

FAITH FELLOWSHIP CHURCH CONSTITUTION

I. Name and Purpose:

Faith Fellowship Church is committed to the worship of God which includes prayer, the propagation of the Gospel, the study of the Word of God, the assistance to those in need, the promotion of fellowship, and such other purposes as are specified in the Holy Bible for a New Testament Church.

II. Articles of Faith:

A. The Scriptures: We believe in the inerrancy of Scripture as the Word of God, complete in and of itself, as found in the original manuscripts of both the Old and New Testaments. We also believe that God is the Author, writing through men.
II Tim. 3:16, 17, II Pet. 1:19-21, Rev. 22:18-19.

B. The Trinity: We believe there is one, and only one living and true God; that the Scriptures reveal God as eternally existing and manifesting Himself in three (3) Persons -- the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe that all three (3) Persons of this Divine Trinity are equal in every aspect but carry out distinct functions.
Gen. 1:1-3, Ex. 20:2-3, I Cor. 8:6, Matt. 3:16-17, Rev. 4:11, Jn. 1:1-3, 5:7, 19:30, II Cor. 13:14.

C. Jesus Christ: We believe Jesus Christ to be God the Son. He was 100% God, and 100% man. We believe that He was born of a virgin, that He lived His life without sin, that He died as the substitutionary payment for our sin, and that He restored us to fellowship with God. We believe that He was physically raised from the dead, and is now in the presence of God as our Intercessor and High Priest.
Jn. 1:1-2, Phil 2:6, Gen. 3:15, Is. 7:14, Matt. 1:18-25, Luke 1:35, Jn. 1:14, Eph. 2:8, Acts 15:11, Rom. 3:24, Jn. 3:16, Matt 18:11, Phil 2:7, Heb. 2:14, Is. 53:4-7, Rom. 3:25, I Jn. 4:10, I Cor. 15:3, II Cor. 5:21, Jn 10:18, Phil. 2:8, Gal. 1:4, I Pet. 2:24, I Pet. 3:18, Is. 53:11, Heb. 12:2, I Cor. 15:20, Is. 53:12, Heb. 9:12-15, 7:25, I Jn. 2:2, Matt. 28:6-7, Luke 24:39, Jn. 20:27, I Cor. 15:4, Acts 1:9-11, Luke 24:51, Mark 16:19, Rev. 3:21, Heb. 8:6, I Tim. 2:5, I Jn. 2:1, Heb. 2:17.

D. The Second Coming: We believe in the personal Return of Jesus Christ, and that it will be revealed in three stages: 1- the Rapture of the Saints, 2- His Premillennial Return to Earth, and 3- His millennial reign on Earth.
Jn. 14:1-3, Thess. 4:13-18, I Cor. 15:50ff, Acts. 1:11, James 5:8, Heb. 9:28, Lk. 1:32, Is. 9:6-7, Acts 2:39-30, I Cor. 15:25, Is. 32:1, 11:4-5, Ps. 72:8, Rev. 20:1-4,6.

E. The Holy Spirit: We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, not merely a force; equal with God the Father and God the Son and possesses the same nature. He is responsible primarily to empower followers of Jesus to live every day for God.
Jn. 14:16-17, Mt. 28:19, Heb. 9:14, Jn. 14:26, Lk. 1:35, Gen. 1:1, II Thess. 2:7, Jn. 16:8-11, 15:26,27, Acts. 5:30-32, Jn. 3:5,6, Eph. 1: 13-14, Mk. 1:8, Jn. 1:33, Acts. 11:16, Lk. 14-49, Jn. 16:13, 14:26, Rom 8: 14-16, II Thess. 2:13, I Pet. 1:22, Rom. 8:26-27, Rom. 12, I Cor. 12.

F. Satan: We believe in the reality of Satan (the Devil) and that he actively and aggressively works at destroying and hindering God's work on earth. As a creation of God he must ultimately submit to God's authority over him. His destiny is sure - - eternity in the Lake of Fire.

Matt. 4:1-11, Mk. 1:13, II Cor. 4:44, Eph. 2:2, Rev. 20:10, Is. 14.

