



Temple Baptist Church of Sullivan, MO  
A Missouri Nonprofit Corporation

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# Constitution



**PREAMBLE**

We, the members of Temple Baptist Church of Sullivan, Missouri, do hereby organize ourselves in accordance with the laws of the State of Missouri, exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes under Chapter 352 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri (2010). This Constitution is neither a substitute for nor a supplement to the Word of God; rather, it is a guide to aid in the application of biblical principles to church polity. The Bible as the Word of God is the first and final authority on all matters of faith and practice (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

**ARTICLE I - NAME AND LOCATION**

This organization shall be known as Temple Baptist Church of Sullivan, Franklin County, Missouri (TBC): a pro-forma incorporated organization whose duration is perpetual.

**ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

TBC exists for the glory of God through lives transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We aim to provide a local church for the spiritual formation of the people in the vicinity of Sullivan, Missouri. Our purpose is carried out through our three core values:

- **We value truth.** We mature in our understanding and application of the truth through devoting ourselves to expository teaching and preaching, diligent study of God’s Word, genuine worship, effective prayer, rightly administered church ordinances (baptism and the Lord’s Supper), devout fellowship, and participating in activities that honor and glorify God.
- **We value spiritual formation** in applying the truth in our daily lives. We strive to be devoted to the life-long process of maturing in our relationship with God.
- **We value missional living** as it pertains to intentionally fulfilling the mission of Jesus in the world by continuing that which He came to do, reconciling people to God. We are sent out into the world to engage the culture in which we live with the Gospel message.

TBC shall have all authority and powers granted to pro forma corporations pursuant to Chapter 352 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, and as otherwise provided by law. TBC may buy, lease, hold and exercise all privileges of ownership over such real or personal property which may be necessary and convenient for the effective operation of this organization. TBC shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of its purpose and core values.

It is expressly declared that TBC does not exist for gain or individual profit; therefore, no part of the net earnings of TBC shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that TBC shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments, reimbursements and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this section.

**ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

TBC reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of The Church and the conditions of such membership. TBC shall receive as a member anyone who is a born-again believer in Jesus Christ, having been baptized by immersion, having met the qualifications set forth in the Bylaws and having been approved by a majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting of The Church.

**ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS**

Pursuant to RSMo. 352.060, the chief officers of TBC are the President, Vice-President, and Secretary of the corporation, and such other officers as deemed necessary by TBC. Officers of TBC shall be elected by the members and shall have such rights and responsibilities as may be granted them by the members to perform spiritual, administrative and/or legal duties on behalf of TBC. Officers shall serve until their term has expired or until removed from office by a majority vote of the membership. For purposes of non-spiritual matters, the President, Vice-president, and Secretary of the Board of Directors shall be deemed the legal equivalents of President, Vice-president, and Secretary of TBC, respectively. No other officers shall have the authority to legally bind TBC.

**ARTICLE V - BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

TBC shall have a Board of Directors, comprised of the Chairpersons of the Finance, Personnel, and Buildings and Grounds Committees as well as the Chairman of the Deacons, three at-large members, Ex Officio members, and such number of members and/or chairpersons of additional committees as may be established in the Bylaws from time to time. At-large members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the members of TBC and shall serve terms of three years on a rotating basis, one member rotating off each year. The Pastoral Staff and Administrative Assistant shall serve as Ex Officio members. The Board of Directors shall have full power and authority to act for TBC between meetings of the members in any and all matters pertaining to TBC’s business, but the Board shall not have power to reverse any action of the members or to do anything contrary to TBC’s Constitution and Bylaws.

**ARTICLE VI - GOVERNMENT**

TBC is a self-governed local body of baptized believers. Ultimate authority lies in Christ as the head of the church and in the Word of God as the basis for faith and practice. In function, the members of TBC will be the final governing authority of The Church and its properties. The members of TBC shall elect trusted and spiritually mature church officers to exercise this authority in guiding the spiritual, administrative, and legal matters of The Church. All matters pertaining to the acquisition and disposition of property remain under the authority of the membership. TBC is not subject to the direction or control of any other ecclesiastical body; however, we do support, for the purpose of doing ministry and missions, the Franklin County Baptist Association, the Missouri Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

**ARTICLE VII - STATEMENTS OF FAITH**

TBC affirms and willingly subscribes to and agrees with the doctrinal statements of The Baptist Faith and Message as currently adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, the Abstract of Principles as adopted by the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the following Articles of Faith. While these statements do not exhaust the extent of our faith, we do believe they accurately represent the teaching of the Bible and, therefore, they are binding upon all members of TBC.

**The Scriptures**

We believe the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God without any mixture of error and, therefore, the final authority for faith and life. The Bible is the essential and infallible record of God's self-disclosure to mankind. All of the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God. Church doctrine, theology and practice must be put to the test of the full counsel of God in Holy Scripture. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; Proverbs 30:5; Joshua 1:8; James 1:22)

**God the Father**

We believe there is but one God who exists eternally as three persons-- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-- each with distinct personal attributes but without division of nature, essence or being. We believe that by His Word and for His glory, God is the Creator, Preserver and Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself all perfections, and being infinite in them all. God is faithful, working all things together for good to those who love Him and offering unfathomable grace in His Son Jesus Christ. He has made all things for the praise of His glory and intends for man, in particular, to live in fellowship with Him. (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Romans 3:24, 8:28)

