

CONSTITUTION OF FAMILY BIBLE CHURCH OF OAK HARBOR

PREAMBLE

Resting our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and believing in the teaching and practices of the New Testament, we join together as a body of believers and adopt for our guidance the following Constitution and By-Laws:

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be Family Bible Church of Oak Harbor. The church is denominationally unrelated and is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Washington.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of Family Bible Church is to glorify God by the edifying of the body to Christ-like character and evangelize Oak Harbor and the surrounding community through the saints; to reach out to the unsaved in the world through missions and to provide a center for Christian fellowship and the worship of Almighty God. (Matt. 28:19-20; Col 4:3; Eph. 4:11-16).

ARTICLE III: STATEMENT OF FAITH

We recognize the teachings of the Scriptures and trust them as our single source of authority for beliefs and practices. We thereby subscribe to the following doctrinal statement:

1. THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe the Scriptures - the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments - to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed. (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21; Matt. 5:18; John 16:12-13.)

2. THE GODHEAD

We believe there is but one living and true God who is infinite, eternal and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth. He is absolutely separate from and above the world as its Creator, yet ever-present in the world as the upholder of all things. We further believe that God is one in essence, but eternally existent in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each having precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections and each worthy of precisely the same worship, confidence and obedience. (Gen. 1:26; Duet. 6:4; Psalms 139:8; Isaiah 45:5-7; Matt. 28:18; Mark 10:18; John 4:24; Acts 17:24-29; II Cor. 13:14; Eph.4:6).

A. THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE FATHER

God the Father, the first Person of the Trinity, orders and disposes all things according to His own purpose and grace. As the absolute and highest Ruler in the universe, He is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption. He created the universe apart from pre-existing materials and without means. He has decreed for His own glory all things that come to pass, continually upholds, directs and governs all creatures and events. This He does so as in no way to be the author or approver of sin nor to remove the accountability of morally intelligent creatures. He has graciously chosen from all eternity those whom He would have as His own; He saves from sin all who come to Him through Jesus Christ; and related Himself to His own as their Father. (Psalms 145:8-9; I Chron. 29:11; Psalms 103:19; John 1:18; Romans 11:33; I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 1:3-6; Heb. 4:13; I Peter 1:17).

B. THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. (John 1:1-2, 12:14,18; Luke 1:35; Phil. 2:1-11; Col. 1:14- 20, 2:9). We believe that the Lord accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice and that our justification is made sure by His physical resurrection from the dead. We believe that He 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; Rom. 3:24-25, 4:25; I Pet. 2:24; Eph. 1:7; I Pet. 1:3-5; Heb. 9:24, 7:25; I John 2:1-2).

C. THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who testifies of Christ, convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and judgment and that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ at the moment of salvation and sealing them unto the day of redemption. We believe that He guides believers into all truth and that it is the duty of the saved to be continually filled with the Spirit. (John 16:8-11, 13, 15:26; Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 12:12-14; II Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14, 5:18; I John 2:20-27).

3. THE FALL AND DEPRAVITY *(Approved 12-6-15)*

God gave humanity the opportunity to live peacefully in the garden. In disobedience to God's council humanity chose to eat of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and were removed from the presence of God in the garden. Because of that disobedience we believe that humanity is utterly unable to remedy its lost condition. (Gen. 3:1-24, 6:5; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 1:18-32, 3:10, 23, 5:12; 2 Cor. 4:3-4; Eph. 2:1-3; 1 Jn. 5:19)

4. MARRIAGE *(Approved 12-6-15)*

We believe the God has created humanity male and female; distinct and complementary genders who together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7, 18, 21-23). We believe that God has ordained marriage to be between one man and one woman in an exclusive union, intended to be lifelong, as laid out in scripture (Gen. 2:18-25; 1 Cor. 7:2-5; Eph. 5:31; Heb. 13:4).

4.1 DIVORCE *(Approved 12-6-15)*

Though God intended marriage to be a single lifelong commitment, humanity is fallen and incapable keeping its covenants on their own. There are specific circumstances in which divorce and remarriage are permissible for the believer (e.g. an unbelieving spouse initiates divorce, adultery, the breaking of marriage covenant, et. al.) (Deut. 24; Mt. 19; 1 Cor. 7).

