



# TRINITY EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH CONSTITUTION

## PREAMBLE

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We, the members of the Trinity Evangelical Free Church in order to carry out more efficiently the commission given by Jesus Christ to His Church; do ordain and establish the following Constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves:

## ARTICLE I            NAME

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The name of this organization shall be "The Trinity Evangelical Free Church of Minot, North Dakota."  
**[Also known as Trinity Church Minot, North Dakota.]**

## ARTICLE II            PURPOSE

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The purpose of this organization shall be to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every way prescribed or approved by the Holy Scriptures, to engage in such religious, educational, charitable, and benevolent work as the Constitution and By-laws of the organization may determine, and to own and maintain such property and equipment as may be required to carry out the above-stated purpose.

## ARTICLE III            AUTHORITY AND AFFILIATION

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**AUTHORITY:** The congregation, at its annual, quarterly, and special business meetings, is the legislative and governing body of this organization.

**AFFILIATION:** This church shall be affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America and with its North Central District Association **[Northern Plains District Association]** 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. Such affiliation shall in no way abrogate the autonomy of the local congregation, nor its right to hold title to its own property, except for a temporary time when seeking and receiving financial aid from the N.C.D.A., **[N.P.D.A.]**, or when agreed upon by both the congregation and the N.C.D.A. **[N.P.D.A.]** under certain circumstances. The terms whereby the District would hold title to a church's property shall be stipulated in writing, authorized by a duly called meeting of the congregation, and signed by the officers of the congregation.

## **ARTICLE IV          STATEMENT OF FAITH**

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The statement of Faith of this church shall be the same as that of The Evangelical Free Church of America which reads as follows:

# **Statement of Faith**

*Adopted by the Conference on June 26, 2008*

The Evangelical Free Church of America is an association of autonomous churches united around these theological convictions:

### **God**

1. 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.

### **The Bible**

2. 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.

### **The Human Condition**

3. 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.

### **Jesus Christ**

4. 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.

### **The Work of Christ**

5. 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.

## **The Holy Spirit**

6. 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.

## **The Church**

7. 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.

## **Christian Living**

8. 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.

## **Christ's Return**

9. 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.

## **Response and Eternal Destiny**

10. 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 V            MEMBERSHIP**

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The membership of the church shall consist of persons who profess belief in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; whose character, conduct and reputation conform therewith; and who will abide by the Constitution and By-laws of this church.

## **ARTICLE VI            PROPERTY**

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This church shall have the power to buy, own and sell property to be held in the name of the church, Trinity Evangelical Free Church. **[Also known as Trinity Church.]**

If a dispute over ownership of church property should occur, the name and the property shall be retained by those who adhere to the Constitution and By-laws of Trinity Evangelical Church. Should a controversy arise as to which party adheres to the Constitution and By-laws, the question shall be submitted to the North Central District **[Northern Plains District]** Board of the Evangelical Free Church of America and the decision of the Board shall be final.

The church shall be considered dissolved if so decided by the Congregation, or when the Church has not held an Annual Meeting for three (3) years, or when less than six (6) members remain. In the case of dissolution, the property of the Church shall be assigned to the North Central District **[Northern Plains District]** of the Evangelical Free Church of America to enable said District to renew the work or use the values thereof for further gospel enterprises.

## **ARTICLE VII            AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

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Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any annual business session of the church, by two-thirds majority vote cast, provided said proposed amendment(s) has/have been presented in writing to the General Board and discussed at a congregational business meeting at least three months prior to the time of the annual meeting. The proposed amendment(s) shall be announced in the church bulletin for at least three consecutive Sundays prior to the vote.

## **ARTICLE VIII            PROVISION FOR THE BY-LAWS**

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This church shall provide for the By-laws for its government and administration. They shall not conflict with the Word of God or with this Constitution.

This constitution was officially adopted by the congregation of the Trinity Evangelical Free Church of Minot, North Dakota on May 1, 1982.