**Constitution and Bylaws of First Baptist Church Kenedy, Texas**

## PREAMBLE

This Constitution and Bylaws are made to:

1. Preserve and secure the principles of our faith.
2. Preserve the liberties of each individual church member.
3. Ensure freedom of action of independence from any religious body or organization.
4. Provide for orderly conduct of internal affairs, in dealing with others and of governing church members.

## CONSTITUTION

* 1. *Name*

The name of this church shall be First Baptist Church of Kenedy, Texas.

* 1. *Business Location*

The address of the principal office of this church shall be 209 E. School Street, Kenedy, TX 78119

*Ill. Purpose*

The First Baptist Church of Kenedy lives to glorify God by joining Him in His work of reaching people in our community and throughout the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and developing them by God's love into spiritually mature disciples. The purposes of First Baptist Church of Kenedy, Texas are to glorify God, reach people and make disciples. UPDATE

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* + 1. *Articles of Faith\**

1. The Lordship of Jesus Christ: As a church, and as individuals, we acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ and submit ourselves to His authority.
2. The Holy Scriptures: The Holy Bible was written by divinely inspired authors and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to humankind. It has God for its author, salvation for its end and truth without any mixture of error for its matter.
3. God: There is one and only one living and true God. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.
4. God the Father: God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.
5. God the Son: Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His death on the cross, He made provision for the redemption of men from sin.
6. God the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. He exalts Christ. He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.
7. Man: Man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of His creation. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore every man possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.
8. Salvation: Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, sanctification, and glorification.
9. God's Purpose of Grace: Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to

the end.

1. The Church: A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. This church is an autonomous body.The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ, which includes all the redeemed of all the ages.
2. Believers Baptism & the Lord's Supper: Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.
3. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

*13.* The Priesthood of the Believer: Baptists insist that all who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior are priests, believer priests. Each believer priest is responsible for his or her own actions. Believer priests are all equal to one another in Christ. Each believer priest has a responsibility to Christ and to share Christ through word and deed.

1. The Lord's Day: The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion.
2. Last Things: God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell. The righteous will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.
3. Evangelism & Missions: It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort.
4. Education: The cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence ... there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility.The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.
5. Stewardship: God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions.
6. Cooperation: Christ's people should organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations.
7. The Christian & the Social Order: Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in his own life and in human society.The Christian should oppose in the spirit of Christ every form of greed, selfishness, and vice.

# Religious Liberty: Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal.

1. Family: God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. Marriage is the unity of one man and one woman in covenant commitment tor a lifetime. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord.

\*(Adapted from The Baptist Faith and Message (1963) and Baptist Identity Series)

*V: Ordinances*

# The Lords Supper will be observed regularly. Baptism will be observed as the need arises.

* + - 1. *Governance*

# The governance of First Baptist Church of Kenedy,Texas is vested in her membership. The membership retains unto herself the right of exclusive self-government in all phases of her life and organization. It recognizes the needs for mutual counsel and cooperation.

* + - 1. *Not For Profit Status and Liquidation*

# This church is not organized for profit. In the event of liquidation or discontinuation of the church, all of her assets and property of every nature and description whatsoever will be paid over and transferred at the discretion of the trustees to the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

*VIII. Amendments*

# This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended provided the proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing at a regular church business meeting. Amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws shall be two-thirds vote of members of the church present in the business meeting.

## BYLAWS

* + - * 1. *Church Membership*

# Qualifications:

Membership of First Baptist Church of Kenedy,Texas shall consist of individuals who have made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and, who, having been scripturally baptized by immersion, and are in agreement with the Articles of Faith and Purpose of the church.

1. Reception:

Membership in the church may be attained by majority vote of the church in any of her regular business meetings and in one of the following manners:

* 1. By scriptural baptism; immersion after profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
  2. By transfer of church letter from another Baptist church.
  3. By a statement of faith of their prior experience of conversion and scriptural baptism by immersion in another church of like faith and practice.