5. SALVATION OF MAN

We believe that our redemption has been accomplished solely by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made to be sin and a curse for us, and that no repentance, no feeling, no faith, no good resolutions, no sincere efforts, no submission to the rules and regulations of any church, nor all the churches that have existed since the days of the Apostles, can add in the very least degree to the value of the blood of Christ or the merit of the finished work accomplished for us by Him. (Rom. 5:6-9; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; I Peter 1:18-19, 23). We believe that when an unsaved person exercises faith in Christ in the manner described in the New Testament, he passes from death into spiritual life, and from the old creation into the new. Immediately upon being saved he is justified from all sin and is accepted before the Father as Christ is

accepted, loved as Christ is loved, having his portion and place as linked to Him and one with Him forever. And though the saved one may have occasion to grow in the realization of his blessings and to know a fuller measure of divine power through yielding of his life more fully to God, he is, as soon as he is saved, in possession of every spiritual blessing and absolutely complete in Christ. (John 5:24, 17:23; Acts 13:39; Rom. 5:1; I Cor. 3:21; Eph. 1:3; Col. 2:10; I John 4:15-17, 5:11-12).

The Assurance of Believers (*Approved 12-6-15*)

We believe that once a person has accepted the saving work of Christ Jesus on their behalf that they are kept by God's power and are secure in Christ forever. (John 1:12, 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Rom. 3:23-24; 8:1, 38-39; Eph. 2:8-10; Heb. 7:25; I Pet. 1:5)

6. THE FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS

We believe that each believer is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life, and that all should live in a manner that would glorify God. (II Tim. 3:1-5; Rom. 12:1-2, 14:13; I John 2:15-17; II John 1:9-11). We believe the universal Church is a spiritual entity composed of all born-again persons of this age, of which Christ is the Head. We believe the local church consists of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, associated for worship, work, and fellowship. (Eph. 1:22-23, 5:25, 27; Acts 14:27, 20:17; Rom. 16:1-4). We teach the autonomy of the local church, free from any external authority or control, with the right of self-government and freedom from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations. (Titus 1:5). It is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other for the presentation and propagation of the faith. However, each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation as well as on all matters of membership, policy, discipline, benevolence, and government. (Acts 15:19-31, 20:28; I Cor. 5:4-7, 13; I Pet. 5:1-4). We believe that to fulfill its God ordained mission, the church has been given spiritual gifts. Each member of the body, at the time of conversion, is given at least one such gift(s) in a way that will glorify God. (Rom. 12:3-8; Eph. 4:8-13; II Tim. 1:6; I Pet. 4:10-11). Since these gifts are bestowed by the Lord in order to fulfill specific purposes in God's program, we believe that when the purpose of any gift is fulfilled, that particular gift is terminated. Thus, we believe, that biblical speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, miracles, healing, gradually ceased with the ending of the Apostolic Age. (I Cor. 12:11, 13:8-10, 14:21-22; II Tim. 4:20; Acts 19:11-12; Heb. 2:3-4). We believe that God heals and works miracles today, but that He does so through the prayers of His saints and not through gifted individuals.

7. ORDINANCES

We believe that God has established two ordinances for the local church; baptism, which is the immersion of the believer in water as a testimony of his baptism into the death of Christ and his resurrection to new life; and the Lord's Supper, which is the commemoration of the Lord's death until He comes again. (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; I Cor. 11:23-29; Matt. 28:19).

8. THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST

We believe in the "Blessed Hope," the personal imminent, pretribulation and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish His millennial Kingdom. (I Thess. 4:13-18; Zech. 14:4-11; Rev. 19:11-16, 20:1-6; I Thess. 1:10, 5:9; Rev. 3:10).

9. THE ETERNAL STATE

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgement and everlasting punishment. (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28-29, 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-25). 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 united to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; Rev. 20:4-6; II Cor. 5:8; Phil 1:23; I Thess. 4:16-17). We believe that the souls of unbelievers at the second resurrection shall appear at the Great White Throne of Judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire. (Luke 16:19-28; Matt. 9:43-46; II Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 1:6-7; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 20:11-15; John 5:28-29).

10. THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall of man into sin. He is the open and declared enemy of God and man and will be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11, 25:41; Rev. 20:10; Gen. 3).

