

THE CONSTITUTION OF
FAME EVANGELICAL CHURCH
MOWEAQUA, ILLINOIS

2015

Article I. NAME AND PURPOSE

This Church body shall be known as Fame Evangelical Church. The purpose of Fame Evangelical Church shall be the promotion of Christianity through preaching and teaching of the Holy Bible as the only word of God, the administration of the sacraments consisting of Baptism and the Holy Communion among believers, the practice and encouragement of worshipping Almighty God, the edification of believers, the encouragement of local missions among other Christian organizations who labor near to us, and through global missions (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8).

Article II. ARTICLES OF FAITH

Membership at Fame Evangelical Church is contingent first and foremost upon personal acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord (See Article IV CHURCH MEMBERSHIP below). To further assist in the promotion of peaceful fellowship among saints the following articles of faith comprise a summary of the doctrines held at Fame.

Section 2.01 God

God is a Spirit (John 4:24), infinite, (Job 11:7-9), eternal, (Ps. 90:2), and unchangeable, (James 1:17), in his being, (Exod. 3:14), wisdom, (Ps. 147:5), power, (Rev. 4:8), holiness, (Rev. 15:4), justice (Deuteronomy 32:4), goodness (Mark 10:18), and truth (Exod. 34:6-7). God is altogether glorious (1 Timothy 6:15-16, Jude 24). God is the sovereign creator, guide, and preserver of all things.

God has revealed himself throughout the pages of scripture as a Trinity of persons— being but one God and not three, revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

(a) God The Father

Within the Godhead there is an authority structure which is partially displayed in 1 Corinthians 11:3 “...**God [the Father] is the head of Christ.**” Within the framework of that authority structure the Father is head while the Son submits to the Father and the Holy Spirit submits to both the Father and the Son. (John 15:26,)

(b) Jesus The Son of God

The Father Sends the son (John 5:37) whom he loves (John 10:17) in order to Redeem us whom he loves (John 3:16). Though the Son is Equal to the Father (John 10:30, 38; 14:9-11) and has all authority (Mat 11:27, Luke 10:22, John 3:35, John 5:22, John 16:15) Jesus still humbles himself to submit to the Father and says the Father is greater than he is (John 14:28, 1 Corinthians 11:3).

Jesus Christ is truly God and truly man, in whom the divine and human natures are perfectly and inseparably united. He is the eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. As ministering Servant, He lived, suffered and died on the cross. He was buried, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to be with the Father, from whence He shall return. He is eternal Savior and Mediator, who intercedes for us, and by Him all men will be judged.

(c) The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a person (John 14:16-17). Sent by the Father (John 14:26 and the son (John 15:26), proceeding from the Father (John 15:26), as the true and eternal God, of one substance, majesty, and glory with the Father and the Son. He convinces the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8). He comforts the faithful and guides them into all truth (John 14:26).

Section 2.02 The Bible

The Bible, namely the 66 books of both the Old and the New Testaments, is a divine revelation being written in the tone and speech of their human authors driven by the Holy Spirit so as to result in God’s word without error in the original texts (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21). All of these sixty-six books and no other are recognized to be the word of God and constitute the final authority on all matters to which they speak.

The Old Testament is not contrary to the New. In both the Old as well as the New Testament, everlasting life is offered to mankind by Christ, who being both God and man, is the only Mediator between God and man. (Luke 24:25-27; John 5:39; 1 Timothy 2:5).

The word of God reveals what is necessary for our salvation. We are mindful that the scriptures themselves do not grant eternal life, but that they testify to Jesus Christ and are able to make us wise to salvation (John 5:39; 2 Timothy 3:15).

Section 2.03 Humanity and Sin

Humanity – both male and female are created in God’s image (Genesis 1:26-27). In the Garden of Eden a real Adam and a real Eve rebelled against God’s command and plunged themselves and all of their descendants into sin and its consequences. All of humanity is fallen from original righteousness and totally depraved. Apart from the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ humanity is not only entirely destitute of holiness, but is entirely inclined to evil, and that continually; and unless a person is born again, they cannot see the Kingdom of God.

