

“Life Together at First Baptist Church of Sumter”

We, the members of First Baptist Church of Sumter, affirm that to be a member of the First Baptist Church of Sumter family of faith is to be committed to developing a growing relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and growing relationships with other members of the Church. In the context of these relationships, we commit to God and to one another that we will earnestly endeavor to do the following under the leadership of the Holy Spirit (all Scriptures are from the New International Version unless noted):

1. We will prize and protect the unity of our Church family by:

a. Acting in love toward other members

- 1) “Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.” Romans 14:19
- 2) “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:2-3
- 3) “Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.” I Peter 1:22
- 4) “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32

b. Refusing to gossip and stir up dissension

- 1) “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” Ephesians 4:29
- 2) “There are six things the Lord hates...a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.” Proverbs 6:16, 19
- 3) “A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.” Proverbs 16:28

c. Honoring and following the leaders

- 1) “The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.” I Timothy 5:17
- 2) “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.” Hebrews 13:17

d. Resolving conflicts through the scriptural, disciplinary guidelines of our Church

- 1) “If your brother sins against you go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.” Matthew 18:15-17
- 2) “...if another Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.” Galatians 6:1 (NLT)

2. **We will participate in the ministry of our Church family by:**

a. **Attending faithfully and giving regularly**

- 1) "Let us not give up meeting together...but let us encourage one another." Heb. 10:25
- 2) "Every Sunday each of you must put aside some money, in proportion to what you have earned, and save it up." 1 Corinthians 16:2 (TEV)

b. **Discovering our gifts and talents**

- 1) "Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you." 1 Peter 4:10 (Phillips)
- 2) "It was (God) Who gave some...to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." Ephesians 4:11-12

c. **Being equipped to serve**

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus; Who...(took on) the very nature of a servant." Philippians 2:4-7

d. **Developing a servant's heart**

- 1) "But among you it should be quite different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must become your slave. For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give My Life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:26-28 (NLT)
- 2) "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge in the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love." Galatians 5:13

3. **We will be a partner in the mission of our Church family by:**

a. **Praying for its health and growth**

- 1) "In all my prayers for all of you, I will always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel." Philippians 1:4-5
- 2) "We have not stopped praying for you and asking God...that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God." Colossians 1:9-10

b. **Inviting the unchurched to attend**

"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that My house will be full.'" Luke 14:23

c. **Warmly welcoming those who visit**

"So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified." Romans 15:7 (Living Bible)

d. **Sharing Christ as we have opportunity both here and around the world**

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." 1 Peter 3:15

Signature

Date