

HIS PLACE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this church shall be His Place Evangelical Free Church.

ARTICLE II

STATEMENT OF FAITH

As members of this church, we believe the following statement of faith:

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 III PURPOSE

His Place Church exists to move individuals from wherever they are spiritually to becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

(Matthew 28:18-20) NIV

ARTICLE IV AFFILIATION

This church shall be affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America and with the Northern Mountain District of said denomination. While being a member of the Evangelical Free Church of America, it shall be independent, self-governed, and its own highest authority under God.

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP

This church shall receive as members, applicants who have Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord, and are manifesting a true Christian life. All applicants must be in agreement with the church statement of faith, comply with all procedures, and meet all prerequisites for admission to membership. (See by-laws Article I, Section 1 and 2)

ARTICLE VI FISCAL YEAR

The Fiscal Year shall be January 1 – December 31. The annual meeting shall be held sometime during the month of January.

ARTICLE VII CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Section 1 Congregation

Ultimate authority shall reside with the members of the congregation in the sense that they shall approve elders. Once approval is given, the authority of the congregation will be considered delegated to the elders except for: changing the constitution, dismissing or calling the lead pastor, acquisitions of or adding to church property, approval of or changes to the annual budget, and any other items the elders may deem necessary to bring to the congregation.

Section 2

Elders

For all practical purposes, the church shall be governed by godly men called elders. Their responsibilities will be specified in the by-laws.

Section 3

Deacons

According to Acts 6 and I Timothy 3, deacons are to be spiritually mature men who, through their ministry of service, make it possible for the elders to devote their attention to the ministry of the Word of prayer.

- 3.1 The elders and/or congregation may recommend qualified individuals according to need and opportunity to be deacons. The elders will then appoint deacons and they shall be approved by the congregation. The elders will provide oversight and direction in the deacon's ministry. There shall be no limit to the number of years a deacon may serve, if he serves well and does not biblically disqualify himself.

ARTICLE VIII CORPORATE STATUS

This church is not only a local assembly of believers; it is also a religious non-profit organization pursuant to the provisions of Idaho Revised Statutes Title 30. The team of elders shall be the governing body and shall act as the board of trustees of the corporation. The chairman and secretary of the church shall serve as president and secretary, respectively, of the corporation in all legal matters. The fiscal year of the church shall begin January 1.

ARTICLE IX PROPERTY RIGHTS

The church shall have power to buy, own and sell real property in its own name. If a division occurs in the church, those adhering to the constitution shall retain the name and all property. If the church ceases to function and its organization dissolved, the property shall automatically become the property of the Evangelical Free Church, Northern Mountain District or its successor.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution may be made at any business meeting by two-thirds of the votes cast, after said proposed amendments have been presented in written form to the active membership for consideration and approval and after one business meeting of the congregation for discussion prior to the vote. Voting shall be by secret ballot.

ARTICLE XI PROVISION FOR BYLAWS

The constitution contains the principles of this church. A supplement to this constitution known as by-laws shall contain the procedures of this church.

(Revised 03/22/09)

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

Eligibility for Membership

Any person who professes faith in Jesus Christ shall be eligible for membership in this local assembly.

Section 2

Admission to Membership

The following procedure shall be used to admit new members:

- 2.1 A membership class shall be offered for all those who are interested in membership.
- 2.2 Those who desire membership shall attend a membership class and then indicate their desire for membership to an elder.
- 2.3 The individual shall be given the application for membership, the constitution, and the by-laws. He shall read through these documents, fill out the application for membership and turn it in to one of the elders.
- 2.4 Selected elders or those whom the elders designate shall hear the applicant's personal testimony of faith in Christ and of their present relationship with Christ.
- 2.5 The elders shall then decide on the admission of the applicant to membership.
- 2.6 The member is then to be presented to and welcomed into the congregational family.

Section 3

Discipline of Members

- 3.1 Galatians 6:1 "Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted."
- 3.2 Matthew 18:15-17 "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.
- 3.3 I Timothy 5:19-20 "Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that others may take warning.

- 3.4 I Corinthians 5:11 “But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

If after these steps of reproof are taken, there is not repentance, the person shall be removed from the membership and fellowship of the church in accordance with Scripture and Section 4. Article 1 or 2 of the by-laws.

Section 4 Termination of Membership

- 4.1 Absence: Any member who indicates a lack of interest in the ministry of the church for a period of 6 months and does not respond to written inquiry from the elders shall have his/her membership terminated by the elders. Written notice of said termination shall be sent to the individual.
- 4.2 Discipline: Any member who is found guilty of conduct unbecoming a Christian and refuses to respond appropriately to discipline as outlined in Section 3. Article 1 of the by-laws, shall have his membership terminated. Such termination shall be decided by the elders after due consideration and prayer. The reason for the termination shall be stated in a pastoral letter to the terminated member.
- 4.3 Voluntary Termination: Any member may voluntarily withdraw his membership by making written request to the church office.

Section 5 Membership Requirement for Positions of Responsibility

Church membership shall be required for all leadership positions within the church and its organizations unless temporarily waved by the elders for an individual waiting for a membership class.

Section 6 Membership Record

The elders shall be responsible for maintaining a membership record containing the name and address of each member, date of membership, and date of termination of membership, if applicable.