Mankind in his depraved condition cannot and will not of his own design turn towards God for redemption (Romans 3:10-18). Nor can we, by our own natural strength do any good works which would please God and be acceptable to Him (Isaiah 64:6).

There is no salvation outside of coming to Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12). Nobody comes to Jesus unless the Father draws him (John 6:44-45). Since mankind is utterly depraved that he cannot turn to God by himself we recognize that all salvation is a gift of grace from God, not of works so that all of the glory goes to God (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Section 2.04 The Gospel

The gospel (good news) is centered upon the substitutionary death, burial, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1-11). Without reservation we confess that everyone who repents and who believes in Jesus is saved.

The Good News (gospel) of Jesus Christ recognizes that mankind cannot by any means reconcile themselves to God. All have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory (Romans 3:23). The wages of sin is death – an eternal separation from God in hell (Romans 6:23). All of mankind has sinned and stands under condemnation.

God has provided the atoning sacrifice in His son, Jesus Christ. Our Lord Jesus being both fully God and fully man lived a perfect life, and yet died the death that sinners deserve according to the plan of God at the hands of wicked men. Jesus was crucified for our sins, buried, and raised to life in the body on the third day before ultimately ascending in his resurrected body to the Father’s right hand in heaven where he is seated until he returns on the last day to judge all of mankind.

God being rich in mercy has sovereignly elected some to salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 1:3-6). Through His Spirit, by His word, through His apostles, and through Christians in all generations God issues His call by the proclamation of the gospel message to the lost. As the gospel is proclaimed, all of those whom the father effectually calls will come to Jesus (John 6:37, 45).

(a) Salvation

Having heard the gospel (Romans 10:14), a person must repent of their sin (Mark 1:15; Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 5:31; 20:21), Confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Romans 10:9), and believe in their heart that God has raised Jesus Christ from the dead (Romans 10:9). Everyone who calls upon the name of Jesus for salvation will be saved (Acts 2:21; 16:30-31).

(b) Justification

Those who hear God’s call are immediately justified by placing their faith in Jesus Christ. We are never righteous before God on account of our works or merits, but only by the merit of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and by faith in His name. Therefore, it is a most wholesome doctrine, and full of comfort, that we are justified by faith only. (Romans 3:28. Compare; Acts 13:39; Rom 3:20, 21; Eph 2:9; James 2:20, 24, 26)

(c) Regeneration

Regeneration is the renewal of the soul of man after the image of God (Romans 12:1-2; Eph 4:23), through the Word, by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5; Eph. 4:23). By which we become “new men” in knowledge of and holiness of truth created after the image of God (Ephesians 4:24; Col 3:9-10).

(d) Adoption

Being born again into regeneration we are adopted through faith by God (Gal 3:26) which is witnessed by the Holy Spirit (Gal 4:4-6). Thus we are freed from fear (Rom 8:15) and thus come freely to God our Father who chose us for adoption (John 1:12-13).

(e) Obedience & Sanctification

Grace will produce works (James 2:14-26). Those who come to Him will obey his command to be baptized (Matthew 28:19), and will continue throughout this life to learn his commands and live according to them (Matthew 28:20). Those who come to Him in faith will persevere in faith (Matthew 10:22; 24:13), for he is able to make them persevere (Jude 24).

(f) Good Works

Good works are the fruit of faith and follow after justification. They do not have the virtue to erase our sins, or to avert the judgment of endure the severity of God’s justice; yet they are pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ. Good works spring from a true and living faith, for through and by them a living faith may be as evidently known as a tree is identified by its fruits (James 2:18).

(g) Glorification

When Christ physically returns to this earth all that look to him for salvation will be transformed. The dead will be raised imperishable after the manner of Christ and those yet living will be instantly transformed (1 Cor 15:51-57) for we shall see him as he is and will thus be like him (1 John 3:2-3).

Section 2.05 The Church

The Church is the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:4, 12; Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 27;). The visible church is the community of true believers wherever they meet, among whom the Word of God is preached in its purity, and the means of grace are duly administered, according to Christ's own appointment.

