

# FARMINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH CONSTITUTION

## *PREAMBLE*

We do 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 Farmington Baptist Church, located in the town of Farmington, and incorporated in the county of Franklin, state of Maine.

## *II. OBJECTIVES*

- To be a dynamic spiritual body 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 being, and responding in obedience to His guidance.
- To experience an increasingly meaningful fellowship with God and fellow believers.
- To help people experience a growing knowledge and relationship with God and mankind.
- To be a body which ministers unselfishly to persons in our church, community, and throughout the world in Jesus' name.
- To be a church whose purpose is to be Christlike in our daily living and to emphasize total commitment of our spirit, soul, and body to the lordship of Christ.

## *III. STATEMENT OF FAITH*

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired word of God and the basis of our beliefs. This church subscribes to the doctrine statement of "The Baptist Faith and Message" as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963. We voluntarily band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to all mankind. The ordinances of the church are believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper.

## *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 upon the profession of our faith, and 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 covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, in the power of the Holy Spirit and by God's grace to walk together in Christian love; to strive for advancement of Christ's church and Christian growth; to promote its spirituality and prosperity; to support its services of worship, ordinances and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church and the spread of the gospel to all nations with our tithes and offerings.

We also engage to educate our children in the ways of our Lord and Savior; 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; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to comfort one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian empathy; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the teachings of our Savior to secure it without delay.

#### ***V. POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS***

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. Persons duly received by members shall constitute the membership.

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 of like faith and practice. This church will cooperate with and support the Maine Baptist Association, the Baptist Convention of New England, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

#### ***VI. DISPOSITION OF CHURCH PROPERTY***

If the time should ever come that Farmington Baptist Church should discontinue active service as a Southern Baptist Church, all its property shall become the property of the Maine Baptist Association or its successor.

#### ***VII. 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 amendments shall have been made available to each member. Amendments to the constitution and bylaws shall be approved by three fourths of the voting members present.

Any additional modifications of the changes proposed at the second meeting will be voted. No new changes to the constitution and bylaws outside those proposed at the first meeting shall be voted.

End

#### ***Historical notes;***

*This constitution was voted on and accepted by the members of the Farmington Baptist church on July 7, 1992 to be effective on July 4, 1992.*

*With amendments on May 1, 1994*

*With amendments on January 12, 1997*