

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF  
FAITH BIBLE CHURCH  
of Dallas, Texas**

*And we proclaim Him (Jesus Christ), admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.*  
Colossians 1:28 (NASB)

**PREAMBLE**

We, the members of Faith Bible Church of Dallas, Texas, do ordain and establish the following articles, which form our Constitution, this second day of January in the year of our Lord, 1973.

**ARTICLE I**

**Name**

The name of this church, first chartered in December 27, 1972, is Faith Bible Church of Dallas.

**ARTICLE II**

**Purpose and Goals**

1. The purpose for which this church is formed is to publicly worship, praise and give thanks to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Triune God, to minister the Word of God to believers, and to promote evangelism at home and abroad.
2. Faith Bible Church is an independent, nondenominational church.
3. We believe that the Bible is God's holy and inspired Word. We, therefore, draw from the Scriptures the principles that determine our beliefs and practices.
4. We meet frequently for worship, prayer, instruction, and fellowship. The message we declare is based upon a literal, grammatical-historical interpretation of the entire Bible. We proclaim the truths of the Bible, being confident that God is glorified and needs are met when His truths are presented.
5. The membership of Faith Bible Church is open to those who have received the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior. The church seeks to sustain a twofold emphasis, through which the church is brought to spiritual maturity:
  - a. The church gathers for discipleship.
  - b. The church scatters for evangelism.
6. Faith Bible Church believes that the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to each member of the body and that each member will contribute to the life of the church through the discovery, development, and exercise of these gifts.

**ARTICLE III**

**Doctrine**

Refer to the Doctrinal Statement of **Faith Bible Church of Dallas.**

## ARTICLE IV

All persons are welcome to attend our services and enjoy fellowship with the congregation and with each other. Regular attendees are urged to join with us by becoming members of Faith Bible Church.

### Membership

#### Section A. Requirements for Membership

Membership in Faith Bible Church is available to those applicants meeting the following qualifications:

- sixteen years of age or older,
- affirmation of personal faith in Jesus Christ alone as Savior from sin,
- familiarity, general agreement, and willingness to comply with and support the church's doctrinal statement,
- familiarity, general agreement, and willingness to comply with and support the purposes, goals, policies, and practices as set forth in Scripture, the church's *constitution and bylaws*, and in official *position papers* prepared by the Board of Elders of Faith Bible Church,
- willingness to become actively involved in ministry within our church,
- willingness to submit to the leadership and correction of the Board of Elders of Faith Bible Church, and
- willingness to submit to Article VII of this constitution (Dispute Resolution, Appeal, and Binding Arbitration).

#### Section B. Receiving Members

All applicants shall be interviewed by two or more Elders. New members, having been interviewed and accepted by the Elders, shall be presented to the church body at a regular worship service.

#### Section C. Associate Membership

Applicants who desire to retain their membership in another evangelical church outside the city or state may be admitted into the membership of this church in the same manner as prescribed above. Associate members possess the same rights and privileges as members.

#### Section D. Correction of Members:

In order to:

- honor and glorify God,
- encourage and strengthen Christians,
- reconcile and restore those who are alienated by sin,
- protect the purity of the church,
- deter sin in the individual Christian and the church,

Faith Bible Church is directed by Scripture to correct or discipline any member who is living in a manner (either in doctrine or practice) which is contrary to the commands, principles or normative examples of Scripture. Any church discipline shall follow the procedure outlined in 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.

### **Section E. Change of Membership Status**

#### **Withdrawal**

Members may withdraw from church membership upon request, or by giving notice that they have joined another church.

#### **Removal**

Any member who has been absent from the services of this church for a period of one year or longer and who fails to give satisfactory reason for such absence, after attempted communication by the Elders or Pastors, may be removed from membership.

#### **Restoration of Membership**

A person seeking to be restored to membership will be interviewed in accordance with Article IV Section A (Requirements for Membership). If the person was removed under discipline, then satisfactory evidence of repentance must be presented to the Elders.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

#### **Section A. Board of Elders**

1. The Official Board of the church is the Board of Elders. This Board shall consist of at least six members. Current members of the Board shall appoint members as the need arises. An Elder's term of service is three years, followed by a one-year leave of absence. His reappointment to the Board shall be based on an evaluation of his qualifications to serve as stated in Section B of this Article. The Elders may make exceptions to these terms of office when necessary.
2. A quorum for conducting official business shall consist of at least two-thirds of the members of the Board.
3. Voting of the Board should be unanimous of those in attendance. If such is not received, the matter is to be delayed until after prayer. A unanimous vote is desired on the second vote. If not received, a two-thirds majority of the full board is required to pass the motion.

#### **Section B. Elders**

1. Qualifications of all Elders shall be in accordance with 1 Timothy 3:1–7

Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. and Titus 1:6–9.