ARTICLE IV: COVENANT

Having individually received the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, and desiring to unite in the worship, fellowship, and testimony with Family Bible Church of Oak Harbor, and having read the Statement of Faith of the church and understanding it to be the essence of its belief and teaching, we therefore, joyfully enter into this covenant with one another as one body in Christ:

We purpose by the power of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this body of believers in knowledge and holiness; to promote its spirituality; to sustain its worship, God's ordinances, scriptural discipline and doctrine; and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of its ministry.

We will endeavor to maintain personal and family devotions; to train our children in the nurture, respect and admonition of the Lord; to walk carefully before the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, exemplary in our behavior, and zealous in our efforts to advance the work of the Gospel by seeking the salvation of the unsaved.

We will always seek to minister to one another in brotherly love and remember each other in prayer; we will seek to aid one another in times of sickness and distress; to admonish and rebuke one another for sin; to be slow to take offense and always ready for reconciliation.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

Any person who has accepted Jesus Christ as his own personal Savior, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and who will subscribe to the doctrinal statement, purpose and covenant of this church shall be eligible for membership.

Prospective members shall be interviewed by the Board of Elders as to the candidate's agreement to the above stated conditions and conditions listed in the By-Laws. Following review of applicant, accepted applicant shall be enrolled as a member. At a regular service, members so enrolled shall be publicly received by the pastor and congregation to enjoy the privileges and be bound by the obligations involved in such sacred relationships.

While any person is welcome to attend the services of this church, only members may hold office, teach or serve in any direct leadership role that represents the church, unless by a special vote of the Elders and Pastor. Voting in a congregational meeting shall be limited to members on the roll, eighteen years of age and older.

ARTICLE VI: GOVERNMENT

Our local church body, under the Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ, is organized as Elders (overseers), Deacons (servants), and body members (believer-priests, saints, proclaimers). The needs of the church shall be fulfilled through:

1. The faithful teaching of the Word.
2. Diligent oversight by Elders who shall represent the perspectives of both pastors and body members.
3. Organized commissions focused on the needs of the body, under the direction of Deacons.
4. Through every member discovering and deploying his gift(s) in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The ministry of the Family Bible church shall be under the direction of the Lord Jesus Christ by means of a plurality of Elders who function under the authority of the Scriptures and God's Spirit. The Elders, appointed with the consent and support of the church body, are the decision-making body. (Heb.13:17; I Pet.5:1-3; I Tim.5:17).

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS

This constitution shall be only amended by 100% agreement of all Elders and 3/4 agreement of the membership present at a duly called meeting. A quorum shall consist of 50% of the membership.

BY-LAWS OF FAMILY BIBLE CHURCH

The By-Laws are adopted, ordained and established for our government and plan of worship and service. No By-Laws or rules that conflict with the Articles of Incorporation of the Constitution of this church shall be effective.

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

1. Nature

Membership in the Family Bible Church shall be open to all persons who confess Christ as Savior, who make him Lord of their lives, who have been baptized and who are in agreement with the doctrine and practices of this church.

2. Application for Membership

All requests for membership shall be made to a Pastor, an Elder, or a Deacon. Upon making such requests, the person shall be given an application for membership, along with a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws. Upon receipt of the application, designated Elders shall meet with the applicant and examine him regarding his Christian experience, assurance of salvation and doctrinal belief. Following review of applicants, each accepted applicant shall be enrolled as a member. At a regular Sunday service those so enrolled shall be publicly received by the pastors and congregation, enjoy the privileges and be bound by the obligations involved in such sacred relationships.

3. Termination of Membership

Membership in this church shall be terminated in any one of four ways:

- A. By death.
- B. By exclusion. It is the right of the Board of Elders, in harmony with the Scriptures, to exclude from this fellowship any person who:
 1. Holds false and heretical doctrine
 2. Lives inconsistent with a Christian profession
 3. Disturbs the peace and unity of this church
 4. Without an acceptable reason known to the Board of Elders, is habitually absent from Communion and other gatherings for worship, and/or without an acceptable reason known to the Elders fails to communicate with the church for a period of one year or fails to reply to communication.
- C. By transfer. A letter of transfer shall be granted upon request of any member, providing he is in good standing and not subject to or under church discipline at the time of the request. No letter shall be sent to member churches of the National Council of Churches, or any like federation. However, a letter of testimony may be sent in lieu thereof.
- D. By written request of the member to the Board of Elders.