The Church exists to worship and glorify God, to build one another up in the most holy faith, to proclaim truth, to serve one another through the exercise of our individual gifts, to love, to disciple each one to maturity in Christ, (John 4:23-34; Eph 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Peter 4:7-11), and to proclaim the gospel to the lost (Matthew 28:19-20).

Section 2.06 Baptism and Communion

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are sacraments ordained by Christ. They were ordained by Christ that we should use them. Christians who partake in them have their faith strengthened. Those who receive them improperly bring upon themselves condemnation, as Paul writes in reference to the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-34)

(a) Holy Baptism. We believe that baptism through immersion in water is the symbol of one's union by faith with Christ in death, burial and resurrection, and constitutes the public confession of these spiritual realities to the world and is the answer of a good conscience toward God. Baptism is therefore to be administered to those who have been born again by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 8:36; Romans 6:3-11)

(b) The Lord's Supper. The Supper of the Lord is a token of love and union that Christians ought to have among themselves. It is also a mystery or a representation of our redemption by the sufferings and death of Christ. Those who rightly, properly and faithfully receive communion, partake of the body and blood of Christ by faith, not in a bodily, but in a spiritual manner, in eating the broken bread which represents Christ’s body, and in drinking the cup which represents the new covenant in Christ’s blood.

Section 2.07 Community Worship

We believe that the Christian Sabbath is divinely appointed; that it is commemorative of our Lord's resurrection from the grave (Matthew 28:1—6; Acts 20:7; Revelation 1:10). It is an emblem of our eternal rest (Hebrews 4:9). That it is essential to the welfare of the civil community, and to the permanence and growth of the Christian Church, and that it should be reverently observed as a day of holy rest and of social and public worship (Mark 2:27; Romans 14:5; Galatians 4:10-11; Colossians 2:16-17; Hebrews 10:25).

Section 2.08 Christ's Return

According to his promise, Jesus Christ will return at a time we cannot know, personally, visibly, and with glory to the earth (Acts 1:11; Matthew 10:27; 16:27;). The dead will be raised and the living faithful transformed (1 Cor 15:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18); and Christ will judge all people in righteousness. He will cause the fulfillment of all prophecies made concerning His final and complete triumph over all evil. Until he comes we are called to patience (James 5:7-8); evangelism (2 Peter 3:4-9); Holiness, Godliness, and watchfulness (Acts 1:7; 2 Peter 3:10-16; Rev 22:20).

Section 2.09 The last Judgment

Jesus Christ will come in the last day to judge all mankind by a righteous judgment (John 5:22,27; 2 Tm 4:1; 1 Peter 4:5). God will give unto the believers eternal life and happiness, and rest, peace, and joy without end. But God will command the unrepentant and ungodly to depart to the same condemnation as the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41), to endure everlasting damnation, punishment, and pain, torment and misery (Revelation 14:10; 20:11-15). Therefore we do not agree with the doctrine of those who maintain that devils and the ungodly will not have to suffer eternal punishment.

Section 2.10 Missions and Evangelism

The great commission of Matthew 28:19-20 is the great directive of every Christian, and the entire church. We as a community of believers are dedicated to globally and locally striving by all means to win the lost to Jesus Christ wherever they may be found.

Section 2.11 Concerning Civil Government

Christians everywhere are called to live in subjection to the authorities whom God has established (Romans 13:1-5, 6-7; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13f), living righteous lives within them so that on the Day of Judgment those who see may glorify God in heaven. At such time as the mandate of men would cause a Christian to deny Christ, or to break one of his commands, then it is enjoined upon every Christian to obey God rather than men. (Acts 4:19-20)

Section 2.12 Marriage

Marriage is a parable of Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:21-33). We believe that God's creation of and declaration of marriage (Genesis 2:18, 21-24) is to be between one man and one woman for the glory of God (Gen 1:27, 28; 2:18, 20-24; 5:2; Mark 10:6-9). No other sexual relationship is acceptable in the sight of God (Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

Article III. CHURCH ORGANIZATION III

Section 3.01 Definition of the Church

See the Articles of Faith (Article II above).

