



How We Function

Our Church Constitution

Evangelizing | Establishing | Equipping

Updated 9/11/2022

Faith Bible Church

How We Function – Our Constitution

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this church shall be Faith Bible Church of Stark County.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this church is and shall be to glorify God by providing a balanced ministry of:

1. Worship of God
2. Observing the Lord's Supper (Communion), Baptism, and prayer (Matt. 28:19, Acts 2:42).
3. The teaching and preaching of the Word of God to the mutual edification, instruction and correction of its members and other believers (II Tim. 3:16-17).
4. Evangelizing with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
5. Helping Christians develop their spiritual lives and gifts.
6. Mutual edification and accountability.
7. Furthering the cause of Christ on the mission fields at home and abroad by making disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:18-20; Eph. 3:21; I Cor. 10:31).

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. ADMISSION

Membership in Faith Bible Church shall be open to all persons who:

1. Have received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
2. Are manifesting a true Christian life.
3. Have affirmed the Statement of Faith and Constitution of Faith Bible Church.
4. Have been baptized by immersion after salvation (except at the discretion of the Elders (Pastors) in cases where a person's conscience is convinced that a prior baptism in a gospel church was a biblical, Christian baptism).

Section 2. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. All requests for membership shall be made to an Elder (Pastor). Upon making such request, the person shall be given an application for membership, along with a copy of the Statement of Faith and Constitution. An Elder (Pastor) then shall meet with the applicant following receipt of the application to talk with them about their conversion, Christian life, and responsibilities of membership.
2. Prospective members names shall be posted publicly for the congregation's review one week prior to authorization of membership. The applicant shall be accepted as a member upon the recommendation of the interviewing Elder (Pastor) and unanimous approval of the Elders (Pastors).

Section 3. MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Members are exhorted to:

1. Faithfully support the services and ministries of Faith Bible Church because of love for Christ with the objective to edify the entire body (Heb. 10:24-25). Any member not regularly attending can, at the discretion of the Elders (Pastors), be

- removed from the membership roll.
2. Give faithfully and systematically to its support and cause.
 3. Use their spiritual gifts and talents in the ministries of the church.
 4. When solicited by the Elders (Pastors), members only may grant affirmation regarding Elders (Pastors), Deacons, Staff Personnel, major financial expenditures and other items determined by the Elders (Pastors).
 5. Members are welcome to address the Elders (Pastors) at a regular meeting upon the approval of the Elders (Pastors).

Section 4. CHURCH DISCIPLINE

The threefold purpose of church discipline is to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (I Cor. 5:6), to edify believers by deterring sin (I Timothy 5:20), and to promote the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Galatians 6:1).

Members of this church and all other professing Christians who regularly attend or fellowship with this church who err in doctrine, or who engage in conduct that violates Scripture as determined by the Elders (Pastors), shall be subject to church discipline, including dismissal according to Matthew 18:15-18.

Before such dismissal, however...

1. It shall be the duty of any member of this church who has knowledge of the erring individual's heresy or misconduct to warn and correct such erring individual in private, seeking his or her repentance and restoration. If the erring individual does not heed this warning, then...
2. The warning member shall again go to the erring individual, seeking his or her repentance, but accompanied by one or two individuals who shall confirm that the sin has occurred or

is continuing to occur, and/or that the erring individual has been appropriately confronted and has refused to repent. If the erring individual still refuses to heed this warning, then...

3. It shall be brought to the attention of the Elders (Pastors). If the Elders (Pastors) determine – after thorough investigation in accord with the procedures prescribed by pertinent Scripture, including Matthew 18:15-18, I Timothy 5:19 and Titus 3:10 - that there is corroborating evidence that the erring individual has sinned or is continuing to sin, that he or she has been appropriately confronted, and that he or she has refused to repent, then the Elders (Pastors) shall inform the church and the congregation thereof at a regularly-scheduled worship service in order that the church may call the erring individual to repentance. If the erring individual demonstrates repentance, then notice to that effect may be given at a regularly scheduled worship service. If, however, the erring individual does not repent in response to the church in its collective call to repentance, then...
4. He or she shall be publicly dismissed from the fellowship and/or membership of the church and the congregation thereof at a regularly-scheduled worship service. If the erring individual, after such dismissal, heeds the warning, demonstrates repentance, and requests reinstatement before the Elders (Pastors), then he or she shall be publicly restored to all the rights, duties, privileges and responsibilities of fellowship and/or membership.

