



TRINITY EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

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

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

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

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

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

1. We believe 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 all Christian faith and life.
2. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Ghost 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 now is our High Priest and Advocate.
4. We believe that the 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. We believe 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. We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only such as receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit, and thus become children of God.
7. We believe 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 means of salvation.
8. We believe 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. We believe that only those who are thus members of the true church shall be eligible for membership in the local church.
10. We believe 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. We believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and this "Blessed Hope" has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer.
12. We believe 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 V MEMBERSHIP

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 Bylaws of this church.

ARTICLE VI PROPERTY

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 Bylaws of Trinity Evangelical Church. Should a controversy arise as to which party adheres to the Constitution and Bylaws, 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

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

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.