

First Baptist Church of Maplewood was established in 1944 to accomplish the following objectives:

- To be a dynamic spiritual body empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Christ with as many people as possible in our church, community, and throughout the world. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- To be a worshipping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing His Person, and responding in obedience to His leadership.
- To experience an increasingly meaningful fellowship with God and fellow believers. Helping them grow spiritually in Christ through church programs of Bible teaching, training and education. (Acts 2:42-44)
- To be a church that ministers unselfishly to all persons in the community and world in Jesus' name.
- To be a church whose purpose is to be Christlike in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment of life, personality, and possessions to the Lordship of Christ. (I Thessalonians 2:1-13)

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe that the Holy scripture is the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of God and is the basis for **our** statement of faith. The church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of "The Baptist Faith and Message" as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention. We band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ personally committed to sharing the Good News of salvation to lost mankind. The ordinances of the church are believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper.

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 that are common among Southern Baptist Churches. Insofar as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the association and state convention affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

We, the members of The First Baptist Church of Maplewood, engage to actively support home and foreign missions, Christian education focused on Bible Study, leadership training, and other Christian endeavors, through cooperation with fellow sister churches, the Carey Baptist Association, the Louisiana Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit Of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our 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 pledge, 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 prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, and doctrines; 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. In case of differences of opinion in the church, we will strive to avoid a contentious spirit, and if we can not unanimously agree, we will cheerfully recognize the right of the majority to govern.

We also promise: to maintain family and private devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk uprightly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our lifestyle; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger. We promise not to participate in drunkenness or drunken behavior and to refuse to use alcohol for recreational purposes; to abstain from the use of tobacco and other addictive drugs and to abstain from the sale and use of pornography. We commit ourselves to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further pledge: to guard each other's reputation; 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 Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and, mindful of the commandments of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We moreover promise that when we move from this place, we will, as soon as possible, join some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF MAPLEWOOD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Any person may offer himself as a candidate for membership in this church. Candidates shall consist of such persons who publicly confess Jesus Christ as their personal savior and Lord, and who agree with the doctrines and mission of Maplewood First Baptist Church. A person may join the church through the following ways:

1. By profession of faith and baptism by immersion according to the policies of this church.
2. By promise of letter of recommendation from another Baptist Church of like faith and practice which baptizes by immersion.
3. By a statement of prior conversion experience and baptism by immersion in a Baptist Church when no letter is available.
4. By statement of faith and prior baptism by immersion from non-baptist churches of like faith and practice after review by pastor or deacons.

Maplewood First Baptist church welcomes all men and women who seek to grow in their knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and have a willingness to serve Christ in and through His church.