

THE CONSTITUTION OF FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

(Approved On April 12th, 2003)

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I. Preamble

For the purpose of preserving and making secure the principles of our faith and to the end that this body shall be governed in an orderly manner, consistent with the accepted tenets of the Baptist churches affiliated with the New Antioch Bethlehem District, the Northwest State Convention, Alabama Baptist Convention, and the National Baptist Convention; for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this Church; that all things may be done decently and in order, and that we may more readily help each other in our Christian service as members of the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Inc., we do hereby adopt this Constitution and by-laws to govern our Church as we go about the Lord's work.

II. Name and Location

This body will be known as the *Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Inc.*, located at Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama.

III. Purpose and Objective

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church exists for the purpose of communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ, His atonement, His Lordship, for the encouragement of His Saints. The Church is comprised of members who have confessed their sin and their commitment to Christ and His leading of their lives. The Church is commissioned by Christ to maintain and to expand His Kingdom through the ongoing, Spirit-led work of Evangelism, Bible study, Worship, Prayer and Fellowship.

IV. Statement of Basic Beliefs

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired word of God and the basis for our beliefs. This Church will abide by strong biblical doctrine and *The Church Covenant*. 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. The ordinances of the Church are believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper. (See the By-laws)

V. Church Membership (and Admission of Members)

This is a sovereign and democratic Baptist Church under the lordship of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the membership retains unto itself the exclusive right of self-government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this church. The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership. Procedures for admission, dismissal, and transfer shall be as provided by the Bylaws of the church.

VI. Administration of Church Affairs: Government 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 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 recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches. Insofar as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the association, the northwest convention, the state convention, and the National Baptist Convention.

The officers of this church shall be the pastor, deacons, trustees and other officers as provided by the Bylaws of the church.

The pastor is responsible for leading the church to function as a Missionary Baptist church. The pastor will lead the congregation, the organizations, and the church staff to perform their tasks. The church sitting and acting in a duly called and held business meeting shall be the final authority in all its affairs. The material and business affairs of

the corporation are to be administered by the following officers of the church under direction of the church membership:

1. Trustees shall make and execute all contracts, deeds, bonds, notes, negotiable instruments, mortgages, trusts and all other instruments of indebtedness or conveyance of the incorporated church upon the order thereof, by resolution by the church sitting in a duly called business meeting, duly adopted for such purposes; provided however, that all such documents be signed for and on behalf of the trustees by any two or three of the trustees and attested by the clerk of the incorporated church.
2. The trustees shall have such other duties and authority as provided by the bylaws of the church.
3. In the absence of availability of the requisite number of trustees, and/or the church clerk, the church sitting in a duly called and held business meeting may designate another member or members of the board of trustees and/or other officers of the church to execute and attest the instruments outlined above.

VII. Church Business Meeting

The Bylaws of the church shall provide for regularly scheduled meetings, publication of the transactions of business, and for the calling of special meeting to transact special business. The quorum required for the transaction of business shall be provided in the Bylaws of the church.

VIII. Bylaws

The Bylaws may be adopted, amended or rescinded by the church sitting in business meeting as provided in the Bylaws.

IX. Amendments

This Constitution may be amended or altered by a two-thirds vote of the (active) members present and voting at any regular business meeting of the church. It is provided, however, that any proposed amendment or alteration must be given to the church clerk in writing; the church clerk must make copies available to the Membership at least thirty days prior to the date of the business meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be voted on.

X. Elections

The church shall hold elections at such time and in such manner as designated in the Bylaws.

All officers shall be elected or appointed in accordance with the Bylaws of the church. Vacancies shall be filled as provided in the Bylaws.

XI. Church Year

As set out in the Bylaws, the church fiscal year shall extend from the first day of January for a period of twelve months, and each twelve month period thereafter. In all other matters the church year shall be dictated in the bylaws.