

CONSTITUTION (Revision 2016)

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

This body shall be known as the First Baptist Church of Ty Ty, Inc., located at Ty Ty, Georgia.

II. OBJECTIVES

To be a dynamic organism empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Christ with as many people as possible in our church, community, and throughout the world.

To be a worshiping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing His person and responding in obedience to His leadership.

To experience an increasingly meaningful fellowship with God and fellow believers.

To help people experience a growing knowledge of God and man.

To be a church which ministers unselfishly to persons in the community and the world in Jesus' name.

To be a church whose purpose is to be Christ like in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment of life, personality, and possessions to the Lordship of Christ.

III. STATEMENT OF BASIC BELIEFS

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired word of God and the basis for our beliefs. The church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000. We voluntarily band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ personally to sharing the good news of salvation to lost mankind.

IV. 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 a 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 secret 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 on brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian distress; to 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.

V. POLICY AND RELATIONSHIPS

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. (See Article I of the Bylaws).

All internal groups created and empowered by the church shall report to and be accountable only to the church, unless otherwise specified by church action.

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. Insofar as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the Mell Baptist Association, the Georgia Baptist Convention, and The Southern Baptist Convention.

BYLAWS

I. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. General

This is a sovereign and democratic Southern Baptist church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the exclusive right of self-government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this church.

The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.

Section 2. Candidacy

Any person may offer himself as a candidate for membership in this church. All such candidates shall be presented to the church at any regular church service for membership in any of the following ways:

- (1) By profession of faith and for baptism according to the policies of this church.
- (2) By promise of a letter of recommendation from another Southern Baptist Church of like faith and order.

(3) By statement of Christian faith. If a person has formerly been a member of a Baptist church but is not presently associated with that church, or if a person has received Christ and had been baptized by immersion in another Christian church, they may join the church based on their statement of faith.

Should there be any dissent as to any candidate, such dissent shall be referred to the deacons for investigation and the making of a recommendation to the church within thirty (30) days. A three-fourths vote of those church members present and voting shall be required to elect such candidates to membership.

Section 3. Duties

Each member is expected to be faithful in attendance and in support of this body of Christ as outlined in Romans 12:4-5 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.

Section 4. Rights of Members

(1) Each member of the church is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the church in conference provided the members is present.

(2) Each member of the church is eligible for consideration by the membership as candidates for elective officers in the church.

(3) Each member of the church may participate in the ordinances of the church as administered by the church.

Section 5. Termination of Membership

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways:

(1) death of the member,

(2) demission to another Baptist church,

(3) exclusion by action of this church, or

(4) erasure upon request or proof of membership in a church of another denomination.

Section 6. Discipline

It shall be the practice of this church to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The pastor, other members of the church staff and deacons are available for counsel and guidance. The attitude of members toward one another shall be guided by concern for redemption rather than punishment.

Should some serious condition exist which would cause a member to become a liability to the general welfare of the church, the pastor and the deacons will take every reasonable measure to resolve the problem in accord with Matthew 18. If it becomes necessary for the church to take action to exclude a member, a two-thirds vote of the members present is required; and the church may proceed to declare the person to be no longer in the membership of the church. All such proceedings shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance.

The church may restore to membership any person previously excluded, upon request of the excluded person, and by vote of the church upon evidence of the excluded person's repentance and reformation.

II. CHURCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

All who serve as officers of the church and those who serve on church committees shall be members of this church.

Section 1. Church Officers

The officers of this church shall be the pastor, the church staff, the deacons and corporate officers.

(1) The pastor is responsible for leading the church to function as a New Testament church. The pastor will lead the congregation, the organizations and the church staff to perform their tasks.

The pastor is leader of pastoral ministries in the church. As such he works with the deacons and church staff to:

- a. lead the church in the achievement of its mission.
- b. proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers and
- c. care for the church's members and other persons in the community.

A pastor shall be chosen and called by the church whenever a vacancy occurs. The election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one week's public notice has been given.

