

CONSTITUTION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, COMMERCE, INC.

Preamble

Recognizing the Church as a spiritual body divinely instituted for the purposes of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and as being founded on principles set forth in the Bible, we, a New Testament Church, declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern our church in an orderly manner. The policies, principles, and procedures contained in this document are designed to protect and preserve the liberties of each member and to provide for the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other churches.

ARTICLE I

Name

This body, which is duly chartered as a church under the laws of the State of Georgia, shall be named First Baptist Church of Commerce, Inc., and its domicile and principal place of business shall be at 1345 South Elm Street, Commerce, Georgia.

ARTICLE II

Objectives

This church is duly organized and exists to promote the following objectives:

- a) To be a dynamic, spiritual body empowered by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of sharing Christ with people in our church, community and the world.
- b) To be a worshipping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God as a person and responding to His leadership.
- c) To cultivate meaningful relationships with fellow believers.
- d) To help develop a growing understanding between God and humankind.
- e) To be a church that ministers unselfishly in the name of Christ to people in the community and in the world.
- f) To be Christlike in our daily living, emphasizing total commitment of life, personality, and possessions to the lordship of Christ.

ARTICLE III

Articles of Faith

We, the members of First Baptist Church, Commerce, believe that

- a) The Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God and the basis for our belief that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
- b) This church is a community of baptized believers who accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and who are united by covenant as one body in Christ.

c) Our responsibility is to proclaim the gospel, to educate the fellowship, and to provide spiritual enrichment and benevolent services to all people.

d) The Truth, as set forth in the Bible and revealed by the Holy Spirit, is our standard for all matters of faith and conduct.

e) Salvation is the redemption of men and women, made possible by the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It comes about through regeneration, which is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin. Repentance and faith are the turning away from sin toward God and accepting Christ as Lord. Sanctification is the setting apart of a believer to God's purposes.

f) The Lord's Day is the first day of the week, commemorating the resurrection of Christ from the dead, and is set aside to experience worship both public and private.

g) We recognize God as the source of all of our blessings. We will cheerfully, regularly, and proportionately contribute of our financial resources, time, and talents for the advancement of Christ's cause on earth.

h) We believe in separation of Church and State, a free Church in a free state with the right to form and spread opinions of our religious faith without interference by any civil power. As Christians, we are to render loyal obedience to civil government in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God.

i) We affirm the right of each individual, to respond to God's calling and to prepare himself or herself for service according to God's Will.

ARTICLE IV

Church Covenant

We do now in the presence of God and this assembly most solemnly and joyfully enter into a covenant with one another as one body in Christ:

a) We will, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, walk together in Christian love, ministering to, caring for, encouraging, and counseling one another.

b) We will assemble faithfully for worship, study, service, and fellowship, and will pray for others as well as ourselves.

c) We will endeavor to bring up those under our care "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," encouraging personal and family devotions.

d) We will seek by Christian example and personal effort to win others to Christ and to encourage their growth toward maturity.

e) We will share one another's joys and endeavor to bear one another's burdens and sorrows.

f) We will be faithful stewards of our resources and abilities in sharing the gospel with people of all nations.

g) We will prove the reality of our conversion by living Godly, fruitful lives.

h) We will always be mindful that all we are or will be is because of the goodness and grace of God.

i) As a result of this covenant relationship, we will earnestly seek to live for the glory of God, who brought us out of darkness into His marvelous light.