

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF KINGSVILLE

## CONSTITUTION

### PREAMBLE

We the members of The First Baptist Church of Kingsville, Ohio in order to carry out more effectively the commission given by Jesus Christ to His Church, do ordain and establish the following Constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

### ARTICLE 1 – NAME

The name of this Church shall be “THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF KINGSVILLE, OHIO”. The Church was incorporated in the State of Ohio on March 22, 1962 as a non-profit organization and was issued Corporation Certificate # 309117, Roll B253, and Frame 1022.

### ARTICLE 11 – PURPOSE

The purpose of this Local Church is to glorify God:

To show love to the unsaved and to minister to their physical and spiritual needs and to present to them the way of salvation:

To evangelize and disciple on mission fields at home and abroad:

To assemble to worship God, to administer the ordinances of the Lord’s Supper and Baptism, and to fellowship with His body of believers:

To reflect our oneness in Jesus Christ and promote unity in the Body:

To build up and equip the believers to minister to each other’s needs and accept the leading of the Holy Spirit in the discipline of Christian living in accordance with God’s Word. – Ephesians 4:1-16

### ARTICLE III – AUTHORITY AND AFFILIATION

This Church shall be independent and self-governing, and it shall be affiliated with the Ashtabula Baptist Association, the American Baptist Churches of Ohio, the American Baptist Churches of the USA. This Church shall not be affiliated with the World Council of Churches or the National Council of Churches.

## **ARTICLE IV – FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Church shall begin January 1 and end on December 31.

## **ARTICLE V – DOCTRINAL STATEMENT**

- 1) We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings. They are the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and the Divine and final authority of all Christian faith, life, and doctrine (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-20; John 6:63).
- 2) We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (1 John 5:7; 2 Cor. 13:14; Matt. 28:19-20).
- 3) We believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross, a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He is now our High Priest and Advocate (John 1:1,14; 8:58; I Cor. 15:3-4; I John 2:1; Heb. 4:14; Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:35; Matt 28:5-6; 1 John 2:1).
- 4) We believe in the existence of the personality of Satan. He is the unholy ruler of this age, prince of the power of the air, author of all the powers of darkness, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire (Matt. 4:1-3; Eph. 2:2; 2 Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:10).
- 5) We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service (John 14:17, 26; 16:7-8, 13-14; Titus 3:5; Eph. 1:13).
- 6) We believe that man was created in the image of God, but fell into sin and is, therefore lost, and only through faith in Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and Spiritual life be obtained (Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 3:6; Romans 5:12, Romans 6:23).
- 7) We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe. Only those that receive Jesus Christ as Savior are born of the Holy Spirit, and become children of God (John 3:16; Acts 4:12; Col. 1:20; I Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; Romans 4:25; John 14:6; Eph. 2:8-9; John 3:3).

- 8) We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church during the present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means of salvation (Matt. 28:19; Acts 8:36-39; I Cor. 11:23-33).
- 9) We believe that New Testament baptism by immersion is a symbol of our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Lord, and of our death to sin and resurrection to a new life. Baptism by immersion is a prerequisite for membership. (Matt. 28:19) Acts 8:36-39).
- 10) We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death and should be observed until He comes again. Partaking of the Lord's Supper is for believers only and should always be preceded by solemn self-examination (1 Cor. 11:23-33).
- 11) We believe that the true Church is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ of which He is the head (Eph. 1:22-23; 2:20-23; Col. 1:18).
- 12) We believe that only those who are, thus, members of the true Church shall be eligible for membership in the local church.
- 13) We believe in the personal return of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this "Blessed Hope: has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer (Acts 1:11; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; I Thess. 4:16-18; Titus 2:13; Matt. 24:44).
- 14) We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead; of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment (Rev. 20:6; Luke 14:14; John 5:28-29).
- 15) We believe that God's design is that a man and woman would either be joined by marriage in a perpetual monogamous relationship or live in a single state (Gen 2:24; Eph 5:31). Premarital sex, adultery, and homosexuality are inconsistent with Biblical teaching (Heb. 13:4; Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:18-32; I Cor. 6:9-10; I Tim. 1:8-11).
- 16) The purpose of the church is to glorify God. It seeks to accomplish this through the public worship of God, the preaching of the Word of God, consistent Christian living by its members, personal evangelism, acts of compassionate service, missionary endeavor and Christian Education (Eph. 1:5-14; Col. 1:9-10; Matt 5:16; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matt 22:37-40; Matt 28:19-20).

## **ARTICLE VI – CHURCH COVENANT**

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we solemnly covenant together that we will increasingly submit ourselves to Jesus as Lord and Savior, and we rededicate ourselves to the doing of God's will, in so far as we know it.

