

**CONSTITUTION and  
BYLAWS**

**of**

**FELLOWSHIP BIBLE  
CHURCH**

**of**

**OGDEN VALLEY, UTAH**

Updated July 26, 2020

# **CONSTITUTION of FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH**

## **Article 1 NAME**

The name of this church shall be Fellowship Bible Church of Ogden Valley.

## **Article 2 PURPOSE**

This church shall exist for the purpose of glorifying God. We will seek to accomplish this through corporate worship, collective ministry nurturing believers to maturity, and concerted effort to evangelize our world.

## **Article 3 STANDING**

This church shall be an independent, non-denominational church, with its government vested in the membership.

## **Article 4 ORGANIZATION AND INCORPORATION**

This church is a non-denominational church, organized under the authority of its own articles of incorporation. This church is self-governing since its graduation from our church planting mission (Biblical Ministries Worldwide) in 2018.

## **Article 5 FELLOWSHIP**

Recognizing the need for Bible Believing churches to stand together, we will fellowship with other churches of like faith being careful to maintain Biblical separation as specified in the Doctrinal Statement (Article 6 Section 16).

## **Article 6 DOCTRINE**

Since many have departed from the faith in these last days, and have fallen into doctrinal error, we hereby declare our belief in the following fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith.

## **Section 1. The Holy Scriptures**

We believe in the verbal and plenary inspiration of the Scriptures, consisting of 66 books which constitute the Old and New Testaments, the Word of God, inerrant in the original writings, the complete and unalterable special revelation of God, and our final authority. We believe in the normal, literal, and consistent interpretation of the Scriptures; and a dispensational understanding of God's progressive revelation (Matthew 5:18; John 16:12,13; 2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:20,21).

## **Section 2. The Godhead**

a. We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- co--eternal in being, co--identical in nature, co--equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

b. We believe God is spirit, from everlasting to everlasting the same, the direct creator of all things, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent (John 4:24; Luke 24:39; Psalm 90:2; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17; Isaiah 44:24; Revelation 19:6; 1 John 3:20; Psalm 147:5; Psalm 139:7-10; Jeremiah 23:24; John 1:3; Exodus 20:8-11; Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:16-17).

## **Section 3. The Person and Work of Christ**

a. We believe the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, and lived a sinless life. He came that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man (Luke 1:35; John 1:1,2,14,18).

b. We believe the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice in providing an unlimited atonement for the sins of the whole world and our justification is verified by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24,25; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2:24; 1 John 2:2).

c. We believe the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9,10; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 9:24; 7:25; 1 John 2:1,2).

#### **Section 4. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit**

a. We believe the Holy Spirit is the person of the Godhead who in this present age convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; who regenerates and baptizes into the body of Christ those who believe; and who indwells and seals them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:13,14).

b. We believe the Holy Spirit is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth and it is the privilege of believers to be filled with, and their duty to walk in, the Holy Spirit (John 16:13; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 5:18; 1 John 2:20,27).

#### **Section 5. The Total Depravity of Man**

We believe man was created in the image and likeness of God; in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and man is totally depraved and unable to remedy his lost condition (*Genesis 1:26,27; Romans 3:22,23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3,12*).

#### **Section 6. Salvation and Security**

a. We believe the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice for all people and all who trust Him are saved by grace through faith on the ground of His shed blood, accepted in the beloved, kept by God's power, and thus secure in Christ forever (*John 1:12; 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1,38,39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:5,18,19*).

b. We believe every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural (*Romans 6:13; 8:12,13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9*).

c. We believe it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (*Romans 13:13,14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15; 1 Peter 2:13-20*).

#### **Section 7. Gender and Marriage**

a. God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as either male or female. These two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God. Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. Accordingly, our communication reflects the reality of God's created order—put simply, we use male pronouns to refer to those persons who were created biologically male, and female

pronouns to refer to those persons who were created biologically female (Gen 1.26–27; 2.18–25).

b. Image-bearers born with hermaphroditism, a rare intersex condition, deserve all empathy, love, and support from the Christian community as they embrace their biological gender insofar as they may know it. Furthermore, these image-bearers, like all others, are encouraged to find their truest identity in the Lord Jesus Christ (Gen 1.26–27; Ps 139.14; Jer 1.5; Mt 19.12; 1 Cor 6.17; Col 2.9–10).

c. The term marriage has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in the Bible. God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman; sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, or use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (1 Cor 6.9–18; 7.2–5; Heb 13:4; Matt 15:18–20).

d. God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. 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 the Bible nor the doctrines of this church (Mt 5.16; Phil 2.14–16; 1 Thess 5.22; Acts 3.19–21; Rom 10.9–10; 1 Cor 6:9–11; Mk 12.28–31; Lk 6:31).

