



**FIRST  
CONNECTION**



FIRST BAPTIST  
DOUGLASVILLE

WE ARE GOING

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR



We are so glad you want to learn more about our church, First Baptist Church Douglasville, and how you can get connected. We know your time is valuable, so thank you for investing some of it with us.

As you begin to understand who we are and what God is doing through our church, we hope that you will believe in Jesus, connect with us, and join us to live on mission.

We want to use our time together to answer any questions that you may have. Whether you are just checking it out or choosing to become a member, we are glad that you are taking the next step.

**Tim Akin**  
**Senior Pastor**

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# Who We Are

## **Our Mission Statement:**

We exist to glorify God by making disciples and proclaiming the gospel throughout the world.

## **Our Core Values:**

- A. The Bible
- B. Discipleship
- C. Missions

## **Our Vision:**

- A. Multicultural
- B. Multigenerational
- C. Multiplying

## **Our Guiding Principles:**

- A. Be Loving (John 13:34)
- B. Be Selfless (Philippians 2:3-4)
- C. Be Flexible (1 Corinthians 9:22-23)
- D. Be Understanding (Ephesians 4:32)

# What We Believe

First Baptist Church of Douglasville (FBC) is an autonomous church that is aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention. Our beliefs and our governing by-laws reflect the doctrinal positions and intent of the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. A complete copy of the Baptist Faith and Message as well as our by-laws can be found at [www.gofbcd.org](http://www.gofbcd.org). We have summarized our essential doctrinal beliefs and covenant membership in the following sections.

## **Essential Doctrinal Beliefs**

### **God**

We believe there is one true God, who exists as three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We affirm that He is the Creator, Preserver, and Ruler of all things. He is perfect and infinite in all His attributes and is worthy of the highest love, reverence, and obedience.

### **Man**

We believe God created man in His own image and free from sin in order to reflect His glory; but, through the temptation of Satan, man sinned (rebelled against God) and incurred both a physical death and a spiritual death (eternal separation from God). We believe that all human beings are born with a sin nature and are thus incapable of rendering to God the highest love, reverence, and obedience, which He is due.

### **Jesus Christ**

We believe that God the Son is Jesus Christ, who is the divinely appointed Mediator between God and man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born, without sin, of the virgin Mary to redeem man from sin. He perfectly fulfilled the Law, and He suffered and died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried; He was raised on the third day; and He ascended to His Father in heaven. He is able to save those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

### **Salvation**

We believe salvation involves the redemption of the whole man (intellect, desires, and will), and is offered freely to all who would repent of their sins and believe upon Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own perfect life, substitutionary death on the cross, and resurrection from the dead obtained eternal redemption for the believer. We believe that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, and is not based on any works man may do.

### **The Bible**

We believe the Scriptures of the Old Testament and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, and therefore are inerrant and infallible. We believe the Scriptures are the only sufficient, certain, and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and Christian obedience. The Scriptures are therefore to be believed, as God's instruction, in all that it teaches; obeyed, as God's command, in all that it requires; and trusted, as God's pledge, in all

that it promises (Isaiah 40:6-8). As God's people hear, believe, and obey the Word, they are equipped as disciples of Christ and witnesses to the gospel (Romans 10:14-17).

### **Affirming Biblical View of Marriage**

We believe and affirm biblical marriage is the uniting of one naturally born man and one naturally born woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is through marriage that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society (Genesis 2:18-25).

### **Affirming Sanctity of Human Life**

We believe and affirm that all human beings are image bearers of God, thus, we affirm the unique value of all human life from conception to the point of death (Psalm 139).

### **The Church**

We believe the Lord Jesus is the Head of the Church, which is composed of all His true disciples, and He possesses all power for its government. While FBC is a part of the Southern Baptist Convention, we practice self-government and independence from any denominational control, and we team up with other networks for greater impact. FBC determines its own strategy, structure, and style.

We believe the body of Christ (the Church) has been put here to display the glory of God through making disciples, worship, and proclaiming the gospel here in West Atlanta and throughout the world.

