

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS FOR SHADY GROVE SOUTHERN  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH.

CONSTITUTION  
PREAMBLE

FOR THE MORE CERTAIN PRESERVATION AND SECURITY OF THE PRINCIPALS OF OUR FAITH, AND TO THE END THAT THIS BODY MAY BE GOVERNED IN AN ORDERLY MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE ACCEPTED TENETS OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCHES, AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRESERVING THE LIBERTIES INHERENT IN EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH, AND THE FREEDOM OF ACTION OF THIS BODY WITH RESPECT TO ITS RELATION TO OTHER CHURCHES OF LIKE FAITH AND ORDER, WE DO DECLARE AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION.

I. NAME

THIS BODY SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE SHADY GROVE SOUTHERN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH.

II. ARTICLES OF FAITH

WE ACCEPT THE STATEMENT OF FAITH ADOPTED BY THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION IN 1925 AND PUBLISHED IN A PAMPHLET ENTITLED, THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE, A COPY OF WHICH IS APPENDED TO THIS CONSTITUTION AND A RECORD OF WHICH IS TO BE KEPT IN THE MINUTES OF THIS CHURCH.

III. CHURCH COVENANT

WE ACCEPT THE CHURCH COVENANT THAT IS IN THE CHURCH MANUAL THAT IS KNOWN AS THE BAPTIST CHURCH MANUAL BY J.M. PENDLETON, D.D.

IV. CHARACTER

SECTION I. POLITY- ITS GOVERNMENT IS VESTED IN THE BODY OF BELIEVERS WHO COMPOSE IT. IT IS SUBJECT TO THE CONTROL OF NO OTHER ECCLESIASTICAL BODY, BUT IT RECOGNIZES AND SUSTAINS THE OBLIGATIONS OF MUTUAL COUNSEL AND CO-OPERATION WHICH ARE COMMON AMONG SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCHES. WE BELIEVE IT IS IN KEEPING WITH NEW TESTAMENT TEACHINGS TO CO-OPERATE WITH OTHER SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCHES IN CARRYING OUT COMMISSION OF CHRIST, THIS WE BELIEVE CAN BEST BE DONE BY SUPPORTING REGULARLY AND CONSISTENTLY THE WORLD WIDE CAUSE OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST THROUGH THE CO-OPERATION PROGRAM.

SECTION 2. DOCTRINE- THIS CHURCH RECEIVES THE SCRIPTURES AS ITS ONLY AUTHORITY IN THE MATTERS OF FAITH AND PRACTICE. ITS UNDERSTANDING OF CHRISTIAN TRUTH AS CONTAINED THEREIN IS IN ESSENTIAL ACCORD WITH THE BELIEF OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCHES, AS INDICATED IN THE ARTICLES OF FAITH.