

**CONSTITUTION
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
COOKEVILLE, TENNESSEE**

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of preserving and making secure the principles of our faith and to the end that this body be governed in an orderly manner, consistent with the general tenets of Southern Baptist churches, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of the church and the freedom of action of this body of believers, we do declare and establish this constitution.

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

This body shall be known as the First Baptist Church of Cookeville, Tennessee.

**ARTICLE II
MISSION**

Our mission, as individuals and as a family of baptized believers in Jesus Christ, is to glorify God in all that we do. We desire to serve God in accomplishing His redemptive purpose throughout the world; through worshipping and exalting Him, sharing His plan of salvation with unbelievers, discipling and teaching His people, and demonstrating His love through practical ministry to our world.

**ARTICLE III
ARTICLES OF FAITH**

The Holy Bible is the inspired word of God and is the basis for any articles of faith. The church subscribes to the doctrinal statements and articles of faith of “The Baptist Faith and Message” as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in May 1963.

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 Spirit, we as members of First Baptist Church, Cookeville, Tennessee, 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 agree, therefore, with 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 the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also agree to maintain family and personal devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our families and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings; to be faithful in our engagements; to be exemplary in our conduct; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

We further agree 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; to show courtesy in our speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the teachings 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 some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

ARTICLE V ORDINANCES

The ordinances of this church shall be Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Section 1: Baptism.

Baptism is an act of obedience that symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. A person who has received Jesus Christ as Personal Savior, who professes Him publicly, and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord, shall be received for baptism by immersion in water.

Section 2: The Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is an act of obedience in which believers commemorate and proclaim the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate His second coming, through partaking of the bread and the cup.

ARTICLE VI POLICY 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 missions and ministry through other like-minded bodies such as the Stone Association of Southern Baptists, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS TO THE CHURCH CONSTITUTION

Proposed amendments to the Church Constitution will be submitted to the Chair of the Church Constitution and Bylaws Committee in writing. The Chair of the Church Constitution and Bylaws Committee will present the proposed amendment or amendments to the Church Body at a regular business meeting with the committee's recommendation. Wording of the proposed amendment or amendments will be distributed in writing to the church membership at least one week prior to the business meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of those members present and voting in favor of the amendment at two consecutive business meetings is required to approve an amendment to the Constitution. If the proposed amendment or amendments does not receive a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at both meetings, at least six months must elapse before that amendment can be brought back to the church for further consideration.