G. The Creation: We believe in the Genesis account of Creation (in seven days) as literal, true, accurate and scientific and reject any other theories.

Gen. 1 & 2, Col., 1:16-17, Jn. 1:3, Gen. 1:27, 2:7.

H. The Fall of Man: We believe that Adam was created sinless, but that he willfully chose to break God's law, thereby bringing sin into the world. As a consequence, all mankind became law-breakers and stand "guilty" before God, deserving of punishment, and therefore have been sentenced to "death" (eternal separation from God).

Gen. 3:1-6, Rom 5:12, 19, 3:10-19; 1:18, 20, 32, Eph 2:1-3, Gal. 3:22.

I. The New Birth: We believe that Salvation (the only escape from our "death" sentence) is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and that it is available to all who believe in the substitutionary death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and who acknowledge Him alone as Lord and Savior.

Jn. 3:3, Gal. 3:26, Acts 16:31, II Cor. 5:17, I John 5:1, Jn. 3:6-7, II Pet. 1:4, Rom 6:23, Eph. 2:1, II Cor. 5:19, Col 2:13, Jn. 3:8, 12-13, Gal. 5:22, Eph. 5:9.

J. Justification: We believe that upon Salvation the Believer is justified, such justification including; the pardon of sin, the impartation of righteousness, the endowment of eternal life, and the status of a new creation. This justification is accomplished solely through faith in Jesus' death; His righteousness is credited to us on His merits, not our own works. Acts 13:39, Is. 53:11, Zech. 13:1, Rom 8:1, 5:1,9, Tit. 3:5-7, Rom. 1:17, Hab. 2:4, Gal. 3:11, Rom 4:1-8, Heb. 10:38.

K. Sanctification: We believe that Sanctification is the process by which God gives to us His Holiness: that it is a progressive work that begins at the New Birth (salvation) and continues in our hearts by the work of the Holy Spirit in connection with Bible study, self examination and repentance of sin, watchfulness and prayer - only to be completed upon the Return of Christ.

I Cor. 6:11, II Pet. 3:18, I Thess. 3:12, I Jn. 3:2.

L. Eternal Security: We believe that God will never disown those who are truly born again, as manifested by a life of serving Christ.

Jn. 6:36-40, 10:27-39, I Cor. 1:4-8, I Pet. 1:5, Phil 1:6, Jude 1, Rom. 8:35-39, Rom. 13:13-14, Gal. 5:13, Tit. 2:11-15.

M. The Christian Life: We believe that all Believers should live in such a manner as to enhance their testimony as ambassadors for Christ, and to not bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; this life includes obedience to Scriptural principles of living.

II Tim. 3:1-5, Rom. 12:1-2, 14:1-3, I Jn. 2:15-17, II Jn. 9-11, II Cor. 6:14, 7:1.

N. The Two Natures: We believe that every Believer possesses two natures: spiritual and carnal, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural.

Rom. 6:13, 8:12, Gal. 5:16-25, Eph. 4:22-24, Col 3:10, I Pet. 1:14-16, I Jn. 3:5-9.

O. The Local Church: We believe that the local church is a servanthood association of born-again Believers equal in rank and privilege, subject to the Word of God, observing the directives of Christ, and therefore no hierarchy of individuals or organizations holds absolute right over us. On all matters of memberships; of policy, of government; of discipline and benevolence, the will of the local Church, as led by scripture, is final.

Acts. 2:41-42, I Cor. 11:2, Eph. 1:22-23, Acts. 20:17-18, I Tim. 3:1-7, Col. 1:18, Eph. 5:23, I Pt. 3:21, Matt. 28:18-20.

P. Baptism: We believe God's Word commands every believer, and only believers, to be baptized by the immersion of the believer in water. Baptism, while NOT necessary for salvation, is a beautiful outward symbol of our inward faith and public identification with the crucified Savior who was buried and rose again.

Acts. 8:36-39, Jn. 3:23, Matt. 3:16, I Pt. 3:21, Matt. 28:18-20.

Q. Communion: We believe that the Lord's Supper is the remembrance of His Death until He comes, and that it should be observed by Believers in recognition of His broken body and shed blood. Communion must always be preceded by self examination. It is NOT necessary for salvation.