A pastor selection committee shall be elected by the church to seek out a suitable pastor, and its recommendations will constitute a nomination. Any church member has the privilege of making other nominations according to the policy established by the church. The committee shall bring to the consideration of the church only one name at a time. Election shall be by ballot, an affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present being necessary for a choice. The pastor, thus elected, shall serve until the relationship is terminated by his request or the church's request. He shall preside at meetings of this church and serve as moderator in all business meetings of this church in keeping with the rules of order authorized in these bylaws. In the absence of the moderator, the chairman of deacons shall preside: or in the absence of both, the clerk shall call the church to order and preside for the election of an acting moderator.

The pastor may relinquish the office as pastor by giving at least thirty (30) days' notice to the church at the time of resignation. The church may declare the office of pastor to be vacant. Such action shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one week's public notice has been given. The meeting may be called upon the recommendation of a majority of the personnel committee and the deacons or by written petition signed by not less than one-fourth of the resident-church members. The moderator for this meeting shall be designated by the members present by majority vote, and he shall be someone other than the pastor. The vote to declare the office vacate shall be by secret ballot; an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present being necessary to declare the office vacant. Except in instances of gross misconduct by the pastor so excluded from office, the church will

compensate the pastor with not less than one-twelfth of his total annual compensation. The termination shall be immediate, and the compensation shall be rendered in not more than thirty days.

(2) The ministerial staff shall be called and employed as the church determines the need for such offices. A job description shall be written when the need for a staff member is determined. Those staff members of whom the church requires evidence of a personal call of God to minister shall be recommended to the church by the personnel committee and called by church action. At the time of resignation, at least thirty (30) days' notice shall be given to the church. The church may vote to vacate such positions upon recommendation of the personnel committee, such termination being immediate and the compensation conditions being the same as for the pastor.

Non-ministerial staff members shall be employed as the church determines the need for their services. The church personnel committee shall have to authority to employ and to terminate services of non-ministerial staff members. Such employment and termination of services shall be with the recommendation of the supervising staff member and, as appropriate, with the consultation of related committees of the church.

(3) The church shall elect deacons as needed as the July business meetings of the church. Deacons will serve on a three year rotating plan. Deacons may not succeed themselves in office. They will be eligible to serve again as active deacons after the lapse of one year. There is no obligation to activate one, who has been a deacon in another church, but when he is elected to serve by the church, his previous ordination by a church of like faith and order shall suffice for this church.

A. Qualifications

The following qualifications shall govern in the selection of and recommendation of deacons as expressed in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-16 and to include these attributes:

- 1-active membership in this church for at least three years immediately prior to their nomination,
- 2-active membership should include tithing, regular participation in Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Brotherhood, visitation and all other church activities as implied in Article II of this Constitution and Bylaws.

B. Selection and Elections

The procedure for selecting candidates and electing deacons shall be as follows. Nomination of candidates for the office of deacon shall be submitted in writing at the regular April business meeting. Each member present shall be encouraged to make nominations. A screening committee, composed of the Pastor, Chairman of the Nominating Committee and Deacon Officers shall examine the qualifications of those nominated as deacons and meet with them to determine their willingness to serve, answer questions as to duties, etc. All the names of those qualifying shall be placed on a ballot prepared by the church at the regular business meeting in July; the Screening Committee shall present this ballot to the church in conference,

each member present being provided a copy. Each church member will then mark his ballot for the number of candidates required to fill all vacancies in the deacons (the vacancies being filled by those receiving the highest number of votes). A deacon must receive an affirmation of a minimum of 80% of the votes that he receives in order to be elected to the deacon body of Ty Ty Baptist Church.

The deacons shall elect their own officers who will serve for a term of one year only.

C. Duties

The duties of the deacons shall be those prescribed in the New Testament. They shall constitute an advisory council in all matters relating to the business affairs of the church. They shall receive and review monthly reports from the church Treasurer and make such suggestions and/or recommendations as may seem advisable.

