

Constitution of Faith Fellowship Church of Tennessee, Illinois
Date of Ratification Sunday, February 19, 2012

I. Purpose and Organizing Declaration

Faith Fellowship Church is a non-denominational, Bible based community of believers, growing in faith, praying together, preaching and teaching God's word, committed to serving others, and reaching the lost with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of Faith Fellowship Church shall be to glorify God, provide opportunity for public worship, and encourage consistent Christian living.

II. Name

The name of this fellowship shall be Faith Fellowship Church of Tennessee, Illinois.

- A. Faith Fellowship Church of Tennessee, Illinois was established on May 20, 2009.
- B. Faith Fellowship Church of Tennessee, Illinois was recorded as a corporation with the McDonough County Recorder at Macomb, Illinois, on July 30, 2009.
- C. Faith Fellowship Church is located at
102 West Jackson Street, Tennessee, Illinois 62374.

III. Doctrines of Faith Fellowship Church

- A. The Holy Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, is given by inspiration of God and is the only infallible rule of faith and practice.
Psalm 19:7-11; Matthew 5:18; II Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12
- B. There is one living and true God, who is spirit, existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Creator of the universe and everything in it, and Lord Most High over all His creation.
Genesis 1:1; I Chronicles 29:11; Psalm 83:18; Matthew 28:19;
John 4:24; John 16:13-15; I Timothy 6:15; Hebrews 1:5; I John 5:7
- C. We believe in the virgin birth, the incarnation, death, burial, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
Luke 1:26-35; Philippians 2:5-8; I Corinthians 15:3-4; Matthew 3:17
- D. We believe the Holy Spirit as a Divine Person indwells all believers.
The Holy Spirit is our Helper, Comforter, Teacher, and Guide.
John 14:16-17, 26; John 15:26; John 16:7-13
- E. We believe sin entered into the world by one man, Adam, and death by sin; and so death passed to all men, for all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God.
Romans 5:12; Romans 3:23

(III. Doctrines of Faith Fellowship Church continued)

F. We believe salvation is by the grace of God, only through repentance and confession of faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. On the cross He shed His blood as atonement for our sin.

John 3:16; Acts 3:19-20, 4:12; Romans 5:9-11, 6:23, 10:9-10;
II Corinthians 7:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 9:15-28

G. We believe the saved are to live a separated life so as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 6:14-18, 7:1; Romans 12:1-2

H. We believe the church is the body of Jesus Christ and is made up of all who have trusted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Matthew 16:15-18; Romans 12:4-5; I Corinthians 12:13, 27

I. We believe in the eternal bliss of the redeemed in heaven.

The condemned, those who have rejected Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire, forever separated from God.

John 3:36; Romans 8:1; 10:9-10; 14:9; Ephesians 1:13-14;
II Thessalonians 1:8-9; Revelation 20:10-15, 21:1-7

J. We believe Satan is a fallen angel who disguises himself as an angel of light in order to deceive the hearts and souls of all mankind. He blasphemes God. He tempts, accuses, and attacks believers and non believers.

Genesis 3:1-5; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Job 1-2;
I John 5:19; II Corinthians 11:14; I Timothy 3:6; I Peter 5:8-9;
James 4:7; Revelation 12:9, 20:1-3, 7-10

K. We believe in the personal and pre-millennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Jude 14

IV. The Lord's Supper

Faith Fellowship Church offers the Lord's Supper to all those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and have eternal life through Him by faith in His shed blood.

V. Baptism

Baptism by immersion shall be offered to all individuals who have made a

public profession of faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

A baptismal service shall be arranged after meeting with the board.

Matthew 3:11-17; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:16;

Acts 2:38; Romans 6:4-8; I Peter 3:21

VI. Membership

A person desiring membership shall:

- A. have made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior,
- B. meet with the board and pastor to review and express support for the Constitution, and be extended the right hand of fellowship by the congregation.

VII. Officers

- A. The government of Faith Fellowship Church is vested in its membership, executed through the board.
- B. The board shall consist of the following five men: three elders and two deacons.
- C. The biblical qualifications expressed in I Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9 shall be paramount in the selection of elders and deacons.
- D. The term for elder shall be three years and the term for deacon shall be two years. An individual must have been a member of Faith Fellowship Church for at least one year prior to being elected to the board. (See VII. I.)
- E. After completing a term on the board, an individual shall not serve on the board until after one year has passed with the exception of replacements stated in VII. H.
- F. A nominating committee, consisting of the retiring elder, the retiring deacon, and two members elected at large by the eligible voting members in attendance, shall be formed each year during the annual meeting. The nominating committee shall serve until a new nominating committee is elected. The nominating committee will nominate candidates and conduct elections of elders, deacons, Sunday school superintendent, and replacements in case of vacancies.
- G. Officers of the board shall be elected by a simple majority of the eligible voting members in attendance by individual written ballots at the annual meeting. Newly elected officers will be installed at the close of the meeting.
- H. When a vacancy occurs on the board with more than six months remaining in the term,