That we will whole-heartedly seek to keep the commandments that Jesus designated as of first importance, namely, to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as we do ourselves; (Mk. 12:30-31).

That we will put away from us all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven us: (Eph. 4:31)

That we have no part with the unfruitful works of darkness but seek to live as children of Light, abstaining from all practices that harm our bodies or jeopardize our own or another's faith: Eph. 5:11,15; 1 Cor. 8:9).

That we will confess our faults, one to another, and pray, one for another, and whenever anybody has anything against us, we will go to that person, and seek to be reconciled; (James 5:16; Matt. 5:23-24; 18:15-17).

That as we have opportunity, we will do good to all, especially to those that are of the household of faith; (Gal. 6:10)

That we will urge the unsaved to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord and promise to faithfully contribute our time, talent and resources to support the church and its missionary outreach in obedience to Christ's "Great Commission"; (Matt.28:1-20)

That we accept the challenge of having a personal devotional life and, as far as is possible, endeavor to have family worship; (Luke 18:1)

That we will bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; (Eph. 6:4)

That we will not neglect the assembling of ourselves together in worship and study; (Hebrews 10:25; 2 Tim. 2:15)

That we will give liberally and in proportion to our prosperity, not grudgingly, nor of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver; (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor.9:7)

That we will respect and honor the leadership of those that speak to us the Word of God; (1 Thess. 5:12-13)

And we further covenant, that when we move from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church of like faith, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

## **ARTICLE VII – DISPOSITION OF CHURCH PROPERTY**

### **SECTION 1 – POWER OF CONTROL**

This Church shall have the power to receive, either by gift or purchase, and to hold such real, personal, or mixed property as is authorized by the laws of the State of Ohio and is deemed necessary for the business of the Church, and shall have the power to dispose of such property by mortgage, deed or otherwise. All such property shall be held in the name of the Church or in trust to the benefit of the Church.

### **SECTION 2 – DIVISION OF THE CHURCH**

In case of the division of this Local Church (from which we pray God by His mercy to preserve us), the property of the Church shall belong to those who abide by its Constitution and By-laws. Should any controversy arise as to who is abiding by this Constitution and By-laws, the question shall be submitted to the Ohio Baptist Convention and their decision shall be final.

### **SECTION 3 – DISSOLUTION OF THE CHURCH**

In the event of the dissolution of this Local Church (from which we pray God by His mercy to preserve us), all property belonging to the Church, real personal, and mixed and wherever situated, shall automatically become the property of the Ohio Baptist Convention or its successor organization if said Conference or successor is then in existence; otherwise said property shall automatically become the property of the American Baptist Churches of the United States or its successor organization. If the American Baptist Churches of the United States has at that time also ceased to exist, said property shall be conveyed and transferred by the Board of Trustees of the Church to any successor organization which shall at the time of conveyance and transfer under section 501 C(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended and which shall have objectives consistent with those of the church.

### **SECTION 4 – DETERMINATION OF DISSOLUTION**

This Local Church shall be considered dissolved if so decided by the church itself, or when the Church has not held an annual meeting for three successive years, or when less than six members remain.

## SECTION 5 – CONSOLIDATION

Should conditions arise when a consolidation with another Church of the same denomination be advisable, the Board of Trustees and the Administrative Council shall be authorized by the Church to negotiate the terms of such a consolidation insofar as the property is concerned. A report of such agreement must be made to the Church and approval granted by the Church by two-thirds majority vote before any legal papers are signed.

## ARTICLE 9 – POWER OF CONSTITUTION

- A. This Constitution shall supersede all others. This Constitution, with the exception of Article 5 (Doctrinal Statement) and Article 6 (Church Covenant) may be amended at any Annual or Quarterly Business Meeting by a two-thirds majority vote, provided the amendment(s) have been brought before the Church in writing at a Quarterly Business Meeting prior to the one in which the proposed change is to be voted on. The amendment(s) shall be put in the Church newsletter or bulletin at least three times during this period.
- B. No change shall be made in Article 5 (Doctrinal Statement) and Article 6 (Church Covenant) except a two-thirds majority of members of the Church present who are entitled to vote, said proposed changes having been laid before the Church in writing at a business meeting not less than one year before the time of the proposed action. These proposed changes shall be presented at each Quarterly Business Meeting during this period.
- C. At their first meeting of the year, all Officers, Board Members and Committee Members shall be presented with a complete copy of the Constitution and By-laws and their Job Descriptions as relevant to their ministries.

03.26.2002