

**CONSTITUTION OF  
SKANDIA EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH  
BALATON, MINNESOTA**

Approved January 26<sup>th</sup> 2014  
Effective April 27<sup>th</sup> 2014

**ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this church shall be "Skandia Evangelical Free Church".

**ARTICLE II: STATEMENT OF FAITH**

The Statement of faith of this church shall be the same as that of The Evangelical Free church of America and it's North Central District, which reads as follows:

**God**

1. 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.

**The Bible**

2. 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.

**The Human Condition**

3. 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.

**Jesus Christ**

4. 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.

### **The Work of Christ**

5. 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.

### **The Holy Spirit**

6. 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 adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

### **The Church**

7. 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.

### **Christian Living**

8. 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.

### **Christ's Return**

9. 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.

### **Response and Eternal Destiny**

10. 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.

### **ARTICLE III: STANDING**

This church shall maintain membership with The Evangelical Free Church of America and its branches and with the North Central District of the Evangelical Free Church.

### **ARTICLE IV: PURPOSE**

The purpose of this church shall be is to glorify God by equipping believers in the faith and spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ both to our community and to the world.

### **ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP**

The church shall receive as members those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, are manifesting the fruits of the Spirit in their lives and are in agreement with the doctrine and policy of this church. Specific membership requirements are detailed in the Church ByLaws.

### **ARTICLE VI: PROPERTY RIGHTS**

If the church membership votes to dissolve and cease to function as a church of like faith and practice, or if the membership should dissolve through some disaster, the property rights shall be assigned to the North Central District of The Evangelical Free Church of America to enable said district to renew the work or use the values thereof for further Gospel enterprises.

### **ARTICLE VII: GOVERNMENT**

Ultimate authority lies in Christ as the head of the church and in the Scripture as the basis for all faith and practice. This church shall remain free and self-governing. The government is vested in its membership and administered by its officers. In function, final authority shall reside in the membership. They shall approve and/or affirm Biblically qualified leadership, to carry out Christ's purposes.

### **Article VIII: OFFICERS**

The Officers of this church shall be the Elders, Deacons, Treasurer, Financial Secretary and others as designated in the By-Laws.

### **Article IX: PROVISION FOR BY-LAWS**

A supplement to this constitution known as By-Laws shall embody: the stated qualifications and duties for pastors, officers, and ministry teams; conditions for membership; method by which members are received; and rules and regulations for the activities of the church. Revisions or additions to the By-Laws will be in accordance with Article X of this constitution.

### **Article X: AMMENDMENTS/REVISIONS**

The Constitution and By-laws may be changed when deemed necessary. Such changes must be submitted to the members in writing and adopted as a preliminary step at any regular business meeting of the Church. At the succeeding congregational meeting, the changes may be fully adopted and completed if they are approved by a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting.