



CONSTITUTION
&
COVENANT

ARTICLE I

NAME:

The name of this assembly shall be FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH of Springdale, Arkansas.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE:

The ultimate purpose of Fellowship Bible Church is to be "to the praise of His glory" (Ephesians 1:14). To accomplish this, the Church must reach out to unbelievers and build up believers by teaching them the Word of God, by encouraging fellowship, and by worship.

ARTICLE III

DOCTRINE:

Section 1. The Holy Scriptures – We believe the words of both the Old and New Testaments in their original form to be the verbally inspired Word of God, without error, infallible, God-breathed and the final authority in faith and conduct. (Matt. 5:18; John 16:12-13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

Section 2. The Godhead – We believe in one Triune God, existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – eternal in being, identical in essence, equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deut. 6:4; Acts 5:3-4; Phil. 2:6)

Section 3. The Person of Jesus Christ – We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. (Luke 1:30-35; John 1:1, 14, 18; Heb. 4:15).

Section 4. The Condition of Man – We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned, and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death which is separation from God for all eternity; that Adam's sinful nature is transmitted to the whole race of mankind, which means that all human beings are born sinners. (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:20-23; 5:12; Eph. 2:12; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 20:14-15)

Section 5. The Work of Jesus Christ – We believe that Jesus Christ came to reveal God and die as the substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of all men, was buried, was raised from the dead in a physical body, ascended into heaven, and exalted to the right hand of God, where as His people's High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of intercession and advocacy. (Luke 1:35; 24:39, 51; John 1:1-2, 9, 14, 29; 3:15-28; 20:27; Acts 1:11; Rom. 3:24-26; 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:4; Eph. 1:22-23; Heb. 1:3; 3:1; 7:23-25; 9:24, 26; 12:2; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; 1 John 2:1-2)

Section 6. Salvation – We believe that salvation is a gift of God in grace and is received by man only through personal faith in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ whose precious blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins. (Eph. 2:8-9 – "For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.") (John 1:12; Eph. 1:7)

We believe that each individual who believes in the person and work of Jesus Christ is cleansed of all his sins and stands before God accepted in the character and merit of Jesus Christ, possessing a new nature and eternal life. (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8-9; 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 Pet. 1:23; 1 John 5:11-13)

Furthermore, the salvation of every believer is secure for all eternity from the moment he truly believes in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This security is guaranteed by the fact that the life that is imparted is eternal life by the sealing ministry of the Holy Spirit. (John 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; Eph. 1:13-14)

Section 7. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit – We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He also, in the present age, regenerates believers in Christ, baptizes them into the church, the body of Christ, at the time of salvation, indwells them permanently, seals them unto the day of redemption, bestows spiritual gifts upon each one, and fills those yielded to Him. (John 3:8; 4:16; 15:26-27; 16:7-15; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:4-14; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18)

Section 8. The Church – We believe that the church, the Body and Bride of Christ which began on the Day of Pentecost, is a spiritual organism made up of all those who truly believe in the person and work of Jesus Christ irrespective of their affiliation with Christian organizations. (1 Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27)

Section 9. Future Events – We believe in the personal and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to receive His own, the Church, to Himself. This is commonly called the rapture and will occur before the tribulation period and will be followed by

Christ's subsequent premillennial return to earth to set up His earthly kingdom for 1000 years, after which the world will be destroyed by fire and a new world created in which there will be no more pain, sorrow, or death, only peace and blessing. (Zech. 14:4-11; Matt. 24; 1 Cor. 15:51-57; 1 Thess. 1:9-10; 4:13-18; 2 Thess. 2:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Rev. 3:10; 20, 21)

Section 10. The Eternal State – We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and unsaved, and the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting punishment of the unsaved. (Dan. 12:2; Luke 16-19; John 3:36; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 20:11-15)

Section 11. Church Ordinances – We believe that the Lord Jesus instituted the ordinances of baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. We believe that the Lord's Supper is to be observed regularly by all believers until His return. (Matt.28:19-20; Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

Section 12. The Responsibility of Believers – We believe that all believers should seek to walk by the Spirit, separating themselves from worldly practices; witnessing by life and by word to the truths of the Holy Scripture. (Acts 1:8; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 6:17; 7:1; Gal. 5:16, 25)

ARTICLE IV

IDENTIFICATION WITH FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH:

All persons of any faith are welcome to attend our services and to seek fellowship with the congregation and with each other.

Section 1. Procedure for Identification – We believe that the Holy Spirit will direct believers to unite with Fellowship Bible Church. We establish the following procedure for a believer to identify with this church:

- (1) Review with an elder regarding the basic beliefs and organization of this church.
- (2) Review with an elder the Covenant of Fellowship.
- (3) Sign Covenant of Fellowship.
- (4) The identification will be recognized at a service of Fellowship Bible Church.

ARTICLE V

GOVERNMENT:

Section 1. The Officers – The authority to govern the church comes from its head, the Lord Jesus Christ. Under Him, the elders function as the sole governing body of this church. Deacons are designated as assistants to the elders, and function under the authority of the elders. (Acts 14:23; Phil. 1:1; Titus 1:5; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-5; Acts 15:23; James 5:14; Acts 20:27-28; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Tim. 3:8-13)

Section 2. Qualifications of Elders and Deacons – Elders and deacons are selected on the basis of the New Testament qualifications spelled out in 1 Tim. 3:1-16 and Titus 1:5-9.

