CONSTITUTION

OF

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAMAR

1301 E 6th St.

Lamar, Missouri

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the First Baptist Church of Lamar, in order to work for the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ, do hereby band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers under the authority of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ and adopt as our constitution the following articles.

ARTICLE I

NAME

This organization shall be known as the First Baptist Church of Lamar, Missouri.

ARTICLE II

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the First Baptist Church, Lamar as ministers of Christ is to worship God, disciple the believer, and reach the nonbeliever as we grow together through fellowship and service.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the First Baptist Church, Lamar through the leadership of the Holy Spirit is to reach upward through worship, inward through discipleship, and outward through evangelism, as we seek to minister and fellowship with one another.

ARTICLE III

CHURCH GOVERNMENT

This church is an autonomous body, not subject to the direction or control of any other ecclesiastical body; therefore, the government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it, under the leadership of our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE IV

DENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION

This church shall voluntarily cooperate with the Ozark Prairie Baptist Association and the Missouri and Southern Baptist Conventions in the Cooperative Program of Education, Evangelization, Missions and Ministry. This cooperation does not grant to any of the afore named entities any authority over this church, nor in any way alter or lessen the autonomy and independence of this church.

ARTICLE V

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, 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 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. Also, to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor and the spread of the gospel through all nations. We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to educate our children religiously; 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; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain of the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Saviour. We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation and, mindful of the rules of our Saviour, 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 VI

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND MESSAGE

We recognize God’s word as revealed in the Holy Bible as the sole authority in matters of faith and practice, however, in order to set forth certain principles which persons who are Baptists generally agree on, we do hereby incorporate, by reference, and adopt as the Statement of Faith and Message of the First Baptist Church of Lamar, the Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention June 14, 2000.

ARTICLE VII

MEMBERS

Section 1. The members of this church reserve the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church. A person can become a member of this church upon a majority vote by presenting themselves as a candidate for membership in one of the following ways:

 a. by public profession of faith in Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and Lord, giving evidence of a change of heart and acceptance of the views of faith and practice held by this church. Upon receiving New Testament baptism under authority of this church and participating in a special study for new Christians, they will be received into its membership.

b. by letter from another Southern Baptist Church or another Baptist church of the same faith and practice. These may be received into the fellowship of the church upon recommendation by letter from their respective churches or by statement of faith where such a letter is lacking. Those who become members in this manner will be required to participate in a special study of Baptist faith and practice taught by the pastor or an individual designated by the church.

c. by statement of a prior public profession of faith in Jesus as personal Saviour and Lord in a non Baptist church. Those believers who express interest in becoming members of our church who come from non-Baptist churches will be requested to attend a special study of Baptist faith and practice taught by the pastor or an individual designated by the church. After completing the classes, these individuals may request church membership either by statement of faith or by baptism.

New Testament baptism requires the proper subject - a saved person; the proper authority - a church of the Lord Jesus Christ; the proper purpose - to show salvation, not to procure it; and the proper mode - immersion. After candidates for membership have completed the special study, the pastor and deacon officers (membership committee) will determine in consultationwith the candidate their understanding and experience of baptism in light of these four standards.

Section 2. Persons may be removed as members pursuant to provisions set forth in the church bylaws.

Section 3. Candidates for membership may be voted on at a regular business meeting after they have presented themselves for membership, upon recommendation of the membership committee.

ARTICLE VIII

 OFFICERS

**[1. Church Officers]**The officers of the church shall be the moderator, vice-moderator, clerk and treasurer. The pastor shall be the moderator and the chairman of the deacons shall be the vice-moderator unless otherwise provided for in the bylaws. The officers shall have the duties set forth in the bylaws.

**[2. Corporate Officers shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary of the Trustees. They shall act as the President, Vice President, and Secretary of the Corporation is all legal matters]**

ARTICLE IX

MEETINGS

Section 1. The church shall have quarterly business meetings on the second Sundays of the month of June, September, December, and March. These meetings will include, but be not limited to, a time of fellowship, prayer, and business. In the rare case of business action needed between the regular meetings, a special business meeting may be called. Refer to Section 1 of Article IX.

Section 2. Special called business meetings may be called by the pastor or the chairman of deacons and shall be called upon the written request of ten members of the church delivered to the clerk. Notice of any special called business meeting shall be given during the Sunday morning worship service at least eight days prior to the special called business meeting. The purpose of the special called business meeting shall be stated in the notice.

ARTICLE X

COMMITTEES

The church shall have such standing committees, with duties, as are set forth in the bylaws. Standing committees shall have six members who shall serve a term of three years on a rotating basis, two members rotating off each year. No one can be re-elected to a second term, until they have been off of that committee at least one year. For the first committees elected under this provision, two members shal1 be elected for a one year term, two members for a two year term and two members for a three year term. Special committees shall have such duties and number of members as the church shall authorize in the motion establishing the special committee

ARTICLE XI

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the church in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution, the bylaws and any special rules of order the church may adopt.

ARTICLE XII

DISSOLUTION OF CHURCH AND DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY

In the event of the dissolution of the First Baptist Church of Lamar, all property of the First

Baptist Church, real, personal and mixed of whatsoever kind and wherever located shall be transferred to another non-profit organization of similar kind and purpose.

Section 2. Dissolution of the church shall occur if the church, by official action, votes to dissolve as a church, or upon termination of regular worship services for more than twelve consecutive Sundays. Any motion to dissolve must be submitted in writing at a regular business meeting not less than two months prior to the calling of the special business meeting to consider the motion to dissolve. The vote to dissolve must be by three-fourths vote of the resident membership. Upon such action, the Chairman of Trustees and the Chairman of Deacons are authorized to sign all necessary documents to convey the property as herein provided.

ARTICLE XIII

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

Section 1. This constitution, except for ARTICLE XII - DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY and ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENT OF CONSTlTUTION, can be amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular business meeting or a special business meeting called for the purpose of considering an amendment to the constitution. The proposed amendment must been submitted in writing at the prior regular business meeting, posted on church bulletin boards and announced from the pulpit for two Sundays prior to the business meeting at which the amendment is to be considered.

Section 2. ARTICLE XII - DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY and ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION can only be amended by a three-fourths vote of the resident membership at a special business meeting called for the purpose of amending ARTICLE XII or ARTICLE XIII. The proposed amendment must be submitted in writing at a regular business meeting not less than two months prior to the calling of the special business meeting to consider the amendment. A copy of the proposed amendment shall be mailed to all resident members at least thirty days prior to the special business meeting. A copy of the proposed amendment shall be posted on church bulletin boards for at least thirty days prior to the special business meeting, and an announcement of the special business meeting shall be made at each worship service for four weeks prior to the special business meeting.

Submitted June 8, 2005

Adopted July 6, 2005

Adopted March, 2016

Adopted March, 2020