

**Constitution
of the Pine City Evangelical Free Church**

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of the church shall be the Pine City Evangelical Free Church.

ARTICLE II

Statement of Faith

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 III

Purpose

It shall be the purpose of the Pine City Evangelical Free Church to bring believers toward maturity in Christ by:

Providing opportunity for believers to share together in the corporate worship of God.

Establishing and maintaining a fellowship in which believers may grow towards maturity through the teaching and study of the Word of God, prayer, and the mutual exercise of spiritual gifts.

Providing a supportive ministry in the areas of Christian Education, Evangelism, and Christian living, which will help individuals and families to grow in Christ and to apply the principles of the Christian faith.

Preparing its members to witness to the Good News of God's redemptive plan as it is revealed in the Person and Ministry of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Encouraging its members to participate in the spreading of the Gospel on the mission fields at home and abroad.

ARTICLE IV

Mission Statement

Driven by the gospel and supported with prayer, we exist to worship God authentically, enjoy Christ's supremacy, treasure Scripture mightily, care for each other passionately, and reach out to others tenderly with the saving message of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE V

Membership

This church shall receive as their members those sixteen (16) years of age and over who have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, being born again, whose lives manifest the fruits of a true faith in God.

ARTICLE VI

Officers

The officers of the church shall be a Board of Elders of not less than five (5) non-salaried men and the lead pastor. The Board shall choose its own chairman and secretary and these officers shall serve the church in that capacity.

ARTICLE VII

Relational Commitments

Relationships in the church will be guided and governed by the biblical principles set forth in a document entitled "Relational Commitments," which is incorporated into these by-laws by reference. This document establishes our commitments related to peacemaking and reconciliation, accountability and church discipline, confidentiality, and the protection of our children. These Commitments shall apply to members of our church, and may be amended from time to time in the same way that these by-laws may be amended.

ARTICLE VIII

Business Meetings

The Annual meeting of the congregation shall be held in January of each year when the church budget will be voted on and other business conducted as needed. There shall be two other congregational meetings, one in May and one in September. Election of officers and leaders shall take place at the September meeting. A special meeting may be announced at any time by the chairman in conjunction with the other officers according to need. In the election of a pastor and all other officers, voting shall be by closed ballot.

ARTICLE IX

Standing

This church shall affiliate with the Evangelical Free Church of America, The North Central District and other branches. It shall send delegates to their conferences, support their Home and Foreign Missions, and unite in any mutual efforts for the furtherance of the Gospel in the measure the church itself may officially decide. It shall remain its own highest authority and conduct its business through its own business sessions, remaining free and independent from any other denomination or synod.

ARTICLE X

Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any regular business meeting of the church by a two-thirds majority of votes cast of members present, by closed ballot, when said proposed amendments have been presented in written form and discussed at a prior regular business meeting.

ARTICLE XI

Provision For By-laws

A supplement to this Constitution known as By-Laws shall embody the stated qualifications for Pastor and officers and their duties, conditions for membership, method by which members are received, parliamentary rules and regulations for the activities of the church. Rules and regulations adopted at any officially called and announced business session shall be written out in good form and added to the By-Laws when so decided by a meeting.

ARTICLE XII

Conflict Resolution

In order to maintain the integrity of Pine City Evangelical Free Church, when an irreconcilable division occurs within the body, which threatens its unity and/or existence, the Superintendent, along with other designated members of the Evangelical Free Church of America's (EFCA) North Central District Conference (NCDC) Board of Directors, has the prerogative of taking the initiative to mediate the situation. In all such cases, the NCDC, through its assigned designates, will then convene and chair all hearings and meetings necessary for them to determine the facts and offer any nonbinding recommendations on how best to resolve all outstanding concerns. The NCDC designates will determine the nature, extent and means of any discussion and presentation of these matters at any meeting they convene.

Any case of continuing division within Pine City Evangelical Free Church's membership that has not been resolved by prayerful Board and congregational efforts, including those mediation efforts above, must be resolved by designates from the NCDC board of Directors who shall arbitrate the dispute, with their decision(s) being binding and final on all parties. The determinations and recommendations of the NCDC designates, including

those for corrective discipline, must then be presented to the involved parties and if needed, to Pine City Evangelical Free Church's membership at a called meeting. The property of Pine City Evangelical Free Church shall remain corporately with those members who most closely abide by these by-laws, as determined by the NCDC designates.

ARTICLE XIII

Dissolution Clause

In the case of dissolution of Pine City Evangelical Free Church's organization, the assets shall be assigned to the North Central District Conference of the EFCA, to enable said conference to renew the work or use the values thereof for further Gospel enterprises. Pine City Evangelical Free Church shall be considered dissolved if so decided by the membership, or when Pine City Evangelical Free Church has not held a Congregational Business Meeting for two years, or when fewer than six members remain.