

## **PRIOR TO READING THIS REPORT**

### **PLEASE TAKE NOTE**

The Transition Team is appreciative of the work of the temporary committees and their associated working groups. All reports and suggestions are being made available to the church body and have been forwarded to appropriate committees and staff members for review.

Encouraged by the Transition Team some recommendations within the routine church-authorized service of our staff and lay leadership are being enacted.

Any major recommendations rising to the level of church approval will not be performed without first being presented to the church in an announced business meeting.

Please accept the content of this report as counsel from members of our church asked to provide thorough consideration to the assigned matter. They have each offered their considered suggestion for the betterment of our church. We are grateful to their dedicated and heartfelt labor on our behalf.

## **CONSTITUTION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BRYAN, TEXAS**

### **PREAMBLE**

We declare and establish this Constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the Church in an orderly manner. This constitution will guide this Church in conducting Christ's ministry locally, nationally or across all borders as He leads.

### **ARTICLE I NAME**

The church shall be known as the First Baptist Church of Bryan, Texas, located at 3100 Cambridge Drive, Bryan, Texas 77802.

### **ARTICLE II MISSION STATEMENT**

First Baptist Church of Bryan is a body of baptized believers who strive to live with a passion for Jesus Christ and His purposes in the world by leading people to a personal, growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

### **ARTICLE III OBJECTIVES**

To be a dynamic spiritual body empowered by the Holy Spirit to evangelize, teach, baptize, and disciple as many people as possible. (Matthew 28:18-20)

To help members realize their spiritual gifts and encourage them to use these gifts in the sharing of Christ and building up the body of Christ. (I Corinthians 12:1-11)

To be a church whose purpose is to be a reflection of Christ's character in our daily living and to intentionally surrender total commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. (I Thessalonians 2:1-13)

To help members grow in the knowledge of God and His relationship to man through church programs of Bible teaching, training and education. (Acts 2:42-47)

To encourage members to support with time, abilities and financial resources the ministry of First Baptist Church of Bryan, Creath-Brazos Baptist Association, Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Southern Baptist Convention. (Luke 6:38).

### **ARTICLE IV STATEMENT OF BASIC BELIEFS**

We voluntarily band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to lost mankind and to minister to all. We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired word of God and the basis of our beliefs. This Church recognizes the doctrinal statement of The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963 and 2000 as representative expressions of the beliefs of most Southern Baptists; however, we never hold such statements as creeds in regard to fellowship, service and employment. We believe there are two New Testament ordinances, both symbolic in nature: Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe immersion in water answers Jesus Christ's command to baptize, and immersion symbolizes the heart of the Gospel message: the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Lord's Supper is an act of remembrance of Jesus Christ's suffering for our sins and a looking forward to His coming return.

### **ARTICLE V POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS**

The government of this church is vested in the members of its body of believers. Persons duly received by the members shall constitute the membership as defined in 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 is common among Baptist churches. Insofar as is practical, this Church will cooperate with and have representation in the denominational causes sponsored by the Creath-Brazos Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

## **ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the Constitution must be proposed in writing at any duly-called business meeting of the church. Within seven days, copies of the proposed amendment will be furnished to the membership. To allow time for discussion, voting cannot occur for at least 60 days after completing distribution. Amendments to the Constitution shall be approved by three-fourths ballot vote of the church members voting in a duly-called business meeting. A quorum for this ballot vote shall be established as 20% of the average worship attendance for the past month.

## **ARTICLE VII ORDER OF PRECEDENCE**

Should any conflict or discrepancy arise between the Constitution, Bylaws or Standard Operating Policies, the Constitution takes precedence, with the Bylaws following in order of precedence.

This Constitution supersedes all previous Constitutions.

*Adopted on* \_\_\_\_\_