

**CONSTITUTION
OF
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH TEMPLE, TEXAS**

Amended September 9, 2001, November 15, 2015

PREAMBLE

We 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 and bylaws will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in relation to other churches of like faith.

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

This church shall be known as FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Temple, Texas (hereinafter referred to as FBCT). Its primary location is in Temple (Bell County), Texas. It is duly incorporated in perpetuity as a church under the laws of the State of Texas and is qualified as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

**ARTICLE II
MISSION, VALUES, STRATEGY, AND MEASURES**

The mission of FBCT is to lead those far from God to encounter Him and grow in the ways of Christ. Our values are: All In, All People, On Watch and On Point. Our strategy is to commune with God, cultivate faith and collide with culture. Our measures are to worship God, live by God's Word, contribute to God's work, walk with God's people, and impact God's world.

**ARTICLE III
STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired word of God and the basis for our beliefs. This church subscribes to the statement of The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963. A copy is available in the church office. We voluntarily band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ personally committed to share the good news of salvation to lost mankind and to minister to all. The ordinances of the church are Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The ordinances will be administered by the Pastor or authorized designee.

ARTICLE IV COVENANT MARRIAGE

Covenant marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church, and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel for sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. FBCT believes that the Bible mandates that sexual activity is to be enjoyed exclusively between a man and a woman that have been joined together in covenant marriage. All other sexual activity is a violation of biblical standards. We believe that Ephesians 5:21-33 is the normative expression of covenant marriage. Further, FBCT's pastors and staff will not officiate in same-sex unions or same-sex marriages, nor will its property or resources be used for such purposes.

ARTICLE V 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 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 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 and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, doctrines, and discipline; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, toward its expenses, for the support of a faithful and evangelical ministry among us, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through the world. In case of difference of opinion in the church, we will strive to avoid a contentious spirit, and if we cannot unanimously agree, we will cheerfully recognize the right of the majority to govern.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to study diligently the word of God; 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; endeavoring in purity of heart and good will towards all men to exemplify and commend our holy faith. We pledge as a church and to each other to take a stand against deeds of the flesh and to live according to the fruit of the Spirit according to Galatians 5:19-26.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to exhort and encourage each other unto every good word and work; to guard each other's reputation, not needlessly exposing the infirmities of others; to participate in each other's joys; 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; to seek to live to the glory of God who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

ARTICLE VI POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

This church is an autonomous congregation. 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 (see Article I of the Bylaws).

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 it enjoys mutual counsel and cooperation, which are common among Baptist churches. Insofar as is practicable, this church will, as it chooses, cooperate with and support other associations of Baptists.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

Any proposed change(s) to the FBCT constitution shall:

- Be presented in writing by a member at a regular church conference,
- Notice of proposed change(s) will be publicized in regular church publications at least two (2) weeks prior to church conference considering the proposal(s). Copies of proposal(s) will be available in the church office,
- Be considered and voted upon at the following regular church conference, and
- Approval requires a two-thirds (2/3rd) vote of church members present.

ARTICLE VIII
EFFECTIVE DATE

This constitution is hereby adopted as the constitution of this church and shall be effective as of the date of passage. All prior constitutions are superseded by the constitution as of such effective date.

The undersigned, being the duly elected and qualified trustees of the church, hereby, certify that the foregoing constitution of the church was adopted by the church on November 15, 2015.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Temple, Texas

DAVID YEILDING, Trustee

TOMMY COX, Trustee

DEAN WINKLER, Trustee

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - TEMPLE, TEXAS
BYLAWS**

Amended September 9, 2001; August 25, 2002; November 15, 2015

**ARTICLE I
MEMBERSHIP**

This is a sovereign and theocratic Baptist church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the exclusive right of self-government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this church.

The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.

The members of First Baptist Church are those who have completed a commitment card at a New Member Workshop, and are joining in one of the following ways:

1. By profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and by Believer's Baptism.
2. By promise of a letter of recommendation from another Baptist church of like faith and order.
3. By statement or prior conversion experience and baptism in a Baptist church where no letter is obtainable.
4. By proxy, when the person(s) desiring membership cannot, for valid reasons, present themselves for membership.
5. By statement of prior conversion experience and baptism in a congregation or denomination which interprets and embraces the purpose of the church ordinances as Baptists do.

Candidates for membership will be presented to the church body for acceptance into membership at the next regular church conference. Should there be any dissent as to any candidate, such dissent shall be referred to the senior pastor and the deacons for investigation and for recommendation to the church.

Members of the church have the right to vote at all church conferences. Church membership is required to serve as a trustee, a deacon, or as a church committee member.

