



Constitution

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Article 1: Name and Location

The name of the church organization shall be the Faith Bible Church, and it shall be located in the town of Littleton, Country of Grafton, State of New Hampshire.

Article 2: Purpose

The purpose of the church organization shall be: to exalt the triune God by proclaiming Jesus Christ as we edify and equip one another to become mature disciples in Christ, and to evangelize the lost that they too may become His disciples.

Article 3: Statement of Faith (abridged)

We believe:

- In the divine inspiration, authority, and inerrancy of the Bible;
- In the triune God, consisting of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
- This triune God is absolutely sovereign in His will and grace;
- Jesus Christ the Son was virgin born, was crucified for our sins, was buried, was bodily raised from the dead, ascended into heaven from where He will return to judge and to rule.
- Man is a sinner and alienated from God unless the Spirit of God miraculously enables him to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, the one and only true way to go to heaven, apart from any good works, one might perform.
- In the resurrection of the body and the reality of an eternal heaven and hell.
- The local church should be composed of those who have trusted in Jesus Christ in faith and who have purposed to allow Him to transform their lives through the power of the Holy Spirit, who indwells, seals, and if permitted, fills and uses each believer.

A fuller Statement of Faith is available to those who would like to see the biblical foundation for this abridged statement.

Article 4: Membership

Membership in this church organization shall be open to all (18 years and older) who exhibit, in word and deed, a personal faith in Jesus Christ, and who can, in good conscience, subscribe to the articles of this Constitution.

Pre-conditions for active voting memberships are:

- A clear profession of faith in Jesus Christ;
- Believer's baptism
- Six (6) months of regular attendance
- Completion of a Membership Application
- Desire to actively serve the Lord

As God enables, and time or circumstances permit, active voting members shall participate in:

- Regular (1) Sunday worship [Hebrews 10:25]

- Financial support of church ministries [1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:8-15; 9:6-11]
- Active service in the church [1 Corinthians 12, 14]
- Business meetings (to exercise voting privileges)

Six (6) months' non-attendance at Sunday worship will place a member into inactive, non-voting status; twelve months' non-attendance will remove one from membership.

Article 5: Officers

Board of Elders

The Board of Elders shall consist of the Pastor(s)* and other biblically-qualified church members [1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9], as determined and recommended by the joint Board of Elders and Deacons, and elected by the church membership at the Annual Business meeting (or other business meetings as deemed necessary). It is their responsibility to oversee the spiritual welfare and vision of Faith Bible Church, and to resolve all matters of church discipline.

* New pastors may attend Board meetings ex-officio, but only become elders upon the recommendation of the joint Board of Elders and Deacons, after completion of six (6) months of ministry and an affirmative vote of the entire active membership (per Article 7). As an elder, the Senior Pastor automatically chairs the board.

Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons shall consist of two (2) or more biblically-qualified church members [1 Timothy 3:8-12] as determined and recommended by the joint Board of Elders and Deacons, and elected by the church membership at the Annual Business meeting (or other business meetings as deemed necessary). Their responsibility shall be to serve the spiritual and physical needs of the Body of Christ at Faith Bible Church. The Board shall elect its own chair.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees shall consist of the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and other qualified church members [1 Timothy 3:4-8], as determined and recommended by the joint Board of Elders and Deacons, and elected by the church membership at the Annual Business meeting (or other business meetings as deemed necessary). The Trustees shall be responsible to manage of the church's financial and material resources. The Treasurer will serve as chair.

The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall be responsible to record all income and disbursements, to manage the banking of church funds, and to submit financial reports at the regular business meetings of the church.

Article 6: Meetings and Voting

The Board of Elders and Deacons shall designate the time and place of all regular religious meetings, all business meetings, and all other meetings of the congregation, deemed necessary to the proper operation of the church.

The Board shall select the chair for all business meetings. There must be a quorum of at least 20% of the active membership present for a business meeting to proceed.

Members eligible to vote shall be at least 18 years of age, and must be members in good standing as defined in Article 4. A majority vote shall carry a motion for all matters of regular business, which can include motions from the Board of Trustees (e.g., annual budgets, X-budget issues); from the Board of Elders and Deacons (e.g., staff, Constitutional amendments, ministry issues); and from the floor by members.

Motions pertaining to altering the Constitution shall require the recommendation of the Board and a three-fourths (75%) majority vote of active members present.

Motions pertaining to the choosing or dismissing of any pastor shall require the investigation and recommendation by the joint Board of Elders and Deacons, a quorum of 50% of active members, and a three-fourths (75%) majority vote of active members present. The pastor in question will be excused from dismissal deliberations.

When not otherwise indicated, all business meetings shall be conducted in general accordance to *Robert's Rules of Order*. The fiscal year shall coincide with the calendar year, and the Annual Business meeting shall be held in **January**.

Article 7: Finances and Properties

Support of the church shall be derived from free-will offerings and gifts from its members, attendees and friends.

In the event of the dissolution of the church organization (not corporation), all debts shall be liquidated, and none of the assets will be divided among its members, but shall be irrevocably divided by the Board of Elders and Deacons and the Board of Trustees to such other non-profit organizations as are in general agreement with Article 2 (Statement of Faith) of this Constitution, and in conformity with the requirements of the United States Internal Revenue Service Code (1954, §501(c)3, as amended).

Article 8: Standing Committees, Temporary Task Forces, and Ministry Teams

Approval and oversight for all standing committees, temporary task forces, and ministry teams, as well as their leaders (who must be church members), is the responsibility of the joint Board of Elders and Deacons.

All leaders of such groups will keep the church membership informed of ministries being undertaken through the Annual Report and thereafter, whenever the need arises.

Each ministry can expend monies within their approved Annual Budget, but anything outside the budget must be approved at a regular (or specially called) business meeting.

Article 9: Self-Governing Groups

Self-governing groups may be formed within this church upon petition to and approval by the joint Board of Elders and Deacons. However, said group shall not have authority or power beyond that established by the Board of Elders and Deacons.

Article 10: Autonomy

This church shall be and remain an independent and autonomous non-profit 501(c)3 organization. It may choose to affiliate with local churches or larger associations of churches, but those churches must be of like evangelical faith, as described in **Article 3** of this Constitution.