The Church has been commanded to observe two ordinances: **baptism** and the **Lord's Supper**.

### **Baptism**

We practice baptism by complete immersion – the way Jesus was baptized and the way the Bible commands. Baptism is a visible picture of a person's commitment to Christ and a sign of his fellowship with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, of the remission of his sins, and of his giving himself up to live unto God in newness of life. Baptism is also a prerequisite to enjoying the privileges of church membership and to participating in the Lord's Supper.

"...buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God..." (Colossians 2:12)

### **Lord's Supper**

We practice the Lord's Supper on a regular basis. It is a symbolic act of obedience through which we remember the death of Jesus and anticipate His second coming. All who have become genuine followers of Christ and have been baptized by immersion can participate.

"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." (1 Corinthians 11:26)

## **Covenant Membership**

We take membership seriously. Committing yourself to a body of believers is an important decision. Throughout the New Testament, we are instructed to meet together (Hebrews 10:24-25). We are to use our gifts to build up our church family (Ephesians 4:15-16).

When covenant members join our church, they commit to a spiritual family that provides encouragement and support (1 Peter 3:8). They are also called to a biblical degree of responsibility, service, and sacrifice to their brothers and sisters in Christ. The Bible teaches that our lives are best lived and expressed in the context of community. We are not meant to live this life on our own.

We are told that pastors are to exercise leadership and care for church members (Hebrews 13:17), and that they are accountable to God for the souls of their people. Our pastors take this responsibility seriously by providing care for the members through the ministry leaders and ministries of our church. Our pastors commit to come alongside our covenant members with care, counsel, prayer, and teaching. Therefore, it is critical for pastors to be able to identify who belongs to the church.

### **Requirements of Membership**

The requirements for membership are as follows:

1. Attend First Connection
2. Share your faith story with us
  - A point when you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior
  - A time subsequent to that when you have been baptized by immersion
3. Sign or affirm our Covenant Commitment Card indicating your agreement with our core doctrinal beliefs

### **Expectations of Membership**

The Bible describes the church as one body with many members (1 Corinthians 12:12-31). Not all members are alike and not all members serve the same purpose, but all members are needed to do their part for the whole body to function properly. Unlike membership in a country club where a person pays their dues and expects to be served, covenant membership within the church comes with the expectation that its members get involved in the mission of the church. So, what are some of the basic expectations?

1. Regular worship attendance
2. Faithful giving
3. Commitment to being discipled through a small group Bible study
4. Commitment to service
5. Commitment to being a disciple-maker by living on mission

## **How and Why We Give**

We encourage everyone to have a plan for giving, expressed through a lifestyle of generosity. This means we ask everyone to prayerfully consider how they will support the church with their time, talents, and financial resources. Giving strengthens our devotion to Christ and frees us to live open-handedly with the gifts God has given to each of us. As people of faith, giving is an expression of worship and one of the ways we proclaim the gospel.

We feel it is important to let you know what your giving accomplishes. All money that is given at FBC goes to support the ministries and mission of FBC as we seek to reach our community and beyond for Christ. Also, as part of the Southern Baptist Convention, we are part of supporting thousands of missionaries and church planters. Part of the resources given to FBC are sent to the SBC and that money is used to support over 5,000 International missionaries and hundreds of North American church planters. In addition to those efforts, resources go to supporting the six SBC seminaries with the mission of educating thousands of pastors and missionaries, all with the goal of expanding the kingdom and proclaiming the gospel of Christ.

## **Ways to Give | David White**

1. Give Online \*  
Give online by going to [www.gofbcd.org](http://www.gofbcd.org) and click the "Give" button on the front page to set up your account and payment option.
2. Text to Give \*  
Text to Give by texting "FBCGIVING" to 73256. You will be sent a link. Click on that link and enter your information.
3. Give Directly from Your Bank  
Give through your bank's online bill pay with no additional cost to the church.
4. Give in a Worship Service  
During the time of the offering, you can place your gift in the plate or at the welcome center drop box.
5. Mail Your Offering  
You can mail your check to First Baptist Church Douglasville, P. O. Box 1796, Douglasville, GA 30133.

