

THE CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the membership of this church, desiring under God's blessing and leadership of the Holy Spirit to prosper and sustain growth in our church; likewise aiming to establish ourselves in Christ and Bible centered loyalty; at the same time enjoying the maximum harmony in all church endeavors and business procedures do hereby adopt and set in operation this Constitution and By-Laws. These By-Laws and this Constitution shall supersede and take precedence over any such By-Laws and/or Constitution heretofore from time to time effective.

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this church shall be First Baptist church of JACKSON, ALABAMA.

ARTICLE II - DEFINITION

For the purpose of clarification in principle and operation, our church shall adhere to the view, that "A church is a company of believers, baptized on a credible confession of faith; having New Testament officers of Pastor and Deacons; perpetuating the ordinances; self-governing in polity within the framework of the Southern Baptist Convention; voluntarily banded together for worship, fellowship, work and the world wide proclamation of the Gospel."

ARTICLE III - MODE OF GOVERNMENT

1. EXPLANATION:

While considering fraternal and associational relations with other churches of like faith highly desirable and mutually practical, this church shall be in respect to all its affairs self-governing. This shall apply not only to minor matters, but to all property, calling of the Pastor, ordaining men, and the support of missions, etc.

2. APPLICATION:

First Baptist Church reserves for itself the sole right of determining its affiliation with any association, convention or outside organization. Any further connection or severance shall be determined by two-thirds votes of the congregation at any regular business meeting, preceded by at least two weeks notice.

ARTICLE IV - DOCTRINE

It shall be understood that the ministry of membership in this church means embracing and supporting, along with other Christian tenets, equally or comparably vital, THESE DOCTRINAL EMPHASES: The Divine Inspiration, Supremacy, Authority and Infallibility of the Scriptures; the Deity, Humanity, Virgin Birth, Sinless Life, Substitutional Death, Bodily Resurrection, Ascension and Second Coming of Jesus Christ; likewise the Sovereignty of God; the total Depravity of all men; the necessity of

Regeneration, Scriptural Believer's Immersion as a pre-requisite to Church membership; the Lord's supper administered by the local church as an Autonomous Body, separate from the world; the Doctrine of the Trinity as historically and Scripturally maintained; the Rapture of the Church as the Christian's hope; the Resurrection of the Body of all Christians concurrent with the Rapture; the Earth-wide Reign of Eternal Duration for the Saved, and eternal punishment in a place called "hell" for the lost.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP AND DISCIPLINE

1. MEMBERSHIP

- (1) The membership of this church shall consist of persons who give proof of Regeneration and have been baptized by Immersion; likewise subscribe to the doctrines and practices of this church. They shall be received into the church by vote of the membership.
- (2) One may be received from another Baptist church of like faith upon a Letter of Dismission from that church. Action must be by vote of the membership.
- (3) Anyone who has once been a member of a Baptist church, and in consequence of peculiar circumstances has no regular Letter of Dismission, may be received into our fellowship upon a statement satisfactory to the church. Action must be by vote of the membership.
- (4) Letters of Dismission may be granted to those churches of like faith and order for members in good standing. When letters are granted, membership in this church shall cease.
- (5) References herein to "the people" and/or "the church" shall include the membership.

2. DISCIPLINE

This church may regard as grounds for discipline, infractions respecting the following matters: church attendance, financial support, heresy, divisive practices, personal slander and conduct unbecoming a Christian. The pastor and deacons shall constitute a committee on discipline and shall examine any case prayerfully with due regard to extenuating circumstances and may recommend to the church membership action based on Scripture as recorded in Matthew 18. Action must be by vote of the congregation. Two weeks notice must be given before vote is taken and a two-thirds majority of those voting will be required before any action is taken.

ARTICLE VI – MISSIONS

This church shall be, in the New Testament sense, Missionary. In fulfilling this crowning goal utmost regard shall be shown for the "Doctrinal Emphases."

ARTICLE VII – PROPERTY

1. DEFINITION AND SCOPE

The property shall be understood to include all land, buildings, portable furniture and equipment, bonds, bequests, money on deposit in banks and cash on hand. It shall likewise include all physical assets (tangible and intangible property and property rights, remainders and powers or powers of appointment of whatsoever nature) acquired by the church.

2. THE POWER

The power to acquire, to control, to retain, sell, lease or mortgage property shall rest solely in the hands of First Baptist Church. THE TRUSTEES (See By-Laws, ARTICLE II, Item D) shall represent the church in the execution of legal papers. Before the Trustees of this church are authorized to encumber or convey all or any part of the church property, the Trustees shall be so authorized by resolution adopted by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members, eligible to vote, who shall be in attendance at such meeting, and no such resolution can be adopted unless notice thereof, stating the purpose of such meetings, shall have been given to the membership at least ten days in advance of such meeting, by announcement and posting at the place of meeting.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

This Constitution shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect at such time as two-thirds of the membership present at a duly convened business meeting at which vote is taken, shall vote in favor of same. Such vote shall be taken not less than seven days after formal presentation of the Constitution and By-Laws to the church. This Constitution may be amended by two-thirds majority of the membership present and voting in a regular business meeting of the church, provided however, that such amendment, or correction shall be given to the clerk in writing and such proposed change shall be presented to the church at least thirty (30) days prior to the time the vote is taken. It is understood that there shall be no alterations or amendments to those provisions of the Constitution having to do with Doctrine or the ownership, control or the disposition of the physical properties and assets of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Alabama.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF JACKSON, ALABAMA

AMENDMENT I:

The Church year will be changed to begin on January 1st and will end on December 31st. All activities associated with the Church year shall reflect those changes.

AMENDMENT II:

Article IV has been changed with the addition of the following at the end of the Article: and marriage as a Sacred Union instituted by God to be entered into as a lifelong covenant commitment between one God-created man and woman. The new Article now reads: It shall be understood that the ministry of membership in this church means embracing and supporting, along with other Christian tenets, equally or comparably vital, THESE DOCTRINAL EMPHASES: The Divine Inspiration, Supremacy, Authority and Infallibility of the Scriptures; the Deity, Humanity, Virgin Birth, Sinless Life, Substitutional Death, Bodily Resurrection, Ascension and Second Coming of Jesus Christ; likewise the Sovereignty of God; the total Depravity of all men; the necessity of Regeneration, Scriptural Believer's Immersion as a pre-requisite to Church membership; the Lord's supper administered by the local church as an Autonomous body, separate from the world; the Doctrine of the Trinity as historically and Scripturally maintained; the Rapture of the church as the Christian's hope; the Resurrection of the Body of all Christians concurrent with the Rapture; the Earth-wide Reign of Eternal Duration for the Saved, and eternal punishment in a place called "hell" for the lost.; and marriage as a Sacred Union instituted by God to be entered into as a lifelong covenant commitment between one God-created man and woman.

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