

WARRENTON BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

As of December 2019

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Warrenton Bible Fellowship of Warrenton, Virginia, in order to carry out more efficiently the commission given by Jesus Christ to His Church, do ordain and establish the following Constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this congregation shall be Warrenton Bible Fellowship.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE/VISION

MISSION:

To teach the Bible, equip believers, and proclaim the gospel; all for the glory of God.

VISION:

To be maturing in our faith, loving God and loving others, and making disciples.

ARTICLE III - STATEMENT OF FAITH

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of church doctrine, practice, policy and discipline, our elder board is the church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

WBF Statement of Faith

Adopted November 2009

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.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this church shall be composed of individuals who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and His atoning work for their salvation, and who, having accepted Him as their Savior and Lord, give evidence by their confession and their conduct that they are living in real fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

All officers of the church shall be appointed to the positions described in the by-laws in accordance with procedures and for the terms set forth therein. Elders, senior pastors, and deacons must also be affirmed by congregational vote in accordance with procedures described in the by-laws. Doctrinal positions and policies of the church are determined by the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE VI - PROPERTY

Section 1. This church shall have the power to receive, either by gift or by purchase, and to hold such real, personal, or mixed property as is authorized by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and as is deemed necessary for the business of the church, and shall have the power to dispose of such property by mortgage, deed or otherwise. All such property shall be held in the name of the church. The corporate Trustees shall have the power to receive, purchase, acquire, sell, lease, convey, mortgage, deed or otherwise transfer property of the church, but only after having been duly authorized by the church at a congregational business meeting. All contracts, notes, mortgages, conveyances, assignments, leases, releases and other documents and papers on behalf of the church shall be executed by the corporate Trustees.

Section 2.

Any member who has withdrawn or who has been excluded from the church loses all rights of the church. The private property of the individual members of this church shall be exempt from corporate debt.

Section 3.

If division occurs in the church, the name and all property rights are retained by those adhering to the Constitution. If the church ceases to function and its organization is dissolved, all property rights shall be assigned to the Eastern District Association of the Evangelical Free Church of America. The church shall be considered dissolved if so decided by the organization, or when the church has not had a year- end congregational business meeting for three years, or when less than six members remain. Under no circumstances may either the real or personal property of the church come into the possession of any individual person.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution must be submitted in writing to the Board of Elders at least three months prior to the year-end congregational business meeting. At the year-end

congregational business meeting or later specified meeting, proposed amendments unanimously approved by the elders shall be acted upon and adopted if they receive the affirmation vote of 75% of the membership present.