

## **Constitution**

### **Preamble**

Whereas God, in His infinite grace, has raised up a group interested in reaching people, and particularly youth, of this general area with a Christ-centered camping program, and whereas this said camp association should be protected and guided by certain definite doctrinal and organizational standard, we do therefore ordain and establish the following articles:

### **Article I - Name of the Organization**

The name of this organization shall be the Faith Bible Conference Association of Yates City, Illinois

### **Article II - Character of this Organization**

- A. Our camps shall be denominationally unaffiliated and in fellowship with all who love the Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. Our theme shall be Jesus Christ and Him crucified, who is over all, God Blessed forever.
- C. Our hope shall be the pre-tribulation coming of Jesus Christ for His own.
- D. Our object shall be the salvation of the lost; the perfecting of the saints; the encouragement of Christian fellowship, and the promotion of Christian missions, as well as other ministries, at home and abroad.

### **Article III - Organization**

#### Section I - Membership

A written invitation to membership in Faith Bible Conference Association shall be extended by the Board of Trustees and shall be accompanied by the Constitution and Doctrinal Statement of the Faith Bible Conference Association.

Membership shall be determined by the Church's acceptance of the invitation and agreement with the Doctrinal Statement of the Faith Bible Conference Association. Said membership shall continue until terminated by either the church or the camp Board of Trustees.

Each member is authorized to send two voting delegates to the annual, and/or a special, business meeting of the Faith Bible Conference Association. Delegates must be present in order to vote.

#### Section II - Officers

##### A. Permanent Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors of the Faith Bible Conference Association will exercise the position of overseer to the Board of Trustees of the Faith Bible Conference Association – their primary purpose being to preserve and to protect the Fundamental Doctrinal Stand of the Faith Bible Conference as so defined in the Doctrinal Statement of said organization. To assure such protection and preservation of the Constitution and Doctrinal Statement of said organization, the Board of Directors shall hold in their power to approve any amendment to the Constitution and Doctrinal Statement that the Board of Trustees may propose.
  2. The Board of Directors of the Faith Bible Conference will also take a position of overseer of the grounds, building, and equipment of the Faith Bible Conference to guard against these assets falling into the hands of modernists and/or liberals or any other persons or organization whose ideas and beliefs are contrary to those of the Faith Bible Conference as so stated in said organization's Constitution and Doctrinal Statement. In order to assure such protection the Board of Directors of the Faith Bible Conference shall hold in their possession the title deeds to the grounds of said organization, and equipment of said organization.
  3. The Board of Directors of the Faith Bible Conference shall approve all nominations and appointments made to the Board of Trustees before said nominees and/or appointees are elected to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Directors shall have the power of dismissal of any member or members of the Board of Trustees.
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4. The Board of Directors of the Faith Bible Conference Association shall have no voting power on the Board of Trustees.
  5. The Board of Directors of the Faith Bible Conference Association shall, on an annual basis, commission a professional auditing of the books of the Board of Trustees prior to the annual business meeting.
  6. The Board of Directors – the members thereof shall be elected for life. The number on the Board of Directors shall be three.
  7. The Board of Directors shall have one member to represent them at each of the monthly meetings of the Board of Trustees.
  8. The Board of Directors shall meet at least once a year for a business meeting – this meeting being some time prior to the yearly business meeting of the Faith Bible Conference Association; or as often as deemed necessary.
- B. The Board of Trustees
1. The Board of Trustees shall consist of seven (7) men, all of whom must be from member churches. Preferable not more than two (2) from any one church. Said Board shall consist of Pastors and Laymen; each shall serve for a three year term. Vacancies on the Board of Trustees shall be filled by said Board for the remainder of the term vacated. A member's office shall be declared vacant by the Board of Trustees at said Board's discretion. Nine months prior to the annual election, the Board of Trustees shall begin their formal search for potential candidates to fill any upcoming vacancies on the Board of Trustees. The candidate(s) receiving the most votes is elected. If there are no extra candidates running, then the candidates being voted on must receive a 70% or greater vote of confidence from those churches present in order to be elected. After serving two full consecutive terms in office, a trustee cannot succeed himself (he must be relieved of this responsibility for at least one year before being re-elected).
  2. The Board of Trustees should meet at least eight (8) times per year. The quorum for a board meeting shall be four (4) members. Any member can call a meeting if all members are contacted. All board meetings are "open". Members may vote by proxy for any special meeting.
  3. The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for the operational business affairs of the camp and shall determine the policies of the camp.
  4. The officers of the camp association shall be chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and treasurer. They shall be elected from the board by the board at the first meeting after the annual meeting for one year. The chairman shall preside at all business meetings. The vice-chairman shall assist the chairman and preside in his absence. The secretary shall keep an accurate record of the minutes of all business meetings. The treasurer shall bank and keep an accurate account of the income and expenditures of the camp association. He shall provide written reports at each board meeting, and he shall work with the camp director in developing an annual budget for board approval prior to the annual business meeting.
  5. There shall be at least the following standing committees – appointed by the chairman on an annual basis – with at least one board member on each committee:
    - a) Capital Funds – Responsible for pursuing resources (money), materials, and services, and services to help the camp achieve its short-term goals. Also responsible for educating the camp director and board on the latest fundraising ideas.
    - b) Publicity – Responsible for working with the director to better publicize the camp in the member churches as well as publicizing the camp to new churches.
    - c) Short-term / Long-term Planning – Responsible for working with the director to set short-term and long-term goals and to achieve them.
    - d) Food – Responsible for purchasing food and seeking opportunities to get donated food for the camp.