4. Obligation of Membership

Members of this fellowship shall:

- A. Strive to live consistently according to the Word of God.
- B. Uphold the church in prayer.
- C. Support the services and activities of the fellowship by faithful attendance and service.
- D. Contribute to its financial support as the Lord prospers them.
- E. Participate in elections. Minimum age for voting members is 18 years of age.

5. Discipline of Members

Members of this church who err in doctrine or conduct shall be subject to discipline according to Matthew 18:15-18. Before dismissal, however, it shall be the duty of any member of this church who has knowledge of the erring member's heresy or misconduct to warn and to correct such erring member. If said erring member does not heed this warning, then the warning member shall go to the erring member accompanied by one or two witnesses to warn and correct such erring member. If said member still refuses to heed this warning, it shall be brought to the attention of the Elders. If said erring member refuses to heed the warning and correction of the Elders, he or she shall be temporarily removed from membership until reconciliation can be achieved.

ARTICLE II: GOVERNMENT

The spiritual affairs, government and discipline of the Church shall be vested in the Board of Elders. When "Elder" is used in this document, unless otherwise specified, there is no differentiation between Pastor-Elders and Lay-Elders. All pastors, officers, councils, committees and staff shall be responsible to this Board. A minimum of three Elders should always compose the Board. *(Approved 9-28-06)*

ARTICLE III: BOARD OF ELDERS

1. Appointment and Term of Office

Duly qualified men shall be appointed by the Elder Board to the Board of Elders. The congregation shall confirm these appointments, whether it is via mailed ballot or a special business meeting. Confirmed appointments shall be for a 3-year term of office for both pastor and lay elders, renewable upon request of the Elder and unanimous consent of the remaining Elders. Removal of Elders from office shall be affected by personal resignation, by disciplinary action in accordance with I Timothy 5:19-20 and Galatians 6:1, or by unanimous consent of the remaining Elders. Elders or members of the church body may recognize the need for an additional Elder. The Elders, in consultation with or in response to body members, shall seek to discern the nature of the need and visualize God's person and means for its fulfillment. The duly appointed chairman of the Elder board shall serve in that capacity for a period of one year.

(Approved 9-28-06)

2. Qualifications

Each member of the Board of Elders must be an active member of this church and possess the qualifications described in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. Length of membership shall be a minimum of six months in the local church. All Elders at every Annual Church Business Meeting shall submit a written affidavit of their agreement with the Constitution, By-Laws, and Doctrinal stand of this church.

3. Duties

All Elders are responsible for shepherding and having oversight of the flock. Specific duties of this Board shall be as follows:

- A. To elect a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer.
- B. To establish policies and determine practices for the church.
- C. To hear and consider all reports and recommendations submitted by pastors, councils, committees, staff, and members.
- D. To assist in the administration of all ordinances.
- E. To appoint and remove such pastors and staff as may be deemed appropriate.
- F. To exercise general oversight of financial matters of the church.
- G. To exercise general oversight of church property.
- H. To acquire or dispose of all real or personal property of any kind.

- I. To provide for the discipline of erring members when such is deemed necessary, while striving for reconciliation.

4. Officers of the Board of Elders

- A. Chairman – The Chairman shall preside at all Board meetings which are to be conducted according to scriptural principles such as set forth in Philippians 2:2-8 and Robert's Parliamentary Rules of Order. The Chairman shall, in the absence of the Pastors, be responsible for the leadership of the church service.
- B. Vice-Chairman – The Vice-Chairman shall assume all of the above-enumerated duties of the Chairman in the absence of the latter.
- C. Secretary – The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Elders and shall attach to the minutes all official correspondence relating to the Board. He shall be charged with the duty of giving proper notice to the congregation of annual and special meetings.
- D. Treasurer – The Treasurer shall be responsible for all monies collected by the church, and he shall make financial reports each month to the Board. The Treasurer shall make a financial report at each annual business meeting. Proper records and books concerning incoming and outgoing funds shall be kept and such records and books shall be available for auditing or inspection at any reasonable time by the Board of Elders.

5. Meeting and Quorum

- A. The Board of Elders shall conduct regular meetings at least once a month and special meetings at such other times as called for by the Chairman of the Board, or a quorum of the Board. Two thirds (2/3) of the Board membership shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting church business.
- B. Regular meeting dates of the Board of Elders shall be determined at the first Elders meeting of each year.
- C. Regular meetings of the Board of Elders shall be open to members of the church.

