

# Constitution of Faith Bible Church

Rio, WI

## Preamble

We, the members of Faith Bible Church, in order to more perfectly serve and love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, do ordain and establish the following constitution to which we voluntarily subscribe and willfully submit ourselves.

## Article I – Name

This organization shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Wisconsin as Faith Bible Church.

## Article II – Purpose

The purpose of this church shall be: the salvation of souls; the edification of born again believers through the teaching of God's Word; the world wide proclamation of His saving grace expressed in the shed blood and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary; the promotion of Godly worship; the defense of the faith; and demonstration, through word and deed, of our born again nature during interaction with the greater community.

## Article III – Position and Fellowship

### Section 1: Autonomy

This church shall be an independent and self-governing organization, adhering to the fundamental and premillennial doctrines of the Christian faith, as set forth in the Holy Bible.

### Section 2: Fellowship

Fellowship with other local independent churches shall be maintained by Faith Bible Church. It may also enter into such cooperation with other fundamental churches so long as Faith Bible Church's non-denominational and fundamental positions are not jeopardized.

### Section 3: Affiliation

To aid in its independent non-sectarian character, Faith Bible Church shall hold membership in the Independent Fundamental Churches of America International (IFCA); said membership to be retained so long as the IFCA position on doctrine, ecclesiastical separation, and autonomy of the local church remain in agreement with this constitution.

## Article IV – Statement of Doctrine

Every person, in order to become or remain a member of Faith Bible Church, shall be required to confess their acceptance of the virgin born, crucified, and resurrected Jesus Christ as their Savior, and to subscribe to the following articles of faith:

### Section 1: The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures 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 (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18; John 16:12-13; 1 Thessalonians 2:13).

### Section 2: The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and that these three are one God; having the same attributes, power, glory and perfections and deserving the same homage, confidence and obedience (Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

### Section 3: The Person and Work of Christ

a. We believe that 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, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man (John 1:1-2,14; Luke 1:35).

b. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for all mankind as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice, and that the sufficiency of this atoning sacrifice to accomplish the redemption and justification of all who trust in Him is assured by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24-25; Romans 4:25; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Timothy 4:10; Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 Peter 2:24 and 2 Peter 2:1).

c. We believe that 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; Hebrews 9:24; Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2).

#### Section 4: The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

a. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Godhead who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers of this age into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of reception (John 16:8-11; 2 Corinthians 3:6; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14).

b. We believe that He is the divine teacher who guides believers into all truth; and, that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (John 16:13; 1 John 2:20, 27; Ephesians 5:18).

#### Section 5: The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a created being, the originator of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

#### Section 6: The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and that man is totally depraved and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-24; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3,12).

#### Section 7: Salvation

a. We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 4:10-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10).

b. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever, that 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 sin (Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19; John 6:37-40; John 10:27-30; Romans 8:1,38-39; 2 Corinthians 5:19; 1 Peter 1:5; Galatians 5:13).

#### Section 8: The Two Natures of the Believer

We believe that 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 that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural (Romans 6:13; Romans 8:12-13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9).

#### Section 9: The Walk of the Believer

a. We believe that all the saved should live a godly life and walk in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord, or cause others to stumble or fall in their walk (Romans 6:5-11; 8:5-10; 12:1-2; 14:13; Galatians 5:16; 1 John 2:15-17).

b. We further believe that entering into marriage or other entangling alliances with unbelievers is contrary to God's will and Scriptural truth (2 Corinthians 6:14 – 7:1).

#### 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 (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20).

#### Section 11: The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts

a. We believe that all who are saved are equipped for spiritual service through divine enabling gifts given through the Holy Spirit. God is sovereign in the bestowment of His gifts, and in His infinite wisdom (which human beings can not comprehend) provides these gifts to saved men and women as He deems necessary and appropriate. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12).

b. We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted (John 15:7; 1 John 5:14-15).

#### Section 12: Dispensational Revelation

We believe that the Scriptures are to be interpreted in their natural and literal sense, thus they reveal certain divinely determined dispensations, or rules of life. Three of these (the age of law, the age of the church, and the age of the millennial kingdom) are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture (Deuteronomy 29:29; John 1:17; 2 Corinthians 3:7-16; Galatians 3:13-25; Ephesians 1:10; 3:1-6; Colossians 1:24-25; Hebrews 1:1-2; 7:19; Revelation 20:2-6).

#### Section 13: The Church

- a. We believe that the Church: consists of all who are united to the risen and ascended Son of God; is the body and the espoused bride of Christ; began at Pentecost and is completely distinct from Israel. Its members are constituted as such regardless of membership or non-membership in the organized churches of earth. We believe that by the Holy Spirit, all believers in this age are baptized into, and thus become, one body that is Christ's whether Jew or Gentile, and having become members one of another, are under solemn duty to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, rising above all sectarian differences, and loving one another fervently with a pure heart (Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2).
- b. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; Acts 20:17, 28-32; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).
- c. We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4; Acts 15:19-31; Acts 20:28; Romans 16:1,4; 1 Corinthians 3:9,16; 1 Corinthians 5:4-7,13; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- d. We believe in the ordinances of believer's water baptism and the Lord's Supper as scriptural means of testimony for the church age (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; Acts 18:8; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

#### Section 14: The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth to establish His millennial kingdom (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 19:11-16; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; Revelation 3:10).

#### 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; John 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; Philippians 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).
- c. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, 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 1:6-7; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15).

#### Section 16: Marriage and Family

- a. We believe that sexual intimacy is a wonderful gift of God that is only to be expressed within the love and bonds of marriage, and that marriage is a sacred union of one genetic man and one genetic woman (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:1-10; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5; Hebrews 13:4). Therefore, we believe that any other form of sexual intimacy is both immoral and a perversion of God's gift (Leviticus 18:1-30; Proverbs 6:32; 1 Corinthians 6:18; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8).
- b. We believe that children are a blessing from God, and that all human life is sacred and worthy of protection from the moment of conception (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:24; Psalm 127 and 128; 139:13-16).

### **Article V – Membership**

#### Section 1: Qualifications for Membership

- a. Any believer aged 10 years or more desiring to become a member of Faith Bible Church may do so upon meeting the qualifications set forth in this article. Any person requesting water baptism shall be immersed.
- b. Each applicant for membership shall be expected to:
- 1) Give an expression of personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ resulting from an experience of new birth (Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12-13; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

- 2) Express agreement with the doctrine and constitution of Faith Bible Church.
- 3) Attend the regular services of Faith Bible Church as God enables (Hebrews 10:25).
- 4) Have a positive desire to live a life that will be testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:10; 2 Timothy 2:19-22).

#### Section 2: Application Procedure

After prospective members have completed and submitted an application form, arrangements shall be made for a personal interview with a council of elders. Upon subsequent recommendation from the Elder Board, the individual shall be extended the right hand of fellowship at a Sunday worship service. At that time membership shall be in force.

#### Section 3: Classification of Membership

Every member shall be classified in accordance with his or her qualifications for membership by the elders as follows:

- a. *Active Membership* shall consist of those members sixteen years of age or older who have been received in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and who are not members of another church. They shall comprise the voting membership of Faith Bible Church.
- b. *Associate Membership* shall be granted on the same basis as active membership to those of like precious faith who feel it necessary to retain primary membership in some out-of-town church. They may participate and lead ministries within the church, but they will not have the privilege of voting or holding an office on the board of elders.
- c. *Inactive Membership* shall consist of those who have been absent from the worship services of the church for a period of at least twelve months without satisfactory explanation for the absence, or those who have come under disciplinary action of the church. Inactive members shall not have the right to vote, hold office, or lead a ministry.
- d. *Junior Membership* Shall be open to all who are between the ages of 10 and 15 years. They shall enjoy all of the privileges of *Active Membership* except voting at congregational business meetings.
- e. The elders shall review the membership categories at least annually. Junior members shall be formally transferred to the proper membership roll upon reaching the age of sixteen years.

#### Section 4: Transfer of Membership

Any member in good standing who desires to join a different evangelical church may request a letter of recommendation or release from the secretary of the board of elders of Faith Bible Church.

#### Section 5: Discipline of Members

- a. The discipline of members shall be entrusted to the board of elders, and shall be exercised according to the principle of Christian love, as outlined in Galatians 6:1, "Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted."
- b. Personal grievances between members shall be reconciled according to scriptural rule in Matthew 18:15-17.
- c. Cases not settled by rule in Matthew 18:15-16 shall be brought before the elders who shall review the case together, and recommend any disciplinary procedure in the spirit of the Word of God.
- d. The elders shall endeavor to resolve any grievances by, or unbecoming conduct on the part of, any member of this church and shall have authority to call members into conference, when there is evidence that any member is no longer in accord with the spirit of fellowship and doctrinal statement set forth in this constitution.
- e. If any member thus having been dealt with persists in his/her sinful course, it shall be the responsibility of the elders to take disciplinary action and to recommend dismissal. However, no member shall be dismissed from church membership without opportunity for a fair and impartial closed hearing before the church membership. Notification of hearing shall be sent to the member in question by registered return-requested mail. Failure to appear for insufficient reason will result in automatic removal from church membership (1 Corinthians 6:1-2; James 5:19-20).

### **Article VI – Government**

#### Section 1: Ecclesiastical Sovereignty

This church acknowledges the Lord Jesus Christ alone as its Head; the Holy Scriptures as its only infallible guide in matters of faith, discipline, and order; the Holy Spirit as its Teacher; and it is not, nor shall it ever be, accountable to, under the jurisdiction of, or under the supervision of any other ecclesiastical body of any kind or nature.

#### Section 2: Vestment of Authority

The government of Faith Bible Church shall be vested in its *Active Members* and executed through duly recognized elders who shall comprise the board of elders, and members of the congregation who shall comprise ministry committees.

### Section 3: Board of Elders

- a. The board of elders' primary responsibility shall be the spiritual guidance of the church.
- b. Authority to make business transactions, and the management and control of the church's real and personal property shall rest with the board of elders. The board of elders shall have general and spiritual oversight of the ministry committees and its agencies, programs, and subsidiary organizations.
- c. The board of elders shall not transfer, sell, or purchase any real estate for the church, nor encumber the church with loan, except by expressed authorization conveyed through a two thirds majority vote of active members at a business meeting duly called for such purpose.
- d. The board of elders shall have authority to appoint and/or nominate individuals or committees for the transaction of its business. Such individuals or committees shall be answerable to, and in subjection to the board of elders.
- e. The board of elders shall have authority to call congregational meetings for any purpose, including but not limited to: advisory votes or votes of affirmation on an issue; for recommending action by the congregation; for receiving advice or instruction from the congregation.
- f. The board of elders shall handle and consider suggestions, recommendations, and grievances upon the part of any member or organization affiliated with the church. It shall perform such other duties as may be defined in this constitution or its by-laws, and shall at all times and in all matters be subject to the review of the *Active Membership*.
- g. It will be the desire of the board of elders to obtain unanimity on all issues considered. Unanimity not always being possible, the deciding factor in any vote taken in a board of elders meeting shall be a majority vote of its *total* members unless specified otherwise in this constitution or in the by-laws.

### Section 3: Ministry Committees

- a. Ministry Committees shall function in support of the board of elders. Each committee shall appoint a chairperson who will be responsible for scheduling and conducting committee meetings. Each ministry committee will have an individual liaison on the board of elders to whom they may turn for guidance and instruction.
- b. Permanent committees shall be Christian Education, Evangelism, Administrative, and Worship. The board of elders may, as deemed necessary, divide existing committees or create additional committees so the work of the Church may be completed more effectively.
- c. Committees will act primarily in an administrative capacity, overseeing day to day ministries including but not limited to:
  - Christian Education committee – oversees Sunday school and Youth Ministry.
  - Evangelism committee – oversees community outreach, fellowship, and missions.
  - Administrative committee – oversees membership, receipt of tithes and offerings, and secretarial work.
  - Worship committee – oversees structure of weekly worship service and coordination of music.
- d. Committees shall have no authority to encumber the church with loan or make transactions dealing with the real or personal property of the church.
- e. All activity, decisions, and recommendations of the ministry committees shall be subject to approval by the board of elders.

### Section 4: The Advisory Board

The advisory board shall consist of all the men of the church with *Active Membership*. They may meet with the board of elders in an advisory capacity only.

## **Article VII – Church Officers**

All Church officers must be elders, including pastors and trustees.

### Section 1: Pastor Elder

- a. The pastor elder shall discharge all the functions of the ministry in accordance with the Word of God, his chief duty being the ministry of word and prayer. He shall be a member and an elder of this church only. He shall be an ex officio member to all ministry committees.
- b. Any candidate being considered for the pastor elder ministry of this church shall have read the constitution and expressed in writing his explicit agreement with the same.
- c. The congregation shall endeavor to extend a unanimous call to a candidate, with a two thirds majority vote of the quorum of a duly constituted congregation meeting being necessary to effect a call. The congregation shall consider only one candidate at a time.

d. The pastor elder shall serve for an unlimited term. The relationship between pastor elder and church may be dissolved by the resignation of the pastor elder or by two thirds majority vote of the congregation at a congregational meeting duly constituted for such purpose.

e. The pastor elder shall give, and be given by the board of elders, a minimum of thirty days notice of the intent to terminate the pastoral relationship. In the event the board of elders votes, by two thirds majority of all board of elders members, to terminate a pastor elders service abruptly due to actions by the pastor elder that jeopardize the livelihood or liberty of the congregation or its members, termination of the pastoral relationship can occur immediately, with the pastor elder being entitled to thirty days wages.

f. The pastor elder, when requested, shall perform marriage ceremonies and funerals for members of Faith Bible Church and the community within the limitations set forth in Article IV, Section 16.

#### Section 2: The Elders

Elders shall be men who meet the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, and who have been recognized by the existing board of elders and subsequently recognized by the congregation at an official business meeting. They shall be responsible for the spiritual oversight of the congregation (1 Peter 5:1-4). The term of an elder is not limited. However, should it be found that an elder was party to actions that jeopardize the livelihood or liberty of the congregation or its members, he can be removed as an elder by a two thirds majority vote of all board of elders members.

#### Section 3: The Officers

Officers shall be elders who meet the qualifications set forth above. They shall be appointed by the board of elders for one year terms and shall be responsible for the corporate, fiscal and legal affairs of the church. Officer positions include, but are not limited to, Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary.

#### Section 4: Committee Chairpersons

Committee Chairpersons shall be any *Active Members* of the congregation. They shall be appointed by the board of elders to one year terms. Committee Chairpersons may serve no more than 3 consecutive terms to which they have been appointed.

### **Article VIII – Meetings**

#### Section 1: The Worship Service

Public services shall be held regularly on the Lord's Day. The Lord's Supper shall be commemorated on a regular basis of no less than once a month at such times as designated by the board of elders upon recommendation by the worship committee.

#### Section 2: The Board of Elders Meeting

a. The board of elders shall meet regularly on a monthly basis. Special meetings may be called by the pastor or by three or more elders.

b. Complete and accurate minutes of all board of elders meetings shall be made available to the entire congregation.

Discussions or actions regarding discipline of a member, personal matters, or other proceedings deemed private shall not be included in minutes released to the congregation.

c. Board of elder meetings shall be open only to elders and advisors. Exception shall be made if a request is made to the chairman of the board of elders in advance of the regularly scheduled meeting.

#### Section 3: Committee Meetings

a. Committees shall meet as often as deemed necessary by the committee chair, liaison elder, or the pastor elder.

b. Complete and accurate minutes of all committee meetings shall be made available to the board of elders, and a written report of committee activities shall be prepared by the committee chair for inclusion with the annual report.

c. The committee chair shall submit a budget request to the board of elders no less than 90 days prior to the annual business meeting.

d. Committee meetings shall be open to all members of the congregation.

#### Section 4: The Fiscal Year

The church fiscal year shall begin on January 1.

#### Section 5: The Annual Business Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation shall be held during the month of February, the date and time to be determined by the board of elders and advertised at least thirty days in advance of the meeting.

Section 6: Special Business Meetings

Special congregational business meetings may be called by a majority of all members of the board of elders or ten percent of the *Active Members* at any time, provided announcement is made the two Sundays preceding the called meeting, the sole purpose of the meeting to be stated at the time of the announcement of the meeting.

Section 7: The Quorum

The presence of at least twenty five percent of *Active Members*, including a majority of all members of the board of elders, shall constitute a quorum at a regularly scheduled or special meeting of the congregation.

Section 8: Parliamentary Rule

The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall decide in all matters of parliamentary procedure not covered in this constitution or the by-laws.

## **Article IX – Ordination**

Section 1: Provision for Ordination of Men

When in the judgment of the board of elders, a man is called to the Christian Ministry, it shall be within their power to call and conduct a council of ordination.

Section 2: Prospective Candidates

- a. The prospective candidate shall make known in writing to the pastor elder and/or the board of elders his desire for ordination.
- b. The board of elders shall be charged with the responsibility of accepting only those candidates for ordination who show evidence of a genuine call to the ministry, who are qualified for this work, and whose personal habits are such as not to bring reproach upon the name of Christ. They should have served at least six months in some definite Christian work before being considered.

Section 3: Convocation of the Council

The ordination council shall consist of at least five ordained men and/or lay delegates from IFCA and/or other fundamental churches. Invitations to pastors or churches that are not members of the IFCA shall be upon approval of the board of elders. Each church may be represented by no more than two delegates.

Section 4: Preparation by the Candidate

The candidate shall prepare a paper covering the following areas:

- a. An autobiography which shall include an account of spiritual birth experiences, divine call to ministry, and background preparation
- b. A statement of personal beliefs regarding each of the major biblical doctrines
- c. An expository sermon with accompanying outline, to be delivered orally before the council, or at the ordination service.

Section 5: Oral Examination by Council

The council shall thoroughly examine the candidate as his call to the ministry, his Christian experience, education, character, reputation, doctrinal beliefs, and demonstrated efficiency in Christian service; in fact, the council shall have the privilege of examining him in all areas relevant to determining one's fitness for the sacred trust of the ministry.

Section 6: The Service of Ordination

Upon favorable recommendation by the council and subsequent approval of the congregation by two thirds vote, the board of elders may then set a time for the service of ordination.

Section 7: The Ordination Records

The minutes of the council and of the ordination service shall be incorporated into the church records. A certificate of ordination shall be furnished to the one being ordained.

Section 8: Provision for Discipline

- a. It shall be within the province of the board of elders to discipline, even to revoking of the ordination credentials, a minister ordained under this constitution, on the basis of the provision of discipline of members (Article V, Section 5), if the said minister is found, subsequent to his ordination, to have changed to the degree that his doctrine or testimony is discordant with the finding of the ordination council.
- b. The minister in question shall have the right of appeal to the congregation provided such appeal is made in writing within sixty days after summons to appear.

#### **Article X – Dissolution**

No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any donor, member, director, officer of the corporation, or any private individual; and no donor, member, director, officer of the corporation, or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets. Upon dissolution, any assets of the corporation must be distributed to one or more organizations recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as one organized exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, whose doctrinal position and work shall be similar in nature to that of this church, as set forth in Articles II, III, and IV of this constitution.

#### **Article XI – Amendments**

##### Section 1: Articles I through XI inclusive

Any part of this constitution may be amended by a two thirds majority vote of the congregation at a duly constituted business meeting, providing the proposed amendment has been approved by a unanimous vote of the entire board of elders, and is presented in writing to the *Active Membership* at least thirty days prior to the meeting.



## **History and Progression of the Constitution of Faith Bible Church**

September 16, 2007 – A proposal to align Christ Congregational Church in Rio, WI with Grace Bible Church in Portage, WI was defeated by a vote of 31 yes to 34 no.

September 19, 2007 – Former members of Christ Congregational Church met at Vangen Funeral home and formed Faith Bible Church who will align with Grace Bible Church as a sister church.

September 23, 2007 – Faith Bible Church gathered for its first worship service at Vangen Funeral Home in Rio, WI.

January 9, 2008 – Provisional elders of Faith Bible Church approved the Constitution of Faith Bible Church.

February 24, 2008 – Attendees of Faith Bible Church adopted this Constitution.

October 31, 2009 – Provisional elders of Faith Bible Church will take into consideration two amendments for the purpose of defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman, proclaiming the sanctity of life, and refining pastor elder duties.

November 17, 2010 – Provisional elders of Faith Bible Church adopted amendments in Article IV, adding Section 16 and Article VII Section 1, adding paragraph f.

February 28, 2010 – Active members of Faith Bible Church confirmed the constitutional amendments as adopted by the board of provisional elders.

September, 2010 – Active members of Faith Bible Church unanimously approved Mike Gormican, Mike Glick, Phil Hodgson, Harlan Vangen, Ramsey Bobzin, and Clark Hodgson as elders.

February, 2015 – Active members of Faith Bible Church, with the approval of the board of elders, extended a call for full time pastoral elder to Mike Gormican.