

**The Hawaii District of the
Evangelical Free Church of America
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**
Amended as of April 29, 2005

ARTICLE I: NAME

The legal name of this organization shall be The Hawaii District of the Evangelical Free Church of America.

ARTICLE II: DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

- 1) We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the 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.
- 2) We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 3) 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.
- 4) We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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 receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit and thus become children of God.
- 7) We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the church during the present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as a means of salvation.
- 8) 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.
- 9) We believe that only those who are, thus, members of the true Church shall be eligible for membership in the local church.
- 10) We believe that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church and that every local church has the right, under Christ, to decide and govern its own affairs.
- 11) We believe in the personal, premillennial, and imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this "Blessed Hope" has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer.
- 12) 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 organization is to establish independent Evangelical Free Churches throughout the State of Hawaii, to assist in the healthy development of these same churches, and to facilitate the cooperation of these churches in achieving the collective goals of the organization as determined by its member churches, delegates, and board of directors.

**The Hawaii District of the
Evangelical Free Church of America
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**
Amended as of April 29, 2005

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

The term “membership” in the corporation known as the Hawaii District of the Evangelical Free Church of America may generally refer to a member church which is affiliated with the District, or specifically to individually constituted delegates. Whereas a local congregation can enter into membership or affiliation through the vehicle of acceptance into the Hawaii District, business shall be conducted by individuals who are duly constituted delegates. The duly constituted delegates of this corporation shall be:

- 1) Persons of good Christian character presenting credentials to the credentials committee satisfactory to the assembly and who have been duly constituted delegates from affiliated conference churches on the basis of two delegates for the first fifty (50) members or fraction thereof, one delegate for the second fifty (50) members or fraction thereof, one delegate for the next one hundred (100) members or fraction thereof, and thereafter one delegate.
- 2) Ministers living within the conference field as senior pastors of its churches, or ministers who are credentialed members of the Ministerial Association of the Evangelical Free Church of America serving conference churches within the conference field as associate staff, evangelists, or missionaries.
- 3) All directors and officers of the corporation.

ARTICLE V: EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS

If any member of this organization (be that a member church, appointed delegate, pastor, or officer) is accused of lifestyle or conduct contrary to the teachings of the Bible or teaching unscriptural doctrine, or of willful and consistent misrepresentation of the Lord Jesus Christ and the doctrines and distinctions held dear by the Evangelical Free Church of America, the Board of Directors of this organization shall consider the validity of the accusation and give the accused party free and ample opportunity to defend themselves.

If the Board of Directors deems it advisable, they may appoint a committee to assist the District Superintendent in thoroughly investigating the matter. If the matter is settled satisfactorily, the committee shall report to the entire Board of Directors, thus disposing the matter.

If the accusation is found to be true and the committee of investigation cannot satisfactorily resolve it, the Board of Directors may by two-thirds majority exclude or suspend such a member.

In either case, a report of the matter shall be brought before the general assembly of the annual conference, which shall by two-thirds majority of voting members present decide if the action of the Board of Directors shall be sanctioned. No member of the organization and no one who has been a member of it shall be entitled to claim refund or compensation for gifts or donations to the organization. If the organization (through its Board of Directors) has borrowed money or other property from subsequently excluded members, the same shall be refunded to the party concerned as soon as possible and practical.

ARTICLE VI: ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND HEADQUARTERS

- 1) An annual business meeting of this organization shall be held in the spring quarter of each year. At this meeting, all directors shall be elected (those who necessarily need to be elected according to

**The Hawaii District of the
Evangelical Free Church of America
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

Amended as of April 29, 2005

Articles VIII and IX) and all business of general interest to the conference shall be considered and acted upon in accordance with these bylaws.

- 2) The annual business meeting may be held anywhere within the area served by the Hawaii District Conference. The selection of the meeting place for each successive business meeting shall be determined by the Board of Directors in consultation with the District Superintendent. Each conference church shall be notified in writing of the details of the next scheduled meeting as soon as possible after they are determined.
- 3) The headquarters of the Hawaii District Conference of the Evangelical Free Church of America shall be within the state of Hawaii. All official and legal documents shall be dated therefrom and shall bear the official stamp or seal of the organization.

