

CONSTITUTION FOR FAITH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, INC.

CONSTITUTION

Preamble

Recognizing the need of churches, organizations, ministries, missionaries and ministers to be actively involved in an edifying and encouraging fellowship, which establishes sound doctrinal local churches according to the Statement of Faith here with included; be it hereby RESOLVED, we establish ourselves as FAITH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL, INC. In all matters of business the local church involved in membership of this fellowship will remain autonomous.

ARTICLE I – NAME

1.01 The name of the corporation shall be “**Faith Christian Fellowship International, Inc.**” (FCFI)

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES

2.01 The purpose of FCFI shall be:

1. To establish an affiliation of churches and congregations for the purpose of proclaiming the full gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. To establish a membership of recommended full gospel missionaries, ministries, churches, and ministers.
3. To provide a constructive Scriptural method of establishing a mission program, both foreign and home.
4. To make arrangements of regional meetings and an annual conference.
5. To provide benefits for members through their local church such as; retirement, legal defense, accounting policies, property and medical insurance, travel discounts available through the fellowship.
6. To provide, promote, and encourage the active support of the local pastors through a series of attended meetings and seminars.
7. To provide collective support to infant, children, and youth ministries.
8. To provide advice and counsel to local pastors on matters of incorporation, updated articles for constitution, new constitutions, statements of faith, by-laws, formulation of necessary church policies, and maintenance of church records.
9. To be a fellowship for the churches who want fellowship and leadership and a denomination for churches who want leadership.

ARTICLE III - STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe:

3.01 The Godhead. Our God is One, but manifested in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (*Phil. 2:6; Matt 3:16-17*)

Father: God has revealed himself as the eternally self-existent One. He is greater than all, the Source of the Word and the Begetter (*John 1:14, 14:28, 16:28*)

Son: The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God and as much shares in the divinity and deity of God. He is the One Begotten (*John 1:1, 14, 18, 10:30*)

Holy Spirit: He proceeds forth from both the Father and the Son and is eternal (*John 15:26*). We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (*John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 12:12-14; II Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14*)

- 3.02 The Scriptures.** The Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired Word of God, the product of holy men of old who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (*II Tim. 3:15-17; I Thess. 2:13; I Pet. 1:21*)
- 3.03 Creation.** We believe that God created the universe. We reject evolution as an unscriptural theory of origin (*Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11*)
- 3.04 Man, His Fall and Redemption.** Man is a created being, made in the likeness and image of God, but through Adam's transgression and fall, sin came into the world. We believe that Satan is the author of sin, and the cause of the fall of man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was manifested to undo the works of the devil and gave His life and shed His blood to redeem and restore man back to God. (*Job 1:6-7; Is. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11, 25:41; Rom. 3:9-10, 3:23, 5:12, I John 3:8; Gal. 3:13, 14; Rev. 20:10*)
- 3.05 Salvation.** "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."(*Rom. 3:23*) We believe that there is only one way of salvation and that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (*John 1:12, 14:6; Eph. 1:7, 2:8-10; I Pet. 1:18-19*)
- 3.06 Resurrection and Eternal Existence.** We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (*Matt. 25:46; John 5:28-29, 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13*)
- 3.07 Separation.** We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and that separation from all religious apostasy, sinful pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded of God (*Rom. 12:102;14:13; II Cor. 6:14-7:1; II Tim. 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11*)
- 3.08 The Church.** We believe that the church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons (*I Cor. 11:2;12:12-14; Eph. 1:22-23;5:25-27*). We believe that the establishments and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (*Acts 14:27;20:17,28-32; I Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11*).
- 3.09 Sanctification.** The Bible teaches that without Holiness no man can see the Lord. We believe in the doctrine of sanctification as a definite, yet progressive, work of grace commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation (*Heb. 12:14; I Thess. 5:23; I Pet. 3:18; II Cor. 3:18; Phil. 3:12-14; I Cor.1:30*).
- 3.10 Water Baptism.** All who repent of their sins and believe in Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. This is a declaration to the world that they identify with Christ in His death and have been raised with Him in newness of life. (*Matt. 23:19, Mark 16:16, Acts 10:47-48, Rom. 6:4*)
- 3.11 Baptism in the Holy Ghost.** The Baptism in the Holy Ghost and Fire is a gift from God as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to those who are believers in this dispensation and is received subsequent to the new birth. This experience is accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit Himself gives utterance. (*Matt. 3:11; John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8, 2:4, 2:38-39, 19:1-7*)

