

# The Purpose and Mission of FBC, Lolita

## As stated in our Church Constitution

We, First Baptist Church, Lolita, believe ourselves to be a New Testament Church. The word “Church” has a dual meaning in scripture. First, it is used in a general way to refer to all believers for all time. Second, it is used to refer to a particular group of believers who are practicing the teachings of Jesus in a particular place...the local church. The church, in both regards, is made up of people called into relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. The First Baptist Church of Lolita is a local gathering of believers who have joined together to carry out God’s mission.

The objective of the church is to carry out God’s mission. This mission is to proclaim the Good News of salvation to all people. Jesus made clear the mission of the church when He said, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” This is both the general and the specific mission of the church. All believers are “called out” for this task. It is the mission of First Baptist Church, Lolita.

## Statement of Church Tasks

The objective or mission of the church is carried out through the **Tasks of the Church**. We see these tasks revealed in the life of Christ. Jesus is our pattern, or model, and we must follow His pattern if we are going to continue His ministry and our mission in the world. We can identify five major tasks of the church from the life of Jesus. These are the tasks we find in the early church and they are the same today. Let us examine each of these tasks.

**Worshipping** – recognition and response to the person and presence of God. Worship happens when one recognizes that God is worthy of our adoration, praise, and thanksgiving. In the Old Testament, we find that the Jews were a worshipping people. In the New Testament, Jesus carried forward an emphasis on worship, as did His disciples and the early church.

**Witnessing** – telling of God’s work of redeeming grace in Jesus Christ. A witness is one who gives a firsthand account of something. Jesus told His disciples that they were to be witnesses empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). We, as a church, are to be witnesses to the world in which we live.

**Teaching** – instruction in the teachings of faith. Jesus was recognized primarily as a teacher, even by those who did not follow Him. He recognized the importance of the process of teaching in changing people’s lives. Much of His time was spent in patiently teaching His disciples. In Matthew 28:19, the word translated “teach” means to make disciples. Those who follow Jesus are to be taught so that they can mature in faith and actions. The apostles did just as Jesus commanded. They taught, or “discipled” those who believed as a result of their message of Good News. This continues to be the way for spreading the Gospel and teachings of Jesus.

**Fellowshipping** – a sharing with someone in something special. Christian fellowship is a celebration of the relationship we have in Christ. Paul uses it to describe the believers’ sharing in Christ. He further defines fellowship as the mutual sharing of life among believers. It is the people of God in spiritual communion, due to the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Ministering** – meeting the needs of people in the name of Jesus Christ. Jesus lived the example for us in His earthly ministry. The words Ministry, Service, and Deacon all come from the same Greek root word meaning Servant. Followers of Jesus are to be servants, just as He was a servant. We are to minister to the needs of others.

Therefore, the Mission and Purpose of the church in the local setting is fulfilled through the five tasks of the church. These tasks are: Worshipping, Witnessing, Teaching, Fellowshiping, and Ministering. The policies and guidelines of this policy manual are intended to aid this congregation in accomplishing these tasks.