Each member of the deacons shall be specifically charged with the responsibility of assisting the Pastor by participating in the Deacon Family Ministry program which include visiting the sick, administering the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper and shall at all times faithfully discharge his duty in keeping the membership enlisted in the full program of the church; promoting peace, harmony and the spirit of good will and cooperation among the membership. He shall be diligent in his attendance of the deacon's meetings (and active deacon who does not attend at least eight (8) meeting within the church year shall automatically be retired from active service at the end of that church year and will have to be elected by the church before serving another term). He shall be faithful in his participation in the service of the church and shall manifest, at all times, full cooperation with the program and leadership of the church.

(4) The church shall elect annually a clerk as its corporate secretary. The clerk shall be responsible for keeping a suitable record of all official actions of the church, except as otherwise herein provided. The Clerk shall be responsible for keeping a register of names of members with dates of admission, dismissal, death or erasure together with a record of baptisms. The clerk shall issue letters of dismissal voted by the church; preserve in a file all communications a written official reports and give required notice of all meetings where notice is necessary, as indicated in these bylaws. The clerk shall be responsible for preparing the annual letter of the church to the association.

The church may delegate some of the clerical responsibilities to a church secretary who will assist the elected clerk. All church records are church property and shall be kept in the church office.

(5) The church shall elect annually a church treasurer as its corporate chief financial officer. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive, preserve, and pay out, upon receipt of vouchers approved and signed by authorized personnel, all money or things of value paid or given to the church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to render to the church at each regular business meeting an itemized report of the receipts and disbursements of the preceding month. The treasurer's report and records shall be audited as the church deems necessary by an auditing committee or public accountant. Upon rendering the annual account at the end of each fiscal year and its

acceptance and approval by the church, the records shall be delivered by the treasurer to the church clerk, who shall and preserve the account as a part of the permanent records of the church.

(6) The Legal Officers of the church shall consist of the following:

- The Chairman of Deacons will be the President and Chief Executive officer.
- The Vice-Chairman of the Deacons will be the Vice-President.
- The Church Clerk will be the Corporate Secretary.
- The Treasurer will be the Chief Financial Officer.

They shall hold in trust the church property. They shall have the power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any church property. When the signatures of legal officers are required, they shall sign legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchase, or rental of property, or other legal documents related to church approved matters.

Section 2. Church Committees

The committees of this church are established for the express purpose of administering as servants of the church, the spiritual, temporal, and business affairs of the church only as defined by these bylaws and vested in them by the church. Additional committees may be added by the amendment procedure prescribed within these bylaws. All church committee members shall be recommended by the church nominating committee and elected by the church unless otherwise specified within these bylaws (See Committee List at Appendix)

III. CHURCH PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

The church shall maintain programs of Bible teaching; church member training; church leader training, mission education, action and support; and music education, training, and performance. All organizations related to the church programs shall be under church control, all officers being elected by the church and reporting regularly to the church and all program activities subject to church coordination and approval. The church shall provide the human resources, the physical resources, and the financial resources for the appropriate advancement or these programs.

(1) The Sunday School shall be the basic organization for the Bible teaching program. Its tasks shall be to teach the biblical revelation, reach person for Christ and church membership, perform the functions of the church within its constituency, provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and denomination.

The Sunday School shall be organized by department and/or classed, as appropriate, for all ages, and shall be conducted under the direction of the Sunday School director elected by the church.

(2) The Discipleship Training organization shall serve as the training unit of the church. Its tasks shall be to train church members to perform the functions of the church; train church leaders; orient new church members; teach Christian theology, Christian ethics, Christian history, and church and denomination.

Discipleship Training shall be organized by departments for all ages and conducted by the Discipleship Training Director.

(3) Woman's Missionary Union shall be the mission education, mission action, and mission support organization of the church for women, young women, girls, and preschool children. Its tasks shall be to teach missions; engage in mission action; support world missions through praying and giving; and provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and denomination.

Woman's Missionary Union shall have such officers and organization as the program requires.

(4) The Brotherhood shall be the church's organization for mission education, mission action, and mission support for men, young men, and boys. Its tasks shall be to teach missions, engage in mission action, support world missions through praying and giving, and provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and denomination.

The Brotherhood shall have such officers and organization as the program requires.

