



CONSTITUTION OF FALLS COMMUNITY CHAPEL

NAME: The name of this church is Falls Community Chapel

INCORPORATION: Founded on April 1, 2023, this church is incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio

ARTICLE 1: PURPOSE

Falls Community Chapel exists to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those inside of the church through Sunday Worship, classes, training, and small groups and to those outside of the church through missions (local and global).

We fulfill this purpose by loving the LORD and obeying His commands through:

1. Worshiping Him;
2. Equipping the saints for the work of ministry;
3. Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through corporate worship and personal evangelism;
4. Encouraging, supporting, and participating in missions in Cuyahoga Falls and around the world;
5. Building up one another by carrying one another's burdens, encouraging one another, serving those in the church by providing for their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs in the name of Jesus Christ;
6. Participating with other local churches who faithfully adhere to orthodox Biblical doctrine, in missional outreach and in building up of the Body of Christ.

ARTICLE II: DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

We accept the Scriptures as our authority in matters of faith and practice and adopt the following Doctrinal Statement:

1. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God and inerrant in their original writings. They are our supreme and final authority in all things.
2. God is one, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Three-in-One, coequal, which is the Trinity.

3. The Father, the First Person of the Trinity, is Eternal God, the Originator of all created things and is the Originator of the redemptive plan, which He fulfilled by sending His Son Jesus to the earth to ultimately die on the Cross and be resurrected.
4. Jesus, the Second Person of the Trinity, is Eternal God who became man, begotten of the Father, conceived of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary.
5. The Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity, is Eternal God, convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He is the life giver of every believer, and He empowers the preaching and the teaching of the Gospel.
6. Man was created in the image of God. He sinned and thereby incurred death, physical and spiritual (which is separation from God). All human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners in thought, word, and deed.
7. The Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice. All who believe in Him are justified by His shed blood.
8. The Lord Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead. He ascended into Heaven, and He sits at the right hand of the Father where He intercedes and advocates for all Believers as High Priest.
9. We have the blessed hope of the personal, visible, and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ.
10. All who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith are born again of the Holy Spirit, and thereby become children of God, adopted into His family, and are heirs of eternal life. In this, all Believers are eternally secure.
11. There will be a bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust. The just are resurrected to eternal life. The unjust are resurrected into eternal conscious torment, which is hell.
12. There is a personal devil, Satan, who is working to destroy the souls of men. He, all of the fallen angels (demons), and those who do not receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior will eternally perish in the lake of fire, which is hell.
13. The Church is the Body of Christ and the Bride of Christ, whose mission it is to preach the Gospel to all of the world.
14. The ordinances, or sacraments, of the Church, given by Jesus, are Baptism (by immersion following conversion) and the Lord's Supper, which is communion.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 3.1 MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

Any person may become a member upon professing saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and upon meeting the following requirements:

1. Each member must believe the teaching of Scripture as expressed in the Doctrinal Statement (Article II), the Bylaws, Distinctives, and any other articles of faith produced by Falls Community Chapel.

2. Each member must agree to keep the commitments expressed in the Covenant of Membership.
3. The elders shall be responsible for determining each person's qualifications for membership.
4. Each prospective member must be recommended for admission by the elders and accepted by affirmation of the members and shall, at that point, relinquish their membership in any other church.
5. Each member is expected to participate in and contribute to the ministry and the life of Falls Community Chapel in accordance with God's leading and with the abilities, time, and material resources he/she has received from God.
6. Only those who are members shall be permitted to lead in the ministries of Falls Community Chapel. Non-members may be permitted to serve and/or teach with prior approval of the Elder Oversight Board.
7. Members are to attend members' meetings and vote on matters brought before it, including but not limited to the installment of elders, decisions regarding membership status, and other such matters brought before it for confirmation or a vote.
8. Members shall have the right to vote on any amendment to the Constitution of Falls Community Chapel.

Section 3.2 COVENANT OF MEMBERSHIP

1. I will be supportive of the Doctrinal Statement of Falls Community Chapel, being careful to not be divisive about any area of disagreement.
2. I will treat other members as brothers and sisters in Christ, fellowshiping with them in Christian love.
3. I will guard and pursue the Scriptural peace, purity and unity of Falls Community Chapel and will promote its usefulness as a witness to the saving grace of God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
4. I will participate in any mediation process as outlined in Article VII of Falls Community Chapel's Constitution.
5. I will submit to church discipline as outlined in Article III Section 3.4
6. I will support Falls Community Chapel by giving regularly of my time, abilities, and finances in accord with Biblical teaching for the furtherance of the Gospel.
7. I will bring up any child entrusted to me in the care and admonition of the Lord.
8. I will pray for the ministries of Falls Community Chapel on a regular basis.
9. I will exercise Christian care and watchfulness over one another.
10. I will pray with and for one another, sharing burdens, sorrows, and joys.
11. I will seek to develop my relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ so that, as I grow in maturity, I may be able to minister to others.
12. I will endeavor to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

13. If/When I remove myself from Falls Community Chapel, I will notify the church, and will unite with another church where I can continue to carry out the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

Section 3.3 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

There shall be a renewal of membership every two years. These renewal procedures shall be adopted and approved by the Elder Oversight Board.

