

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, regular (as defined by the bylaws), and special business meetings, is the legislative and governing body of this organization.

(2.100 Amended November 21, 2010)

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. If changes to the Statement are ratified on the District and/or National levels, the congregation of Trinity Fellowship must vote to adopt or reject the modified statement in its entirety per the procedure on amendments to the constitution (see 7.100). Rejection of the Evangelical Free Church Statement of Faith will initiate the process to break affiliation with the Evangelical Free Church of America.

(4.100 Amended November 21, 2010)

4.101 The Evangelical Free Church of America is an association of autonomous churches united around these theological convictions:

4.102 God: We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

- 4.103 The Bible: We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.
- 4.104 The Human Condition: We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.
- 4.105 Jesus Christ: We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus-Israel's promised Messiah-was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.
- 4.106 The Work of Christ: We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.
- 4.107 The Holy Spirit: We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.
- 4.108 The Church: We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.
- 4.109 Christian Living: We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.
- 4.110 Christ's Return: We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.
- 4.111 Response and Eternal Destiny: We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We

believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace.
Amen.

(Statement of Faith Article 4.110 Amended November 21, 2021)

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), all properties and assets of the church shall belong to those who abide by its Constitution and By-laws. The Great Lakes District Board of the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA) is the appointed arbiter to determine which group is abiding by the Constitution and By-laws of Trinity Fellowship EFC.
(6.200 Amended November 20, 2022)

6.300 In case of dissolution of the church organization, all properties and assets shall be assigned to the Great Lakes District Conference of the EFCA, 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.
(6.300 Amended November 20, 2022)

Article VII Amendments

7.100 Amendments to this Constitution must follow these procedures:

7.110 A proposed amendment will be submitted in writing to the members before or at a regular business meeting of the church.

7.120 The proposed amendment, with or without changes to the initial written proposal, will be affirmed by a majority vote at the same business meeting.

7.130 The affirmed proposed amendment will be considered and voted upon, without any changes or amendments, at the Annual Meeting, at least three months after the regular meeting at which the proposed amendment was affirmed. It must receive the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership present and voting to be adopted.
(7.100 Amended November 21, 2010)