\*The church will incur a processing fee for options 1 and 2.

# What We Do

First Baptist Church Douglasville is committed to glorifying God by making disciples, here in West Atlanta, across our nation, and around the world. We have many ministries working together to see the vision and mission of FBC fulfilled and strive to both care for our members well and to share, show, and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ through serving the world both locally and globally. You are welcome here. Join the Mission!

## **Children's Ministry**

### ***Birth through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade***

Our mission is to partner with parents in the discipleship of their children. At FBC, kids will experience a fun, engaging atmosphere, learn the truth of God's Word, and build lasting friendships. Each weekend our team is focused on leading boys and girls to know, love, and follow God's Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

### ***Preschool Ministry for Birth – Age 4 | Tricia Smith***

- Preschool Worship (Sunday Mornings, 3 and 4 year old)
- Preschool Choir (3 and 4 year old)

### ***Kid's Ministry for Kindergarten – Grade 5 | Phillip Morris***

- Kid's Worship – Park (Sunday Mornings for K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- B.L.A.S.T. – Kids Worship Choir and Bible Drill
- Pre-Teen Mission Trip (4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- Pre-Teen Camp (3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

## **Student Ministry | Landon Moss**

### ***Middle School for Grades 6-8***

### ***High School for Grades 9-12***

Our vision is to glorify God by making disciples through our students! While parents are called to be the primary disciple-makers of their youth, we want to partner with families to raise a generation for Christ.

- DNow Weekend
- Student Camp
- Mission Trips
- Worship and Bible Study



## **Adult Ministry | Eli Byrd**

### ***Young Adult***

The Young Adult Ministry exists to lead those age 18-25+ to “glorify God by making disciples and proclaiming the gospel throughout the world.” In a world of ever-increasing secularism and challenges to our faith, it is vital that these young adults are prepared to engage the world around them with the life-changing message of the gospel. Our desire is to see the gospel of Jesus Christ take root in the lives of our young adults in West Atlanta and around the world.

### ***Median and Senior Adults***

We define Sunday School as a community of people connected for discipleship through Bible study, prayer, and spiritually encouraging relationships. As a body of Christ, we want to be intentional about growing together. When you get involved in a Sunday school class, there is a stronger sense of connection with the church and what is happening and why. You experience ministry and have needs met which cannot be met by attending worship only. You also are given an opportunity to grow in your faith and understand God’s Word (the Bible) better.

When the whole family is involved in Sunday School, every family member experiences this same type of caring, consistent ministry. Trained, competent leaders are in place throughout every age group.

### ***Men’s Ministry***

Through events, weekly Bible studies, and Discipleship Groups, our goal is to help men grow in spiritual maturity and to fulfill their calling to be spiritual leaders in the home, church, and community.

### ***Women’s Ministry***

Our women’s ministry strives to encourage women to grow in truth and discernment and love for Jesus Christ, to call women to walk worthy of the Lord, and to offer opportunities to serve Him and each other in the Body of Christ. We offer several different options for weekly women’s Bible studies, a yearly conference or retreat, and other engaging events throughout the year.

## **Hispanic Ministry | Javier Lopez**

In November 2022, we launched a Hispanic Ministry at FBCD. God has blessed us with a vision to be a multicultural church, and we are thankful for his continued grace as that vision is being realized. The Hispanic Ministry is not another church, but a part of the First Baptist family worshiping and serving the Lord in another language. It is a dynamic and vibrant ministry with believers from 14 different countries represented and new members joining each week. There are adult discipleship classes available on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm and Sundays at 9:15 am. Then, at 10:45 am on Sundays, we have a Spanish worship service that meets in the Student Room.

## **Outreach / Missions**

We believe that Jesus placed a lot of value on how we should love God and love one another. Building friendships with our neighbors will build families in our neighborhoods, our community, and our city. We simply encourage everyone to be on mission in the places where we live, work, and play.

