

Freedom Community Church: Constitution

ARTICLE I. BELIEFS

Why we focus on the essentials:

We are most concerned with restoring lives, souls, marriages, relationships, and our community rather than denominational differences. As a result, we have people from many spiritual backgrounds or no spiritual background at all. We focus on the essentials so we can show love to all to reach more people and make more disciples of Jesus Christ.

In the essentials we have unity: “There is one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all.” – Ephesians 4:4-6

In the non-essentials we have liberty: “Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... so then each of us will give an account of himself to God... so whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.” – Romans 14:1-22

In all things we show love: “If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains, but have no love, I amount to nothing at all.” – 1 Corinthians 13:2

The essentials

About God – We believe there is only one God who exists in three distinct persons, the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). We believe that God has always existed, created all things, and is the sustainer of all things. He is all powerful, all knowing, and unchangeable. He is loving and just and desires a relationship with each one of us. (1 John 5:7; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 3:7-11)

About Jesus – We believe that Jesus is God, (the Son of God) who became flesh to reveal God to man and to become the Savior of the world. He lived a perfect life, died on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for our sins, and conquered death and sin through His resurrection. It is through Him alone that a person can enter into a right relationship with God. He now intercedes on behalf of believers seated at the right hand of God in heaven. (John 1:1, 14; John 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 2:5-6; 1 Timothy 2:5)

About Holy Spirit – We believe that the Holy Spirit is God. We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts people of their sin, opens their heart and mind to be receptive to the love of God, and forever indwells the believer upon salvation. The Holy Spirit then equips, strengthens, and encourages the believer to live in obedience to the will of God. (Acts 5:3-4; John 6:63; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Titus 3:5; John 16:8-11; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

About the Bible – We believe the entire Holy Bible (66 books) is the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God in its original manuscripts. We believe that the Bible is God’s revelation of Himself to mankind and is the supreme and final authority. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5; Romans 16:25-26)

About Mankind – We believe that man was created in the image of God to have fellowship with Him, but became alienated from that relationship through sinful disobedience. As a result, man is totally incapable of coming back into a right relationship with God by his own effort. (Gen 1:27; Isaiah 59:2; Rom 3:23, Rom 5:8, John 14:6)

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About Salvation – We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross provides the sole basis for the forgiveness of sins. Therefore, salvation only occurs when a person places his faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ as the sufficient payment for his sin. (Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21; Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16; Galatians 3:8; Titus 3:5; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 9:22)

About the Church – We believe that the church is the body of Christ of which Jesus Christ is the Head. The members are those who have trusted by faith the finished work of Christ. The purpose of the church is to glorify God by loving Him and following Him and by making Him known to a lost world. (Ephesians 1:22; Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23; John 17:11, 20-23)

About Church Ordinances – We believe it is important to uphold the scriptural practices of the early church. Therefore, we hold to the practice of water baptism by immersion and the regular taking of communion. We do not believe that either of these practices is essential for salvation, but that they serve as a demonstration of our living faith in Jesus Christ. (Mt. 28:19; Rom. 6:3-4, Acts 8:38,39; Mt. 26:26-29; I Cor. 11:17-34)

About the Christian Life – We believe that every Christian should live for Jesus Christ and not for himself. By obedience to The Word and daily yielding to The Holy Spirit, every believer will mature and become conformed to the image of Christ. (Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 4:6, Colossians 4:2Galatians 5:16–17, Acts 1:8).

About Marriage – We further believe that marriage is a covenant relationship between one man and one woman before God and further that it is an exclusive physical and emotional relationship. Genesis 2:22-24; Matthew 19:6; 1 Corinthians 7:2-5

ARTICLE II. VISION

The vision of Freedom Community Church is:

CONNECT / GROW / SERVE / GO (Matthew 28:18-20, Matt 22:37-39)

The purpose of The Church is to fulfill the basic functions of: worship, evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, and ministry. (Galatians 5:13; Romans 12:14-18; 1 John 2:6; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Peter 2:21; Ephesians 5:1-2; John 13:13-17; John 14:15; Ephesians 4:22-24). Freedom Community Church will accomplish our vision by living out these Biblical purposes as on-mission disciples. We will:

Mission:

CONNECT: with God through Jesus Christ, with others, with The World

GROW: in our relationship with God, with others, for The World

SERVE: God, others, The World

GO: for God, to others, to The World

ARTICLE III. VALUES

1. We are ordinary people doing God's extraordinary work (Matthew 28:18-20)
2. People matter to God so they matter to us. We will go to them and be ready for them to come to us. (Luke 10, Luke 15)

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3. The Gospel message of Jesus Christ transforms people's lives. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
4. The goal of our ministries is for God to transform people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20, Ephesians 4:11-16)
5. All aspects of ministry and evangelism must be carried out in a relevant way. (1 Corinthians 9:22)
6. People must be treated gently and respectfully, with humility. (1 Peter 3:15, Micah 6:8)
7. People need to be connected to a caring community. (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10, Acts 4:34-35)
8. Every Christian has a God-given purpose and ministry (Ephesians 4:12)
9. Everything we do for Christ must be done with excellence. (Colossians 3:23-24)
10. We must have an impact on our community and the world for The Gospel. (1 Thessalonians 1:8, Acts 6:7)
11. To accomplish our mission, we must step out in visionary faith and take risks for God. (Hebrews 11:6, Ephesians 3:20)
12. Repentance, sacrifice, and spiritual growth are crucial for us to deepen our personal relationship with Jesus (Matthew 4:17, 25:21; Mark 1:4; Rev 3:19)
13. We will have an environment that fosters wise stewardship of our time, talents, and treasure. (Matthew 6:21)

ARTICLE IV. LEADERSHIP

An imperfect system filled with men and women of spiritual integrity will function far better than a perfect system filled with men and women who lack spiritual integrity (the people chosen are as important as the system we use). This constitution provides accountability for ministry leadership and important information for the church body. While impossible to anticipate all future contingencies, the intent of this constitution is to provide structure and flexibility to meet current and long-term changing needs.

LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

- Pastor led
- Elder oversight
- Ministry Team Managed (empowered)

QUALIFICATIONS OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP

All persons who hold any position of leadership must meet and maintain the following qualifications for leadership:

- A. Has accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior and has a growing relationship with Him.
- B. Is a member of Freedom Community Church.
- C. Teaches no doctrine contrary to the essential beliefs, vision and values of Freedom Community Church.

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- D. Provides spiritual, financial and physical (time, talents, and treasure) support to Freedom Community Church.
- E. Is known for a dedicated Christian life according to the standards of God's Word and will purpose to put any sin, including doubtful conduct and conversation, out of his/her life so that the resulting influence is helpful to the body.