

**CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
ITALY, TEXAS**

CONSTITUTION

Preamble

We declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern this body in an orderly manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in its relationship to other church bodies.

Article I Name

This body shall be known as Central Baptist Church of Italy, Texas, located in Ellis County, Texas, organized in 1903, which is incorporated under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, Article 1396-1.01, with its office and principal place of business at the church meeting place at 113 S. Ward Street, P.O. Box 750, Italy, Texas, 76651-0750.

Article II Purpose, Mission, and Vision

Purpose - The purpose of this church is to support the public worship of God, to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, to minister to the needs of others, to disciple its members, and to love each other as God loves us.

Mission - The mission of this church is to bring glory and honor to God by sharing the love of Jesus Christ with all people. "Living and Sharing Christ's Love"

Vision - The Vision of this church is to fulfill the mission of Living and Sharing Christ's Love by Growing, Serving and Going. Our desire is to Grow in Christ, Serve the community, and Go to the world with the gospel.

Article III Statement of Faith

The Holy Bible is the inspired word of God and is the basis for our statement of faith. This church subscribes to "The Baptist Faith and Message", as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000 (see www.sbc.net). We voluntarily band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ committed to sharing the good news of salvation with all mankind. The ordinances of the church are baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Article IV Covenant

Having been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and to give up ourselves to Him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, do solemnly and joyfully renew our covenant to each other.

We will work together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in this church as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. We will 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.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

Article V Character

Polity - The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. Persons duly received by the members shall constitute the membership. All internal groups created and empowered by the church shall report to and be accountable only to the church, unless otherwise specified by action of the church.

Relationships - This church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches. In so far as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the Ellis Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Southern Baptist Convention, and with any others as the church may decide.

Dissolution - The assets of this church are pledged for use in performing its religious functions. On discontinuance of this church by dissolution or otherwise, its assets are to be transferred to the Ellis Baptist Association and/or its assigns which qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article VI Amendments

Changes in the constitution may be made at any regular business meeting provided each amendment shall have been presented in writing at the previous business meeting and copies of the proposed amendment shall have been mailed to each resident member at least two weeks before the vote is taken. Amendments to the constitution shall be approved by at least two-thirds (2/3) vote of the resident church members present and voting.

This Constitution was approved by CBC on March 17, 2004.

The Mission Statement (Article II) was amended & approved on October 10, 2010. The Vision Statement (Article II) was added & approved on October 10, 2010. The Statement of Faith (Article III) was amended & approved on November 14, 2010.