Section 3.02 Membership Record

Fame Evangelical Church shall maintain for itself a membership record book maintained by the pastor.

The pastor shall be custodian of this record book, and shall enter therein the names of the members of the church, together with such other information as is necessary to complete the record shall be corrected annually, immediately preceding the annual business meeting of the church. (See also Article IV CHURCH MEMBERSHIP).

Section 3.03 Officers of the Church

The officers of the church shall be the elders (Section 3.04(a) below), the treasurer (Section 3.04(b)(i) below), The church financial secretary (Section 3.04(b)(iii) below), and the trustees (Section 3.04(b)(iv) below).

Section 3.04 The Church Council

The church council shall be comprised of the Elder board (Section 3.04(a) below) and the Deacon board (Section 3.04(b) below) and shall serve as the administrative body of the church. It shall meet monthly and at such other times as is necessary. The church council is amenable to the congregational meeting to which it shall submit its proceedings for review and ratification.

The council will elect for itself a secretary at its first annual meeting. If the secretary is not already on the council it shall serve as a non-voting position.

The Administrative Elder shall preside over the church council.

Special meetings may be held at the call of any two elders or deacons. A majority of the Church Council shall constitute a quorum.

(a) The Board of Elders

The Board of Elders shall constitute 5 men: the pastor and four selected elders. These shall operate under the title of elder.

At their first annual meeting the elders shall elect from their number an elder gifted in administration to be the administrative elder (lay leader) and an elder to be the Sunday School Superintendent, and any other necessary positions of oversight in the church.

If an insufficient number of elders may be found the board may still operate, but shall seek to raise up more qualified elders. The term of office for the elders shall be two years on a staggered basis such that each year the term ends for two elders so that two are elected.

(i) Selection of Elders:

All elders are required to be members of Fame Evangelical Church.

The qualifications for elder are spelled out in Scripture (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). Candidates for Elder may be nominated by any member of the church in accordance with Section 3.06 below). Self-nomination is acceptable (1 Tim 3:1).

Candidates shall be interviewed by the current Elder board, and shall be asked to consider their qualifications according to scripture (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). Upon passing their examination they will be approved by the standing elder board and installed in public service by the pastor, or by another elder in the absence of a pastor.

Should an elder withdraw or be removed from the membership of Fame Evangelical Church his eldership shall automatically cease from such date.

Vacancies occurring in the Board of Elders shall be filled by selection as above.

(ii) Duties of Elders

The position of Elder is one of oversight of the church but is uniquely focused on servanthood. It is a position not of pride of place but of humble service. While every elder must be able to teach, some may excel at administration (1 Timothy 5:17).

The elders will divide among themselves the varied leadership tasks of the church according to their gifts. The elders should work together to ensure that their individual and corporate gifting is being used to the benefit of the church and the Glory of Christ Jesus.

In the Spirit of Acts 6:4 the Elder board is tasked with Prayer and the Ministry of the Word.

The elder board shall prayerfully and studiously protect and teach the doctrine of the church, and see that order is maintained during worship.

The elder board shall monitor the relationship between the pastor and the church, and provide opportunity for mediation. If the elder board shall feel that a vote of confidence should be taken by the congregation, such vote shall be taken by secret ballot the following Sunday morning during Sunday school. Voting on the pastor shall be limited to members in good standing who are 18 years and over. In the event that either the church or the pastor shall feel that there should be a pastoral change, notice shall be given at least two months before the change is effected.

At this time the church council shall appoint a pulpit committee. (confer Section 3.04(c)(iii) Pulpit Committee). The elders shall study all phases of evangelistic responsibility and arrange for the evangelistic meetings. The elders shall oversee elections. (See:Section 3.06 below)

(iii) Pastor

The pastor shall be an example to the flock of God by keeping himself free from all worldly entanglements and above reproach in all matters of conduct and finance. It shall be his duty to preach the Word; to exercise prayerful and diligent oversight of the church, watching for souls as one that must give account; and to seek earnestly the salvation of the lost, that in all things he may be approved unto God. The pastor shall be recognized as the head of the church and shall be responsible for the public services and the general promotion of the church activities. It shall be his prerogative with the approval of the Church Council to arrange for all special meetings and to engage the necessary help for the same. He shall have the general oversight of the organizations of the church and shall give guidance in the organization of the Sunday School and other related organizations. The pastor is authorized to administer the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, to conduct funerals, and to solemnize marriage.

