



## CONSTITUTION

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### Article I. NAME

The name of this congregation is Doxa Church, being chartered as a non-profit organization under the laws of the State of Michigan.

### Article II. AFFILIATION

This church shall be affiliated with The Evangelical Free Church of America and its Great Lakes District. It shall, however, remain as its own authority in matters of purpose, governance, and operation.

### Article III. MISSION

We exist to magnify the glory of God by sharing the gospel, making disciples, and serving as ambassadors for Jesus.

### Article IV. DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

The Evangelical Free Church of America is an association of autonomous churches united around these theological convictions:

#### **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 glorious 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. CONGREGATIONAL AUTHORITY**

Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church from whom the church takes her direction. The partners of the church, at all their duly called business meetings, hold final authority. Any person who professes faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and is committed to the mission, vision, and values of Doxa Church is eligible for partnership.

## Article VI. ELDER GOVERNANCE

The Board of Elders will be approved by and responsible to the partners. Men meeting the qualifications of an elder will be our spiritual leaders (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:1-10). The governance of the church shall be vested in the Board of Elders according to the principles of Scripture and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

## Article VII. PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

This church will have a Lead Pastor who meets the qualifications of an Elder. He is a member of and accountable to the Board of Elders and together they are accountable to the partners. Members of the Ministry and Support staff are accountable to the Lead Pastor. Staff decisions are made by the Board of Elders. The call and removal of the Lead Pastor is the responsibility of the congregation according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the By-Laws.

## Article VIII. STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE & SEXUALITY

We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: a relationship sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe God intends sexual intimacy to occur exclusively between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe God has commanded there is to be no intimate sexual activity outside of marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that all forms of sexual immorality are sinful and offensive to God. These include: adultery, fornication, homosexual conduct, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, pre-marital co-habitation, or any attempt to change or disagree with one’s biological sex.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the Church as the local Body of Christ, and to serve as a biblical role model to the Church partners and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage & Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that God redeems and restores all who confess and forsake their sin and trust in the forgiveness of Jesus Christ. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the Church.

## Article IX. BUSINESS MEETINGS

An annual business meeting of the congregation shall be held prior to the first quarter of the church fiscal year. Additional business meetings may be held as deemed necessary by the Board of Elders.

## Article X. PROPERTY

The partnership shall have, in the corporate name, the right to own, buy, lease and sell property. In case of dissolution, the property shall be transferred to The Great Lakes District of the Evangelical Free Church of America. In case of a division of the partnership, the ownership of property shall remain with those partners abiding by this constitution as determined by the Board of the Great Lakes District.

## Article XI. AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be introduced in writing at any business meeting and cannot be voted upon by the partners until the next business meeting. Motions must receive a three-fourths affirmative vote of the partners present and voting. Partners must be notified at least 30 days prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendment will be voted upon.

## Article XII. BY-LAWS

A supplement to this constitution, known as the By-Laws, shall contain procedural matters not outlined herein. Should there be an inconsistency between the Constitution and the By-Laws, the Board of Elders will have the authority to resolve the inconsistency. When a resolution is found it will be included in the minutes of the Board of Elders meeting.