ARTICLE II BUSINESS MEETINGS

Section 1 Regular Business Meetings

The annual business meeting shall be held in January. The time and place shall be determined by the elders, and notice shall be given according to Section 4, hereunder.

Section 2

Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings may be called at any time by the elders for any reason with regards to church business.

Section 3

Notice of Business Meetings

All business meetings shall be by announcement in two consecutive weeks of regularly scheduled services, or by written notice to the congregation and announcement in one week of regularly scheduled services.

Section 4

Business Meeting Protocol

All matters in regular and special business meetings shall be decided by two-thirds vote, unless otherwise specified herein. Election of officers, amendments to the constitution and by-laws, and the calling of the lead pastor shall be decided by written ballot.

Section 5

Quorums

A quorum at any church business meeting shall consist of 40 percent of the voting membership. In the event that a quorum is not present, those members present shall discuss the issues that were to be voted on at that meeting and a consensus taken. This consensus shall be forwarded to the elders as a recommendation. The elders shall then make a final decision on those matters.

Section 6

Voting Rights

Since His Place is a legal corporation, only those members eighteen years of age or older votes shall be counted in the legal corporate decisions. However, since His Place has a number of non-members who attend regularly and are involved in our ministry whose opinion the elders want to consider, the elders also will receive votes (legally non-binding for the corporation) from all those in attendance at congregational meetings.

ARTICLE III THE ELDERS

Section 1

Qualifications

The elders shall be mature, godly men who manifest the qualifications stipulated by the Scriptures (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). All elders shall be members of His Place Evangelical Free Church. By virtue of their office, they shall be ex-officio members of all committees.

Section 2

Selection

It is the Holy Spirit who must select men for leadership (Acts 20:28). Only He knows the hearts and motives of men. His choices, however, must be expressed through human agency. The following process will be used: Selection will be made solely on the basis of biblical qualifications. The elders will recommend potential elders to the congregation for approval. In

order to be approved, each elder candidate must receive at least two-thirds of the votes cast. If the elders feel that new or additional elders are needed, they may call for a special election.

Section 3

Number of Elders

The number of men serving as elders shall be determined by the elders, annually, based on the number of qualified men available and the need of the church.

Section 4

Term of Service

There shall be no limit to the number of years an elder may serve, if he serves well, and does not biblically disqualify himself.

Section 5

Evaluation and Discipline

Each year, the elders shall evaluate corporately themselves. The elders shall also be self-disciplining according to Matthew 18:15-20; II Thessalonians 3:14,15; I Timothy 5:19,20. Any decision regarding discipline of an elder shall be by a unanimous decision of the remaining elders.

No accusation shall be brought against an elder except on the witness of two or three members in good standing. (I Timothy 5:19-21) The matter shall then be taken to the elders for investigation and resolution. Considering the reputation of Christ, the welfare of the congregation at His Place Church, and the spiritual health of the elder in question, the ultimate resolution rests in the hands of the elder team.

Section 6

Function

The elders have the responsibility of the spiritual oversight of the congregation. This involves feeding the flock of God, refutation of error, administration of discipline, assessing the needs of the body and planning to meet those needs. They shall oversee the entire ministry of the church. (Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2,3)

Section 7

Meeting

The elders shall meet as often as is necessary to adequately govern the church. They shall meet with the church body as often as necessary to communicate and interact with the body.

Section 8

Accountability

The elders are directly accountable to the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ, for all their actions. (Hebrews 13:17) They are also accountable to the congregation. Individual elders are accountable to each other.

Section 9

Organization

The elders shall be self-organizing. That is, the various functions which are the responsibility of the elders shall be shared. (The chairman of the team of elders shall be deemed the president of

the corporation, and the secretary of the elder team shall be deemed the secretary of the corporation.

ARTICLE IV STAFF

Section 1

Lead Pastor

The lead pastor shall be a man of true Christian experience and established in character. He shall qualify for his office according to standards of I Timothy 3:1-7. He shall be a member and an elder by virtue of his office and shall be an ex-officio member of any committee or board.

The election of the lead pastor may take place at any regular or special business meeting. He must receive 75% of the vote cast at such a meeting and shall be called for an indefinite period of time.

No accusation shall be brought against the lead pastor, except on the basis of two or three members in good standing (I Timothy 5:19-20). The matter shall then be taken to the elders for investigation and resolution. If the accusation is not resolved by the elders, either the elders or the lead pastor may request consideration by the congregation.

If the lead pastor desires to resign, one month's notice shall be given in writing.

In the event that the elders desire termination of the lead pastor, normal compensation shall be continued for a minimum two months following his termination unless waived by the lead pastor's acceptance of other employment. In this case, the termination of the lead pastor's ministry shall be decided by two-thirds of the vote cast of members present at a regular or special meeting.

Section 2

Associate Pastors

The hiring and termination of all associate pastors shall be the responsibility of the lead pastor. The lead pastor, along with the elders, shall set the salaries of all associate pastors.

Section 3

Non-Pastoral Staff

In order to provide leadership and administration for the total ministry of the church, non-pastoral staff may be necessary from time to time. The duties, relationships and compensation will be set by the lead pastor and executive pastor and approved by the elders.

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