

**The Constitution of  
Quest Evangelical Free Church  
(Aka Quest, an Evangelical Free Church)  
of Ballwin, Missouri**

Preamble

We, the members of Quest Evangelical Free Church of Ballwin, Missouri, in order to carry out more efficiently the commission given by the Lord Jesus Christ to His Church, do ordain and establish the following Constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves:

Article 1 Name

The name of this organization will be Quest Evangelical Free Church of Ballwin, Missouri.

Article 2 Corporate Existence and Powers

- A. The corporate existence of the church will begin on the date the certificate of incorporation is issued by the Secretary of State of the State of Missouri and will continue perpetually thereafter unless dissolved as provided by law.
- B. The church is organized exclusively for the charitable, education, religious or scientific purposes within the meaning of 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.
- C. No part of the net earnings will inure to the benefit of any director or officer of the church or any private individual (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the church affecting one or more of its purposes).
- D. No officer of the church or any private individual will be entitled to share in the distribution of any church assets on dissolution of the church. No substantial part of the activities of the church will be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, except as otherwise may be permitted in 501(h) of the Internal Revenue Code. The church will not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) a political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
- E. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles, the church will not conduct or carry on activities not permitted to be conducted or carried on by any organization exempt under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or by any organization, contributions of which are deductible under 170(c)2 of the Internal Revenue Code.

- F. As a means of accomplishing the foregoing purposes, the church will have all of the general powers set forth in Missouri Legal Code and as it may hereafter be amended. These general powers will be exercised exclusively for the attainment of the charitable, education, religious or scientific purposes of the church as set forth in this Article.

### Article 3 Authority and Affiliation

- A. Authority: The congregation, at its annual and special business meetings, is the legislative and governing body of this organization.
- B. Affiliation: This church will be affiliated with the Central District Conference of/and the Evangelical Free Church of America and will send delegates to their conferences, support their missions and unite in all mutual efforts for the furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the measure that the church itself may officially decide.

### Article 4 Purpose

**The purpose of Quest is:** To glorify God by making disciples who know God personally and worship Him sincerely; who apply Biblical truth to daily living; who generously share their life and resources with their brothers and sisters in Christ; and who are burdened and equipped to reach the world for Christ.

**In short the purpose of Quest is to be all about:**

- Seeking God,
- Loving People,
- Engaging Life
- Finding Hope

### Article 5 Statement of Faith

The Statement of Faith of this church shall be the same as that of the Central District of/ and the Evangelical Free Church of America, which reads as follows:

**EFCA Statement of Faith**

**Adopted by the Conference on June 26, 2008**

The Evangelical Free Church of America is 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 6    Membership**

Membership of this church will be composed of those individuals who, through saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, have been born again; who manifest the fruit of a true Christian life; who subscribe to the aforementioned Statement of Faith; and who are willing to support the church by their prayers, contributions, service and attendance.

## **Article 7    Officers**

- A. The ministry and business functions of this corporation will be overseen by a Board of Directors. The membership of this Board, which will be called the Team of Elders, their election and their term of office is defined in the Bylaws of this church.
- B. Any other officers not serving as members of the Board of Directors but required by the State of Missouri for a non-profit corporation will be defined in the Bylaws of this church, including their election and their term of office.

## Article 8 Property

- A. This church will have the power to receive, either by gift or purchase, and to hold such real, personal or mixed property as is authorized by the laws of the State of Missouri and as is deemed necessary for the business of the church. This church will also have the power to dispose of such property by mortgage, deed or otherwise. All purchases of real estate or major construction and building renovations or additions must be approved by seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote of a quorum present at an annual or special business meeting of the church.
- B. All debts for the corporation will be held in the name of the corporation. The personal and private property of the officers or members of this corporation will not be used in the payment of the corporate debt.
- C. In case of a division of the church (from which we pray God, by His mercy, will preserve us) the property of the church will belong to those who abide by its Constitution and Bylaws. If the opposing groups or divisions cannot bring resolution to the divisive issue(s), the Central District of the Evangelical Free Church of America will act as arbitrator to make final determination which group retains the rights to the property of the church.
- D. In case of dissolution of the church organization, the property will be assigned to the Central District of the Evangelical Free Church of America to enable the Central District to renew the work or use the values thereof for further Gospel enterprises. The church will be considered dissolved if so decided by the organization; or when the church has not held an annual meeting for three years; or when less than six (6) members remain.

## Article 9 Amendments

Proposed amendments to this constitution must involve the following procedure:

1. Amendments to this Constitution can be initiated by the Team of Elders or by Members of the congregation. An amendment initiated by Members of the congregation must include the signatures of at least ten eligible Members.
2. A proposed amendment initiated by the Members of the congregation must be submitted to the Team of Elders in writing. The Team of Elders will review the proposed amendment and decide whether it should be presented to the Members for a vote. The Team of Elders shall clearly communicate the reason for their decision in writing to each signatory. If approved, the proposed amendment will be submitted in written form to the Members of the congregation two weeks prior to a congregational meeting. A three-fourths majority vote of the votes cast at the congregational meeting is necessary to pass the amendment, provided at least 50% of the voting Members are present at the meeting.

3. The Team of Elders shall periodically review this Constitution and recommend amendment(s) to the congregation in written form two weeks prior to a congregational meeting. A three-fourths majority vote of the votes cast at the congregational meeting is necessary to pass any amendment, provided at least 50% of the voting Members are present at the meeting.