

**CONSTITUTION**  
**OF**  
**PRINCE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH**

We, the Members of Prince Avenue Baptist Church (“PABC” or “the Church”), declare and establish this Constitution for the preservation and security of the principles of our Christian faith, and to govern this Church in an orderly manner while pursuing its ministry. This Constitution will guide this Church in conducting ministry locally, nationally, and internationally as God leads.

**ARTICLE I. MINISTRY PURPOSE**

Prince Avenue Baptist Church exists to lead people to trust and follow Jesus Christ. The Church seeks to encourage and equip people to live an upward life of worship, an inward life in community, and an outward life on mission.

**ARTICLE II. STATEMENT OF BASIC BELIEFS**

We voluntarily join ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to lost mankind, and to minister to all. We subscribe to the Baptist Faith & Message 2000, as amended, as the doctrinal statement of the Church. A summary of this doctrinal statement and our core beliefs follows:

1. **The Holy Bible.** We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired, infallible Word of God, and the basis of our beliefs. The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit and is the record of God’s revelation of Himself to man. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 2; Prov. 30:5; Rom 16:25, 26.)
2. **God.** There is only one living and true God, who eternally exists in three distinct Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who co-equally possess one nature and essence. This is the mystery of the Trinity. God the Father reigns with providential care over His universe. Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Holy Spirit is the spirit of God. (Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 13-14, John 14:16-17; 1 Peter 1:2; Philippians 2:5-8; Genesis 1:26; John 10:30, 14:26, John 14:6-14; John 3:16; John 8:48-59; John 16:4-15)
3. **Man.** Man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of His creation. (Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 139:13-16)
4. **Salvation.** Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man and is offered freely to all who surrender to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. Regeneration, or the New Birth, is the work of God’s grace whereby believers become new creatures in Jesus Christ. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God’s purposes. Glorification is

the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed. (John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 30; 6:11; Acts 20:32; Hebrews 10:10, 14; 1 Peter 1:2; Romans 8:29-30)

- a. One must be born again to have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ for the gift of salvation and eternal life through the forgiveness of sin. (John 3:16, 18, 36; John 14:6; John 1:12; John 14:1-31; Acts 4:12)
  - b. A personal relationship with Jesus Christ is the only way to eternal life and heaven. (John 3:16, 18, 36; John 14:6; John 1:12; John 14:1-31; Acts 4:12; Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
5. **Election.** Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. (Romans 8:29-30, 33; Titus 1:1; Colossians 3:12; Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:2; John 15:16; 2 Timothy 2:10; Matthew 24:22)
6. **The Church.** A New Testament Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Holy Spirit and His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the Earth. (Matthew 28:18-20)
7. **Baptism and the Lord's Supper.** The Church practices the two biblical ordinances of the New Testament Church:
  - a) **Baptism:** Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Baptism by immersion after salvation is a prerequisite for membership in Prince Avenue Baptist Church. The Church may receive for Baptism all persons who have surrendered to Jesus Christ as their Savior by personal faith, who profess Him publicly at any worship service, and who indicate a commitment to follow Christ as Lord. The Senior Pastor or his designee shall administer Baptism and may receive assistance from Church volunteers. The Church considers the ordinance of Baptism as an act of biblical obedience, and it shall be administered as an act of worship. However, it is not mandatory for salvation. (1 Peter 3:21; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Acts 22:16; Colossians 2:12; Acts 10:48; John 1:33; John 3:5; Luke 3:16; Mark 16:16; Matthew 3:16; Luke 3:21-22; Ephesians 2:8-9; Ephesians 4:4-6; Acts 2:38-41; John 1:29-33; Matthew 3:11-17; Romans 6:1-18)
  - b) **Lord's Supper:** The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the Church, through partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming. The Church shall regularly observe the Lord's Supper as scheduled and administered by the Senior Pastor or his designee, or, in the absence of the Senior Pastor, a member of the Pastoral Staff. (Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38; Matt. 26: 26-29; Mark 16:16; Acts 8: 12, 36-38; 10:47, 48; 1 Cor. 10: 16, 11.23-25)

8. **The Lord's Day.** The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. (Romans 14:5-10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10)
9. **The Kingdom of God.** The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as king. (Matthew 6:33; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Luke 12:32; Matthew 4:17; Matthew 19:14; John 3:3; Mark 1:15; 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 1:5; Revelation 17:14; Revelation 19:16).
10. **Last Things.** God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end by the visible bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; Matthew 24:14; Revelation 1:7; Matthew 24:43, 44; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; 2:8; Revelation 14:14-20; Revelation 19:11-21; Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6).
11. **Evangelism and Missions.** It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of people from all nations. (Matthew 28:18-20)
12. **Education.** The cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is coordinated with the causes of discipleship, missions, and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 John 3:11; 17-18)
13. **Stewardship.** God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are, we owe to Him. (James 1:17; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Psalm 31:19; Psalm 67:7; Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 8:28; Philippians 4:19)
14. **Cooperation.** Christ's people should, as need arises, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Luke 11:23; Romans 15:5-6)
15. **Social Order.** Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in his or her own life and in human society. (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Psalm 143:1-12; Psalm 40:7-8; John 4:34; John 17)
16. **Peace and War.** It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on Biblical principles. (Romans 12:18)
17. **Religious Liberty.** God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men that are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. (Romans 2:14-16; Acts 24:16; Romans 9:1; Romans 13:15; 1 Timothy 1:5,19; 1 Timothy 3:9)
18. **Essential Beliefs Concerning the Family, Marriage, Sex Outside of Marriage, Same-Sex Relationships, and Gender Identification.** God chose the framework of the family to help us understand authority and His plan for our lives. The structure of the family is vital to grasping the laws, principles, and teachings of the Bible. God instituted the family in Genesis 2:18-23. He instituted marriage between one man and one woman in Genesis 2:24-25. Jesus Christ repeats this definition of the institution of marriage between one man and one woman in Matthew 19:2-9. God desires that the family reproduce and multiply (Genesis 1:27-28). The

