

CONSTITUTION  
of the  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
Alva, Oklahoma

PREAMBLE

This constitution is created and adopted to preserve and extend the principles of our faith and to assure that this body will be governed in an orderly and effective manner in all of its activities and endeavors.

I. NAME

This body shall be known as the First Baptist Church of Alva, Oklahoma.

II. MISSION

The mission of this body shall be to love God and one another by committing ourselves to grow stronger through the worship of God, to reach our community and the world by sharing Jesus and ministering to the needs of people, and to assist our members to grow deeper in their love and commitment for our Lord Jesus Christ through discipleship and fellowship.

III. STATEMENT OF BASIC BELIEFS

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God and the basis for our beliefs. This church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of “The Baptist Faith and Message” as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

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

We engage, therefore, by 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; and 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 engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and, mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove 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.

## V. CHURCH ORDINANCES

Ordinances of the church are the Lord's Supper and Baptism. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at least once each quarter. Candidates for baptism shall be baptized as soon as practical after their public professions of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

## VI. CHURCH GOVERNMENT

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. All officers elected by the church and all committees and other internal groups created by it shall be accountable only to the church, unless otherwise specified by church action.

In addition to this constitution, a set of bylaws shall be created to guide and regulate the activities, programs, and proceedings of the church.

The church is subject to no other ecclesiastical body, but it accepts the obligations implicit in its cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, and the Northwestern Baptist Association.