



Constitution

Preamble

We, the members of Seasons of Faith Fellowship Church of Owensville, Missouri, in order to carry out more efficiently the commission given by the Lord Jesus Christ to His Church do ordain and establish the following Constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

Article I: Name

This body shall be known as Seasons of Faith Fellowship Church (An Evangelical Free Church).

Article II: Corporate Existence and Powers

A) The corporate existence of the church began on July 11, 2005 and will continue perpetually thereafter unless dissolved as provided by law.

B) The church is organized exclusively for the charitable, education, religious or scientific purposes within the meaning of 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

C) No part of the net earnings will benefit any director or officer of the church or any private individual (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the church affecting one or more of its purposes).

D) No officer of the church, or any private individual will be entitled to share in the distribution of any church assets on dissolution of the church. No substantial part of the activities will be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, except as otherwise may be permitted in 501(b) of the Internal Revenue Code. The church will not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) a political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

E) Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles, the church will not conduct or carry on activities not permitted to be conducted or carried on by any organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or by any organization, contributions of which are deductible under 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article III: Authority and Affiliation

A) Organizational authority:

This church chooses to be congregational in its government. Congregationalism is defined to mean:

1. That this local church has the right to determine its own mission and decisions under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the guidance of God's Word.

2. The highest authoritative body for this local church is the membership as they voice their decisions through the appropriate majority vote (as defined in the Bylaws).

3. The responsibility for church government belongs to the entire membership and each member is encouraged to participate in the decision making process. Each member should participate with spiritual maturity and with a desire to build up the body of Christ.

4. That recognized spiritually gifted leaders are a part of God's plan for the local church. While the congregation determines the general direction of the local church and holds final authority, carrying out specific directions and ministries is delegated to specific officers and leaders in the church. Authority is vested by the congregation in these individuals or groups to operate under the guidelines established by the congregation. Honor is shown to those serving in a specific leadership or ministry role by not unduly interfering in the fulfillment of the position. These servants also understand the responsibility and accountability that has been given to them. Mutual submission, love and respect must govern all of the structural relationships of authority within the church. If there is a question about any decision or action of an individual or group, the congregation can review the issue and may affirm or overrule the decisions at a duly called congregational meeting.

B) Affiliation:

This church will be affiliated with the Central District Conference of/and the Evangelical Free Church of America, and will 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. The authority of the congregation is not an excuse for isolation. Rather, it is an encouragement to mutually give and receive help for the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Article IV: Statement of Faith

The Statement of Faith of this organization shall be the same as the Statement of Faith of The Evangelical Free Church of America which reads 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.

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 premillennial 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 V: Vision

We are a fellowship where God's love, truth, and grace transform lives and offer true peace. Our desire is to help our neighbors discover that God is bigger, better and closer than we can imagine.

Article VI: Membership

The membership of this church shall be composed of those individuals who meet the requirements set forth in the Bylaws and have been accepted into membership by the congregation.

Article VII: Corporate Officers

The corporation affairs will be overseen by a Board of Directors. The membership of this Board, which will be called the Faith Team, their election, and their term of office is defined in the Bylaws of this church.

Article VIII: Property

- A) This church will 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 Missouri and is deemed necessary for the business of the church, and will have the power to dispose of such property by mortgage, deed or otherwise. All purchase of real estate or major construction and building renovations or additions must be approved by a seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote of a quorum present at an annual, regular, or special business meeting of the church.
- B) All debts for the corporation will be held in the name of the corporation. The personal and private property of the officers or members of this corporation will not be used in the payment of the corporate debt.
- C) In the event a decision is made to dissolve this corporation, known as Seasons of Faith Fellowship Church, provision shall be made by vote of the Church previous to dissolution of the corporation, to assign all assets to one or more Bible believing, non-profit organizations, such as churches, missions, schools, associations or the Central District of the EFCA. None of the assets shall be given to any individual.
- D) The church shall be considered dissolved if so decided by the organization at a duly called meeting of the membership. A seventy-five percent (75%) affirmative vote of the membership present and voting is required for dissolution.

Article IX: Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by any member. They must be submitted to the members in writing and approved by a two-thirds vote at a regular business meeting of the church at least three months prior to the annual meeting. At the annual meeting they must be acted upon as previously adopted and without further amendment. A seventy-five percent (75%) affirmative vote of the membership present and voting is required for adoption.

Rev. Draft I 17 Aug 2006

Rev. Draft II 13 Sep 2006

Approved by membership 01 Nov 2006

Statement of Faith amended 11 Oct 2009 (to reflect EFCA changes)