Section 3.4 CHURCH DISCIPLINE

- The purpose of church discipline is to bring about the repentance, reconciliation, and spiritual growth of the individual being disciplined.
- Church Discipline maintains purity in the local church and deters sin.
- Any member who teaches, or insists on holding false doctrines, persistently conducts him/herself in a manner that is inconsistent with Biblical teaching, or who persists in violating the Membership Covenant, shall be subject to discipline in accordance with Jesus's teaching in Matthew 18:15-18:
 1. It is the responsibility of any member of Falls Community Chapel who has knowledge of heretical teaching or misconduct to warn and correct said member in private, seeking his/her repentance and restoration.
 2. If the erring member does not listen to the warning, the warning member shall again go to the erring member, accompanied by two or more witnesses to warn and correct, seeking repentance and restoration.
 3. If the erring member continues to refuse to repent, the matter shall be brought to the Elder Oversight Board who shall investigate the matter carefully and prayerfully, and shall tell it to the church, thereby encouraging the church to pray for repentance and restoration of the erring member.
 4. If the erring member still continues to refuse to repent, after the warnings of the Elders and the church, he/she shall be removed from membership pursuant to the Scriptures and shall be treated as an unbeliever. The congregation shall be encouraged to continue to pray for the repentance and restoration of the erring member.
 5. This discipline process will continue until its conclusion whether the erring member leaves the congregation or seeks to withdraw from membership.

Section 3.5 REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP

A person shall be removed from membership at Falls Community Chapel upon:

1. His/Her voluntary resignation of membership.
2. Not completing the biannual membership renewal
3. Following the disciplinary procedure in Article III Section 3.4;

ARTICLE IV

ELDERS, PASTOR(S), STAFF

Section 4.1

ELDERS

Falls Community Chapel is locally governed by Elders who are co-equal in authority but different in function from the Pastors.

Elder qualifications:

1. A man (Titus 1:6,7)
2. Called by the Holy Spirit (Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2)
3. Good reputation inside and outside of the church (I Timothy 3:2; 3:7; Titus 1:6)
 - Above reproach (I Timothy 3:2)
 - Examples to the flock (I Peter 5:3)
 - Not greedy for gain (Titus 1:7)
 - Upright (Titus 1:8)
 - Hold firmly to the Word of God (Titus 1:9)
 - Holy (Titus 1:8)
4. Not a recent convert - must be a believer for 5 years or more (I Timothy 3:6)
5. Faithful sexually and maritally (I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6)
6. Respected as a father (I Timothy 3:4-5; Titus 1:6)
7. Self-controlled
 - Sober-minded (I Timothy 3:2)
 - Self-controlled (Titus 1:8)
 - Not greedy for gain (Titus 1:7)
 - Not quick tempered (Titus 1:7)
 - Not quarrelsome (I Timothy 3:3)
 - Not a drunkard (I Timothy 3:3)
 - Disciplined (Titus 1:8)
8. Relational
 - Not arrogant (Titus 1:7)
 - Gentle (I Timothy 3:3)
 - Upright (Titus 1:8)
 - Hospitable (I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
 - A lover of good (Titus 1:8)
9. Protecting of the flock (Acts 20:28; Titus 1:9)
10. Able to teach (I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9)

An Elder who violates these Biblical requirements will be immediately removed as an Elder, after an investigation, by 2/3 of an in-person vote of all of the Elders of Falls Community Chapel. If the reason for removal is due to an unrepentant sin, the sin shall be made known to the congregation.

