

CONSTITUTION

We declare and establish this constitution for the purpose of preserving and making secure the principles of our faith and to the end that this body of believers may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the teachings of Holy Scripture.

ARTICLE I - NAME

This church shall be known as the Northside Baptist Church of Tifton, Georgia, Inc.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES

To be a dynamic spiritual 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 worshipping fellowship, experience an awareness of God, recognizing His person and responding in obedience to His leadership.

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

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

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

ARTICLE III- STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. The doctrinal statement of this church is the current doctrinal statement of "The Baptist Faith and Message" as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

ARTICLE IV - CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, 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, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We do 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, discipline and doctrines;

To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, which includes expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and spread the Gospel to all nations.

We also engage:

To maintain family and secret devotions;

To religiously educate our children;

To sustain and promote biblical marriages;

To sustain and promote the sanctity of human life;

To endeavor to be the Salt and Light of our community and world;

To seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;

To walk circumspectly in the world;

To be kind and just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplarily in our deportment;

To avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger;

To abstain from the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage and the misuse of drugs or other intoxicating substances;

To be zealous in the advancement of our Savior's Kingdom.

We further engage:

To watch over one another in brotherly love;

To remember one another in prayer;

To aid one another in sickness and distress;

To cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech;

To be slow to take offense, always ready for reconciliation and to be 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.

ARTICLE V - RELATIONSHIPS

This church is not subject to the control of any other ecclesiastical body. However, it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Southern Baptist churches. Insofar as it is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the Mell Baptist Association, the Georgia Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

ARTICLE VI - AUTHORITY

The church is a theocracy. Our role under the Lordship of Jesus Christ recognizes that the church is His and all decisions must be made in recognition of His Lordship. The authority and responsibility of church affairs is vested in its members whose will on any subject or measure is expressed by a majority vote.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - General

This is a sovereign 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. Therefore, the membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.

Section 2 - Candidacy

(1) By Baptism

After a satisfactory evidence of repentance toward God and a public profession in the Lord Jesus Christ, an applicant may be received as a candidate for baptism, after the administration of which they shall automatically enjoy the full fellowship of the church.

(2) By Letter

A member of another Southern Baptist church may be received by a letter of recommendation from such a church.

(3) By Statement of Experience

Any person to whom the ordinance of baptism has been administered, according to the belief of our church, may be received as a member upon his statement of experience and faith in Jesus Christ; and also those whose letters have failed to arrive within 90 days after joining this church.

(4) In Absentia

Candidates for membership that come under this category are those that are physically unable to present themselves to the church for membership or, even though being able to present themselves for membership would be physically unable to take part in baptism.

(5) Watchcare

Candidates for watchcare membership are those who wish to retain their official membership in a home church but who wish to unite with the fellowship of this church for a prescribed period of time. These are individuals who are fully aware that their presence in our area is temporary in nature. They will receive all the privileges of membership with the exception of voting and the holding of an ongoing position of