

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the First Baptist Church in an orderly manner. This constitution shall preserve the liberties of each individual Church member and the autonomy of this body.

ARTICLE I. NAME AND LOCATION

This body shall be known as the **First Baptist Church** (the "Church") of Fredericksburg, Texas. The principal office (and business address) shall be located at 1407 East Main Street, Fredericksburg, Texas 78624.

By a majority affirmative vote of members present and voting at a business meeting, the Church may:

- Approve the use of a logo or other symbol that represents the Church to the public.
- Approve the registration or use of a "doing business as" alternate name under which the Church represents itself to the public.

ARTICLE II. NON-PROFIT STATUS

The Church is organized and shall be operated exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended, unless any law shall be repressive in scope or nature, in which case it is our duty to democratically oppose it based on the rights of free exercise of religious beliefs and peaceable assembly.

The Church is incorporated under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act and formed for any lawful purpose or purposes under the laws of the State of Texas, including any purpose described by Section 2.002 of the Texas Business Organizations Code.

ARTICLE III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Church is to be a Great Commission Church (*Matthew 28:19-20*), committed to celebrating God's presence in worship, communicating God's message in evangelism, educating God's people in discipleship, and demonstrating God's love in ministry.

ARTICLE IV. POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

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

This Church is not subject to the control of any other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches. The Church voluntarily cooperates with and supports the Hill Country Baptist Association, Baptist General Convention of Texas, and Southern Baptist Convention provided such cooperation does not conflict with the Church's own best interests.

All Church authority rests with the membership, as expressed through: (1) governing instruments (including the Constitution and Bylaws) approved by Church members; (2) motions and resolutions approved in Church business meetings; (3) officers and organizations delegated authority by Church members to perform specific functions; and (4) ministerial and support staff employed by the Church and delegated authority to perform specific functions.

The Church may create, appoint, and empower such officers as are useful and effective in fulfilling its stated purpose. All officers shall ultimately give report to and be accountable to the Church membership and shall operate on behalf of the Church within the constraints of their approved position description and applicable Church rules and policies.

The Church may create, appoint, empower, and select the leaders and/or members of such organizations (generally, committees and teams) as are useful and effective in fulfilling its stated purpose. All organizations shall ultimately give report to and be accountable to the Church membership and shall operate on behalf of the Church within the constraints of their approved roles, responsibilities, and applicable Church rules and policies.

The Church may call ministerial staff and employ support staff to effectively fulfill its stated purpose. All staff shall ultimately give report to and be accountable to the Church membership and shall operate on behalf of the Church within the constraints of their approved position descriptions, covenants, agreements, and applicable Church rules and policies.

The Church shall establish a framework for leadership and management through which its officers, organizations, and staff cooperate and collaborate to collectively fulfill the Church's stated purpose.

Christ alone is the Sovereign Head of the Church. Members, organizations, officers, and staff shall seek to glorify Christ through the Church by what they do and how they do it. The goal is for all elements of the Church to work in unity toward achieving the Church's stated purpose through Christ-centered relationships and actions that display and glorify Christ.

ARTICLE V. STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Holy Bible is the inspired word of God and is the basis of our statement of faith. This Church is committed, as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ, to share the good news of salvation to lost mankind. We believe:

1. There is one God, who is Maker of all things, and He has made Himself known as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (*John 1:1-5*)
2. The Bible is the testimony of God at work in human history, revealing His will, direction, and care for all. The Bible is the complete and perfect word of God and is taught to each believer by the person of the Holy Spirit. The Bible is truth without any mixture of error. (*2 Timothy 3:16*)
3. Salvation is eternal, irrevocable, and a gift from God by His grace toward all who accept that gift through faith in Jesus Christ, and Him alone, who died for our salvation. (*Ephesians 2:8-9*)
4. The Holy Spirit of the living Lord indwells everyone who has experienced the new birth. (*John 14:16-17; 1 Corinthians 3:16*)
5. The Church is the assembly of the Body of Christ, born-again children of God and heirs of His Kingdom. (*Galatians 4:7*)
6. The Church meets to have fellowship with God and one another in worship and praise. Christ alone is the Head of the Church. The Church invites all who make a personal profession of faith in Christ as Savior and Lord to be baptized and join us in our walk with God. (*Matthew 16:15-19; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Galatians 1:1-2*)
7. Marriage is a biblical institution established by God as described by Scripture. The biblical definition of marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment. Accordingly, this Church's Pastor and ministerial staff shall not officiate in same-sex unions or same-sex marriages, nor shall its property or resources be used for such purposes. (*Genesis 2:22-25, Matthew 19:4-6, Mark 10:6-9*)
8. Baptism of believers by immersion and the Lord's Supper are the only two ordinances given to the Church, neither of which is required for salvation. (*Matthew 28:19*)
9. Each person has direct access to God the Father through Jesus Christ. (*1 Peter 2:9*)
10. Every born-again person has been given one or more spiritual gifts, which are to be discovered and developed for the edification of the Church as the Body of Christ. (*Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4; Ephesians 4:11-13*)

ARTICLE VI. CHURCH ORDINANCES

Baptism – The ordinance of baptism shall be by immersion in water and provided to any person who has received Jesus Christ as his or her personal Lord and Savior. The Pastor, a ministerial staff member, the deacon chair, or whomever one of them shall authorize, shall administer baptism during any Church-sponsored worship service.

Lord's Supper – The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be administered by the Pastor, ministerial staff, deacons, or whomever one of them shall authorize. This ordinance is observed in remembrance of Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, and of the spiritual birth of New Testament believers. The Lord's Supper shall be offered to anyone present who professes Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by at least three-fourths (75%) affirmative vote of Church members present and voting at a special called business meeting called for that purpose provided that: (1) all proposed amendments have been presented in writing at a previous business meeting; (2) the Church membership has been notified of the special called business meeting and its agenda at least two weeks prior to the vote; and (3) all amendments have been made readily available to Church members in printed and/or electronic form at least two weeks prior to the vote.

Amendments to the Constitution shall immediately go into effect after their adoption. Following any substantive amendment to this Constitution, an updated copy shall be filed with the Texas Secretary of State.