

**The Hawaii District of the
Evangelical Free Church of America
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

Amended and Restated as of ~~April 29, 2005~~ November 14, 2008

ARTICLE I: NAME

The legal name of this organization shall be The Hawaii District of the Evangelical Free Church of America.

ARTICLE II: DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

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.

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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 III: PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization is to establish independent Evangelical Free Churches throughout the State of Hawaii, to assist in the healthy development of these same churches, and to facilitate the cooperation of these churches in achieving the collective goals of the organization as determined by its member churches, delegates, and board of directors.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

The term "membership" in the corporation known as the Hawaii District of the Evangelical Free Church of America may generally refer to a member church which is affiliated with the District, or specifically to individually constituted delegates. Whereas a local congregation can enter into membership or affiliation through the vehicle of acceptance into the Hawaii District, business shall be conducted by individuals who are duly constituted delegates. The duly constituted delegates of this corporation shall be:

- 1) Persons of good Christian character presenting credentials ~~to the credentials committee satisfactory~~ to the assembly and who have been duly constituted delegates from affiliated conference churches on the basis of two delegates for the first fifty (50) members or fraction thereof, one delegate for the second fifty (50) members or fraction thereof, one delegate for the next one hundred (100) members or fraction thereof, and thereafter one delegate.
- 2) Ministers living within the conference field as senior pastors of its churches, or ministers who are credentialed members of the Ministerial Association of the Evangelical Free Church of America serving conference churches within the conference field as associate staff, evangelists, or missionaries.
- 3) All directors and officers of the corporation.

ARTICLE V: EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS

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If any member of this organization (be that a member church, appointed delegate, pastor, or officer) is accused of lifestyle or conduct contrary to the teachings of the Bible or teaching unscriptural doctrine, or of willful and consistent misrepresentation of the Lord Jesus Christ and the doctrines and distinctions held dear by the Evangelical Free Church of America, the Board of Directors of this organization shall consider the validity of the accusation and give the accused party free and ample opportunity to defend themselves.

If the Board of Directors deems it advisable, they may appoint a committee to assist the District Superintendent in thoroughly investigating the matter. If the matter is settled satisfactorily, the committee shall report to the entire Board of Directors, thus disposing the matter.

If the accusation is found to be true and the committee of investigation cannot satisfactorily resolve it, the Board of Directors may by two-thirds majority exclude or suspend such a member.

In either case, a report of the matter shall be brought before the general assembly of the annual conference, which shall by two-thirds majority of voting members present decide if the action of the Board of Directors shall be sanctioned. No member of the organization and no one who has been a member of it shall be entitled to claim refund or compensation for gifts or donations to the organization. If the organization (through its Board of Directors) has borrowed money or other property from subsequently excluded members, the same shall be refunded to the party concerned as soon as possible and practical.

ARTICLE VI: ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND HEADQUARTERS

- 1) An annual business meeting of this organization shall be held in the spring quarter of each year. At this meeting, all directors shall be elected (those who necessarily need to be elected according to Articles VIII and IX) and all business of general interest to the ~~conference~~ *District churches* shall be considered and acted upon in accordance with these bylaws.
- 2) The annual business meeting may be held anywhere within the area served by the Hawaii District ~~Conference~~. The selection of the meeting place for each successive business meeting shall be determined by the Board of Directors in consultation with the District Superintendent. Each ~~conference~~ *District church* shall be notified in writing of the details of the next scheduled meeting as soon as possible after they are determined.
- 3) The headquarters of the Hawaii District ~~Conference~~ of the Evangelical Free Church of America shall be within the state of Hawaii. All official and legal documents shall be dated therefrom and shall bear the official stamp or seal of the organization.

ARTICLE VII: BALLOTING AND THE MAJORITY VOTE

- 1) In all matters of conference business, each delegate shall have only one vote.
- 2) All business of an annual business meeting shall be conducted by the constituted delegates present, provided that adequate and reasonable notification of said meeting has been made to all affiliate churches, pastors, and officers. Items of business shall be determined by a simple majority of the membership present, except motions dealing with the exclusion of members or amendments to the bylaws, in which case a two-thirds majority vote of the membership present shall be required for adoption.

