

CONSTITUTION OF CLOVIS EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

ADOPTED 01/10/2010

ARTICLE I – INCORPORATION AND NAME

The Clovis Evangelical Free Church was duly incorporated on May 11, 1982. The name of this church shall be “The Clovis Evangelical Free Church.” In this document, The Clovis Evangelical Free Church shall be referred to as “this corporation,” “this church,” “this congregation,” or “the congregation.”

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Clovis Evangelical Free Church is a Community of Believers that exists to Glorify God by following the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40), and obeying the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). These purposes will be accomplished by:

1. Loving God Unreservedly (Matthew 22:37)
2. Loving People Sacrificially (Matthew 22:39)
3. Making Disciples Purposefully (Matthew 28:19-20)

ARTICLE III – STATEMENT OF FAITH

This church endorses and affirms the following Statement of Faith of the Evangelical Free Church of America adopted June 26, 2008. This statement is a summary of the teachings of the Scriptures, but it shall not in any way replace the Scriptures as the final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

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 Pre-Millennial 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 IV – ORGANIZATIONAL POLICIES

This corporation is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes within the meaning of IRC Section 501(c)(3).

No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign (including the publishing or distribution of statements) on behalf of any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE V – GOVERNMENT

The form of Government for this church shall be Congregational. The congregation shall have final voting authority in the following areas: 1) calling and dismissing a Senior Pastor, 2) approval of, or dismissing Elders, 3) approval of the annual budget, 4) approval or alteration of the Constitution and Bylaws, 5) acquisition of or divestiture of real property by the corporation, 6) approval of new members, and, 7) off budget spending in excess of five percent (5%) of the annual budget. The Congregation shall vest all other responsibilities and authorities in a Board of Elders who are empowered to oversee and administrate all church activities both spiritual and corporate. The Board of Elders at their discretion shall appoint Deacons and Deaconesses who shall assist the Board of Elders in the administration of the church and shall have responsibilities as delegated by the Board of Elders. Various committees may be appointed and will function under the direction of the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE VI – MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this congregation shall be open to all persons 16 years of age or older who have confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who give evidence by confession and conduct that they are living in accord with God's Word and in fellowship with Jesus Christ, who are in agreement* with the Statement of Faith, and who agree to submit to the polity of this church as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws. Members are expected to follow the Lord in baptism.

*It is not necessary to agree with Premillennialism to be considered for Church Membership.

ARTICLE VII – MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETINGS

A regular annual Membership business meeting shall be held in May of each year. Special Membership business meetings may be called by the Board of Elders or by 10% of the church membership. Notice for any Membership business meeting shall be given to the membership of the congregation at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled meeting, during a regular church service, by written announcement in the church bulletin, sent in writing by United States Postal Service, and sent, if possible, in writing by electronic mail.

1. The May Membership business meeting shall be held to consider fiscal matters including: adoption of an operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year and to receive reports from committees. Copies of the proposed budget shall be available to members of the

congregation not less than two weeks prior to the May business meeting. The fiscal year of this church shall be June 1 through May 31.

2. The May Membership business meeting shall be held to consider leadership matters including: receipt of the report of the Board of Elders prepared in accordance with the provisions of the By-laws of this church; to elect Elders in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws of this church for the terms of service specified in the Bylaws of this church, said terms to begin June 1; to receive reports from committees and to conduct other business as may be required.
3. A quorum for any Membership business meeting shall be twenty percent (20%) of the members of this congregation. No absentee ballots will be allowed.

ARTICLE VIII – AFFILIATION

This church, while self-governing under God, is affiliated with EFCA West of the Evangelical Free Church of America. In addition to this affiliation, this church may engage in voluntary associations with other groups where such association will serve to further this church's purpose.

ARTICLE IX – OFFICERS

The officers of this church shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Since this church is incorporated within the State of California as a non-profit organization, the four officers of the Board of Elders shall also serve in their same capacities as corporate officers. Officers shall be members in good standing with established Christian character, meet the biblical requirement for Elders, be sound in faith and doctrine, and be in agreement* with the Statement of Faith as set forth in Article III of this Constitution. *It is not necessary to agree with Premillennialism to be considered for the office of Elder.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution may be enacted at any regular Membership business meeting of this church, with a quorum of twenty percent (20%) of the membership present, and by an eighty percent (80%) majority of the votes cast by closed ballot, provided said proposed amendments have been presented by the Board of Elders and discussed at a Membership business meeting at least one month prior to final action and adoption.

ARTICLE XI – PROVISION FOR BYLAWS

A supplement to this Constitution known as Bylaws shall embody the stated qualifications for Pastors and officers; and their duties, conditions for membership, method by which members are received or removed, and parliamentary rules and regulations for the activities of this church. Provisions for revisions or additions shall be outlined in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII – PROPERTY

In case of division of this church, the title of all church property, real and personal, shall remain with that group abiding by this Constitution.

Upon the dissolution or winding up of the corporation, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this corporation shall be distributed to EFCA West of the Evangelical Free Church of America, an IRC Section 501(c)(3) corporation. In the event that EFCA West of the Evangelical Free Church of America is unwilling or unable to receive these assets, the assets shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under IRC Section 501(c)(3).