

Constitution and By-Laws Of Faith Church International

Article I.

Covenant Relationship

Being freely associated together for voluntary, cooperative fellowship and service under the banner of Faith Church International, we do agree to be governed by the following rules and order given in this constitution. We recognize the Pastor as the scriptural head of the church and will endeavor to cooperate in all areas pertaining to the establishment of the church.

Article II.

Name

The name of the church shall be Faith Church International.
Faith Church International has been organized and is incorporated as a non-profit organization in the State of West Virginia.

Article III.

Affiliation

The Internal Revenue Service shall affiliate Faith Church International with Revival Fellowship International for purposes of recognition. In addition, Faith Church International is affiliated with the Faith Church International Network of Churches.

Article IV.

Properties

In accordance with its non-profit status, all properties owned by Faith Church International shall be held in the name of Faith Church International and irrevocably devoted to church work.

Article V.

Form of Government

Faith Church International shall have a two-tiered form of government to wit: A Board of Trustees and Elders. The Board of Trustees shall govern the corporate matters of the church.

The Spiritual oversight of the church shall be the responsibility of the Elders. Both the Board of Trustees and the Elders shall be under the headship of the Apostle/ Pastor.

Section A:

The Apostle/ Pastor

The Apostle is recognized as being appointed by God to attend to the needs of the local church. His special ministries are:

- Preaching and teaching the Word of God (1 Peter 5:1&8)
- Protecting the church from false teachers (Acts 20:28-31)

- Providing discipline in the congregation as a whole or to individuals (Eph. 4:12)
- Providing direction for the local church (1 Thessalonians 5:12)

The Apostle/ Pastor shall be an ex-officio member or participant of all activities and functions pertaining to the welfare and growth of the church. No program shall be carried out without pastoral approval. The Apostle/ Pastor will work with each department head as an advisor and counselor. The Apostle/ Pastor has the final decision in all matters pertaining to the welfare and growth of the church.

Faith Church International believes in the scriptural practice of tithing. Pastoral salaries shall reflect the tithe of the church and shall be set by a consensus of the Board of Trustees.

Recognizing the scriptural role of Pastoral ministry, the Pastor will remain as Pastor indefinitely and cannot be voted out of the position.

Section B:

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees shall consist of not less than (5) and not more than seven (7) people. The Pastor shall appoint the original Trustees. Appointees thereafter to the Board of Trustees shall be perpetuated by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees. A Trustee may be removed for unscriptural conduct by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees.

Section C:

Elders

The Elder ministry shall be deemed a purely spiritual ministry in the church, set in place by the pastor to assist in shepherding the local church and consists of those called to five fold ministry offices who meet scriptural qualifications of 1 Tim. 3:1-7.

Section D:

Deacons

The ministry of Helps called Deacons shall be appointed by the Elders and serve as non-policy making assistants to the spiritual overseers of the church.

Article VI.

Membership

Qualifications for membership in Faith Church International are as follows:

- Give evidence of a genuine experience of the new birth. Gen. 3:3-8 & 1 Pt. 1:18-25
- Give evidence of a consistent Christian life as set forth in the New Testament. Rm. 14:17 & Rm. 13:14
- Follow the scriptural practice of tithing in the storehouse, I.E. the local church. Malachi 3:10

- Support Faith Church International with regular attendance and participation in important functions that further establish the church. Hebrews 10:25, Acts 20:20, Psalms 133.
- Complete Statement of Faith Questionnaire.
- Subscribe to the doctrines and teaching of Faith Church International. Amos 3:3
- Be actively involved in the Great Commission. Mark 16:15-17, Matt. 28:18-20.

Article VII.

Discipline

Let us remember that the law is for the lawless: nevertheless it is the responsibility of the local church to maintain order and discipline within the church. Church discipline shall follow the scriptural formula given by Jesus in Matthew 18:15-17:

"Moreover, if thy brother trespasses against thee, go and tell him his fault between him and thee alone: if he shall hear thee thou hast gained a brother. But if he will not hear thee, take with thee one or two more that in the mouth of the two or three witnessed every word shall be established. And if he neglect to hear them, tell it to the church: But if he neglect to hear the church let him be as a heathen man and publican."