### **GO Sports Ministry**

GO Sports  
Impact Cheerleading

### **Community Partnerships**

Good Samaritan Center – <http://goodsamaritancenter-douglasville.com>  
Loving Hands Ministry – [https://www.facebook.com/pg/lhmdouglas/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/lhmdouglas/about/?ref=page_internal)  
Pregnancy Resource Center – <http://www.abortiondecision.com>  
A Gift of Love – [https://www.facebook.com/pg/3900veteransmemorialhwy/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/3900veteransmemorialhwy/about/?ref=page_internal)  
Douglas County Shelter – <http://www.douglascountysshelter.org>  
Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) – <http://fcadouglascounty.org>

### **Community Outreach**

Summer Blast  
Trunk N Treat

### **Church Plant Partnerships**

Church in the Harbor – Baltimore, MD  
Dwell Church – Denver, CO  
City View Church – Atlanta, GA  
Grace Harbor – New Bedford, MA

### **International Missions Partnerships**

Lynn Foster (North Africa / Middle East)  
The Phillips (Niger)  
The Whipple (South America)  
The Houks (South Asia)

### **Mission Trips**

It is our desire to take the gospel around our country as well as around the world. In keeping with our mission and core values, FBC engages in several mission trips both nationally and internationally. For information about upcoming trips, please visit our website.

## **Southern Baptist Entities/Affiliates**

### **Southern Baptist Convention – Nashville, TN**

Though we are an autonomous church, we are a part of a network of churches within the West Metro Baptist Association and the Georgia Baptist Convention and the greater network called the Southern Baptist Convention. This means that locally we are able to operate as an independent church, but we have the advantage of linking arms with over 40,000 churches to impact North America and the world for Christ. A portion of every dollar you give goes to a cooperative partnership that funds this mission endeavor as well as other entities, which benefit our church.

### **International Mission Board – Richmond, VA**

IMB partners with churches to empower missionary teams who are making disciples and multiplying churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God. The IMB has a training center that prepares and sends these missionaries into action. In just one year's time, field personnel shared the message of Jesus with 1.7 million people and started 6,200 churches.

### **North American Mission Board – Alpharetta, GA**

NAMB exists to work with churches, associations, and state conventions in mobilizing Southern Baptists as a missional force to impact North America through evangelism and church planting. It is also the second largest disaster relief organization in the nation bringing help to people and places in times of crisis.

### **Seminaries**

Six Southern Baptist seminaries prepare men and women who are called by God for vocational service in Baptist churches and in ministry around the world through programs of spiritual development, theological studies, and practical preparation in ministry.

New Orleans – New Orleans, LA

Southwestern – Ft. Worth, TX

Southeastern – Wake Forest, NC

Southern – Louisville, KY

Midwestern – Kansas City, MO

Gateway – Ontario, CA

## Service

We have many opportunities where you can serve our church family. We want you to begin to experience fulfillment and growth as you impact others. There is nothing like knowing that God has used you to make a difference!

### **First Impressions**

Parking  
Greeter  
Usher  
Hospitality

### **Worship Ministry**

Choir  
Orchestra  
Student Worship Band

### **Production Team**

Audio  
Lighting  
Lyrics  
Photographer  
Graphic Design  
Camera Operators  
Video Production

### **Special Events**

Easter  
Christmas  
Camps\*  
Outreach Events

### **Community Partnerships**

Good Samaritan Center  
Loving Hands Ministry  
Pregnancy Resource Center  
A Gift of Love  
Douglas County Shelter  
Fellowship of Christian Athletes

### **Age Group Ministries**

Preschool Ministry\*  
Kids\*  
Students\*  
Adults  
Senior Adults

### **GO Sports Ministry\***

Flag Football  
Soccer  
Impact Competition Cheerleading

*\* Background check required at church's expense*

## **Milestone Celebrations**

We are intentionally building families to impact and raise the next generation for Christ. Parents are designed to be the ones primarily discipling their children, and we are committed to helping you on the journey. The milestone path will prepare you not only to reach these significant markers, but also to celebrate them in your family's life and your personal life.

