

Constitution

Approved May 2006

Fellowship Baptist Church

5607 Wright Avenue Racine, Wisconsin 53406

INTRODUCTION.

The purpose of the constitution is to define the governances and framework for the organization.

ARTICLE 1. NAME.

The name of this organization is "Fellowship Baptist Church" ("Church") located in Racine, Wisconsin.

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this organization is based upon the Great Commandment of Matthew 22:35-39 and the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20.

Jesus Christ has directed us:

- to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every way prescribed or approved by the Holy Scriptures
- to encourage a genuine love relationship with God and maintain divine worship of Him
- to engage in such religious, educational, charitable, and benevolent work
- to maintain Biblical orthodoxy, theology, and behavior

ARTICLE 3. LEGAL STATUS.

The Church is organized exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

- The Church is a corporate body with its own legal identity which is separate from its individual members.
- The duration of the organization is perpetual.
- The Church is an independently governed and maintained by a local body of believers.
- The Church's primarily religious affiliation is with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches and the Wisconsin Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

ARTICLE 4. AUTHORITY.

The Church shall continue to exist even if the members change. The Church may own and maintain property and equipment as may be required to carry out the Church's purpose. The private property of the individual members of the Church is exempt from the debt of the Church.

ARTICLE 5. GOVERNANCE.

The government of this Church is under the Lordship of Christ and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit as exercised through the authority of the body which is the congregation. The Articles of Faith outline the Biblical beliefs held by the Church. The Ministry Manual outlines the operational procedures for the Church, its ministries and activities. The Church commits to follow the Articles of Faith and to apply the procedures of the Ministry Manual.

ARTICLE 6. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE.

- A. Congregation. The congregation, at its business meetings, is the legislative and approving body of the Church.
- B. Leadership. The congregation elects a Pastor(s) and Deacon Board to lead and oversee the ministry and affairs of the Church. The roles and responsibilities of the Pastor(s) and Deacons.

- C. Officers. The Deacon Board elects three board members as the Church's Officers. The duties of the Officers of the Church are to transact all legal business on behalf of the Church, as provided for in the Constitution or laws or regulations or as directed by the congregation through a qualified business meeting.
The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Deacons are the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the Church.
The Secretary of the Deacon Board is the church clerk.

ARTICLE 7. MEMBERS.

- A. Admission. Any individual, meeting the qualifications in the Articles of Faith may become a member of the Church who:
- makes a genuine profession of faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord
 - completes baptism by immersion by an evangelical protestant Church
 - commits himself to the local body of believers
 - accepts the responsibilities outlined in the Scriptures
- B. Discipline. Should any member of this Church be found to be flagrantly negligent in living the Christian life, the Church reserves the right to administer Scriptural forms of Church discipline, as outlined in Matthew 18:15-17 through the Pastor(s) and the Deacon Board.
- C. Termination. Any individual's membership may be terminated who:
- passes away
 - requests termination of membership
 - requests transfer of membership
 - receives Church discipline
 - stops attending the Church for a period of one year

ARTICLE 8. VOTING AND ELECTIONS.

- A. Eligibility. Members 18 years or older and in good standing with the Church are eligible to vote.
- B. Elections. The Church will annually vote to nominate and elect individuals 21 years or older and in good standing within the Church for the Deacon Board, Auditing Committee, Finance Committee, Constitution Committee and the role of Treasurer.
- C. Dismissal. Any member fulfilling a volunteer or elected role in the Church, may be dismissed from their position, who:
- does not fulfill their responsibilities
 - is terminated as a member

ARTICLE 9. MEETINGS.

- A. Ministry Meetings.
Worship Services. The Pastor(s) will lead and organize weekly Sunday, public worship services. The Pastor will lead the congregation in regular observation of Communion. He will conduct baptism by immersion as individuals are ready to publicly announce their belief in Jesus Christ.
- Additional ministry meetings approved by the Pastor and Deacons include small groups, Bible studies, prayer meetings, youth and children events, and activities led and coordinated by the Church.
- B. Organizational Meetings.
- Procedures. The manual of parliamentary procedures in congregational meetings of the Church is Roberts Rules of Order (Revised).
 - Participants. All members are encouraged to participate in congregational meetings. Members 18 years or older are eligible to vote.
 - Facilitator. An officer of the Church or his designate will conduct and lead meetings.
 - Quorum. Twenty percent (20%) of the eligible voting members are a quorum.

C. Meeting Types:

- Annual Meeting. The Deacon Board will annually present a 12 month budget and a 12 month prior year recapitulation of budget and actual expenses, the congregation will vote to accept a new fiscal year budget; the congregation will elect members to fulfill vacant positions for the Deacon Board, Auditing Committee, Finance Committee, Constitution Committee and the role of Treasurer; and the congregation will vote to accept new members
- Semi-Annual Meeting. The Deacon Board will semi-annually present a 6 month, current year budget and actual expense report to the congregation.
- Special Meetings. Special Meetings for the transaction of business may be scheduled as needed by the Deacon Board and Pastor(s). As needed, the Deacon Board will provide revised forecasts and updates to the congregation.

ARTICLE 10. LICENSING AND ORDINATION.

The Church may grant ministry licenses and ordination to individuals who:

- are members in good standing
- demonstrate an active example of ministry and service for Christ
- commit to full-time or occupational Christian ministry
- desire to be licensed or ordained by the Church

ARTICLE 11. INDEMNITY.

Subject to the provisions of any relevant statute, members of the Deacon Board and Staff are indemnified by the Church for all acts done by them in good faith on its behalf. It is the duty of the Church to pay all costs and expenses which any such person incurs or becomes liable for as a result of any contract entered into, or act done by him or her, in his or her said capacity, in the discharge, in good faith, of his or her duties on behalf of the Church.

Subject to the provisions of any relevant statute, no member of the Deacon Board or Staff of the Church is liable for the acts, receipts, neglects or defaults of any other member or office bearer, or for any loss, damage or expense suffered by the Church, which occurs in the execution of the duties of his or her office, unless it arises as a result of his or her dishonesty, or failure to exercise the degree of care, diligence and skill required by law.

ARTICLE 12. PROCEDURES.

All procedures relating to the operations such as the procedures governing business meetings, election of officers, membership and committees of the church are established, defined and maintained in the Ministry Manual.

ARTICLE 13. AMENDMENTS.

Amendments to this Constitution must be submitted to the members in writing and adopted as a preliminary step at a regular business meeting of the Church at least three months prior to the Annual Meeting. At the succeeding Annual Meeting they can be acted upon but for final adoption must receive the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership present and voting.

ARTICLE 14. DISSOLVEMENT.

In case of dissolution of the Church there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, will not be paid or distributed among the members of the Church. Such remaining property is sold with proceeds being assigned equally to currently supported individual missionaries or mission agencies of the Church.

The Church is considered dissolved if so decided by the membership, or when the Church has not held an annual meeting for three years, or when fewer than five voting members remain.