

## **The Principle of Christ-Centered People in a Christ-Centered Church:**

It's about Jesus. He is the Savior of the bride and the focus of her adoration. He is the Head of the church and its only owner. Let no member think that long service or large gifts impart tenure in an office or control over any part of the ministry.

1

## **The Principle of Grace:**

Grace is when God gives us that which is undeserved. By grace, believers are forgiven of sin, transformed in life, sustained through trouble, and empowered for service. We are so dependent on God's grace, we have no room to look down on others. We see ourselves, in part, as a support group for recovering sinners. We want our church to be a haven of grace.

2

## **The Principle of Biblical Authority:**

While cultures and traditions may change, God's Word is eternal and absolutely reliable in all it affirms. Therefore, the Bible shall have the final say in all the church believes, teaches, and practices. We purpose to teach believers from the Bible in practical terms how to live the Christian life. We will train them in Biblical doctrine and for Christian service.

3

## **The Principle of Prayer:**

No church rises above its prayer life. In the planning process, we will pray and make decisions at the leading of the Holy Spirit, instead of making our plans and then asking God to bless them. It shall be a priority to engage in intercessory prayer.

4

## **The Principle of Evangelism:**

Evangelism is the main work of the whole church until Christ returns. We commit ourselves to intentionally and winsomely sharing the gospel. Because people are most effectively reached for Christ together with others of like interests, we shall identify and concentrate on reaching out to "people groups" within our community, creating new classes and entry points to reach them. We are here to reach the Tallassee area for Jesus Christ.

5

## **The Principle of Missions:**

Missions is evangelism and church planting which crosses cultural boundaries or language barriers. As a part of our commitment to world evangelization, we will support missions with our finances, our prayers, and our participation in mission trips. In our own region, we will help plant new churches to reach people across cultural boundaries.

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## **The Principle of Christian Growth:**

The Christian life is a relationship with Jesus Christ and our goal is to grow closer to Him. We will "feed" our inner life, by spending time alone with God in prayer and in His Word. We will align our attitudes and actions with His holiness, refraining from anything that weakens our resolve for righteousness, such as pornography or the abuse of drugs or alcohol. We will nurture each other's spiritual growth through mutual encouragement and accountability.

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## **The Principle of Unity:**

In its normal state, the church exists in a unity produced by the Holy Spirit. Disunity results from our own selfish motives and actions. As those who live in covenant together, we purpose to preserve this unity by refraining from gossip, critical spirits, and the misuse of social media.

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## **The Principle of Every Member Ministry:**

It is every member's responsibility to promote the mission, protect the reputation, and ensure the success of the church. The role of the ministerial staff is to equip church members for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12), as the whole church is the body of Christ, not just the pastor and staff. We are committed to helping members discover their spiritual gifts and mobilizing every member in service to Jesus Christ.

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## **The Principle of Christian Worship:**

Worship isn't about the style of music or the order of worship or a performance to be enjoyed. In worship, the church gathers to glorify God for His greatness, delight in His goodness, and acknowledge His righteousness. It is opening our hearts to God and surrendering ourselves to do the will of God. It adores God from one's spirit and with one's mind. Worship involves both joyful celebration and reverent contemplation; we will do both through Jesus Christ.

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## **The Principle of the Christian Family:**

**We purpose to support and uphold the ideal of the Christian home. A Christian marriage involves a man and woman, both believers, living according to biblical principles, committed to each other exclusively for life, and seeking to rear godly children.**

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## **The Principle of Stewardship:**

**The Bible teaches that everything in our lives belongs to the Lord and that we are to manage His resources in His way. These resources include our time, abilities, and finances. Foremost, we are stewards of the gospel. In regard to giving, the tithe is the starting place. We owe God a tithe; offerings are expressions of worship above the tithe. We believe in "storehouse tithing"—giving the first ten percent through the general church budget.**

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## **The Principle of Denominational Affiliation:**

**We are Southern Baptists because we hold the same biblical teachings in common. We cooperate on a voluntary basis with the Elmore Baptist Association, the Alabama Baptist State Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention. We are neither owned nor are we a franchise of any of the three. Insofar as is practical in fulfilling our mission and as long as these bodies hold to biblical truth, we will work with them in voluntary cooperation. Our partnership reduces waste and duplication. We can do more together than we can apart.**

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