**The Person and Work of Christ**

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, is the only Son of God. He took upon Himself human nature, thereby existing as fully God and fully man. Through Him all things came into being. He was before all things, and in Him all things hold together. Jesus is perfect in nature, teaching and obedience. Jesus is the only Savior—the only one who can reconcile sinful man to God. Having shed His blood on the cross for our sins, Jesus was buried and literally rose again on the third day, victorious over death and the powers of darkness. After appearing to over 500 witnesses during a 40-day period, the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He makes intercession for His people and rules as Lord over all who are awaiting His return. (Matthew 1:22, 23; John 1:1-5; Hebrews 1:3, 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-7; Acts 1:9-11; Ephesians 1:7-14)

**The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit**

We believe the Holy Spirit convicts men of sin and judgment, thereby making men aware of their need for Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the Agent in regeneration, which changes the heart, enlightens the mind, and renews the nature of man so that he becomes a new creation, desiring to bring glory to the name of Christ. The Holy Spirit unites believers in faith and leads The Church into a right understanding and application of the truth of God's Word. (John 16:7-11; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:9-11; Titus 3:5)

**Man**

We believe God created man in His own image but through Adam's sin, all humanity inherited a sinful nature resulting in rebellion and total opposition to God, and, thus, became the subject of divine wrath. Man is totally depraved, utterly unable to remedy his fallen condition and incapable of returning to God on his own. Fallen, sinful people are lost and without hope apart from salvation in Christ alone. (Genesis 1:26-27; Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 3:22-23, 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12)

**The Gospel**

We believe that the good news of Jesus Christ is revealed in His birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension. Christ's death is a substitutionary atonement and a propitiatory sacrifice to God for our sins. God's holy justice is satisfied and His holy wrath is appeased because of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. This demonstrates God's love and reveals His grace. Jesus Christ is the Gospel; there is no other name by which men must be saved. (1 John 2:2; Romans 5:9; John 3:16; Acts 4:12)

**Salvation**

We believe that salvation is the free gift of God provided by grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone, for the glory of God alone. Salvation is received by a proper response to the Gospel, which includes personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and visible biblical repentance. Neither repentance nor works can save. Unless a person is willing to deny himself, take up his cross and follow Christ, he cannot become His disciple. We believe that all true believers are secure in Christ forever, being kept by God's grace and power, not by any effort of their own. (Romans 1:16, 6:23; Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-10; Titus 3:5; Mark 8:34; John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Romans 8:38-39)

**The Church**

The Church is not a religious institution or denomination. Rather, The Church is made up of those who are genuine followers of Jesus Christ, who is the Head of The Church. Therefore, we believe The Church exists to worship and glorify God and to serve Him by faithfully doing His will on the earth. This involves a commitment to see the Gospel preached and to make disciples. We believe those transformed by the Gospel should participate in the ordinances of The Church and devote themselves to the study of the Word, to fellowship, and to prayer. God has given varied and specific gifts to leaders of the local church to equip the body of Christ for the work of ministry. The body, then, has the opportunity and responsibility to employ their own God-given gifts in His service in relation to one another and to the world. (Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:11-16; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14)

**Last Things**

We believe God, in His own time, will bring the present age to an end. Jesus Christ will return; all will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The present heavens and the present earth will be created anew. (Rev. 22:12-13; John 14:1-3; 2 Peter 3:10)

**ARTICLE VIII - DISSOLUTION**

In the event that the dissolution of TBC should ever become necessary, The Church officers and members shall have full authority to enforce this provision.

**Concerning the Authority to Dissolve:** TBC shall expend reasonable efforts to notify all members of dissolution prior to a meeting called for dissolution of the corporation. Dissolution will require a three-fourths affirmative vote of a quorum of members present at the meeting. The Church officers must file an affidavit of dissolution with the Secretary of State and receive a judgment from the circuit courts officially dissolving the association.

**Concerning the Disposition of Assets:** In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the organization will be turned over to one or more churches or 501(c)(3) religious organizations that reflect the mission, vision, and Statements of Faith of TBC. No person associated with this corporation may derive benefit or gain from this assignment of assets.

**Concerning the Recipient of Assets:** In the event of dissolution, The Church officers, or an authorized group from within the membership, shall propose a worthy recipient or recipients to be approved by a majority vote of those who attend the meeting called for dissolution of the corporation. Should any ministry of The Church be able to continue as a separate corporation, it shall receive priority in this consideration.

**ARTICLE IX - PROVISION FOR BYLAWS**

TBC shall adopt a supplement to this constitution known as the Bylaws as a means of governing the body in an orderly manner (1 Corinthians 14:40), facilitating the work of The Church in worshipping God (John 4:23), nurturing believers (2 Peter 3:18), and declaring the Gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:9). To that end, the Bylaws shall embody the stated qualifications for church officers, the duties of officers, provisions for appointment of additional leaders and teachers, conditions for membership, the method by which members are received, along with other rules and regulations as needed. An operations manual shall cover such items as day-to-day operations and job descriptions for all positions in The Church.

**ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may only be amended by a three-fourths affirmative vote of the members present at the annual members' meeting or a members' meeting called for this purpose. Bylaws adopted by TBC may only be amended by a two-thirds majority vote in a like manner. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors for review at least one month prior to the proposal being recommended to the members of TBC. The original written proposal then must be either read from the pulpit or published in writing for the membership at least one month preceding a vote on the proposed amendment.

**ARTICLE XI - ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION**

This constitution was adopted on May 2, 2012 by a three-fourths majority vote of the members present and voting at a regularly scheduled business meeting of The Church in which a quorum was present. This Constitution supersedes any previous constitutions of TBC.