

## MISSION STATEMENT

**CALLING** - We are called, by Holy Scripture and the Holy Spirit, to challenge all people to be fully devoted followers of Christ. Our calling includes both introduction to and encouragement to remain in a life of full devotion to Jesus Christ. (Colossians 3:17) We are charged with encouraging, equipping, serving and sustaining Christians. We do this by directly instilling our Christian philosophies, values, missions and goals in church members.[1] Liturgical religious activities (e.g. preaching, worship services, Bible instruction, communion, baptism), as well as non-liturgical religious activities (e.g. mentorship, service opportunities, events, community involvement) all serve as methods that the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV) utilizes to instill our religious values and beliefs, both expressly and by example.[2] Guided by Holy Scripture and the Holy Spirit, non-liturgical ministries are grounded in *What We Believe* (our Statement of Faith), the *Statement on Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage, and Sexuality*, the *Facility Use Policy*, the church *Constitution*, church *By-laws*, the *Commitment of Christ's Servant in the Local Church* service agreement, and the *Membership Matters* member handbook of the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV) and are therefore subject to all of its ministerial, membership, discipline, and excision policies.

**COMMUNITY** - We believe that our religious activity and religious worship derives meaning in large measure from participation in a larger religious community. For this reason, individual members of our body play a large role in furthering our mission and viewpoint as a church.[3] We exist to foster a Christ-like environment of persons subscribing to our religious beliefs and faith.[4] the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV) is dedicated to serving and providing for its community, not simply engaging in organized worship.[5] (Galatians 6:10)

Associating with like-minded Christians reinforces the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV)'s Christian purpose and is vital to our faith's perpetuation.[6] (2 Corinthians 6:14; 2 John 1:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:33) We are committed to being and making disciples who understand what it means to follow Jesus Christ into a life of worship, fellowship, sacrifice, service and being led by the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8; John 15:16; Mark 16:15) Therefore, we are also called to enable and equip the uncommitted and opposed to be fully devoted followers of Christ. (Colossians 4:5-6; Psalm 96:3) Our mission as the body of Christ is to participate, share, and encourage each other toward spiritual growth. (1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:23-25; Colossians 3:16) Membership in our church requires a tangible commitment to our beliefs, purposes, and mission as outlined in the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV) Membership Policies, teachings, doctrines, Bylaws, Constitution, Purpose Statement, Facility Use Policy and Statements of Faith of the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV) – and are therefore subject to all of its ministerial, membership, discipline, and excision policies, which are incorporated herein by reference, as if fully set forth herein.

**EXPRESSION OF FAITH** - the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV) intends to transmit our system of religious beliefs, tradition, Christian morals, reverence, and values. [7] We do so by engaging in the community and individuals' lives, acts of worship, and through all

activities in which we participate.[8] Likewise, we believe that all behavior of members and representatives of the church is communicative in nature, exemplifying and expressing our faith, both publicly and privately.[9] (1 Peter 2:12) Any member or representative who propounds a point of view contrary to our beliefs as stated in our Purpose Statement, Bylaws, and Statements of Faith, which are incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth herein, will impair the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV)'s integrity and ability to disseminate its religious views and message.[10] (James 4:4; 1 Corinthians 5:11-12)

**OUTREACH OF MINISTRIES** - We take very seriously the Church's charge to be a Christian presence in a secular world.[11] (Matthew 5:14-16) Therefore, all activities that the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV) engages in are intended to further its religious purpose, as stated in our Purpose Statement. As such, all of our ministries are considered an outgrowth of the mission of the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV) to preach, teach, evangelize and instill the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.[12]

[1] See *Circle Sch. v. Pappert*, 381 F.3d 172, 182 (3d Cir. 2004).

[2] See *Boy Scouts of Am. v. Dale*, 530 U.S. 640, 655-656 (2000).

[3] See *Corporation of Presiding Bishop of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints v. Amos*, 483 U.S. 327, 342 (1987) (Brennan, J., concurring in judgment); *Roberts v. United States Jaycees*, 468 U.S. 609, 622 (1984).

[4] See *Boy Scouts of Am.*, 530 U.S. at 654.

[5] See *Amos*, 483 U.S. at 344 (Brennan, J., concurring).

[6] See *HEB Ministries, Inc. v. Tex. Higher Educ. Coordinating Bd.*, 235 S.W.3d 627, 659-660, (Tex. 2007).

[7] See *Boy Scouts of Am.*, 530 U.S. at 655-56 (quoting *Roberts*, 468 U.S. at 636).

[8] See *Boy Scouts of Am.*, 530 U.S. at 655-56.

[9] See *id.* at 648; *Spencer v. World Vision, Inc.*, 633 F.3d 723, 734 (9th Cir. 2011); *Univ. of Great Falls v. NLRB*, 278 F.3d 1335, 1343 (D.C. Cir. 2002); *Universidad Cent. de Bayamon v. NLRB*, 793 F.2d 383, 399-400 (1st Cir. 1985).

[10] See *Boy Scouts of Am.*, 530 U.S. at 643 (quoting *Hurley v. Irish-American Gay*, 515 U.S. 557, 576-577 (1995)).

[11] See *Little v. Wuerl*, 929 F.2d 944, 945-46 (3d Cir. 1991).

[12] See *Hall v. Baptist Mem'l Health Care Corp.*, 215 F.3d 618, 622 (6th Cir. 2000); *Cline v. Catholic Diocese*, 206 F.3d 651, 655-56 (6th Cir. 1999).