

**CONSTITUTION
OF THE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF JASPER, TEXAS
(Adopted November 6, 2022)**

PREAMBLE

We declare and establish this constitution for the preservation and security of the principles of our faith, so this body may be governed in an orderly manner, consistent with the Holy Scripture, and so the liberties of each individual member of this church and the freedom of action of the body, in its relation to other churches of the same faith and order, may be preserved.

ARTICLE I

The name of the church shall be the FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF JASPER, TEXAS which is the same church organized on December 23, 1855, and incorporated under the law of the State of Texas on August 11, 1988. The principal office shall be located at 314 N Main Street, Jasper, Texas 75951.

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. If, however, any law shall be repressive in scope and/or nature, then it is our duty to democratically oppose it on the basis of the right of free exercise of religious beliefs and peaceable assembly.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The focus and mission of this church are:

- To worship God
- To proclaim the Holy Scripture
- To make and equip disciples
- To be church for one another in a community of love
- To work for healing in a broken world

ARTICLE III

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Holy Scripture is the inspired Word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. The church subscribes to the doctrinal statement in the Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000. We band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers

in Jesus Christ personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation with all mankind.

ARTICLE IV

DOCTRINE

We believe:

1. The Bible is God's inspired Word. It is truth without mixture of error and is therefore the all-sufficient authority in matters of faith, doctrine, and Christian living.
2. There is but one God who is the perfect creator of all things. God eternally exists in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. All humans, though made in the image of God, have sinned and fallen away from God. But God, in the virgin born Jesus, made the only way for humans to be saved. The only way of salvation, personal resurrection, and eternal life is by faith in Jesus the Christ who died on the cross and rose from the dead.
4. God's church is made up only of Christian believers. The church obeys Christ's command by doing the work of making disciples. The church also practices the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper.
5. Marriage is a creation of God and necessarily follows His design. Jesus clearly stated marriage to be one man and one woman in a covenant commitment for a lifetime. Same sex marriage is not biblical marriage and will not be practiced in our church buildings or by our ministers.
6. As a Baptist church we hold Christ as our head and serve Him as an autonomous church body. We voluntarily cooperate with other religious bodies, but we are not subject to any other religious body or organization.

ARTICLE V

POLITY

In recognition of and consistent with the truth that Christ is the head of the church and in recognition that autonomy is vested in the body of believers who compose it, the government of the church is subject to no other ecclesiastical body. The church recognizes and sustains the obligation of mutual cooperation among Southern Baptist churches.

ARTICLE VI

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this church shall consist of individuals who confess Jesus Christ to be their Savior and Lord who have been accepted by majority vote of the membership present and voting, and who have followed the Lord in New Testament baptism.

ARTICLE VII

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our 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 covenant with one another as one body in Christ, that we will, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, henceforth strive to:

- A. Walk together in Christian love; strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort, promote its spiritual growth and sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. We also agree 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 in our community and throughout the world.
- B. Maintain family and personal devotions; bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; walk circumspectly and watchfully in the world, denying ungodliness and every worldly lust; be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, exemplary in our self-discipline, avoiding all backbiting, tattling and excessive anger. We also agree to seek God's help in abstaining from all drugs, drink, pornography, and practices which bring unwarranted harm to the body or jeopardize our own or another's faith. We remember that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in us, and that we, individually and as a church, should glorify God in all that we do.
- C. Prayerfully watch over one another in brotherly love; accept one another, just as Christ accepted us to the glory of God; serve one another in love with all humility, gentleness, patience, and forbearance; aid one another in sickness and distress; demonstrate Christian sympathy and courtesy; be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, being mindful of the admonition of our Savior to be reconciled without delay.
- D. We moreover covenant that when we remove from this place, we will, if possible, unite with a like-minded church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS

The constitution may be amended by the following procedures:

1. An amendment shall be presented in writing to a regularly scheduled business meeting.
2. The amendment shall be immediately referred to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for review and recommendation unless the amendment originates from the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

3. The original amendment with the recommendation of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall be published and made available in written form.
4. The church shall vote on the amendment after full discussion no earlier than the next regularly scheduled business meeting.
5. A vote of two thirds (2/3) of the members present will be necessary for the adoption of the amendment.