(iv) Lay Leader (Administrative Elder)

In the absence of, or at the request of the pastor, he shall preside over the services of the church in a manner spiritually helpful to the members. He shall co-operate with his pastor in his plans for the spiritual advancement of the members and seek to lead them into a complete commitment of the whole life to Jesus Christ.

The Administrative Elder shall conduct the council meetings; if not present another elder may preside over the meeting.

(v) Sunday School Superintendent

He will have oversight and administration of the Sunday School teachers and their classes; the Sunday School programs, lessons, and interests.

He shall encourage Sunday School officers and teachers to attend conferences, leadership education classes, institutes and conventions.

He shall attend the meetings of the Church Council, regularly report the condition of the Sunday School, and submit an annual statistical report to the church at the annual business meeting.

(b) The Board of Deacons

The position and responsibility of the deacons and deaconesses shall be loving care of the congregational needs.

(i) Selection of Deacons and Deaconesses

The qualifications for Deacon and Deaconess (henceforth "deacon") are spelled out in Scripture (Acts 6:3; 1 Timothy 3:8-13).

Candidates for Deacon may be nominated by any member of the church in accordance with Section 3.06 below. Self-nomination is acceptable (1 Tim 3:1).

Candidates shall be interviewed by the current Elder board, and shall be asked to consider their qualifications according to scripture (1 Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6:3). Upon passing their examination they will be approved by the standing elder board and installed in public service by the pastor, or by another elder in the absence of a pastor.

Should a deacon withdraw from the membership of Fame Evangelical Church, or be excluded therefrom, his deaconate shall automatically cease from such date. Vacancies occurring in the board of Deacons shall be filled by selection as above.

(ii) Church Treasurer

The treasurer or financial secretary shall promptly deposit all monies received from any source, in a bank approved by the Church Council; distribute them as directed by the church council; and report regularly to the church council and the annual congregational meeting.

(iii) Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary shall (1) receive and record in classified form all monies coming to the church, (2) keep an accurate account with each individual contributor.

(iv) Trustees

There shall be a board of five (5) trustees elected for staggered five (5) year terms from among the members by the congregation. It shall be their duty to care for the church property, and ensure that the buildings are open to the pastor of Fame Evangelical Church for religious services or other meetings as are in harmony with the constitution. Also see Section 6.01 Church Trustees.

(v) Worship Leader

The Worship Leader shall guide the church in worship during the music portion of the worship service.

(c) Committees

To assist in doing its work the church shall organize and maintain such agencies and auxiliaries as the church council shall determine. The pastor shall have advisory membership on all committee and shall be informed of all committee meetings by the chairman.

There shall be standing committees on Missions and Worship.

The Chairman of these and all committees shall serve on the church council.

(i) Missions Committee

There shall be three persons on this committee elected for staggered three-year terms. They shall elect for themselves a chairman and a secretary. This committee shall plan and promote the total missionary program of the church.

(ii) A committee on Worship

There shall be a music committee consisting of three or more persons appointed annually by the Church Council. This committee shall organize during the month of January and elect a chairman.

(iii) Pulpit Committee

At such time a replacement needs be sought for a pastor, the church council shall appoint a pulpit committee of three people to secure candidates (per Section 3.04(a)(ii) Duties of Elders above). The pulpit committee shall elect for themselves a chairman who will report to the Church Council.

The committee shall seek a candidate in accordance with Section 5.02 The Call below.

(d) Additional Positions

There shall be other positions nominated by the church and approved by the elder board. These positions while serving the church are not on the church council. These include but are not limited to ushers, tech team, communion committee, and flower chairperson, etc.. Other positions may be created as required by the church council.

