

**BYLAWS OF
THE
INTERMOUNTAIN
EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
Adopted by the congregation, May 28, 2000**

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the INTERMOUNTAIN EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH in order to carry out more efficiently the commission given by Jesus Christ to His Church, do ordain and establish the following **bylaws** to which we voluntarily submit our selves:

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be "The Intermountain Evangelical Free Church."

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to **prepare people to change our world for Christ. This statement of biblical evangelism and discipleship is to be carried out under the guidelines and mandates of Scripture. This organization will** own and maintain such property and equipment as may be required to carry out the above-stated purpose.

ARTICLE III

AUTHORITY AND AFFILIATION

Authority: The congregation (**composed of all members of this local church**) at its annual and special business meetings, is the **ultimate** legislative and governing body of this organization.

Affiliation: This church shall be affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America and with its Western District. Such affiliation shall in no way abrogate the autonomy of the local congregation, nor its right to hold title to its own property, except for temporary time when seeking and receiving financial aid from the Western District, or when agreed upon by both the congregation and the Western District under certain circumstances. The terms whereby the District would hold title to a church's property shall be stipulated in writing, authorized by a duly called meeting of the congregation, and signed by the officers of the congregation.

ARTICLE IV

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Statement of Faith of this church shall be the same as that of the Evangelical Free Church of America which reads as follows:

1. We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and the Divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.
2. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures, Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where at the right hand of the Majesty on High He now is our High Priest and Advocate.
4. We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.
5. We believe that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
6. We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe and only such as receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit, and thus become children of God.
7. We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are

ordinances to be observed by the church during the present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means of salvation.

8. We believe that the true Church is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ of which He is the Head.

9. We believe that only those who are thus members of the true church shall be eligible for membership in the local church.

10. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church, and that every local church has the right under Christ to decide and govern its own affairs.

11. We believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and this "Blessed Hope" has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer.

12. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead; of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment.

ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the church shall consist of persons 18 years or older who profess belief in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord; whose character, conduct and reputation conform therewith; and who will abide by the Constitution and By-laws of this church.

MEMBERSHIP

A. ADMISSION

Any person desiring to become a member of this church should:

- (1.) Express their desire for membership to the pastor, church chairman, or one of the Board, **and sign up for the next membership seminar.**
- (2.) Complete the **membership** class **and sign an application/membership covenant.**
- (3.) Meet with the Elder Board, **if requested**, to give witness to their personal faith in Christ and for any further discussion pertinent to membership.

The Elder Board, if they find the applicants eligible, shall accept them into membership. The new members shall be welcomed **and accepted** publicly at a regular Sunday service as soon thereafter as possible.

The pastor and his wife, as well as all paid staff members and their spouses shall automatically be members during their ministry at this church.

B. TERMINATION

Any member in good standing **may withdraw their membership and**, upon request, receive a letter of recommendation from this congregation.

Members absent from the church for a period of six months shall be dropped from the rolls **at the discretion of** the Elder Board .

Members found by the Senior Pastor and the Board of Elders living contrary to the teachings of the Bible and the principles of this church shall be admonished by the Elder Board in brotherly love in accordance with Galatians 6:1 and Hebrews 10:24,25. Should a member continue to live in sin, the Elder Board may dismiss such a person from membership. Such a person, upon sincere repentance, may be reinstated by the Elder Board. Any member who has

withdrawn or been dismissed has no rights in any business meeting of the church or in its property **until reinstated..**

C. RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the duty of the voting members to approve elder and deacon candidates, approve the annual operating budget, bylaw changes, major decisions regarding property or building projects, and the calling or dismissal of a Senior Pastor.

