

Draft Constitution Summary of Changes

The following changes have been made to the draft Constitution presented at the Business Meeting held June 21, 2009 and are reflected in the latest draft: v2, dated August 05, 2009.

Page 2 – IV Mission, Purpose, and Vision

Added to 'Our Vision'

- Attending faithfully

Reason: Change suggested to match with membership covenant

Page 4 – V Membership Covenant

Changed: I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the First Baptist church family

To: I now believe that the Holy Spirit is leading me to unite with the First Baptist Church family

Reason: Suggested in order to emphasize the work of the Holy Spirit in leading someone to join with our church family and de-emphasize the role of emotions (feelings).

Changed: Being loving toward other members

To: Sincerely loving other members

Reason: To demonstrate our commitment to love one another and not just 'acting like we love one another'.

Added a note that the Relational Commitments are now included as Appendix B.

Reason: If referenced by the Constitution, then needs to be included.

Page 5 – VII Polity and Affiliations

Changed: ..so long its leaders and the respective bodies continue to remain faithful to God's Word and our local church's doctrinal statement.

To: ... so long as its leaders and the respective bodies continue to remain faithful to God's Word and our local church's statement of faith.

Reason: Changed so that it will match the wording of the corresponding section of the constitution

Page 6 - IX Adoption And Amendment Of The Constitution

Changed: then the elders will express their decision in writing to the covenant member or in an elder council meeting.

To: then the elders will express their decision to the covenant member either in writing or in an elder council meeting.

Reason: Clarify that the elders will directly inform the covenant member of their decision.

Added Appendix B – Relational Commitments

Reason: Make the Relational Commitments document part of the Constitution.

Appendix A – Extended Statement of Beliefs

Page A-16, 30. Elections

Removed: (A separate Position Paper is available for those wishing more information on Election.)

Reason: Not needed. If someone has questions on the subject of election, they can ask.

Page A-29, 92 Social Activism

Removed: (See Elder Council position paper entitled “Social Activism.”)

Reason: Not needed. If someone has questions on the subject, they can ask.

Appendix B – Relational Commitments Page B-6 – Assisted Peacemaking

Changed: If we have a legal dispute with or within our church and cannot resolve it internally through the steps given above, we will obey God’s command not to go into the civil court (1 Cor. 6:1-8). Instead, we will submit the matter to mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute for Christian Conciliation, a division of Peacemaker Ministries (www.Peacemaker.net).

To: If we have a legal dispute with or within our church and cannot resolve it internally through the steps given above, we will obey God’s command not to go into the civil court (1 Cor. 6:1-8). Instead, we will submit the matter to mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration.

Reason: There was never any intent to enter into a formal affiliation with Peacemaker Ministries. It was just included as an example of the type of services that we might utilize if the need were to arise.