Section 3.05 The Congregational meeting

There shall be an annual congregational meeting, composed of the members of the church to review the work of the year, and to consider local opportunities and needs. At least 15 members present at the Annual Congregational meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

The annual congregational meeting shall be held in January and public announcement of this meeting shall be made at the worship services on two Sundays preceding the meeting.

The administrative elder (lay leader) shall preside at the congregational meeting, and the secretary of the church council shall serve as its secretary. Another elder may preside at this meeting in the absence of the administrative elder or at his request.

Special congregational meetings may be called by the pastor upon authorization of the church council, providing the regulations specified here are complied with.

Section 3.06 Annual Nominations

1. There shall be an annual call for written nominations from the church membership aged 18 years or above on the first Sunday of November during the Sunday School hour. Elders and Deacons, as well as other positions determined by the council shall be nominated by the members.
2. The Elder Board shall post the compiled ballot of nominations in a conspicuous place for two Sundays following the nominations.
3. Those who wish their names to be withdrawn from nomination are to remove them during this time.
4. The elder board will be charged with assessing the nominations by scriptural standards for Eldership and Deaconship and conferring with those nominated.
5. Newly elected Church officers shall be installed annually the first Sunday of the New Year.

Article IV. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:23-25)

We understand that membership is a matter of belonging to the body of Christ and indicates Fellowship, Accountability, and Service. (See also Section 4.03)

Section 4.01 RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

(a) Membership

The membership of Fame Evangelical Church consists of all persons who have been received on profession of faith.

(b) Admission into the Church

Because church membership is a sacred fellowship involving high privileges and solemn obligations, and because uniting with the church is one of the important events in life, applicants seeking admission shall be carefully interviewed by the elder board, and the significance and duties involved made clear.

Persons seeking admission into the church shall declare that they personally accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, follow the Lord in Baptism, and purpose to live the Christian life.

(c) Conferral of Membership

The elderboard shall present all approved candidates for membership to the church council. Persons recommended to the church council shall be admitted to membership according to their profession of faith in Jesus

Christ. Application for transfer or withdrawal of membership shall be addressed by the elder board and the council informed.

(d) Children and the church

All children should be led into personal acceptance by faith of the Lord Jesus Christ and into conscious experience of salvation through obedience to Christ as Lord by Christian nurture and Godly training.

Since the Scriptures give a number of instances where children of godly parents were formally and publically dedicated, we encourage our people to dedicate their children to the Lord by prayer and laying on of hands of the elders.

Section 4.02 TRANSFER AND WITHDRAWAL

(a) Certificate of Withdrawal or Transfer

If a member of Fame Evangelical Church desires to unite with another evangelical church or to withdraw from the church, he shall be entitled to receive a letter of good standing and recommendation, or of honorable withdrawal issued by the pastor upon approval of the church council, providing that the member is in good standing.

(b) Inactive Member

Any member who fails to maintain fellowship for an extended period of time may have their name removed from the role at the recommendation of the elder board to the church council.

(c) Membership of Pastor

The pastor who is called to ministry and his wife having declared their faith in Christ shall become members of Fame Evangelical Church as they move into residency in the community. Members of his family shall seek membership normally.

Section 4.03 MEMBER LIFE

(a) Faith

"Without faith it is impossible to please God." (Heb. 11:6) Through faith the believer becomes aware of God and of the reality of His presence. Through faith he becomes confident of God's mercy, a partaker of His saving grace, and conscious of His favor and fellowship. Faith is a means of development. Progress in the Christian life is made through the diligent exercise of faith and the performance of those duties which belong to the life of the believer.

(b) Evidence of Sincerity

Every member, being serious about his personal salvation and his desire to follow Christ, will give evidence of his sincerity by avoiding that which is forbidden in the Word of God and by endeavoring to do that which is encouraged therein. He will endeavor to love God with his whole heart and to serve Him with all his strength, faithfully discharging every duty belonging to the service of God.

(c) Community Worship

Every member of the church should be faithful in attending worship services, observing the sacraments, in reading and mediating upon the Scriptures, in engaging in private prayer (Matthew 6:5-15; Luke 11:1-13; 18:1), and in participating in the public meetings for prayer and Christian fellowship (Ps. 95: 6; 122: 1; Heb. 10: 25).