(5) The Church Music organization under direction of the church elected Minister of Music shall be the music education, training, and performance organization of the church. Its task shall be to teach music; train persons to lead, sing, and play music; provide music in the church and community; and provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and denomination.

The Church Music program shall have such officers and organization as the program requires.

IV. CHURCH COUNCIL

The church council shall serve the church by leading in planning, coordinating, conducting, and evaluating the ministries and programs of the church and its organizations.

The primary functions of the church council shall be to recommend to the church suggested objectives and church goals; to review and coordinate ministry and program plans recommended by church goals; to review and coordinate ministry and program plans recommended by church officers, organizations, and committees; to recommend to the church the use of leadership, calendar time, and other resource according to program priorities; and to evaluate achievements in terms of church objectives and goals.

Regular members of the church council shall be the pastor, other church staff members, directors of church program organizations, chairman of deacons, and church officers.

V. CHURCH ORDINANCES

The ordinances of the church are believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Sections 1. Baptism

This church shall receive for baptism any person who has received Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith, who professes him publicly at any worship service, and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord.

(1) Baptism shall be by immersion in water.

(2) The pastor, or whomever the church shall authorize, shall administer baptism. The deacons and wives shall assist in the preparation for and the observance of baptism.

(3) Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship during any worship service of the

church.

- (4) A person who professes Christ and is not baptized after a reasonable length of time shall be counseled by the pastor and/or staff and deacons. If negative interest is indicated on the part of the candidate, he shall be deleted from those awaiting baptism.

Section 2. The Lord's Supper

The church shall observe the Lord's Supper quarterly (the fifth Sunday of the quarter) unless otherwise scheduled by the church. The observance shall be held once each year in the morning service. The pastor and deacons shall administer the Lord's Supper, the deacons and wives being responsible for the physical preparations.

VI. CHURCH MEETINGS

Section 1. Worship Services

The church shall meet regularly each Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening for the worship of Almighty God. Prayer, praise, preaching, instruction, and evangelism shall be among the ingredients of these services. The pastor shall direct the services for all the church members and for all others who may choose to attend.

Section 2. Special Services

Revival services and any other church meetings essential to the advancement of the church's objectives shall be placed on the church calendar.

Section 3. Regular Business Meetings

The church shall hold regular business meetings monthly on a designated night.

Section 4. Special Business Meetings

The church may conduct called business meetings to consider matters of special nature and significance. A one-week notice must be given for the specially called business meeting unless extreme urgency renders such notice impractical. The notice shall include the subject, the date, the time, and the place; and it must be given in such a manner that all resident members have opportunity to know of the meeting.

Section 5. Quorum

The quorum or those members, who attend the business meeting, provided it is a stated meeting or one that has been properly called.

Section 6. Parliamentary Rules

Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, is the authority for parliamentary rules of procedure for all business meetings of the church.

VII. CHURCH FINANCES

Section 1. Budget

The Finance committee, pastor, chairman of deacons, and church treasurer, in consultation with the church council, shall prepare a proposed budget, indicating by items the amount needed and sought for all local and other expenses. This shall be presented to the deacons for approval and then to the church. Offering envelopes will be provided for members' use.

It is understood that membership in this church involves financial obligation to support the church and its causes with regular, proportionate gifts.

Section 2. Accounting Procedures

All funds received for any and all purposes shall pass through the hands of the church treasurer, or financial secretary, and be properly recorded on the books of the church.

A system of accounting that will adequately provide for the handling of all funds shall be the responsibility of the finance committee.

No special offering may be taken, nor any designated fund may be started without the approval of the church. Any motion or action by the church that involves the expenditure of over \$100 of unbudgeted funds shall be referred to the Finance Committee.

Section 3. Fiscal Year

The church fiscal year shall run concurrently with the church year which begins on September 1 and ends on August 31.

VIII. AMENDMENTS

Changes in the constitution and bylaws may be made at any regular business meeting of the church provided each amendment shall have been presented in writing at a previous business meeting and copies of the proposed amendment shall have been furnished to each member present at the earlier meeting. Amendments to the constitution shall be by two-thirds vote of church members present. Amendments to the bylaws shall have a concurrence of a majority of the members present and voting.

