

Bylaws
of
Interfaith Bible Fellowship

Article 1 – Statement of Corporation

A. Purpose

The purpose of Interfaith Bible Fellowship is to teach, preach, witness, and demonstrate the inherent Word of God, complete with the power and evidences of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit for such purposes as worshipping God in truth; establishing God's will in our lives; developing personal relationships with God the Father through Jesus the Son; equipping saints for the work of ministry; evangelizing surrounding communities and the world with the good news of the gospel of the Lord Jesus the Christ; and supporting the work of missions around the world until all, in unity of faith, become disciples of Jesus, measuring up to the full stature of Christ. (Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 4:11-16; I Thessalonians 1:5; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

B. Meetings

1. Annual Corporation Meeting

- a. An annual corporation meeting shall be held during the month of January of each year for the election of church officers and the conducting of other administrative business.
- b. The moderator shall determine the rules of procedure according to his sense of fairness and common sense, giving all members a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a matter. The moderator is the final authority on questions of procedure, and his decision is final and controlling. The board of elders determines the agenda of the meeting.
- c. The moderator, in his sole discretion, shall have full and unilateral authority to order the immediate removal of any member or other person present who is deemed by the moderator to be disruptive to the proceedings by act or presence.
- d. The annual corporation meeting shall be announced at two consecutive Sunday morning worship services two weeks before the set meeting date. A quorum shall consist of the members present.

2. Special meetings

The board of elders may call a special meeting by giving notice of such a meeting and the purpose for which it is called to the church when announced during a morning worship service at least one Sunday and not less than one week prior to the meeting. A quorum shall consist of the members present.

C. Officers

Officers shall consist of president, secretary, and treasurer. Each shall be elected during the annual meeting for a term of one year.

1. The president must be a member of the board of elders and acts as moderator of the annual corporation meeting and all duly called special meetings and completes all official reports of the corporation required by the State of Wisconsin. In the absence of the president, the board of elders shall appoint a moderator.
2. The secretary takes minutes of all corporate meetings and maintains a copy of all corporate records at the church office including the bylaws, church roll, ordination certificates, minutes of corporate meetings, and any other records required by law or of historical interest.
3. The treasurer shall:
 - a. Have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds of the corporation, and deposit all funds in the name of the church as directed by the board of elders;
 - b. Receive, and give receipt for all contributions, gifts, and donations to the church;
 - c. Disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the church as may be directed by the board of elders in accordance with the budget adopted by the members of the church at the annual corporate meeting;
 - d. Keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the church business transactions;
 - e. Present a written report of itemized disbursements to the board of elders meetings as requested and make a general report for the year at the annual corporation meeting;
 - f. Keep a copy of all church records at the office of the church and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office.
4. Any officer who neglects his or her duties as outlined in the bylaws for a period of three months may be removed from office, at the discretion of the board of elders, and another may be appointed by the board to serve the un-expired term.

D. Holy Bible as Guide

All matters and decisions of the church shall be based upon and decided according to and in full harmony with the Holy Bible. The Bible shall be the sole guide and instruction. The New King James Version is to be used for the application of all scriptures contained in the bylaws.

E. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the church shall begin on January 1st and end December 31st.

Article 2 – Statement of Faith

A. Biblical Foundations

1. Bible – We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and the only infallible guide and rule of our faith and practice (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
2. God – We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (2 Cor. 13:14; I John 5:7).
3. Virgin birth of Christ – We believe that Jesus the Christ is both the son of God and the son of man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary (Mt. 16:13-17; Luke 1:30-35).
4. Resurrection of Christ – We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus the Christ who ascended into heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father. (Mt. 28:5-6; Lk. 24:51; Col. 3:1).
5. Fall of man – We believe that man was created in the image of God and by sin became separated from God experiencing both physical and spiritual death (Gen. 1:27; Gen. 3:17-19; Isa. 59:2; Ro. 6:23).
6. Justification – We believe that Jesus, the Christ, took our sins upon himself, so that all who believe in him are justified by his death and the shedding of his blood as the final sacrifice for man's sin (Ro. 5:8-11; Heb. 9:24-26).
7. Salvation – We believe that all who receive, by faith, the Lord Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit and become the children of God (John 1:12-13).
8. Spirit-filled life – We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit that endues believers with power from God to be effective witnesses, helps believers live godly lives, and equips them for Spirit-led service (John 1:32-33; Acts 1:4-5,8; 4:31; Eph. 5:18-21; Titus 3:4-8).
9. Priesthood of all believers – We believe the calling of God for all believers to use their spiritual gifts for the work of ministry (Ro. 12:3-8; Eph. 4:11-16; I Peter 2:9-10; 4:10-11).
10. Return of Christ – We believe in the imminent return of Jesus the Christ with the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust; the just unto the everlasting blessings of God and the unjust unto eternal damnation (Mt. 25: 31-34, 41; I Thess. 4:16-17).

B. Biblical Applications

1. Human Sexuality

- a. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance (Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1: 24-32; 1 Cor. 5:1-2; 6:9-10; Eph. 5:3-5; 1 Thess. 4:1-8).
- b. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Col. 3:18-19; Heb. 13:4).

2. Sanctity of life

We believe that human beings are created in the image of God. Human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death (Gen. 1:27; Ex. 20:13, 23:7; Ps. 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Matt. 5:21; Luke 1:44; Acts 17:26-28).

Article 3 – Membership

A. Covenant

We pledge to devote ourselves to one another in fervent love and regard the needs of one another above our own. We commit to be hospitable without grumbling and live in harmony. We pledge to minister to one another as good stewards of God's gifts. We pledge to earnestly pray for one another and bear each other's burdens. We rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn.

B. Eligibility

Membership at Interfaith Bible Fellowship shall be by repentance, renunciation of sin, and confession of faith in the Almighty God, the Son and only savior, Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, died on the cross, resurrected the third day, our soon coming King who now sits at the right hand of God, the Father, as expressed in his infallible word, the Bible. Members are to obey the word, and not just listen to it (James 1:22).

C. Procedure

Membership may be requested by contacting a member of the board of elders. The board of elders confirms the person's eligibility. Upon the recommendation of the board of elders membership is extended by a majority vote of the members present at any regular church service or at the annual corporation meeting. All new members must make a confession of faith, agree with the Statement of Faith, and accept the church covenant as contained herein.

D. Privileges of Membership

1. Only members at least eighteen years of age are eligible to vote on matters necessary to the legal requirements and operational needs of the church.
2. Membership in this church does not afford the members with any property, contractual, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Although the general public is invited to all of the church's worship services, the church property remains private property. The board of elders has the authority to suspend or revoke the right of any person, including a member, to enter, or remain on church property.
3. A member may inspect or copy the prepared financial statements of the church and the minutes of the proceedings of church meetings and of board meetings. A written request shall be made to the board of elders no less than five days before the requested inspection date. A member may not, under any circumstances, inspect or copy any record relating to individual contributions to the church, the list of names and addresses of the church members, or the accounting books and financial records of the church.

E. Discipline of Members

1. Members are expected to demonstrate loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.
2. If reconciliation is not reached a second person is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.
3. If the matter is still unresolved, the board of elders, as the church representatives shall hear the matter in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.
4. If the matter can not be resolved by the board of elders, the members are to appear before the membership at a meeting called for the purpose of considering disciplinary action. Church members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the church upon a majority vote of the membership present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering disciplinary action.
5. No matter may be heard by the board of elders or the church unless the steps outlined in subsections 1 and 2 have been taken, except in the case of a public offense.
6. The procedures provided in this section are based on Matt. 18:15-20; Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:1-11; Gal. 6:1; 1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6, 10-15; 1 Tim. 5:19-20; and Titus 3:10-11.

F. Termination of Membership

1. Membership may be terminated by the written request of the member.
2. The membership of any individual member shall be automatically terminated without notice if the member in question has not attended a regular worship service of the church in the preceding six months. This provision for termination may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the board of elders.
3. The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member states that he or she is actively involved in sexual misconduct or files a lawsuit against the church.

G. Restoration of Membership

1. A member who has been removed from membership because of disciplinary action may be restored by a majority vote of the membership after the renunciation of the sin or sins publicly before the church membership and satisfactorily evidencing repentance to the board of elders.
2. A person who has been automatically removed from membership may be reinstated by their written request and approval of the board of elders.

Article 4 – Board of Elders

A. Qualifications and Selection

1. The selection and choice of elders shall be based upon I Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1: 5-9. In as much as there are various interpretations for the phrase “husband of one wife,” it shall be considered for this church to mean, not a polygamist.
2. New candidates for elder are selected for nomination by a nominating committee consisting of one elder, one deacon (or elder if no deacon is available), and two members approved by the membership who have been members of the church for a minimum of two years. An elder candidate is elected by a seventy-five percent majority of the eligible members attending a regular or special meeting announced at least one week prior to the vote. See Article 6 – Ordination.

