

CONSTITUTION
of the
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
San Angelo, Texas
(Adopted March 26, 2008)

PREAMBLE

We, the people of the First Baptist Church of San Angelo, Texas, declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the body in an orderly manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual Church member and the freedom of action of this body in relation to other Churches.

ARTICLE I. Name

The name of this Church is First Baptist Church of San Angelo, Texas, a nonprofit organization registered and incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas.

ARTICLE II. Mission

We, the members of this Church, seek to be a missional community that follows Jesus Christ and shares the message of the Bible as loving, caring servants. We strive to accomplish this by

- A. becoming a dynamic spiritual organization empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Christ with as many people as possible in our Church, community, and throughout the world;
- B. being a worshipping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing God's person and responding in obedience to the leadership of the Holy Spirit;
- C. experiencing an increasingly meaningful fellowship with God and fellow believers;
- D. helping people experience a growing knowledge of God and humankind;
- E. being a Church that ministers unselfishly to people in the community and the world in Jesus' name;
- F. being a Church whose mission is to be Christ-like in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment of life, personality, and professions to the Lordship of Christ.

ARTICLE III. Statement of Basic Beliefs and Values

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired word of God and the basis for our beliefs. This Church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of *The Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963. We voluntarily band ourselves

together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ, personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to lost people. The ordinances of the Church are believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We value the following:

- Worship, as we glorify God and are transformed into the image of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit;
- Missions, as we express our faith by ministering to the local and global community through prayer, giving, and service;
- Fellowship, as we experience genuine love and compassion for one another and nurture relationships within and between all age groups in the Church family;
- Heritage, as we honor the past and reach to the future;
- Spiritual Formation, as we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and as we are conformed to the image of our Lord through study and the exercise of spiritual disciplines for the sake of ourselves and others.

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 covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We commit, 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, doctrines, and discipline; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to its support and its ministries.

We also commit to maintain family and private devotions; to promote religious education for our congregation; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our relationships, and exemplary in our interactions with others; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

We further commit to watch over one another with Christ-like 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 teachings of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover pledge 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.

ARTICLE V. Polity and Relationships

The government of this Church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. Persons duly received by the members shall constitute the membership.

The staff necessary to lead the Church in fulfilling its mission and covenant will be appointed by and accountable to the Church. All internal groups created and empowered by the Church shall report to and be accountable only to the Church, unless otherwise specified by Church action.

This Church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but enjoys mutual counsel and cooperation with other Churches of like faith and order as determined by the Church.

ARTICLE VI. Amendments

Changes to this Constitution may be made by three-fourths vote of Church members present and voting in accordance with the procedures set out in the Bylaws.

Adopted March 26, 2008