

CMU approved August 25, 2019
Effective October 1, 2019

CONSTITUTION OF ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Revision 12
CMU approved August 25, 2019

CONSTITUTION

Preamble

We, the members of Acton Baptist Church of Granbury, Texas, (hereafter referred to as Acton Baptist Church) do hereby declare and establish this Constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith, to govern the body in an orderly manner, and to maintain the autonomy of this church in freedom of action in relation to other churches and organizations.

Article One

Mission Statement

The mission of Acton Baptist Church (ABC) is to worship God, serve others, equip believers, and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Guiding Principles

Acton Baptist Church is a congregation of baptized believers dedicated to its mission of following the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) to evangelize the lost and unchurched in our community and around the world. We can accomplish our mission by adhering to the following guidelines. It is our responsibility to:

1. Provide a **WORSHIP** experience at Acton Baptist Church that allows each of our members and visitors to have an exciting, personal experience with the Holy Spirit. Continual, meaningful worship and fellowship will help each person to have the desire and determination to serve Jesus Christ in ways that are acceptable to Him.
2. Provide an atmosphere that will develop and support an attitude of **SERVICE** at Acton Baptist Church, in our community, and beyond. To be successful in equipping and training disciples, providing meaningful worship and a loving fellowship, and finding the lost, we all must be dedicated to serving others like Jesus during His ministry on earth. We must serve not only fellow members of Acton Baptist Church but the unchurched and lost in our community.
3. Develop and implement programs to **EQUIP** our membership to become disciples for Jesus Christ. As we live in the Word, pray in faith, fellowship with and witness to others, the Christ who lives in our hearts will help us to bear fruit. Fruit bearing and leading others to Christ is the normal, natural result of a life that has Christ at the center.
4. **SHARE** the gospel with the lost in our community and beyond, witness to them, then teach and mentor them in the Holy Spirit as new Christians so they too can become disciples for Christ.

The goal of Acton Baptist Church is that the entire congregation, as well as each individual member, will be dedicated to growing in Christian faith by giving of its time and resources in service to Jesus Christ so others can see the love of God.

Article Two

Principles of Faith

We affirm that the Holy Bible is God's revelation to mankind. It is inspired by God; it is without error; it is an accurate record of the history and the future of mankind. It depicts the birth, life, death, and resurrection of the Savior of all mankind, our Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Bible is therefore the sole basis for our faith.

We regard the scriptures of the Holy Bible as authoritative in all matters of faith, practice, and principle. This church affirms as our doctrinal statement The Baptist Faith and Message (BFM) as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention at the 1999 session of the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

The membership of Acton Baptist Church is the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

The following statements amplify Acton Baptist Church beliefs relative to the principals in the Family Statement in the Baptist Faith and Message ratified in 2000.

I. Statement on Marriage, Gender and Sexuality:

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. We believe that "man" is defined as a person born as a biological man and that "woman" is defined as a person born as a biological woman. The use of the terms "man" and "woman" in the Constitution and Bylaws of Acton Baptist Church and any and all other documents of Acton Baptist Church shall reflect and be interpreted to mean these specific definitions as stated above in this paragraph. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including, but not limited to, adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Acton Baptist Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Acton Baptist Church members and the community, all persons employed by Acton Baptist Church, in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, will agree to and abide by the C&BLs and specifically this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) In accordance with scripture, which is reflected in the doctrine of ABC, hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and will not be tolerated.

II. Statement on Marriage:

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, Acton Baptist Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Furthermore, the ministers and staff of Acton Baptist Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of Acton Baptist Church shall only be used for weddings between one man and one woman.

III. Statement on the Sanctity of Human Life:

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps 139).

IV. Ordinances

The ordinances of the church are Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

BAPTISM is a symbolic act of obedience of a believer, who accepts Jesus Christ as Savior, professes Him publicly at any worship service, and expresses a commitment to make Jesus, Lord of his/her life.

Scripture Reference: Mark 1:8, Mark 16:16, Matthew 3:13-17

THE LORD'S SUPPER is a symbolic act of obedience whereby believers will partake of the bread and the fruit of the vine, commemorating the death of Jesus Christ and anticipating His second coming.

Scripture Reference: Mark 14:17-26, Luke 22:13-20

Article Three

Purpose of the Church

We confirm that our primary purpose is the communication to all persons the Good News of Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ as stated in Romans 1:16-17. We endeavor to equip and enable each individual for this purpose through the provision of opportunities of worship, education, service, and fellowship as described in Ephesians 4:11-16.

Article Four

Government of the Church

The government of this church is vested in the membership of ABC.

Persons duly received by the members shall constitute the membership. Members so bound together regard one another as having equal rank and privilege as well as equal responsibility and obligation in fulfilling the purpose of this church as stated in Galatians 3:26-28.

All internal or external groups created and empowered by the church shall report to and be accountable only to the church unless otherwise specified by church action under authority of this constitution.

Article Five

Relationships

We recognize the benefits and sustain the obligations of mutual cooperation which are common among Baptist churches, associations, and conventions. Insofar as practical, this body agrees to cooperate with and support the Paluxy Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Article Six

Amendments

Proposed changes to the Constitution will be referred to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee who will study and make appropriate recommendations.

This Constitution may be amended, modified, or repealed as follows:

Notification of the proposed amendment/s must be announced and published in the church bulletin and other media or audio visual means available at least two (2) weeks prior to a regular church ministries update.

The proposed amendment(s) will be read and discussed at the next regular church ministries update meeting and will be tabled, waiting for the vote which will be taken at the following church ministries update meeting.

The proposed amendments will be voted on at the following church ministries update without discussion. A three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of members present and voting is required for approval.

Article Seven

Dissolution

In the event the church ceases to exist, any remaining assets may be conveyed to a similar non-profit organization qualifying for tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or as they may hereafter be amended.

Article Eight

Sole Authority

There shall be no worship, education, service, or fellowship conducted which is in conflict with the principles of faith of ABC.

All rules, regulations, policies, and Bylaws previously approved by this church, in conflict with this Constitution, are each and all hereby repealed, set aside, and superseded.

Article Nine

RATIFICATION

Revision history:

Revision 1, effective January 1, 1991
Revision 2, effective January 1, 1998
Revision 3, effective January 1, 2002
Revision 4, effective January 1, 2005
Revision 5, effective January 1, 2008
Revision 6, effective May 20, 2012
Revision 7, effective July 15, 2012
Revision 8, effective March 17, 2013
Revision 9, effective March 11, 2014
Revision 10, effective November 11, 2015
Revision 11, effective February 17, 2016

Revision 12 of this constitution was prepared and presented by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee
Norman Terrel – Chairperson
Brenda Daskam
Rhett Johnson
Judy Stone
John Travis
Peggy Van Hofwegen

This Constitution is hereby ordained and established for Acton Baptist Church of Granbury, Texas, by vote of the membership on August 25, 2019.

CBL Chairman

Treasurer
Trustee

Finance Committee, Chairman
Trustee

Chairman of the Deacons
Trustee

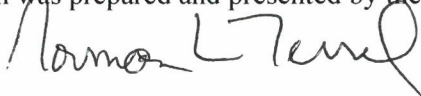
Notarized by:

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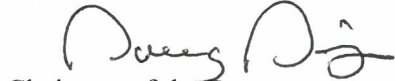
Treasurer

Trustee



Finance Committee, Chairman

Trustee



Chairman of the Deacons

Trustee

Notarized by:

