

# CONSTITUTION

Springhill Baptist Church  
of  
Fernandina Beach, FL

## Preamble

We declare and establish this Constitution to preserve and secure the Principles of our Faith and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner. This Constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual member of Springhill Baptist Church and the freedom of action of this body in relation to other churches.

### Article 1: Name

The name of this church shall be Springhill Baptist Church, Inc.

### Article 2: Foundation, Vision, Mission and Purpose

#### 2.1: Foundation

We believe that the foundation of Springhill Baptist Church is the Lord Jesus Christ <sup>1</sup>, and its code of guidance in all its affairs, the Word of God <sup>2</sup>, and this Church does here affirm its faith that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of Almighty God <sup>2</sup>.

Mt 7:24-27<sup>1</sup>

1 Co 3:11<sup>1</sup>

1 Pe 2:6<sup>1</sup>

Mk 13:31<sup>2</sup>

2 Ti 3:16<sup>2</sup>

#### 2.2: Vision

We believe God's vision for Springhill Baptist Church is to be a biblically functioning community of believers; impacting our community, state, nation, and world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mt 5:16

Mt 28: 19, 20

Ac 1:8

## 2.3: Mission

We believe God’s mission for Springhill Baptist Church is to become a biblically functioning community of believers by engaging every member in meaningful: Prayer <sup>1</sup>, Worship <sup>2</sup>, Community <sup>3</sup>, Discipleship <sup>4</sup>, Ministry <sup>5</sup>, and Evangelism <sup>6</sup>.

Jer 33:3 <sup>1</sup>	Mt 6:5-15 <sup>1</sup>	Mt 7:7-11 <sup>1</sup>	Php 4:6 <sup>1</sup>	1 Th 5:17 <sup>1</sup>
2 Sa 22:4 <sup>2</sup>	Ps 18:3 <sup>2</sup>	Mt 8:2 <sup>2</sup>	Mt 9:18 <sup>2</sup>	Mt 14:33 <sup>2</sup>
Mt 15:25 <sup>2</sup>	Mt 28:9 <sup>2</sup>	Mk 5:2,6 <sup>2</sup>	Jn 4:23-24 <sup>2</sup>	Ro 12:1-2 <sup>2</sup>
1 Pe 2:9 <sup>2,6</sup>	Rev 4:9-11 <sup>2</sup>	Rev 5:8-14 <sup>2</sup>	Ro 12:9-21 <sup>3</sup>	Gal 6:2 <sup>3</sup>
Mt 28:19-20 <sup>4,5,6</sup>	Ro 12:3-8 <sup>4,5</sup>	Mt 5:13-16 <sup>5,6</sup>	Jn 4:1-42 <sup>6</sup>	Ac 1:8 <sup>6</sup>
1 Pe 3:15 <sup>6</sup>				

## 2.4: Purpose

We believe the chief purpose of Springhill Baptist Church is to glorify God <sup>1</sup> by a personal faith in the commitment of our lives to the Lord Jesus Christ <sup>2</sup>.

1 Co 10:31 <sup>1</sup>	Eph 1:3-14 <sup>2</sup>	Ro 12:1-2 <sup>2</sup>
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## Article 3: Affirmation of Our Faith

### 3.1: The Word of God

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, and thus the 66 books of the Bible given to us by the Holy Spirit were fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written by Holy men of old under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, from which nothing can be subtracted and to which nothing can be added, and that it is the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

Rev 22:18-19	2 Ti 3:16	2 Pe 1:19-21	Mk 13:31	Jn 8:31-32
Jn 20:31	Ac 20:32			

### 3.2: The Trinity

We believe that there is but one living and true God <sup>1</sup>, an infinite, all-knowing Spirit <sup>2</sup>, perfect in all His attributes, one in essence, eternally existing in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit <sup>3</sup>. When we worship and obey God, we worship and obey all aspects of the Trinity, including the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. <sup>4</sup>

Dt 6:4 <sup>1</sup>	Isa 45:5-7 <sup>1</sup>	1 Co 8:4 <sup>1</sup>	Jn 4:24 <sup>2</sup>	Ge 1:26 <sup>3</sup>
Ge 3:22 <sup>3</sup>	Ge 11:7 <sup>3</sup>	Mt 3:16-17 <sup>3</sup>	Mt 28:19 <sup>3</sup>	2 Co 13:14 <sup>3</sup>
Ps 99:5,9 <sup>4</sup>	Jn 4:23-24 <sup>4</sup>	Ro 6:15-17 <sup>4</sup>	1Pet 1:13-16 <sup>4</sup>	

### 3.3: God the Father

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

Mt 23:9                      Lk 10:21-22                      Jn 3:16                      Jn 6:27                      Ro 1:7  
1 Ti 1:1-2                      1Ti 2:5-6                      1 Pe 1:3                      Rev 1:6

### 3.4: Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, coequal and coeternal with God <sup>1</sup>, as the Godman born of a virgin <sup>2</sup>, sinless in His life <sup>3</sup>; that He died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, as a substitutionary sacrifice for us <sup>4</sup> that all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood and reconciled by His death<sup>5</sup>; that He not only died on the cross for our sins, but that He resurrected bodily for our justification <sup>6</sup>; that He is now at the right hand of God the Father <sup>7</sup>, acting as our High Priest <sup>8</sup> and our Advocate <sup>9</sup> before the Father.

Ps 2:7<sup>1</sup>                      Mt 3:17<sup>1</sup>                      Jn 1:1-3<sup>1</sup>                      Jn 8:58<sup>1</sup>                      Isa 7:14<sup>2</sup>  
Mt. 1:18-25<sup>2</sup>                      Heb. 4:15<sup>3</sup>                      Jn 11:49-51<sup>4</sup>                      Jn 18:14<sup>4</sup>                      Ro 5:6-8<sup>4</sup>  
1 Co 15:3-8<sup>4</sup>                      2 Co 5:14-15<sup>4</sup>                      1 Th 5:9-10<sup>4</sup>                      1 Pe 3:18<sup>4</sup>                      Ro 3:21-30<sup>5</sup>  
Ro 5:9-11<sup>5</sup>                      Ro 4:23-25<sup>6</sup>                      Heb 10:12<sup>7</sup>                      1 Pe 3:22<sup>7</sup>                      Heb 3:1<sup>8</sup>  
Heb 4:14-16<sup>8</sup>                      Heb 5:6-10<sup>8</sup>                      Heb 8:1-6<sup>8</sup>                      Heb 9:11-28<sup>8</sup>                      1 Jn 2:1-2<sup>9</sup>

### 3.5: The Holy Spirit

We believe in the person of the Holy Spirit <sup>1</sup>, coequal and coeternal with God the Father and God the Son <sup>2</sup> and who exists in the world today to reveal the fullness of Christ <sup>3</sup>, convicting the world of sin, of righteousness, and judgment <sup>4</sup>, regenerating <sup>5</sup>, sanctifying <sup>6</sup>, and sealing forever <sup>7</sup> those who have been born again through faith in Jesus Christ <sup>8</sup>. No one can be saved from sin or be born again or attach himself to the Body of Christ without a supernatural activity of the Holy Spirit in his life. <sup>9</sup> Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is the one unforgiveable sin, because it is the Holy Spirit who testifies of Christ and makes His truth known to us. <sup>10</sup>

Jn 14:16-17, 26<sup>1</sup>                      Jn15:26<sup>1,3</sup>                      Ac 2:32-33<sup>1</sup>                      2 Co 13:14<sup>2</sup>                      Jn 16:8-11<sup>4</sup>  
Jn 3:1-8<sup>5,9</sup>                      Tit 3:5-7<sup>5</sup>                      1 Pe 1:2<sup>6</sup>                      Eph. 1:13-14<sup>7,9</sup>                      Eph 4:30<sup>7,9</sup>  
Ro 3:21-26<sup>8</sup>                      1 Co 12:13<sup>9</sup>                      Eph 1:13<sup>9</sup>                      Mt 12: 24-32<sup>10</sup>                      Mk 3: 22-30<sup>10</sup>  
Jn 15:26<sup>10</sup>                      Jn 16:14-15<sup>10</sup>

### 3.6: Man

We believe that man was directly and immediately created by God in His image and likeness. Man was created free of sin with a rational nature, intelligence, volition, self-determination, and moral responsibility to God <sup>1</sup>.

We believe that God's intention in the creation of man was that man should glorify God, enjoy God's fellowship, live his life in the will of God, and by this accomplish God's purpose for man in the world <sup>2</sup>.

We believe that in Adam's sin of disobedience to the revealed will and Word of God, man lost his innocence, incurred the penalty of spiritual and physical death, became subject to the wrath of God, and became inherently corrupt and utterly incapable of choosing or doing that which is acceptable to God apart from divine grace. With no recuperative powers to enable him to recover himself, man is hopelessly lost. Man's salvation is thereby wholly of God's grace through the redemptive work of our Lord Jesus Christ <sup>3</sup>.

We believe that, because all men were in Adam, a nature corrupted by Adam's sin has been transmitted to all men of all ages, Jesus Christ being the only exception. All men are thus sinners by nature, by choice, and by divine declaration <sup>4</sup>.

Ge 2:7, 15-25 <sup>1</sup>	Jas 3:8-9 <sup>1</sup>	Isa 43:7 <sup>2</sup>	Col 1:16 <sup>2</sup>	Rev 4:11 <sup>2</sup>
Ge 2:16-17 <sup>3</sup>	Ge 3:1-24 <sup>3</sup>	Jn 3:36 <sup>3</sup>	Ro 3:23 <sup>3</sup>	Ro 6:23 <sup>3</sup>
1 Co 2:14 <sup>3</sup>	Eph 2:1-9 <sup>3</sup>	1 Ti 2:13-14 <sup>3</sup>	1 Jn 1:8-10 <sup>3</sup>	Ro 1:18-32 <sup>3,4</sup>
Ps 14:1-3 <sup>4</sup>	Jer 17:9 <sup>4</sup>	Ro 3:9-18,23 <sup>4</sup>	Ro 5:10-14 <sup>4</sup>	

### 3.7: Salvation

We believe that salvation is wholly of God by grace on the basis of the redemption of Jesus Christ, the merit of His shed blood, and not on the basis of human merit or works.

Jn 1:12-13	Eph 1:7	Eph 2:8-10	1 Pe 1:18-19
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#### 3.7.1: Regeneration

We believe that regeneration is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which the divine nature and divine life are given <sup>1</sup>. Regeneration is instantaneous and is accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of the Word of God <sup>2</sup> when the repentant sinner, as enabled by the Holy Spirit, responds in faith to the divine provision of salvation. Genuine regeneration is manifested by fruits worthy of repentance as demonstrated in righteous attitudes and conduct. Good works are the proper evidence and fruit of regeneration <sup>3</sup>, and will be experienced to the extent that the believer submits to the control of the Holy Spirit in his life through faithful obedience to the Word of God <sup>4</sup>. This obedience causes the believer to be increasingly conformed to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ <sup>5</sup>. Such a conformity is climaxed in the believer's glorification at Christ's coming <sup>6</sup>.

Jn 3:1-8 <sup>1,2</sup>	Tit 3:5 <sup>1</sup>	Jn 3:36 <sup>2</sup>	Jn 5:24 <sup>2</sup>	Ac 10:44 <sup>2</sup>
2 Co 5:17 <sup>2</sup>	1 Co 6:19-20 <sup>3</sup>	Eph 2:10 <sup>3</sup>	Eph 5:17-21 <sup>4</sup>	Php 2:12 <sup>4</sup>
Col 3:16-17 <sup>4</sup>	2 Pe 1:4-10 <sup>4</sup>	2 Co 3:18 <sup>5</sup>	Ro 8:17 <sup>6</sup>	1 Jn 3:2-3 <sup>6</sup>

### 3.7.2: Justification

We believe that justification before God is an act of God <sup>1</sup> by which He declares righteous those who, through faith in Christ, repent of their sins <sup>2</sup> and confess Him as sovereign Lord <sup>3</sup>. This righteousness is apart from any virtue or work of man <sup>4</sup> and involves the imputation of our sins to Christ <sup>5</sup> and the imputation of Christ's righteousness to us <sup>6</sup>. By this means God is enabled to "be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" <sup>7</sup>.

Ro 8:33 <sup>1</sup>	Lk 13:3 <sup>2</sup>	Ac 2:38 <sup>2</sup>	Ac 3:19 <sup>2</sup>	Ac 11:18 <sup>2</sup>
Ro 2:4 <sup>2</sup>	2 Co 7:10 <sup>2</sup>	Isa 55:6-9 <sup>2</sup>	Ro 10:9-10 <sup>3</sup>	1 Co 12:3 <sup>3</sup>
2 Co 4:5-6 <sup>3</sup>	Php 2:9-11 <sup>3</sup>	Ro 3:20 <sup>4</sup>	Ro 4:6 <sup>4</sup>	Eph 2:8-9 <sup>4</sup>
2 Ti 1:9 <sup>4</sup>	Tit 3:5-7 <sup>4</sup>	Col 2:13-14 <sup>5</sup>	1 Pe 2:24 <sup>5</sup>	1 Co 1:30 <sup>6</sup>
2 Co 5:21 <sup>6</sup>	Ro 3:26 <sup>7</sup>			

### 3.7.3: Sanctification

We believe sanctification is the experience beginning in regeneration by which the believer is set apart to God's purpose, and enables us to progress towards moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us when we are saved. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerated person's life.

1 Co 1:2	1 Co 6:11	Eph 1:4	Eph 5:25-27	Php 1:6
Tit 2:1-10	Heb 2:11	Heb 10:10		

### 3.7.4: Glorification

We believe Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Jn 6:39-40,44	Ro 8:16-17,21-22	1 Co 15:35-58	2 Co 5:1-8	Php 1:23
Php 3:1-21	Col 1:27	1 Th 4:13-18	1 Pe 1:13	1 Jn 3:2-3

### 3.7.5: Grace

We believe that election<sup>1</sup> is the eternal purpose of God<sup>2</sup> according to which He graciously regenerates<sup>3</sup>, sanctifies<sup>4</sup>, and saves sinners<sup>5</sup>. We teach election does not conflict or negate the responsibility of man to repent and trust Christ as Savior and Lord.<sup>6</sup> It is the most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness<sup>7</sup>, and that He is infinitely wise<sup>8</sup>, holy<sup>9</sup>, and unchangeable<sup>10</sup>. It utterly excludes boasting<sup>11</sup>, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, and trust in God. Those whom God has accepted in Christ and sanctified by His Spirit<sup>12</sup> will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end<sup>13</sup>. Believers may fall into sin<sup>14</sup> through neglect and temptation whereby they grieve the Spirit<sup>15</sup>, impair their graces, and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ, and temporal judgment on themselves<sup>16</sup>, yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto Salvation.