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- 3) A nominating committee shall present to the Board of Directors its selection of candidates for the Board of Directors to be elected at said meeting, and the Board of Directors shall be responsible to present a finalized ballot to the membership at or prior to the forthcoming meeting. ~~Additional candidates may be submitted for consideration by the nominating committee in writing at least sixty (60) days prior to the scheduled business meeting.~~ The election of directors shall be by secret ballot, with vacancies being filled by those candidates receiving either the highest number of votes, if more candidates are proposed than there are vacancies, or by those candidates receiving approval by a simple majority of the voting members present if the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of vacancies.

ARTICLE VIII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 1) There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of no less than three (3) and no more than fifteen (15) directors which shall *consist of the senior pastor from each of the District's member churches.* ~~be elected from the membership at the annual business meeting or at a special meeting. One third shall be elected each year at the annual business meeting to a three year term. A director shall be eligible for two successive terms, at which time he must take at least a one year leave from that position.~~
- 2) The Board of Directors shall elect from their own number for a one-year term the following officers:
 - a) a president/chairman;
 - b) a vice-president/vice-chairman;
 - c) a secretary.
- 3) A District Superintendent shall be called by a vote of the annual conference *of District churches* upon recommendation by the Board of Directors. The call shall be for a three year period of time. Should a vacancy occur in this position by resignation or by two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors shall function as a search committee and make necessary recommendations as to a successor to the annual business meeting of the Hawaii District. Between meetings, the Board shall have the authority, should they so decide, to appoint an interim District Superintendent who would also be eligible to be elected to the full-time position if recommended by the Board of Directors. The District Superintendent shall be a member of the Board of Directors on an ex-officio basis.
- 4) A quorum consists of a simple majority of those members currently serving on the Board of Directors.
- 5) A pastor serving a church subsidized by the Hawaii District ~~or a lay member belonging to a church subsidized by the Hawaii District~~ shall not be eligible for membership on the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX: DUTIES OF THE DIRECTORS

- 1) The Board of Directors shall appoint a nominating committee prior to each annual business meeting. The District Superintendent shall automatically be a member of the nominating committee.
- 2) The Board of Directors shall handle, manage, and be responsible for the oversight of monies received and all forms of property given to the organization.
- 3) The Board of Directors shall be responsible to make available at each annual business meeting a detailed account of all the organization's property and the management of the same, and of receipts, disbursements, and monies on hand. On behalf of the organization, they shall not have the authority to assume any liability in excess of an amount equal to 20% of gross annual receipts (based on the

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most recent fiscal year) without specific authorization by the assembly of the conference membership.

- 4) The Board of Directors shall set the salaries of all workers.
- 5) The Board of Directors shall appoint a treasurer. This individual may be appointed to succeeding terms without limit or to terms of indeterminate length. He shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Directors.
- 6) Prior to each annual business meeting, the treasurer shall, in a manner prescribed by the Board of Directors, give an account and report to the Directors of the means and monies which they have received and expended on behalf of the organization. Said reports shall be reviewed and presented, along with any recommendations, to the general assembly of the annual meeting.
- 7) The Board of Directors shall meet at times and places decided upon by the chairman. The principal place where the business of the organization is to be transacted is within the State of Hawaii.
- 8) An auditor may be selected annually by the Board of Directors. This auditor shall audit the records of the treasurer and, if possible, provide a report to the annual meeting. No current member of the Board of Directors shall be the auditor for these purposes. If time restraints prohibit the presentation of an auditor's findings prior to the annual business meeting, then the financial reports can be accepted and approved subject to the pending audit, which is to be kept with the official minutes.
- 9) Duties of the officers of the Board of Directors shall be as follows:
 - a) The chairman shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the organization, appoint all committees not otherwise designated, and perform such duties as are required of him as its chairman. He shall serve as the superintendent when that office is vacant and he shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
 - b) The vice-chairman shall take the place of the chairman in his absence and, if necessary, assume all the duties of the chairman until the next annual conference, or until a successor has been elected and has taken up his duties. He shall assist the chairman in the performance of his duties as need arises.
 - c) The secretary shall see to it that accurate minutes are kept of all meetings of the Board of Directors and of all conference business sessions. He shall be responsible to keep a master set of official minutes, including a record of the terms of office of District Board members, its officers, workers, and committee members. He shall be responsible for the distribution of minutes and in cooperation with the chairman, the publication of meetings of the Board of Directors.
 - d) The treasurer shall accept, record, provide a receipt when necessary, and deposit all funds received. He shall keep an accurate account of the same. Furthermore, he shall maintain necessary correspondence concerning financial matters. It shall be the responsibility of the financial treasurer, in consultation with chairman, and District Superintendent to manage any monies or resources on deposit or otherwise invested. He shall give a written report to the conference of all receipts, and he shall report to the Board of Directors when requested to do so.
 - e) The treasurer shall expend the funds of the District pursuant to the direction of the Board of Directors. He shall give a written report to the conference of all expenditures. He shall report to the Board of Directors when requested to do so.

