

CONSTITUTION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MARLOW, OK

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 member and the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other churches.

Name

This body of believers shall be known as the First Baptist Church of Marlow, Oklahoma, located at 213 North Broadway Street, Marlow, Oklahoma 73055, referred to as “FBC Marlow” in these documents.

Objectives

The purpose of FBC Marlow is to bring glory to God as we observe the Great Commandment in Matthew 22:37-40:

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.” (CSB)

and the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20:

Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (CSB)

We will meet these objectives through:

1. Prayer- we will be active in communicating with God as we pray collectively and privately, so that we may hear His voice and will above all others.
(1 Thessalonians 5:17, Philippians 4:6, 1 Peter 5:6, James 5:16)
2. Worship- we will regularly gather together, desiring to experience the presence of God as He inhabits the praise of His people through prayer, singing, giving, and studying the Word of God as a family of believers.
(Psalms 34:1, Romans 12:1, Hebrews 10:24-25, Hebrews 13:15)
3. Community- we will minister in love to people in our community, both inside and outside the church, as we display the mercy of Christ to one another.
(John 15:12-13, James 2:15-16, Acts 2:45)
4. Biblical Teaching- we will strive to clearly communicate the truths found in the Bible in creative ways that engage, encourage, and challenge the hearer.
(2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:28)

5. Discipleship- to develop toward full Christian maturity and equipping one another for effective ministry of the Gospel of Christ. We will promote personal spiritual growth and maturity through Biblical teaching and mentoring.
(Matthew 28:19-20, Ephesians 4:12-13, Hebrews 6:1-2)
6. Evangelism- we will intentionally share the Gospel of Christ with as many people as possible in our local community and to the ends of the earth.
(Acts 1:8, Mark 16:15, 1 Peter 3:15)

Statement of Faith

We believe Jesus Christ is the Head and ultimate authority for the Church. The Holy Bible is His holy and inspired Word. We submit ourselves completely to its precepts and teachings. FBC Marlow accepts the doctrinal statements found in *The Baptist Faith and Message (2000)*, which has been adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, as a general statement of faith.

Covenant

To sustain a spirit of unity, the members of FBC Marlow enter into the following covenant with one another:

Having been led personally by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, having publicly professed our faith in Christ, 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 commit together by the aid of the Holy Spirit to:

- (a) Walk together in Christian love
- (b) Strive for the advancement of FBC Marlow, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort
- (c) Promote the prosperity and spirituality of FBC Marlow and its members
- (d) Sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines
- (e) Be good stewards of our earthly possessions by regularly supporting the ministry, the expenses of FBC Marlow, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We commit individually to:

- (a) Maintain family and private devotions and study of the Scriptures
- (b) Educate our children in our faith
- (c) Seek the salvation of our family and friends
- (d) Walk cautiously in the world
- (e) Be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our conduct

- (f) Be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of Jesus Christ and promote Christian values in society
- (g) Engage with one another in brotherly love through prayer, in our care for and our speech toward one another, being slow to take offense, and always ready for reconciliation.

Furthermore, we commit that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with another church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Affiliations

FBC Marlow is an autonomous body of believers and is not subject to the control of any other ecclesiastical body. Yet, we recognize the mutual counsel and cooperation which is common among Southern Baptist churches. Insofar as it is practical, FBC Marlow will cooperate with and support the Mullins Baptist Association, the Oklahoma Baptists, and the Southern Baptist Convention.