The members of this Church, and all other professing Christians who regularly attend or fellowship with this church, agree that there shall be no appeal to any court because of the dismissal or because of public statements to the congregation at the third or

fourth stages of church discipline. Members who are under discipline by the church, as defined in the previous paragraph, forfeit and waive the right to resign from this church. Resignations from membership are possible only by members who are in goodstanding and who are not under any disciplinary action.

ARTICLE IV – ORDINANCES

The Lord Jesus gave the church two ordinances to be observed: Baptism and Communion.

These two ordinances shall be conducted at the discretion of the Elders (Pastors). The Bible mode of baptism is immersion after salvation and shall be performed by an Elder (Pastor) or person authorized by the Elders (Pastors).

ARTICLE V – OFFICES

The offices of the church shall consist of:

1. Elders (Pastors)
2. Deacons

Section 1. ELDERS (Pastors)

The Elders (Pastors) shall be the governing board and corporate officers of the church.

Elders (Pastors) shall be determined from the membership from those who desire the office and meet the biblical qualifications of I Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

1. Qualifications:

1. Blameless (above reproach) as a steward of God; I Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:6,7
2. Husband of one wife (a one-woman man); I Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:6.
3. Temperate (sober, vigilant); I Tim. 3:2.
4. Sober-minded (Prudent) I Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:8.
5. Of good behavior (orderly, respectable); I Tim. 3:2
6. Given to hospitality; I Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:8
7. Apt to teach (able to teach); I Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:9 (he can exhort believers and refute false teaching)
8. Not given to much wine; I Tim. 3:3, Titus 1:7.
9. Not violent (pugnacious); I Tim. 3:3, Titus 1:7
10. Patient (moderate, forbearing, gentle); I Tim. 3:3.
11. Not a brawler (not contentious); I Tim. 3:3, Titus 1:7.
12. Not covetous (not a lover of money); I Tim. 3:3, Titus 1:7 (not greedy of base gain).
13. Rules well his own house; I Tim. 3:4, Titus 1:6 (his children are faithful, not accused of rebellion to God).
14. Not a novice (not a new convert); I Tim. 3:6.
15. Has a good report or reputation with outsiders; I Tim. 3:7.
16. Not self-willed; Titus 1:7.
17. A lover of good (men and things); Titus 1:8
18. Just (fair); Titus 1:8
19. Holy (devout); Titus 1:8
20. Self-controlled; Titus 1:8

2. Responsibilities

1. Lead, feed and protect the people of God as the Shepherds and Overseers of the local church (I Peter 5:2,3, Acts 20:28).
2. Teach the word of God, with some among the eldership laboring in the word and doctrine through regular preaching (I Tim 5:17-18).

3. The Elders (Pastors) shall rule as the final authority in all church matters (I Tim. 5:17; Heb. 13:7,17).
4. Equip the saints (Ephesians 4:11-12).
5. Be an example to the flock (I Peter 5:3).
6. Devoted to prayer and ministry of the word (Acts 6:4).
7. Be a corporate officer under state law.
8. Responsible for oversight of church discipline and restoration.
9. The Elders (Pastors) shall be the final committee for screening the proposed Elders (Pastors), Deacons and support staff.
10. Make available monthly financial statements to the congregation and answer questions regarding fiscal proceedings.

3. Term of Office

Term of office of an Elder (Pastor) shall be for life except in case of:

1. Resignation
2. Dismissal by remainder of Elders (Pastors).
3. Biblical disqualification (i.e. doctrinal error, or not meeting qualifications).
4. Sabbatical. Every 5 years an Elder (Pastor) may take a sabbatical for the purpose of rest, spiritual rejuvenation, and to focus on spiritual growth/development. Sabbaticals may be granted in special circumstances.

On an annual basis, all current Elders (Pastors) will be examined by the Elders (Pastors) to determine if they meet the biblical qualifications listed above. Their names will also be posted annually in order to give members the opportunity to bring biblical reasons for disqualification.

4. Recognition of New Elders

1. Prospective men from the membership shall be thoroughly examined, evaluated and reviewed by the Elders (Pastors).
2. Upon unanimous agreement by the Elders (Pastors) and prior to ordination, prospective men will be presented to the membership as a prospective elder for the purpose of observing his life and ministry for a time period of 3 – 6 months. During this time members may present biblical reason(s) for disqualification.
3. If no biblical reason has been presented for disqualification, the prospective man shall then be publicly ordained as an Elder (Pastor).

