

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
FREEDOM VILLAGE CHURCH

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

Recognizing the authority of God's Word, as a body of believers as found in the New Testament Church, to preserve and secure the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the Holy Scripture we do declare and establish this constitution. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other churches and other mission programs.

I. NAME

This body shall be known as the FREEDOM VILLAGE CHURCH (FVC), located in Seoul, South Korea.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. To be a church that seeks to help people grow in their knowledge of God through the teaching of God's Word.
2. To be a church that proclaims the Gospel for the purpose of bringing all people into a relationship with Jesus as Savior and Lord.
3. To be a church empowered by the Holy Spirit to experience a meaningful fellowship with God and fellow believers, recognizing His person and responding to His Lordship.
4. To be a church that seeks to help people grow in their knowledge of God through a Bible-teaching ministry.
5. To be a church that ministers unselfishly to all persons in the community and the world in Jesus' name.
6. To be a church whose purpose is to be Christ-like in our daily living by emphasizing total surrender of life, discipleship, personality, and possessions to the Lordship of Christ.

III. STATEMENT OF FAITH

Scripture

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all of Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

God

There is one and only one living and true God. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross, He made provision for the redemption of men from sin.

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Man

Man is the special creation of God, in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification.

God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit will never fall away from the state of grace but shall persevere to the end.

The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are Pastors and Elders.

Baptism & the Lord's Supper

We believe that baptism is the immersion of a believer in water. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby believers remember the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Evangelism & Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations, and to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the Gospel of Christ.

Accountability

We affirm the accountability of each person before God. Your family cannot save you. Neither can your church. It comes down to you and God. Authorities cannot force belief or unbelief.

The Lord's Day

The Lord's Day is the first day of the week as it commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly. The dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell. The righteous will receive their reward and will dwell forever with the Lord.

Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. We are to use our gifts and possessions in such a way that brings glory to Jesus Christ.

Cooperation

Christ's people should organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the work of God's Kingdom. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations.

The Christian & the Social Order

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death.

Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage.

Sanctity of Life

Procreation is a gift from God, a precious trust reserved for marriage. At the moment of conception, a new being enters the universe, a human being, created in God's image. This human being deserves our protection, whatever the circumstances of conception.

Priesthood of All Believers

We affirm the priesthood of all believers. All believers have the same right to communicate with God, interpret Scripture, and minister in Christ's name. All believers are an essential part of the ministry of FVC. Nevertheless, we acknowledge that the Pastor has a unique leadership role. It is a perversion of this doctrine to say that all views are equally valid.

Women in Ministry

Women participate equally with men in the priesthood of all believers. Their role is crucial, their wisdom, grace and commitment exemplary. Women are an integral part of each ministry of our church. We affirm and celebrate their Great Commission impact.

While Scripture teaches that a woman's role is not identical to that of men in every respect, it also teaches that women are equal in value to men.

IV. RELATIONSHIPS

FVC is a part of the Asia Baptist Network within the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention, a part of the larger Southern Baptist Convention.

FVC is an autonomous body, and, therefore, is not subject to the control of any other ecclesiastical body. However, it recognizes and sustains mutual cooperation with other churches that are like-minded in faith and practice. Insofar as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention, and other like-minded churches in Asia, with a focus on the Pacific Rim.

V. CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, and on the profession of faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We covenant, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for advancement of this church in the will of God; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to support the ministries, and the spread of the Gospel to every tribe, tongue and people.

We further covenant to relate to one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to demonstrate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation.

VI. ORDINANCES

The term *ordinance*, although not found in Scripture, has been widely used by the Church. An ordinance is a pictorial representation of the Gospel message: Christ lived, died, and was raised from the dead, in order to redeem us to himself. An ordinance must meet all the following criteria:

- a. Instituted by Christ
- b. Taught by the Apostles
- c. Practiced by the Early Church

With these criteria in mind, this church believes that the only two practices that meet these three criteria are Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Baptism

Baptism is a symbolic act of obedience whereby any person who receives Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith, professes Him publicly, and openly indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord, shall be immersed in water. The action of being baptized does not save a person but merely serves as a public testimony of an inward decision (1 Peter 3:21).

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby any Christian, through partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine, commemorates the death of Jesus Christ and anticipates His second coming. The Lord's Supper should be observed at least once every quarter.

FVC welcomes any born-again Christian to partake in the Lord's Supper regardless of their church membership. Before partaking in the Lord's Supper, each person should examine themselves as in accordance with 1 Corinthians 11.

VII. CORPORATE CHURCH ASSEMBLIES

The church shall meet regularly for preaching, instruction, evangelism, fellowship, giving of tithes and offerings, testimonies, prayer and corporate worship of Almighty God. These meetings shall be conducted under the direction of the Pastor, someone designated by him or in the absence of a Pastor someone designated by the Council of Elders.

- Worship and praise: John 4:23; Romans 12:1; Hebrews 12:28–29; 13:15
- Preaching and teaching: Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 14:26; 2 Timothy 4:2
- Prayer and thanksgiving: Matthew 6:9; Ephesians 5:20; 1 Timothy 2:1
- Scripture reading: John 17:17; Colossians 4:16; 1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 3:16–17
- Giving and contribution: Acts 20:35; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2; 2 Corinthians 9:7
- Baptism and the Lord's Supper: Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 11:25–26
- Music and singing: Ephesians 5:19
- Evangelism and outreach: Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:47
- Sharing and encouragement: Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 10:24–25

BYLAWS

I. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Becoming a Member

Membership in FVC involves commitment to the body and submission to the teachings of the church. Therefore, becoming a member of FVC will be done in one of the following three manners:

1. By trusting in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and receiving baptism by immersion
2. By transfer of membership letter from another church of like faith and practice as FVC
3. By statement of faith affirming faith in Jesus Christ and having already received baptism by immersion

* All other situations will be decided by the elders.