Section 4.2 DUTIES OF ELDERS

1. Elder Oversight Board

1. Shall vote on the dismissal of any staff, including the pastoral staff.
2. Shall determine, in conjunction with the Lead Pastor, the annual church budget.
3. Shall determine the salaries of all staff.
4. Approve the structural organization of Falls Community Chapel.
5. Maintain the legal status of Falls Community Chapel.
6. Conduct the Annual and Special Business Meetings of Falls Community Chapel.
7. Shall conduct an annual performance review of the Lead Pastor.
8. Shall investigate any allegations made against any pastoral staff and any other elder. Once the investigation is completed the Elder Oversight Board shall vote on the removal of individual being investigated.
9. Any elder on the Elder Oversight Board who is the subject of said investigation shall be suspended from the Elder Oversight Board and any other board/committee and shall not have access to any of the Elder Oversight Board's discussion resulting from the investigation. Said elder shall not have any voting privileges during the investigation or resulting from said investigation.
10. The Elder Oversight Board shall be made up of not less than 5 but not more than 12 men. The number of non-paid elders shall exceed the number of paid elders on the board.
11. The Elder Oversight Board shall consist of 3-year terms beginning in January with $\frac{1}{3}$ of the board being ratified by the Elders each year. Members of the Elder Oversight Board shall not serve more than 2 consecutive terms on the Elder Oversight Board. An elder who has served two consecutive terms may not be appointed to the Elder Oversight Board for at least one year before he is able to serve again on the Elder Oversight Board.

2. All Elders

1. Because eldership is spiritual leadership of the church, a man who becomes an elder shall remain an elder for life or until removed from said office by voluntary resignation or removal by the Elder Oversight Board for just cause.
2. Shall be devoted to prayer and the study of God's Word.
3. Are partners with the Pastor(s) for Falls Community Church's spiritual growth.
4. Shall teach and exhort, as well as refute those who contradict the truth.

5. Shall ensure that all teachers and church leaders are properly qualified and teach in accordance with Falls Community Chapel's Doctrinal Statement.
6. Shall invite and provide the opportunity for frequent and on-going contact with members of Falls Community Chapel.

Section 4.3 LEAD PASTOR

1. He is an Elder and shall fulfill the requirements in sections 4.1 and 4.2
2. He shall be in charge of the spiritual welfare of the congregation.
3. He shall act as moderator in the business meetings of the church.
4. He shall be an official voting member of all boards and committees and may call any board or committee together at any time.
5. He may call the church together for special business.
6. The Lead Pastor also administers the day-to-day affairs of the church. Including but not limited to sermon series; the authority to purchase supplies necessary for his work within his approved annual budget. Wage and benefit packages are submitted by the Lead Pastor and approved by the Elder Oversight Board.
7. The Lead Pastor's salary shall be determined by the Elder Oversight Board. The Lead Pastor shall not be a participant in any portion of the meeting discussing his salary. The Lead Pastor shall not have a vote or any influence on the determination of his salary.
8. He shall have the primary responsibility of the supervision and evaluation of all staff. This responsibility may be delegated to another staff member.
9. In the absence of the Lead Pastor, the Elder Oversight Board shall assume responsibility for his duties. The Elder Oversight Board may delegate said responsibilities as they deem appropriate.

Section 4.4 ASSOCIATE PASTORS

1. Every Associate Pastor shall be hired with the recommendation of the Lead Pastor with the approval of the Elder Oversight Board.
2. All Associate Pastors shall report directly to the Lead Pastor.
3. All Associate Pastors are elders and shall fulfill the requirements in Sections 4.1 and 4.2.
4. If an Associate Pastor has an issue with the Lead Pastor, said pastor shall take the issue directly to the Lead Pastor. If there is a disagreement, said pastor shall then bring the matter to the Chairman of the Elder Oversight Board. If the matter remains unresolved, the Chairman of the Elder Oversight Board and said pastor shall take the concerns together to the Lead Pastor. If disagreement remains, the matter shall then be brought before the entire Elder Oversight Board.
5. Associate Pastors shall assist the Lead Pastor in the performance of his duties and shall fulfill any other duties related to the office of Pastor as described in

Scripture, the Falls Community Chapel Constitution, Bylaws, and any other policies as determined by the Lead Pastor and Elder Oversight Board.

6. In the case of a temporary incapacitation or absence of the Lead Pastor, the Elder Oversight Board may assign an Associate Pastor the responsibility of the Lead Pastor's duties during his absence. If the absence is pre-determined, this decision shall be made by the Elder Oversight Board with the input of the Lead Pastor.

Section 4.5 STAFF

1. All non-pastoral staff shall be selected at the discretion of the Lead Pastor or his designee.
2. Termination
 1. Associate Pastors must give a 30-day written notice to the Lead Pastor who shall then notify the Board of Elders of the resignation.
 2. All other staff members shall give a 14-day written notice to the Lead Pastor who shall then notify the Board of Elders of the resignation.
 3. Any staff member (pastoral and non-pastoral) may be removed from his/her position by recommendation by the Lead Pastor and a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the Elder Oversight Board.
 4. A pastor who is on the Elder Oversight Board shall not vote on his own removal.

