
Restated and Amended Articles of Incorporation of West Evangelical Free Church of Wichita

Article I—Name

The corporate name of this church shall be “West Evangelical Free Church of Wichita.” The address of the Corporation’s registered office in the state of Kansas is 1161 N. Maize Road, Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas, 67212. The name of its registered agent at such address is Rev. Ken Cooper.

Article II—Statement of Faith

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.

Article III—Purpose

The purpose of this church shall be (1) to worship God and glorify His Son Jesus Christ, (2) to preach and teach the word of God to its members and others, (3) to work together for the unity, edification, discipline, and encouragement of the believers that they might grow in grace and holy conduct, (4) to win souls to Christ and to further His cause on the mission field at home and abroad (*Ephesians 5:27; Romans 12; Colossians 3:12-15; Mark 16:15; Acts 2:42; Romans 1:16; Hebrews 10:25; Ephesians 4:11-16*). The duration of this corporation shall be perpetual except as stated in Article VII of the Articles of Incorporation.

Article IV—Membership

This church shall receive as members only those who have by faith accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, who in their lives manifest the fruits of true faith in God, and who are willing, according to their ability, to support the church by their prayer, participation, service, and contributions. Persons who become members of this Church and are not baptized are urged to take this step at the earliest opportunity (*Acts 2:38 42, 47; Romans 6:3,4*).

Article V—Board of Trustees

Subject to the provisions of these articles of incorporation and of the by-laws, the business of this corporation shall be administered by the Board of Trustees, the composition of which is as set forth in the by-laws. Except as otherwise provided in these articles or in the by-laws, the trustees shall have full power and authority to manage the assets, properties, and other business affairs of the corporation.

Article VI—Business Meetings

The annual business meeting of this church shall be held typically during the month of February at a time and place designated by the Trustee Board. At the annual business meeting, the election of officers and transaction of such business as concerns the work of the year shall take place. Additional regular and special business meetings may be held during the year as set forth in the by-laws of this church.

Article VII—Church Property

In case of division of this church, from which God in His mercy preserve us, the property of this church shall belong to those who abide by these articles of incorporation. When it is unclear which of the parties is abiding by these articles of incorporation, the issue shall be resolved in consultation with the Midwest District Board. In case of dissolution of this church, the property shall automatically become the property of the Midwest District Conference of the Evangelical Free Church of America. This church shall be considered dissolved when five or less members remain.

Article VIII—Conduct of Business

This church shall have power in its corporate name to buy, own, hold in trust, use, inherit, lease, rent, sell, exchange or dispose of, such real and personal property as may be useful and necessary for the furtherance of the Lord's work. It shall also have the power to mortgage and encumber all or any part of this church's property, and to borrow and raise money or other assets of any kind, for the furtherance of the Lord's work.

All church property, real and personal, shall be held, and all debts of the corporation shall be contracted, by the trustees in the name of the corporation. Private property of the church members and officers of the corporation shall not be subject to payment of the corporate debts or liabilities.

Article IX—Church Affiliation

This church hereby affiliates itself with the Evangelical Free Church of America to support home and foreign missions, and to unite in any mutual efforts for the furtherance of the gospel of Christ in the measure and to the extent that this local church may officially decide. However, this church shall remain its own highest authority and shall conduct its business according to this constitution and by-laws.

Article X—Amendments

Amendments to these articles of incorporation may be made at any annual business session of this church by a three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) majority of votes cast, provided said amendments have been presented in writing and discussed at a general business meeting at least three (3) months prior to the time of the annual meeting. Amendments to Articles II, VII, IX, and X, may be made at any annual business session of the church by a seventy-five percent (75%) majority of votes cast from the entire voting membership.

Article XI—Provision for By-Laws

By-laws not in conflict with these articles of incorporation may be adopted or revised at any regular or special business meeting called for that purpose, by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of votes cast, provided that a proposed by-law, or amendment to a by-law, has been presented in writing and discussed at a preceding regular or special business meeting at least one (1) month prior to the meeting in which the amendment is voted on.

Article XII—Provision for Ratification

These articles of incorporation and by-laws shall take effect upon the three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) majority vote of members present at any officially called church business meeting.

End Articles of Incorporation