All members of this church are expected to :

- Live daily to please the Lord, through the power of the Holy Spirit and in accordance with the Scriptures. (I Corinthians 6:10, 19-20; Romans 6:13; Colossians 3:1-17)
- Study the Bible and pray faithfully and diligently. (II Timothy 3:16-17; Colossians 4:2; Psalm 119:9-11; I Peter 4:7; I Thessalonians 5:17)
- Be supportive of the people and ministries of the Church. (I Peter 4:8; Acts 2:42-47)
- Be faithful, in so far as possible, in attending worship and prayer services, business meetings, and other ministries of the church which will aid in spiritual growth. (Hebrews 10:25)
- Use the spiritual gifts and abilities God has given to serve others in the church. (I Peter 4:10-11; I Corinthians 12:7-11)
- Submit to the authority of the leaders of the church, esteeming them very highly in love, in accordance with Hebrews 13:17 and I Thessalonians 5:12-13.
- Give regularly, proportionately, generously and cheerfully for the work of the Lord. (Malachi 3:8-10; I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 9:7)
- Be accountable to the church for any sin which might necessitate church discipline. (Galatians 6:1; Matthew 18:15-17)

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS, BOARDS AND THEIR DUTIES

A. PASTOR

The pastor is to provide spiritual and administrative leadership for the church. He is to make his aim, the "equipping of the saints for the work of service to the building up of the body of Christ". (Ephesians 4:12); Shepherding the flock (I Peter 5:2); Preaching the Word (II Timothy 4:2, I Timothy 4:12) and set an example. (I Timothy 4:12-13).

In the exercise of this divine purpose he is to strive to meet the qualifications set forth in I Timothy 3:2-7, Titus 1:5-9, Acts 6:4 and I Peter 5:2-5. The pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all boards. The pastor shall be accountable to the elected Elder Board and work in partnership with the Deacon Board.

In the event of a vacancy in the position of Senior Pastor, the Elder Board shall immediately appoint a Pulpit Committee shall interview and make recommendations to the Congregation.

The Pulpit Committee shall bring before the Congregation only those men it believes it can recommend unanimously. It shall consider only one man at a time. The Will of God in Christ through in leadership of the Holy Spirit shall be sought and abided by at each step.

B. ASSOCIATE STAFF

All associate pastoral staff that may be a part of the ministry of this church shall report to the senior pastor and through him be accountable to the congregation. Wherever possible written job descriptions are to be compiled, outlining their respective duties.

C. THE ELDER BOARD

The Elder Board shall consist of the pastor, the Elected Elders (at least three), the chairman of the Deacon Board (who will be a non-voting advisor). The Elders will be elected for a three-year term with one third of the elected positions coming open each year. An elder finishing a three year term must be given one year off before being reelected. An elder finishing a one or two year term may be reelected to a consecutive three year term. "Also, if the Elder Board finds it necessary or expedient they may nominate a current member of the board for a one year extension, one time only, to be voted on by the congregation along with the other candidates at the annual meeting."(Added by amendment April 2003.)

1. An elder must be scripturally qualified as defined in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1. In partnership with the pastor the elders will:

- a. Spend time, individually and together, in prayer and the reading and study of God's Word. (Acts 6:4)
- b. Keep informed of the needs of the constituency of the church, remembering those needs in prayer and communicating them, when appropriate, to the congregation or to the constituency of the church.
- c. Ensure that every aspect of the church's ministry is characterized by a faithful proclamation of the Word of God.
- d. Provide for the conduct of public services, including the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- e. Pray for the sick in accordance with James 5:14-15.
- f. Minister as good examples, not lording it over the church, (I Peter 5:3-5)
- g. Assume responsibility for the spiritual welfare of the church both corporately and individually.

- h. Counsel and admonish as needed, the constituency of the church.
 - i. Visit any member about whom a complaint is just and true and to use their best efforts to correct such matters.
 - j. Interview applicants for membership.
 - k. Look after and help the sick, needy and widows.
 - l. Give support and encouragement to the pastoral staff.
 - m. Appoint from among their number a chairman, vice chairman and secretary. The chairman shall also serve as chairman of the church and shall preside at all business meetings of the church as well as the meetings of the Elder Board. The chairman is an ex-officio member of all boards and committees.
 - n. Be empowered to approve expenditures not specified in the budgets in amounts not to exceed 5% annually of the total annual budget.
 - o. Appoint such committees as needed for smooth operation of the church.
2. All who have previously held the office of elder and remain qualified for the office of elder will be part of the IEFC "elder pool". The men of the elder pool are invited to attend administrative board meetings in an advisory, non-voting status and may be called on to do special ministry work as the elected board deems necessary.