1. Termination:

Membership in this church shall be terminated when a member:

* 1. Requests a letter of transfer to join another Baptist church

1. Is dropped from the roll of membership after the member joins another church of different discipline (denomination).
2. Dies.
3. Is dismissed by a vote of the church due to reasons and circumstances provided in the church discipline. The pastor and church will do all they can to counsel the member for restoration prior to action of dismissal.
   * + - 1. *Church Leadership*

All church leadership shall. be members of the church in good standing. Church leadership shall include but notlimited to: Pai?tor, q1urch aff, Deacons, Cl.JrCh Officers, Church Trustees, and Church Council.

A. Pastor shall be called by the church. A job description shall give direction for ministry.

1. Church Staff shall consist of other ministers and employed personnel as called or voted on by the church. Job descriptions shall give direction for each position.
2. Deacons shall be co-laborers with the pastor in implementing the church's ministry. Church Policy shall assist the Deacon ministry in purpose and practice.
3. Church Officers shall consist of but not limited to: Church Clerk, Church Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Tellers.

E. Church Trustees will negotiate and are responsible for legal documents authorized by the church. Church Policy will direct Church Trustees in purpose and practice.

F. Church Council is composed of but not limited to: Pastor, church staff, Sunday School Director, WMU Director, Baptist Men director, Vacation Bible School director and Chairman of the Deacons. Church Policy will direct Church Council in purpose and practice.

*Ill. Church Committees*

All standing committees will consist of four members each or some other multiple of two if designated by the Committee on Committees. All committees will meet regularly and report to the church.

1. Nominations will be for two year terms with one half of the committee rotating off each year but eligible for re-nomination.
2. Nominations to fill vacancies will be for the unexpired term.
3. All nominations will be confirmed by the church.

0. All recommendations of major importance and expenditures in excess of regular budgeted amounts, except emergency maintenance and regularly used supplies, are subject to church approval and will be presented to the Finance Committee to determine the source and availability for funds prior to church action.

E. The pastor is an ex-officio member of each standing committee and the Budget committee.

1. The chairperson of each committee is charged with the responsibility of instructing the committee with its specific duties and keeping expenditures within the budget allocation as well as in line with actual cash available.
2. Church Committees shall be determined by the church as to their need and requirements. Committees shall be under the direction of Church Policies and the Policy Review Committee.

*IV. Church Meetings*

A. The church shall observe weekly worship services and Bible study.

1. Business meetings will be held and governed by the policies of First Baptist Church of Kenedy, Texas.

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1. Business meetings will be held and governed by the policies of First Baptist Church of Kenedy, Texas.
2. Special called business meetings shall be governed by the policies of the First Baptist Church of Kenedy, Texas.
3. The quorum consists of those members attending the business meeting.

E. The church will follow Robert's Rules of Order when conducting her business meetings.

*V: Licensing and Ordination*

A. Licensing: Any member of the church who has shown by their life and has felt a call to the Gospel Ministry may by vote of the membership at a regular meeting be licensed by the church to the Gospel Ministry.

1. Ordination: The Deacons, as they see necessary, shall set aside for ministry through ordination those qualified to serve. They shall consider both those set aside to serve as deacons as well as those set aside to serve as ministers for the Gospel Ministry. Church Policy shall assist the deacons in purpose and practice.

*VI. Church Discipline*

The church shall refer to the principles set forth in Matthew 18:15-17 concerning church discipline. Any preceding shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and grace. The goal of any discipline will be for restitution and not punitive. Should an adverse decision be reached, the church may go on to declare the offender to be no longer in the membership of the church.

*VII. General Provisions*

# Books and Records. The Church will keep correct and complete books and records of accounts and minutes of business meetings.

B. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the church will be guided by the policies of First Baptist Church of Kenedy, Texas.

Ratified by action of the church in business meeting on ------------ Moderator: \_ Church Clerk:-------------