

Constitution

of

First Baptist Church of Marion, North Carolina, Inc.

Preamble

For the preservation of the principles of our Christian faith as followers of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord; and so that this congregation may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the accepted tenets of mainline, traditional Baptist churches affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina; and for the further preservation of the liberties of faith inherent in this autonomous church and in each individual member of this church; and to set forth the relationship of this church to other Christian churches, we do declare and establish this Constitution of First Baptist Church of Marion, North Carolina, Inc.

ARTICLE ONE

Name

This body shall have the legal name of First Baptist Church of Marion, North Carolina, Inc. and it generally shall be known and referred to as the First Baptist Church of Marion, North Carolina, or FBC Marion or some other shortened variation of the official name.

ARTICLE TWO
Purposes, Mission and Covenant

A. The purposes of First Baptist Church of Marion, North Carolina, Inc. are as follows:

- (1) to provide regular opportunities for public worship of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, the Son of the Living God;
- (2) to promote, support, share and seek to demonstrate the teachings, ordinances, doctrines, ethics, compassion, forgiveness and love of Jesus Christ as set forth in the New Testament;
- (3) to nurture, support and encourage its members, neighbors and the community at large through programs of Christian development through Bible-based education, music, and missional outreach to our local community and to the distant places of the world;
- (4) to share freely the financial offerings and human talents of the members to help promote and share the love, forgiveness and compassion of Jesus Christ with our neighbors, both local and across the world;
- (5) to preach, teach and share among all people the gospel of the revelation of God as the Lord of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord; and
- (6) to engage in such other activities that are ancillary to and in general support of the purposes recited herein.

B. The Mission Statement of First Baptist Church of Marion, North Carolina, Inc. is as follows:

First Baptist Church of Marion, NC is a community of faith on mission to be God's people and presence throughout the world. Following the leadership of God's Son, Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek to worship God in word and action, to love and support one another, and to share the Good News.

C. The Covenant of First Baptist Church of Marion, North Carolina, Inc. is as follows:

Since it is through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
that we have discovered God as Father, and because we seek
to follow Him, we do now solemnly covenant with each other...
That we will walk together in love as brothers and sisters;
That we will exercise concern and watchfulness over each other;
That we will remember each other in prayer;
That we will participate in each other's joys . . . and
endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear
each other's burdens and sorrows;
That we will strive earnestly for Christian fulfillment
within our homes;
That we will seek through faithful example so to live
that others will be drawn to our Savior and Lord;
That we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for worship;
That we will give regularly of ourselves and means
to support a faithful ministry in our community,
one that extends to the distant places of the earth;
And that through all our days we will seek to live to the
glory of Him who has called us out of darkness
into His marvelous light.

*Adopted by the Congregation of
First Baptist Church of Marion, N. C.
December 7, 1969
Revised March 26, 2006*

ARTICLE THREE **Membership**

Membership in First Baptist Church of Marion, North Carolina, Inc. is open to all people who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and who seek to follow Him in obedient living, and who meet the other requirements of membership as set forth in the

Bylaws hereof.

ARTICLE FOUR **Governance**

A. As a mainline, historical, traditional Baptist church, this Church is congregational in its governance. All theological and administrative policies and actions of this church shall be discussed and considered by the Deacons. Ultimate decision-making authority for major theological and administrative policies and actions, however, is vested in the congregational membership after receiving recommendations from the Deacons. Congregational membership action shall be taken at regular or special business sessions, in accordance with the procedures and provisions contained in the Bylaws and Policies hereof.

B. The Deacons shall serve as the governing body of this Church between regular or special meetings of the membership. The Deacons, who shall be elected by the membership in the manner set forth in the Bylaws and Policies, shall discuss and consider major issues and shall make a recommendation on such matters to the congregation. The Deacons shall have the authority to make decisions regarding matters of an administrative or clerical nature without a vote of the congregation, in accordance with the procedures and provisions contained in the Bylaws and Book of Policies.

C. Limited administrative authority regarding the church office and the daily operations of the church is placed with the pastoral staff and office staff, in accordance with the procedures and provisions contained in the By-laws and Policies hereof, but subject to the oversight and approval of the Deacons.

D. The officers, ministry groups and committees of First Baptist Church of Marion, North Carolina, Inc., and their respective duties, shall be as established in the By-laws and Policies hereof.

ARTICLE FIVE **Basic Principles of Faith**

First Baptist Church of Marion, North Carolina, Inc. is a congregational membership of free and faithful Baptists, bound and nurtured by the historic traditional Baptist denomination, and we believe in the following basic principles:

A. This church is fully autonomous, in keeping with the history and heritage of mainline, traditional free and faithful Baptist churches. We are not controlled by or answerable to any denominational body or other religious organization or hierarchy.

B. We believe that the Bible is the holy and inspired word of God. It is the source of our knowledge of God, as revealed most effectively through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, His Son.

C. We believe in the Holy Trinity, in the form of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

D. We believe in the priesthood of all believers. We believe that all Christians have the right to read and interpret the holy scripture and the right to pray directly to God without having to connect to God through any human intermediary.

E. We believe that God calls and enables all people, both men and women, to serve God and God's kingdom fully in all areas of life, both in the Christian church and in the world, through their talents, efforts, energies and means.

ARTICLE SIX

Section 501(c)(3) Corporation

A. This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

B. No part of the net earnings of the church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its deacons, officers, members or other private persons, except that the church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the Articles of Incorporation. No substantial part of the activities of the church shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the church shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the church shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3)

of the Internal Revenue code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

C. Upon the dissolution of the church, the Board of Deacons shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the church, dispose of all of the assets of the church exclusively for the purposes of the church in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific 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 the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Deacons shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Superior Court of McDowell County, North Carolina, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE SEVEN **Amendments**

This constitution may be adopted, amended or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular business meeting of the church; provided, however, that detailed notice and the exact phrasing of such proposed adoption, amendment or repeal shall have been distributed during the Sunday morning worship service for at least two consecutive Sundays prior to the special or regular business meeting when the vote shall be taken on the proposal. Further, a copy of said notice shall be mailed by US Mail (and also distributed by all electronic means in use at the time of the notice) to each church member at least two weeks prior to the time the vote is taken.

By signing below, I certify that this Constitution was approved and recommended to the congregation by the FBCM Deacons on the _____ day of _____, 2025.

Date signed

*, Chairman of the Deacons

By signing below, I certify that this Constitution was approved and adopted by the FBCM congregation on the _____ day of _____, 2025 after the required notice was provided.

Date signed

*, Chairman of the Deacons

Date signed

*, Church Clerk