

# **Constitution of Blue Oaks Church**

---

Church Mission and Statement of Faith

Adopted: December 12, 2016

## Table of Contents

Article I Name .....	3
Article II Sovereignty .....	3
Article III Mission, Values and Vision .....	3
Section 1: Mission .....	3
Section 2: Values .....	3
Section 3: Vision .....	4
Article IV What We Believe .....	4
Article V Ordinances .....	4
Section 1: Water Baptism.....	4
Section 2: Communion.....	4
Article VI Ordination & Licensing.....	4
Section 1: Rights.....	4
Section 2: Qualifications .....	4
Section 3: Procedures .....	5
Section 4: Term .....	5
Article VII Church Membership .....	5
Article VIII Organization of the Church .....	5
Section 1: Structure .....	5
Section 2: Elder Board.....	5
Section 3: Co-Executives .....	6
Article IX Elder Board.....	6
Section 1: Operation of the Board .....	6
Section 2: Bylaws .....	6
Section 3: Board Policies.....	6
Article X Amendments.....	6
Statement of Faith.....	7

## Article I Name

The name of this Church shall be: **Blue Oaks Church**. (“Blue Oaks” or “Church”)

## Article II Sovereignty

This church is a sovereign entity retaining for itself the exclusive right of self-government. It may choose for purposes of accountability, fellowship and shared resources, affiliation with like-minded organizations.

## Article III Mission, Values and Vision

### Section 1: Mission

Our mission is to lead everyone into Christ centered living.

### Section 2: Values

Values are the foundation of Blue Oaks Church. They provide the framework and structure upon which everything else is built. Our strategies, models, programs and decisions are in alignment with these values. They create the cultural DNA of our Church.

**BIBLICAL TEACHING:** The authentic, Spirit-led teaching of God’s Word is the catalyst for life transformation. *2 Timothy 3:16-17.*

**FAMILY:** We put the family first by providing environments and relationships that build biblical principles into marriages and families. *Deuteronomy 6:7.*

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH:** Each one of us should be intentional about growing in his or her relationship with Jesus Christ. *Romans 12:2.*

**COMPASSION:** We will generously provide love and resources to our broken world, beginning in our own community. *Isaiah 1:17.*

**SERVING ACCORDING TO OUR GIFTEDNESS:** We operate as a unified community of servants, with men and women using their unique gifts, talents and abilities. Everyone should play his or her part. *Philippians 2:5-7.*

**A CULTURE OF GRACE:** We welcome and love all people, encouraging them and giving them room to grow. *Ephesians 2:8-9.*

**INTRODUCING PEOPLE TO JESUS:** We invest in people and invite them into a relationship with Jesus Christ. *1 Peter 3:15.*

**LEADERSHIP:** We value a person’s ability to influence others to pursue God’s mission. *Ephesians 4:11-13.*

COMMUNITY: We intentionally engage in developing and deepening relationships. Life change happens best in community. *1 Thessalonians 2:8*.

### **Section 3: Vision**

To be a church that unchurched people love to attend.

## **Article IV What We Believe**

We believe it is extremely important to be held doctrinally accountable, therefore we have chosen to adopt the statement of faith of the Evangelical Free Church of America (as adopted on June 26, 2008) as our own. We will not add to nor take away from this statement and our teachers will be sympathetic to this doctrine in their presentation of the Word. The statement is included as Attachment A, is an integral part of this constitution, and may not be amended, deleted, altered, or changed in any way except as noted in this constitution.

## **Article V Ordinances**

### **Section 1: Water Baptism**

We believe the Bible to clearly teach that everyone who repents and believes in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior should be baptized in water declaring to the world that they have died with Christ and have been raised with Him to a new life.

### **Section 2: Communion**

We believe that Christ commanded Christians to regularly partake of the elements of bread and wine together with other believers, celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ until His return.

