

Emory Baptist Church Constitution

(Adopted in a Special Called Business Meeting on June 6, 1999)

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 its relation to other churches.

I. NAME

This body shall be known as the Emory Baptist Church, located on/at Planters Street on the Square of Emory, Texas and founded February 1915.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. To be a dynamic spiritual body empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Christ with as many people as possible, with dignity and integrity, in our Church, community, and throughout the world (Matthew 28:19-20);
2. To provide for the worship of God and the preaching and teaching of the Bible, the inspired Word of God, experiencing an awareness of His Person and responding in obedience to His leadership (2 Timothy 3:16-17);
3. To equip by teaching and nurturing persons for spiritual growth by encouraging each member to participate in worship, prayer, Bible study, discipleship, and fellowship (Hebrews 10:25);
4. To administer the ordinances of the New Testament: baptism and the Lord's Supper (Matthew 3:14-15, Mark 16:16, Romans 6:3-4, 1 Corinthians 11:17-30, Hebrews 6:2);
5. 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 (Deuteronomy 6:13, Matthew 5:16, Matthew 6:33);
6. To be a Church that ministers unselfishly to persons in the community and the world in Jesus' name (Matthew 20:28, Galatians 5:13).

III. DOCTRINAL STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe that the Bible is the authoritative word of God to men, truth without error (Romans 15:4, 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21);

We believe in the Trinity. The Trinity consists of three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in one God (1 Corinthians 8:6);

We believe that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and that God's remedy for men's ruin is entirely of grace through one's personal acceptance of the finished work of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 3:23). Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, lived a sinless life and died as our representative on the cross. He then was physically resurrected to prove the completeness of His work, providing salvation for all men (John 3:16, 1 John 4:10);

We believe that a true believer is secure in Christ forever and is called to live a holy life (Ephesians 4:30, 1 Peter 1:15-16);

We believe in the Church, the body of Christ, whose mission is to preach the Gospel to all the world. We believe that the ordinances of the Church are believer's baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper (Matthew 28:19-20, 1 Corinthians 11:18-32, Romans 6:3-4);

We believe in the personal return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Those that are believers shall be forever in the presence of God and those that have rejected Christ will be separated from God forever (1 Thessalonians 3:13, Colossians 3:4).

IV. RELATIONSHIPS

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. Insofar as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the Hunt Baptist Association, and the Southern Baptist of Texas Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. However, this church is a local autonomous body and shall retain its independence of action and government and shall not surrender any of its doctrine or sovereignty.

We shall support the program of missions as sponsored by these groups and no financial support shall be given to any other work or workers unless so designated by official action of this church (Amended by vote of the church December 10, 2010).

V. CHURCH COVENANT

As we trust we have been brought by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the influence of His Spirit to give ourselves up to Him, so we do most solemnly covenant with each other, that God enabling us,

We walk together in brotherly love;

That we will exercise a Christian care and watchfulness over each other, and faithfully warn, rebuke and admonish one another as the case shall require, and in all things we will seek and guard the honor and the true function of the church;

That we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor omit the great duty of prayer, both for ourselves and for others; and for the enterprises of the Kingdom of God;

That we will share in each other's joys, and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy, to bear each other's burdens and sorrows;

That we will earnestly endeavor to bring up such as are, or may be, under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord;

That we will seek divine aid to enable us to walk circumspectly and watchfully in the world, denying ungodliness and every worldly lust, to avoid behavior that would be a stumbling block to others but seek to live a lifestyle that would be Biblical and God-honoring.

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.

VI. AMENDMENTS

Changes in the constitution may be made at any 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 or upon request. Amendments to the constitution shall be adopted by simple majority vote of the church members present.