

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Dickinson, ND

CONSTITUTION 2016

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization will be the Evangelical Bible Church of Dickinson, North Dakota. Evangelical Bible Church is registered as a nonprofit corporation with the North Dakota Secretary of State, per North Dakota Century Code 10-33 (Nonprofit Corporations).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization will be:

1. To proclaim and promote the gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in obedience to the Great Commission.
2. To provide for the spiritual welfare of believers through Christian Fellowship.

ARTICLE III: STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired and infallible Word of God; our rule for all matters pertaining to faith and practice.
2. We believe in one God eternally existent in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the Deity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, His bodily

resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His personal, visible return in power and glory at the end of the age.

4. We believe in the sinfulness of man who can only be saved from his lost condition by repentance toward Jesus Christ.
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by which men are regenerated and granted life and grace to live godly and holy lives in this present evil world.
6. We believe in the resurrection of both saved and lost. Those who are saved to the resurrection of life, and they that are lost to the resurrection of damnation.
7. We believe that the true church is spiritually united, made up of all believers chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world.

ARTICLE IV: CHURCH ORDINANCES

1. **BAPTISM:** Regenerated believers alone are regarded as proper candidates for the ordinance of Baptism. No pastor of this church will be asked to baptize contrary to his own belief or to baptize by a mode which his conscience will not allow. In Baptism we show forth the death and resurrection of Christ as the cause of our new birth into God's Kingdom. (*Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:41, Acts 8:12, Acts 8:35-38, Romans 6:3-5, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Galatians 3:27, Colossians 2:12*)
2. **THE LORD'S SUPPER:** This church observes the Lord's Supper as an ordinance that symbolizes the death of Christ for our sins, our personal appropriation of the benefits of His death, our union with Christ, our daily dependence on Christ for spiritual life, and the joy of His promised coming. The ordinance should be celebrated at least four times per year. Those who confess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to

participate. (*Matthew 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22:17-20, John 6:53-59, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, 1 Corinthians 11:18-34*)

3. **MARRIAGE:** For those who choose to pursue it, the ordinance of marriage is a lifelong covenant between one biological man and one biological woman. The ceremony is a celebration of this biblical union offering God prayer and praise. Biblical marriage promotes the bearing and rearing of children. It also promotes exercise of stewardship over creation. The Christian marriage ordinance involves the divine blessing of the bride and groom as they exchange vows before God. In marriage, a symbol of the relationship between Christ and His church is shown. Pastors and staff of Evangelical Bible Church will only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman, and in keeping with the Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality as described in Article XII. (*Genesis 1:27-28, Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5-6, Ephesians 5:31-33, Malachi 2:16*)

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

Any person who confesses faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who has the assurance of salvation, whose conduct is in accord with his/her confession, and who ascribes to the above Statement of Faith may become a member of this church. The church expects its members to abstain from anything that would defile the body, mind, or spirit. The procedure for acquiring and terminating membership is outlined in the By-Laws; Article I. (*1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 1 Corinthians 5*)

ARTICLE VI: PASTOR(S)

Section 1: Senior Pastor

The Senior Pastor will be a member, ex-officio, of the Church Board. He will be an Elder and he will oversee God's purposes, mission, direction, and vision for the church. The senior pastor's role is to preach the Word of God, shepherd and oversee the church, and equip and guide the church and its leaders for ministry through teaching and training. The Senior Pastor will also oversee the hiring and management of Pastoral and Ministerial staff. The Senior Pastor is to teach sound doctrine, and eliminate false doctrine and teachers, and to pursue the specific gifts of his calling. (*Ephesians 4:11-13, 1 Timothy 3:14-15, 1 Timothy 4:6, 1 Timothy 4:10-19, 2 Timothy 1:6, 2 Timothy 1:14, 2 Timothy 2:2, 2 Timothy 4:2, Titus 1:5, 1 Peter 5:1-4*)

Section 2: Pastoral Staff

A Pastor will be an elder and a member, ex-officio, of the Church Board. He will oversee God's purposes, mission, direction, and vision for the church. A Pastor's role is to preach the Word of God, shepherd and oversee the church body, and equip and guide the church and its leaders for ministry through teaching and training. Pastoral staff will submit to the authority of the senior pastor. A Pastor is to teach sound doctrine, and eliminate false doctrine and teachers, and to pursue the specific gifts of his calling. (*Ephesians 4:11-13, 1 Timothy 3:14-15, 1 Timothy 4:6, 1 Timothy 4:10-19, 2 Timothy 1:6, 2 Timothy 1:14, 2 Timothy 2:2, 2 Timothy 4:2, Titus 1:5, 1 Peter 5:1-4*)

Section 3: Pastor(s) Membership

Upon his acceptance of a call, a Pastor will automatically become a member of the Church. If married, the Pastor's wife will also automatically become a member of the church.

ARTICLE VII: CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Section 1: Government & Fellowship

The government of this church is vested in its members (the Church) who exercise the right of control in all its affairs. It is answerable to no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes the privilege of mutual counsel, courtesy, and cooperation involved in the fellowship of other Bible believing churches and pledges itself to share their common aims and ministry. This church is in direct fellowship with the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC or 4C's) and is one in purpose with all churches that seek to promote the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

- A. **CHURCH AUTHORITY:** The Church is governed by the congregation of active members, and is the final decision making body through the schedule of meetings as defined in the By-Laws. The calling of the senior pastor or pastoral staff, revisions to the constitution or by-laws, approval of the annual budget, major building projects, acquisition of land or buildings, all matters concerning debt, and mergers or dissolution of the church must be brought before the Church for approval.
- B. **CHURCH BOARD AUTHORITY:** The Church Board is granted authority by the Church through the election of Officers. The Church Board is the final decision making body for any matters that do not require approval of the Church. The Church Board will exercise discernment and seek the approval of the Church for matters that the Church Board deems necessary.
- C. **QUORUM:** A quorum consists of all active members present at a duly called business or board meeting.

D. **VOTING:** The active membership is eligible to vote in all matters of business.

- i. All matters will be determined by a majority of the quorum except when otherwise specified in the Constitution, By-Laws or by decision of the congregation of members in session.

Section 2: Officers

- A. The officers of this church will be: Church Chairman (Chair of the Board of Elders), Vice Chairman (Chair of the Board of Deacons), Board of Elders, Board of Deacons, Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers will constitute the Church Board (Board). The Board will exercise general supervision over the affairs of the church, carry out the decisions of the congregation, and give directions to the church's ministry. Whenever a vacancy occurs in an elected office, the Church Board may appoint an individual to fill that vacancy until the next annual election. No person will serve on the Board who is not a member of the Church. The general qualifications of Church Board members are those listed in I Timothy, Chapter 3.
- B. Any officer of the church may be removed from office on the recommendation of the Church Board and a 3/4 vote of the Quorum. No accusation against a member is to be accepted unless presented to the Board by two witnesses. (*I Timothy 5:19*)
- C. Persons nominated to a church office will have been a member of the church for at least one year prior to nomination.

Section 3: Organizations

- A. All organizations must be approved by the Church Board. The Pastor(s) and Board must be made aware of all organizational activities.

B. All proposed fund raising activities will have prior Church Board approval.

ARTICLE VIII: PROPERTY

Section 1: Ownership

This Church will have the power to receive, either by gift or purchase, and to hold such real, personal or mixed property as is authorized by the laws of the State of North Dakota and as is deemed necessary for the business of the Church, and will have the power to dispose of such property by mortgage, deed or otherwise. All such property will be held in the name of the Church. The Board of Deacons will have the power to receive, purchase, acquire, sell, lease, convey, mortgage, deed or otherwise transfer property of the Church, but only after having been authorized by the Church at a regularly called business meeting. All contracts, notes, mortgages, conveyances, assignments, leases, releases and other documents and papers in behalf of the church will be executed by the Board of Deacons.

Section 2: Division

In case of division of the Church, the property of the Church will belong to those who abide by this Constitution.

Section 3: Dissolution

In case of dissolution of the Church organization, the property will be disposed of and the money given to a charitable organization. That organization will be decided by vote at the time. The Church will be considered dissolved if so decided by the organization.

Section 4: Use of Property

Use of property will be granted only to those groups and organizations whose behavior and actions are consistent with the Evangelical Bible Church Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Process for Amending

This Constitution, except as stated in Section 2 of this Article, may be changed by the Church when deemed necessary. The procedure is as follows:

1. As a preliminary step proposed changes must be submitted in writing at a business meeting of the church.
2. The proposed change(s) must be explained and discussed in detail at a successive business meeting.
3. The change(s) may be adopted and implemented at a third business meeting by a 3/4 vote of the Quorum.
4. The final adoption will be no less than six months after the original proposal.

Section 2: Exceptions to Amendment Process

Articles II and III of this Constitution are irrevocable and unalterable. Their contents can never be changed.

ARTICLE X: PROVISION FOR BY-LAWS

A supplement to this Constitution known as the By-Laws will embody:

1. Membership
2. Pastoral Staff
3. Church Officers

4. Business Meetings and Parliamentary Rules
5. Church Staff
6. Church Ministries
7. Church Committees

Changes in By-Laws will be presented by any three members in writing to the Church Board one month prior to any Church business meeting, and made a part of the By-Laws when so decided by said meeting. (*1 Timothy 3:15, Ephesians 4:12-13, Acts 20:32*)

ARTICLE XI: STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

1. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Evangelical Bible Church. (*Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31*)
2. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person according to His design and sovereign will. The two distinct, complementary genders of male and female reflect the image and nature of God. Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. (*Genesis 1:26-27, Matthew 19:4*)
3. We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one biological man and one biological woman in a single, exclusive, lifelong union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage

between a man and a woman. (*Genesis 2:18-25, 1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 14:4*)

4. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, polygamy, pedophilia, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (*Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10*)
5. We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Evangelical Bible Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to Evangelical Bible Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Evangelical Bible Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (*Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22*)
6. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (*Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11*)