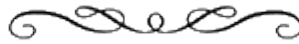


CONSTITUTION OF
SOUTHMONT BAPTIST CHURCH
Denton, Texas

Adopted by the Congregation on September 16, 1979
Revised on September 9, 2009



ARTICLE I

MISSION AND PURPOSE

Southmont Baptist Church was organized in 1979, at Denton, Texas, and was formed as one church body, serving Christ in our community and around the world.

The mission and purpose of this church shall be to know Christ, to make Him known to all people and to seek the salvation of all souls everywhere (Matt 28: 16-20). The church shall seek to attain this goal through the public worship of God, the preaching of the gospel of His Son Jesus Christ and personal evangelism. The church promotes missionary endeavors, family unity, love and the development of character that is centered in Christian principles, and nurtures its members through a program of Christian education.

ARTICLE II

AUTHORIZATIONS

Section 1. *Southmont Baptist Church* was incorporated on September 16, 1979, in keeping with the laws of the State of Texas. Its policies and procedures shall be in accord with such laws. The church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denominational control; however, the church also maintains the right to cooperate or affiliate voluntarily with other organizations, which share Baptist goals and purposes.

Section 2. For legal purposes, the corporation shall have three officers:

1. President of the Corporation (Church Vice-Moderator)
2. Secretary of the Corporation (Church Clerk)
3. Treasurer of the Corporation (Church Treasurer)

Section 3. Only the officers of the corporation, acting jointly, may purchase, lease or sell the real property of the church, and this only with the explicit authorization of the congregation voting immediately following regular Sunday services. The record of the congregational vote on such issues must be affirmed by the church clerk in a notarized statement authorizing the officers to carry out the transaction.

Section 4. *Southmont Baptist Church* is organized for religious and charitable purposes within the meaning of section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States.

Section 5. Definitions. In this constitution and bylaws, the terms "congregation", "the church", "church body", and "the members" are used interchangeably. All of these terms refer to those who have been received into membership in *Southmont Baptist Church* according to its bylaws.

ARTICLE III

CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Section 1. All church policy derives from the congregation. The pastor, as first among equals, may lead by persuasion, by personal example, and by teaching.

Section 2. The conduct of church affairs is to be authorized by the congregation in duly scheduled business meetings as described in the bylaws to this constitution. All fundraising efforts conducted in the name of *Southmont Baptist Church* must first be approved by the Finance Committee.

Section 3. The Church Advisory Council shall serve as the principal advisory group to the church and to the pastor on planning and program issues. Although an ad hoc committee shall develop long-range plans, the Church Advisory Council shall regularly monitor the church's progress in meeting the goals of its long-range plans. The moderator of the church is the presiding officer of the Church Advisory Council. Its membership is fixed and is comprised of the church officers (the moderator, the vice-moderator, the church clerk, the treasurer, the parliamentarian), the ministerial staff, the chair of the deacon body, the chairs of all standing committees, (Committee on Committees, Finance, Personnel, Properties/Grounds, Missions), and three at-large members elected by the congregation. The Church Advisory Council meets only as needed and is convened by the moderator, or at the request of the deacon chair or the chair of any standing committee.

Section 4. The Deacons of *Southmont Baptist Church* are not a policy-making body. They are chosen by the congregation to serve the church, assist the pastor and staff and lead by example in reaching the world for Christ. (Acts 6:3) The duties, qualifications and policies are those stated in the current Deacon Handbook approved by the congregation.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of *Southmont Baptist Church* shall consist of persons who confess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior and have been baptized by immersion, who give evidence of that faith by living lives consistent with their profession of faith, with the doctrine and practice of the church, and who have been received into membership according to its by-laws.

ARTICLE V

ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

As Baptists, this congregation recognizes two ordinances of the church.

Section 1. The first ordinance is Christian **baptism**. (Matt 28:18-20) We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in the newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony of one's faith in the final resurrection of the dead, and is a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership.

Section 2. The second ordinance is the **Lord's Supper**. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby baptized believers, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine (symbols of the body and blood of Jesus Christ), memorialize the death, burial and resurrection of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming. (Luke 22:19)

ARTICLE VI

AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be revised or amended by the submission of a written proposal from any church member or committee chair to the Church Clerk.

Section 1. Procedures

- 1) The proposal must then be read aloud at the next authorized business meeting of the church. An explanation and clarification must be given as to the purpose or reason for the amendment. Modifications and debate of the proposed amendment are not in order at this first reading.
- 2) By the Sunday following the first reading, copies of the proposal will be made known and available for all members of the congregation.
- 3) At the business meeting following the first reading, a second reading of the proposal must occur. Modifications and discussion of the proposal are now in order. The main motion as amended may then be voted on. Assuming the attendance of a quorum, two-thirds of all those present and voting are required to amend this constitution.

Section 2. Implementation

Amendments to this constitution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon their approval and shall repeal, nullify and set aside any other articles, sections or language that are contrary thereto.