### Section III - Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting shall be held within three months of the end of the camp's fiscal year. Notice will be sent to member churches concerning the date of the annual meeting at least 30 days in advance. Special business meetings may be called by the board of trustees as needed, so long as at least one month notice is given to the member churches.

### Section IV - Finances

- A. The fiscal year of the Faith Bible Conference Association shall be September 1 through August 31.
- B. The camp shall be supported by love offerings, camp fees, and gifts. No one is obligated to pledge, only as the Scriptures enjoin (II Cor. 9:6-8; I Cor. 16:2; Mal. 3:8).

#### Section V - Use of Property

- A. The person in charge of the group renting the grounds must sign the conference doctrinal statement.
- B. There shall be no smoking of any kind, use of intoxicating or controlled substances, dancing, or any kind of gambling on camp property.
- C.
- D. A deposit shall be paid in advance to guarantee proper care of facilities.

#### Section VI - Real Estate

The approval of purchase or sale of real estate shall be granted by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Trustees and approval of the Board of Directors. Notification of possible real estate transactions shall be given notice at least two (2) weeks ahead. Other interested people, in addition to the boards are encouraged to attend said meeting.

#### Section VII - Duration/Dissolution

The duration of the Faith Bible Conference shall be perpetual until dissolution. Upon the dissolution of the organization, all assets of the association will be owned in equal share by the member churches, to be used in exclusively exempt purposes under the meaning of section 501 (c ) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

### **Article IV - Doctrinal Statement**

- A. **THE HOLY SCRIPTURES:** We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God breathed. (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:20-21; Matt. 5:18; John 16:12-13)
- B. **THE GODHEAD:** We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – co-eternal in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deut. 6:4; II Cor. 13:14; Matt. 28:19)
- C. **THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST:**
  - 1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God, became man – without ceasing to be God – having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. (John 1:1-2; John 1:14; Luke 1:35)
  - 2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Rom. 3:24-25; I Pet 2:24; Eph.1:7; I Pet. 1:3-5)
  - 3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended in heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God. There, as our High Priest, he fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 9:24; Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34; I John 2:1-2)
- D. **THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:**
  - 1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment and that He is the super-natural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (John 16:8-11; II Cor. 3:6; I Cor. 12:12-14; Rom. 8:9; Eph. 1:13-14)
  - 2. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth and that it is the privilege and duty of all saved to be filled with the Holy Spirit. (John 16:13; Eph. 5:18; I John 2:20,27)
- E. **THE TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MAN:**

We believe that man was created in the image of God, but that in Adam’s sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God, and that man is totally depraved, and of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:22-23; Eph. 2:1-3, 12)
- F. **SALVATION:**

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. (Eph. 1:7; Eph. 2:8-10; John 1:12; I Pet. 1:18-19)
- G. **THE ETERNAL SECURITY AND ASSURANCE OF BELIEVERS:**
  - 1. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by the power of God and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 6:37-40, John 10:27-30, Rom. 8:1, 38-39, I Cor. 1:4-8, I Pet. 1:5)

2. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word – which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion of the flesh. (Rom. 13:13-14, Gal. 5:13, Tit. 2:11-15)

#### H. THE TWO NATURES OF THE BELIEVER:

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures – with provision made for the victory of the new nature of Christ over the old nature of the flesh through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit – and that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural. (Rom. 6:13, Rom. 8:12-13, Gal. 5:16-25, Eph. 4:22-24, Col. 3:10, I Pet. 1:14-16, I John 1:8-10)

