

CONSTITUTION

First Baptist Church of Westcliffe
Westcliffe, Colorado

PREAMBLE

We declare and establish this constitution for the preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and so that this body may be governed in an orderly manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual member of this church and the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other churches of the same faith.

I. NAME

This body shall be known as First Baptist Church of Westcliffe, located at Westcliffe, Colorado.

II. MISSION

The mission of this church shall be to:

1. Provide a place of worshipping God
2. To fulfill the Great commission of our Lord, by the evangelization of the lost both at home and abroad
3. Administer the ordinances of the New Testament, which are baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper
4. Edify the saints of God
5. Minister to man's needs in love so that Christ Jesus can be magnified

III. DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

This church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of the *Baptist Faith and Message* adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention on June 14, 2000.

IV. CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, and this assembly most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its doctrines and discipline; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of this church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to educate children in the Christian faith; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world, exemplary in our conduct; to avoid all gossip, backbiting and slander; and to be slow to anger; and to be temperate in all things that are harmful to body, mind or spirit; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to pray for one another; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with another church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

V. POLICY AND RELATIONSHIPS

The government of this church 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 cooperation, which are common among Southern Baptist Churches of like ¹faith and ²order.

The affiliation of this church shall be with the Royal Gorge Association of Southern Baptist churches, the Colorado Baptist General Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

VI. AMENDMENTS

Changes to this Constitution may be made at any scheduled or called business meeting of the church, provided each proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing at two prior meetings and copies of the proposed amendment(s) made available to each member present.

Amendments to the Constitution require a minimum of two-thirds vote of all members of the church present and voting,

Date approved by the congregation: _____

Approval signatures: Pastor: _____

Administrative Committee Chair: _____

Deacon Chair: _____

¹ **Like Faith:** A church that believes in the same basic doctrines as set forth in this Constitution.

² **Like Order:** A church that believes in the same customary mode of procedure as set forth in this Constitution.