(d) Christian Education

Every member shall be encouraged to attend The Sunday School every Sunday for Christian instruction, under the general guidance and direction of the pastor and the elder known as the Sunday School Superintendent. (See also Section 3.04(a)(v) Sunday School Superintendent)

(e) Family worship

Heads of families should be diligent in conducting family worship, in providing religious instruction and guidance for the household, and in setting a good example of all manner of Christian living.

(f) Love and Service

Every member of the church should be zealous in works of love and mercy. He should speak evil of no man, but should show Christian love toward all, give to the poor, and "do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." Gal. 6:10

(g) Christian Stewardship

Every member of the church should study the principles of Christian stewardship, and dedicate himself, his time, his talent and his substance to God and the advancement of His kingdom. In recognition of God's ownership, he should practice systematic and proportionate giving. (Mal. 3:8) (I Cor. 16:2) He should regard Christian liberality as a privilege and sacred duty, and freely give of his substance for the spreading of the gospel at home and abroad, for the maintenance of the church.

(h) Unity of the church

Dissent in the church, both in spirit and practice, should be avoided. Members should be ever diligent to maintain the unity of the church; they should not speak disparagingly of one another, but pray earnestly for, and in honor prefer one another and labor "to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Eph. 4 :3)

(i) Bible study

The Bible should be studied daily, prayerfully, diligently, and systematically so that the believer may "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18; Acts 17: 11; Ps. 119:11; 2 Tim. 3:17).

(j) Witnessing

The church is under solemn obligation to make known its saving truth to all mankind (Matthew 28:19-20).

(k) Accountability

The foregoing, as taught in the Holy Scriptures, are herein set forth for the guidance of the members of the church and for the proper regulation of the church. Should any member violate or habitually neglect these guidelines, those who have been appointed to watch over them shall in love admonish them; but if, after repeated and prayerful admonition, they do not reform they shall be dealt with as those disobedient to the word of God, with the goal of restoration.

Article V. The Pastoral Ministry

And He appointed twelve, to be with Him, and to be sent out to preach (Mark 3:14) ... And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors, and teachers, for the equipment of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ (Eph. 4:11, 12)

And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. (Heb. 5:4)

Section 5.01 Senior Pastor Requirements

No person shall be considered for the pastoral ministry who is

(a) divorced or who has married a divorcee

(unless both the pastoral candidate and his present wife be judged the innocent party, and where divorce was granted for adultery or where the divorce took place before his conversion.)

(b) Or who does not recognize that his body should be treated as the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Section 5.02 The Call of the Pastor

From Biblical times, the Christian ministry has been held in high reverence and honor. The Church has insisted that those who receive her credentials and commission to preach must be known to possess the requisite qualities of heart, mind, and body.

In order that Fame Evangelical Church may be assured that those persons who may be called to pastor are truly called of God to this office, the Pulpit Committee (See: Section 3.04(c)(iii) above) shall prayerfully and earnestly seek to answer these representative questions:

- Does this candidate know the grace of God in the forgiveness of sin?
- Does he both understand and clearly explain the gospel?
- Is the Candidate called to ministry? Why does he claim so?
- Does he have gifts for the work of the ministry?
- Does he have the ability to speak in public?
- Is it his sincere purpose to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness?
- Does he have victory over sin?
- Is the love of God demonstrated in his life?
- Is he exemplary in all manner of life?
- Has he been active and faithful in Christian service?
- Is he familiar with the doctrines and the Constitution of Fame Evangelical Church?
- Do you agree with the doctrines and Constitution of Fame Evangelical Church, and will you follow and promote them?
- The candidate may be asked questions selected at random from the ARTICLES OF FAITH (Article II above) plus such other questions as may be deemed pertinent.

There must be assurance in these matters, for only persons of genuine Christian experience, of godly character, and pious life, whose conduct before men is above reproach, who flee hurtful lusts, and are free from habits and practices that would mar their influence or compromise their witness, can receive the approval of Fame Evangelical Church as a pastor of Jesus Christ.

