

Constitution
of
~~The Evangelical Free Church~~
of
~~Sycamore-DeKalb~~
Crossview EFCA
Church

Duly Incorporated in the State of Illinois
April 22, 1985

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Preamble

We, the members of the ~~Evangelical Free Church of Sycamore-DeKalb~~ Crossview EFCA 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

The name of this organization shall be "~~The Evangelical Free Church of Sycamore-DeKalb~~ Crossview EFCA Church".

Article II

Authority and Affiliation

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

Affiliation: This Church shall be affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America through its Great Lakes District Conference and shall send delegates to their conferences, support their Home and Foreign Missions and unite in all mutual efforts for the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ in the measure that the local Church itself may officially decide. This Church shall be independent and self governing.

Article III

Purpose

The purpose of this Church shall be:

1. To engage people with the claims, message and Gospel of Jesus Christ and to persuade them to trust Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.
2. To disciple to full maturity in Christ, those who respond to Him personally, with the idea and aim that they are able to articulate their faith to the non-Christian; and that they too can disciple new believers.

3. To provide spiritual instruction to families.
4. To provide an atmosphere whereby Godly worship is promoted.
5. To send out missionaries at home and abroad and support them.
6. To administer the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and Baptism.
7. To engage in and cooperate with other Christian activities conducted in harmony with God's Word and to carry on a ministry of Benevolence, "doing good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith". Galatians 6:10

Article IV

Statement of Faith

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.
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.
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.
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.
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.

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.

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.

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.

9. We believe in the personal, bodily and ~~premillennial~~ 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.

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 V

Membership

The membership of this Church shall be composed only of individuals who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who give evidence by their confession and their conduct that they are living in real fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Article VI

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 Illinois 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. All such property shall be held in the name of the Church.

Section 2. In case of a division of the Church (from which we pray God by His mercy to preserve us), the name and property of the Church shall belong to those who abide by its Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 3. 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

Positions

On Social Issues: As questions or disputes may arise in regards to moral and social issues, including those pertaining to the appropriate expression of human sexuality and the sanctity of human life, this Church will address them on the basis of the authoritative and historic teachings of the Holy Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments. In addition, the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA) has adopted formal position statements on several moral and social issues. Consistent with this Church's affiliation with the EFCA, these position statements will further inform our response on such issues.

On Civil Political Activity: As good stewards of our citizenship, it is important for individuals to remain informed, apply biblical truths and values to public policy issues, and actively participate in the political process at all levels—local, state, and national. ~~The Evangelical Free Church of Sycamore-DeKalb~~ Crossview EFCA Church, however, will not endorse or oppose any party or candidate for political office, through the Church's publications or through a pastor's official comments.

Article VIII

Amendments

- A. Proposed amendments to the Constitution must be submitted by the Elder Team or ten percent (10%) of eligible voting members of the congregation to be placed on the agenda at any regular or annual congregational meeting of the Church. Members may individually propose amendments to the Elder Team for their consideration and possible action.
- B. Proposed amendments must be presented in written form and distributed to each eligible voting member at least two (2) weeks prior to the congregational meeting. Normally, this distribution will be mailed to each household through the U.S. Postal Service. However, voting members may instead request distribution via electronic communication by completing an "Authorization Form," provided by the Elder Team. This form may be updated, by the Elder Team, to reflect advances in technology and/or clarify procedures.
- C. Amendments require affirmative votes at two successive congregational meetings. At the first meeting a simple majority of eligible voting members present is required to pass amendments for consideration at the second meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of eligible voters present is required at the second meeting for ratification.
- D. At the first congregational meeting proposed amendments may be amended by simple majority. Proposed amendments cannot be amended at the second congregational meeting, but must be voted on as received. Multiple amendments may be considered as a whole or seriatim.