

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
(FBC Constitution)



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Articles of Incorporation: Adopted on November 9, 2014. Reviewed and reaffirmed by officers on October 8, 2018.

Constitution of First Baptist Church, legally known as ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

The name of this church shall be “FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of New Castle, Indiana”. This church shall be affiliated with American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky; and American Baptist Churches/USA.

This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1986 (or to the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law).

ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSE

We are Builders of God’s Kingdom. We draw our action from the direction Jesus gave His disciples in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

FBC is a house of the Lord where people experience reconciliation with God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and then carry that reconciliation into the world, one relationship at a time, through word and deed (2 Corinthians 5:17-20).

ARTICLE 3 – STATEMENT OF FAITH

This church receives the Bible and its teachings as the all-sufficient basis of doctrine and practice.

We believe in the triune God, who is eternally one God in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16-17 and John 14:15-17).

We believe that salvation and eternal life is available to all who trust Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (John 3:16 and Ephesians 2:8).

We proclaim the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the only means of salvation (1 Corinthians 15:3-6).

We believe that God is sovereign over all and this sovereignty is expressed and realized through Jesus Christ (Psalm 135:6 and Psalm 103:19).

BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

We believe the Bible is the sufficient and final rule of faith and practice, and it is an open book for each believer to read and interpret responsibly for him/herself. We believe that the Bible is God's revealed message to all and has final authority for us in all matters of Christian faith and practice. In particular it reveals to us the person and work of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as the One whom we are to love, serve and obey.

BIBLICAL MARRIAGE

We believe, according to the Scriptures, that God's design for marriage is between one man and one woman.

PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER

We believe in religious liberty and that freedom in matters of religion is an inherent right of the human soul. Religious freedom means the unrestrained right of the individual to approach God. Baptists have no priests, save the Great High Priest, Jesus Christ.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

We believe there should be a separation between the church and the state, and that there should be no levy of taxes instituted to support or aid in a particular faith or form of worship, nor should there be any action taken by government that might accord a special status, privilege or priority to any religious organization.

AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

We believe in independent self-rule of the church.

CHURCH COMPOSITION

We believe this church is composed of believers in Christ who have made a public profession of their faith in Christ, been baptized by immersion, gather as a believer's church, share in the Lord's Supper and live their faith as visible saints.

ORDINANCES

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the church and not a means of salvation. They are symbols of great truths taught in the Scriptures.

SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM is the immersion of the believer in water symbolizing the death, the burial, and the resurrection of Jesus. Grace is given where medical conditions do not allow immersion.

THE LORD'S SUPPER is an ordinance of the church and is observed in commemoration of the suffering and death of Christ and the expectation of His return.

ARTICLE 4 - MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this church shall consist of active and inactive members as described in the church by-laws.

ARTICLE 5 - OFFICERS

The officers of this church shall consist of a lead pastor, a board of elders, a board of trustees and a church moderator. This church gives authority to the officers to fill necessary positions as designated in the church by-laws.

ARTICLE 6 - TAX-EXEMPT PROVISIONS

Handling of Finances

No part of net earnings of the church shall give advantage to its members, officers, or other private persons. The church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II of the Articles of Incorporation.

Dissolution or Final Liquidation of Church

Upon the dissolution or final liquidation of the church, the officers shall make payment of final liabilities. All remaining assets will be disposed of only to tax-exempt organizations that agree with the church's Statement of Faith.

Non-Discrimination

The church shall have a nondiscriminatory policy and, therefore, shall not discriminate against employment applicants, members, students, and others on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin.

ARTICLE 7 - AMENDMENTS

The church officers shall review and evaluate the Articles of Incorporation every three years unless a need arises for earlier review.

The Congregation may consider a motion to amend, modify or rescind the Articles of Incorporation, upon recommendation of the church officers. The vote shall be by written ballot.