

# SOCIETIES ACT

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†††††††††† **CONSTITUTION** ††††††††††

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## ARTICLE I

The name of the Society is  
**Fort Langley Evangelical Free Church**

## ARTICLE II

The purposes of this Society (hereafter called the Church) shall be:

- 1) To mutually support one another in fellowship
- 2) To provide opportunity for Christian worship and service
- 3) To preach and teach the Word of God for the salvation of souls and the mutual edification, encouragement, instruction and discipline of the Church's members and adherents.
- 4) To instruct children and youth in the Word of God
- 5) To help Christians grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 6) To maintain an active program of local and world-wide evangelism.
- 7) To acquire and own, by purchase, gift, lease or otherwise, title to such real and personal property as may be necessary for the realization of the objectives herein set forth.
- 8) To administer the ordinances of baptism and communion as specified in our doctrinal statement.

## ARTICLE III

No part of the Society's income shall be payable to or otherwise available for the personal benefit of any member thereof. In the event of the dissolution or winding-up of the Society and after the payment or satisfaction of its debts, liabilities and obligations, the remaining property and assets of the Society, including any unexpended income, shall be transferred or donated to such society, corporation or association in Canada having objects in whole or in part similar or conducive to attaining the objects of the Society set out in paragraph 2 hereof as may be authorized by extraordinary resolution except that if the said society, corporation or association authorized by extraordinary resolution is not a recognized charitable organization in Canada then to one or more recognized charitable organizations in Canada.

## ARTICLE IV Doctrinal Statement

- a) We emphatically affirm our unwavering faith in the Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testaments as divinely and super-naturally inspired, infallibly true as found in the original manuscripts, and our supreme and final authorized rule of faith and practice. We believe "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

*(II Timothy 3:16,17)*

#### **ARTICLE IV Doctrinal Statement – con't**

- b) We believe in one God, creator of all things, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
*(John 14:26)*
- c) We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.  
*(Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:35)*
- d) We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men of sin, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, instruct and guide the believer into all truth.  
*(John 14:16,17; 16:7-11, 13,14)*
- e) 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.  
*(Genesis 1:26,27; 2:17)*
- f) We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection according to scripture is our representative and propitiatory sacrifice. Jesus Christ provides the only grounds for the justification and salvation for all who believe. Only those who receive Jesus Christ by faith are born of the Holy Spirit, and thus become the children of God and members of the Church.  
*(I John 1:9; John 1:12; 3:3,7, 16-17, 36; I Peter 1:23)*
- g) We believe that Christian baptism is an ordinance to be administered to believers, as declarative of their faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour, and full purpose of obedience in holiness and righteousness.  
*(Matt. 29:19,20; 3:13-17; Acts 8:37,38)*
- h) We believe that the Lord's Supper is an ordinance in which the sacred use of bread and wine symbolizes and commemorates the death of our Lord until He comes again. All true believers, after careful self-examination, may participate in the Lord's Supper.  
*(Matt. 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:23-29)*
- i) We believe in the blessed hope, the personal, bodily visible, imminent return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We are admonished in the Word to be ever ready and watchful.  
*(Matt. 24:42; 25:13; Titus 3:13; I Thess. 4:16,17)*
- j) 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.  
*(I Thess. 4:16; Rev. 20:13-15; Luke 16:23,24)*
- k) We believe that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church. The Church is to labour for the salvation of souls and for the edification of believers. Every local Church has the right and responsibility, under Christ, to decide and govern its own affairs.  
*(Acts 2:41-47; Hebrews 10:25)*

**ARTICLE IV Doctrinal Statement – con't**

l) The fundamental principles of the Fort Langley Evangelical Free Church are based upon the Word of God. Therefore, every member of this Church is expected to live in accordance with the revealed teachings of the Bible; to avoid and refrain from that which is in disharmony with the Word of God, destructive to the Christian life, harmful to the church or dishonourable to God.

m) Every member is earnestly admonished to refrain from slander and evil speaking of one another, to pray constantly for the Church, its members and ministry; to attend the services of the Church, and to live a holy and Godly life in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.

*(Phil. 2:15)*

n) The institution of marriage was ordained by God in the time of man's innocence and is, according to His Word, "Honourable in all." Our people should cherish this sacred estate as becomes Christians, and should enter into it only after earnest prayer for Divine direction and blessing. Scripture forbids a Christian entering into marriage with an unbeliever. (*// Cor. 6:14*). We recognize no other grounds for divorce among believers other than that permitted in the Word of God. (*Matt. 19:9*). The Church should be understanding of those who have in the past been disobedient to God's laws in this regard, but are now in fellowship with God.

**ARTICLE V**

The aforementioned provisions in Articles III and IV of this Constitution are unalterable.

**ARTICLE VI**

The Church shall be affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of Canada by virtue of its being a member of the District in which it is located.

While being a member of the Evangelical Free Church of Canada, it shall be autonomous, self-governing, and its own highest authority under God.

This is unalterable.

