

The Foundation of First Baptist Church – Our Inaugural Document

After a significant event at Little Bonne Femme Church, that will be explained in another installment, the Jewell Family gathered several others and met at 4th Street and Broadway, the approximate location of the current Shiloh's, to form their own church. The following is a transcription of the inaugural document establishing Columbia Church. The original document is currently in the Church archives.

Columbia, Saturday 22nd November 1823

We whose names are above enrolled being regularly baptized & in the neighborhood of Columbia Boone County Missouri have this day & date above named in conformity with a previous appointment met at the house of brother Charles Hardin's in order to consider of the propriety of uniting together & becoming a church & have also agreed to become a church under the following articles of constitution.

- 1st. We believe in one only true and loving God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost and these three are one.
 2. That the scriptures of the old and new testaments are the word of God and the only rule of faith and practice.
 3. We believe that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world.
 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin and in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature either in whole or in part by his own free will and ability.
 5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them.
 6. We believe that God's elect shall be called, converted, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit during his life.
 7. We believe that the saints shall be saved by grace and never finally fall away – and that good works are the fruits of faith and follow after justification.
 8. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ and that true believers are the only proper subjects and that baptism is immersion.
 9. We believe in the resurrection of the body and general judgement and that the punishment of the wicked and joys of the righteous will be eternal.
 10. We believe that ministers have no right to the administration of the ordinances only such as are regularly baptized ordained an (*sic*) set forward (*sic*) to the work of the ministry.
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- 1st. We were constituted by Elders David Doyle, Thomas Henson and Anderson Woods and the brethren present and have agreed to be called and known by the name of Columbia Church.
 2. The church have agreed to have their meetings on the 4th Saturday and succeeding Sunday in each month.
 3. The church have appointed brethren Barnet, Hardin and Phillips to prepare rules of decorum against our meeting in course.
 4. The church have agreed for our next meeting to be at the Court House.

And then adjourned

Hiram Phillips C pro (*Clerk pro-temp*)