- 3.12 Laying on of Hands.** A simple belief that power or anointing or any other necessary quality, but not character can be transmitted from one person touching another. Laying on of hands was practiced by the Levitical Priesthood. Jesus practiced it in Mark 10:13-16 as a blessing, and is our grounds for baby dedication instead of baptism.
Laying on of hands for divine healing, which was provided for in the Old Testament, and is an integral part of the Gospel. (*Ex. 15:23-26; Ps. 103:1-3; Is. 53:4-5; Matt. 8:16-17; Mark 5:22-23,41, 28-31; Acts 28:8, 19:11-12; Jas. 5:14-16*)
Laying on of hands to confer office (*Acts 6:2-6*)
Laying on of hands to receive the Holy Ghost (*Acts 8:16-18*)
Laying on of hands to believe words spoken, to receive anointing, and to cultivate the anointing (*I Tim. 4:14*)
Laying on of hands for ordination to consecrate and receive the necessary ministry tools (*I Tim. 4:14*).
- 3.13 Communion--The Lord's Supper.** The Lord's Supper is a memorial of His sufferings and death and a prophecy of His second coming. It is enjoyed by all believers until He comes. (*I Cor. 11:26*)
- 3.14 Giving.** We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe, ten percent of one's total income, as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give additional offerings cheerfully to the support of various ministries of God's Kingdom, including, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made
- 3.15 Missions.** We believe that God has given all believers a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us (*Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; II Cor. 5:20*).
- 3.16 Human Sexuality.** We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's plan. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (*Gen. 2:24, 19:5,13, 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; I Cor. 5:1, 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4*)
- 3.17 Sanctity of Human Life.** We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder (*Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5, 139:14-16; Is. 44:24, 49:1,5; Jer. 1:5, 20:15-18; Luke 1:44*).
- 3.18 Civil Government.** We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home; 2) the church; and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God (*Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; I Pet. 2:13-14*).
- 3.19 Wagering and Gambling.** We believe that wagering, gambling, etc. is sin and should not be entered into because it gives the appearance of evil. It is also sometimes against the law. We need not put our faith in gambling but put our faith in God. (*Ex. 20:17; Mt. 22:39; II Thes. 5:22; Mt. 6:24; Prov. 23:4; II Cor. 5:7*).

- 3.20 Lawsuits between Believers.** We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians, the church, or Christian organizations to resolve personal disputes. We believe the Christian community possesses all of the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between believers (*Mt. 18:15-19*).

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

- 4.01** Membership is by invitation and application only. The applicants shall be those of “like precious faith” who accept and appreciate the value of such a needed fellowship. Further provision will be contained in the By-laws as required.
- 4.02** An international person, who does not have a previous relationship with a current member of the fellowship, must complete the following requirements before consideration of acceptance.

The requirements are as follows:

- a. They must supply a picture of his/her church and congregation or organization.
- b. They must supply a letter with a minimum of 20 signatures on it declaring him/her to be their pastor or leader.
- c. They must supply their ordination or licensing credentials if applicable.

ARTICLE V - CHRISTIAN ARBITRATION

- 5.01** All legal challenges within the corporation shall be resolved exclusively by Christian Mediation and / or Arbitration. No affiliate or employee of any affiliate shall have any right to file any type legal proceedings regarding a matter of law or equity in any court or tribunal in the secular judiciary and all such challenges shall be exclusively handled by Christian Arbitration according to the adopted written policy of *FCFI*.

ARTICLE VI – RELATIONSHIP (Sovereignty and Ethic)

6.01 CHURCH AND ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

A. TWO TYPES OF CHURCH/ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

- 1. Charter Church/Organization–** (Under *FCFI* IRS 501c3)
- 2. Non-Charter Church/Organization -** (They have there own IRS 501c3)
 - a. Each charter and non-charter church/organization is sovereign in its own right. They shall at all times and in all matters endeavor to promote and fulfill the purposes of this fellowship and shall conduct its work and affairs in compliance with the statement of faith, and the Constitution and By-laws of *FCFI*.
 - b. They shall have the privilege of making additional rules and regulations for local church/organization administration not otherwise prescribed and which do not conflict with the spirit of the Constitution and By-laws of *FCFI*.
 - c. The membership of any church/organization may be revoked at any time by a resolution of the executive board of the fellowship when the church has been found guilty of failure or refusal to comply with the Constitution and By-laws of *FCFI*.

B. DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

- a. The denominational membership church is under the authority of the Executive Board of *FCFI*.
 1. The church property is owned by *FCFI* and cannot be sold without permission of the Executive Board of *FCFI*.
 2. The membership with *FCFI* cannot be replaced with another ruling organization.
 3. The elder board and/or the pastor can be replaced by the Executive Board of *FCFI*.
 4. They must submit an “Annual Financial Statement” to *FCFI*.
 5. The Leadership must meet with the Executive Board of *FCFI* at least once a year.
- b. They shall at all times and in all matters endeavor to promote and fulfill the purposes of this fellowship and shall conduct its work and affairs in compliance with the statement of faith, and the Constitution and By-laws of *FCFI*.
- c. They shall have the privilege of making additional rules and regulations for local church administration not otherwise prescribed and which do not conflict with the spirit of the Constitution and By-laws of *FCFI*.

All changes must be approved by the Executive Board of *FCFI*.

C. BUSINESS/MARKET PLACE MEMBERS

- a. Each Business/Market Place Member is sovereign in its own right. They shall at all times and in all matters endeavor to promote and fulfill the purposes of this fellowship and shall conduct its work and affairs in compliance with the statement of faith, and the Constitution and By-laws of *FCFI*.
- b. The membership of any Business/Market Place Member may be revoked at any time by a resolution of the executive board of the fellowship when the member has been found guilty of failure or refusal to comply with the Constitution and By-laws of *FCFI*.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

- 7.01** The annual meeting of the membership of this corporation shall convene once every year at a date, time, and place designated by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VIII – OFFICERS

8.01 Executive Officers

Terms of office of this corporation shall be:

1. Bishop - Life
 2. Executive President – Four Years
 3. Executive Vice-President – Two Years
 4. Executive Secretary – Two Years
 5. Executive Treasurer – Four Years at the discretion of the President
- The office of treasurer is to be appointed by the Executive President

ARTICLE IX – TRUSTEES

- 9.01** The Trustees of this corporation shall be three in number, appointed by the Executive Board at the annual meeting according to Article II, 2.02 of the By-laws.

ARTICLE X – BOARDS

10.01 Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of the five Executive Officers and the three Trustee Board members and shall operate according to Article II of the By-laws of *FCFI*.

ARTICLE XI – DEPARTMENTS

11.01 Departments Of The Fellowship Shall Be As Follows:

- A. World Missions Department
- B. Evangelism Department
- C. Youth Department

ARTICLE XII – COMMITTEES

12.01 The Executive Board shall designate whatever committees are necessary for the function of this fellowship.

ARTICLE XIII – PECUNIARY GAIN OR PROFITS

13.01 No part of the net earnings, or assets of the fellowship, on dissolution or otherwise, shall inure to be benefit of any private person or individual or any member or director of this corporation, and on liquidation or dissolution all assets of this corporation remaining after paying or providing for all debts and obligations shall be distributed and paid over to such fund, foundation, or corporation organized and operated for charitable, religious or educational purposes, and exempt under section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE XIV – FISCAL YEAR

14.01 The fiscal year of the fellowship shall begin on the first day of January of each year.

ARTICLE XV: BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY

15.01 To the fullest extent permitted by the Nonprofit Corporation Act of the State of Michigan, as amended from time to time, no Officer of the Corporation shall be liable to the Corporation for monetary damages for a breach of the officer's fiduciary duty. Any repeal or amendment with this Article or adoption of any provision of the Articles of Incorporation inconsistent with this Article shall have prospective effect only and shall not adversely affect the liability of an Officer of the Corporation with respect to any act of omission occurring at or before the time of such repeal, amendment or adoption of an inconsistent provision.

ARTICLE XVI: INDEMNIFICATION

16.01 The Corporation shall, to the fullest extent permitted by the Nonprofit Corporation Act of the State of Michigan, as amended from time to time, indemnify any Officer whom it shall have the power to indemnify, from and against any and all of the expenses, liabilities or other losses of any nature.

ARTICLE XVII – AMENDMENTS

17.01 The Constitution of the fellowship may be amended by the Executive Board of the fellowship at a special meeting called by the President of the Executive Board for the specific purpose of amending the Constitution.

- a. The proposed amendment of the Constitution by the Executive Board shall be sent in writing two weeks preceding the special membership meeting of the executive board to vote upon amending the Constitution.
- b. The approved amendments of the Constitution by the Executive Board shall be presented to the voting membership at the Annual Business Meeting for consideration.

17.02 This Constitution shall not be changed and/or amended unless the proposed changes or amendments are offered at the first session of the Annual Fellowship conference and lie over to the subsequent day, and then, be presented to the voting membership in attendance at the Annual Business Meeting for consideration. A two-thirds majority vote is required for action and acceptance.

This Constitution was adopted by the membership of *FCFI* on this _____ day of _____ 2010,
And the following signatures are fixed to these Articles with the Corporate Seal.

Timothy W. Cummings, Bishop/President of *FCFI*

Jeffery S.Raatz, Corporate Secretary of *FCFI*