

BY-LAWS
of
Freedom Fellowship Church

Changing Lives, Changing the Community, Changing the World
Through freedom and liberty found only in Jesus Christ (Gal. 5:1)

Freedom Fellowship Church is committed to evangelism, setting people free in fulfillment of the “Great Commission” of Jesus Christ found in Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8 to:

- GO.....** Proclaim God’s love from house to house
- Make Disciples...** Exhort to becoming pupils, followers of Jesus Christ
- Baptize.....** To be fully overwhelmed in identity with Jesus Christ, and
- Teach Others.....** Provide Biblical instruction for everyday living

It is our goal to become more like Jesus in word and deed, to be kingdom minded, taking risks that give evidence to God’s greatness, therefore having greater influence in the world around us.

It is our desire to be a multi-cultural church that represents our community’s rich and diverse blend of families, who appreciate living, working, and ministering in the midst of ethnic diversity. FFC welcomes everyone regardless of denominational background; we believe that if the church is truly one, then we must be able to worship and serve the Lord together. We endeavor to seek the Lord for wisdom and understanding as we build meaningful relationships one-on-one, through Biblical fellowship within our small groups, and provide sound Biblical counseling through life long learning and mentoring. What’s the goal? ***To become more like Jesus in word and deed, to be kingdom minded, taking risks that give evidence to God’s greatness, therefore having greater influence in the world around us.*** In light of our VMP we adopt the following By-Laws and agree to be governed by them.

ARTICLE I – OFFICERS AND GOVERNMENT

We believe that all spiritual authority in the church is from God and that the church government should be a Theocracy. God, however, expects and requires prayer from His people in order to perform His highest good. Through prayer God will raise up anointed leadership through which His government is exercised.

Freedom Fellowship Church shall follow the scriptural pattern of government as we understand it and shall be based on mutual trust and love. We recognize Jesus Christ as the Head of Freedom Fellowship Church. Government and oversight of this local church is vested in a plurality of mutually submitted Elders that together make up the church's Presbytery.

Section A: Elders

This church recognizes the five-fold Gift Ministries of Ephesians 4:11, Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers, as gifts of God to the entire Body of Christ. Local Elders pertain to the local church and may or may not function in one of the Gift Ministries. The word "Overseer" or "Bishop" describes the work of an Elder. Qualifications of Elders shall be as set forth in I Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. They shall be regenerated Spirit-filled men who have joined Freedom Fellowship Church and are expressing a sense of responsibility for the unity of the body and its welfare and ministries. The Presbytery, which is made up of the Elders shall be responsible for the spiritual welfare and oversight of this church.

We recognize that God ordains headship for each of His institutions, including the local church. Therefore there will be a Presiding or Head Elder who will serve in this capacity in this local church. The Presiding Elder, who will also be called the pastor (or Senior Pastor if more than one Pastor is installed) shall have special charge of the pulpit ministry along with the general oversight of the church. He will pastor the other Elders who shall not usurp the authority of the Pastor, but shall assist him in the oversight of the church.

Item 1. Appointment and Terms of Elders

Our mother church, Pohick Bay Church, shall appoint the initial Elders. In addition Members of Grace Network will be invited to participate with the appointment of these Elders. Grace Network shall appoint additional Elders as directed by the Lord with the consultation of the congregation.

The number of Elders shall be determined by Freedom Fellowship Church after consultation with Pohick Bay Church and Grace Network. Elders are to serve an

indefinite term. Elders may resign if they believe they are not to continue and must resign if they are unable to fulfill Item 2 of this section and/or they terminate their membership with this local church. An Elder may be removed from the office by a majority of the remaining Elders if there are biblical grounds for his dismissal. The Pastor may also be removed by the unanimous consent of all other Elders.

If the Pastor resigns, is removed from office, or dies, the Pohick Bay Church with consultation with Grace Network will select through prayer, and the leading of the Holy Spirit a godly anointed man possessing the qualities of an Elder as set forth in these By-Laws and will install this man into the office of the Presiding Elder/Pastor.

Item 2. Relationship of Elders

Since God has brought us into a covenant relationship with Himself, and the shed blood of Jesus Christ seals this covenant, we are made brothers in Christ and are so bound in every attitude toward each other. Elders are to be an example to the church of this covenant relationship by being joined together in one accord by love and commitment to one another. Thus they become a model or pattern for covenant relationships.

Item 3. Resolution of Conflict and Appealing a Termination

In the event that a question, conflict, or difference of understanding between the Elders cannot be resolved, then any Elder may initiate arbitration. These arbitrators shall be three men from outside Freedom Fellowship Church, but part of Grace Network and Ministries International. If the Board of Elders (local Presbytery) cannot agree on the three selected, each of the two sides within the local presbytery shall select one arbitrator. These two men are to select a third arbitrator from within Grace Network and Ministries International. The decision of the Arbitration Team shall be binding upon all persons involved, including the congregation.

If any Elder is removed from the office and he believes it is unfair or improper, he may appeal to removal by requesting arbitration as described above.

