

CONSTITUTION, COVENANT, AND BY-LAWS

First Baptist Church
of
St. Simons Island, Georgia, Inc.

Preamble

The following principles, policies and procedures are established for the guidance of the worship and activities of the First Baptist Church of St. Simons Island, Georgia, Inc. They shall be known as the Constitution, Covenant, and By-Laws of this Church.

Adoption

This Constitution, Covenant, and By-Laws are adopted the sixteenth {16^h) day of December, 2012, and supersede all prior constitutions, covenants, by-laws, practices and policies of this Church.

CONSTITUTION

Article I - Name

The name of this Church is First Baptist Church of St, Simons Island, Georgia, Inc., first organized in 1938, and later established as a non-profit corporation, pursuant to the laws of the State of Georgia, in 1981. It is hereinafter referred to as the "Church".

Article II - Statement of Faith

Baptists are a people who profess a living personal faith. This faith is rooted and grounded in Jesus Christ who is "the same yesterday, today, and forever." Therefore, the sole authority for faith and practice among Baptists is the will of God in Christ which is revealed in the scriptures and interpreted to each believer through the Holy Spirit. Also, in keeping with the doctrinal statements in THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE OF 1963, this Church affirms that "any group of Baptists, large or small, have the inherent

right to draw up for themselves and publish to the world a confession of their faith whenever they may think it advisable to do so." Thus, the Priesthood of All Believers and the Autonomy of Local Church Congregations stand as the dual pillars upon which we formulate our Statement of Faith. We further assert that such doctrinal statements are only a guide for the interpretation of the Christian message and have no authority over the conscience.

Article III — Vision, Mission, and Core Values

Section A. Vision.

To be a family of believers sharing God's Love and Grace with all people.

Section B. Mission.

To help people:

Experience God through Jesus Christ;

Grow through Bible study and prayer;

Celebrate God's presence in worship;

Give hope and help to those in need; and to

Provide a sanctuary of love and Christian fellowship.

Section C. Core Values.

1. Biblical Foundation. We study and teach God's written word, acknowledging its authority and celebrating the story of the revelation of God, inspired by Him and written by His people, so that all might come to know the Living Word, Jesus Christ,

2. Prayer. We are committed to pray faithfully, both individually and as a church, seeking God's will.

3. Worship. We are welcoming and inclusive of all people in worship that exalts God with awe and wonder, celebrates Christ with joyful song and thanksgiving, and submits to the Holy Spirit in reverence and humility,

4. Stewardship. We are dedicated to the stewardship of our lives and resources, recognizing our spiritual gifts, and offering them sacrificially and joyfully to God through service to His church.

5. Missions. We share the love of Christ and offer His redeeming grace by meeting the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of our community and the world.

6. Community. We embrace the diversity of our congregation and are committed to develop unity and common purpose, enabling all to participate, to serve, and to lead.

7. Freedom. We believe in the Priesthood of All Believers, affirming the freedom and responsibility to relate to God in our own personal way, as we are led by the Holy Spirit.

Article IV - **Governance and Affiliations**

Section A.

The governance of this Church is vested solely in the body of believers who compose it and who shall determine all matters of policy and governance. It shall be subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but shall recognize and sustain the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches.

Section B.

So far as may be consistent with the principles and teachings of God's Word, this Church may cooperate with, have representation in, and make financial contributions to such and as many denominational organizations as the Church may designate from time to time.

Section C.

As to the doctrine of this Church, it shall receive the scriptures and leadership of the Holy Spirit as its authority in matters of faith and practice.

Article V - Ordinances

We adopt the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord'S Supper as the fullest expressions of the Christian experience.

Article VI - Amendments

Proposals for change of the Constitution, Covenant, or By-Laws shall be made by presenting a written proposal to the Constitution, Covenant, and By-Laws Committee for action in accordance with the By-Laws. Any proposal and recommendation, created in accordance with the By-Laws, shall be presented to the Church in writing with copies furnished at a business meeting one month prior to a Church vote. Amendments to the Constitution or Covenant shall be by two-thirds vote of the Church members present and voting, Amendments to the By-Laws shall be by a majority of the Church members present and voting.

COVENANT

First Baptist Church
St. Simons, Georgia

As members of this church we covenant with God and each other:

We Confess

-Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord

We Acknowledge

- Our common calling to follow Christ
- Our dependence upon God's grace
- Our need to be led by the Holy Spirit
- Our need to be a part of a church community
- Our responsibility to study and apply scripture to our daily lives

We Choose

- To love, care and pray for one another
- To listen to one another
- To acknowledge our differences and use them to find a more faithful witness
- To participate in the ministries of the church
- To walk together, serving one another, our community, and our world