



Algona
Evangelical Free Church
By Laws

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ARTICLE I: MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Algona Evangelical Free Church is to glorify God by so proclaiming Jesus Christ that people may come to know Him personally and may be equipped with the necessary skills to serve Him effectively in every area of life.

ARTICLE II STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

The Evangelical Free Church of America is an association of autonomous churches united around these theological convictions:

- 1. God:** 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.
- 2. The Bible:** 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.
- 3. The Human Condition:** 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.

- 4. Jesus Christ:** 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.
- 5. The Work of Christ:** 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.
- 6. The Holy Spirit:** 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 are adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.
- 7. The Church:** 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.
- 8. Christian Living:** 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.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including but not limited to adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, polygamy, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God and unacceptable in the life of a Christian (Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4).

9. **Christ's Return:** 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.
10. **Response and Eternal Destiny:** 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.
11. **Human Life is Sacred:** We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage of condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Psalm 139).

12. Bible as Word of God is Final Authority: The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all we believe.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility for membership.

This church shall receive as members those of any age who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord, and are manifesting in their lives the fruits of a true faith in God, and are willing to abide by the By-Laws of this church.

Section 2. Admission to Membership.

Any person desiring membership shall attend a membership class and submit a membership application to the Board of Elders. The applicant shall then meet with the Board of Elders for the purpose of giving testimony of his or her personal Christian experience. The Board of Elders shall then vote upon the application of the applicant. If a unanimous vote cannot be attained, membership shall be delayed. The Elder(s) opposing membership must supply to the Board of Elders, and to the candidate, a written statement containing the reason(s) for which they believe the candidate does not currently qualify for membership. If a unanimous vote still cannot be attained after prayerful consideration to all parties has been given, membership shall be denied. New members shall be presented to the congregation during the morning worship service.

Section 3. Pastor's Membership.

The membership of a Pastor, and his wife (if applicable), begins with the acceptance of his call, and terminates with the conclusion of his ministry in the church.

Section 4. Member's Responsibility.

Every member is earnestly admonished to pray constantly for the church, its members, and its ministries (Eph 6:18; 1 Thess 5:17; 1 Tim 2:1); to support the ministry of the church through regular and systematic giving as taught by the Scriptures (1 Cor 16:2; 2 Cor 9:7); to observe the Lord's Day by faithful attendance of church services as far as possible (Heb 10:24-25); to love one another in both word and deed (John 13:34); to live a holy and godly life in the midst of "a crooked and perverse" generation (Rom 12:1-5; Phil 2:14-15); to submit in the Lord to the leadership of the church, and if found delinquent in life of doctrine, to accept its discipline (1 Pet 5:2; matt 18:15-17).

Section 5. Discipline.

One of the marks of a true Church is the proper exercise of Biblical discipline. The purpose of discipline is to encourage the erring brother or sister to repentance and to protect the reputation of the church (1 Cor 5:1).

Should Satan so deceive and one of us to the point that the Church would need to lovingly exercise Biblical discipline in order to draw one back from a sinful path and into vibrant fellowship again with God and our brothers and sisters in Christ, the steps set forth in Scripture would be prayerfully and lovingly applied (Gal 6:1-5; Luke 17:3).

Disputes between brothers or sisters should be handled by the Board of Elders in accordance with the guidelines in Matthew 18:15-20.

Discipline for gross public sin, or for teaching contrary to the doctrinal position of the church, shall be considered by the Board of Elders. Written testimony of at least two witnesses is required. The sin shall be handled in accordance with Matthew 18:15-20 and 1 Corinthians 5.

Section 6. Inactive Membership.

Any member who has been noticeably absent from the church for one year, will be placed on the in-active list. Any member who is away for schooling, military, missionary service, or moves away from the geographical area will be placed on the in-active list. In-active members have no right to vote, and will not be considered part of the membership needed to establish quorum.

In-active members will be restored to regular membership after a period of three months of regular attendance. The secretary of the Board of Elders shall maintain an accurate list of active and in-active members.

Section 7. Dual Membership.

Members of this church may not maintain membership in another church. Those joining this church must resign membership in any other churches, and any member, active or in-active, who joins another church will have their membership dropped here. This does not apply to students, servicemen, and missionaries.

Section 8. Termination of Membership.