ARTICLE VII: BALLOTING AND THE MAJORITY VOTE

- 1) In all matters of conference business, each delegate shall have only one vote.
- 2) All business of an annual business meeting shall be conducted by the constituted delegates present, provided that adequate and reasonable notification of said meeting has been made to all affiliate churches, pastors, and officers. Items of business shall be determined by a simple majority of the membership present, except motions dealing with the exclusion of members or amendments to the bylaws, in which case a two-thirds majority vote of the membership present shall be required for adoption.
- 3) A nominating committee shall present to the Board of Directors its selection of candidates for the Board of Directors to be elected at said meeting, and the Board of Directors shall be responsible to present a finalized ballot to the membership at or prior to the forthcoming meeting. Additional candidates may be submitted for consideration by the nominating committee in writing at least sixty (60) days prior to the scheduled business meeting. The election of directors shall be by secret ballot, with vacancies being filled by those candidates receiving either the highest number of votes, if more candidates are proposed than there are vacancies, or by those candidates receiving approval by a simple majority of the voting members present if the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of vacancies.

ARTICLE VIII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 1) There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of no less than three (3) and no more than fifteen (15) directors which shall be elected from the membership at the annual business meeting or at a special meeting. One third shall be elected each year at the annual business meeting to a three-year term. A director shall be eligible for two successive terms, at which time he must take at least a one year leave from that position.
- 2) The Board of Directors shall elect from their own number for a one-year term the following officers:
 - a) a president/chairman;
 - b) a vice-president/vice-chairman;
 - c) a secretary.
- 3) A District Superintendent shall be called by a vote of the annual conference upon recommendation by the Board of Directors. The call shall be for a three year period of time. Should a vacancy occur in this position by resignation or by two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors shall function as a search committee and make necessary recommendations as to a successor to the

**The Hawaii District of the
Evangelical Free Church of America
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

Amended as of April 29, 2005

annual business meeting of the Hawaii District. Between meetings, the Board shall have the authority, should they so decide, to appoint an interim District Superintendent who would also be eligible to be elected to the full-time position if recommended by the Board of Directors. The District Superintendent shall be a member of the Board of Directors on an ex-officio basis.

- 4) A quorum consists of a simple majority of those members currently serving on the Board of Directors.
- 5) A pastor serving a church subsidized by the Hawaii District or a lay member belonging to a church subsidized by the Hawaii District shall not be eligible for membership on the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX: DUTIES OF THE DIRECTORS

- 1) The Board of Directors shall appoint a nominating committee prior to each annual business meeting. The District Superintendent shall automatically be a member of the nominating committee.
- 2) The Board of Directors shall handle, manage, and be responsible for the oversight of monies received and all forms of property given to the organization.
- 3) The Board of Directors shall be responsible to make available at each annual business meeting a detailed account of all the organization's property and the management of the same, and of receipts, disbursements, and monies on hand. On behalf of the organization, they shall not have the authority to assume any liability in excess of an amount equal to 20% of gross annual receipts (based on the most recent fiscal year) without specific authorization by the assembly of the conference membership.
- 4) The Board of Directors shall set the salaries of all workers.
- 5) The Board of Directors shall appoint a treasurer. This individual may be appointed to succeeding terms without limit or to terms of indeterminate length. He shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Directors.
- 6) Prior to each annual business meeting, the treasurer shall, in a manner prescribed by the Board of Directors, give an account and report to the Directors of the means and monies which they have received and expended on behalf of the organization. Said reports shall be reviewed and presented, along with any recommendations, to the general assembly of the annual meeting.
- 7) The Board of Directors shall meet at times and places decided upon by the chairman. The principal place where the business of the organization is to be transacted is within the State of Hawaii.
- 8) An auditor may be selected annually by the Board of Directors. This auditor shall audit the records of the treasurer and, if possible, provide a report to the annual meeting. No current member of the Board of Directors shall be the auditor for these purposes. If time restraints prohibit the presentation of an auditor's findings prior to the annual business meeting, then the financial reports can be accepted and approved subject to the pending audit, which is to be kept with the official minutes.
- 9) Duties of the officers of the Board of Directors shall be as follows:
 - a) The chairman shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the organization, appoint all committees not otherwise designated, and perform such duties as are required of him as its chairman. He shall serve as the superintendent when that office is vacant and he shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
 - b) The vice-chairman shall take the place of the chairman in his absence and, if necessary, assume all the duties of the chairman until the next annual conference, or until a successor has been

**The Hawaii District of the
Evangelical Free Church of America
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

Amended as of April 29, 2005

elected and has taken up his duties. He shall assist the chairman in the performance of his duties as need arises.

