

**FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH  
DALTON, Georgia**

**CONSTITUTION**

**Article I - The Name**

The name of this Church will be the Fellowship Bible Church, which is unaffiliated and interdenominational.

**Article II - The Object**

The object of this Church is the worship of Almighty God, the teaching and preaching of the Word of God, prayer, fellowship of believers, and the evangelization of the lost.

**Article III - Doctrine**

1. We believe in the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God, and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life. (II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21, Matthew 5:17-18)
2. We believe in one God, eternal existing in three Persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19, II Corinthians 13:14)
3. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true man. (Isaiah 7:14, Luke 1:34-35, Philipians 2:6-7)
4. We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned, and thereby incurred, not only physical death, but also that spiritual death which is separation from God, and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, and in the case of those who reach moral responsibility, become sinners in thought, word and deed. (Genesis 1-3, Psalm 51:5, Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12)
5. We believe that the Lord Jesus died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood. (Hebrews 2:9, I Timothy 2:5-6, Romans 3:21-26)
6. We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ, in His ascension into heaven and His present life there for us as High Priest and Advocate. (I Corinthians 15:3-4, Acts 1:9, Hebrews 4:14, I John 2:1)
7. We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ, following the receiving of His true Church, will personally return a second time to pour out judgment upon an unbelieving world, and set up His Kingdom where He will rule and reign in righteousness. (John 14:1-3, Revelation 19:11-16)

8. We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus are born again of the Holy Spirit, and thereby become the children of God. (Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 3:28, John 1:12)
9. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust, the eternal blessedness of the saved, and the eternal condemnation of the lost. (John 5:28-29, Revelation 20:11-15)
10. We believe marriage is the lifelong covenant union of one man and one woman. No other form of marriage involving mankind is ordained in Holy Scripture and blessed by God. (Genesis 2:22-24, Matthew 19:4-6, I Corinthians 7:2-3, Ephesians 5:28-31, Hebrews 13:4)
11. We believe in the unity and protection from division of the local body of Christ, and of the importance of guarding against schisms, splits, separation and any problem that would prove divisive. (John 13:34-35, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Philippians 2:1-2)

#### **Article IV - Membership**

*Section 1* - Any person shall be eligible for membership who has given clear witness of his acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior and his desire to live a consistent Christian life and is in complete accord with the doctrinal statement of this Church.

*Section 2* - Persons may be received into membership upon confession of their faith in Christ for the first time, reaffirmation of their faith, or a statement of faith with a letter of transfer from his or her Church.

*Section 3* - Associate membership shall be available for those who are living in the area for an indefinite short time and do not wish to sever their membership with their own Church.

#### **Article V - Government**

*Section 1 - Final Authority* - The final authority in the government of the Church is vested in the congregation

*Section 2 - Administration* - The government of the Church shall be executed in all spiritual matters through the Board of Elders. All temporal matters shall be executed through the Board of Deacons under the authority of the Board of Elders. Both boards shall annually elect a chairman and vice chairman. The two boards shall meet together regularly under the leadership of the Elder chairman in order to maintain harmony and effective communication. In their individual and joint meetings a majority of elders and deacons shall consist of a quorum.

*Section 3 - Officers*

- A. The Pastor or Pastors are members of the Church and at the same time are spiritual leaders of the Church. He or they shall have general oversight of the spiritual life, regular services and ministration of the Ordinances of the

Church. He or they shall serve as the administrative heads of the Church. All pastoral staff serves under the authority of the church elder board and are accountable to the board in all matters pertaining to the church. If at any time the services of a Pastor be deemed unsatisfactory, his resignation may be required by a majority vote of the congregation.

- B. The Board of Elders shall be composed of men who are scripturally qualified (I Timothy 3, Titus 1) The Board of Deacons shall be composed of men who are scripturally qualified (I Timothy 3, Acts 6). Both elders and deacons must be men who are in good standing in the Church and are of exemplary life. Elders shall be elected by the congregation for a period of three years and may be re-elected following a year off the Board. Deacons shall be elected by the congregation for a period of two years and may serve two consecutive terms before taking a year off the Board. The terms of elders and deacons shall be staggered to avoid replacing the entire Board in any one calendar year. The number of lay elders on the Elder Board shall not be less than three and the majority of the Elder Board shall be lay leaders. The number of deacons on the Deacon Board shall not be less than five.

## **Article VI - Congregational Meetings**

Regular meetings shall be held twice a year, in February and August, but special meetings may be called by the Pastor, or when there is more than one Pastor by all the Pastors, when deemed necessary. All members shall be notified of both regular and special meetings at least one week prior to the meeting and the purpose of the meeting shall be clearly stated. At least fifty percent of the total active membership shall constitute a quorum.

## **Article VII - Ordinances**

*Section 1* - A communion service observing the Lord's death will be held at least once a quarter, as directed by the Pastor.

*Section 2* - Believer's baptism, being an outward sign of an inward work of grace, will be administered by immersion, or in cases of special request by effusion.

## **Article VIII - Dissolution**

In the event that the Fellowship Bible Church be dissolved, all properties, assets and investments will be liquidated. The proceeds will be distributed to the mission agencies of our financially supported missionaries in proportion to their regular monthly support, for the account of that missionary.

## **Article IX - Amendments**

The By-laws of the Constitution may be amended only by a two-thirds majority of the total membership.

Adopted November 12, 1972  
Revised October 18, 1981  
Revised January 8, 1984  
Revised May 18, 1997  
Revised April 30, 2006  
Revised September 7, 2014