### **PARENT/CHILD DEDICATION**

Partnering with new parents to celebrate the birth of their child and teach their child to know and follow Jesus.

### **FIRST CONNECT KIDS (for children in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up)**

Partnering with parents in the responsibility of teaching their child what the Bible says about the foundations of Christian life.

### **BAPTISM**

Encouraging believers to follow Jesus and His teaching as they publicly profess their faith in Christ with their church family.

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION COMMISSIONING SERVICE**

Honoring and applauding our graduating class, as well as praying for and commissioning them as they leave this stage of life and embark on the new journey that lies ahead.

## **GO Christian Academy (GCA)**



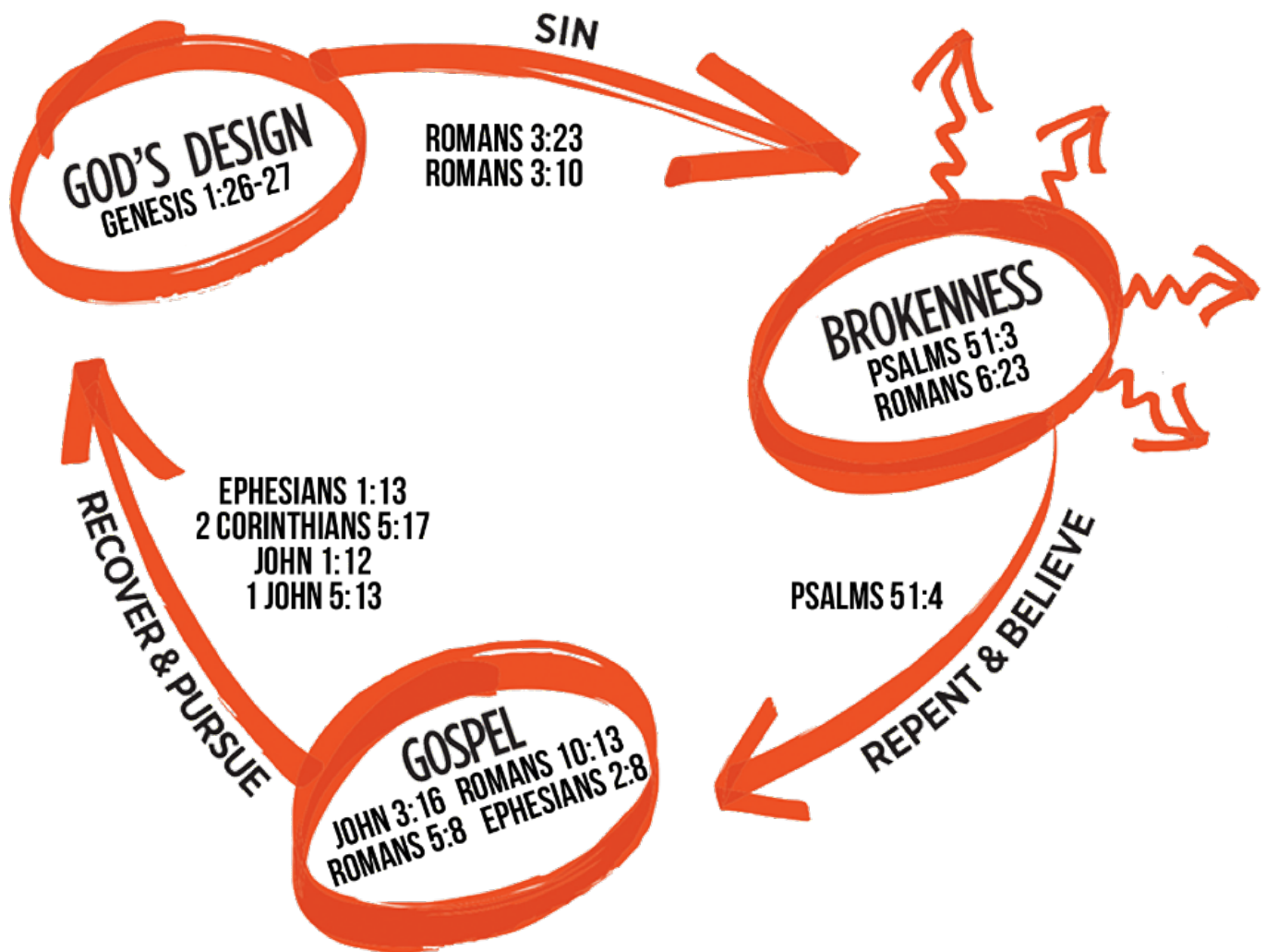
GO Christian Academy is a ministry of First Baptist Church Douglasville. Our school is child centered and Bible based learning, using a wide variety of developmentally appropriate experiences for your child.

