

Gospel Fellowship of Sussex

Constitution

Revised April 25, 2014

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Gospel Fellowship of Sussex, Wisconsin, in order to establish rules and procedures with which to administer this local assembly, do hereby recognize ourselves as a sovereign local church and do ordain and establish the following Constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

NAME

The name of this church shall be Gospel Fellowship of Sussex (referred to as “GFS” or “this fellowship” within this Constitution and the Bylaws).

FOUNDATION

The foundation of this fellowship is the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11). Its code of guidance in all its affairs is the Word of God, and this fellowship does here affirm its faith that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inerrant Word of Almighty God (Mark 13:31).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this fellowship shall be to worship God according to the teaching of His Word, to practice the precepts and examples of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ as set forth in the New Testament, to sustain her ordinances and doctrines (as defined in the *Statement of Faith*) and to preach and propagate among all peoples the Gospel of Salvation which is by personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

PRIORITIES OF MINISTRY

The priorities of ministry of this body flow from the vision of God's glory revealed in Jesus Christ. We exist to savor this vision in worship (John 4:23), strengthen the vision in nurture and education (1 Corinthians 14:26 ; 2 Peter 3:18), and spread the vision in evangelism, missions, and good works (1 Peter 2:9; 3:15 ; Matthew 28:18-20; 5:16).

LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

A plurality of Elders shall guide this fellowship in the ministry of the church. The term Elder is synonymous with pastor and overseer within this Constitution and the Bylaws. The Elders are willfully (1 Peter 5:1-3) and humbly accountable to Christ, each other and this fellowship as they lead under the motif of a godly family where communication exists.

The Elders bear the ultimate responsibility in all matters pertaining to the fellowship although they will seek the wisdom of the body on decisions pertaining to the life of the church. Elders shall be appointed and/or removed by the then existing Elders following the process as stated in the Bylaws.



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Deacons shall be servants to this fellowship and assist the Elders in the ministry of the church by performing the services of advice, administration, and implementation. Deacons shall be appointed and/or removed by the Elders following the process in the Bylaws.

MEMBERSHIP

GFS shall have a formal membership for those who show evidence of faith in Christ, have been baptized upon believing, and affirm the *Confession of Faith* following the process as prescribed by the Elders and the Bylaws.

AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution may be amended by the decision of the Elders (with support from this fellowship) following the process as stated in the Bylaws.