## **Article VI Ordination & Licensing**

The church reserves the right to ordain, license, or commission individuals as ministers of the Gospel to perform the ordinances and ceremonies of the church including, but not limited to, marriage, baptism, communion, and funerals.

### **Section 1: Rights**

We recognize that only the Holy Spirit can truly call people into the ministry and it is our privilege to ratify this calling through ordination.

### **Section 2: Qualifications**

The qualifications for ordination are as follows:

- (a) The candidate must consider ministry his or her primary vocation and calling in life,
- (b) The candidate must have proved himself or herself by service completed, and
- (c) The candidate must meet the requirements listed in I Timothy 3:1-7 & Titus 1:6-9

### **Section 3: Procedures**

Qualified candidates will be ordained according to the following procedures:

- (a) The candidate must submit a written request for ordination to the elder board and show a willingness to be evaluated.
- (b) The elder board will review and approve candidates for consideration.
- (c) The elder board will confirm the call of ministry of a candidate who has successfully passed the interview process and has received the unanimous approval of the elder board.
- (d) The ordained minister will receive a certificate stating the rights and responsibilities of an ordained minister.

### **Section 4: Term**

Ordination is for life. However, the ordination is revocable at any time upon the review and recommendation of the elder board.

Licensing or commissioning shall be valid for as long as the minister is employed by the church and serving in a ministerial capacity.

## **Article VII Church Membership**

The church makes no provision for corporate membership. Unless otherwise amended, all references to membership both in this constitution and the bylaws of the corporation shall be deemed to refer to an ecclesiastical definition of church membership rather than to formal legal membership.

## **Article VIII Organization of the Church**

### **Section 1: Structure**

Blue Oaks shall be an elder led church. The co-executives shall serve under the authority of the elder board and shall be ultimately responsible to the elder board.

Having declared this, there shall be two groups of individuals who together shall be responsible for leading the Church:

- Elder Board
- Co-executives

### **Section 2: Elder Board**

The elder board will be made up of qualified individuals of the church (elders) and, except as otherwise stated in the articles of incorporation, the bylaws or this constitution, shall be the ultimate authority in all matters.

A candidate for elder must have been attending the church for at least two (2) years prior to being elected to the elder board and have been actively serving in ministry of the church at least one (1) year. All elders are required to meet the qualifications for elder/overseer as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-11, and Titus 1:5-9.

This is a self-perpetuating board. New members shall be identified, vetted, and appointed as needed by the elders and always ensuring an independent board. Qualifying candidates shall be appointed to the elder board by the unanimous consent of the elders.

The elder board also serves as the corporate board of directors for the corporation as required by California State Corporations Code Sections 9110, Nonprofit Corporation Law.

### **Section 3: Co-Executives**

Co-executives lead the church and work together as a team. The elder board is responsible for the selection, preparation, and accountability of the co-executives.

## **Article IX Elder Board**

### **Section 1: Operation of the Board**

Bylaws will be approved by the board that define the operation of the board including membership, number, powers, duties, term of office, compensation, selection, officers and any thing else the board decided is needed for effective governance.

### **Section 2: Bylaws**

Bylaws to this constitution shall be adopted and maintained as required to implement its purposes. The bylaws may not conflict with or supersede this constitution. Amendments or changes to the bylaws shall be by action of the elder board.

### **Section 3: Board Policies**

The board is responsible to establish written policies, which at the broadest level address each subject requiring a board or operational decision. These broad policies set by the board are found in the document Blue Oaks Church Board Policies, and these provide a framework for all other decisions.

## **Article X Amendments**

This constitution may be amended at any regular elder board meeting or at a special meeting called for this purpose. Notice of the proposed amendment must be given by means of a mailing or emailing to the elders at least one (1) week prior to the meeting. Amendments shall require a unanimous vote by the full elder board.

## **Statement of Faith**

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

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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 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**

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**

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**

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**

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.

Adopted by the Conference on June 26, 2008