

CONSTITUTION
First Baptist Church of Owego, New York
effective January 23, 2005

ARTICLE I – NAME AND INCORPORATION

The First Baptist Church of Owego, NY (referred to herein as The Church) was formally organized on September 28, 1831 and incorporated under the Laws of New York State on January 10, 1832.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this Church shall be: to witness for Christ and propagate the Faith and Gospel; to develop Christian Character; to serve our fellow man, to provide Christian Fellowship; to maintain public Worship; to seek cooperation and fellowship with all churches that are loyal to Jesus Christ as divine Lord and Savior; to be opposed to disorder and injustice; to encourage evangelistic activity and promote the expansion of God's Kingdom on earth using the New Testament as the rule of our faith and practice. The Church has no statement of creed apart from the New Testament.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

The membership shall consist of persons who have professed faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, who are in accord with the faith, practices, bylaws and constitution held by this Church, and who have been accepted by vote of the Church Congregation as specified in The Church Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV – POWERS RESERVED UNTO THE MEMBERSHIP

The following powers are reserved unto the Congregation and shall be exercised at a duly constituted Business Meeting, called in the manner as set forth in The Church Bylaws.

1. Buying, selling, mortgaging, or leasing of real property.
2. Amending the Church Constitution or Bylaws.
3. The calling or dismissing of the Pastor or Assistant Pastor.
4. Approval of the annual budgets for the General Fund and for the Benevolence/Mission Fund.
5. Election of Executive Council members and other officers as specified in the First Baptist Church of Owego Bylaws.
6. Accepting new members.

ARTICLE V – ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1 – The government of this Church is vested solely in the body of believers who constitute its membership. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body.

SECTION 2 -- Church governance shall be provided by a single board, called the Executive Council, elected by the church congregation according to the First Baptist Church of Owego Bylaws. For all legal matters the Executive Council members shall be designated as the Trustees of the Corporation. The Executive Council shall hold title to all property belonging to the church. The Executive Council shall have authority in all church matters not specifically reserved unto the membership in Article IV or excluded or limited by The Church Bylaws. As specified in The Church Bylaws the Executive Council shall establish subordinate boards or committees and delegate responsibilities and authority to them. By vote of the congregation at a Business Meeting additional authority or limitations of authority may be assigned to the Executive Council temporarily up to the time of the next Annual Business Meeting.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Members of the Executive Council shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting and shall consist of from 3 to 18 members. A majority of the Executive Council members shall be members of the church. The election and terms of office of Executive Council members shall be in accordance with New York State law and as specified in The Church Bylaws. The church shall also elect such other officers as specified in The Church Bylaws and any others deemed to be required at the Annual Business Meeting.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Regular weekly worship services will be held as specified in The Church Bylaws.

An Annual Business Meeting will be held each year to elect officers and to transact Official Church business. Other meetings may be called and conducted as set forth in The Church Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII – CHURCH YEAR

The Church year for all program and fiscal purposes shall be the calendar year, January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

Amendments or a revision to this Constitution may be made at any regular Business Meeting of the church, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given at the regular Business Meeting, next, preceding.

All amendments and revisions shall be by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all Members present and voting, provided there is a quorum consisting of the lesser of 18 members or 20% of the active membership of The Church.