

Constitution

Preamble:

We, the members of the Trinity Fellowship Evangelical Free Church, in order to carry out more efficiently the commission given by Jesus Christ to His Church, do ordain and establish the following Constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves:

Article I Name

1.11 The name of this organization shall be "Trinity Fellowship Evangelical Free Church."

Article II Authority and Affiliation

2.100 Authority: The congregation, at its annual, quarterly, and special business meetings, is the legislative and governing body of this organization.

2.200 Affiliation: This Church shall be affiliated with The Evangelical Free Church of America and its Great Lakes District Conference and shall send delegates to their conferences, support their missions and unite in all mutual efforts for the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ in the measure that the church itself may officially decide.

Article III Purpose

3.100 The purpose of this organization shall be to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every way prescribed or approved by the Holy Scripture, to engage in such religious, educational, charitable, and benevolent work as the Constitution and By-laws of this organization may determine, and to own and maintain such property and equipment as may be required to carry out the above-stated purpose.

Article IV Statement of Faith

4.100 The Statement of Faith of this organization shall be the same as the Statement of the Great Lakes District Conference and The Evangelical Free Church of America, which reads as follows:

4.101 We believe the Scripture, both Old and New Testaments to be the Inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of man, and the divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.

4.102 We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

4.103 We believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He is now our High Priest and Advocate.

4.104 We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer for godly living and service.

4.105 We believe that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.

4.106 We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only such as receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit, and thus become children of God.

- 4.107 We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church during the present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means of salvation.
- 4.108 We believe that the true Church is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ of which He is the Head.
- 4.109 We believe that only those who are thus members of the true Church shall be eligible for membership in the local church.
- 4.110 We believe that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church, and that every local church has the right under Christ to decide and govern its own affairs.
- 4.111 We believe in the personal premillennial and imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this "Blessed Hope" has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer.
- 4.112 We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead; of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment.

Article V Membership

- 5.100 Membership of this church shall be composed of those individuals who, through saving faith in the Lord Christ, have been born again, who manifest the fruit of a true Christian life, who subscribe to the aforementioned Doctrinal Statement, who are willing to support the church by their prayers, contributions, and attendance.

Article VI Property

- 6.100 This church shall have the power to receive, either by gift or purchase, and to hold such real, personal, or mixed property as is authorized by the laws of the State of Michigan and as is deemed necessary for the business of the church and shall have the power to dispose of such property by mortgage, deed or otherwise.
- 6.200 In case of a division of the church (from which we pray God by His mercy to preserve us), the property of the church shall belong to those who abide by its Constitution and By-laws.
- 6.300 In case of dissolution of the church organization, the property shall be assigned to the Great Lakes District Conference of The Evangelical Free Church of America, to enable said conference to renew the work or use the values thereof for further Gospel enterprises. The church shall be considered dissolved if so decided by the organization, or when the church has not held an annual meeting for three years, or when less than six members remain.

Article VII Amendments

- 7.100 Amendments to this Constitution must be submitted to the members in writing and adopted as a preliminary step at a regular business meeting of the church at least three months prior to the annual meeting. They must be acted upon as previously adopted and without further amendment. At the succeeding annual meeting, they can be acted upon for final adoption, but must receive the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership present and voting.