B. Term and Renewal

An elder serves a three year renewable term. The renewal must be confirmed by seventy-five percent of the members attending the annual meeting. If an elder is unable to complete his term, the membership, upon the recommendation of the board of elders, will confirm another person to complete the term.

C. Pastor

1. An elder or elders particularly gifted in preaching, teaching, and exhorting may be recognized as a minister(s) of the gospel and designated as pastor(s). He

remains subject to all regulations concerning the board of elders sharing equally in the position, authority, responsibility, and discipline of eldership. A pastor provides needed community recognition and necessary continuity in shepherding the flock. Specific responsibilities are determined by the board of elders.

2. The membership may direct the board of elders to select an ordained minister of the gospel from outside the church. The candidate must meet the qualifications of ordination (see Article 6). Notification of the candidate to the membership must be given at least one-week before the presentation. A candidate is elected by seventy-five percent majority of the eligible members attending a duly called meeting announced at least one week prior to the vote. An ordained minister selected from outside the church shall serve a one (1) year probationary period, after which, the membership will reaffirm their approval by seventy-five percent of the eligible members attending the meeting of the membership called for that purpose. After the probationary period and reaffirmation vote, the minister completes the remainder of a three-year renewable term. If not reaffirmed, the minister is immediately dismissed.

D. Responsibilities

1. The board of elders has the responsibilities of directing the spiritual and administrative affairs of the church. The Board makes recommendations for the approval by the membership at the annual corporate meeting and during special meetings called by the board of elders. The Board conducts official business of the church by a majority approval of its members and under the authorization of the membership of the church.
2. Elders are spiritual overseers with the responsibility of shepherding the flock of God through prayer and the ministry of God's Word (I Pet. 5:1-4; Acts 6:4). Elders lead God's flock (I Tim. 5:17), teach and preach the Word (I Tim. 3:2), protect the flock against false teachings (Acts 20:28-31), exhort and admonish the saints (Tit. 1:9), visit and pray for the sick (Jas. 5:14), and judge doctrinal issues (Acts 15:4-6). The board of elders is expected to innovate ways of promoting the gospel to surrounding communities, encourage people to use their spiritual gifts and talents for the edification of the body, inspire youth for Godly service, promote a heart for missions, and equip and nurture saints for ministry through teaching, preaching, and example as directed by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:11-16).
3. Elders should attend conferences, workshops, or other in-services to provide opportunities for spiritual enlightenment.
4. The board approves and annually reviews the ministries of Interfaith Bible Fellowship to affirm and assess the effectiveness of each ministry.
5. The board recommends an annual budget for membership approval at the annual meeting and may authorize spending up to an amount set by the membership at an annual meeting per event for items not included in the budget.

6. The board shall constitute the board of trustees of the corporation. The board of trustees shall exercise the following powers, upon authorization by a majority vote of the members present at a duly called church administration meeting:
 - a. To purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the church;
 - b. To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of the church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges; and
 - c. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation.
7. All elders may serve communion, baptize, and officiate funerals and weddings.

E. Meetings of the board of elders

1. The board of elders shall elect one of its own to moderate board meetings. The Board may meet as it deems necessary.
2. Under normal circumstances all elders attend each meeting of the board of elders and are given notification of such. However, in the instance that the meeting has been called to discuss specific items about an elder such as a complaint against an elder, discipline, or similar items, then it is allowable and preferable for the elder in question to not attend or be invited to that specific meeting. The remainder of the Board will give the elder in question at least 48 hours prior notice of such a meeting and will make the results of the meeting available to the elder within 72 hours either by U.S. mail or hand delivery.

F. Removal from Office, Complaints, and Discipline of an Elder.

1. The person serving as elder may vacate the position by resignation or may be removed from office by majority of the eligible members. The vote must be conducted during a duly called meeting announced two weeks before the vote. The announcement must include a statement indicating the Board of Elder's recommendation for the removal of the elder. A summary of the reasons for dismissal will be available to eligible members. The elder must be notified in writing of such an action at least three weeks before the meeting.
2. The elder may be removed from office when upon the judgment of the board of elders and the eligible membership the elder is no longer above reproach as described in I Timothy 3:2-5, 7 and Titus 1:7-9.

3. The elder is not allowed to vote during discipline or removal procedures.
4. All complaints regarding elders will only be received when the person adheres to the Biblical procedure for discipline of a member as described under Article 3, section (E).
5. The board of elders may provide an action plan to remedy concerns or recommend to the eligible membership an immediate dismissal. When recommending an immediate dismissal, the Board may temporarily remove the elder from office until the matter is decided by the membership. (See Article 4, section (E), subsection 2 for notification procedure.)
6. An elder has seven (7) days to respond in writing to the board of elders following any decision or act of discipline made by the Board against the elder. If the elder disagrees to the discipline of the Board, excluding the decision to remove the elder from office, he may request a hearing before the membership. The church body and the board of elders will make every attempt to insure all sides of any issue are heard.

Article 5 – Deacon Ministry

A. Qualifications and Selection

1. Deacons must be established members of this fellowship and attend regularly. They must demonstrate the qualities described in I Timothy 3:8-13. A deacon must show dignity and be worthy of respect, be free of ungodly addictions, show integrity in speech, in finances, and spiritually having behavior consistent with the profession of faith.
2. Deacons are appointed by the board of elders, approved by the membership, and officially recognized by the laying on of hands.

B. Authority

Deacons are not a teaching or ruling office of the church and the decisions and actions of the deacons may be reviewed and are subject to the authority and guidelines of the board of elders.

C. Term and Renewal. Deacons serve a three year renewable term subject to the review by the board of elders. Deacons may rotate terms as needed.

D. Responsibilities

1. Deacons compliment the elder ministry by serving people's practical and material needs with the primary focus to assist the needy in the Christian community.
2. Deacons are the visible display of Christ's love to the local communities, which will draw some people to the Savior. They are Spirit-led, love-filled Christians in action.

3. Deacons must keep the board of elders informed of meetings and present a quarterly report including the details of expenditures, minutes of meetings, and requests needing approval of the board of elders.
4. The deacons are responsible for the administration and distribution of the benevolent fund. The purpose is to help the poor, the jobless, the sick, the widowed, the elderly, the homeless, the shut-in, the refugees, the disabled, and other suffering and needy members of the church and community.

E. Meetings.

The deacons select the person to moderate their meetings and report to the board of elders.

F. Women Deacons.

Following Biblical precepts deacons are purposed to be men, however, women may also be deacons in the church provided they do not teach or exercise authority over men. An example of a woman deacon is found in Romans 16:1-2 where Paul presents Phoebe, a woman deacon and instructs them to “receive her in the Lord.” Deacons are subject to the authority of the elders. Therefore, it is possible for a woman to serve as deacon under the elders with the above limitations just as Phoebe helped Paul and many others.

G. Removal, Complaints, and Discipline of Deacons.

See Article 4, section (F) and follow the same procedure.

Article 6 – Ordination

A. Qualification

Any member of this church who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of ministry and possesses the biblical qualifications of an elder as stated in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, may be ordained.

B. Procedure

The ordination service includes the laying on of hands by all attending elders and the anointing with oil.

C. Officiating Marriages

All elders are ordained by this church and may officiate marriages in the State of Wisconsin.

Article 7 – Designated Contributions

From time to time the church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions, but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise

designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the board of elders. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than those approved by the church membership.

Article 8 – Binding Arbitration

A. Submission to Arbitration

Believing that lawsuits between believers are prohibited by Scripture, all members of this church agree to submit to binding arbitration any matters which cannot otherwise be resolved, and expressly waive any and all rights in law and equity to bringing any civil disagreement before a court of law, except that judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.

B. Notice of Arbitration

In the event of any dispute, claim, question, or disagreement arising out of or relating to these bylaws or any other church matter, the parties shall use their best efforts to settle such disputes, claims, questions, or disagreement as befits Christians. To this effect, they shall consult and negotiate with each other in good faith and, recognizing their mutual interests not to disgrace the name of Christ, seek to reach a just and equitable solution. If they do not reach such solution within a period of sixty (60) days, then upon notice by either party to the other, disputes, claims, questions, or differences shall be finally settled by arbitration as described in section (A), above, and such Procedures for Arbitration as are adopted pursuant to section (D), below.

C. Limitations on Arbitration Decisions

1. Should any dispute involve matters of church discipline, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures for church discipline as outlined under Article 3, section (E) were followed.
2. Should any dispute involve the removal from office of elder, deacon, or any church officer, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures set forth in Article 1, section (C), subsection 4; Article 4, section (F); or Article 5, section (G) were followed.

D. Arbitration Procedures

The Procedures for Arbitration shall be as adopted by the board of elders.

Article 9 – Amendments

These bylaws may be revised or amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular church administration meeting, provided that said revision or amendment has been submitted in writing and announced during a Sunday morning worship service fourteen (14) days before the vote is taken.

Adoption

These bylaws were adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the church in which a quorum was present.

These bylaws supersede any other bylaws of Interfaith Bible Fellowship

1-22-06
Date

Janice A. Anderson
Secretary of Corporation