

The Constitution of First Southern Baptist Church of Pueblo, Colorado, dba Aberdeen Baptist Church

Revised and Approved June 9, 2013

Preamble: For the more certain preservation and security of 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 this church and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith, we do declare and establish this constitution.

- I. **Name:** This body shall be known as the First Southern Baptist Church of Pueblo, Colorado, doing business as Aberdeen Baptist Church, and is incorporated under the laws of the State of Colorado.
- II. **Purpose:** It shall be the purpose of this church to fulfill the commission of our Lord Jesus Christ to the church as found in Matthew 28:19-20. Specifically, we shall strive to preach the gospel, win the lost, train the saved, encourage Christian fellowship, and provide a place of worship
- III. **Statement of Faith:** The Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. The church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of the Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000, which is condensed as follows:
 1. We believe that the Bible is the written Word of God and is to be accepted in its entirety
 2. We believe in the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
 3. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He was born of a virgin, crucified for our sins, buried, and resurrected on the third day.
 4. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity and is ever present to convict the unbeliever and to comfort, strengthen, and direct the believer.
 5. We believe that every man sins of his own free will, that he lives under the condemnation of sin and therefore needs to be saved.
 6. We believe that salvation is a work of grace and is received when the unbeliever repents of his sins and believes upon the Lord Jesus Christ.
 7. We believe that salvation is a present and permanent possession.
 8. We believe that the church is a body of like-minded, baptized believers banded together for the purpose of worship and service and its government is both autonomous and democratic.
 9. We believe that baptism is an ordinance of the church symbolizing the believer's experience of a death to sin and a resurrection to a new life in Christ Jesus. We believe the proper mode for baptism is immersion.
 10. We believe that the Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the church symbolizing our Lord's sacrificial death for sinful men.
 11. We believe that one day the Lord Jesus Christ will literally and visibly return to this earth to receive those who belong to Him.
 12. We believe that Heaven is a literal place for the believers and that Hell is a literal place for the unbelievers
 13. We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Mark 10:6-9)
- IV. **Church Covenant:** Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and having professed our faith through the ordinance of baptism, we sincerely and willingly enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ

We agree therefore with the help of the Holy Spirit to walk together in love, to work of the advancement of this church in wisdom, holiness and spiritual growth, to contribute generously and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of suffering and need, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We agree to work to maintain family and private worship, to teach our children the Bible, to help them by example to love God and His Church, and to seek the salvation of loved ones and friends.

We agree to be honest and sincere in our relationships and business dealing with others, to govern our anger and to abstain from the misuse of drugs, foods, and other substances known to be harmful to the body and mind.

We agree to be energetic in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior, to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress, to cultivate understanding, courtesy and kindness, and to be slow to take offense, remembering the instruction of Christ that we are always to be open for reconciliation.

Should we move to another locality, we agree, as soon as practical, to unite with another church where we can live out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word in communion with other Christians.

- V. **Polity:** The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Southern Baptist Churches.

- VI. **Affiliation:** The affiliation of this church shall be with the Royal Gorge Association of Southern Baptist Churches, the Colorado Baptist General Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

- VII. **Property and Assets:** Should conditions ever arise which would threaten the perpetuity of this church as a regular cooperating member of the Southern Baptist Convention, the church shall petition the Colorado Baptist General Convention to assume control of all property, assets, and liabilities.