

# Village Church Constitution (2016)

Village Evangelical Free Church, Maple Plain, MN \* [www.villagechurch.com](http://www.villagechurch.com)

rev: 16 Feb 16

Adopted: November 6, 2016

## **Article 1. Name & Affiliation**

### ***Section 1. The Name***

The name of this organization shall be Village Evangelical Free Church (the Church). Doing Business as: Village Church

### ***Section 2. Relationships***

The Church shall cooperate with The Evangelical Free Church of America and with the North Central District of The Evangelical Free Church of America.

## **Article 2. Statement of Faith**

### ***Section 1. God***

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

### ***Section 2. The Bible***

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

### ***Section 3. The Human Condition***

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

**Section 4. Jesus Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus-Israel's promised Messiah-was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

**Section 5. The Work of Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

**Section 6. The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

**Section 7. The Church**

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

**Section 8. Christian Living**

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

**Section 9. Christ's Return**

We believe in the personal, bodily and premillennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

### ***Section 10. Response and Eternal Destiny***

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

## **Article 3. Theological Commitments**

### ***Section 1. Theological Commitments***

In addition to, but not in conflict with, the Statement of Faith the Church also holds to our Theological Commitments, which are contained in the Village Theological Commitments document.

## **Article 4. Foundation and Purpose**

### ***Section 1. The Foundation***

The Foundation of the Church is the Lord Jesus Christ and its code of guidance in its affairs is the Word of God, the sixty-six canonical books of the Old and New Testaments.

### ***Section 2. The Purpose***

The Purpose of the Church shall be to glorify God in every way prescribed or approved by the Holy Scriptures under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This is to be done through individual and corporate worship of God; through the mutual edification of its Members and other believers, and through evangelizing the lost to Christ at home and abroad. That is, 'Glorify God ... Love People ... Make Disciple-makers'.

## **Article 5. Membership**

### ***Section 1. Membership***

The Membership of the Church (the Membership) shall consist of persons who confess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone as their personal Savior, who give evidence of regeneration by living consistently with their profession and with the views of faith, doctrine, and practice of the Church, who support this Constitution and who have been received into its Membership according to the Church Bylaws.

**Section 2. Government.**

**a. Congregational Leadership**

Under the authority of Jesus Christ and the Word of God, the Congregation of the Church is the final authority in all matters of governance.

**b. Officers**

The Officers of the Church shall be the Elders of the Church as affirmed by the membership according to the Church Bylaws.

**c. Retained Responsibility**

While operational authority is normally exercised by the officers elected to govern the Church, the vote of the Membership of the Church, at a properly called business meeting of the Church shall be required to affect the following actions:

- Elect officers of the Church;
- Approve the call of the Lead Pastor;
- Approve the annual budget of the Church;
- Approve expenditure of Church funds in excess of budget authorization when: a proposed expenditure exceeds five percent (5%) of the total annual budget of the Church; or a proposed expenditure would cause the cumulative fiscal year excess expenditures to exceed five percent (5%) of the total annual budget of the Church.
- Approve any transactions regarding real property;
- Approve any loan secured by Church real property;
- Discipline officers of the Church;
- Accept, reject, or otherwise dispose of any matter submitted to the Membership by the elected officers of the Church, or raised by motion of Members at a properly called meeting of the Church;
- Adopt, amend, or repeal the Constitution or Bylaws of the Church;
- Approve the dissolution or consolidation of the Church.

**Article 6. Division, Dissolution, Consolidation**

**Section 1. Division**

In case of division the property of the Church shall belong to those Members who abide by the Constitution of the Church. If in dispute, the decision will be made by the Executive Board of the North Central District of The Evangelical Free Church of America.

**Section 2. Dissolution**

Should the Church for any reason be dissolved and cease its activities, its property, both real and personal, shall become the property of the North Central District Association of the Evangelical Free Church of America.

**Section 3. Consolidation**

Should conditions arise where the Church desires consolidation with another Church, the Elders shall be authorized by the Church to negotiate the terms of such consolidation.

**Article 7. Amendments**

**Section 1. Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended only at an annual business session of the Church by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of votes cast when the proposed amendments have been presented in written form and discussed at a business meeting at least three (3) months prior to the time of its consideration. All Members must be notified in writing of proposed amendments at least one (1) week prior to consideration.

**Section 2. Fixed Articles**

Article 4, Section 1 and Article 7 of this Constitution cannot be amended or eliminated.