Ge 12:1-3 <sup>1</sup>	Duet 7:6-8 <sup>1</sup>	Ps 105:42-43 <sup>1</sup>	Ps 135:4 <sup>1</sup>	Mt 24:22,31 <sup>1</sup>
Mt 25:34 <sup>1</sup>	Jn 15:16 <sup>1</sup>	Jn 17:6-10 <sup>1</sup>	Ac 13:48 <sup>1</sup>	Ro 8:28-30 <sup>1,2</sup>
Ro 9:6-29 <sup>1</sup>	Ro 11:5-7,25-36 <sup>1</sup>	1Co 1:1-2,9,26-30 <sup>1</sup>	Eph 1:3-14 <sup>1</sup>	1Pe 1:1-2 <sup>1</sup>
1 Pe 2:4-10 <sup>1</sup>	Jn 1:12-13 <sup>2</sup>	Ro 8:28-30 <sup>2</sup>	Eph 1:3-11 <sup>2</sup>	Eph 3:1-11 <sup>2</sup>
2Ti 1:9 <sup>2</sup>	Eze 11:19-20 <sup>3</sup>	Jn 3:3-7 <sup>3</sup>	Eph 2:1-10 <sup>3</sup>	Tit 3:5 <sup>3</sup>
Ac 20:32 <sup>4</sup>	Ro 13:14 <sup>4</sup>	1Co 1:18 <sup>4</sup>	1Co 6:11 <sup>4</sup>	Heb 2:11 <sup>4</sup>
Heb 10:10 <sup>4</sup>	Lu 5:31-32 <sup>5</sup>	Lu 15:1-7 <sup>5</sup>	Lu 19:10 <sup>5</sup>	Ro 5:9-10,15 <sup>5</sup>
Eph 2:8-9 <sup>5</sup>	1Ti 1:15 <sup>5</sup>	1Ti 2:3-5 <sup>5</sup>	Tit 3:5-7 <sup>5</sup>	Ez 18:23,32 <sup>6</sup>
Ez 33:11 <sup>6</sup>	Jn 3:18-19, 36 <sup>6</sup>	Jn 5:40 <sup>6</sup>	Ro 9:22-23 <sup>6</sup>	2 Th 2:10-12 <sup>6</sup>
Rev 22:17 <sup>6</sup>	Ps 31:19 <sup>7</sup>	Ps 119:68 <sup>7</sup>	Ro 2:4 <sup>7</sup>	Ro 11:22 <sup>7</sup>
Ps 104:24 <sup>8</sup>	Ro 11:33-36 <sup>8</sup>	Ro 16:25-27 <sup>8</sup>	1Co 1:18-31 <sup>8</sup>	Eph 3:10-11 <sup>8</sup>
Ex 15:11 <sup>9</sup>	Ps 22:3 <sup>9</sup>	Lu 1:49 <sup>9</sup>	1Pe 1:15-16 <sup>9</sup>	Rev 4:8 <sup>9</sup>
Nu 23:19 <sup>10</sup>	Ps 33:11 <sup>10</sup>	Isa 46:9-11 <sup>10</sup>	Mal 3:6 <sup>10</sup>	Jas 1:17 <sup>10</sup>
1Co 1:26-31 <sup>11</sup>	Gal 6:14 <sup>11</sup>	Eph 2:8-9 <sup>11</sup>	2 Th 2:13-14 <sup>12</sup>	1 Pe 1:2 <sup>12</sup>
Lu 22:32 <sup>13</sup>	Jn 3;16,18 <sup>13</sup>	Jn 5:21,24 <sup>13</sup>	Jn 6:37-40,44-45,65 <sup>13</sup>	Jn 10:27-30 <sup>13</sup>
Jn 14:2-3 <sup>13</sup>	Jn 17:11-19 <sup>13</sup>	Ro 8:26-27, 31-39 <sup>13</sup>	1Co 1:7-9 <sup>13</sup>	Php 1:6 <sup>13</sup>
2 Ti 1:12 <sup>13</sup>	Heb 7:25 <sup>13</sup>	Jas 1:12 <sup>13</sup>	1Pe 1:3-9 <sup>13</sup>	1Jn 2:19 <sup>13</sup>
Ju 1,24 <sup>13</sup>	Ps 32:5-6 <sup>14</sup>	Pr 28:13 <sup>14</sup>	Ro 7:13-25 <sup>14</sup>	1Jn 1:5-10 <sup>14</sup>
Eph 4:30 <sup>15</sup>	1 Th 5:19 <sup>15</sup>	1 Sam 8:4-7,19-22 <sup>16</sup>	Ac 5:1-11 <sup>16</sup>	1 Co 5:1-5 <sup>16</sup>
1Co 11:29-32 <sup>16</sup>	1 Jn 5:16-17 <sup>16</sup>			

### 3.8: The Church

We believe the Universal Church of Jesus Christ consists of those who have personally believed on the Lord Jesus Christ<sup>1</sup>, who are born again, and baptized into His Body by the Holy Spirit<sup>2</sup>. These believers constitute the Body or the Bride of Christ<sup>3</sup>.

Mt 16:13-18 <sup>1</sup>	Eph 1:13-14 <sup>1,2</sup>	1 Co 12:13 <sup>2</sup>	1 Co 12:12-27 <sup>3</sup>	Eph 5:25-32 <sup>3</sup>
Rev 19:7-10 <sup>3</sup>	Rev 21:2 <sup>3</sup>			

We believe the Local Church is composed of born again believers who have voluntarily united together for the purposes of worshiping God, ministering to the saints (fellow believers), evangelizing the world, and discipling new believers. In that God the Father raised Jesus from death on the first day of the week, corporately we gather to celebrate the Lord's Day on Sunday. It provides an opportunity for those who are of the same mind in Christ to meet together for the study of God's Word, common prayer, social contact, and mutual uplifting.