I Cor. 11:23-28, Matt. 26:17-30.

S. Evangelism: We believe that it is the solemn obligation and privilege of all believers to do their utmost to carry out the Savior's command to give the Gospel to the whole world. This is accomplished through verbalizing of our beliefs, leading a life which exemplifies our beliefs, following the Holy Spirit's leading, and supporting fellow believers' evangelistic efforts through prayer, finances and exhortation.

Eph. 4:12, Mk. 16:15, Acts. 1:8, Matt. 28:19-20.

T. The Resurrection: We believe that all those who have been truly born-again will be resurrected at the Rapture of the Church to eternal fellowship with the Lord; and that their works shall be rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ (Bema Seat); and they shall reign and judge with Him in the Millennium. We believe that those who are not born-again will be resurrected at the Great White Throne Judgment where they will be judged and thrown into the Lake of Fire for eternity.

Mal. 3:18, Rom 6:17-18, Rom 5:1, I Thess. 4:13-18, I Cor. 15:42-44, 52, II Cor. 5:10, I Cor. 3:11-15, Jn. 8:21, Matt. 7:13-14, Jn. 5:28-29, Lk. 16:25, Mk. 9:32-48, Rev. 20:11-15.

III. Church Covenant:

As believers and followers in our Lord Jesus Christ we purpose by the aid of the Holy Spirit who indwells us, to:

- 1) Love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.
- 2) Read, study, obey and apply the principles found in His Word.
- 3) Love one another as He loves us.

IV. Church Membership:

- A. The membership of this church shall consist of individuals who have accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior and who have been baptized by immersion in water, and who are in complete agreement with the Church Covenant, Articles of Faith, and Church Constitution. Candidates for membership must have the full approval of the Board of Elders before being recommended to the Church. Admission of new members may be in one of the following ways: 1) by profession of faith in Jesus Christ and testimony of baptism by immersion, 2) by letter from a church of like faith and practice, or 3) by restoration. Acceptance into membership shall be by majority vote at any regularly scheduled church service. The Membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members. Membership can be terminated by 1) death, 2) transfer of letter, or 3) resignation. The Pastor(s) and spouse(s) shall automatically become members upon employment with the Church.
- B. Membership shall be divided into four categories; 1) voting members - any member 18 years or older who is in good standing, 2) Youth Members - any member between the ages of 12 and 18 who are in good standing, 3) Watchcare Members - any member in good standing who is out of town more than six months of the year, (these members are allowed to vote when they are living in town) and 4) Probationary Members - any member who has their voting privileges suspended.
- C. Discipline - Faith Fellowship Church will always seek to reconcile and restore members who have broken fellowship with the body. In the event that restoration has proven unsuccessful, the Board of Elders has the right to pursue the Biblical disciplinary process:
- 1) Private confrontation.....if no repentance, then #2.
 - 2) Witnessed confrontation.....if no repentance, then #3.
 - 3) Congregational confrontation.....if no repentance, then #4.
 - 4) Separation from the Church until repentance occurs.
- D. Restoration
- 1) A disfellowshipped member(s) must present his/her desire to an Elder of the church regarding their restoration to the body of Faith Fellowship Church.
 - 2) This announcement should be both verbal and in writing.
 - 3) The Elder will set up the individual(s) to meet with a specified mentor for a

- specified period of time when (once a week) they will study the Word of God.
- 4) If there is an outside counselor, Board of Elders will remain in contact with counselor.
 - 5) At the conclusion of the time in Bible study, the mentor will either commend or not commend the individual(s) to the Board of Elders for restoration.
 - 6) Upon commendation, the Board of Elders will meet with the individual(s) at which time he/she will:
 - a) Confess the sin.
 - b) Profess repentance of the sin.
 - c) State the correction God has provided in their lives regarding this sin.
 - 7) Individual(s) will then be given opportunity to stand in front of congregation at a meeting prescribed by the Pastor, at which he/she will:
 - a) Confess the sin.
 - b) Profess repentance of the sin.
 - c) State the correction God has provided in their lives regarding this sin.
 - 8) At this point the congregation of Faith Fellowship Church will be given the opportunity to welcome the individual(s) back into a restored relationship.