ARTICLE V SELECTION OF LEAD PASTOR AND ELDERS

5.1 LEAD PASTOR

1. When the Lead Pastor position becomes vacant, the Elder Oversight Board shall, after prayerful consideration, provide for the interim filling of the pulpit.
2. The Elder Oversight Board shall nominate a Lead Pastor who satisfies the requirements given throughout Falls Community Chapel's Constitution, Bylaws, and any other documents explaining the requirements for and function of the Lead Pastor. This may be done directly or through a search committee.
3. The Elder Oversight Board shall provide regular communication to the congregation throughout the process.
4. The members must be given adequate opportunity to assess his preaching gifts and must be given assurance by the Elder Oversight Board that, after interviewing and interacting with the man to be nominated, they are assured of his agreement with Falls Community Chapel's Doctrinal Statement, Policy Papers, Membership Covenant, and to the furtherance of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.
5. Notice of the nomination of the man to be selected as Lead Pastor must be given from the pulpit 2 Sundays before the Elder vote. The congregation shall be given

notice of the date of the Elder vote and shall be asked to pray fervently during the time leading up to and including the Elder vote.

6. During this time, the congregation shall have the opportunity to give feedback, express any concerns, and ask questions of the Elder Oversight Board. After 2 Sundays have passed after the notice of the nomination, and on the date given to the congregation, all the Elders at Falls Community Chapel shall convene and vote on the man nominated as Lead Pastor. A $\frac{3}{4}$ affirmative vote of those present is required.

5.2 ELDERS

1. Prospective Elders may be nominated at any time by members or by the Elder Oversight Board.
2. All prospective Elders shall complete elder training as designed by the Lead Pastor in conjunction with the Elder Oversight Board.
3. Upon completion of the elder training, the prospective elders shall observe and participate in Elder Oversight Board meetings. Prospective elders will not have the ability to vote in said meetings.
4. After participation in 2 Elder Oversight Board meetings, the Elder Oversight Board will vote to affirm or deny prospective Elder. A $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the Elder Oversight Board is required for affirmation.
5. If a prospective Elder is affirmed, his name and photo shall be provided to the congregation for 2 weeks during which time the members shall be given the opportunity to provide any reason that prospective Elder should not be an elder at Falls Community Chapel. If no objections are raised after 2 weeks, the prospective Elder becomes an Elder. If any objection is raised, the Elder Oversight Board will conduct an investigation to determine the truthfulness of said objection and determine whether the objection is a disqualification for eldership.
6. At any point in this process, the prospective elder may withdraw his name from consideration.

ARTICLE VI FINANCES

6.1 TREASURER

1. Shall not be an active elder but shall be a member in good standing.
2. Shall provide support to the Elder Oversight Board and the Lead Pastor in providing oversight of Falls Community Chapel's financial and accounting activities.
3. Shall not have custody of Falls Community Chapel's funds and shall ensure that all assets and funds are appropriately secured in banks, financial institutions, or other depositories as deemed appropriate.

4. Shall provide to the Elder Oversight Board or the Lead Pastor an account of all activities of the Treasurer and the financial condition of Falls Community Chapel upon request.
5. Shall provide a financial update to the congregation in the annual meeting.
6. Shall be selected by the Elder Oversight Board to serve a term of 3 years.

6.2 OVERSIGHT

1. The Elder Oversight Board is responsible for overseeing the finances, properties, and other legal matters of Falls Community Chapel.
2. The Elder Oversight Board is responsible for ensuring that all legally required paperwork is filed with the appropriate entity when necessary.
3. The Elder Oversight Board may engage with and hire legal counsel when necessary for legal advice, opinions, and/or legal representation.
4. The Elder Oversight Board shall contract with a Certified Public Accountant for appropriate financial oversight and shall turn over all necessary paperwork and accounting information in order for the oversight to be successfully completed. The Elder Oversight Board may also engage with and hire a Certified Public Accountant for advice and/or opinions.

ARTICLE VII DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- Claims or disputes arising between church members, pastors, staff, and/or Falls Community Chapel shall be settled through mediation following Biblical Principles.
- Parties in dispute in need of mediation shall request mediation from the Elder Oversight Board which shall proceed under the authority of the Elder Oversight Board. Any Elder currently on the Elder Oversight Board who is a part of the mediation shall refrain from conducting the mediation and from voting.
- Any member who is in a dispute who refuses to participate in mediation shall be removed from membership.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be amended by the members. Any proposed change shall be made by $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the Elder Oversight Board and a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote by the members present at the member meeting. At least 30% of members are required to be present for a vote to amend the Constitution to take place. A copy of the proposed amendment(s) must be made available to the members 45 days prior to the member vote.

ARTICLE IX

POLICY PAPERS

Policy papers of Falls Community Chapel, which must be approved by the Elder Oversight Board, provide specific procedures for ministry and employment, and must not contradict Scripture or this Constitution in any way.