Mt 18:17-20	Mk 16:2,9	Ac 2:42-47	Ac 20:7	Ro 12:4-13
Ro 16:3-5,17-24	1 Co 16:2	Col 1:24-26	1 Th 1:1-10	Heb 10:24-25
1 Pe 2:4-10	Rev 1:10			

### 3.9: The Ordinances

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances for the local Church to observe, baptism and the Lord's Supper. Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water into the name of the triune God. The Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. These two ordinances will be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mt 3:13-17	Mt 28:18-20	Mt 26:26-30	Mk 14:22-25	Lk 22:19-20
Ro 6:3-5	1 Co 11:23-26			

### 3.10: Stewardship

We believe God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual<sup>1</sup>; all that we have and are, we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents and material possessions: and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the Glory of God and helping others<sup>2</sup>. According to the Scriptures, Christians shall contribute their tithes and offerings cheerfully, regularly, systematically, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on this earth<sup>3</sup>.

Ps 104:27-28 <sup>1</sup>	Ps 145:15-16 <sup>1</sup>	Eph 1:3 <sup>1</sup>	2 Co 8:9 <sup>1</sup>	Jas 1:25 <sup>1</sup>
Mt 25:14-30 <sup>2</sup>	Ac 4:31-37 <sup>2</sup>	Ac 20:35 <sup>2</sup>	Jas 1:27 <sup>2</sup>	Ge 14:18-20 <sup>2,3</sup>
Le 27:30-32 <sup>2,3</sup>	Nu 18:26-28 <sup>2,3</sup>	Mt 6:1-4 <sup>2,3</sup>	Lk 6:38 <sup>2,3</sup>	Lk 21:1-4 <sup>2,3</sup>
2 Co 9:6-15 <sup>2,3</sup>	2 Co 8:8-24 <sup>2,3</sup>	Mal 3:8-10 <sup>3</sup>	Mt 23:23 <sup>3</sup>	1 Co 16:2 <sup>3</sup>

### 3.11: Christian Conduct

We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of their fellow man; that their conduct should be blameless before the world; that they should be a faithful steward of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.

Jn 14:15, 23-24	Ro 12:1-3	1 Co 4:2	1 Co 10:31	2 Co 9:6-9
Col 1:9-10	Heb 12:1-2	1 Jn 2:3-6		

### 3.12: Religious Liberty

We believe every believer is lead by the Spirit of God and is no longer subject to the Law. He has left Grace free from the doctrines and commandments of men when they are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. <sup>1</sup> However, we need to take care that our Christian liberties do not become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>2</sup>

Mt 5:17-18<sup>1</sup>      Jn 8:31-32,36<sup>1</sup>      Ro 6: 1-2<sup>1</sup>      Gal 5:1, 13, 16, 18, 22-25<sup>1</sup>      1 Co 8<sup>2</sup>  
1 Co 10:23-33<sup>2</sup>      Gal 5:13<sup>2</sup>      1 Pe 2:16<sup>2</sup>

We believe civil government is ordained of God. Therefore, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The Gospel of Christ is the spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends.

Mt 22:21              Ac 4:17-20              Ro 13:1-7              Phil 3:20              1Ti 2: 1-6  
Tit 3:1-11              1Pe 2:12-17              1 Pe 3:8-17              1 Pe 4:12-19

### 3.13: The Family

We believe God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to lead them by a consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Ge 1:26-28              Ge 2:15-25              Ge 3:1-20              Ex 20:12              Dt 6:4-9  
Jos 24:15              1 Sa 1:26-28              Ps 51:5              Ps 78:1-8              Ps127  
Ps128              Pr 1:8              Ps 139:13-16              Pr 5:15-20              Pr 6:20-22  
Pr 12:4              Pr 13:24              Pr 14:1              Pr 17:6              Pr 18:22  
Pr 22:6,15              Pr 23:13-14              Pr 24:3              Pr 29:15,17              Pr 31:10-31  
Ecc 9:9              Mal 2:14-16              Mt 5:31-32              Mt 19:3-9              Mk 10:6-12  
Ro 1:18-32              1 Co 7:1-16              Eph 5:21-33              Eph 6:1-4              Col 3:18-21  
1 Ti 5:8-14              2 Ti 1:3-5              Tit 2:1-8              Heb 13:4              1 Pe 3:1-7

### 3.14: The Last Things

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal joy and contentment of the righteous and the endless suffering of the wicked.

