

# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE 1: PREAMBLE

We establish this constitution to express the principles of our faith  
and to guide the church in a legal and orderly manner.

## ARTICLE 2: OUR NAME

The name of this church is **First Baptist Church, Edna, Texas** (FBC Edna, the Church).  
The principal location of FBC Edna is 309 Cottonwood Street, Edna, Jackson County, Texas 77957.

## ARTICLE 3: NON-PROFIT STATUS

FBC Edna, is organized and shall be operated exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended, unless any law shall be repressive in scope and/or nature, that it is our duty to democratically oppose it on the basis of the right of free exercise of religious beliefs and peaceable assembly. The Church is formed for any lawful purpose or purposes under the laws of the State of Texas, including any purpose described by Section 2.002 of the Texas Business Organizations Code.

## ARTICLE 4: POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

- a. The government of FBC Edna is vested in the body of believers who compose it.
- b. Persons duly received by the members shall constitute membership as defined in the Church Bylaws, Article I.
- c. Organizations created within the Church (i.e. RA's, GA's, and Youth) shall follow the constitution and bylaws of the Church.
- d. The Church is not subject to the control of any other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches.
- e. The Church will cooperate with and support the Guadalupe Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Southern Baptist Convention, so long as such cooperation does not conflict with the Church's own best interests and agreed upon Doctrine and Beliefs.

## ARTICLE 5: MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of FBC Edna is to proclaim God's greatness, present the Gospel, promote spiritual growth, and minister to people in Jesus' name.

## ARTICLE 6: PURPOSE STATEMENT

We are to love God by being faithful in worship and prayer, by obeying His Word, and by becoming more like Christ. We are to love one another as God has loved us by helping one another, by maintaining Christ-like fellowship with one another, and by equipping, teaching, and encouraging one another to do the work of God. We are to be a verbal and living testimony of God's salvation by making Christ known to those who do not know Him.

## ARTICLE 7: CHURCH COVENANT

This covenant represents a goal which the Church body should strive to attain. Therefore, having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, 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; 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 private 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 avoid all maligning, gossiping, and excessive anger; to be zealous in our effort 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, as members, remove ourselves 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.

## ARTICLE 8: STATEMENT OF FAITH

First Baptist Church, Edna, Texas, shall use The **Baptist Faith and Message 1963 (BFM 1963)**, as amended in 1998, as a summary of beliefs, except as amended or modified below. Any perceived inconsistencies between the BFM 1963 and the additions below, shall be resolved in favor of the additions below. As a body, we agree with these principles.

This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of First Baptist

Church, Edna's, faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Pastor is the Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's application.

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/texasbaptists/about/Baptist-faith-and-message.pdf>

<https://bfm.sbc.net/report-of-committee-on-baptist-faith-and-message>

**A. WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT PASTORS, TEACHERS, AND THOSE IN AUTHORITY:**

1. Pastors, Ministers, Associate Pastors, Deacons, Teachers, and others in leadership must be exemplary, born-again Christians of impeccable integrity and reputation.
2. Pastors, Ministers, Associate Pastors, Deacons, Teachers, and other leaders of the Church shall not be homosexual, transvestite, or profess any other sexual deviance. Any individual professing or exhibiting any of these characteristics shall be immediately removed from that position.
3. Pastors, Ministers, Associate Pastors, and Deacons who teach and advise the whole Church shall be men.
4. Other leaders, directors and Teachers may be of either biological sex subject to sub-paragraphs A.1 and A.2 above.

**B. WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT, SEXUALITY, AND MARRIAGE:**

1. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as either male or female, and that these two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. (Psalm 139: 13-18, Deut. 22:5).
2. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a biological man and a biological woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a biological man and a biological woman.
3. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, cohabitation, homosexual behavior, or use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9- 10).
4. Marriage is a biblical institution established by God as described by Scripture. We believe the biblical ideal for marriage is the uniting of one biological man and one biological woman in covenant commitment. Accordingly, this Church's pastors and staff will not officiate in same-sex unions or same-sex marriages, nor will the Church's property or resources be used for such purposes.

5. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11).
6. We believe that *every* person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Non-Christian behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of FBC Edna.

#### **C. WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE SANCTITY OF LIFE:**

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and *every* other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps. 139.)

### **ARTICLE 9: AMENDMENT and DISSOLUTION**

- A. This Constitution may be amended or otherwise changed only by the Congregation as required by Article VII of the First Baptist Church Bylaws.
- B. In the event of liquidation or dissolution of the church, all of its assets and property of every nature and description whatsoever shall be paid over and transferred at the direction of the Trustees to the Baptist General Convention of Texas.