

Flowood Baptist Church

Constitution

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Flowood Baptist Church

Flowood, Mississippi

PREAMBLE

To the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the accepted beliefs and practices of the Southern Baptist denomination, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this Church, and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith, we do declare and establish this constitution.

Flowood Baptist Church exists to provide people with an opportunity to encounter God through Jesus Christ and then grow to be more like Him. We promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in the inspired and infallible Word of God. The Church is commissioned by Christ to maintain and expand His Kingdom through the ongoing, spirit-led work of Evangelism, Missions, Bible Study, Worship, Prayer and Fellowship.

A church constitution document helps a church preserve democratic procedure. This instrument serves as the guide for Members to follow in carrying out the work of the Lord at Flowood Baptist Church.

Basic theology, organizational structure and church policies are contained in a constitution. It should be emphasized; however, that the Constitution should be reviewed periodically by the Church. As the program of the Church changes, so must its rules of governmental procedures.

The basic advantages of a constitution are:

- It furnishes Members with a written statement of their church organization, fundamental guidelines and theological beliefs.
- It aids in preserving democracy and harmony since the Members have already established predetermined guidelines.
- It provides an orderly procedure guiding the transaction of Church business.
- It serves as a basis for solving problems, many times before they ever arise.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

God:

We believe there is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

God the Father:

We believe God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all people. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

[Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11; 20:1; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7](#)

God the Son:

We believe Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands, necessities and temptations identifying Himself completely with humanity yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of all people from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and humanity. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever-present Lord.

[Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:22-23; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 1:3,4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 4:14-15](#)

God the Holy Spirit:

We believe the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired people to write God's Word, and through illumination He enables people to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and His church in worship, evangelism, and service.

[John 14:16-17; 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 1:13; 5:18](#)

The Bible:

We believe the Bible is God's Word to us and is His revelation of Himself to humanity. It was written by human beings, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. Because all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy, it is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. The Bible is the inerrant, inspired Word of God, and thus it is truth without any mixture of error.

[Psalm 12:6; 119:105,160; Proverbs 30:5; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 1:13; 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21](#)

Humanity:

We believe humans, both male and female, are the special creation of God, made in His spiritual image, to be like Him in character. In the beginning Adam and Eve were innocent of sin and were endowed by God with freedom of choice. Through the temptation of Satan and by their free choice the first humans disobeyed the command of God, and fell from their original innocence. As a result, all humans are born totally depraved, being sinners by nature and deed and incurring guilt before a holy God.

[Genesis 1:26-31; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6; 59:1-2; Romans 3:10-18,23; Ephesians 2:1-3](#)

Salvation:

We believe salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

[John 1:12; 14:6; Romans 5:1; 6:23; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 2:8,9; Titus 3:5](#)

Eternity:

We believe people were created by God to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

[John 3:16; 14:17; Romans 6:23; 8:17-18; 1Cor. 2:7-9; Revelation 10:15](#)

Eternal Security:

We believe that because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. Persons who have been genuinely saved cannot lose their salvation. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

[John 10:29-30; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; 10:10,14; 1 Peter 1:3-5](#)

The Church:

We believe that a New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. We also believe that the Church is the Body of Christ, which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation. Each local congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the Church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

[Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3](#)

Baptism and the Lord's Supper:

We believe that believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper are the only ordinances ordained by God for observance in the Church. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to the person's faith in the final resurrection of the dead. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby believers, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

[Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12](#)

Evangelism and Missions:

We believe that it is the duty and privilege of every Christian and of every church to seek to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of our spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every believer to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ. [Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17](#)

Stewardship:

We believe that God is the source of all blessings, both material and spiritual; therefore, all that we have and all that we are, we owe to Him. Christians are under an obligation to serve the Lord with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Lord's will on earth.

[Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19](#)

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and so 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, 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 fellowship, to promote its prosperity and spirituality, to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines.

We encourage each other to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also encourage each other to maintain family and secret devotion; to educate our children religiously; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances.

We will strive to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, exemplary in our character; 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 each other in prayer; to aid each other 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 move 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.

PURPOSE & ORGANIZATION

Purpose:

It shall be the sole purpose of the Flowood Baptist Church to do the will and work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For Him we will endeavor to seek out and win the lost, disciple and lead them and all Members to a life of fruitful service in Kingdom work.

Policy:

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 Southern Baptist Churches.

Doctrine:

This Church receives the Scriptures as its authority in all matters of faith and practice. Its understanding of Christian truth as contained therein is in essential accord with the beliefs of Southern Baptist Churches as indicated in the Statement of Faith herewith.

Cooperation:

Flowood Baptist Church shall cooperate with the Rankin County Baptist Association, the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention. In addition, Flowood Baptist Church shall cooperate with other area Christian churches and organizations in furthering God's work.

AMENDMENTS

Changes to the Constitution may be made at any regular or special business meeting of the Church provided each amendment shall have been presented in writing at a previous business meeting and copies of the proposed amendment(s) shall have been furnished to each Member present at the earlier meeting. Amendments to the Constitution require approval by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Members present and voting.