To schedule a tour of our school, please call 770-942-4504.

## Gospel Conversations

We practice sharing Christ personally as we engage in gospel conversations, exemplify the life of Christ, and invite friends to church. God has given every believer the charge to “go and make disciples.” We are all on mission to reach people where we live, work, and play. The 3 Circles below are a simple illustration that you can use to help articulate the gospel to them.

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20-21



## **A Brief History of First Baptist Church**

- 1875 FBC Douglasville was established with 25 members and pastor W.A. Lane.
- 1896 The original building was struck by lightning and burned down. The pastor at that time was J.J. Oxford and he led in the construction of a new brick building.
- 1919 FBC had grown to approximately 200 members.
- 1940 The church began to remodel and build to accommodate the growth of the church.
- 1949 Under the leadership of Pastor Pat Johnson, FBC added an educational building containing 35 classrooms.
- 1958 The building that currently sits on Church Street in downtown Douglasville was built under the leadership of Pastor Dr. O.M. Seigler and Dr. Milton Dwelle.
- 1985 The Church Street building was remodeled, and additional education space added under Dr. Woodrow Hudson.
- 2000 Under the leadership of Dr. John Pennington, FBC relocated to its present location on the corner of Prestley Mill Road and Timber Ridge.
- 2017 After 27 years of faithful ministry, Dr. Pennington retires from FBC, and the church called Tim Akin to be the new pastor.
- 2022 We began our ALL IN campaign to renovate the Worship Center and other projects on campus. In November we started the Hispanic Worship Services under the leadership of Pastor Javier Lopez.
- Today FBC is poised to expand its reach with the gospel. While we are still a community church, we see our mission as going beyond Douglasville, to our country and throughout the world.



## Steps for Membership

### 1. Attend First Connection

This is the front door to our church family. You will learn about the history of our church and how to get connected, grow, and serve. You will get a chance to meet your pastors, church leaders, and others like yourself who are taking steps towards getting connected. This one-time class is a requirement for membership.

### 2. Share Your Faith Story with Us

In order to join our church, you should be able to tell us about how you understood you needed to turn from your sin and put your faith in Jesus. If you have never done that or if you are not able to articulate your story well, we will help you!

Then, share with us your baptism experience. If you have never been baptized by immersion, we will be glad to schedule an appointment to talk through your story and plan to celebrate your baptism.

If you have been a member of another church within our network (Southern Baptist church), we will be glad to follow up with your church to officially transfer membership records.

### 3. Sign Our Covenant Commitment Card

Very simply, this affirms your decision to become a Covenant Member. The Covenant Commitment Card will be signed before you are presented to the church.

### Covenant Commitment Card

Having received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and having experienced baptism by immersion, and being in agreement with the doctrinal beliefs of First Baptist (see Baptist Faith and Message 2000), I commit myself to God and to the members of First Baptist to do the following:

#### 1. The Bible

I commit myself to the regular reading and studying of God's Word, acknowledging that it is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.

#### 2. Discipleship

I commit myself to growing as a disciple by attending church faithfully, being a regular and consistent giver, having a commitment to serving within the church, and being part of a small group.

#### 3. Missions

I commit to supporting the mission of First Baptist by having gospel conversations with people where I live, work, and play as well as supporting mission opportunities by going myself or supporting those who do go through my prayer and financial support.