

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
First Baptist Church of West Monroe, Louisiana
July 18, 2010

July 18, 2010	Proposed 2025
Constitution Preamble We declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the body in an orderly manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other churches. Article I. <i>Name</i> This body shall be known as the First Baptist Church of West Monroe, Louisiana. Article II. <i>Purpose</i> The primary purpose of our church is to lead people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The church recognizes the Bible alone, especially the New Testament, as the guide for its ministry. Its purpose is to seek and to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit in understanding the purpose of God in the development of the various aspects of its ministry, and to be a channel for God to work out His will through witnessing to the unsaved, both at home and abroad; through the study of the teachings of the Bible concerning every aspect of life; through the development of the Christian life as it is revealed in the Bible; through fostering cordial and helpful Christian fellowship among our members; through the maintenance of opportunities for the worship of God, including regular observances of the ordinances; through ministering unselfishly to those in spiritual or material need in our community; and through the spread of the gospel message throughout the world in cooperation with other churches of like faith and order.	Constitution

Article III. *Statement of Faith*

Ours is a New Testament church. We recognize the Bible as the inspired Word of God and as authoritative in all matters of faith and practice. For a statement of faith, reference is made to the "Baptist Faith and Message," adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention on May 9, 1963.

Article IV. *Relationships*

Our church is an autonomous body. Its government is vested in the membership. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body. However, we are voluntarily affiliated with the Northeast Louisiana Baptist Association, the Louisiana Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention, and therefore, cooperate with and support financially these bodies. We are also glad to cooperate, insofar as it is practical, with other Christian groups in worthy endeavors.

Article V. *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.

Article III. *Statement of Faith*

We accept the Bible as the inspired Word of God and as the ultimate authority in matters of faith, doctrine and Christian living. This church accepts "The Baptist Faith and Message 2000," as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, as an affirmation of our basic Christian beliefs and as a general statement of faith.

This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. 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 church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline our Church Council is the church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

We pledge, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to strive for the advancement of this church in seeking to lead people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, in nurturing and developing the Christian life, in ministering to the spiritual and material needs of those in the community, and in furthering the spread of the gospel to all people;

To provide opportunities for the worship of God, including regular observance of the ordinances, and to provide a program of Christian education based on the study of the Bible;

To support the total church program by contributing regularly and cheerfully of our time, talent, and resources.

We also pledge, with the Bible as our guide, to set a Christian example to the world by our attitudes, morals, and lifestyle, actively seeking justice for all and exemplifying a Christ-like spirit of love for our fellowman;

To educate our children in Christian principles and to seek the salvation of the lost;

Through prayer and study of the Bible, to seek knowledge of God's will and to pursue growth in Christian maturity.

We further pledge to walk together in loving Christian fellowship, to pray for one another, to aid one another in times of need, and to rejoice with one another in times of gladness;

To cultivate Christian compassion and courtesy in speech, to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation.

We moreover pledge that when we move from this location, we will, as soon as possible, unite with another church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Article VI. Amendments	
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This constitution may be amended at any regular business meeting of the church by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members present who shall represent at least ten percent (10%) of the resident membership of the church, provided that the proposed amendment has been provided to the church at least thirty (30) days previously.

Notification of the vote for the proposed constitutional amendment shall be presented to each church family at least two (2) weeks before the proposed amendment is to be acted upon.