

Motion to amend the Baptist Faith and Message with a new section.

after XVIII Religious Liberty add:

"XIX Covenant Marriage

Covenant marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church, and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel for sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. We believe that Ephesians 5:21-33 is the normative expression of covenant marriage.

First Baptist Church Athens believes that the Bible mandates that sexual activity is to be enjoyed exclusively between a man and a woman that have been joined together in covenant marriage. All other sexual activity is a violation of biblical standards."

Motion to amend the personnel handbook.

"The staff of First Baptist Church, Athens are exclusively allowed to facilitate (officiate, perform/lead in the ceremony, use church equipment) covenant marriage as defined in our statement of faith. In addition, ministers of First Baptist Church, Athens, acting in that role, are exclusively authorized to sign Covenant Marriage Certificates. The certificates will include the vows the couples made in the wedding ceremony and be signed by the couple and witnesses.

All employees of First Baptist and its affiliates, (including, but not limited to The Treehouse, and Athens Christian Academy) will be held to the standard of covenant marriage as defined by our statement of faith. Violation of of these standards will be cause for termination."

Motion to amend the Rental Policy

The facilities of First Baptist Church, Athens are frequently open for use/rental. Use/rentals are subject to the church schedule and the availability of support staff. In addition, organizations or individuals who are in direct conflict with our sincerely held beliefs will not be allowed to rent/use the facilities as the facilities primary use is for worship and the teaching of scripture.

Motion to direct the directors of the Treehouse and Athens Christian Academy

We move that the Treehouse Board and the School Board of Athens Christian Academy recognize in their personnel handbooks the articulation of these historically held sincere religious beliefs. We further direct that all employees receive updated personnel handbooks.