

CONSTITUTION
OF
ROSWELL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
OF
MARIETTA, GEORGIA

PREAMBLE

We declare and establish this Constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the Church in an orderly manner while pursuing its ministry. This Constitution will guide this Church in conducting Christ's ministry locally, nationally or across all borders as He leads.

I
NAME

This Church shall be known as the **ROSWELL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH** of Marietta, Georgia.

II
OBJECTIVES

To be a dynamic spiritual body empowered by the Holy Spirit to teach, baptize, and disciple as many people as possible. To propagate to all people the Gospel of God's salvation by personal faith in Jesus Christ, the Savior and Lord. (Matthew 28:18-20).

To help members realize their spiritual gifts and encourage them to use these gifts in the sharing of Christ (I Corinthians 12).

To be a Church whose purpose is to be Christ-like in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment to the lordship of Christ (I Thessalonians 2:1 – 13).

To help members grow in the knowledge of God and man through Church programs of Bible teaching, training and education (Acts 2:42-47).

To encourage members to support the ministry of this Church, Baptist association and convention through personal stewardship (Luke 6:38).

III

STATEMENT OF BASIC BELIEFS

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired infallible, inerrant Word of God and the basis for our beliefs. This Church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of “*The Baptist Faith and Message*” as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, dated June 14, 2000. We voluntarily band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ personally committed to sharing the Good News of salvation to lost mankind and to minister to all. The ordinances of the Church are believer’s Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

We believe marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime as provided in Scripture. We believe that gender identity is determined by biological sex. The Bible calls us to oppose all forms of sexual immorality including fornication, adultery, and homosexuality. As ministers and a Church of the Gospel of The Lord Jesus Christ we will not affirm the union of two people of the same sex (including those identifying as transgender and transsexual) whether by civil union or a marriage ceremony and will not perform such a ceremony. Further, such union or marriage ceremony shall not take place on Church grounds. Any pressure or requirement to perform same sex unions or marriage ceremonies would violate the free exercise of our religion and take us out of fellowship with God.

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, 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 and this assembly most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We 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, doctrines, and discipline; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, toward its expenses, for the support of a faithful and evangelical ministry among us, the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel through the world. In case of difference of opinion in the Church, we will strive to avoid a contentious spirit, and if we cannot unanimously agree, we will cheerfully recognize the right of the majority to govern.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to study diligently the Word of God; to religiously educate our children; 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; endeavoring in the purity of heart and good will towards all men to exemplify and commend our holy faith. We pledge as a Church and to each other to take a stand against deeds of the flesh and to live according to the fruit of the spirit according to Galatians 5:19-26.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to exhort and encourage each other unto every good word and work; to guard each other's reputation, not needlessly exposing the infirmities of others; to participate in each other's joys; 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, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay; to seek to live to the glory of God, who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

We moreover engage that when we move 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.

V

POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

The government of this Church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. Persons duly received by the members shall constitute the membership (see Article II of the Bylaws).

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 enjoys mutual counsel and cooperation that are common among Baptist churches. Insofar as is practical, this Church will, in a democratic sense, cooperate with and support the association, the state convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

VI

AMENDMENTS

Changes to the Constitution may be made at a business meeting of the Church provided each amendment shall have been presented in writing at a previous business meeting no less than 30 days prior 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 a two-thirds affirmative vote of eligible Church members present. Changes to this Constitution take effect 30 days following an affirmative vote by the Church.

The undersigned, being the duly elected and qualified Secretary of the Corporation, hereby certifies that the foregoing Constitution of the Corporation was duly adopted by the Corporation on _____, 20 ____.

Signature

_____, Secretary

Journalistic license is requested to correct any grammatical errors in this document.