a replacement shall be elected as soon as possible at a properly called congregational meeting. An individual who is elected to complete a term consisting of more than eighteen months shall not serve on the board until after one year has passed following the completed term as a replacement. An individual who is elected to complete a term consisting of less than 18 months shall be eligible to be re-elected to the board immediately following the completed term as a replacement. The election and installation shall follow the procedures of VII. G.

(VII. Officers continued)

- I. The charter board shall consist of three elders to be elected, one for a term of one year, one for a term of two years, and one for a term of three years. Two deacons shall be elected, one for a term of one year and one for a term of two years. Members for the charter board will be selected from the charter membership list.
- J. The responsibilities of elders and deacons are to shepherd and feed the flock, encourage the congregation to worship, to serve, and to practice evangelism. The board shall oversee all functions of the church, including church discipline.
Acts 6:1-7, 20:28; 1 Timothy 2:1, 4:1-6; 2 Timothy 4:2,5; 1 Peter 5:2
- K. The board shall manage all property belonging to Faith Fellowship Church. It shall not mortgage, transfer, sell, or purchase any real estate for Faith Fellowship Church except by the permission obtained through a 75% majority vote of the eligible voters in attendance at a properly called congregational meeting (See X. B.). Corporation trustees shall be elected as needed to execute the decision of the congregation.
- L. The board shall be responsible for maintaining a current membership list.
- M. The board shall prepare an annual budget to present to the congregation at the annual meeting for approval. The proposed budget shall be distributed to the congregation at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting. Any major expenditure or purchase beyond the budget shall be presented for approval at a properly called congregational meeting.
- N. The board shall provide the congregation with financial reports and minutes of board meetings in a timely manner.
- O. Members of the congregation are welcome to attend board meetings.

VIII. Church Treasurer and Financial Procedures

- A. A church treasurer, an eligible voting member of Faith Fellowship Church,

will be selected annually by the board and will be approved by the eligible voting members at the annual meeting. A person may serve as church treasurer for more than one year.

- B. The church treasurer and all board members will have their signatures on file with any account bearing the name of Faith Fellowship Church at any financial institution. Any fund withdrawal or check written on any Faith Fellowship Church account must have the signature of the church treasurer and one board member.
- C. Two members of the board will count and record contributions made to Faith Fellowship Church. A deposit to an account will be prepared by two members of the board.
- D. An auditing committee consisting of three members selected by the board shall audit the church treasurer's records at the end of the year. The committee will submit its report at the annual meeting.

IX. Pastor

- A. The pastor shall have been called of God to preach the Word, faithfully proclaim the Gospel, and provide wholesome and sound teaching. He shall meet the scriptural qualifications set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-11. He must believe and adhere to the Word of God. He shall be an example in his faith, guard and keep the truth, and pursue righteousness. He must support the Constitution of Faith Fellowship Church.
- B. The pastor of Faith Fellowship Church shall serve with the elders and deacons as shepherd, under the authority of Jesus Christ, to meet the spiritual needs of the people of Faith Fellowship Church and the surrounding community, providing both worship and fellowship opportunities.
- C. Pastoral duties include the following:
 - 1. preaching sound doctrine at weekly services
 - 2. providing pastoral guidance and support to the congregation, equipping and strengthening them for ministry
 - 3. hospital visitation and calls on the sick
 - 4. timely personal visits to the congregation and visitors
 - 5. following up professions of faith with personal contact and encouraging baptism
 - 6. teaching and/or organizing church members to teach adult Bible studies
 - 7. seeking spiritual accountability, encouragement, and fellowship with other pastors in the area
 - 8. other responsibilities deemed necessary by the board.

Titus 2:1

- D. The pastor shall be given a non-voting seat on the board to provide spiritual guidance

and present a written report at all regular board meetings. His report shall include an update on matters related to his responsibilities, including progress on approved programs and proposals for new programs. Requests for vacation and recommendations for pulpit supply shall also be included in his report.