- A. Members may be disciplined by the Board of Elders in accordance with Article III, Section 5. If found guilty, and there is no repentance, exclusion from the church may follow according to Matthew 18:15-18; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1-2.
- B. Any member who has withdrawn or been discharged has no right in any business meeting of the church or to its property.
- C. Withdrawal from membership will be granted upon written request. Members of good standing will receive a letter of recommendation upon request.
- D. Any member who has been on the in-active list for a period of one year will be dropped from membership by the Board of Elders. This does not apply to students, servicemen, or missionaries.

ARTICLE IV CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Officers

A. Pastor.

1) The Calling of a Pastor(s)

When the Board of Elders presents a pastoral candidate to the church he is to be voted on by the voting membership of the church. The voting shall be done by written ballot at any regular or special business meeting of the church. He shall receive at least 80% of the vote in order to be issued a call. A Pastor shall be called for an indeterminate period of time.

2) The Office of Pastor.

a) A Pastor is the spiritual leader of the church and as such his office is entrusted primarily with the spiritual welfare of the church (Eph 4:7-11). It shall be the Pastors' duty to preach the Word for the equipping of saints unto service and watch over the souls entrusted to him "as one who shall give account," and to seek earnestly for the salvation of the lost (2 Tim 4:2; Acts 20:28, Eph 4:11-15). He shall also meet the qualifications for serving as an Elder (see Article IV, Section 1.B.1.), and shall serve as a member of the Board of Elders.

b) The number of Pastors needed by the church shall be considered by the Board of Elders, and proposals to add or eliminate a Pastoral position shall be submitted to the Congregation, by the Board of Elders, for approval at a Duly called Congregational Meeting.

3) Accusations against a Pastor.

Accusations against a Pastor must be in writing and signed by at least two members in good standing (1 Tim 5:19-20). Should it be evident that he has erred in doctrine or conduct the matter shall be dealt with

in a loving Christian spirit. If this does not bring about the proper result, the matter shall be referred to the District Superintendent of the Central District of the Evangelical Free Church of America. If this does not resolve the conflict, the Board of Elders may dismiss the Pastor with one month's salary as severance pay. The Board of Elders shall also have the authority to relieve the Pastor from his pastoral duties while he is under investigation, if the Board deems so necessary.

4) Termination of Pastorship or Resignation.

If a Pastor makes application to be released from the Pastorate, or if the church desires to terminate the services of the Pastor, then the relationship will terminate thirty (30) days from the date of notice, or at another time if mutually agreed upon. If, however, the Board of Elders realize that the relationship between the Pastor and the Congregation, if continued for thirty days, will lead to results detrimental to the church, then the Pastor may be dismissed immediately with one month's salary as severance pay.

B. Elders

1) Qualifications.

He must be a member of the Algona Evangelical Free Church, as well as meet the qualifications given in 1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4

- a) "Above reproach," i.e. having a good reputation in the church and community based on his Godly lifestyle.
- b) "Husband of one wife," i.e. if married, showing himself to be devoted to only that one woman as his wife.
- c) "Temperate and self-controlled," i.e. doing all things in moderation, not given to addictions.
- d) "Respectable," i.e. respected in the church and community based on a Godly lifestyle.
- e) "Hospitable," i.e. generous and showing a willingness to share.

- f) “Able to teach,” i.e. shows an understanding of the Word of God and the Gospel of Christ, and is able to communicate these truths in an intelligent fashion.
- g) “Not given to much wine,” i.e. does not have a problem overindulging in alcoholic beverages.
- h) “Not violent but gentle,” i.e. does not deal with others in a harsh manner physically or emotionally.
- i) “Not quarrelsome,” i.e. shows an ability to deal with opposition or disagreements in accordance with the principles of love and grace in Christ.
- j) “Not a lover of money,” i.e. does not show evidence of being preoccupied with acquiring material wealth.
- k) “Manages his household well... children obey with proper respect,” i.e. seeks to apply proper measures to maintain orderly and Godly household and is attentive to the needs of his family – physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
- l) “Not lording it over those entrusted to you,” i.e. not demonstrating pride in leadership.

2) Election.

A lay leader is elected to office by the voting membership of the church at the annual business meeting of the church. The election is by a simple majority of the vote, and for a term of three (3) years. No lay Elder shall be reelected to the office after two full terms without an interim of one year.

3) Duties.

To serve on the Board of Elders and to help fulfill the functions of that Board.