## **Section 8. The Church**

a. We believe the Church, which began with the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, is the body and bride of Christ. It is the spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of the present age (*Acts 2:1-13, 47; Ephesians 1:22,23; 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 12:13-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2*).

b. We believe the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (*Acts 14:27; 20:17,28-32; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11*).

## **Section 9. Ordinances**

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ established two ordinances for the Church in this present age. These are believer's water baptism, practiced by immersion, and the Lord's supper, observed as a memorial of His death (*1 Corinthians 11:23-34; Acts 8:12,35-39; 10:47,48; 1 Corinthians 1:14*).

## **Section 10. Missions**

We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind and to make disciples from among all nations, to baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and to teach them to observe all things whatsoever He has commanded (*Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19,20*).

## **Section 11. The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts**

- a. We believe the Lord Jesus Christ gives the Church evangelists and pastor-teachers. These gifted men are to equip the saints for the work of the ministry (*Ephesians 4:7-14*).
- b. We believe the Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts upon believers for Christian service and the edification of the Church (*Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 1 Peter 4:10, 11*).
- c. We believe the church age was initiated through the ministry of the apostles and prophets accompanied by sign gifts to confirm their message. These sign gifts gradually ceased by the time of the completion of the New Testament (*1 Corinthians 12:28-31; 13:8-10; 14:1-28; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 2:3,4*).
- d. We believe God hears and answers prayer in accord with His own will for healing of the sick and afflicted (*John 14:13,14; 15:7; 1 John 5:14,15*).

## **Section 12. Dispensationalism**

- a. We believe the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations which define man's responsibility in successive ages. A dispensation is not a way of salvation, but a divinely ordered stewardship by which God directs man according to His purpose (*John 1:17; 1 Corinthians 9:17; 2 Corinthians 3:9-18; Galatians 3:13-25; Ephesians 1:10; 3:2-10; Colossians 1:24,25; Hebrews 7:19; Revelation 20:2-6*).
- b. We believe salvation is always by grace through faith regardless of the dispensation in which the believer may have lived. God's purpose of salvation by grace through faith alone has always been based upon the substitutionary atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ upon the Cross (*Ephesians 2:8-10; Hebrews 11:6; 1 Peter 1:10-12*).

## **Section 13. The Personality of Satan**

We believe Satan is a created being, the author of sin, the tempter in the fall, the declared enemy of God and man, and the god of this age. He shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire (*Job 1:6,7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; Revelation 20:10*).

## **Section 14. The Second Advent of Christ**

We believe in the personal, imminent, pretribulational and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones. We believe that at the end of the seven-year tribulation He will return to earth with the saints in power and glory to reign for a thousand years (*Zechariah 14:4-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-18; 5:9; Titus 2:13; Revelation 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6*).

## **Section 15. The Eternal State**

a. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (*Matthew 25:46; John 5:28,29; 11:25,26; Revelation 20:5,6,12,13*).

b. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (*Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4-6; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17*).

c. We believe the souls of unbelievers are, at death, absent from the body and in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment and shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (*Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6,7; Mark 9:43-48; Revelations 20:11-15*).

## **Section 16. Creation**

We believe the triune God, by a free act and for His own glory, without the use of existing materials or secondary causes, brought into being -- immediately and instantaneously in six literal days by the word of His mouth--the whole universe (*Genesis 1:1-27; Exodus 20:8-11; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 104:25,26; Isaiah 40:21-31; John 1:1-5; Colossians 1:16,17*).