5. Meetings

1. A regular meeting of the Elders (Pastors) shall be held at least once a month. Minutes of the meetings will be posted. Special meetings may be called at the request of the Chairman of the Elders (Pastors).
2. Elders (Pastors) shall give an account of their designated responsibilities at each regular meeting.
3. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Elders (Pastors) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting. The act of this two-thirds (2/3) of the Elders (Pastors) shall be the act of the Elders (Pastors). All decisions by the Elders (Pastors) shall be unanimous.

6. Officers

1. Chairman: calls and presides over all Elders' meetings and congregational meetings.
2. Vice Chairman: back-up to chairman in absence thereof.
3. Secretary: shall keep the minutes of all meetings called by the Elders (Pastors).

Section 2. DEACONS

The Deacons shall assist the Elders (Pastors) with the care of the church in matters spiritual and physical.

Deacons shall be determined from the membership from those who desire the office and meet the biblical qualifications of I Tim. 3:8-13.

1. Qualifications:

1. Deacon shall be a man of dignity
2. Not double-tongued
3. Not addicted to much wine
4. Not found of sordid (dishonest) gain
5. Holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.
6. First tested and found beyond reproach.

2. Responsibilities

1. Assist the Elders (Pastors) in shepherding of the saints.
2. Assist the Elders (Pastors) at the communion and baptismal services.
3. Aid in the general spiritual and physical care of the church.
4. Responsible for the general maintenance of all church property.

3. Term of Office

Term of office of a Deacon shall be for life except in case of:

1. Resignation
2. Dismissal by unanimous decision by Elders (Pastors).
3. Biblical disqualification
4. Sabbatical. Every 5 years a Deacon may take a sabbatical for the purpose of rest and spiritual rejuvenation. Sabbaticals may be granted in special circumstances.

On an annual basis, all current deacons will be examined by the Elders (Pastors) to determine if they meet the biblical qualifications listed above. Their names will also be posted annually in order to give members the opportunity to bring biblical reasons for disqualification.

4. Recognition of New Deacons

1. Prospective men shall be thoroughly examined, evaluated and reviewed by the Elders (Pastors).
2. Upon unanimous agreement by the Elders (Pastors) and prior to ordination, prospective men will be presented to the membership as a prospective deacon for the purpose of observing his life and ministry for a time period of 3 – 6 months. During this time members may present biblical reason(s) for disqualification.
3. If no biblical reason has been presented for disqualification, the prospective man shall then be publicly ordained as a Deacon.

5. Meetings

A regular meeting of the Deacons shall be held at least once a month. Special meetings may be called at the request of the Chairman of the Deacons.

1. Officers

1. Chairman: Calls and presides over all Deacon meetings.
2. Vice-Chairman: back-up to chairman in absence thereof.
3. Secretary: shall keep the minutes of all meetings called by the Deacons.

ARTICLE VI – PAID STAFF

Section 1. STAFF ELDERS (Pastors)

Existing Elders (Pastors) may be added to the staff as deemed necessary by the Elders (Pastors), after giving the membership up to 4 weeks' notice of the hiring decision.

Section 2. TENURE

Staff Elders (Pastors) shall remain for an indefinite period of time subject to the following reservations:

1. The Elders (Pastors) reserve the right to dismiss a staff Elder (Pastor) when deemed necessary.
2. The staff Elder (Pastor) must give two (2) months written notice if he intends to resign.

Section 3. SUPPORT STAFF

Other personnel may be added from the membership to the staff as deemed necessary by the Elders (Pastors). The official hiring will not take place until after giving the membership up to 4 weeks' notice of the hiring decision.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Section 1. ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the church shall be held in the month of January of each year to present the annual budget, discuss visionary goals, and to communicate general information to the congregation. Notice of the meeting shall be given from the pulpit for two successive Sunday mornings prior to the meeting. In addition thereto, notice shall be published in the regular church bulletin for two successive Sundays prior to each meeting.

Section 2. CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION MEETINGS

These meetings shall be held as deemed necessary by the Elders (Pastors) for the purpose of discussing financial matters, giving visionary goals, and to communicate general information to the congregation.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the constitution may be made as deemed necessary by the Elders (Pastors) after discussing the matter with the congregation.