6. Decisions

Decisions made by the Board of Elders shall be based on carefully assembled facts, Scriptural insight, the individual and corporate leading by the Holy Spirit, and the solicited consensus of body members as needed. Consensus of the church membership shall be solicited by such means as the Sunday bulletin, newsheets, newsletters, information cards, pulpit announcements, group or congregational meetings or advisory ballots. The Board of Elders must seek and find the mind of Christ and come to unanimous agreement before deciding matters of church business. Should any voting member of the church disagree with any action of the Board of Elders, he may inform the Board Chairman in writing. Upon receiving written notice, the Chairman shall schedule him at a meeting of the Board of Elders for discussion and review.

ARTICLE IV: OTHER COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

1. Councils and Committees

To enable the efficient handling of Board matters, the Board may appoint various councils and committees from within its membership, the staff, and from the church at large. These councils and committees shall perform tasks solely in accordance with the duties and with powers specifically delegated by the Board. The general functions of councils and committees are:

- A. To bring considerations and recommendations to the Board concerning ministries.

- B. To provide a wider base of council to the Elders having the oversight of specific ministries. All councils and committees shall exist for the period specified by the Board.

2. Deacons

The Deacons shall consist of members possessing the qualifications described in I Timothy 3:8-13, and shall be approved by the congregation, whether it is via mailed ballot or a special business meeting. The Board of Elders shall act as a nominating committee for Deacons and shall seek input from the congregation. After prayerful consideration, one nomination per needed Deacon position shall be submitted to the congregation for their approval. Deacon term of office shall be for a two-year period. It shall be the duty of Deacons to undertake with joy, the tasks set before them, including care over the material needs of the church, serving the needs of the people, and other services which are designated to them by the Elders. *(Approved 12-8-88)*

ARTICLE V: THE PASTORS

1. Call

The members of the church shall choose the pastors for an indefinite period by ballot upon the unanimous recommendation of the Board of Elders in the following manner:

- A. A search committee shall be appointed by the Board of Elders to interview prospective candidates and make recommendations to the Board of Elders. The prospective candidates shall be considered as to educational qualifications, spiritual condition (I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9), previous experience, and must agree to the Statement of Faith and Constitution and By-Laws without reservation.
- B. Upon being approved by a unanimous vote of the Board of Elders, the prospect shall be invited to candidate before the congregation. As soon thereafter as it is practical, the Board of Elders shall call a congregational meeting at which time the members shall vote to extend the call. A three-fourths (3/4) majority of regular members present shall be required to call a Pastor.

2. Duties

A Pastor designated by the Elder Board shall arrange and conduct all public and regular services of the church. Pastors may serve as Elders on the Elder Board. Pastors shall, as are all Elders, be responsible for general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the church.

3. Tenure

Pastors shall remain in office for an indefinite period of time subject to the following reservations: The Board of Elders reserve the right to dismiss a Pastor upon giving him one month written notice of its intention to dismiss. A Pastor must give one-month notice if he intends to resign. This time requirement is intended to provide for continuity of the involved Pastor's ministries and may be less if both the Pastor involved and the Elders by mutual agreement decide otherwise

ARTICLE VI: OTHER CHURCH STAFF

The authority to hire pastors' assistants, evangelists, youth leaders, and administrative and other non-pastoral staff rests with the Board of Elders. The Lay Elders shall review salary adjustments of Pastors and other staff serving Family Bible Church at least annually.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

1. Annual Business Meeting

An annual business meeting of the church membership shall be held each year. The Elder Board will give membership four (4) weeks notice prior to each annual meeting. No longer than 12 months may pass between annual business meetings without proper notification from the Elder Board. *(Approved 7-12-20)*

2. Special Business Meetings

- A. Special business meetings may be called by the Chairman of the Board of Elders or by a quorum of the members of the Board of Elders.
- B. Notice of such meetings shall be given from the pulpit at least two Sundays prior to the meeting and shall also be published in the regular church bulletin on the Sunday immediately preceding the meeting. The notice shall specify the date, time, and place, and the general nature of the business to be transacted.

3. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of 50% of regular members 18 years of age and older present at a meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote shall be required to pass any item unless otherwise specified. *(Approved 9-28-06)*

ARTICLE VIII: FINANCES

The church is organized according to the principle laid down in Philippians 4:19. The Lord's people looking to the Lord to supply their needs should support the Lord's work. Therefore, only free-will gifts and offerings shall be used to carry on this work. The church shall hold no entertainment, suppers, bazaars, or other such money raising projects. All the needs of the church are to be laid before the Lord in earnest believing prayer by the members of the congregation. In case of auxiliary organizations such as youth groups, women's fellowships, etc., specific money raising projects may be permitted by approval of the Board of Elders. There shall be a strict accounting of all funds handled with an annual report made to the congregation. As God has planted this work, we look to Him to maintain it. The financial records shall be audited annually.

(Approved 9-28-06)

ARTICLE IX: ORDINATION

1. License

Any man of the fellowship who, in the judgment of the Board of Elders, gives evidence by his Christian life, zeal, and aptness to teach, that he is called of God to the work of a pastor or evangelist, after having preached in the hearing of the church, may be given a license to preach the Gospel. A congregational meeting shall be called for this purpose.

2. Ordination

If it is determined by the Board of Elders that a man of the fellowship possesses the qualifications of ordination for vocational ministry, it shall call a council of ministers and lay members to examine the candidate, to which council the propriety of ordaining the individual shall be referred. After receiving a favorable report from the council, the elders shall recommend to the church to consider a time and place for the ordination service.

ARTICLE X: FACILITY USE

The use of facilities and property of Family Bible Church are for the fellowship of the body of Christ and to bring glory to God. Although the facilities and property are not for general public use, we may make our facilities and property available to approved non-members as a witness of our faith, in a spirit of Christian charity, and as a means of demonstrating the Gospel of Jesus Christ in practice.

Facility and property use will not be permitted to persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs or practices that conflict with Family Bible Church's statement of faith, constitution, and by-laws. Its facilities and property may not be used for activities that contradict or are inconsistent with Family Bible Church's faith or teachings.

The pastoral staff or Board of Elders are the final decision makers concerning use of church facilities.
(Approved 12-6-15)

ARTICLE XI: DISSOLUTION

In case of the dissolution of this Corporation, all accrued assets and personal and real property shall be given to Northwest Independent Church Extension, a non-profit corporation of the State of Washington. If this organization is no longer in existence at the time of dissolution, all assets shall be given to Independent Fundamental Churches of America, headquarters in Westchester, Illinois.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

Upon approval of the Board of Elders, these By-Laws may be repealed and/or amended or added to at any special business meeting of the church body. Any regular active member may propose an amendment of the By-Laws to the Board of Elders. *(Approved 9-28-06)*

ARTICLE XIII: ENACTING

Upon the adoption by the Church of the Constitution and By-Laws as herein set forth, they shall be in lieu of all previously adopted Constitutions and By-Laws.

This Constitution was voted on and approved at a duly called congregational meeting November 8, 1981.

Updated December 8, 1988 concerning By-Laws, Article IV: Other Councils and Committees, 2. Deacons

Updated September 28, 2006 concerning By-Laws, Article II: Government.

Updated September 28, 2006 concerning By-Laws, Article III: Board of Elders, 1. Appointment and Term of Office.

Updated September 28, 2006 concerning By-Laws, Article VII: Meetings, 3. Quorum.

Updated September 28, 2006 concerning By-Laws, Article VIII: Finances.

Updated September 28, 2006 concerning By-Laws, Article XII: Amendments.

Updated December 6, 2015. Family Bible Church updated its stance on the Fall & Depravity of Man. See Constitution, Article III: Statement of Faith, 3. Fall & Depravity of Man.

Updated December 6, 2015 in response to the legalization of same sex marriage, Family Bible Church added their stance on the Biblical Theology of Marriage. See Constitution, Article III: Statement of Faith, 4. Marriage, and 4.1 Divorce.

Updated December 6, 2015. Family Bible Church updated its stance on Salvation of Man, The Assurance of the Believer. See Constitution, Article III: Statement of Faith, 5. Salvation of Man.

Updated December 6, 2015 concerning By-Laws, Article X: Facility Use.

Updated July 12, 2020 concerning the By-Laws, Article VII: Meetings, 1. Annual Business Meeting.