## **Section 17. Biblical Unity and Separation**

a. We believe the saved should be separated unto the Lord Jesus Christ, necessitating holy living in all personal and ecclesiastical associations and relationships.

b. It is the believer's responsibility to endeavor to maintain the unity of the faith while separating from apostasy and those who have deviated from biblical doctrine and behavior. Every proposed alliance must be considered in the light of our commitment to biblical separation (*Romans 12:1,2; 14:13; 1 Corinthians 6:19,20; Titus 2:14; James 4:4,5; 1 Peter 2:9-11; 1 John 2:15-17; Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 5:7-11; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 4:1-6; 2 Thessalonians 3:11-14; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Titus 3:10; 2 John 9-11*).

## **Article 7 MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. Qualifications for Membership**

Any person desiring to unite with this church shall:

- a. Express personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- b. Give clear evidence of having been born again and demonstrate sincere desire to live a godly, exemplary, separated, and obedient Christian life.
- c. Wholeheartedly affirm the crucial doctrines stated in Article 6, Sections 1-7 and 15a.
- d. Agree to submit to FBC's Constitution and Bylaws.
- e. Agree to hold members of this church accountable and submit to their accountability as set out in Article 9 of the Constitution.
- f. Agree to support this church by faithful prayer, attendance, and giving as taught in the Bible.

### **Section 2. Procedure for Receiving Members**

- a. The candidate for membership shall submit to the Pastor their application on the form provided by the church for this purpose.
- b. The candidate shall be interviewed by a pastor and an elder or deacon.
- c. Upon satisfactory examination, the applicant shall be recommended to the church.
- d. After a two week waiting period, if no member raises any concern about the applicant, the individual shall become a member. If there is any concern raised, the Elders and Pastor shall make a thorough investigation and decision. The decision of the Elders and Pastor shall be final. If no concerns are raised the applicant will be welcomed into the membership of the church.
- e. Upon approval of membership, this church shall notify the applicant's former church that their membership is to be discontinued to avoid dual membership.
- f. Associate membership may be permitted to missionaries, students, or temporary residents, as approved by the elders. The associate member must choose in which church they will vote.

### **Section 3. Termination of Membership**

- a. By death.
- b. By letter of recommendation and dismissal to unite with another church.

c. By erasure. Any member uniting with another church thereby automatically ceases to be a member of this church and their name shall be erased from the roll except when the elders approve dual membership. Any member for any reason may request to have their membership canceled and their name dropped from the roll. Any member not attending any of the meetings of the church for a period of six months, without reason, and otherwise inactive may be erased from the membership roll by the elders.

d. By exclusion. Any member whose conduct is deemed harmful to the interests and purposes of this church may be removed from membership, providing that disciplinary measures have first been taken and have failed to effect correction, and providing that such a member has been given opportunity to be heard at a meeting of the elders.

## **Article 8 OUR COVENANT**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as members of the body of Christ.

a. We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to support its worship, services, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

b. We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to educate our children in the Christian faith; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and anger, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

c. We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

d. We moreover engage, in order to promote the effectiveness of this testimony, to cooperate with those in places of leadership, and to accept positions of responsibility according to personal qualifications and the call of God.

## **Article 9 DISCIPLINE**

### **Section 1.**

To safe-guard the testimony of this church, the elders shall have responsibility to discipline any member who in life or teaching is out of harmony with the principles of the Constitution, Doctrinal Statement or the Word of God. Members who seem to manifest inconsistency or flagrant sin in their lives, a wrong attitude toward the church, or indifference toward the life and work of the church shall be investigated and disciplined accordingly if found to be erring.

### **Section 2.**

The purpose of discipline shall be to remedy the wrong, restore the erring one, preserve the purity and testimony of the church, and maintain the blessing of God upon the endeavors of this church.

### **Section 3.**

All discipline shall be administered by the elders according to the pattern established in the Bible (*Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1; 1Corinthians 5:1-13*).

# BYLAWS of FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

## Article 1 GOVERNMENT

### Section 1.

The government of this church shall be vested in its membership, executed through its regularly elected officers and according to this Constitution.

### Section 2.

The fiscal year of this church shall be from January 1 to December 31.

### Section 3. Public Meetings

- a. The church shall regularly conduct Sunday School and public worship on the Lord's Day.
- b. Other meetings may be scheduled as desired.

