

Hillside Evangelical Free Church
CONSTITUTION

Article I: NAME

The name of this church shall be:

HILLSIDE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

Article II: STATEMENT OF BELIEF

We join with the Evangelical Free Church of America as 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 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

Subject to and consistent with the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation relating to the purpose of this corporation, the purpose of this church is focused upon the person and work of Jesus Christ, and the church is committed to fulfilling the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20) and the Great Commandment (Matt 22:34-40).

Article IV: MEMBERSHIP

Members of this church must be twelve (12) years of age or older and must be persons who have received Jesus Christ as their Savior and whose lives are manifesting the fruits of a true faith in God.

Article V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

1. The Board of Directors of this church shall be the Chairman (President), Vice-Chairman (Secretary), and the Treasurer.
2. The Officers of this church shall be the Leadership Council as elected by the membership, the Senior Pastor, and the Senior Associate Pastor.

Article VI: BUSINESS MEETINGS

1. There will be an Annual Congregational Business Meeting of this church for the election of Officers and for the presentation and approval of budget(s).
2. Other Congregational Business Meetings may be called at any time by the Chairman in conjunction with a majority of the Leadership Council, according to need, providing each such meeting and its agenda have been announced at all church services on the two (2) consecutive Sundays preceding the prospective meeting.

Article VII: STANDING

This church shall remain free and independent and shall not join itself to any other denomination or synod. It shall operate under a congregational form of government, remain its own highest authority and conduct its business through its business sessions. This church shall cooperate with the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA). This church shall authorize delegates to the EFCA conferences and shall support the EFCA and unite in any mutual efforts for the furthering of the Gospel as the church itself may officially decide.

Article VIII: AMENDMENTS/REVISIONS

Amendments/revisions to this constitution may be made at any Congregational Business Meeting of this church by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by closed ballot. Said proposed amendments/revisions must be presented in written form and discussed at a Congregational Business Meeting at least four weeks prior to the time of its adoption.

Article IX: PROVISION FOR BY-LAWS

A supplement to this constitution known as By-Laws shall embody: the stated qualifications and duties for pastors, officers, and ministry teams; conditions for membership; method by which members are received; and parliamentary rules and regulations for the activities of the church. Revisions or additions to the By-Laws may be approved at any Congregational Business Meeting, provided they have been presented in written form to a previous business meeting of this church and made available to all members prior to presentation for vote. Such approvals require a majority of the votes cast.

Article X: PROPERTY RIGHTS

The organization to which the net assets of the corporation shall be distributed upon its termination and dissolution is the Evangelical Free Church of America, provided that such organization is qualified as set forth under the requirements of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.