ARTICLE II CHURCH CONFERENCES

SECTION I. REGULAR CHURCH CONFERENCES

The regular church conferences shall be conducted semi-annually. Date and time will be announced through regular church publications at least seven (7) days before the conference.

SECTION II. SPECIAL CALLED CHURCH CONFERENCES

Special called church conferences will be held when recommended by a majority of the voting members at a regularly scheduled church conference, or when felt necessary by at least two (2) of the following five (5) individuals:

1. Chair of Deacons
2. Chair of Personnel Committee
3. Senior Pastor
4. Chair of Pastor Search Committee
5. Chair of Stewardship Committee

At least seven (7) days written or printed notice of the purpose of a special called church conference must first be given to the church membership. Such notice shall be deemed sufficient if incorporated in the regular church publications and the purpose of the conference is so stated. Only those agenda items appropriately announced may be considered.

SECTION III. QUORUM

At any church conference a quorum of not less than fifty (50) members shall be required.

SECTION IV. MODERATOR

The senior pastor or authorized designee will act as moderator.

SECTION V. OFFICERS

The church clerk and treasurer will be elected by the church and will serve at the church's pleasure.

SECTION VI. RULE OF ORDER

In the conduct of church conferences of First Baptist Church, Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall be observed.

ARTICLE III MINISTERS

The church shall employ ministers and other personnel as may be necessary in order to promote and fulfill the aims and objectives of the church. The Personnel Committee is authorized to serve as the church's representative in personnel matters.

A conference for the purpose of calling or dismissing any senior or associate pastors of the church shall be held at a special called church conference at which a quorum is present.

Anything contained in these bylaws relating to a majority vote of the membership shall be inapplicable as to the calling or dismissing of any senior or associate pastor. For calling or dismissing any senior or associate pastor, a vote of two-thirds (2/3rd) of the members present is required, with a quorum being present.

ARTICLE IV TRUSTEES

Trustees are elected by the church membership to conduct the business of the church as authorized by the membership. All matters of trustee action shall be determined by the majority vote of the church membership at a called church conference. The trustees are authorized to act for and in behalf of this church in the execution, acknowledgment, and delivery of all deeds, conveyances, notes, bills of sale, deeds of trust, mortgages or other alienation or legal instruments of whatsoever class, sort, or character.

There shall be three (3) trustees for the church. The trustees shall be nominated and elected annually by the membership at the regular church conference in the last half of the calendar year, and shall serve for the next calendar year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

In the event of the resignation, death, cessation of church membership or permanent physical or mental disability of any one (1) or more of the trustees, the Committee on Committees shall select a successor trustee for each vacancy which shall exist.

A trustee may be eligible for re-election.

ARTICLE V DEACONS

Deacons are Christian servants asked by the church to serve to promote unity and effective ministry. Deacons are to:

1. Minister to the church membership,
2. Share with the Senior Pastor the responsibility of promoting and upholding a high level of Christian spirituality and service,
3. Encourage, support, and uphold the Senior Pastor and staff in the ministry of the church.

Deacons should have mature relationships with Jesus Christ, be servant leaders, have a good reputation, be respected in the church and community, and be positive role models. (I Timothy 3:8-12) They are elected by the church membership after being nominated by the Deacon Nominating Committee.

SECTION I. DEACON NOMINATING COMMITTEE

During the first half of every calendar year, the Senior Pastor and the Chair of Deacons shall nominate to the deacons five (5) members, including the Chair, to serve on the Deacon Nominating Committee. A committee member shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive years.

The Senior Pastor and the Deacon Nominating Committee, shall determine on an annual basis the number of deacons that are needed to fulfill the obligations of the deacons.

To help assess the numbers of deacons needed, the Deacon Nominating Committee will contact current deacons to determine their willingness to serve actively during the coming year. When additional deacons are needed, the Deacon Nominating Committee shall accept suggested nominations for deacon candidates from the church membership, shall investigate the spiritual qualifications and availability of those suggested for nomination, and shall recommend those they feel are qualified to be deacons at least one month before any church vote.

The Deacon Nominating Committee may, after appropriate vetting, recommend to the deacons those previously ordained as deacons by churches of like faith and order (see FBCT Constitution, Article III, "Statement of Faith") one year after said deacon(s) has/have signed and returned a new church member commitment card.

SECTION II. DEACON ELECTION AND TERM OF-SERVICE

During the regular church conference in the last half of the calendar year, the Deacon Nominating Committee, on behalf of the deacons, shall present their nominees approved by the deacons to the church membership for a ballot vote. Those nominees who receive a majority vote from the ballots cast at the church conference shall be deacons. Those selected will be presented to the church for ordination. Once deacons are ordained, they shall serve continuously until such time as they shall choose to discontinue active service.

SECTION III. MEETINGS - QUORUM

The deacons shall have a regular meeting held at such time and place as the Senior Pastor or Chair of Deacons determine.

The Senior Pastor, Chair of Deacons, or Vice Chair of Deacons may call a special meeting of deacons, at any time and place, providing that all deacons are notified of such meeting at least seven (7) days in advance.

The total number of members of the deacons present shall constitute a quorum at all meetings. A majority vote of such quorum shall suffice in all matters.

SECTION IV. OFFICERS - VACANCIES - SUCCESSORSHIP

At the regular October meeting of the deacons each year, the Chair of Deacons shall appoint an Officer Nominating Committee for the purpose of nominating officers and leaders of the deacons. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five (5) deacons.

At the regular meeting of deacons held in November of each year, the Nominating Committee shall nominate Chair of Deacons, Vice Chair of Deacons, Secretary of Deacons, and Deacon Ministry Team Leaders. Election will be by a majority vote of the deacons present and voting. The term of office will be a one (1) year period to begin on the first day of the next January and will expire on the 31st day of the next December.

Any Chair of Deacons who has served two (2) successive terms as Chair shall not be eligible to be re-elected until at least one (1) year has expired from day of last service.

SECTION V. EMERITUS MEMBERSHIP

The church may, upon the recommendation of the Deacon Nominating Committee, designate Emeritus Membership to any deacon who by reason of age or infirmities shall, after honorable service, be no longer able to render active service.

ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

SECTION I. TYPES OF COMMITTEES

The church has two types of committees. A standing committee is an ongoing committee that is authorized to provide direction and assistance with carrying out the usual business of the church. The membership of standing church committees shall serve on a rotating basis with one-third (1/3rd) of the membership of each committee rotating off each year. No elected member of any such standing committee shall be eligible to serve more than three (3) consecutive years and no member shall be eligible for re-election to that same committee until at least one (1) year has elapsed subsequent to the end of the term to which the member was last elected.

A special committee is a limited-term committee that is usually formed for a special function or purpose by church action at the recommendation of the church staff or standing committee in conjunction with the Committee on Committees. Special committees are automatically dismissed at the completion of their stated purpose.

SECTION II. COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

During the regular church conference in the first half of the calendar year, the Senior Pastor and the current Committee on Committees shall nominate to the church membership, seven (7) members as candidates, including the Chair, to serve on the Committee on Committees, subject to approval by majority vote of members at such conference. A member shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive years on the Committee on Committees. The ministerial staff shall serve as ex-officio members on the Committee on Committees.

SECTION III. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

During the regular church conference in the second half of the calendar year, the Committee on Committees will recommend church members as candidates to serve on standing committees, subject to approval by majority vote of members at such conference. The Committee on Committees is responsible for evaluating the committee structure each year and for recommending to the church any modifications in committee number, function, or structure. This includes the Committee on Committees being able to recommend church members as candidates to serve on special committees. The Committee on Committees shall be authorized to appoint members to complete the term of any member of any standing or special committee (other than a member of the Committee on Committees) to fill any vacancy or vacancies which may arise.

The members of the Committee on Committees will not be able to appoint themselves or their spouses to committees for either new terms or to fill vacancies.

ARTICLE VII POLICY

All matters of policy adopted by the church or its committees shall be maintained at the church offices. All policies must be consistent with the constitution and bylaws of the church.

ARTICLE VIII DISSOLUTION OF THE MEMBERSHIP

The assets of this church are pledged for use in performing its religious functions. On discontinuance of this church by dissolution or otherwise, its assets are to be transferred to a religious or charitable organization that is qualified as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

ARTICLE IX FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of this church shall begin each January 1st and shall end each December 31st.

ARTICLE X
AMENDMENTS

Changes in the bylaws may be made at any church conference of the church provided each amendment has been presented in writing at a previous church conference. Written or printed notice of the proposed amendment or amendments shall be provided to the church membership at least seven (7) days prior to the voting. Such written notice shall be deemed sufficient if incorporated in the regular church publications and the exact language of the proposed amendment or amendments is set forth. Amendments to the bylaws shall be adopted by two-thirds (2/3rd) vote of church members present.

ARTICLE XI
EFFECTIVE DATE

These bylaws are hereby adopted as the bylaws of this church and shall be effective as of their date of passage. All prior bylaws and amendments thereof are superseded by these bylaws as of effective date.

The undersigned, being the elected and qualified trustees of the church, hereby certify that the foregoing bylaws of the church were duly adopted by the church on November 15, 2015.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Temple, Texas

DAVID YEILDING, Trustee

TOMMY COX, Trustee

DEAN WINKLER, Trustee