

**CONSTITUTION**

**OF**

**FAITH BIBLE CHURCH**

**OF**

**VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA**

**ADOPTED JANUARY 15, 2005**

# FAITH BIBLE CHURCH CONSTITUTION

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## PREAMBLE

We the members of Faith Bible Church of Virginia Beach, Virginia do ordain and establish the following articles, to which we voluntarily and solemnly submit ourselves. This constitution supersedes any constitution written for Faith Bible Church under any name.

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## ARTICLE I NAME

1.1 The name of this church shall be **FAITH BIBLE CHURCH** of Virginia Beach, Virginia. Current location: 372 Nelms Lane, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

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## ARTICLE II PURPOSE AND VISION

2.1 The purpose of this congregation shall be to glorify the Triune God as revealed in the Holy Scriptures by maintaining and promoting Christ-centered worship both individually and corporately, by evangelizing the lost and by edifying His saints to spread a passion for the supremacy of God in all things for the joy of all peoples. We will prayerfully attempt to accomplish this mission and vision by the following means:

2.1.1 Maintain a strong teaching pulpit through expository preaching.

2.1.2 A ministry of Christian education for all ages to promote the steady growth of our church family to spiritual maturity.

2.1.3 Promote fellowship among the body of believers by offering large and small church sponsored gatherings aimed at meeting individual needs.

2.1.4 Obedience to the Great Commission by advancing the Kingdom of God through evangelistic outreach as well as home and foreign missions.

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## ARTICLE III COVENANT

### 3.1 Introductory Statement.

- 3.1.1 God has graciously entered into a covenant relationship with all true believers (Jeremiah 31:31-34, 32:40; Hebrews 8:7-13, 10:16&17, 13:20&21).
- 3.1.2 Jesus Christ is the Mediator of the New Covenant (Hebrews 8:6). His blood is the blood of the New Covenant, which infallibly secures all the benefits of the new covenant for all of God's elect throughout all the ages (Matthew 26:26-28; Hebrews 13:20&21).
- 3.1.3 God has in this New Covenant made us members one of another (Romans 12:4&5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:25). Therefore, we have covenant responsibilities to each other, as well as to God.
- 3.1.4 God has promised in this covenant to write His law in our hearts and to cause us to walk in His ways (that is, to enable us to keep our covenant responsibilities - Ezekiel 11:19-20). The motivation and ability to obey God's laws spring from the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who, by His death, satisfied the holy wrath of God that was against us due to our sin. It is by the enabling of the Holy Spirit that we obey, in loving gratitude for Christ's righteousness, which has been imputed to us, and not to establish our own righteousness before God. (John 15:4-5; Romans 2:25-26; 2 Corinthians 3:5-6; Hebrews 9:14)
- 3.1.5 We obey with the confidence that the purpose of Christ's death will be realized in us (that is, "that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us" [Romans 8:1-4] and that we should be a people "zealous of good works [Titus 2:14]).

### 3.2 Summary of Our Covenant Responsibilities (The Law Written in Our Hearts). The following statements are a summary of what we believe are our covenant responsibilities toward God and toward one another. This summary forms the basis for our giving and receiving instructions for ourselves and for our families.

- 3.2.1 We agree to worship only the one true and living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who has revealed Himself to us in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. We will declare His glory to the nations. We will have no other gods before Him.
  - 3.2.2 We agree not to use the name of our God emptily or to take it upon ourselves carelessly, but to walk in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
  - 3.2.3 We agree to submit ourselves first and foremost to God our Father, and all governing authorities placed over us in the home, church, government and our professions. If placed in a position of authority, we will administrate that position in a Christ-like manner to glorify Him and teach those placed under our stewardship by living example and in biblical practice to love, honor, and obey the Lord with all of our heart, mind, body, and soul.
  - 3.2.4 We agree to avoid whatever tends to destroy us or our neighbors and to engage vigorously in all lawful endeavors to preserve our own lives and the lives of others, especially by ready reconciliation and faithful exhortation in the church.
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## ARTICLE III COVENANT (CONT.)

- 3.2.5 We agree to possess our bodies in holiness as vessels joined to Christ and indwelt by the Holy Spirit and to avoid all uncleanness of thought, speech, or action.
  - 3.2.6 We agree to be diligent in our vocations, that we may provide for our own households, avoid theft of time, money or goods, and to have to give to him who has need.
  - 3.2.7 We agree to earnestly promote truth among men and to avoid anything that would prejudice the truth or injure our neighbor's good name.
  - 3.2.8 We agree to be fully content with our own condition in life, to rejoice in the advancement of our neighbor, and to avoid envying him or coveting anything that is his.
  - 3.2.9 It is the duty of every member of this church to be faithful in attending to the means that God has given us to grow in Christ. This is to be done by:
    - 3.2.9.1 Regular and faithful attendance at the meetings of this church with joyful and hearty participation in the worship services each Lord's Day, unless providentially hindered from attending by sickness or other necessities.
    - 3.2.9.2 Diligent study of the Holy Scriptures, publicly, privately, and in our families.
    - 3.2.9.3 Constant prayer, in private, in our families, and in the corporate gatherings of our church.
    - 3.2.9.4 Participation in the administration of the ordinances in the public gatherings of the church.
    - 3.2.9.5 Cheerful giving of money, time, and talents for the maintenance of the ministries of the Church, support of missions, and relief of those members of the body of Christ who may suffer physical and material needs.
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## ARTICLE IV DOCTRINE

- 4.1 **Defined.** The doctrine of this church shall be that system of doctrine commonly called “The Reformed Faith.” This system is expressed in the Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689, with which we fundamentally agree. Wherever the acronym “BCF” appears, it refers to the chapter and article from that document. We adhere to the Apostles’, Nicene, and Chalcedonian Creeds (Appendix A). The Doctrinal Statement of Faith Bible Church of Virginia Beach, Virginia is as follows:
- 4.1.1 We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as inspired of God, and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life. Nothing at any time is to be added to this Scripture, either by new revelations of the Spirit or by traditions of men. The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself. (Matthew 5:18; I Corinthians 2:13; II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21; BCF 1:1-10)
  - 4.1.2 We believe in one God existing in three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, co-equal and eternal. He is unchanging, boundless, immeasurable, eternal, almighty, all-wise, holy, free, and absolute. He accomplishes all things for His own glory according to the purpose of His own unchangeable and righteous will. He is loving, gracious, merciful, patient, abundant in goodness and truth, the forgiver of iniquity, transgression and sin. He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him; yet He is just in His judgments, hating all sin, and will by no means acquit the guilty. He has sovereign rule over His creation, to do by them, for them, or to them whatever He pleases. In His sight all things are open and clear; His knowledge is unlimited, infallible and not dependent upon the action of His creatures. (Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1, 14; Acts 5:3-4; I Corinthians 8:6; II Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:8-10; BCF 2:1-3)
  - 4.1.3 We believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the second Person of the divine Trinity, is God. He is of one substance with the Father, and equal to Him. In the fullness of time, according to the predestined plan of God, the eternal Son also became a man. He was made like us in every way, except for His sinlessness. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary, thus partaking of her substance. This union of substances – divine and human – made Jesus forever both God and man in one person... fully God and fully man, with neither substance being altered, blended or confused. Jesus Christ, the only Mediator between God and man, was, and is, very God and very man. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; Galatians 4:4; I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 2:16-17; BCF 8:1-3, 5-10)
  - 4.1.4 We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into the heavens and in His present life there for us as High Priest and Advocate. His resurrection guarantees the resurrection of every human being, whether a resurrection to life or to death, both eternal. (Matthew 28; Mark 16; I Corinthians 15; Romans 1:4; BCF 8:4)
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# FAITH BIBLE CHURCH CONSTITUTION

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## ARTICLE IV

### DOCTRINE (CONT.)

- 4.1.5 We believe in the literal, bodily return of Jesus Christ at the end of the age. Believers will be caught up to meet Him in the air, will be changed into His likeness and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (John 14:3; I Corinthians 15; Philippians 3:20-21; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; I John 3:2-3; BCF 31:1-3)
- 4.1.6 We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also the spiritual death which is separation from God, and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature. Adam, the first man, sinned against God in the garden and brought ruin upon his race. This defilement renders us not only unwilling and unable to do what is good, but opposed to the good and completely inclined to all that is evil. (Genesis 3:1-3; Romans 3:9-19; Ephesians 2:1-3; BCF 6:1-5)
- 4.1.7 We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood. (Romans 3:25; I Corinthians 15:3; Hebrews 9:22; BCF 8:4-6).
- 4.1.8 We believe we are saved and justified when we recognize ourselves as sinners, and put our trust in Christ as the Son of God and His finished work on the cross of Calvary. Salvation is through faith plus nothing. (Romans 3:24, 4:5; Ephesians 2:8-9; BFC 11:1-6, 14:1-2)
- 4.1.9 We believe that all the redeemed once saved are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 5:24, 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Romans 5:9-10, 8:1, 31-39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; Ephesians 4:30; Hebrews 7:25, 13:5; 1 Peter 1:5; Jude 24) 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 for sinful living and carnality. (Romans 6:15-22, 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13, 25-26; Titus 2:11-14; BCF 21:1-3)
- 4.1.10 We believe the Holy Spirit is a Person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, and He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ, indwelling and sealing 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) He is the Divine Teacher who guides all believers into all truth, and it is the privilege and duty of all believers to be filled with the Spirit. (John 16:13; Ephesians 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27)
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## ARTICLE IV

### DOCTRINE (CONT.)

- 4.1.11 We believe that “Each local church is a manifestation of the one universal Church, and will embody the nature of that Church as the Father’s regenerate family, Christ’s ministering body, and a fellowship sustained by the Holy Spirit. (*Reformation Study Bible*, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999, page 2011, First Edition) (Ephesians 1:22-23; BCF 26:1-15) (Note on BCF 26:4 – Although we do not embrace Roman Catholicism, we disagree with the statement regarding the Pope as the antichrist.)
- 4.1.12 We believe the two ordinances of the Church to be baptism and the Lord’s Supper. (BCF 28:1-2)
- 4.1.12.1 All believers should be baptized following conversion as an act of obedience. We practice baptism by immersion, which we believe best pictures our union with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41, 19:4-5; Romans 6:3-5)
- 4.1.12.2 We believe that, in obedience to the Lord’s command, every true believer should regularly participate at the Lord’s Table, which depicts the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given to make atonement for our sins, and in so keeping, we do proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-32; BCF 30:1-8)
- 4.1.13 We believe the Bible teaches the eternal blessedness of the saved and the eternal punishment of the lost. (Matthew 25:46, 28:19-20; John 4:14, 5:24, 28-29; Acts 2:41, 19:4-5; Ephesians 2:7; Revelation 20:10, 15; BCF 31:1-3, 32:1-3)
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# FAITH BIBLE CHURCH CONSTITUTION

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## ARTICLE V CHURCH GOVERNMENT

5.1 **General Statement.** – The appointment of elders and deacons is the prerogative of the Lord Jesus Christ alone. However, He has ordained that each local church exercise the responsibility of recognizing those whom He is appointing to be elders and deacons in that particular church. Men are to be recognized as elders and deacons by the laying on of hands by the eldership (1 Timothy 4:14). This is an expression of approval for which the elders are responsible (1 Timothy 5:2). Therefore, each elder and deacon must have the approval of the church as a whole and of the eldership in particular.

### 5.2 **Office of Elder.**

5.2.1 **Plurality of Elders** – By definition, the elder structure of government is a collective form of leadership in which each elder shares equally the position, authority, and responsibility of the office. (*Biblical Eldership*, Strauch: Lewis & Roth Publishers, 1995, page 39, Second Edition) Some elders give more time to the spiritual leadership than others and are called to fulfill more demanding responsibilities. They are worthy of "double honor" (monetary compensation - 1 Timothy 5:17). All elders will hold to the Reformed Faith, as well as the Doctrinal Statement of Faith Bible Church, as outlined in Article IV of this constitution. (Acts 20:28; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:5; James 5:14)

5.2.2 **Selection of Elders** – Will be based on: Desire, Qualification, and Examination.

5.2.2.1 **Desire.** The initial step toward becoming an elder is the expressed desire to do so, as seen in 1 Timothy 3:1. Such a person should approach an elder or the elder board expressing his desires.

5.2.2.2 **Qualification and Examination.** Upon being made aware of the desire, the elder board will provide the potential candidate with a written application. Once the written application is accepted by the elder board, he will become a candidate. The elder board will begin comparing the candidate's life to the qualifications outlined in Scripture. If, in the opinion of the existing elder board, he appears qualified, his name will be presented to the congregation for further examination. This will be accomplished both by the announcement of his candidacy during regularly scheduled worship services on the Lord's Day and by letter from the elder board to each member of Faith Bible Church. If not, the elder board will explain to the candidate which qualification or qualifications were found lacking and provide recommendations for personal and/or spiritual development, which could be a basis for reconsideration.

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ARTICLE V  
CHURCH  
GOVERNMENT

5.2.3 **Elder-Congregation Relationships** – Elders have the ultimate responsibility for the spiritual oversight of this church and the shepherding of the congregation (1 Peter 5:1-3). They plan and execute the spiritual affairs, oversee the work of the deacons, and provide leadership in the work of the ministry, with particular emphasis on their primary duties of prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:4).

5.2.3.1 Congregational Responsibilities to the Elders - The authority of the elders is very real authority. God's people are, therefore, required to submit when it is biblically exercised (Hebrews 13:17, 1 Peter 5:5). "And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves." - 1 Thessalonians 5:12 & 13, NKJV.

5.2.4 **Relationships Among the Elders.**

5.2.4.1 Elder Responsibilities to Fellow Elders - The authority of every elder is the same. Thus, every elder has equal rule in the church. Though gifts possessed and functions performed will vary from elder to elder, this diversity must not undermine real parity among the elders. Each elder has the responsibility to hold each other accountable and lift each other up in prayer (Proverbs 27:17).

5.2.4.2 Decision-Making Process. Unanimity in all major decisions, doctrinal or otherwise. In lesser matters, it should be possible for individuals *to allow their preferences to be over-ridden by the majority* without feeling that some great personal or theological cause has been sacrificed. (*A Noble Task*, Exeter: The Paternoster Press, 1987, pages 83, 84 - Strauch - pages 126, 127, Second Edition)

5.2.4.3 Single Elder Contingency. As we believe it to be the God-ordained standard, maintaining a Plurality of Elders is the desire of the Elder Board of Faith Bible Church. If, however, the situation arises where only one qualified, recognized elder is serving locally at Faith Bible Church, the following guidelines will be observed.

5.2.4.3.1 That elder will meet regularly with the Deacon Board to promote fellowship, accountability, and encouragement.

5.2.4.3.2 That elder will keep the Deacon Board informed of the status of the ministry regarding routine operations.

5.2.4.3.3 That elder will meet regularly with the Deacon Board to discuss the State of the Flock.

5.2.4.3.4 That elder and the members of the Deacon Board must be particularly devoted to prayer regarding the raising up of additional qualified men to aid in the shepherding of this local assembly.

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5.2.4.3.5 The standards for qualification and recognition of elders as set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, as well as the established policy of Faith Bible Church for these processes, must not be compromised for the sake of realizing plurality.

5.2.4.3.6 Prior to any major shifts in doctrine or policy, that elder will consult with and obtain unanimity between himself and all qualified, recognized, non-active, and/or transferred elders until a plurality of active elders is realized at Faith Bible Church. In the event no such men can be reached or none consider themselves familiar with current events at FBC, that elder will consult with the members of the Deacon Board and the decision will be a joint effort between the remaining elder and the members of the Deacon Board.

#### 5.2.4.4 Pulpit Vacancy.

5.2.4.4.1 Pulpit Committee. Should the pulpit become vacant, a Pulpit Committee will be formed, consisting of the following members:

5.2.4.4.1.2 Current elders of FBC

5.2.4.4.1.3 Current deacons of FBC

5.2.4.4.1.4 A minimum of three male Regular or Associate Members of FBC, duly elected by a minimum 75% vote of Regular and Associate Members in attendance at a meeting called for that purpose.

#### 5.2.4.4.2 Pulpit Committee Procedures.

5.2.4.4.2.1 The Pulpit Committee Chairman will be elected from within and by the members of the committee. A simple majority vote is required at the first meeting attended by all members.

5.2.4.4.2.2 The duties of the Pulpit Committee are to seek qualified candidates and present them to the membership. Preferred consideration should be given to current elders at FBC. Only one candidate at a time will be presented to the congregation, and that candidate must be approved by a simple majority vote of all members of the Pulpit Committee.

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## ARTICLE V CHURCH GOVERNMENT

5.2.4.4.2.3 A 75% vote by secret ballot of all Regular and Associate Members in attendance at a meeting called for that purpose will be required to extend a call to fill the pulpit. Following the approval to call, the Pulpit Committee will extend a formal call to the candidate.

### 5.2.4.5 Removal of an Elder.

5.2.4.5.1 Any elder may be removed involuntarily from office by a 60% no-confidence vote by secret ballot of all Regular and Associate Members at a meeting called for that purpose. Such a meeting must be called at least thirty days in advance. These are solemn proceedings that must be initiated and conducted only with much care, prayer, and wisdom from the Lord.

5.2.4.5.2 Removal will be effective immediately following the vote. In the case of a paid elder, a minimum thirty-day compensation package will be provided.

### 5.3 Office of Deacon.

5.3.1 **Definition.** Deacons are to serve under the direction of the elders, undertaking those areas of service necessary for the church's functioning that would otherwise prohibit the elders from performing their biblical responsibilities. All deacons are subject to the church's disciplinary procedures.

5.3.2 **Appointment and Qualifications.** Deacons shall be appointed from the men of this church, and shall meet the spiritual qualifications set forth in the Word of God (1 Timothy 3:8-13). All deacons will hold to the Reformed Faith, as well as the Doctrinal Statement of Faith Bible Church, as outlined in Article IV of this constitution.

5.3.3 **Evaluation and Approval.** Deacon candidates will be evaluated and approved per the above procedures outlined for elder candidates with the following exceptions.

5.3.6.1 The initial step can be initiated either by a man expressing a desire to become a deacon or by the elder board approaching him to consider serving in this office.

5.3.6.2 No written application or 12-month probationary period will be required.

5.3.6.3 Titus 1 qualifications do not apply, as they are written for elders.

5.3.6.4 Meetings will be conducted in accordance with biblical principles and Robert's Rules of Order unless noted otherwise.

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## ARTICLE VI CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

6.1 **Defined.** The membership of FBC shall be made up of born-again children of God whose lifestyle reflects their profession of faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Although the practice of local church membership as we now know it is not expressly taught in the Bible, the elders of FBC deemed membership in a particular local church helpful in promoting fellowship, accountability, discipleship, discipline, and a joint cooperation in advancing the kingdom of God throughout the world through missions. Membership is required for anyone holding any office in FBC and anyone involved in teaching and outreach ministries. Exceptions to this can be approved on a case-by-case basis by the elder board.

### 6.1.1 **Requirements for Membership.**

6.1.1.1 All members shall agree in full with the doctrinal statement as outlined in Article IV; however, some flexibility will be allowed toward those who do not as yet hold to the "Reformed Faith" in its entirety. The doctrines expressed in Articles 4.1.1-4.1.13 must be held by all members.

6.1.1.2 A willingness to use one's spiritual gift(s) in the building up of the local church.

6.1.1.3 A willingness to prayerfully and financially support this work as God so prospers.

6.1.1.4 Read and complete a membership application.

6.1.1.5 The completed application will be reviewed by the elder board. Candidates for membership will be personally interviewed by at least one elder prior to public reception.

6.1.1.6 Public reception before the congregation.

### 6.1.2 **Types of Membership.**

6.1.2.1 Regular Members. Are all who are received into this membership according to the procedures outlined above and are in good standing, and shall be entitled to all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities within the church.

6.1.2.2 Associate Members. Are members of other churches who come to live in our area for a limited period of time (i.e., students, military personnel, persons on special work assignment) may be received into this fellowship in the same manner as persons who have permanent residence in our geographical area. Such Associate Members need not be released from the membership of their "home church." Associate Members will enjoy all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities as Regular Members. When such a person terminates their period of temporary residence, they will be released to the fellowship of their "home church" and will no longer be regarded as a member of this church.

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## ARTICLE VI CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

### 6.1.2.3 Children of Regular and Associate Members.

6.1.2.3.1 All children of Regular and Associate Members whose lives reflect the godly character of their parents shall enjoy all rights, privileges, and responsibilities of church membership with their parents, excepting on issues which may require a vote. A member must be at least eighteen years of age to vote.

6.1.2.3.2 When a child reaches eighteen years of age, the procedure for Regular and Associate Members must be followed.

### 6.1.3 Termination of Membership.

#### 6.1.3.1 Types of Termination.

6.1.3.1.1 By death.

6.1.3.1.2 By erasure.

6.1.3.1.2.1 Any member permanently uniting with another church thereby ceases to be a member of this church and their name shall be dropped from the role.

6.1.3.1.2.2 Any member, for any reason, may request to have their membership cancelled and their name erased from the role.

6.1.3.1.2.3 After repeated and prolonged absence and inquiry by the elders, a member shall be dropped from the role.

6.1.3.1.2.4 By church discipline (See Article IX)

6.1.4 **Records of Membership.** The elders shall maintain a file of all past and present members. This file shall have three divisions: Regular Members, Associate Members, and Former Members. The file of former members shall include the date and reason church membership was terminated and a copy of a letter sent to any Former Member terminated by erasure per Article 6.1.3.1.2.

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## ARTICLE VII TRUSTEES

7.1 **Defined.** The office of Legal Trustee is a perfunctory office, necessary to satisfy the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Legal Trustees (minimum of three required) are appointed by the Elder Board to legally own the church's assets for the congregation, and their signatures are required on certain documents of the church. They act only as directed by the Elder Board and have no personal liability, so long as they are executing their office as Legal Trustee. The Board of Trustees will consist of the members of the elder board and any other men appointed by the elder board.

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## ARTICLE VIII COMMITTEES

8.1 **Defined.** All committees receive ultimate oversight by the elder board, with committees dealing with areas of responsibility delegated to the deacon board reporting first to the deacon board.

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## ARTICLE IX CHURCH DISCIPLINE

- 9.1 **Defined.** To safeguard the testimony of this church, any person who has submitted to the authority and spiritual leadership of this church, and whose life or teaching is in continual disobedience to the Word of God, shall be subject to discipline by the church. The disciplinary process, described herein, shall be conducted under the oversight of the Elder Board.
- 9.2 **Purpose.** 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.
- 9.3 **Administration.** All discipline shall be administered according to the pattern established in the Bible. (Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, 2 Corinthians 2:3-11, and Galatians 6:1)
- 9.4 **Erasure.** Any member terminated by erasure per Article 6.1.3.1.2.4 who genuinely repents shall be restored to the fellowship, and reinstated to their previous membership status without being required to complete another membership application.
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# FAITH BIBLE CHURCH CONSTITUTION

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## ARTICLE X FINANCES

10.1 **Defined.** All financial matters, including the drafting and approval of an annual budget, are the responsibility of the elder board.

10.1.1 **Treasurer.** The elder board will appoint the Treasurer.

10.1.1.1 Duties of the Treasurer.

- 10.1.1.1.1 Maintain a balance sheet of the funds brought in and disbursed through the General Account.
- 10.1.1.1.2 Pay all accounts payable (including compensation for paid pastor(s)) in a timely manner.
- 10.1.1.1.3 Maintain the checking account for the General Account.
- 10.1.1.1.4 Maintain signature cards for all checking accounts at FBC.
- 10.1.1.1.5 Provide a copy of the balance sheet to the elders at the end of every month and post a copy in a conspicuous location in the church.

10.1.2 **Financial Secretary.** The elder board will appoint the Financial Secretary.

10.1.2.1 Duties of the Financial Secretary.

- 10.1.2.1.1 Collect, count, deposit, and report offerings to the Treasurer and elder board members weekly.
  - 10.1.2.1.2 Maintain copies of Cash Receipts Journals.
  - 10.1.2.1.3 Provide quarterly giving statements to anyone desiring one and yearly statements to anyone giving to FBC during the previous year by the fifteenth of January every year.
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# FAITH BIBLE CHURCH CONSTITUTION

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## ARTICLE XI DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

11.1 **Defined.** At least three meetings are required to disband Faith Bible Church. Should a majority of Regular and Associate Members vote to disband the church, they shall at that time elect a Disbanding Committee to recommend how best to dispose of remaining tangible assets. Additional meetings will be called as necessary to obtain a required majority vote of the Regular and Associate Members as outlined below.

### 11.1.1 **Procedures.**

11.1.1.1 The Disbanding Committee Chairman will be elected from within and by the members of the committee. A simple majority vote is required at the first meeting attended by all members. The committee shall seek the furtherance of Christ's cause on earth, that is, the building of His beloved Church. Special consideration should be given to those associations, churches, and/or missionaries that share our reformed doctrinal views.

11.1.1.2 At the first meeting, a second meeting will be scheduled to enable the Disbanding Committee to present its recommendations to the membership.

11.1.1.3 At the second meeting, if the recommendations of the Disbanding Committee are adopted by majority vote of the Regular and Associate Members in attendance, a procedure and timeline will be established for the execution of the same. A volunteer archivist will be elected to store FBC records for not less than the previous seven years. This is to protect past and present members from audits and accusations of wrongdoing. If the person elected does not have adequate space for such storage, a space will be rented and paid for in advance from remaining FBC assets. A reasonable amount should also be included to allow the elected archivist to locate, produce, and re-store such records, and possibly appear at legal proceedings. All records may be destroyed seven years after the church has been disbanded.

11.1.1.4 At the third meeting, each remaining member will be provided an itemized statement, showing the exact disposition of every item (including money), signed by every member of the Disbanding Committee. Should differences grow into dispute, an attorney should be consulted and remunerated from FBC assets. Should this occur, another meeting will be scheduled. Under no circumstances is FBC to be considered disbanded while tangible assets remain.

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# FAITH BIBLE CHURCH CONSTITUTION

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## ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS

**12.1 Defined.** No amendment may be proposed which precludes further amendment. Any amendments to this constitution are required to be voted on at specially-called meetings announced a minimum of three months in advance. A copy of the proposed amendment will be posted in a conspicuous location in the church a minimum of thirty days in advance of the meeting. Votes can be made in writing if unavoidably unable to attend the meeting. Constitutional amendment meetings may be called by the elder board or upon written request by a minimum of 25% of the Regular and Associate members. Meetings will be presided over by one or more of the elders or a member appointed by the elders. Meetings will be conducted in accordance with biblical principles and Robert's Rules of Order, with the following exceptions.

12.1.1 Amendments to Article IV – Doctrine, require a 90% vote of all Regular and Associate Members.

12.1.2 Amendments to all other articles require a 75% vote of all Regular and Associate Members

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# FAITH BIBLE CHURCH CONSTITUTION

## APPENDIX A

### THE APOSTLES'

#### CREED

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I believe in God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried<sup>1</sup>; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> The phrase, "He descended into hell" is not included, as it is not included in the earliest versions and due to the obvious doctrinal difficulties it presents.

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### THE NICENE

#### CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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# FAITH BIBLE CHURCH CONSTITUTION

## APPENDIX A (CONT')

### CHALCEDONIAN CREED

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We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable [rational] soul and body; consubstantial [co-essential] with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the Manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, only begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, in confusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ; as the prophets from the beginning [have declared] concerning Him, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us.

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