Section 2. Termination of Membership

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways: death, a request for transfer from another church, by personal request of the member, as the result of a church discipline process, if a person is known to have left Korea, or has been absent for more than 3 months (without prior explanation).

Section 3. Church Discipline

The Elders will have the responsibility for administering the discipline process. If the need for church discipline arises, all attempts will be made to handle it in a redemptive way to restore the offender to fellowship with God and the church.

1. The Objective:
 - a. To remove the corruptive influence (i.e., false teaching, immorality, etc.) from the presence of the other members of the congregation, in order to prevent sin from spreading to other members.
 - b. Redemptive restoration, not punishment, is the goal of all discipline.
2. The Process:
 - a. The brother/sister who is in sin must be interviewed in private.

- b. If the brother/sister is unrepentant, two or more witnesses must confront him/her.
- c. If the brother/sister refuses to listen and repent, his/her case should be communicated to the Elders.
- d. If the brother/sister refuses to accept Godly counsel, after much prayer, the matter should be communicated to the members of the congregation.

II. CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

The church Leadership Team will be composed of the Pastor, Associate Pastor, Elders and other Elder appointed leaders. The Leadership Team will maintain a minimum of three members. It will be modeled after Jesus' example of servant leadership (Matthew 20:25-28). As such they will also encourage and support one another in character, leadership and ministry.

Section 1. Senior Pastor

1. The Senior Pastor will lead the church to function as a New Testament church. As a servant leader, he will work with the Leadership Team to equip the saints for the work of the ministry.
2. Whenever a vacancy occurs the Associate Pastor and Elders will appoint a pastoral search team of no fewer than six members of FVC. Some recommendations for those on the pastoral search team are:
 - a. No two members of this committee shall be related.
 - b. At least two members of the committee shall be chosen from the congregation at large.
 - c. At least two females shall be on the committee.
 - d. All committee members must be members of FVC.The pastoral search team will establish its own procedures that are to be approved by the Elders. Only one candidate shall be presented to the church for consideration at any given time. Election will be by ballot, with an affirmative vote of at least 80 percent of those voting members present.
3. In the event of resignation the Senior Pastor should give a ninety-day notice.
4. In the event of termination the church should give a thirty-day notice.
If provided in the contract the church will honor its commitment to provide health insurance, housing, and other items that are included in its compensation package for the Senior Pastor during the 30-day period.

Section 2. Associate Pastor

The Associate Pastor shall fulfill an executive role in the organization of the church including long term strategy, counsel, and advice to the Leadership Team. Should the church be without an Associate Pastor, or, should the Associate Pastor be unable to fulfill his responsibilities the Leadership Team will oversee the responsibilities of the Associate Pastor.

The Associate Pastor will maintain a record of the minutes for all Leadership Team meetings. The Associate Pastor will also be responsible for maintaining the church's financial records. They will also update the Church Membership Roll with dates of admission, transfer, dismissal, or death along with a record of baptisms.

Section 3. Contracts

1. Contract Formation. The contract of the Senior Pastor of FVC will be written by the Personnel Committee and approved by the Associate Pastor and Elders (by 80% vote).

2. Contract Renewal. All staff contracts must be reviewed by the Associate Pastor and Elders no less than three months from its date of expiration. Changes to the contract, a contract extension, or a decision not to renew the contract (either by the Pastor or the Associate Pastor and Elders), must be approved by 80% of the Leadership Team no less than forty-five days before the expiration of the contract.

Section 4. Elders

Elders must be members of FVC. Elders will have been appointed in accordance with I Timothy 3:1-13. There shall be enough Elders to minister to the body.

Should the church be without a Senior Pastor, or, should the Senior Pastor be unable to fulfill his responsibilities for a time, the Elders oversee the responsibilities of the Senior Pastor.

Section 5. Board of Directors (BOD)

1. The BOD shall consist of the Senior Pastor and Elders.
2. All real estate and assets of Freedom Village Church are owned as an unincorporated religious association, and full legal management and disposition authority is entrusted to the BOD.
3. The BOD has exclusive authority over acquisition, disposal, leasing, registration, modification, and management of all church property.
4. A duly convened meeting of the Board shall be constituted by the presence of a majority of all directors, and resolutions shall be passed by a majority of the directors present. Any such resolution is legally binding on the church.

5. The Chair of the Board (or the Senior Pastor if designated) is authorized to execute all contracts, registry filings, and legal documents on behalf of the church.
6. Changes in BOD membership must be reported to the Korean government.

III. GENERAL

Section 1. Fiscal Year

The FVC "Fiscal Year" runs from January to December. The Church Budget will be made available no later than the 15th of December.

Section 2. Business Meetings

If circumstances arise, the Leadership Team at their discretion, may call a business meeting for the purpose of congregational involvement.

Section 3. Properties

It is understood that all buildings and property of FVC will be managed by the FVC Board of Directors.

Section 4. Additional Leadership

Other leaders will be appointed by the Elders such as Deacon and Deaconess.

Section 5. Mercy Ministry

The management team for the Mercy Ministry and community fund shall be Elder appointed. No pastoral staff shall be included in this team.