefs or doctrine.

Constitution & Bylaws, First Baptist Church, Bellville, TX, voted on and accepted April 18, 2004.
Article VI amended by vote of church March 16, 2008.