C. Deacons

1) Qualifications

- a) “Worthy of respect,” i.e. has a good reputation and is respected in the church and the community based on his Godly lifestyle.
- b) “Sincere,” i.e. his ‘yes’ is ‘yes’ and his ‘no’ is ‘no,’ does not speak lightly, keeps his word.
- c) “Not indulging in much wine,” i.e. does not have a problem overindulging in alcoholic beverages.
- d) “Not pursuing dishonest gain,” i.e. is honest and fair in his business practices.
- e) “Holds to the deep truths of the faith,” i.e. understands basic doctrine and lives life consistently with these truths.
- f) “Husband of one wife,” i.e. if married, showing himself to be devoted to only that one woman as his wife.
- g) “Managing his children and household well,” i.e. seeks to apply proper measures to maintain an orderly and Godly household and is attentive to the needs of his family – physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

2) Election.

A Deacon is elected by the voting membership of the church at the annual business meeting of the church. The election is by a simple majority of the vote, and for a term of three (3) years. No Deacon shall be reelected to the office after two full terms without an interim of one year.

3) Duties.

To serve on the Board of Deacons to help fulfill the functions of that Board.

D. Deaconesses.

1) Qualifications.

A Deaconess must be a member of the Algona Evangelical Free Church, as well as meet the qualifications given in 1 Tim 3:11.

- a) "In the same way," i.e. generally meeting the qualifications for deacon, as applicable to a woman.
- b) "Not malicious talkers," i.e. speech 'seasoned with salt,' not critical or destructive in speech.

2) Election.

The number of Deaconesses shall be set by the Board of Elders. Each Deaconess is elected to office by the voting membership of the church. The election is by a simple majority of the vote, and for a term of three (3) years. No deaconess shall be reelected to the office after two full terms without an interim of one year.

3) Duties.

To serve on the Board of Deaconesses to help fulfill the functions of that Board.

Section 2. Boards.

A. Board of Elders

1) Officers.

The Board of Elders shall consist of the Pastor(s) and the lay Elder(s) of the congregation. The number of lay Elders shall be determined by the Board of Elders and each lay Elder shall be duly elected by the congregation. They shall elect from among the lay Elders a chairman, who shall also serve as Church Chairman, and as applicable, a vice-chairman.

A lay Elder can be removed from the Board of Elders through the following procedures:

- a) A written testimony outlining the charges, and a written motion to relieve the Elder, signed by at least two members must be submitted to a Pastor or Elder at least one week prior to a duly convened Congregational Business Meeting.
- b) The charges will be reviewed by the Board of Elders as a whole with the accused and the accusers in attendance.
- c) If step two does not lead to reconciliation, the charges will be presented to the Congregation at the business meeting and the accused will have a chance to publicly answer the charge.
- d) A three-fourths (75%) majority of the voting quorum at a duly convened Congregational Business meeting is required, after the above steps have been taken, to relieve an Elder from his position on the Board of Elders.

2) Purpose.

The purpose of the Board of Elders is to provide spiritual leadership and oversight to the church. As such they are to give themselves to the study of the Word and to prayer in order to determine God's will for the life and ministry of the church. The Board of Elders is the ruling Board of the church and therefore has the authority to overrule any

action taken by other boards, councils and committees which are deemed inappropriate for the life and ministry of the church.

For the purposes of our faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Board of Elders is our final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

3) Duties.

The Board of Elders is the ruling board of the church. Its task is to oversee all activities of the church so the activities will be conducted in accordance with the Word of God and the Mission Statement of our church (Article 1). Its duties include but are not limited to the following:

- a) To give general oversight to the ministry of each Board and Council.
- b) To develop policies for the general life of the church.
- c) To review and recommend any changes in the Constitution and By-Laws of the church.
- d) To develop and implement the long-range planning for the church.
- e) To call and plan all congregational meetings.
- f) To serve as the Membership Committee.
- g) To oversee the Nominating Committee.
- h) To exercise church discipline when needed.
- i) To establish a Pastoral Search Committee when needed.
- j) To fill all vacancies in elected positions until the next Annual Congregational Meeting.
- k) To annually review every ministry of the church and approve its continued existence to most effectively fulfill the Mission Statement of the church (Article I).
- l) To determine its annual budget needs and resend such a request to the Budget Committee no later than November 15 of each calendar year. This includes a recommendation on pastoral compensation.

4) Meetings.

The Board of Elders shall meet monthly and keep regular minutes of its meetings. Sixty percent (60%) shall constitute a quorum.

5) Annual Meeting.

The Board of Elders shall present a written report to the Annual Business Meeting of the church.

B. Board of Deacons.

1) Officers.

The number of Deacons shall be determined by the Board of Elders, each Deacon shall be duly elected by the congregation. They shall elect from among themselves a chairman, and as applicable, a vice-chairman, and a secretary / financial secretary.

