



Evangelical Free Church

3401 Boardman Ave. ~ Minneapolis, MN 55427 ~ 612/727-3482

CONSTITUTION OF RIVERSIDE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

Adopted June 20, 2002

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Riverside 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 1. NAME. The name of this church shall be Riverside Evangelical Free Church.

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE. To make people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20).

ARTICLE 3. STATEMENT OF FAITH. We believe:

- a. The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and the Divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.
- b. In one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- c. That Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the Cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into Heaven, where at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He now is our High Priest and Advocate.
- d. That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.
- e. That man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
- f. That the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only such as receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit, and thus become children of God.

- g. That water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church during this present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means of salvation.
- h. That the true Church is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united in the Body of Christ of which He is the Head.
- i. That only those who are thus members of the true Church shall be eligible for membership in the local church.
- j. That Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church and that every local church has the right under Christ to decide and govern its own affairs.
- k. In the personal and pre-millennial and imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this "Blessed Hope" has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer.
- l. In the bodily resurrection of the dead; of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy, of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment.

ARTICLE 4. MEMBERSHIP. The membership of this church shall consist of persons who profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior; who submit themselves to the authority of God's Word, the Bible; and whose character and reputation conform thereto.

ARTICLE 5. GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH. The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it.

ARTICLE 6. BOARD OF ELDERS. The membership of this church shall delegate its administrative function and authority to a Board of Elders who meet the spiritual qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, and have been selected by the members. This Board of Elders shall be trustees of the church and directors of this corporation. The members of the church shall retain the right to review, modify, or rescind any decision made by the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE 7. PROPERTY. This church shall have the power to receive, hold and dispose of such real, personal or mixed property as is authorized by the laws of the State of Minnesota and is deemed necessary for the business of the church. All such property shall be held in the name of the church.

- a. In the event of a division of this church, the property of the church shall belong to those who abide by this Constitution.
- b. In the event of dissolution of this church organization, all property of the church shall be assigned to the North Central District Association of the Evangelical Free Church of America. This church shall be considered dissolved when so decided by the members, when an annual meeting has not been held for three consecutive years, or when less than six members remain.

ARTICLE 8. AFFILIATION. This church shall be affiliated with the North Central District Association of the Evangelical Free Church of America, and with its parent organization, the Evangelical free Church of America, and its branches; and shall, in the measure and to the extent officially decided by this church, send delegates to their conferences, support their home and foreign missions, and unite in mutual efforts for the furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE 9. AMENDMENTS. The Articles of this Constitution may be amended by an affirmative vote of 90% of the members voting at any business meeting or represented by written proxy. Such amendments must be submitted in writing to the members by church leadership at least one (1) month prior to voting.

ARTICLE 10. PROVISION FOR BY-LAWS. This church shall provide By-Laws for its government and administration. Such By-Laws shall not conflict with the Word of God or this Constitution. The By-Laws may be amended by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members voting at any business meeting. Such amendments must be submitted in writing to the members by church leadership at least one (1) month prior to voting.