

CONSTITUTION
of the
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
of
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Adopted: 9/26/90

Revised: 5/23/01

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CONSTITUTION

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

PREAMBLE:

Having been led by the Spirit of God, we, the fellowship of Christians known as the First Baptist Church of Raleigh, North Carolina, affirm this Constitution. By doing so we guarantee the freedom of thought and action of the individual, which is consistent with the Scriptures and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE I: NAME

This church shall be known as the First Baptist Church of Raleigh, North Carolina.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

This church is a fellowship of Christians whose purpose is to worship God as revealed in Jesus Christ, study the Word of God as revealed in the Scriptures, and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all people.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this church is open to all persons who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior in accordance with the Scriptures.

ARTICLE IV: COVENANT

The Church Covenant, adopted December 21, 1823, and Revised February 27, 1873, is as follows:

As we trust we have been brought by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the influence of His Spirit to give ourselves up to Him,

So we do now solemnly covenant with each other, that, God enabling us, we will walk together in brotherly love;

That we will exercise a Christian care and watchfulness over each other, and faithfully warn, rebuke, and admonish one another, as the case shall require;

That we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together nor omit the great duty of prayer, both for ourselves and for others;

That we will participate in each other's joys, and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy, to bear each other's burdens and sorrows;

That we will earnestly endeavor to bring up such as may be under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord;

That we will seek divine aid to enable us to walk circumspectly and watchfully in the world, denying ungodliness and every worldly lust;

That we will strive together for the support of a faithful evangelical ministry among us;

That we will endeavor, by example and effort, to win souls to Christ;

And, through life, amidst evil report and good report, seek to live to the glory of Him who hath called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

And may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work, to do His will, working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Section 1: Church.

The church shall meet regularly for worship, education, training, fellowship, and business. The church may also meet for other purposes and conduct such activities as it shall deem appropriate.

Section 2: Other.

The church may permit other groups to use church facilities for meetings and other activities.

ARTICLE VI: ORDINANCES

The Ordinances practiced by this church, understood as symbols, are (1) Baptism, the mode of which shall be immersion, and (2) The Lord's Supper, which is open to all Christians.

ARTICLE VII: LEADERSHIP

Section 1: Lay Leadership.

The church shall elect from among its members the following lay leaders: Trustees, Deacons, Clerk, Treasurer, and such others as the church designates. These persons shall guide the church in transactions and decisions that affect the welfare and business of the church.

Section 2: Church Staff.

The Church shall employ a Pastor, and may employ additional ministerial staff and support staff. These persons shall assist the church in achieving its purposes.

ARTICLE VIII: ORGANIZATION

Section 1: Worship, Education and Missions.

The church shall organize itself to provide experiences for worship, study and witness.

Section 2: Commissions, Committees, Boards and Councils.

The church may establish commissions, committees, boards and councils to implement the programs of the church.

ARTICLE IX: AFFILIATIONS

The church is independent in organization and authority, governed solely by its members, and is subject to no other ecclesiastical control. In its autonomy, the church may voluntarily associate itself freely and cooperatively with the Raleigh Baptist Association, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist World Alliance, and such other Christian bodies as the church shall choose.

ARTICLE X: BYLAWS

The church shall adopt bylaws consistent with this constitution to carry out the purposes of the constitution and govern the affairs of the church.

ARTICLE XI: ADOPTION, AMENDMENT AND REPEAL

This constitution shall be adopted and become effective upon two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present at any business meeting of the church, provided that:

- (1) The proposed adoption has been presented in writing to the church at the last regularly scheduled business meeting preceding the business conference at which the adoption is considered;
- (2) Notice of the proposed adoption containing a general description of the action to be considered and the date, time and place of the meeting is published in the church newsletter at least fifteen days prior to the meeting; and
- (3) Copies of the proposed constitution are made available to members upon request in the church office during regular business hours between the date of the church conference at which the changes are presented and the date at which the vote is taken.

This constitution may be amended or repealed by two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present at any business meeting of the church provided the same procedures as for adopting the constitution are followed.