A Deacon can be removed from office for negligence of duties, or activities unbecoming his office through the following procedures:

- a) The accused must receive written notice from the Board of Elders and then be given an opportunity to respond to the charges in the presence of the Elders and any other accusers that may be involved to bring reconciliation or repentance.
- b) The offending brother can then be removed by the unanimous vote of the Board of Elders after step #1 has been exhausted.

2) Purpose.

The purpose of the Board of Deacons is to provide leadership and oversight to the physical needs of the church. As such the Board of Deacons is to develop, maintain, and improve all facilities for the greatest usability in ministry and outward testimony for God. They shall assist the Elders in ministry to the needy as those who are called to serve (Acts 6:1-7), in order to fulfill the mission statement (Article I).

3) Duties.

- a) To develop policies for the various areas of ministry under the Deacon Boards responsibility to ensure that each area functions properly and in accordance with the policies, practices and beliefs of the church.
- b) To maintain all facilities, grounds, vehicles, and equipment in proper condition.
- c) To appoint or employ all necessary personnel (excepts pastoral staff) or committees to manage its areas of responsibility.
- d) To manage the church budget.
- e) To determine its annual budget needs and present such request to the Budget Committee no later than November 15 of each calendar year.

4) Meetings.

The Board of Deacons shall meet monthly, keep regular minutes of its meetings and present a copy of such to the Board of Elders. Sixty percent (60%) shall constitute a quorum.

5) Annual Meeting.

The Board of Deacons shall present a written report to the Annual Business Meeting of the Church.

C. Board of Deaconesses.

1) Officers.

The number of deaconesses shall be determined by the Board of Elders, and each Deaconess shall be duly elected by the Congregation. They shall elect from among themselves a chairperson, and as applicable, a vice-chairperson and a secretary.

A Deaconess can be removed from office for negligence of duties, or activities unbecoming her office through the following procedures:

- a) The accused must receive written notice from the Board of Elders and then be given an opportunity to respond to the charges in the presence of the Elders and any other accusers that may be involved to bring reconciliation or repentance.
- b) The offending sister can then be removed by the unanimous vote of the Board of Elders after step #1 has been exhausted.

2) Purpose.

The purpose of the Board of Deaconesses is to assist the Board of Deacons and the Board of Elders in fulfilling the task of caring for the physical facilities and serving the needs of the ministry to fulfill the purpose outlined in the Mission Statement (Article I).

3) Duties.

The Board of Deaconesses serves under the authority of the Board of Deacons and the Board of Elders, and its duties include, but are not limited to the following:

- a) To develop policies for the various ministries under the Board of Deaconesses' responsibility and the ensure that each area of responsibility is functioning properly and in accordance with the policies, practices, and beliefs of the church.

b) To determine its annual budget needs and present such a request to the Budget Committee no later than November 15 of each calendar year.

4) Meetings.

The Board of Deaconesses shall meet at least every other month, keep regular minutes of its meetings and present a copy of such to the Board of Elders. Sixty percent (60%) shall constitute a quorum.

5) Annual Meeting.

The Board of Deaconesses shall present a written report to the Annual Business Meeting of the church.

D. Board Vacancies

The Board of Elders has the authority to appoint temporary members to all Boards as necessary to fill vacancies until the next congregational election.

Section 3. Councils.

Councils and their members are appointed by the Board of Elders and serve under the authority of said Board. Each Council appointed shall have as its purpose the fulfilling of the Mission Statement of the church (Article 1) by oversight of its specific area of responsibility as defined by the Board of Elders. Councils shall be created and removed by the Board of Elders as needed (Exodus 18:17-23).

A. Council Members.

A Council shall consist of at least one Elder, and as many lay people as needed.

Section 4. Congregational Business Meetings.

A. Regular Congregational Meetings.

Within two weeks before or after January 15 of each year this church shall hold its annual Congregational Business meeting. The semi-annual meeting shall be within 2 weeks before or after July 1. All congregational meetings shall be led by a moderator as appointed by the Board of Elders. Attendance by thirty percent (30%) of the voting members of the church shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting any business of the church at any regular or special meeting. Decisions made will be by simple majority except in the case of major issues as determined by the Board of Elders, or as stipulated elsewhere in the By-Laws. A major issue will require at least a three-fourths (75%) vote of the quorum. All members at least 18 years old and are on the active member list shall be eligible to vote. There will be no absentee voting for any decision.

