

## CONSTITUTION

### PREAMBLE

We declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the body in an orderly manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual church member 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 Bangs, Texas located at Second and Goodwin; having been incorporated on December 17, 1993.

### II. OBJECTIVES

- 1) To be a dynamic, spiritual organism empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Christ with as many people as possible in our church, community, and throughout the world.
- 2) To be a worshipping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing His person, and responding in obedience to His leadership.
- 3) To experience an increasingly meaningful fellowship with God and fellow believers.
- 4) To help people experience a growing knowledge of God and man.
- 5) To be a church which ministers unselfishly to persons in the community and the world in Jesus' name.
- 6) To be a church whose purpose is to be Christ-like in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment of life, personality, and possessions to the lordship of Christ.

### III. STATEMENT OF BASIC BELIEFS

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired word of God and the basis of our beliefs. This church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963 and 2000. 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. The ordinances of the church are believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper.

#### IV. CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and 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 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 strive, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge and holiness; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship ordinances, doctrines, and discipline; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the assistance of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also strive to maintain family and personal devotions; to provide spiritual training; to encourage the salvation of our families and friends; to walk sensibly and wisely in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our commitments and obligations, and exemplary in our conduct; to avoid all gossiping, slander, and excessive anger; to avoid the appearance of evil concerning the use of intoxicating drinks; to use our influence to combat the abuse of drugs and the spread of pornography, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further strive 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 compassion toward others 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 agree that when we move from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with another church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

#### V. POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. Persons duly received by the members shall constitute the membership.

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 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, the state convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

## VI. REVERSIONARY CLAUSE

It is the intention of the First Baptist Church of Bangs, Texas, that upon dissolution the property owned by this church shall be used for church purposes only by a church which is a member in good standing of the local Baptist Association with which it is affiliated and of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. In the event that the property conveyed herein, shall cease to be used for church purposes by a church which is a member in good standing of the local Baptist Association with which it is affiliated and of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, such property shall revert to the local Baptist Association. Such reverter shall not apply to or affect in any manner any lien or liens against the property at the time of any such purported reversion. Such reverter shall be subordinate and inferior to any such lien or liens, and in the event that title to the property of First Baptist Church of Bangs, Texas, is transferred by reason of foreclosure of any such lien or liens, by deed in lieu of foreclosure, or by any other means designed to enable the lien holder to realize, directly or indirectly, upon the collateral provided by such lien or liens, then in such event title to the property shall be transferred free and clear of the reverter, and such reverter shall thereupon become null and void and of no further force and effect.