only biblically acceptable way this can happen is within the marriage of a biological male and biological female and is the natural order of creation. The previous and following passages from both the Old Testament and New Testament are essential to our beliefs concerning the issues of family, marriage, sex outside of marriage between one man and one woman, same-sex relationships, and gender identification. Prince Avenue Baptist Church and Prince Avenue Christian School, which is a ministry of PABC, seek to follow and adhere to the Scriptures of the Holy Bible in governance and in all matters. This includes the following essential beliefs:

- a. **Marriage.** The word “marriage” means only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the word “spouse” refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife. (Genesis 2:24; Genesis 1:27-28; Matthew 19:2-9; 1 Corinthians 7:39, 10-11; Proverbs 19:14; Ephesians 5:22-33; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-2, 7; Jeremiah 29:6; Proverbs 31:10-31; Ephesians 5:31-33)
- b. **Nature of Marriage.** Marriage is permissible only between one biological man and one biological woman. (Deuteronomy 17:17; Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:2-9; 1 Corinthians 7:2; Romans 7:2-3; Titus 1:6, Genesis 1:27-28)
- c. **Extra-Marital Relations.** Sexual acts or relationships between unmarried individuals of the opposite sex, and sexual acts, relationships, and/or unions between individuals of the same sex are a sin against God and therefore a violation of the Holy Bible and our beliefs. (Matthew 5:32; Matthew 19:9; Mark 10:6-9, 12; Malachi 2:13-16; Romans 7:1-3; Luke 16:18; Hebrews 13:4; Proverbs 6:24-29; 1 Corinthians 6:18; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5; Ephesians 5:5, 25; Proverbs 2:16-19; Leviticus 18:22, 20:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Romans 1; Jude 1:7; 1 Timothy 1:10-11; Genesis 19:1-38; Acts 5:29; Matthew 5:17-19; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8)
- d. **Gender Identification.** A person’s gender is either male or female and shall be determined by anatomical sex at birth or, if needed for identification, the presence at birth of a Y chromosome in males or the absence of a Y chromosome in females. (Mark 10:6; Genesis 2:18; 20-24, Romans 1)

### **ARTICLE III. CHURCH COVENANT**

In obedience to God’s Word, by God’s grace and by the power of the Holy Spirit, all Members of PABC, as defined in the Church’s Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, agree to:

1. Choose by faith to trust and follow Jesus Christ daily.
2. Proactively strive together to lead other people to trust and follow Jesus Christ.
3. Engage in the Discipleship Pathway in order to pursue personal holiness and spiritual growth:
  - Pursue an Upward Life of Worship by consistently attending weekly Sunday morning worship, pursuing intimacy with Jesus Christ through Bible reading and prayer, and responding in obedience to God’s Word.

- Pursue an Inward Life in Community by engaging sacrificially in a small group, giving generously and consistently to the Church, serving in the Church, and praying faithfully for the Church.
  - Pursue an Outward Life on Mission by supporting, praying for, and participating in the local and global ministry efforts of PABC as well as those laborers sent out by PABC.
4. Maintain the unity of the body by refusing to gossip, refraining from speaking or acting in a way that hinders unity, and dealing with conflict in a Biblical manner.
  5. Submit to the care and direction of the Pastoral leadership, knowing that they are charged by God and will give an account of leading, feeding, and protecting the members of the body.

#### **ARTICLE IV. POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS**

The government of the Church is vested in the body of believers who compose its membership. PABC is an autonomous Baptist church operating under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the importance of mutual counsel and cooperation that are common among Southern Baptist churches. Insofar as is practical and in agreement with PABC's purposes and mission, the Church will cooperate with and support the Sarepta Baptist Association, the Georgia Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

#### **ARTICLE V. BYLAWS AND POLICIES**

A supplement to this Constitution, known as The Bylaws of Prince Avenue Baptist Church, will specify the duties for Officers, provisions for appointment of other leaders, and conditions for membership, along with other rules and regulations for church activities as needed. Additional policies may be adopted by the Church from time to time to address other issues, such as financial and personnel policies.

#### **ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS**

Changes in the Constitution may be made at any called Special Business Meeting of the Church, as provided for in the Bylaws. Notification of a change must be sent to the membership at least fourteen days in advance of a meeting to amend the Constitution. A complete copy of the proposed changed document shall be made available to the Church. Amendments to the Constitution shall be adopted by two-thirds vote of Church members present.

This Constitution supersedes all previously adopted Constitutions and was approved and adopted on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, by the members of the Church.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned executes this Constitution on this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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Jan Jernigan, *Secretary*  
Prince Avenue Baptist Church