### Section 4. Congregational Business Meetings.

- a. There shall be an annual business meeting of the church in the first quarter of the year. Special meetings may be called by the Pastor, Elders, or one-fourth of the church membership. All business meetings must be announced two weeks prior to the business meeting. In the case of an emergency, a business meeting may be called if all members are personally notified with at least 24 hours notice.
- b. In all business meetings a majority vote of members present shall be required, except when calling or dismissing a pastor, or making amendments.
- c. Voting privileges (nominations, motions, and voting) at business meetings shall be limited to members in full membership standing who are eighteen years of age or older.
- d. A ballot vote may be requested in any business meeting by any member qualified to vote.
- e. Parliamentary procedures shall be followed unless otherwise stated in this Constitution.

### Section 5. Official Board Meetings

Meetings of the Official Board shall be held at regularly set intervals as agreed upon by the board, or special meetings may be held at the call of the pastor, vice chairman of the board, or any three members of the board. Full minutes of all meetings shall be kept. A majority vote of board members present shall be required to transact business.

## **Section 6. Official Board**

- a. The regular business of the church shall be conducted by the Official Board which shall consist of the pastor and the active elders and the deacons. The Official Board shall elect from among themselves necessary officers for a one-year term.
- b. The Official Board shall be the executive body of the congregation in its dealings with the pastor, employees, and all outside organizations. It shall exercise supervision over the general work of the church, and organizations within the church.
- c. The Official Board shall not encumber with loan, buy, sell, or transfer any major property or real estate involving the church without authority from the membership.
- d. All financial expenditures shall be decided by the Official Board within the limits provided by this Constitution.
- e. Members of the Official Board shall be the official representatives to act for the church in all legal business transactions.
- f. When necessary elders and deacons may conduct separate meetings.

## **Section 7. Church Officers and Appointed Individuals**

- a. Pastor
  1. This church shall engage the services of a pastor for the furtherance of this Gospel ministry as provided for in this constitution.
  2. The pastor shall be called or dismissed by the action of the membership in a duly called business meeting of the congregation. A three-fourths majority vote of church members present shall be required to call a pastor, a majority vote to dismiss a pastor. Thirty days' notice shall precede the effective date of dismissal or resignation, unless by mutual agreement of the congregation and pastor.
  3. The pastor shall meet the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9 and shall be able to satisfactorily answer the questions required (Bylaws Article 1, Section 7, Paragraph j).
  4. The pastor shall attend to the spiritual oversight of the members of the church by preaching and teaching the Word of God and by personal counseling. He shall seek to win the lost to Christ through the pulpit ministry and personal witnessing. He shall administer the ordinances, moderate at all congregational business meetings, and serve as an ex-officio member on all committees. If at any time his personal belief, preaching, or teaching shall not be in full accord with the Doctrinal Statement of the church, his services as pastor shall be terminated.

## b. Elders

1. The pastor shall be recognized as an elder. Additional ruling elders shall be elected as qualified men are available for the office, and as the growth of the church membership may require. If fewer than three men hold the office of Elder, they shall conduct their business in union with the deacons. Ruling elders shall be elected to active terms of four years followed by a year of sabbatical (as long as at least one other ruling elder is already serving), after which he may resume serving pending a vote of continuance by both the elders and the members of the congregation.
2. Ruling elders shall be elected from among the male members of this church, shall meet the spiritual qualifications set forth in the Word of God (1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9) and shall be able to satisfactorily answer the questions required (Bylaws Article 1, Section 7, Paragraph j).
3. The number of elders to be elected shall be determined by the elders as the needs of the church demand it.
4. Elders shall be spiritual advisors to the church, the Official Board, and the pastor. They shall serve as a pulpit committee in the event the church is without a pastor. They shall conduct business within the framework of the Official Board to plan and execute the spiritual business and ministry of the church, shall examine all applicants for membership and make recommendations to the congregation, and shall administer all discipline. Elders shall be responsible with the pastor for the spiritual welfare of the church, shall assist in administering the ordinances of the church, shall visit the sick and the sorrowing of the membership, and shall investigate delinquents and endeavor to remedy any spiritual weakness in the lives of its members. Each elder shall personally accept the responsibility to maintain the spirituality of the church and guard against corruption by sin or false doctrine.

