

Current 1980 Constitution and Bylaws

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FOR
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
BRYAN, TEXAS**

CONSTITUTION

Preamble

We declare and establish this constitution for the preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and that this body may be governed in an orderly manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual member of this church and the freedom of action of this body in relation to other churches.

I. Name

This body shall be known as the First Baptist Church of Bryan, Texas, located 3100 Cambridge Drive, Bryan, Texas 77802.

II. Statement of Faith

The Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. The church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of the Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963. We band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ, personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to lost mankind. The ordinances of the church are Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

III. Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord 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 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, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church and the relief of the poor, and spread the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to educate our children in the Christian faith; 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; to abstain from the sale of and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly 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 rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We, moreover, engage 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.

IV. Character

Section 1. Polity

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist Churches. Insofar as is practical, this church will cooperate with, and support the association, and state convention affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Section 2. Doctrine

This church receives the Scriptures as its authority in matters of faith and practice. Its understanding of Christian truth as contained therein is in essential accord with the belief of other Southern Baptist Churches.

BYLAWS

V. Membership

Section 1. General

This is a sovereign and democratic Baptist Church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the right of exclusive 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.

Section 2. Candidacy

Any person may offer himself as a candidate for membership in this church. All such candidates shall be presented to the church at any regular worship service for membership in any of the following ways:

- (1) By profession of faith and for baptism according to the policies of this church,
- (2) By promise of a letter from another Baptist Church of like faith and order,
- (3) By restoration upon a statement of prior conversion experience and baptism in a Baptist Church when no letter is obtainable.

Should there be any dissent as to any candidate, such dissent shall be referred to the Pastor and the Deacons for investigation and the making of a recommendation to the church within thirty (30) days. A three-fourths

(3/4) vote of those members present and voting shall be required to elect such candidates to membership.

Section 3. Termination of Membership

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways:

- (1) Death,
- (2) Dismission to another Baptist Church,
- (3) Exclusion by action of this church*,
- (4) Affiliation with a church of another faith or denomination.

* Should a member become an offense to the Church and to its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, or the teaching of heresy (that is, Jesus Christ is not the divine Son of God), the Church may terminate his membership by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of those who are in attendance, but only after due notice and hearing and after faithful efforts have been made to bring such member to repentance and amendment.

VI. Officers

The officers of the corporation shall be the Chairman of Deacons, Vice-Chairman of Deacons, Secretary of Deacons, Chairman of the Finance Committee, Chairman of the Properties Committee and Church Clerk.

VII. Policies and Procedures

The constitution and bylaws of the First Baptist Church, Bryan, Texas, hereby adopt the [Standard Operating Procedures and Policies as they existed in January, 1979, as part of this constitution and bylaws](#), with the added declaration that the Standard Operating Procedures may be amended at any regularly called business meeting of the First Baptist Church, Bryan, Texas.

APPROVED BY THE CHURCH 5/21/80

**ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FOLLOWING ACCEPTANCE OF
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

1. At the next meeting of the Church, the Constitution and Bylaws will be presented for adoption.
2. Deacons and Trustees will resign, then be immediately re-elected by the Church.
3. The officers of the Corporation will be named, i.e., Chairman of the Deacons, Vice-Chairman of the Deacons, Secretary of the Deacons, Secretary of the Deacons, Chairman of the Property Committee, Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Church Clerk.
4. The existing Church Trustees shall be named Honorary Trustees for life.
5. The [Standard Operating Procedures, as revised in January 1979,](#) will be adopted as the Bylaws.