

CONSTITUTION OF THE HARVEST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF BEAVER DAM, WISCONSIN

PREAMBLE: We, the members of Harvest Evangelical Free Church, do ordain and establish the following Constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLE I – STATEMENT OF FAITH

Harvest Evangelical Free Church subscribes to the Statement of Faith as put forth by the Evangelical Free Church of America as follows:

God

1. 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.

The Bible

2. 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.

The Human Condition

3. 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.

Jesus Christ

4. 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.

The Work of Christ

5. 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.

Adopted Date: 06-23-1992

Revised Date: 12-15-2019

This Constitution shall remain in effect until revised or replaced by action of the HEFC ELT.

The Holy Spirit

6. 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.

The Church

7. 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.

Christian Living

8. 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.

Christ's Return

9. 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.

Response and Eternal Destiny

10. 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.

ARTICLE II – NAME AND AFFILIATION

The name of this Church shall be "Harvest Evangelical Free Church." It is affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America and its Forest Lakes District Conference.

ARTICLE III – VISION AND MISSION

Our Vision: Making Disciples Together

Our Mission: Harvest exists to glorify God empowered by the Holy Spirit to love Jesus, love others, and reach our world with the Gospel.

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ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Requirements

A person who meets the following requirements is eligible for membership:

1. Professes faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Gives evidence of the reality of a relationship with Christ through his/her life.
3. Agrees with the Statement of Faith.
4. Agrees to abide by the covenant of this church as outlined in the membership application.
5. Eighteen (18) years of age or older.

Section 2: Responsibilities

The responsibilities of Church membership are summarized as follows:

1. To confess our faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and to serve Him faithfully in the fellowship of His Church.
2. To order, by the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives according to the Scriptures, to endeavor to set a Christian example at all times and to witness to others that they may believe.
3. To make diligent use of the means and opportunities for spiritual growth.
4. To promote the Lord's work at this Church by our gifts, prayers and service, to preserve the unity of the Spirit, to encourage one another in love and good works, and in all things give our Lord Jesus Christ preeminence.

Section 3: Discipline

The Elder Leadership Team (ELT) shall admonish and warn any member whose conduct and/or doctrine is causing division in the fellowship or harm to the Church's witness in the community. The model for discipline of conduct or doctrine should follow the biblical guidelines of Matthew 18:15-17, and 2 Timothy 2:23-26. There should be prayer, heartfelt concern, repeated attempts for restoration of the erring person, and even the use of a godly mediator from outside the local Church if the ELT deems it necessary. If the erring person refuses to be restored and chooses to continue in an unrepentant condition, after attempts to bring the situation to restoration, the ELT can bring a recommendation to the Church that the membership of the erring person be rescinded and that he/she be treated as an unbeliever. The Church must approve the recommendation by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members present at a meeting called expressly for this purpose.

Section 4: Inactivity

When a member does not attend church for a period of one year, the Pastor-Teacher may bring a recommendation to the ELT to inactivate that individual's membership. That member can subsequently seek reinstatement through petition to the Pastor-Teacher and the ELT.

ARTICLE V - PROPERTY

Section 1:

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 Wisconsin, and is deemed necessary for the business of the Church, and shall have the power to dispose of such property by mortgage, deed or otherwise. All such property shall be held in the name of the Church.

Section 2:

In the case of division of the Church (from which we pray God by His mercy, preserve us), the property of the Church shall belong to those who abide by its constitution and by-laws. No part of the assets of the corporation shall ever be used to the benefit of any donor, member, director, officer of the corporation, or to another individual; and no donor, member, director, or officer of this corporation, or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets.

ARTICLE VI - DISSOLUTION

In case of dissolution of this Church organization, the property shall be assigned to the Forest 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 (3) years, or when less than six (6) members remain.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to this Constitution must be unanimously approved by the ELT and distributed to all voting members. A congregational meeting will be held no sooner than sixty calendar days after the date of distribution. The proposal will be presented as a motion to amend the Constitution at that meeting. The motion to amend must pass by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the ballots cast by the members present and those voting via absentee ballot.