

2ND Baptist Constitution

ARTICLE I

Preamble

We do 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 may be governed in an orderly manner and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of the church and to set forth the relationship of this body to other bodies of the same faith.

ARTICLE II

Name and Affiliation

Section 2.01 Legal Name

The name of this corporation is Second Baptist Church of Conway, Arkansas as defined in the Articles of Incorporation filed with the Arkansas Secretary of State. This corporation will be further referred to in this constitution as the "Church" and includes all campuses. The Church and any of its campuses may be referred to by shortened terms or nicknames such as 2ND Family, the 2NDFAM, 2ND Greenbrier, etc.

Section 2.02 Affiliations

The church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of denominational control. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation with other churches in fulfillment of its purpose, the Church may voluntarily affiliate or disaffiliate with other churches and conventions that agree with our faith statement by a majority vote of the congregation.¹

Section 2.03 Non-profit Status

The Church is a non-profit corporation under the umbrella of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

¹ At the time of this edition the Church was affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention for the purpose of missions and ministry through the Cooperative Program, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the Faulkner Baptist Association. These relationships are important but not necessary for the existence or mission of Second Baptist.

Section 2.04 Dissolution and Mergers

In the event of a voluntary dissolution of the Church, the net assets of the Church shall be distributed to a like-minded church or association of churches for the purpose of continued Gospel work. The distribution will be in accordance with a passing vote of the remaining active members as defined in the Church's bylaws. In the event of a merger of the Church with another church, then the net assets of the Church shall be contributed to the surviving entity.

ARTICLE III

Articles of Faith

Section 3.01 Mission

"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." Matthew 28:19-20 (CSB)

Section 3.02 Statement of Basic Belief

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired, inerrant word of God and the basis for our beliefs. A complete description of our beliefs is contained in the Faith Statement. We voluntarily band together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation with lost mankind.

ARTICLE IV

Governance

Section 4.01 Definition

Second Baptist Church is a Christ-ruled, Pastor-led, Deacon-served, and member-authorized² church in accordance with the principles laid down in the New Testament (Eph. 1:22-23; Acts 20:28; Acts 6:1-7).

²Authorization is provided in votes that are specified in the Bylaws. The Standing Committees, described in the Bylaws Article III, are comprised of members elected by the Church to make decisions as representatives of the members.

The overall policy, direction, and management of the ministry, operations, and finances of the Church shall be vested in the Pastors as authorized by the Church.³ The Pastors are designated as the directors of this corporation as the term is defined and used in the Arkansas Nonprofit Corporation Act.

Subject to the provisions and limitations of the Arkansas Nonprofit Corporation Act, any limitations in the Articles of Incorporation, this Constitution, and the Church's Bylaws, all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Pastors as authorized by the Church.

The church body made of confessing members who adhere to the member requirements and expectations is to remain the final authority in matters of property ownership, the yearly budget, church discipline, and changes to the Bylaws, Constitution, and Faith Statement.

Section 4.02 Public Worship

Meetings for public worship shall be held at such times and places (in person or virtually⁴) as may be provided for under the direction of the Pastors.

Section 4.03 Church Business Meetings

Any pastor or the Pastors' Council⁵ shall have the authority to call Church business meetings as needed. At least one business meeting will be held annually.⁶

Section 4.04 Amending the Constitution

This Constitution may be amended by a recommendation of the Pastors' Council and two separate two-thirds majority votes of the members attending a Church business meeting with that stated purpose one year apart. Each vote to amend the Constitution requires 21 days prior written notice with a copy of the proposed changes.

³ The term Pastors refers to the staff members called and elected by the Church with the title of Pastor and the Executive Director of Operations (or similar position overseeing Finance and Facilities).

⁴ The shutdowns and public meeting restrictions during the COVID pandemic made it apparent that we need to allow for a scenario in which we are unable to meet in person.

⁵ The Pastors' Council is defined in the Bylaws Section 3.05

⁶ At the time of this writing the Church holds a Church Conference in both the late spring and early fall. The spring meeting is a smaller occasion, more of an update and the time to elect new members to the Standing Committees. The fall meeting is larger and more of a celebration with a focus on the upcoming year's budget. Each Church Conference includes a business meeting along with other elements such as fellowship time, Q&A, etc.