

**CONSTITUTION
OF
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA,
a nonprofit corporation,
adopted July 10, 2005**

PREAMBLE

We declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to provide for the governance of the body in a decent and orderly manner. This constitution shall preserve the liberties of each individual Church member and the freedom of this body in relation to other ecclesiastical bodies.

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1 – Name

The name of this Church shall be the First Baptist Church of Conway, South Carolina.

Section 2 – History

This Church was organized in October of 1866 as the Conwayborough Baptist Church. In 1890, the name was changed from the Conwayborough Baptist Church to the Conway Baptist Church. Later (cir. 1939), the name was changed from the Conway Baptist Church to the First Baptist Church of Conway, South Carolina.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The
Mission of
First Baptist Church
Conway, South Carolina
is to be a ministering body of Christ
who under the guidance of the Holy Spirit
proclaims the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ
teaches the essentials of the Christian life
as revealed in God's Holy Word
nurtures Christian growth and service through worship,

teaching, training, and fellowship
ministers in love to the needs of the community and cooperates with other Christians in
reaching out to the whole world.

ARTICLE III – AFFIRMATION OF BASIC BELIEFS

Section 1 – Preamble

Baptists are a people who profess a living faith. This faith is rooted and grounded in Jesus Christ who is “the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” Therefore, we affirm that the sole authority for faith and practice is Jesus Christ, whose will is revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

Section 2 – Holy Scripture

We affirm the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, but we do not worship the Bible; we worship the Savior revealed in the Bible and seek to follow Him. We affirm that every person has a right and responsibility to read the Scriptures, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, to interpret them for him/herself. We also affirm that our goal is to discern the meaning of the Scriptures, relying on the historical understanding by the church and using the best Biblical scholarship available. Our ultimate goal is to discover the mind of Christ.

Section 3 – God

We affirm there is one and only one living and true God; that He is an intelligent spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe; that He is infinite in holiness and all other perfections; that we owe Him the highest love, reverence, and obedience; and that the eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Section 4 – Man

We affirm that man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, male and female created He them; that only the grace of God can bring men and women into His holy fellowship and enable them to fulfill the creative purposes of God; that human life is sacred.

Section 5 – Salvation

We affirm that salvation involves the redemption of the whole person, and is offered freely by His grace to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer.

Section 6 – The Church

We affirm that a New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the

Gospel, observing Christ's ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His word, and seeking to extend the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

We also affirm the autonomy of the local church with each congregation operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and the freedom of the local church under the authority of Jesus Christ to shape its own life and mission, call its own leadership, and ordain whomever it perceives as gifted for ministry.

We moreover affirm the servant role of leadership within the church, following the model of our Servant Lord, and the full partnership of all of God's people in mission and ministry.

Section 7- Evangelism and Missions

We affirm that it is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and the calling of God to all peoples to repentance and faith.

Section 8 – Education

We affirm that the cause of Christian education is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches; and, that theological education in congregations, colleges and seminaries should be characterized by reverence for Biblical authority and respect for open inquiry and responsible scholarship.

Section 9 – Stewardship

We affirm that God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; that all we have we owe to Him; that every believer is under obligation to serve Christ with his/her time, talents, and material possessions; that according to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Section 10 – Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We affirm that the Baptist mode of baptism is the immersion of the believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; that it is symbolic of the believer's faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, and of the believer's death to sin, burial of the old life, and resurrection to walk in a new life with Christ Jesus; that it is an act of testimony to the faith of the believer in the final resurrection of the dead.

We affirm the Lord's Supper to be a symbolic act of obedience whereby believers through partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His return.

Section 11 – Last Things

We affirm that God in His own time and way will bring the world to its appropriate end; that, according to His promise, Jesus Christ shall return personally and visible in glory to the earth; and the dead shall rise and Christ will judge all persons in righteousness.

Section 12 – Religious Liberty

We affirm that God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of human governments which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it; that a free church in a free state is the Christian ideal; that this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all persons, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

ARTICLE IV – CHURCH 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 in Christ, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and having been united with this local body of believers, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully covenant with each other that as one body in Christ and with the aid of the Holy Spirit:

We will strive to walk together in Christian love; strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; promote its prosperity and spirituality; sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expense of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel throughout the world.

We also seek to make our homes a focal point of Christian purity, love, and concern; maintain family and personal devotion; religiously educate our children; seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; and, walk circumspectly in the world.

We further will attempt to watch over one another in Christ-like love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; and, to let Christ shape our attitudes, words, and deeds.

And moreover, we will strive, through the blood of Jesus Christ, to be perfect in every good work to do His will.

ARTICLE V – POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1- Policy

The government of this Church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. Persons duly received by the members shall constitute the membership. The affairs of this Church shall be regulated and managed in accordance with its Bylaws.

Section 2 – Relationships

This Church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches.

ARTICLE VI – DISSOLUTION OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

If this Church should ever be dissolved, all of its assets remaining after payment of all outstanding debts and obligations, costs, and expenses of such dissolution shall be distributed to such nonprofit organizations organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 {c} (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or any regulations succeeding said Section.

Members of said Church, defined in By-Laws, who are members in good standing at the time of the dissolution of the said Church, shall, in a called meeting, designate the religious organization(s) to receive said assets of the Church after dissolution. None of the assets of said Church shall be distributed to any member, officer, or staff of this Church, or any individual.

ARTICLE VII – TAX-EXEMPTION PROVISIONS

No part of the net earnings of the Church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributed to its members, officers, staff, or other private persons, except that the Church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the Church's Constitution.

No substantial part of the activities of the Church shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The Church shall not participate in, nor intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE VIII – ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1 – Adoption of Constitution

This constitution will become effective upon adoption and shall supersede all prior resolutions, policies, and constitutions of the Church not in conformity with its provisions. In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this Constitution and the provisions of the Church Bylaws, the provisions of the Bylaws shall prevail.

Section 2 – Amendments, Replacements, and Repeals

This constitution may be replaced, amended, or repealed through the following process:

(a)First, the proposed Constitution, amendments, or repeal shall be presented to the Church through the Church newsletter or other written notification at least thirty (30) days and not more than forty-five (45) days prior to the day set for the vote.

(b)Second, the proposed Constitution, amendments, or repeal shall be discussed at a duly called business meeting at least one (1) week and not more than two (2) weeks prior to the date set for the vote and shall be published in the Church newsletter prior to voting. The Pastor, Chair of Deacons, or whomever they may designate shall also announce the meeting date from the pulpit.

(c)Third, the proposed Constitution, amendments, or repeal shall become effective upon the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of those members present and entitled to vote, a quorum of one hundred (100) or more members being present.

Two (2) identical, complete, and official copies of this Constitution together with any and all amendments thereto shall be kept, one with the official Church minutes and the other in the Church office.

Approved and adopted by the Church members at a meeting duly called pursuant to the Constitution which this replaces this 10th day of July, 2005.

/s/Robbie Watkins
Chair of Deacons