II Corinthians 2:6,7 – “This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow.”

V. Church Meetings:

Services

The Church shall have regular services. In addition, Special Services may be conducted from time to time as the Pastor and Board of Elders deem necessary.

Business Meetings

A. Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting shall be conducted after the end of the fiscal year (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31). The Annual Meeting shall be conducted to determine; 1) Church Budget, 2) Approval of Officers, and 3) any specific Ministry decisions for which the Board of Elders does not have the authority to act without a church vote. The Annual Meeting shall also be conducted to present and analyze the reports of various organizations within the church.

B. Special Meetings

Special Meetings may be called by the Pastor and/or the Board of Elders by announcing both the date and agenda two Sunday morning services in advance.

C. Quorum

All church business may be conducted at a properly called meeting if the meeting is attended by 25 percent of the membership. A majority vote of those present and

qualified to vote will be adequate to determine direction, establish policy, and make decisions.

VI. Church Government:

A. Style of Government:

The Church shall be Elder directed in its style of government. The Board of Elders are responsible for the leadership of the Church and the Church is expected to follow that leadership unless it violates the Word of God or related precepts.

B. Committees and Appointments

The Board of Elders can appoint ministry Directors as needed.

VII. Church Officers:

The officers of the Church shall be approved by the church upon the unanimous decision of Elders, and shall include, but not be limited to: Pastor, Assistant Pastor(s), Staff assistants, Office Staff, Elders, Deacons, Church Clerk, Church Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, Church Financial Secretary and Assistant Financial Secretary.

A. Pastor

The Pastor must be ordained or licensed awaiting ordination. He must be in complete agreement with the Church Constitution and must fulfill the requirement of I Timothy 3:1-7. He must be a firm believer in our Articles of Faith and his preaching must reflect the same. (Titus 1:5-9).

The Pastor shall be elected by the Church at a meeting called for that purpose with a three - fourths vote of those present required to call the Pastor. He shall hold office indefinitely although his function as Pastor may be terminated by either party with a thirty days notice.

A two-thirds vote of those present of the congregation at a meeting called for that purpose is necessary to remove a pastor. In case of such action the church will continue the regular salary of the pastor for thirty days. The membership of the pastor and his spouse shall be terminated effective on the date of the Pastor's resignation or removal.

His duties shall consist of conducting church services of public worship by preaching the Word of God, seeking in public and private the salvation of sinners and the development of Christians, and performing the usual duties of a minister. He shall be responsible for the supervision of the Church Staff. The Pastor shall be accountable to the Board of Elders for his assigned duties. The Pastor shall be granted four weeks vacation annually. Additionally, the Pastor shall be granted 2 Sunday absences annually to fulfill other preaching assignments, or attendance at conferences. It is expected that he will be responsible for conducting the regular

services as well as additional services, unless prior approval of absence is given by the Board of Elders.

B. Associate / Assistant Pastor(s)

Associate / Assistant Pastor(s) must be in complete agreement with the Church Constitution and Articles of faith. He (they) must also fulfill the requirements of I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. He (they) shall be called upon the unanimous decision of the Board of Elders and the Pastor. Assistant Pastor(s) shall hold office indefinitely, although his (their) function can be terminated with a thirty-day notice by either party. The memberships of the Associate / Assistant Pastor(s) and his (their) spouse(s) shall be terminated effective on the date of resignation or removal.

C. Staff Assistants

Staff Assistants shall be responsible for duties as outlined by their position description as determined by the Board of Elders. Staff members may be male or female and shall be directly supervised by the Pastor. They shall be hired by unanimous approval of the Board of Elders and the Pastor.

D. Office Staff

Office staff members shall be responsible for duties as outlined by their position descriptions as determined by the Board of Elders. They shall be directly supervised by the Pastor and hired by unanimous approval of the Board of Elders and the Pastor.

E. Elders

The Elders shall be members of the church in good standing. He is to be unanimously appointed by the Board of Elders and confirmed by the congregation.

