

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF LAKE JACKSON**

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the First Baptist Church of Lake Jackson, Texas, declare and establish this Constitution for the preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and to govern the body of believers in an orderly manner. This Constitution preserves the liberties and encourages the responsibilities of each individual member of this church and the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other churches.

ARTICLE I – NAME, LOCATION, AND OBJECTIVES

A. Name:

This New Testament church is duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas under the corporate name of First Baptist Church of Lake Jackson.

B. Location:

Its primary house of worship, and principal place of business, is located at 401 Yaupon Street in the City of Lake Jackson, Brazoria County, Texas.

C. Objectives:

1) Prayer

To fervently and continually seek the Lord's will in every action to accomplish the objectives of the church. (Mark 11:17, Acts 2:42)

2) Worship

To glorify God and inspire people through meaningful worship experiences, giving priority to the proclamation of God's Word.
(James 4:8, Romans 12:1, Hebrews 10:25)

3) Missions and Evangelism

To share the gospel with all people to lead them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and into active church membership and to cooperate with others in sharing the Gospel with people everywhere. (Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:19-20)

4) Education

To teach the Scripture, to educate and train the members of our church that they may grow in the grace, knowledge, commitment, and service of our Lord.
(Matthew 28:20, Acts 18:11, Colossians 3:16)

5) Fellowship

To foster loving and helpful Christian fellowship among our members.

(Hebrews 10:24, Ephesians 4:3-4, Acts 2:42)

6) Ministry

To minister unselfishly to those in spiritual, emotional, physical, material, or relational need in our church and our community.

(Matthew 25:34-40, Galatians 6:2,10)

7) Stewardship

To lead people to give themselves to God and to return to His church a portion of the time, abilities, and material resources entrusted to them.

(II Corinthians 8:1-5, 9:6-8, I Corinthians 16:1-2)

ARTICLE II – STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Holy Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. This 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 this church are Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

ARTICLE III – POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who comprise it. Persons duly received by the members shall constitute the membership. This church is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Gulf Coast Baptist Association. It recognizes the interests and activities of these organizations and pledges to them its support and cooperation, so long as they are in agreement with the statement of faith of this church.

Should a division of membership occur, possession of the title to this church property and assets owned by this church will remain with the group cooperating with and holding the doctrinal position with churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. Parties of the outgoing group in custody of physical properties shall immediately relinquish same to proper church officers. All officers and positions held by the outgoing group shall automatically be declared vacated by proper church officers at the time of the division.

ARTICLE IV – CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, 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 Ghost,

We do now, in the presence of God, angels, 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 this church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children 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 avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger;

To present our bodies as living sacrifices to God, as indicated by the following commitments:

To abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage,

To use our influence to combat the abuse of drugs,

To treasure the gift and sanctity of human life by lovingly offering alternatives to abortion, caring for the newborn and the aged, praying for the sick, and ministering to those in need,

To combat the spread of pornography of all kinds, and

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 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.

ARTICLE V – AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

Changes in this constitution may be made at any regular business meeting of the church, provided that copies of each amendment have been presented in writing at the previous regular business meeting, that a written copy of each amendment has been published at least twice in the weekly church newsletter prior to being voted on, and that written copies have been made available in the church office to the church membership. Amendments shall be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members of this church present and voting.

ARTICLE VI – ADOPTION

This constitution shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when the two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting at the business meeting at

which the vote is taken shall vote in favor of the same. This vote shall be taken not less than thirty (30) days after formal presentation of the constitution to this church.

This constitution abolishes, supercedes, and takes the place of any constitution, rules, by-laws, and amendments that preceded it.

The original document shall be kept in the safety deposit box of this church. Additional copies shall be kept in the church office and in the church library. All amendments and revisions shall, after passage by the vote of this church, be prepared by the church clerk and incorporated into the constitution. Copies of the most recent constitution shall be made available to church members upon request.

March 26,2000

(Date Adopted)

Carolyn Padgett

Church Clerk