An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

2. It shall be the duty of the Elders, in cooperation with the pastors, to provide for the spiritual instruction and shepherding of the membership of the church, to act for the church in the reception and dismissal of members, to oversee meetings of the church, and to exercise discipline when necessary.
3. The Elders shall have the authority to receive and distribute the funds of the church, and to delegate to qualified persons certain responsibilities for the actual receipts and distribution of funds. The salaries of church employees will be determined by the Board of Elders.
4. The Board of Elders shall select its officers (Chairman, Vice-chairman, and Secretary), and name a Church Treasurer annually.
5. The Chairman of the Board of Elders shall preside at all meetings of the Board and official congregational meetings. In his absence, the Vice-chairman shall preside.
6. The Secretary of the Board of Elders shall also serve as the Official Secretary of the church, whose duty it shall be to keep the records of all actions taken by the Board of Elders and of the congregation, and to conduct the official correspondence of the church.
7. The Board of Elders shall make reports to the church on or near the anniversary date of the church (December 12) and at the end of the fiscal year.
8. It shall be the responsibility of the Pastors and the Board of Elders to examine the membership annually. Any member who has been absent from the services of this church for a period of one year and who fails to give satisfactory reason for such absence may be removed from membership.

### **Section C. Senior Pastor**

The calling of a Senior Pastor shall be by official action of the Board, and elected in a congregational meeting of the church. The senior Pastor as an Elder will teach the Word of God, administer the ordinances, provide leadership to the church staff, supervise services of worship, and, together with the Elders, oversee the spiritual interests of the church.

### **Section D. Calling of a Pastor**

The calling of additional pastors shall be by official action of the Board of Elders, and affirmed in a congregational meeting of the church.

### **Section E. Resignation or Dismissal of an Officer, Pastor, or Elder:**

1. The resignation of any Officer, Pastor, or Elder of the church shall be presented to the Board of Elders in writing.
2. The Board of Elders shall have the authority to dismiss any Officer, Pastor, or Elder of the church for any reason that it may deem necessary for the well-being of the Church.
3. An advisory committee may be selected to evaluate and make recommendations to the Board of Elders regarding the possible dismissal of an Officer, Pastor, or Elder. A two-thirds majority vote of the full membership of the Board of Elders will be required for dismissal.

### **Section F. Deacons**

1. The Board of Elders appoints Deacons as needed for additional leadership in the church. The normal term of service is three years followed by a one-year leave of absence. The Deacon's reappointment to service is subject to the approval of the Board of Elders.
2. A Deacon assists the leadership by serving the church, ministering particularly to the temporal, physical, and material needs of the people.
3. Qualifications for Deacons are as stated in 1 Timothy 3: 8-13.  
Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.
4. The specific duties and responsibilities of the Deacons will be prescribed by the Board of Elders.
5. A quorum for conducting official business of the Deacon Board shall be a majority of current members of the Board. A majority vote is required to pass a motion.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Section A. Annual Meeting**

A meeting of the members of the church shall be held annually to review the work of the church at which time the report of the Board of Elders will be presented. The annual meeting will be held at the end of the fiscal year.

### **Section B. Special Meetings**

Special meetings of the congregation may be called as required for the business of the church by official action of the Board of Elders.

## ARTICLE VII

### **Dispute Resolution, Appeal, and Binding Arbitration**

The Pastors, Elders, Deacons, and staff as well as the many volunteer teachers, leaders, and assistants of Faith Bible Church endeavor to serve God and one another in love to the best of their ability. The Elders recognize, however, that problems or mistakes can occur.

I Corinthians 6:1–8 discourages civil damage suits between Christians. Therefore the following procedure has been established.

Any dispute within the church may be brought before the Board of Elders by informing them in writing. A dispute resolution committee may be established to be composed of individuals appointed by the Board of Elders. The committee attempts to resolve the dispute and informs the Board of Elders of the result.

Any dispute not resolved by the dispute resolution committee may be appealed to the Board of Elders by informing in writing that a meeting with the Board of Elders is desired.

Any dispute which is not resolved by the Board of Elders, or which involves a member of the Board, or arises from decisions made by the Board during correction and discipline proceedings, may be referred to binding arbitration.

Therefore members of Faith Bible Church agree, as a condition of membership, that they will submit their disputes to the dispute resolution, appeal, and binding arbitration, and will not pursue legal action or sue the Pastors, Elders, Deacons, church staff, or any other teachers, leaders, or volunteers in connection with the performance of their official, unofficial, or volunteer duties.

## ARTICLE VIII

### **Amendments**

This constitution may be amended or revised by a two-thirds majority vote by ballot of the members present and voting at any congregational business meeting provided that a copy of such proposed amendments or revisions has been made available to members and has been posted in a prominent place in the church at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

From time to time the Board of Elders may produce *position papers* designed to clarify or expand the stated position of the Doctrinal Statement or the Constitution and By-laws. If, in the opinion of a majority of the Board of Elders, these papers only clarify or explain the stated position of the church, then they may be issued and revised without a vote of the church membership.