If a member of this church shall willfully stay away from service for a period of thirty days, they shall be placed on an inactive list and cease to have membership privileges. If someone desires to move their membership and they are in good standing, it will be the responsibility of the church to provide letter of faithfulness.

Article VIII.

Auxiliary Departments

Recognizing the ongoing needs of a growing church and the need for organization let it be noted that such departments as are needed shall be developed and staff as needed. These departments may include but are not limited to: Youth Department, Worship Arts Department, Junior Churches, Sunday School, Bible School, Missions, Deacons Ministry, Benevolence, Bus Ministry, Media Ministry, Prison Ministry, Nursing Home Ministry, Hospitality Committee, Nursery, Custodial, Department.

All areas of ministry shall be under the supervision of the Apostolic/Pastoral ministry and appointed department leaders.

Article IX.

Statement of Faith

WE BELIEVE the scripture of the Old and New Testament to be the inspired Word of God, presenting to us the complete revelation of His will for the redemption of mankind and constituting the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice.

(II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21)

WE BELIEVE that God is a Trinity in unity manifested in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:16-17)

WE BELIEVE that man is created in the image of God but thru Adam's transgression and fall, sin came into the world.
(Romans 5:12, Romans 3:23)

WE BELIEVE that salvation is made possible through the meritorious work of Jesus Christ on the cross; that we are saved by faith thru grace.
(John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9)

WE BELIEVE that the true church is the body Jesus Christ, Jesus Himself being the head. It is made up of all true believers who witness a born again experience.
(Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 2:19-22)

WE BELIEVE that God calls men and women to serve in the fivefold ministry and specifically endues the one called with the talents and abilities peculiar to that office. Under no circumstances should anyone be set apart to ministry unless the calling is distinct, evident and confirmed by the Presbytery. (Ephesians 4:8-13)

WE BELIEVE that water baptism is by immersion and is a direct commandment of the Lord for all believers. The ordinance is symbolic of our identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. (Mt. 29:19, Rms. 6:4, Col. 2:12)
WE BELIEVE that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift from God and is available to all believers. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a second work of grace received after salvation, the initial sign of which is speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. (Jn. 14:16-17, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:4)

WE BELIEVE that sanctification is a definite yet progressive work of grace in the life of a believer beginning with the new birth and consummating at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (II Cor. 3:18, II Peter 3:18, I Thessalonians 5:23, Hebrews 12:14)

WE BELIEVE in the sanctity of human life, that God determines the boundaries of life and holds in His hands the two fragile ends of human experience. He is active in the conception of life and the conclusion of life, in birth and in death. This truth imparts extraordinary value to every life, independent of gender, race, socioeconomic position, age, or health status. Those who hold to biblical creation must attach great worth to human life and will stand in its defense. (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139:13,15; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

WE BELIEVE in the sanctity of marriage as established by the Holy Scriptures, that God created marriage, and that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2-3; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11; Ephesians 5:22-33).

WE BELIEVE in the healing of the body by Divine Power, that divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement,

and is the privilege of all believers (Acts 4:30; Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 12:9; James 5:1).

WE BELIEVE in the Tithe (the first ten percent of our income) that belongs to the Lord, offerings that are given willingly, and alms that are given to the poor. We believe prosperity is the will of God for every believer and always to be associated with God's purpose (Deuteronomy 8:18; 2 Corinthians 8:9; 9:6-15).

WE BELIEVE in the resurrection of the saints (1 Corinthians 15:51-52) the eternal judgment of the wicked (Hebrews 6:1-2) and the bodily return of Jesus Christ to the earth (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Article X

Amendments

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended or repealed at any meeting of the Board of Trustees and Elders called for that purpose by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees and Elders collectively or without a meeting, by the unanimous written consent of the Board of Trustees and the Elders. The Elders may only vote on the scriptural aspects of this Constitution and By-Laws.