- E. When Faith Fellowship Church is without the services of a pastor, a pastor search committee composed of five members of Faith Fellowship Church shall be chosen as follows: one elder and one deacon, chosen by the board, and three at large members elected by the voting members of the congregation. No two members of the committee shall come from the same immediate family. The elder shall be the chairman of the committee.
- F. The pastor shall be called to service after mutual consent of the candidate and of Faith Fellowship Church following a favorable vote of 90% of marked ballots by eligible voting members at a properly called congregational meeting(X. B).

(IX. Pastor continued)

- G. If the pastor decides to resign the position, he shall give Faith Fellowship Church 30 days notice.
- H. After prayer and due consideration, if the board determines the pastor has failed to perform his responsibilities or to meet the needs of the congregation, a congregational meeting may be called to consider dismissal. The eligible voting members may, after prayer and consideration, remove him from the position by a majority vote of the ballots marked. Dismissal becomes effective 30 days following a vote to dismiss. In the event of blatant moral failure, dismissal can be immediate by a unanimous vote of the full board.

X. Christian Education

- A. Faith Fellowship Church shall provide Sunday school on Sunday mornings.
- B. The Sunday school superintendent and all teachers shall be members of Faith Fellowship Church
- C. A Sunday school superintendent shall be elected by the congregation for a one-year term and can be re-elected.
- D. The duties of the Sunday school superintendent shall include arranging for teachers of

classes for high school age and below, reviewing curriculum for these classes, and making periodic reports to the board.

- E. Adult classes will select their own teachers and curriculum. Teachers of classes for high school age and below will recommend curriculum they propose to use and submit it to the Sunday school superintendent for review.
- F. The Sunday school superintendent shall oversee and coordinate other Christian education activities, such as Vacation Bible School (VBS) as deemed necessary by the board.
- G. The selection of teachers and curriculum is subject to review by the board.

XI. Church Meetings

- A. The Annual Business Meeting of Faith Fellowship Church shall be held in January and shall be a properly called congregational meeting.
- B. A properly called congregational meeting of Faith Fellowship Church is a meeting called to transact business which has been announced to the congregation at least 14 days prior to the meeting. Informational meetings of Faith Fellowship Church, where no vote is to be taken, may be called at any time.
- C. Fifty-one percent (51%) or more of the eligible voting members of Faith Fellowship Church shall constitute a quorum.
- D. To be eligible to vote, an individual must be a member and 18 years or older.

XII. Amendments to the Constitution

- A. This constitution may be amended at any congregational meeting called in compliance with the requirements of a properly called congregational meeting when XI. B. has been met. (See XI. B.)

- B. For an amendment to be brought to a vote to be considered for adoption, the final form must have been submitted in writing to the congregation no later than 14 calendar days prior to the congregational meeting in which the vote is to take place.
- C. An amendment which includes a change to XII. Amendments to the Constitution will be adopted only when there is a favorable vote from at least 80% of eligible voting members of Faith Fellowship Church.
- D. An amendment which includes a change to XIV. Church Property will be adopted only when there is a favorable vote from at least 80% of eligible voting members of Faith Fellowship Church.
- E. An amendment which does not include a change to XII. Amendments to the Constitution nor a change to XIV. Church Property will be adopted only when there is a favorable vote from at least 66% of eligible voting members of Faith Fellowship Church.

XIII. Church Discipline

The matter of discipline is entrusted to the pastor, elders, and deacons who shall proceed prayerfully by following the Holy Bible.

Matthew 18:15,17; Galatians 6:1-5; James 5:19-20;
II Thessalonians 3:14-15; and Philipians 2:1-4.

XIV. Church Property

- A. As a corporation, Faith Fellowship Church has legal standing before the courts of the State of Illinois. All property belonging to Faith Fellowship Church and gifts to Faith Fellowship Church shall remain the property of Faith Fellowship Church.
- B. In the case of a disagreement among members which can only be resolved by a division of the congregation, those who adhere to the Constitution of Faith Fellowship Church will maintain possession of the property and name of Faith Fellowship Church.

XV. Dissolution Clause

- A. No part of the net earnings of Faith Fellowship Church shall become an advantage for any donor, member, director, or officer of Faith Fellowship Church or private

individual.

- B. In the event Faith Fellowship Church should dissolve and cease to exist, assets of Faith Fellowship Church shall first be applied toward paying all outstanding liabilities and obligations of Faith Fellowship Church. No donor, member, director, or officer of Faith Fellowship Church or private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the assets of Faith Fellowship Church.
- C. Upon dissolution, any assets of Faith Fellowship Church remaining after meeting the requirements of part XIV. B. shall be distributed to one or more organizations recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as organized exclusively for religious, charitable, literary or educational purposes or organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

REFERENCES:

Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service Publication 557
805 ILCS110 / Religious Corporation Act.