## c. Deacons

1. Deacons shall be elected as qualified men are available for the office of Deacon, and as the growth of the church membership may require. If fewer than three men hold the office of Deacon, the deacons shall conduct their business in union with the elders. Deacons shall be elected for terms of three years, arranged so that approximately one-third of the deacons shall retire from office on any given year.
2. Deacons shall be elected from among the male members of this church, shall meet the spiritual qualifications set forth in the Word of God (1 Timothy 3:8-13), and shall be able to satisfactorily answer the questions required (Bylaws Article 1, Section 7, Paragraph j).
3. The number of deacons to be elected shall be determined by the elders in consultation with the deacons, as the ministry of the church demands.
4. Deacons shall serve as advisors to the church, the Official Board, and the pastor concerning the physical and material ministries and needs of the church. They shall conduct business within the framework of the Official Board to plan and execute such business of the church as pertains to their office. They shall present a proposed annual budget to the Official Board, provide for the auditing of the Treasurer's books at least

every four years, and make recommendations for the missionary and benevolent expenditures. They shall plan for church improvements and building programs. They shall care for those church members who have pressing financial or material needs. Deacons shall hold themselves in readiness to assist in guiding the spiritual life of the church and administering its ordinances.

d. Clerk

1. A church Clerk shall be elected from the membership of this church for a one-year term.
2. The Clerk shall keep an accurate record of all congregational business meetings. They shall be responsible for keeping a record of the church membership, admissions, dismissals, deaths, baptisms, and ordination services. They shall carry on and maintain a complete record of all correspondence and such other records as may pertain to their office. They shall also have in custody any other papers, records, or other documents as directed by the congregation or Official Board.

e. Church Treasurer

1. The church Treasurer shall be elected from the membership of this church for a one-year term.
2. The church Treasurer shall be responsible for the banking of such funds to the account of the church in a bank designated by the Official Board. They shall submit their records upon request by the Official Board or the congregation. They shall give to the Official Board each month, if desired, a financial report showing the true status of the various funds. There shall also be prepared under their direction a financial report showing the true status of the various funds. There shall also be prepared under their direction a financial statement showing the true status of all funds for presentation at the annual meeting. They shall issue annual receipts of personal church financial contributions to those individuals desiring them.
3. At least two people approved by the Official Board shall count all offerings and keep a record of the deposits.

g. Special Appointments. As the need arises, the Official Board may designate special appointments from the membership for a term of one year. Replacements may be made at the discretion of the Official Board.

h. To preserve the function and integrity of this church, and to provide a biblical role model to this church's members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by this church in any capacity, or who submit to church membership, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by Article 6, Section 7 of the Constitution.

i. Transfer of Records. Any individual, serving in any capacity, upon retiring from their office or position, shall be required to relinquish any and all church records of any description,

which shall be in their possession, to their successor or to the pastor or some other active member of the Official Board.

j. Questions for Elected Officers

All elders and deacons shall be required to answer all of the following questions in the affirmative.

1. Have you publicly confessed Christ as your personal Savior and experienced the new birth as set forth in John 3:3-6?
2. Are you in agreement with the Doctrinal Statement and the Constitution of this church?
3. Are you living a life obedient to the moral precepts taught in the Word of God?
4. Are your standards of separation from worldly and sinful practices in conformity with the principles of the Word of God (Romans 12:1,2; 13:13; 14:21-23; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 4:25-29; 5:3-5; 1 John 2:15-17)?
5. Are you free from membership in oath-bound religions, or secret organizations?
6. Are you Scripturally qualified to serve in this office according to the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9?
7. Will you pledge your loyalty to this church to support it verbally, financially, and by faithful attendance at services?
8. Are you willing to accept and faithfully perform the duties incumbent upon this office?

k. Termination of Service. Any tenure of office or elected position may be terminated at any time by resignation, discipline, or action of the congregation.

**Section 8. Nominations, Elections, and Vacancies**

a. Church officers shall be elected from the membership of the church at the annual business meeting according to the qualifications provided for in this Constitution for each office. In case of vacancies during the term of office, the vacancy may be filled by appointment of the Official Board until the next regular church business meeting, except in the case of an elder or deacon.

b. Deacons. The elders in consultation with the deacons shall identify the need for additional deacons as the ministry of the church demands.