- c) The secretary shall see to it that accurate minutes are kept of all meetings of the Board of Directors and of all conference business sessions. He shall be responsible to keep a master set of official minutes, including a record of the terms of office of District Board members, its officers, workers, and committee members. He shall be responsible for the distribution of minutes and in cooperation with the chairman, the publication of meetings of the Board of Directors.
- d) The treasurer shall accept, record, provide a receipt when necessary, and deposit all funds received. He shall keep an accurate account of the same. Furthermore, he shall maintain necessary correspondence concerning financial matters. It shall be the responsibility of the financial treasurer, in consultation with chairman, and District Superintendent to manage any monies or resources on deposit or otherwise invested. He shall give a written report to the conference of all receipts, and he shall report to the Board of Directors when requested to do so.
- e) The treasurer shall expend the funds of the District pursuant to the direction of the Board of Directors. He shall give a written report to the conference of all expenditures. He shall report to the Board of Directors when requested to do so.
- f) The District Superintendent shall be responsible to provide the principal spiritual leadership to the district ministries in at least but not limited to the following areas:
 - (1)Development, implementation, and oversight of ongoing strategies for:
 - (a) church planting throughout the region served by the Hawaii District
 - (b) fund raising and resource management in order to finance the multiple district ministries
 - (c) conflict management among and within district churches
 - (d) assisting existing churches in realizing their maximum potential of effectiveness in their respective ministries
 - (2)The intercessory role of matching churches in search of pastoral personnel with appropriate personnel who are available and qualified for placement.
 - (3)Facilitating personal and spiritual growth of all district pastoral personnel.
 - (4)Supervision of all workers and staff employed by the Hawaii District.

While the District Superintendent is accountable to the Board of Directors, it is understood that He and the Board will work closely together in mutual submission and cooperation.

- g) Should it be necessary for the Board of Directors to appoint or employ other officials or workers than those mentioned in this document, it shall have the authority to do so in close cooperation with the District Superintendent.

ARTICLE X: VACANCIES

- 1) If a director shall move from the district or be absent from two consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors without giving notice to either the District Superintendent, chairman, or secretary, his office shall be considered vacant.
- 2) Should a vacancy occur, the Board of Directors shall have the option to appoint a successor, who shall fill the office until the following annual conference.

**The Hawaii District of the
Evangelical Free Church of America
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

Amended as of April 29, 2005

- 3) Should a vacancy occur in the office of the District Superintendent, the Board of Directors shall have the authority to allow the chairman to fulfill that role as provided in Article IX, 9a, or to appoint an Interim District Superintendent until a permanent successor is elected.

ARTICLE XI: AFFILIATION OF MINISTERS

- 1) It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors, in close cooperation with the District Superintendent, to see that a functional vehicle exists whereby district pastors and workers can seek credentials with the Evangelical Free Church of America. This presumes close cooperation with and submission to the process prescribed by any such national Evangelical Free Church board, committee, or agency of ministerial standing.
- 2) It shall be required of any minister or gospel worker desiring to serve within any Evangelical Free Church within the Hawaii District that:
 - a) He or she shall be a born-again Christian with a commendable Christian life and character.
 - b) He or she shall be thoroughly familiar with the Evangelical Free Church as to its history, principles, doctrine, and polity.
 - c) He or she shall be in full agreement with the doctrinal statement of the Evangelical Free Church of America.
- 3) While autonomy rests in the local congregation subject to general requirements for affiliation as determined by the Board of Directors, it shall be urged in the strongest terms possible that Evangelical Free Church credentials be pursued and maintained by all pastoral personnel serving affiliate district churches, and that those possessing credentials from other sources seek the transfer of those credentials to the Evangelical Free Church as soon as possible. Further, it is strongly urged that all pastoral personnel serving affiliate district churches apply for and maintain membership in the national ministerial association of the Evangelical Free Church of America.

ARTICLE XII: ALTERATIONS, ADDITIONS, AND DISSOLUTION

- 1) Should a need for alteration of or addition to these bylaws arise, the proposal to accomplish the same shall be submitted in writing complete with appropriate explanation to all affiliate churches and officers at least 90 (ninety) days prior to either an annual conference or special district business meeting. A two-thirds majority approval of duly constituted delegates present at that meeting shall be required for its adoption.
- 2) Should this organization cease to function or be dissolved, free title to all its property shall vest absolutely in the Evangelical Free Church of America.

**Hawaii District Conference
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
Evangelical Free Church of America**