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- f) The District Superintendent shall be responsible to provide the principal spiritual leadership to the district ministries in at least, but not limited to, the following areas:

- (1) Development, implementation, and oversight of ongoing strategies for:
 - (a) church planting throughout the region served by the Hawaii District
 - (b) fund raising and resource management in order to finance the multiple district ministries
 - (c) conflict management among and within district churches
 - (d) assisting existing churches in realizing their maximum potential of effectiveness in their respective ministries
- (2) The intercessory role of matching churches in search of pastoral personnel with appropriate personnel who are available and qualified for placement.
- (3) Facilitating personal and spiritual growth of all district pastoral personnel.
- (4) Supervision of all workers and staff employed by the Hawaii District.

While the District Superintendent is accountable to the Board of Directors, it is understood that He and the Board will work closely together in mutual submission and cooperation.

- g) Should it be necessary for the Board of Directors to appoint or employ other officials or workers than those mentioned in this document, it shall have the authority to do so in close cooperation with the District Superintendent.

ARTICLE X: VACANCIES

- 1) If a director shall move from the district or be absent from two consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors without giving notice to either the District Superintendent, chairman, or secretary, his office shall be considered vacant.
- 2) Should a vacancy occur, the Board of Directors shall have the option to appoint a successor, who shall fill the office until the following annual conference.
- 3) Should a vacancy occur in the office of the District Superintendent, the Board of Directors shall have the authority to allow the chairman to fulfill that role as provided in Article IX, 9a, or to appoint an Interim District Superintendent until a permanent successor is elected.

ARTICLE XI: AFFILIATION OF MINISTERS

- 1) It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors, in close cooperation with the District Superintendent, to see that a functional vehicle exists whereby district pastors and workers can seek credentials with the Evangelical Free Church of America. This presumes close cooperation with and submission to the process prescribed by any such national Evangelical Free Church board, committee, or agency of ministerial standing.
- 2) It shall be required of any minister or gospel worker desiring to serve within any Evangelical Free Church within the Hawaii District that:
 - a) He or she shall be a born-again Christian with a commendable Christian life and character.
 - b) He or she shall be thoroughly familiar with the Evangelical Free Church as to its history, principles, doctrine, and polity.

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- c) He or she shall be in full agreement with the ~~doctrinal statement~~ *Statement of Faith* of the Evangelical Free Church of America.
- 3) While autonomy rests in the local congregation subject to general requirements for affiliation as determined by the Board of Directors, it shall be urged in the strongest terms possible that Evangelical Free Church credentials be pursued and maintained by all pastoral personnel serving affiliate district churches, and that those possessing credentials from other sources seek the transfer of those credentials to the Evangelical Free Church as soon as possible. Further, it is strongly urged that all pastoral personnel serving affiliate district churches apply for and maintain membership in the national ministerial association of the Evangelical Free Church of America.

ARTICLE XII: ALTERATIONS. ADDITIONS. AND DISSOLUTION

- 1) Should a need for alteration of or addition to these bylaws arise, the proposal to accomplish the same shall be submitted in writing complete with appropriate explanation to all affiliate churches and officers at least 90 (ninety) days prior to either an annual conference or special district business meeting. A two-thirds majority approval of duly constituted delegates present at that meeting shall be required for its adoption.
- 2) Should this organization cease to function or be dissolved, free title to all its property shall vest absolutely in the Evangelical Free Church of America.