

# Constitution of First Baptist Church of Mont Belvieu

*Approved by the membership on June 22, 2008*

## PREAMBLE

Since it pleased Almighty God, by His Holy Spirit, to call certain of His servants to unite here in 1929 for the worship of God and the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and since He has sustained and prospered this work to the present day; and

Whereas we, the members of First Baptist Church of Mont Belvieu, having searched the scriptures under the guidance of His Spirit, have recognized the need to reconstitute ourselves to more closely conform to His will for the Church in this age and prepare ourselves for greater efforts in His name;

Now therefore we, the members of First Baptist Church of Mont Belvieu, do hereby organize ourselves as a non-profit corporation under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Texas and adopt this Constitution as our articles of governance, to be interpreted at all times to reflect the character of and bring glory to Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Holy Bible and articulated in the standards set forth in the Statement of Faith and Covenant of this church.

## ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this church is First Baptist Church of Mont Belvieu (FBCMB), Chambers County, Texas.

## ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The First Baptist Church of Mont Belvieu exists by the grace of God, for the glory of God, which shall be the ultimate purpose in all its activities. This church glorifies God by loving Him and obeying His commands through worshipping Him, equipping the saints through Bible study and instruction, proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through preaching and personal evangelism, supporting and participating in missions work, showing mutual care among members, and providing for the needy in our community.

This church is governed by its own members; it is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but recognizes the value of cooperation with other churches for the purpose of fellowship and missions. Insofar as it is practical, this church may voluntarily affiliate and cooperate with larger bodies on the local, state, national, and/or international level.

## ARTICLE III - STATEMENT OF FAITH

### SECTION 1 - The Bible

The Bible is God-breathed, truth without mixture of error, the final authority for faith, and the perfect guidebook for living. Written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Bible is God's Word to all mankind.

### SECTION 2 - God

There is one God who eternally exists as three equal persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is the Creator of all and infinite in perfection, being altogether powerful, all-knowing, just, merciful, gracious, and loving. For this reason, God deserves all praise, devotion, love, honor, and glory.

### SECTION 3 - Jesus Christ

The glory of God is best seen in the face of Jesus Christ. Jesus, Himself eternally God, walked this earth fully human. He was born of a virgin through conception by the Holy Spirit, lived a life of perfect obedience to God the Father, performed miraculous works, died on the cross to pay the penalty for the sins of the world, was raised from the dead in a glorified body, ascended to the place of ultimate authority at the right hand of God the Father, and will personally return in power and glory to judge the world. The purpose of Jesus' coming was to reunite men to God so that they can glorify God by enjoying Him forever.

### SECTION 4 - The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit indwells believers as the personal presence of Jesus and gives them the power to live a godly life. At the initial moment of salvation, the Spirit baptizes believers into Christ and seals their salvation. The Holy Spirit also gives gifts to every believer to be used for the common good of the whole Body of Christ.

### SECTION 5 - Humans

All human beings are created with an eternal soul bearing God's image, to be like him in character, and should be treated with dignity. Having God's image, men and women are able to have a relationship with God like no other creature. When the first human freely chose to disobey God (sin), the perfect relationship with God was broken and an inward corruption took place so that all people are now inclined toward disobedience. Apart from a right relationship with God in this life, all humans face an eternal punishment of separation from him.

## SECTION 6 - Salvation

The main objective in God's saving of human beings is restoration to a right relationship with Himself for His glory. Personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is absolutely essential for man's salvation. Salvation is entirely an act of God, not granted based on any human merit, whereby humans are born again with a new nature that desires God and godliness. After the new birth God begins to work within a person to make him more like Jesus. When Christ returns He will resurrect and glorify the bodies of His disciples, preparing them for eternity.

God promises that those who come to Him in faith will never be cast out and nothing can separate His people from His love. Because God is faithful to His promises, and because salvation is an act of God's grace, all who are truly saved will continue to the end. This perseverance in the faith distinguishes true believers from those who merely profess to be Christians.

## SECTION 7 - The Church

All those who have been saved are spiritually united as the Church. The visible gatherings of believers make up local churches. The local church is the only God-ordained institution to carry on the mission of Jesus as the Body of Christ on this earth, and as such, every Christian is commanded to be a member of a local church. The local church is made up of believers associated by a covenant relationship with God and one another, serving one another and taking the message of Jesus Christ to the world.

Each local church is autonomous under the lordship of Christ, with final earthly authority given to the congregation gathered in His name to seek His will. The Bible specifies that the officers of the church are elders and deacons.

## SECTION 8 - Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer into water, symbolizing our participation by faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is an outward display of an inward change. Christ commands all believers to be baptized as a sign of giving themselves up to Christ and His Body, the Church, to walk in newness of life in the Spirit. As such, it is a prerequisite to church membership.

In the Lord's Supper believers use the elements of the bread and the cup to commemorate Christ's death for their sins, celebrate His love, and anticipate His return. It is observed as a renewal of our communion with Him and His Body, the Church. As such, every believer should closely examine his relationship with Christ and the Church in light of this intimate reminder of His sacrifice.

## ARTICLE IV - CHURCH COVENANT

Having trusted in Jesus as the Son of God who became a man, died to pay the penalty for our rebellion, and was raised to give us new life with Him; and having promised our loyalty and love to Christ and His church through baptism; we covenant with one another by God's grace to be under Christ's leadership as His Body, an expression of His presence to our community and world.

1. Believing that God is the ultimate source of joy and that He is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him; and in obedience to His commands to know and love Him; we pursue God in our individual lives and together in times of worship, counting Him as life's greatest treasure and believing that all life flows from our relationship with Him. As members, we will commit ourselves personal worship and prayer, and we will attend worship services with other members as often as possible.
2. Believing that God never meant for the Christian life to be lived alone; and because the Bible teaches that when we come to know God we are born into His family; and in obedience to His command to love and submit to one another; we commit to our church family, giving ourselves up to them and for them as we pursue God together. As members, we will support the ongoing ministry of the church and will keep watch over one another's spiritual and physical needs, pray for and serve one another.
3. Believing that an essential part of the Christian life is a commitment and desire for Christ to be formed in us; and believing that this process of growth involves the pursuit of holiness; and in obedience to Christ's command that we train ourselves in godliness; we commit to stretch ourselves, seeking to reflect the image of Jesus to the world. As members, we will grow personally through the practice of spiritual disciplines.
4. Believing that Jesus left to us the mission of calling people into relationship with God; and in obedience to His call to share His Good News with all the world; we commit to build the kingdom, intentionally living for this purpose, to see friends, family, neighbors, and the nations come to treasure Jesus and live for Him. As members, we will seek to win others to Jesus by precept and example, by word and by deed.

## ARTICLE V - AMENDMENTS

Matters in this constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a members' meeting, provided the amendment shall have been offered in writing at the previous members' meeting, and shall have been announced from the pulpit at church services two successive Sundays prior to such vote.