Item 4. Other responsibilities of Elders

The Elders shall decide upon operational policies and guidelines, membership requirements, discipline, and other procedures not covered by these By-Laws. The Elders shall appoint Homegroup Leaders, Deacons, Trustees, and other positions or ministries as deemed necessary for the proper functioning of the church. The term of office and the powers delegated are at the discretion of the presbytery. Any action of the Presbytery is binding upon members of FFC, except as otherwise provided by these By-Laws.

The Elders shall be responsible for the determination of need, the selection, and the supervision of salaried positions. A Salary Review Board made up of non-salaried church members shall be appointed by the Presbytery and will work in conjunction with the Presbytery to determine salaries, benefits and other compensations of salaried staff.

SECTION B: Homegroup Leaders (Deacons)

This church recognizes that the New Testament pattern of church life includes fellowship from “house to house” (Acts 2:46). Therefore, at the discretion of the Presbytery (Board of Elders), Homegroups may be established and leaders appointed. The Homegroup Leaders will serve the Elders as under-pastors in overseeing and ministering to the portion of the congregation assigned to their charge. Qualification for Homegroup Leaders shall be as set forth in I Tim. 3:8-13 and shall be members of this congregation. The Presbytery shall publicly install the Homegroup Leaders to their tasks. They shall serve an indefinite term, until voluntary resignation or removal by the Presbytery.

SECTION C: Special Gifts and Ministries

Those who have special gifts and ministries which are edifying to the church may be appointed and/or ordained to a position or office by the Presbytery as deemed necessary for the proper functioning of the church. They shall serve an indefinite term, until voluntary resignation or removal by the Presbytery.

SECTION D: Trustees

The Elders will serve as trustees. These Elders must be active members of FFC. They shall attend to all legal business in connection to the property of the church, as instructed by the Presbytery.

SECTION E: Secretary and Treasurer

There shall be a Secretary and a treasurer each of whom shall be an Elder, and one or more Assistant Secretaries and Treasurers, to be appointed by the Presbytery. The Secretary shall keep a record of the minutes and shall perform any other duties related to the office. The Treasurer shall be entrusted with the finances of this church, and shall keep an itemized account of all the receipts and disbursements of all monies received. He and/or his assistants shall make all disbursements and reports as directed by the Presbytery. The Treasurer or any other who are authorized to sign checks may not approve or sign checks made out to himself or to his benefit.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A: Qualifications

Membership in Freedom Fellowship Church shall be open to any regenerated person who acknowledges Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, accepts the teachings of the Old and New Testaments as the Word of God, and will covenant with this local church in fulfilling our God given purpose as stated above, being an active participant with their gifts, talents, time and resources. New members of this church are expected to participate in the church's new member orientation.

SECTION B: Responsibilities

Members are expected to share in the life of the local Body in a covenant of love, unity, fellowship, and mutual encouragement of each other. They shall pursue duties and privileges essential to the Christian life according to the Word of God, including a lifestyle of holiness, worship, service, and support of the church.

SECTION C: Discipline, Termination, and Restoration

Should a member fail to meet the responsibilities outlined in Article II, Section A and B, the Elders may discipline a member. If the member still fails to respond and follow the commitments of membership, the Presbytery may excommunicate the member. Since excommunication is always for the good of the church and the person excommunicated, the restoration of the person is desired once true repentance is realized. At that time the person may request re-admission to the church and the Presbytery may grant this. Other membership termination may be by voluntary transfer of membership to another church, at which time this church shall issue a letter of transfer of membership if requested. Voluntary withdrawal from the fellowship of this church and its activities and life may also precipitate termination of membership by the Presbytery. The death of a member is seen as transfer of membership.

ARTICLE III – MEETINGS

This church shall hold a variety of regular meetings for worship, fellowship, teaching, prayer, training, ministry, and outreach. There shall be a monthly Elders meeting, quarterly congregational meeting and at least one annual business meeting called by the Elders and shall include annual reports of finance and other pertinent information.

ARTICLE IV – CHURCH ORDINANCES

SECTION A: Baptism

This church shall receive for baptism any person who has received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (see Foundations Handbook).

SECTION B: Lord’s Supper

This church shall celebrate the Lord’s Supper at minimum once per month during Sunday morning celebrations and in small groups as we meet from house to house for home group fellowships (see Foundations Handbook).

ARTICLE V – DIVISION

In case of a division of the church membership, the church property shall belong to those who abide by the Constitution and By-Laws. If this cannot clearly be determined and agreed upon, the following provision is made: All parties involved shall first undertake to resolve the matter as commanded in Matt. 5:21-26; 18:15-18, 21-35, seeking to be reconciled with one another. If reconciliation does not result, then the matter will be handled as outlined in Item 3 of Section A of Article I of these By-Laws. The decision of the Arbitration team will be final and binding.

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS

Amendments of these By-Laws may be made by unanimous consent of the counsel of Elders (local presbytery) after such proposed action has been submitted to the congregation for their comment. A period of not less than one month shall be given for review.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we hereunto subscribed our name to these By-Laws on this ____ day of April 2002.

Kurt W. Wallace, Pastor/Elder

Alvis House, Elder

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.