

The Constitution of the First Baptist Church, Weaverville, California, Inc.

Adopted January 19, 2013

Article I Articles of Incorporation

No article of this constitution or change thereof shall violate any of the articles written in the Articles of Incorporation (319299) as set forth under the laws of the State of California, April 18th 1956 with one amendment January 5th 1984.

Article II Church as a Corporation

The name of the corporation shall be FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA, INC. (FBCW) whose principal office for the transaction of business of the corporation being located at 1261 S. Main St. in the town of Weaverville, County of Trinity, State of California.

Article III Constitution and Policy Guide

The two governing documents of FBCW are its Constitution and Policy Guide. The Constitution shall satisfy the requirements of the State of California for FBCW as a corporation.

Any changes to the Constitution and/or Policy Guide shall be made in the following way:

- Any member may propose an amendment or change. The proposed amendment/change shall be first reviewed and approved by the Elders.
- The Elders shall then present the approved amendment in written form to the church membership.
- Notice of the meeting to vote on amendments or changes must be made two consecutive Sundays from the pulpit and posted on the bulletin board prior to the vote.
- The vote shall be by ballot, and if there is more than one amendment or change, they shall be voted upon individually.

Active FBCW members in good standing have the right to vote.

- A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total ballots cast is required for changes to the Constitution.
- A simple majority (51%) vote of the total ballots cast is required for changes to the Policy Guide.
- Policies referenced to or attached as appendixes can only be modified by the ministries who administer them, subject to Elder approval.

Article IV Purpose of the Church

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In obedience to the Word of God, the Bible, the purpose of FBCW shall be three-fold: 1) worship God, 2) build up its members for the work of service and 3) evangelize the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Article V Officers of the Church

The officers of FBCW shall be elders and deacons. Philippians 1:1; I Timothy 3:1-13; and Titus 1:5-9 Note: All Scriptures and references taken from the New American Standard Bible, 1995 Update.

1. Elders (i.e. overseers, pastors and shepherds - Acts 20:17-28) shall give spiritual oversight and general direction to FBCW with the primary concern of preaching and teaching the Scriptures. See the Policy Guide for more specific tasks.
2. Deacons shall provide for the efficient functioning of FBCW. See the Policy Guide for specific tasks.
3. All other positions of ministry and employment are described in the Policy Guide.

Article VI Qualifications for Officers, FBCW Staff, Employees and Volunteers

Any officer, FBCW staff, employee, or volunteer shall affirm their agreement with the Statement of Faith and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.

Article VII Church Membership

The Church membership is made up of any person that has fulfilled the following requirements: 1) professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (salvation) evidenced by a change of heart (sanctification); 2) baptism by immersion; 3) completed the New Members class; 4) recommendation by the elders and a majority vote of the membership. Every member shall affirm their agreement with the Statement of Faith (Article VIII) and behave in a manner that is consistent therewith.

Article VIII Statement of Faith

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1. We believe the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God, infallible and inerrant in the original autographs and the complete, sufficient, and final authority in faith and life. 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:3, 19-21
2. We believe in one eternally existing God, manifest in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 28:19; John 14:26; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 2:27
3. We believe that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, is fully man and fully God, lived a perfect life, became a perfect sin-offering through His substitutionary death on the cross, was buried and after three days rose from the dead, conquering death, and is now seated at the right hand of God. Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:1, 14; 3:16; 10:30; Romans 3:24-25; 8:34; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24
4. We believe that as a result of the fall, all mankind are now sinners without excuse, and are in need of salvation from sin and its consequences. Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 1:20, 32; 3:23; 5:12-19; 6:23
5. We believe the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Our works do not merit any part of Salvation. This is accomplished by means of the gospel, repentance (also a work of God) and the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. John. 3:3-5; Acts 5:31; 11:18; 17:30; Romans 1:16; 2:4, 10; 3:21-24; 4:4-5; Galatians 2:21; Ephesians 2:8-9
6. We believe the new birth is necessary for salvation and is instantaneous upon faith in Christ. In this a person is born again, becoming a new creation in Christ. They are indwelt by the Holy Spirit who sanctifies and conforms them into the image of Christ. As a result, they are now able and expected to walk in the Spirit by obeying God and growing in Christlikeness. John 3:3-7; Romans 6:1-23; 8:29-30; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:3
7. We believe in the eternal security of all the saints. That once someone has been born again, they are kept by God's power and persevere in the faith until the end of their earthly life when they are permanently and eternally with Christ. John 6:38-40; John 10:27-29; Romans 8:1, 28-39; Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:3-5
8. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the crucified Christ, His ascension into Heaven, His present life at the right hand of God acting as our High Priest, Intercessor and Advocate and His imminent return to earth. John 14:2-3; Romans 8:34; 1 Corinthians 15:20; John 20:1-31; Acts 1:10, 11; Hebrews 7:21, 9:24; 1 John 2:1-2; Revelation 19:11-14
9. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost. John 3:18; 3:36; 5:24; 6:39, 40, 44; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; Revelation 20:1-15
10. We believe in a literal heaven, hell and lake of fire. We believe in the personality of Satan. Matthew 4:1-3; 5:12, 16; 1 Peter 5:8; John. 8:44; Revelation 20:11-15

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11. We believe marriage is a sacrament of the Church, ordained and instituted by God and defined as an exclusive covenantal union of one man and one woman in which such union is a lifetime commitment. A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by the church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of "marriage" found in these Articles.

Marriage was first established by God in the early chapters of Genesis and codified in the Levitical law. The Old Testament prophets compared it to a relationship between God and his people. Biblical examples of marriage can be found in the historical narratives while the wisdom literature speaks to the unique unity of this relationship. In the gospels Jesus explained the original intention and core elements of marriage and several New Testament Epistles give explicit instructions on this union. Marriage is a typology of Christ and the Church. As such, the Church views marriage as a profound spiritual institution established by God. Due to the importance of marriage in the biblical witness, this church adopts the following:

A. Clergy:

- 1) Only those recognized by this organization as ordained clergy shall officiate at marriage ceremonies conducted on church property.
- 2) Clergy employed by the church shall be subject to dismissal and/or loss of ordination for officiating a marriage ceremony not consistent with our definition of marriage, e.g. a same-gender marriage ceremony.

B. Marriage Applicants:

- 1) Applicants wishing to have a ceremony performed by a member of the clergy employed by the church, or to use the church facilities, shall affirm their agreement with the Statement of Faith and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
- 2) Applicants shall receive premarital counseling by clergy or authorized agents of the church or other persons who, in the sole opinion of the pastoral staff of the church, have appropriate training, experience, and spiritual understanding to provide such counseling.

C. Premises:

- 1) Any marriage performed on church premises shall be officiated by a member of the clergy.

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- 2) Clergy officiating marriage ceremonies on church premises, whether or not employed by the church, shall affirm their agreement with the Statement of Faith and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
 - 3) The clergy assigned by the church to implement the procedures contained in this Marriage Policy may, in his sole discretion, decline to make church facilities available for, and/or decline to officiate at, a ceremony when, in his judgment, there are significant concerns that one or both of the applicants may not be qualified to enter into the sacred bond of marriage for theological, doctrinal, moral or legal reasons.
12. We believe legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, sexual activities outside of marriage (referred to in the New Testament Greek as *porneia*) including but not limited to, adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality, and pedophilia are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the Church. Further, lascivious conduct, transgender behavior, and the creation and/or distribution and/or viewing of pornography, are incompatible with the Bible. Genesis 2:24; Exodus 20:17; Leviticus 18:6-30; Matthew 5:32; 15:19; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 15; 7:1-5; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:3