D. THE DEACON BOARD

The Deacon board shall be at least three in number and shall be elected for a three year term in such a manner that the terms of one third shall be of staggered rotation each year. A deacon must be scripturally qualified as defined in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1. In partnership with the pastor and the Elders, they shall:

- a. Spend time, individually and together, in prayer and the reading and study of God's Word. (Acts 6:4)
- b. Provide for the conduct of public services, including the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- c. Pray for the sick in accordance with James 5:14-15.

- d. Look after and help the sick, needy and widows.
- e. Give support and encouragement to the pastoral staff.
- f. Be responsible for the care of church properties, facilities and funds.

The Deacon Board shall consist of a men's committee and a women's committee that will address different aspects of the above functions as decided by the whole Deacon Board. The chairman of the Deacon Board shall be selected by the Elder Board from the men's committee.

Attachment A

All Pastoral Staff shall agree with and teach, that the Scriptures teach that all who are by faith united in Christ, who have been redeemed and justified in God's grace and regeneration by the Holy Spirit, will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere there in to the end of this age.

John 3:36, Romans 8:35-39, Romans 5:8-10, John 10:27-30, Phil. 1:6, I Peter 1:5, Titus 3:5.

Article VII

MEETINGS

A. PUBLIC SERVICES

Meetings for Worship, Edification, Fellowship, Evangelism and Stewardship, will be conducted at such times as decided by those responsible.

B. ANNUAL MEETINGS

An annual business meeting shall be held in the month of **April**, the exact time to be set by the Elder Board. Annual reports of the pastor, Elder Board, Deacon Board and standing committees shall be printed and made available. Any business that concerns the work for the year shall also be transacted at the annual meeting. The exact times for the annual meeting to be set by the Elder Board will be given with at least two Sundays advance notice to the congregation.

C. SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS

Special business meetings may be called at any time any the Elder

Board. Any six church members may also call a business meeting through a letter to the chairman. The purpose of all special business meetings must be announced to the congregation publicly on two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting. Only such matters as have been announced may be taken up for the consideration and decision.

D. QUORUM

Those members present at any announced meeting will comprise a quorum.

E. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The business of the congregation shall be conducted informally according to the general pattern for the conduct of meetings contained in Robert's Rules of Order unless inconsistent with these By-laws or with the Constitution of this church.

F. VOTING

All members 18 years of age or older are eligible to vote in all matters of business. All matters shall be determined by a majority vote of those present except when otherwise specified in these By-laws or by the decision of the session. The chairman may exercise discretion as to the precise procedure of voting that particular issue may call for.

ARTICLE VIII

PROPERTY

The members of this church who are loyal to and abide by these Bylaws of the Intermountain Evangelical Free Church have the right to, as a group, ownership and control of the property of this church. Should any controversy arise as to whether such loyalty exists, the question shall be submitted to the Western District Board of the Evangelical Free Church of America, and the decision of that board shall be final. In the case of dissolution, the property of the church shall be assigned to the Western 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. The church shall be considered dissolved if so decided by the congregation, or when the church has not held an annual meeting for 3 years, or when less than size (6) members remain.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to **these bylaws** may be introduced in writing and adopted as a preliminary step at an annual or special business meeting of the church. Such amendments will be considered so adopted when

approved by a three-fourths vote by the members present and voting. However, such amendments will not become effective unless and until a subsequent business meeting passes the amendments with an affirmative vote of at least three-fourths of the members present and voting. A minimum of three months must elapse from the time that amendments are first adopted to the time they are finally approved and become effective. When the amendments are to be acted upon become effective they must be considered previously adopted and without further amendment.

ARTICLE VIII

PROVISION FOR BY-LAWS

This church shall provide By-laws for its government and administration. They shall not conflict with the Word of God.

These bylaws were officially adopted by the congregation of THE INTERMOUNTAIN EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH .

On this
date _____

_____ Church
Secretary

_____ Church
Chairman

ARTICLE I

ARTICLE II

ARTICLE III