Section 3. Selection of Elders – Any man who desires the office of elder and who is qualified may indicate that desire to the elders. The process for a man to become an elder in Fellowship Bible Church is as follows:

- A. Any man desiring to serve as an elder must have made a formal commitment to Fellowship Bible Church. (Article IV)
- B. This man's qualifications will be examined by the Board of Elders. Such examination may include his attending the Elders' meetings.
- C. When the elders agree this man is ready for appointment as an elder, they will present him to the Body.
- D. The fellowship as a whole will be given the opportunity to affirm the appointee. The fellowship will be asked to affirm that the candidate is above reproach.
 - (1) The elders will announce at all services on Sunday that the appointee is recommended to become an elder.
 - (2) During the two week period following this announcement, any question concerning the character or conduct of the appointee should be brought to the attention of an elder.
 - (3) If, after evaluating all comments, the elders conclude the appointee is still qualified, he will be ordained by the elders at a service of the Church.

Section 4. Selection of Deacons – Deacons will be appointed by the Board of Elders, with affirmation by the congregation.

Section 5. Duration of Appointment – An elder or a deacon may serve as long as he is qualified and so desires. The individual may leave office either by resignation or by removal by elders.

Section 6. Duties of Elders and Deacons – Elders are responsible to oversee, rule and shepherd the church. The elders will assign deacons responsibilities, as needed.

Section 7. Staff Pastor(s) – We believe that one or more elders should be salaried so that such men can have freedom to concentrate on this ministry. Even though salaried by the Church, each man must, first of all, guard and develop his relationship with the Lord, and secondly, nurture and cherish his wife and love and instruct his children. His other responsibilities would include ministering the word, counseling, administrative duties, and encouraging godly relationships.

Section 8. Selection of Staff Pastor(s) – The Board of Elders will select each staff pastor. As part of the selection process, the Board of Elders will weigh the evaluation of the fellowship.

Section 9. Duration of Appointment of Staff Pastor(s) – A staff pastor leaves office either by resignation or removal by the Board of Elders.

Section 10. Officers – The Board of Elders will choose elders to serve as Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The Chairman will moderate all Board Meetings. The Vice-Chairman will function as Chairman when necessary. The Secretary will keep accurate and concise minutes. The Treasurer will keep accurate financial records. A monthly financial statement will be presented by the Treasurer to the Board of Elders. The pastor will not serve as Chairman of the Board.

Section 11. Board Meetings – The Board of Elders will meet regularly at least monthly and more frequently as necessary. More than one-half of the active elders will constitute a quorum. The Board of Elders should always strive for unity in their decisions; however, a two-thirds majority of those present is required for any decision. The elders will give reports at least monthly to the fellowship.

ARTICLE VI

FINANCES:

All donations to this fellowship will be distributed as determined by the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE VII

MISSIONARIES:

The Board of Elders will select missionaries to be supported by this fellowship, with affirmation by the congregation.

ARTICLE VIII

PROPERTY:

This assembly shall have the right to own, buy, or sell tangible properties both real and personal in its name with the entire Board of Elders acting as trustees along with any other individuals designated by the Board of Elders.

In the event that this assembly ceases to function and disbands, all monies derived from the sale of property or left in funds belonging to the assembly after the payment of all debts and obligations, shall be donated at the discretion of the Board of Elders to an organization that is in agreement with the letter and spirit of the doctrinal statement appearing in this constitution.

ARTICLE IX

RATIFICATION:

Section 1. Special Congregational Meeting – After distributing copies of this proposed constitution during a regular Sunday Worship Service, the Board of Elders will call for a special Congregational Meeting on the second Sunday following the distribution to discuss and ratify the Constitution.

Section 2. Procedure – The Chairman of the Board of Elders will moderate the meeting. After ample time for discussion, the Chairman will call for a vote by secret ballot. Ratification will be by two-thirds majority of those voting.

Section 3. Qualification for Voters

- A. Must be 16 years of age or older.
- B. Must have attended Fellowship Bible Church before September 1, 1983.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS:

Section 1. Procedure – This constitution may be changed or altered at any time by approval of the Board of Elders and by agreement of not less than 80% of those voting at a meeting called to amend the constitution. Announcement of any meeting which will involve the amending of the constitution must be made from the pulpit in two Sunday morning services immediately preceding the intended meeting, and notice and purpose of the meeting including the proposed amendments shall be in the church bulletin at least seven days prior to the intended meeting.

Section 2. Qualification for Voters

- A. Must be 16 years of age or older.
- B. Must have attended Fellowship Bible Church at least one month prior to the intended meeting.

THE COVENANT OF FELLOWSHIP

Having been led by God the Holy Spirit to trust the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord; and

Desiring to unite in the worship, fellowship, instruction, support and testimony of that portion of Christ's spiritual body known as Fellowship Bible Church of Springdale:

I endeavor, therefore, depending upon the Holy Spirit:

- 1) To advance in the knowledge of God (2 Pet. 3:18); in holiness (1 Pet. 1:16); and in spiritual growth (Eph. 5:14-21).
- 2) To support the Church in its worship, teaching, discipline, government, and observance of the ordinances which are believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- 3) To submit willingly to the authority of the Elders (Heb. 13:17).
- 4) To participate regularly and cheerfully in the financial support of the Church.
- 5) To love, to encourage, to support, to pray for my fellow believers (1 John 3:14).
- 6) To maintain family and private prayer; to train my family to revere the Lord and to seek His will (for their lives) through instructing and encouraging them in the Scriptures.
- 7) To walk uprightly as a Christian witness.
- 8) To participate actively as an important part of this local church.

I have read and understood the above and will endeavor to fulfill my responsibilities to the Fellowship in this way.

Signature

Date