The members of the church shall each nominate men to fill the available position(s) by ballot at a regular or special business meeting. Each member may place in nomination one more name than positions available.

The elders shall thoroughly investigate the qualifications, capabilities, and willingness of each person nominated for office and shall approach the resulting most nominated person(s) until all positions are occupied by a nominee. The resulting name(s) shall be

announced publicly to the congregation two weeks prior to a regular or special business meeting, during which the members of the church shall indicate by ballot whether or not each man put forward in nomination meets the biblical qualifications for the office of deacon.

c. Ruling Elders. The elders shall select a male member who meets the biblical qualifications and constitutional requirements for the office of elder who has been a member for at least one year and is willing to serve.

Following a public announcement and a two-week waiting period, the candidate shall undergo a period of public examination for a minimum of three months and shall commit himself to the elders for development and training. During this period, he shall provide a doctrinal statement, demonstrate his ability to teach the Bible publicly, gain experience and training in counseling, and demonstrate his understanding of doctrine and his ability to defend against error in a public setting.

The congregation shall also investigate the candidate's biblical qualification for the office during this period. After the period of examination, the elders may put his name forward in nomination.

During a regular or special business meeting, the members of the church shall indicate by ballot whether or not he meets the biblical qualifications for the office of elder. If he is found fit for the office, he shall be ordained as a ruling elder to a term of four years followed by a year of sabbatical (as long as at least one other ruling elder is already serving), after which he may resume serving pending a vote of continuance by both the elders and the members of the congregation.

d. Each year during the annual business meeting the members of the congregation shall conduct a vote of continuance for the elders and deacons.

## **Article 2 CONTINUANCE**

Inasmuch as many have given of their time and energy in the establishment of this work, and churches and individuals across the country have given of their moneys that this church might be founded upon sound Scriptural principles, it is hereby provided that in the event of division within the church over these principles and doctrines, the church and its property shall remain in the possession and control of those who adhere to these principles and doctrines, as set forth in this Constitution. BMW shall be considered as a competent authority in interpreting said principles and doctrines. When a mission church is released from the mission, it is encouraged to become a sponsoring church to help some missionary or mission church on this field by prayer, financial support, work crews or in other appropriate ways.

## **Article 3 ORDINATION**

It shall lie within the province of this church to ordain to the Gospel ministry such men as can give a satisfactory account as to their conversion, call to the ministry, and preparation for the same. Those who desire ordination may make application to the church. Examination of the applicant as to these matters shall be in a public meeting and shall be conducted by the Official Board or by a duly selected and qualified group of ministers assembled for this purpose.

## **Article 4 AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 1.**

The Constitution and Bylaws shall not be changed in their essence at any time in the future by any amendment, especially as it pertains to the doctrine contained in Article 6. This church is to remain an independent church, not affiliated with any denomination. However, the Constitution and Bylaws may be otherwise amended by the action of the membership assembled in congregational meetings for such purposes.

### **Section 2.**

Any proposed amendment must be publicized to the congregation at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which action is taken.

### **Section 3.**

Amendments to the Constitution shall require a three-fourths majority vote of members present at a congregational business meeting.

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*Please let us know if there is anything in this document that needs further explanation. The purpose of this constitution is to promote unity among the body, resulting in a more effective ministry together for our Lord and Savior.*

*After reading the constitution of this church, if you are interested in becoming a member, please complete the following application and submit it to the pastor.*

# Application for Church Membership: Fellowship Bible Church

Please read FBC's Constitution and Bylaws. When completed, this application should be presented to the pastor.

1. Have you trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior as set forth in John 3:3-6?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Have you read and do you understand FBC's Constitution and Bylaws? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you agree to submit to FBC's Constitution and Bylaws? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you affirm wholeheartedly the crucial doctrines stated in Article 6, Sections 1-7 and 15a of FBC's Constitution? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you agree to hold members of this church accountable and submit to their accountability as set out in Article 9 of the Constitution? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you agree to support FBC by prayer, attendance, and giving as taught in the Bible?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Please write out your testimony of faith in Christ on the reverse side of this form. Include a brief description of how and when you came to know Christ as your Savior.

8. If you are currently a member of another church, please provide the name and mailing address in the space following so we may notify them.

Name (Please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_