Mt 16:27	Mk 14:62	Jn 14:3	Ac 1:11	1 Co 4:5
1 Co 15:1-58	Php. 3:20-21	2 Ti 4:1	1Th 4:13-18	2 Th 1:7-10
Tit 2:13	Rev 3:12-20	Rev 20:4-6,11-15	Rev 22:7,12,20	

### Article 4: Membership

We believe that Springhill Baptist Church membership shall consist of persons who publicly confess faith on the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, who give evidence of regeneration by living a life consistent with their profession and with the views of faith, doctrine and practice of this Church, who have been baptized by immersion and who have been received into its membership according to the By-Laws of this Church.

Mt 18:17	1 Cor 5: 4, 13	2 Cor 2:6	1 Ti 5: 9-11	Heb 10:23-25
Heb 13:17	1 Jn 2:19			

### Article 5: Leadership and Organization

1. We believe under the authority of Jesus Christ, and the Word of God, the Congregation of Springhill Baptist Church is the final authority within this local Church.

Mt 18:15-20	Ac 15:22
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2. We believe the offices of Springhill Baptist Church shall be Elder and Deacon. Elders and Deacons shall be chosen according to the By-Laws of this Church.

Tit 1:5-9	Php 1:1	1 Ti 3: 1-13	Eph 4:11
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3. We believe the leadership of Springhill Baptist Church shall be vested in the Council of Elders who is responsible to shepherd<sup>1</sup>, lovingly lead<sup>2</sup>, teach<sup>3</sup>, resolve differences<sup>4</sup>, pray for<sup>5</sup>, protect from false teachers<sup>6</sup>, and serve<sup>7</sup> the flock with humility. The Elders shall be equal in authority but may be specialized in function<sup>8</sup>.

Ac 20:17,28 <sup>1</sup>	1 Pe 5:2-3 <sup>1</sup>	1 Ti 3:3-5 <sup>2</sup>	1 Ti 5:17 <sup>2</sup>	1 Th 5:12-13 <sup>2</sup>
Ac 20:28-31 <sup>2</sup>	Heb 13:17 <sup>2</sup>	1Pe 5:1-3 <sup>2</sup>	1 Ti 3:2 <sup>3</sup>	1 Ti 5:17 <sup>3</sup>
Tit 1:9 <sup>3</sup>	Heb 13:7 <sup>3</sup>	Ac 15:1-29 <sup>4</sup>	Ac 16:1-4 <sup>4</sup>	Jas 5:13-15 <sup>5</sup>
Ac 20:17-38 <sup>6</sup>	Tit 1:9-11 <sup>6</sup>	1 Pe 5:2-4 <sup>7</sup>	Heb 13:7 <sup>7</sup>	Ac 14:23 <sup>8</sup>
Ac 20:17,28-31 <sup>8</sup>	Tit 1:5 <sup>8</sup>	1 Pe 5:1-4 <sup>8</sup>		

4. We believe Deacons shall assist the Council of Elders by performing services of advice, administration and implementation.

Ac 6:1-7

### **Our Church Covenant**

1. Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive Jesus Christ as the Lord, Savior, and supreme Treasure of our lives, 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.

2. 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 peace; to promote its spirituality and fruitfulness; to sustain its worship, ordinances, and discipline; to welcome, and test biblically, instruction from the Scriptures by the elders of the church, seeking to grow toward Biblical unity in the truth; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

3. We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to educate our children in the Christian faith; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment, to avoid all tattling, backbiting and unrighteous anger; to seek God's help in abstaining from all practices which bring unwarranted harm to the body or jeopardize our own or another's faith.

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

5. We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will, if possible, unite with a likeminded church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant.

### **Article 6: Revisions, Additions and Amendments**

Adoption -This Constitution shall be considered adopted and shall take place of all other Constitutions when three-fourths (3/4) members present and voting at a Business Conference shall vote in favor. Such vote shall take place after the Congregation has had ample time to read over, and review this Constitution.

Suspension, Amendments or Repeal - This Constitution may be altered, amended, or rescinded by the body of this Church at a Business Conference called for this sole purpose provided that proper notice has been given in writing at least 30 days prior to the Business Conference. Notice of any proposed amendments must be made in writing at least 30 days prior to the date of the consensus affirmation of the membership. During that period any member may express his conviction concerning the proposed amendment by submitting a written statement to the Chairman of the General Council of Elders for consideration. Any of these actions must receive an approval of three fourths (3/4) majority of members present and voting.