

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
of the
First Baptist Church of Lolita, Inc.**

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 relation to other churches.

I. Name

The name of this church shall be First Baptist Church of Lolita, Inc. and hereafter in this document referred to as First Baptist Church of Lolita and/or the church. It shall be affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Guadalupe Baptist Association.

II. Purpose

We, the First Baptist Church of 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 carryout God's mission.

III. Church's Objectives/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 the 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 commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20. 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 the First Baptist Church of Lolita.

IV. Address

The address of the office of this church shall be:

84 South Stegall Street
P.O. Box 67
Lolita, Texas 77971

V. Articles of Faith

- A. We believe the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God, without any error, the all-sufficient authority in matters of faith, doctrine and Christian living.
- B. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- C. We believe in the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ and that he is the True God. He died on the cross for our sins. He rose from the dead and ascended into heaven where He sits at the right hand of the Father and is now our High Priest and Advocate.
- D. We believe that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is, therefore, lost. Only through man's salvation can spiritual life be obtained.
- E. We believe that eternal salvation is a gift of God and is given to any and all who have faith in and receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.
- F. We believe that baptism is by immersion and the Lord's Supper is a memorial to His suffering and death on the cross. These are ordinances to be observed by the church.
- G. We believe in the glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ and that His second coming inspires believers for dynamic life and service for Him while awaiting His return.
- H. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, the everlasting blessedness of the saved in heaven and the everlasting punishment and separation from God of the unsaved in hell.
- I. We subscribe to the Baptist Faith and Message adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000 as our statement of faith with scriptural references.

VI. Cooperation

The government of the First Baptist Church of Lolita is vested in its members. The membership retains unto itself the right of self-government in all phases of its life and organization. It recognizes the needs for mutual counsel and cooperation and will work with the Guadalupe Baptist Association, Baptist General Convention of Texas and Southern Baptist Convention.

VII. Assets and Property

This church is not organized for profit. In the event of liquidation or dissolution of the church, all of its assets and property of every nature and description whatsoever shall be given to the Guadalupe Baptist Association.

VIII. Amendments

This Constitution, Bylaws and Manual of Church Policy may be amended provided the proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing at a regular church business meeting and then circulated to the membership. At the next regularly scheduled business meeting any amendment to this Constitution, By Laws or Manual of Church Policies shall be ratified by two-thirds positive vote of the members present. These documents shall be reviewed annually by the deacons.

IX. Church Covenant

Having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and 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.

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, doctrines, and discipline; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, and the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and individual 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 tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to use our influence to combat the abuse of drugs and the spread of pornography; and to be zealous in our efforts 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 remove 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.

BYLAWS

I. Church Membership

A. Qualifications

Members of the First Baptist Church of Lolita shall consist of people who have made a profession of their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and have been scripturally baptized by immersion.

B. Reception

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

1. By scriptural baptism by immersion after profession of faith in Jesus Christ as personal 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 evangelical church of like faith and practice.

C. Termination

Membership in this church shall be terminated when a member:

1. Requests a letter of transfer to join another Baptist church.
2. Is dropped from the roll of membership when he or she joins another kind of church.
A letter of transfer is not necessary.
3. The member dies.
4. Is dismissed by a vote of the church due to reasons and circumstances provided in "IV. Church Discipline" section. The pastor and deacons will do all they can to counsel the member for restoration prior to action of dismissal.

D. New Members

1. Members in good standing shall have the right to a voice and vote in all church transactions and shall have the right and privileges to full participation in the life and work of the church.
2. It shall be the duty of the church members to uphold the Constitution, Bylaws and Manual of Church Policies of the church.

II. Church Officers

All church officers must be members of the church in good standing whose duties are outlined in the Manual of Church Policies.

- A. Ministerial Staff
- B. Deacons
- C. Moderator
- D. Clerk
- E. Treasurer
- F. Trustees
- G. Church Committees

III. Church Meetings

- A. Worship Services – The church shall meet regularly each Sunday morning and evening for the worship of God, for preaching, instruction, evangelism. The church shall meet on Wednesdays, for designated prayer and Bible study. These meetings shall be open for the entire membership of the church and for all people and shall be conducted under the direction of the pastor or designated church member.
- B. Regular Business Meeting – Regular business meetings shall be held as outlined in the Manual of Church Policies.
- C. Special Called Business Meeting – A special called business meeting may be called for action of the church to consider special matters of significant nature. A one-week verbal announcement shall be made in the Sunday morning Worship Service or a one-week written announcement shall be given.
- D. Quorum – The quorum shall consist of those members who attend the business meeting, provided it is a stated or properly called meeting. Those members present shall constitute a quorum.
- E. Parliamentary Rules – *Robert's Rules of Order* is adopted as the authority for all business meetings of the church.

IV. Church Discipline

- A. Should any unhappy difference arise among members, the aggrieved member shall follow in a tender spirit, the rules given by our Lord in Matthew 18:15-17.
- B. Should any case of gross breach of relationship, or of public scandal occur, the pastor and deacons shall endeavor to resolve the conflict; and if this effort fails, shall report the case to the church.
- C. All such proceedings shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance, but should an adverse decision be reached, the church may proceed to admonish or declare the offender to be no longer in the membership of the church.
- D. Any person whose membership has been terminated for any offense may be restored by vote of the church, upon evidence of his repentance and reformation.

Changes to name approved by action of the church in its business meeting on _____.
(date)

Moderator: _____

Church Clerk: _____