

# CONSTITUTION OF THE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF CORONA

## ARTICLE I

### Name

We, the members of the Evangelical Free Church of Corona, in order to set forth our stand on the Word of God and to facilitate the orderly transaction of business, do ordain and establish the following articles to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

## ARTICLE II

### Statement of Faith

- A. We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testament, to be the verbally inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and the divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.
- B. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- C. We believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He now is our High Priest and Advocate.
- D. We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age, to convict men of sin, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.
- E. We believe that man was created in the image of God, but fell into sin and is therefore lost, and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit, can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
- F. We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only such as received Jesus Christ by faith are born of the Holy Spirit, and thus become children of God.
- G. We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church during the present age. These are, however, not to be regarded as a means of salvation.
- H. We believe that the true Church is composed of all such persons who, through saving faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ, of which He is the head.
- I. We believe that only those who are thus members of the true Church shall be eligible for membership in the local church.

- J. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Lord and the Head of the Church and that every local church has the right under Christ, to decide and govern its own affairs.
- K. We believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this “Blessed Hope” has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer.
- L. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead; of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this church shall be for the building up of the Body of Christ in order to equip the believers for the work of service and fulfillment of the Great Commission to the glory of God.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **Affiliation**

This church shall be affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America and with the Southwest District Conference of said denomination. While so affiliated, this church shall remain independent, self-governing, and its own highest authority under God.

### **ARTICLE V**

#### **Property Rights**

The church shall have the right to buy, own, and sell real and personal property in its own name. If a division occurs in the church, the name and all property shall be retained by those adhering to this Constitution. If the church ceases to function and its organization is dissolved, the property shall automatically become the property of the Southwest District Conference of the Evangelical Free Church of America.

### **ARTICLE VI**

#### **Period of Duration**

The period of duration of corporate existence shall be perpetual.

### **ARTICLE VII**

#### **Bylaws**

A supplement to this Constitution known as the Bylaws of the Evangelical Free Church of Corona shall contain rules and regulations applicable to membership, the Board of Elders (Board), Pastors, finances, meetings, and other rules and regulations for church activities as needed.

## ARTICLE VIII

### Amendments

#### A. Rules

1. Amendments to this Constitution or Bylaws may be made at any Congregational Meeting.
2. A proposed amendment to the Constitution or Bylaws shall be made available, presented, and discussed at a Congregational Meeting at least three months prior to the time of its adoption.
3. During the first 2 months of this period members may submit written proposed changes to the proposed amendment(s) to the Board. After 2 months, no further proposed changes to the proposed amendment(s) may be submitted.
  - a. The Board shall review the proposed changes, updating the revised proposed amendment(s) as necessary.
  - b. The Board will vote to approve the initial or revised proposed amendment, and a majority vote of the Board is required for approval of changes to the proposed amendment(s) and completion of a final version.
4. The final version of the proposed amendment(s) shall be made available to each member at least two weeks prior to the Congregation Meeting at which the vote regarding adoption of the amendment will be taken.
5. Unless Article VIII-B is applicable, amendments shall be adopted upon the approval by 67% of the members present and voting at a Congregational Meeting. Voting on the final version of the proposed amendment(s) shall be by closed ballot in accordance with the procedure given in the Bylaws.
6. A member of the Board shall announce the results of the vote at the Congregational Meeting. The adopted amendment shall contain a version number and be dated.

#### B. Exceptions

Articles I, II, III, IV, V, VI and VIII-B cannot be repealed or revised except by 90 percent majority vote of the membership.