#### I. SEPARATION:

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord and that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded of God. (II Tim. 3:1-5, Rom. 12:1-2, Rom. 12:1-2, Rom. 14:13, I John 2:15-17, II John 9-11, II Cor. 6:14-18)

#### J. MISSIONS:

We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and word to the truths of the Holy Scriptures and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind. (Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8, II Cor. 5:19-20)

#### K. THE MINISTRY AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS:

1. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of all His gifts and that evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today. (I Cor. 12:4-11, II Cor. 12:12, Eph. 4:7-12)
2. We do believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accordance with His own will, for the sick and afflicted. (John 15:7, I John 5:14-15)

#### L. THE CHURCH:

1. We believe that the Church, which is the body and espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of the present age. (Eph. 1:22-23, Eph. 5:25-27, I Cor. 12:12-14, II Cor. 11:2)
2. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. (Acts 14:27, Acts 20:17, 28-32, I Tim. 3:1-13, Tit. 1:5-11)

#### M. THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH:

1. We believe in the dispensational view of Bible interpretation but reject that extreme teaching known as "Hyper-Dispensationalism", such as that teaching which opposes either the Lord's table or water baptism as a Scriptural means of testimony for the Church in this age. (Matt. 28:19-20, Acts 2:41-42, Acts 18:8, I Cor. 11:2, 23-26)
2. We believe in baptism, not as a means of salvation, but as an outward sign and testimony of an inward work of grace. (Matt. 28:19-20, Acts 2:28, 41, Acts 19:1-6, Acts 10:47-48, Rom. 6:4-5)
3. We believe in the ordinance of the Lord's supper as a means of testimony and fellowship for the Church – not as a means of salvation – but as a token of remembrance of the death of Christ till He comes. (Luke 22:19-20, I Cor. 11:23-26)

#### N. THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN:

We believe that Satan is a person – the author of sin and the cause of the Fall, that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man, and that he shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire. (Job 1:6-7, Rev. 20:1-6, I Thess 1:10, I Thess. 5:9, Is. 14:12-17)

#### O. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST:

We believe in that "Blessed Hope" – the personal, imminent, pre-tribulational, and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones – and in His subsequent return to earth with His saints to establish His millennial kingdom. (I Thess. 4:13-18, Zech. 14:4-11, Rev. 19:11-16, Rev. 20:1-6, I Thess. 1:10, I Thess. 5:9, Rev. 3:10)

#### P. THE ETERNAL STATE:

1. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men – the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matt. 25:46, John 5:28-29, John 11:25-26, Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13)
2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord where, in conscious bliss, they await the first resurrection – when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43, Rev. 20:4-6, II Cor. 5:8, Phil. 1:23, Phil. 3:21, I Thess. 4:16-17)
3. We believe that the souls of the unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection – when with soul and body re-united they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment. (Luke 16:19-26, Matt. 25:41-46, II Thess. 1:7-9, Jude 6-7, Mark 9:43-48, Rev. 20:11-15)

### **Article V – Amendments**

Any of these by-laws, except for the Doctrinal Statement, may be altered, amended, or repealed by the Board of Trustees. Suggested alterations, amendments or repeals shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval and must be approved by the Board of Directors before proceeding further. Upon approval by the Board of Directors, these suggestions shall be sent to all member churches at least one month prior to the annual business meeting for discussion. Proposed changes must receive a 70% or greater vote of confidence among those delegates present (as prescribed in Article III Section I) in order to pass.

### **Article VI – Amendments**

#### Section I – Counselor Standards

- A. Genuinely born-again. (John 3:3)
- B. In full agreement with the Doctrinal Statement.
- C. At least high school graduate age.
- D. One who maintains a consistent, positive Christian testimony.
- E. In agreement with the staff guidelines (as set forth in the current Staff Guidelines sheet) and in agreement with the camp policies.

#### Section II – Condensed Statement of Faith

We believe:

- A. In the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Old and New Testaments as the very Word of God.
- B. In the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C. In the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, His substitutionary atonement for sin, His bodily resurrection and His personal, visible return to earth to reign in righteousness and glory.
- D. In the person of the Holy Spirit – and His work of conviction, regeneration, and sanctification – who indwells every believer.
- E. In the necessity of the New Birth, in salvation by faith in Jesus Christ alone.
- F. In the importance of a life fully committed to the will of God in Christ.

#### Section III

This revised constitution dated November 7, 2015 supersedes the original constitution, the 1976 constitutional revision, the 1995 amendment, the 2011 revision additions and any other amendments, alterations, and/or repeals prior to this aforementioned date.