The qualifications of an Elder shall be as set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7. They shall, with the Pastor, have general oversight of the welfare of the church as outlined in Acts 6:5-7. They shall assist in the ordinance of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, provide for the supply of the pulpit during the Pastor's absence(s), have charge of all matters of discipline, and visit members of the church. They shall hold regular monthly meetings and present a written report at the annual meeting.

His term of office is for as long as he remains biblically qualified for the office of Elder, though he is free to step back from his duties as circumstances dictate.

The Board of Elders is responsible for the search and selection of a Pastor upon his vacancy of office.

F. Deacons

A Deacon is to be a member in good standing. He is to be nominated by the Deacon Board and approved by the congregation. The term of each deacon shall

be for as long as he remains biblically qualified for the office of Deacon (I Timothy 3:8-10), though he is free to step back from his duties temporarily as needs or circumstances dictate.

The Chairman of the Board of Elders and the Chairman of the Board of Deacons and one other appointed Deacon will be designated as "Trustees" and shall be responsible for any specific and legal dealings with the local, state or federal government.

The Board of Deacons have charge, of all properties real and personal of the church, and shall provide for the care and maintenance of the same for the common good of the congregation.. They shall have care and custody of all papers and documents relating to the care, custody, and oversight of the church property, such as leases, deeds and agreements. They shall have oversight of all receipts and regularly act upon such matters.

They shall have no power to purchase or dispose of any property, real or personal, for or belonging to the church without specific authorization of the church in excess of 1% of the year's total budget. Emergency repairs over 1% of the year's total budget may be made with subsequent congregational approval. They shall hold regular meetings and submit a written report of all proceedings at the Annual Business Meeting.

The Chairman of the Board of Deacons with the Chairman of the Board of Elders shall be authorized to execute any document including, but not limited to contracts, mortgages, deeds, forms and certificates in connection with the purchase or disposition of any property for or belonging to the church, and their signatures shall be sufficient to bind the church thereto with congregational approval.

G. Office Administration Staff

Will be approved and appointed by the Board of Elders.

VIII. Church Policy:

A. Programs

1) Programs and Events

All programs and events within the church facilities, or pertaining to Faith Fellowship Church must be approved by the Board of Elders and Pastor for the nature of the event and by the Board of Deacons for the use of the facility and its contents.

2) Facilities and Equipment

a) Church Building and Properties - All properties of Faith Fellowship Church are under the care of the Board or Deacons. Any use of the Church building or property must be requested from the Board of Deacons

or its Chairman. Those approved to use the facility or its contents are responsible for damage, cleanliness, and return of equipment.

b) Weddings and Receptions - All weddings to be conducted at Faith Fellowship must receive approval by the Board of Elders and by the Pastor. Such marriages must be in conformity with New Testament principles. A fee for custodial services will be necessary for all those using the church facilities.

3) Conflicts and Grievances

Any situations that arise must be taken care of in accordance with Matt. 18:15-18.

IX. Relation to Other Churches:

This church shall be fully autonomous in the government of its own affairs, exercising and retaining sole and complete control of all property which shall be held in its name by its Deacons. Fellowship and cooperation will be sought with all true Believers and congregations.

X. Church Finances:

The fiscal year shall be from January 1 through December 31. The members are expected to give their tithes and offerings through this local Church, although giving to other ministries is also highly encouraged. The Treasurer and Financial Secretary shall keep proper records of all financial transactions. The Elders and Deacons are jointly charged with the responsibility to present to the church the yearly financial plan for benevolent and temporal expenditures. This presentation shall be made at the Annual Business Meeting.

XI. Dissolution:

No part of the property or other buildings of this Church shall ever inure to the benefit of any donor, member, officer, or individual of this church. If the church is dissolved for any reason, its assets must be distributed to organizations recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as religious, charitable or educational and non-profit. These organizations should be evangelical, scripturally sound and of like faith and practice.

XII. Amendments:

This Constitution may be amended by two - thirds majority of the Members present at either the Annual Meeting, or a Special Meeting. This purpose must be stated in the Meeting notice two Sundays prior to the meeting.