

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Cambridge, Minnesota

**CONSTITUTION**

**PREAMBLE**

We, the members of The First Baptist Church of Cambridge, Minnesota, desiring to manifest the unity which we have with one another in our common profession of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, do adopt this Constitution and Bylaws, and solemnly pledge ourselves to be governed by their provisions.

**ARTICLE 1 - ORGANIZATION**

**Section 1. Name**

The name of this church shall be The First Baptist Church of Cambridge, Minnesota.

**Section 2. Origin**

This church was founded as The First Swedish Baptist Church of Cambridge, Minnesota, on November 14, 1888. On January 16, 1963, the name was changed to The First Baptist Church of Cambridge, Minnesota.

**Section 3. Incorporation**

This church is a religious organization initially incorporated January 25, 1889, under and pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 315, Section 315.21 of Minnesota Statutes 1945 as The First Swedish Baptist Church of Cambridge, Minnesota. On December 27, 1990, this church was incorporated under and pursuant to the new Minnesota Statute 317A as The First Baptist Church of Cambridge, Minnesota.

**Section 4. Affiliation**

This church shall maintain affiliation with the Minnesota Baptist Conference and the Baptist General Conference.

**ARTICLE 2 - STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE, VISION AND MISSION**

**Section 1. Purpose**

Recognizing Jesus Christ as the Head of the Church and the Scriptures as the supreme authority in all matters of faith and practice, this church shall seek to ascertain and obey the will of our Lord.

**Section 2. Vision**

In obedience to God, The First Baptist Church will intentionally reach out to our world for Christ by providing a nurturing environment where maturing in faith results in effective ministry to others.

**Section 3. Mission**

The First Baptist Church exists to help people know, love, and become like Jesus.

**ARTICLE 3 - GOVERNMENT**

**Section 1. Polity**

The final governing authority of this church is vested in the body of members who compose it.

**Section 2. Delegated Authority**

The membership shall elect a managing body to be known as the Church Board.

**Section 3. Liability**

No officer, member of the Church Board, Staff or any committee member appointed or elected by this church, shall be held individually liable for any error or mistake, act or omission for or on behalf

of this church, occurring within the scope of his or her duty, except for acts of willful misconduct or violation of law.

#### Section 4. **Church Year**

The Church Year shall begin on the first day of May and close on the last day of April.

### **ARTICLE 4 - CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

#### Section 1. **Qualifications**

Every member of this church must have made a personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, must have been baptized by immersion, and must have professed agreement with the Baptist General Conference Affirmation of Faith and The First Baptist Church Covenant.

#### Section 2. **Status**

- A. Members shall include all members who have not been placed on the Inactive Roll.
- B. Inactive members are those who have been placed on the Inactive Roll by vote of the Church Board.
- C. Members on the Inactive Roll may be removed from membership by vote of the Church Board.

#### Section 3. **Membership Rights**

- A. All Members have equal rights and privileges in the church.
  - 1. Voting Rights
 

All members have the right to vote on any issue at any business or public meeting of the membership with the exception of those fiscal and property issues for which state law requires that only persons of legal age are eligible to vote.
  - 2. Property Rights
 

Members of this church have no personal rights to property or any other assets held in the name of The First Baptist Church.

### **ARTICLE 5 - DISPOSITION OF CHURCH ASSETS**

#### Section 1. **Division**

In case of organic division of the church membership, the Church assets shall belong to those members who abide by this Constitution and Bylaws.

#### Section 2. **Dissolution**

If circumstances arise when, for any reason, the Church work cannot continue and the members vote to disband, the Church assets shall be transferred to the Minnesota Baptist Conference.

#### Section 3. **Consolidation**

Should circumstances arise that the members of the church vote to consider consolidation with another church of the same denomination, the Church Board shall be authorized to negotiate the terms of consolidating of the memberships and their assets and liabilities. These terms must be approved by a subsequent vote of the members.

#### Section 4. **Merger**

Should circumstances arise that the members of the church vote to consider merger with another church, the Church Board shall be authorized to negotiate the terms of such merger. These terms must be approved by a subsequent vote of the members.

### **ARTICLE 6 - CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

No Bylaw of The First Baptist Church of Cambridge, Minnesota, shall conflict with this Constitution.

#### **ARTICLE 7 - AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended only at an annual meeting of the Church by a three-fourths affirmative vote of those Members, present and voting, provided a quorum is present. At least thirty days in advance, a notice and copy of the proposed amendment shall be provided in writing to each member and a copy be posted in a conspicuous place in the church.