If the candidate answers satisfactorily the foregoing questions the committee may recommend him to the church council. Then the Church Council may recommend him to the congregation for a vote on whether or not to extend a pastoral call.

Section 5.03 Pastoral Student

A member in good standing who has a good testimony concerning his Spiritual, Mental, and Physical fitness for the work of the ministry and who has publicly affirmed his call of God to the Christian ministry shall be recognized as a pastoral student and trained in ministry by the pastor and encouraged to pursue further education for ministry.

Article VI. PROPERTY VII

Section 6.01 Church Trustees

(a) Membership

There shall be a Board of Trustees (see also Section 3.04(b)(iv)) consisting of five persons, whose tenure of office shall be arranged so that there shall be the annual election of one or more trustees, each to serve five years, or until his successor is elected, all of whom are to be members of Fame Evangelical Church, and at least twenty-one years of age. These trustees shall be nominated at the annual nomination (Section 3.06 above) by the members of the church who are 18 years and older.

Should a trustee withdraw from the membership of Fame Evangelical Church, or be excluded therefrom, his trusteeship therein shall automatically cease from such date.

Vacancies occurring in the Board of Trustees shall be filled by nomination for the unexpired term according to Section 3.06.

(b) Organization

The Board of Trustees shall organize and elect a president and other officers as necessary, who shall perform the duties usually pertaining to their respective offices.

(c) Meetings

The Board of Trustees shall meet at least annually at such time and place as the board may determine. Special meetings may be held at the call of the president or of two of the trustees. A majority of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum.

(d) Accountability

The Board of Trustees is amenable to the Church Council and the annual congregational meeting. The Board of Trustees shall report regularly to the Church Council, and regularly at the annual congregational meeting. Such annual report shall set forth the transactions of the year, the estimated value of the property, and its condition.

(e) Duties

The Board of Trustees shall hold and manage all the real and personal property of the church.

The Board of Trustees, under the direction of the Church Council, shall adequately insure and care for the property of the church, see that the name of the church is properly displayed and secure the custodian.

Section 6.02 HOLDING AND CONVEYING PROPERTY

a) Title to all property shall be held in the name of Fame Evangelical Church.

b) In order to secure the right to property with the accessories thereof, care shall be taken that all conveyance and deeds be drawn and executed in due conformity with the laws of the State of Illinois. Deeds shall be registered recorded immediately upon their execution.

c) The trustees shall have the power to purchase, to sell or convey, and encumber any real estate, title to which is held by Fame Evangelical Church. The majority of trustees shall sign necessary documents.

Section 6.03 Erection and Reconstruction of Building

If the congregation desires to purchase, erect, enlarge or reconstruct a house of worship, parsonage or other building, the council shall appoint a building committee which shall be amenable to the council. Such committee will have adequate representation from the organizations concerned with the use of the structure. A subcommittee on construction shall be appointed and other committees on matters as needed for specific type of the project may be appointed.

Article VII. CORPORATIONS

Fame Evangelical Church is incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois and the corporation papers are recorded in the Court House at Shelbyville, Illinois.

Section 7.01 Object

The object of the corporation is the promotion of Christianity through preaching the Word of God, the administration of the sacraments, ordinances, the maintenance of worship, the edification of believers, evangelism, and the promotion of missions.

Section 7.02 Members

The members of this corporation shall consist of the members of the church, as recorded in the membership role. (Section 3.02 above)

Section 7.03 Officers

The officers of the corporation shall consist of a Board of Trustees (See Section 6.01(a) above). The said trustees shall have the management and control of all the property of the Corporation, subject to the provisions of said Constitution.

Article VIII. AMENDMENTS TO AND REVISION OF THIS CONSTITUTION

It is worthy to consider a review of the constitution at least every five years to ensure that it empowers the church body to serve the Lord Jesus Christ well and to win the lost to Christ.

This Constitution can be changed or amended only by consent of the congregation. Such change shall require 2/3 majority of members present.

Advance notice shall be given of the change by publicly reading the proposed change during the morning worship service at least two weeks prior to the vote OR by making available copies of all changes to every member and interested congregant for one month prior to vote.