

# *Covenant of First Baptist Church*

Pastor: Led by the Spirit of God to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and having entered into the fellowship of the Spirit through His Church,

**People: We, the members of the Church, prayerfully make this covenant with one another and with our Heavenly Father.**

Pastor: We respect all faith traditions, but we shall cherish our heritage as Baptist Christians.

**People: We shall hold dear the principles of soul competency, the priesthood of all believers, the autonomy of the local Church, and the Bible as our trusted and authoritative guide in matters of faith and practice.**

Pastor: As a group of gathered believers, we understand ourselves to be a part of a family of faith.

**People: Therefore, we shall love, forgive, admonish, encourage, serve, and pray for one another—always in the spirit of being sisters and brothers in Christ.**

Pastor: Jesus Christ shall be our model for living.

**People: We recognize that none of us shall ever attain his perfection; yet, we shall always strive to grow in likeness of Him. His heart shall be our guide for the way we minister, organize ourselves, conduct our business, and treat others.**

Pastor: We believe that the Church is the body of Christ on earth; therefore, we are the hands of Christ.

**People: Knowing this about ourselves, we shall be satisfied with nothing less than being leaders in Christian service. We can only accomplish this goal by serving more.**

Pastor: Our Master is our example. We know that we serve Christ Himself when we minister to the least, the last, the lost, and the overlooked.

**People: We believe that, on our own, we are not strong enough, wise enough, nor good enough to accomplish our mission as a Church. Therefore, we trust in God's strength, God's wisdom, and God's righteousness to empower us. Only through prayer do we accomplish our mission as a Church.**

*--Adopted by the First Baptist Church of Rome, October 19, 2003*