This document including both Constitution and Bylaws becomes effective as our guide on March 14, 2004 and will be in effect until changed, through proper procedure, by a vote of the church.

Signed:

Church Clerk

Moderator

Appendix
(Committee)

(1) The Nominating committee coordinates the staffing of all church leadership positions filled by volunteer workers, unless otherwise specified herein. Persons considered for and such positions shall first be approved by the nominating committee before they are approached for recruitment. The nominating committee shall present to the church for election all who accept the invitation to serve.

(2) The Personnel committee assists the church in matters related to employed personnel administration, including those called by church action. Their work includes such areas as determining staff needs, employment, salaries, benefits, other compensation, policies, job descriptions, and personnel services.

(3) The Missions committee seeks to discover possibilities for local mission's projects, shares findings with church program organizations, and serves the church in establishing and conducting such mission projects as may be assigned to it.

(4) The Social committee supervises the activities of all church-wide related functions in the social hall, correlates the scheduling of activities for usage of church social hall, is responsible for purchasing supplies needed for the kitchen, and is responsible only for serving at church-wide activities and not for cleaning the building.

(5) The Maintenance committee is responsible for maintaining all church buildings and equipment in a good state of repair and for securing estimates and having work performed for minor improvement renovation projects to existing church structures.

(6) The Finance committee is responsible for: emphasizing and promoting the stewardship program of the church; securing needed loans for the church, promoting any fundraising activities to pay off loans.

(7) The Bus Ministry & Maintenance committee are responsible for maintenance of church bus, correlation of its use, and seeing that all rules and regulations concerning usage of church bus are enforced.

(8) The Grounds committee is responsible for all yard work in order to maintain neat, general appearance of church grounds.

(9) The Music committee assists the Minister of Music in promotion of the music program of the church.

(10) The Nursery committee secures nursery workers for all church services and revivals, purchases nursery equipment and supplies, and brings recommendations before the church concerning improvements to nursery facilities.

(11) The Benevolence committee investigates all pleas for financial help, brings findings to the church for action and investigates emergency pleas by travelers, determines said needs and responds to needs as deemed necessary. A special offering will be taken every 5th Sunday to be used for benevolence ministry.

(12) The Cemetery committee is responsible for keeping records, assists individuals or families in securing cemetery plots, informs trustees to draw up deeds on lots sold, and is responsible for up keep of the cemetery.

(13) The Youth committee assists the Minister of Students or any church elected volunteer workers in developing, promoting and carrying out the church youth program.

(14) The Long Range Planning committee is responsible for studying and making plans to meet the future needs of the Church. The committee consists of the Chairman of Deacons, the Directors of Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Mission Organizations, Activities Committees, and the Chairpersons of Maintenance Committee, Grounds Committee, Personnel Committee, Audio/Visual Committee.

(15) The Security Committee is responsible for Opening and Closing church facilities for scheduled events.

(16) Bereavement Committee

(17) Audio/Visual Committee

(18) Decorating Committee

(19) Wednesday Night Supper Committee

(20) Heritage & History Committee

(21) Food Bank Committee

(22) Activities & Recreation Committee

(23) Joy Fellowship (Senior Adult Activities Committee)

Proposed Changes to Constitution and By-Laws in Reference to Homosexual Marriage

Proposed change to Constitution:

Current reading:

Article III. STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God and the basis for our beliefs. ***For purposes of church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our church's congregational vote is the church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.*** The church subscribes to the doctrinal statement ***of the Southern Baptist Convention adopted in 2000 titled THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE.*** We voluntarily band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to lost mankind.

Proposed addition to Constitution by adding the following:

Article IV. MARRIAGE

We believe that term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all members, persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward and individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church.

Other proposed changes to the Constitution:

Change ARTICLE IV. CHURCH COVENANT to ARTICLE V. CHURCH COVENANT

Change ARTICLE V. POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS TO ARTICLE VI. POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS