

# GRACE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

## CONSTITUTION

February, 1994

### ARTICLE I. AFFILIATION

This congregation affiliates itself with the Evangelical Free Church of America and shall, whenever possible, send delegates to their conferences, support their home and foreign missions and unite in all mutual efforts for the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ in the measure that the congregation itself may decide.

### ARTICLE II. NAME

The name of this organization shall be Grace Evangelical Free Church of Beulah/Hazen, North Dakota.

### ARTICLE III. STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of his will for the salvation of men and the divine and final authority for Christian faith and life.
2. In one God, creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. That Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, he arose bodily from the dead, ascended into Heaven, where at the right hand of the majesty on high he is now our High Priest and Advocate.
4. That ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer for Godly living and service.
5. That man was created in the image of God, but fell into sin and is therefore lost and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained
6. That the shed blood of Jesus Christ and his resurrection can provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and such as receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit and thus become the children of God.
7. That water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church during the present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as a means of salvation.

8. That the true Church is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ of which he is the head.
9. That only those who are thus members of the true Church shall be eligible for membership in the local church.
10. That Jesus Christ is the Lord and head of the Church and that every local church has the right under Christ to decide and govern its own affairs.
11. In the personal pre-millennial and imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this blessed hope has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer.
12. In the bodily resurrection of the dead; of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment.

#### ARTICLE IV. PURPOSE

The sole purpose of this organization shall be to glorify God through edification of all who attend, through obedience to the Word of God, through fellowship of the believers, and through winning of the unsaved to Christ. This group of believers shall at all times seek to maintain an evangelistic emphasis and make the salvation of souls the goal of all its activities (1 Thessalonians 1:5-10), and to engage in such religious, educational, charitable, and benevolent work as the Constitution and By-laws of this organization may determine.

#### ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this congregation shall consist of individuals who confess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their savior; who have assurance of salvation; whose life bears witness of their confession; and who will abide by the Constitution and By-laws of this congregation.

#### ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS

The officers shall consist of a board of Elders. The number of elders on this board shall be determined by the size of the congregation and its needs.

#### ARTICLE VII. PROPERTY RIGHTS

1. This congregation shall have the power to receive, either by gift or purchase, and to hold such real, personal, or mixed property in its own name as is authorized by the laws of the state of North Dakota. It shall also have the power to mortgage and encumber all or any part of the church property, and to borrow or raise money or other assets of any kind, for the furtherance of the Lord's work.
2. In the event that this congregation shall ever dissolve, provision shall be made for all liabilities of the church. Any remaining property, real and personal, shall return to the local

district of the Evangelical Free Church of America to enable it to renew the work or use the value thereof for further gospel ministries. No member shall personally be entitled to any property of the church.

3. If division occurs in the congregation, the name and property shall be retained by those who uphold this constitution.

#### ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS

1. Amendments and revisions to this constitution may be made at a regular congregational meeting of the church by an affirmative vote by secret ballot of two-thirds of the members present, when said proposed amendments or revisions have been presented in written form and discussed at a regular congregational meeting at least three months prior to the time of their adoption for vote on the amendment or revision. All members must be notified by mail of proposed amendments or revisions at least thirty days prior to their adoption.

2. Article I (Affiliation), Article III (Statement of Faith), Article IV (Purpose), Article V (Membership), Article VII (Property Rights), and Article VIII Paragraph 2. (Amendments and Revisions) of this Constitution shall not be changed or eliminated.

#### ARTICLE IX. AUTHORITY

All authority in the church is vested in the voting membership of the church, hereafter referred to in this Constitution and associated By-laws as the congregation. The congregation shall decide upon the calling of the pastoral staff, the admission of applicants for membership, the purchase or sale of church real property, the selection of officers, the establishment of fiscal budgets, and such other matters as it may determine.

The church shall function in full compliance with By-laws approved by the voting members. The By-laws will define the church government and delegation of responsibilities for carrying out the stated purpose of the church.

#### ARTICLE X. AMENDMENT

We, at Grace Evangelical Free Church, affirm both the 1950 and 2008 Statements of Faith adopted by the Evangelical Free Church of America. Our doctrine and practice align with both. The 2008 Statement of Faith does not contradict the 1950 version, but rather, strengthens it. However, we at Grace Evangelical Free Church reserve the right to disapprove and withdraw from the Evangelical Free Church of America should further doctrinal amendments be made in the future wherein essential biblical orthodoxy, contained in the Evangelical Free Church statement of faith, be compromised. Amended October 2019.