B. Special Meetings.

Special meetings of the membership of the church shall be held at the call of the Chairman of the Board of Elders, by a majority of the membership of the Board of Elders, or by a signed petition bearing the signatures of at least thirty percent (30%) of the voting members of the church, provided, however, that no business shall be conducted in these meeting except such business as is set forth in the closed agenda. The call of any special meeting shall be announced from the pulpit at least five (5) days prior to the meeting, or by written notice to all voting members of the church postmarked at least five (5) days prior to the date of any such meeting. The meeting shall otherwise be conducted according to the rules for Regular Congregational Meetings (Article IV, Section 4.A).

ARTICLE V COMMITTEES

Section 1. Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of a Pastor, at least one lay Elder and two members elected from the active membership at the semi-annual meeting. No person up for reelection may serve on the Nominating committee. They shall notify the congregation of the positions for which they are accepting nominations, as well as the qualifications for each position, at least two months prior to the Annual Business meeting. A list of the nominees shall be posted at least three weeks prior to the election, and any objection to a nominee must be registered in writing to the committee no later than ten (10) days prior to the Annual Business meeting. The committee shall have the consent of all nominees before posting their names.

Section 2. Budget Committee.

The Budget Committee shall consist of the Chairman of the Board of Elders and a member from the Board of Deacons, Board of Deaconesses, and each active Council. The chairman of the Deacon Board shall serve as chairman of the Budget Committee, and shall appoint a secretary. The Chairman shall notify all Boards and Councils no later than September 15, and shall receive all budget requests no later than November 15. The Budget Committee shall submit the proposed budget to the Board of Elders no later than four (4) weeks prior to the Annual Business Meeting.

The Board of Elders shall review and is able to amend the proposed budget. The Board of Elders shall post and make available to all members a copy of the proposed budget and the date of the annual meeting no later than two weeks prior to the Annual Business Meeting. The Budget shall be approved by a simple majority of the voting quorum at the Annual Business Meeting.

Section 3. Audit Committee.

The Board of Elders shall appoint a two-member Audit Committee no later than November 15. The Audit Committee shall audit all church accounts and make a written report to the Annual Business Meeting of the church.

Section 4. Pastoral Search Committee.

The Pastoral Search Committee shall function to procure candidates for the Pastorate when a vacancy occurs. It shall consist of delegates from the Board of Elders, the Chairman of the Board of Deacons, and the Chairperson of the Board of Deaconesses and at-large member(s) chosen from the active membership of the church. The chairman of the Board of Elders shall serve as the chairman of the Pastoral Search Committee, and shall appoint a secretary. The Committee shall locate, interview, and screen potential candidates, and shall bring one candidate at a time to the Board of Elders, who will in turn approve submitting the name to the congregation for consideration.

ARTICLE VI AUTHORITY AND AFFILIATION

Authority: The Algona Evangelical Free Church, through its annual, semi-annual, and special business meetings, is the governing body of this organization. The congregation shall delegate the legislative and governing authority to the Board of Elders except as determined elsewhere in the By-Laws. All decision made by the Board of Elders shall have the rule of law unless overturned by a three-fourths (75%) majority of the voting quorum at a duly convened Congregational Business Meeting.

Affiliation: This church shall be affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America and its Central District Conference and may send delegates to their conferences, support their missions and unite in all mutual efforts for the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ in the measure that the Algona Evangelical Free Church itself my officially decide.

ARTICLE VII PROPERTY

This church shall have the power to receive, either by gift or purchase, and to hold such real, personal, or mixed property as authorized by the laws of the State of Iowa and as is deemed necessary for the business of the church, and shall 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, semi-annual, or special business meeting of the church.

All debts for the corporation shall be held in the name of the corporation. The personal and private property of the officers or members of this corporation shall not be used in the payment of the corporate debt.

In case of a division of the church (from which we pray God by His mercy to preserve us), the property of the church shall belong to those who abide by its Constitution and By-Laws.

In case of the dissolution of the church organization, the property shall be assigned to the Central District Conference of the Evangelical Free Church of America, to enable said conference to renew the work or to use the values thereof for further Gospel enterprises. The church shall be considered dissolved if so decided by the organization, or when the church has not held an annual meeting for three (3) years, or when less than six members remain.

ARTICLE VIII AMMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended by at least three-fourths (75%) vote of the members present and voting at any annual meeting providing that such an amendment shall have been suggested, discussed, and approved by a simple majority at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose at least three (3) months prior to the annual meeting.