

Sojourn Church of Spearfish, SD

Constitution

Article 1

Name

The name of this church shall be Sojourn Church of Spearfish, South Dakota.

Article 2

Purpose

Our desire is to bring glory to God by being centered on Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, driven by the gospel, saturated with the Bible, and deliberate in discipleship.

Article 3

Statement of Faith

I. The Word of God

We believe that the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is the Word of God, fully inspired by the Holy Spirit and without error in the original manuscripts. We believe that it is wholly sufficient as Divine revelation, and it alone has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

II. The Trinity

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three persons, being one in essence, are equal in every divine perfection, and they perform distinct but harmonious functions in the work of creation, providence, and redemption.

III. God the Father

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. We

believe that He is unchangeable in His being, all glorious in His nature, and absolutely sovereign over creation, providence, and redemption.

IV. Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary, atoning death; bodily resurrection; ascension into heaven; perpetual intercession for His people; and His future, personal, and visible return to earth.

V. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and the Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment and to apply the benefits of Christ's work to the elect in regeneration and sanctification. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide. We believe that every believer in Christ is baptized by the Holy Spirit at salvation and receives one or more spiritual gifts for the blessing and benefit of the church.

VI. Salvation

We believe that man was created by God in His own image; that he sinned and thereby incurred physical, spiritual, and eternal death, which is separation from God; that as a consequence, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and willfully sin by choice and are therefore under condemnation. We believe that God in His free and sovereign grace saves sinners as He wills. Salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone, and true believers will persevere in faith and good works unto the end. This good news of salvation is freely offered to all, but it requires faith in Christ, which is enabled through regeneration by the Holy Spirit, making those who are predestined to eternal life willing and able to believe.

VII. The Church

We believe in the universal church, a living, spiritual body of which Christ is the head, composed of people who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and have put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe in the local church, whose membership consists of a company of baptized believers in Jesus Christ, who meet regularly for

worship, Bible study, prayer, the Lord's supper, and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world. We believe in the autonomy and independence of the local church, although voluntary cooperation with other churches, associations, or organizations may prove beneficial.

VIII. Christian Conduct

We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and that he should seek the well-being of his fellow man; that his conduct should be one of pursuing holiness before God and blamelessness before the world; that he should seek to be a faithful steward of his possessions; and that he should seek to realize for himself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. We disavow a legalistic approach to the Christian life and believe in the liberty of conscience.

IX. The Ordinances

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's supper. We believe that the regular mode of Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water in the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's supper was instituted by Christ for believers as a continual and tangible reminder of His sacrificial death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered by each local church until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

X. The Last Things

We believe in the personal, visible, and imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His eternal kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgement, the endless suffering of the wicked, and the eternal blessedness of the believer.

Article 4

Church Covenant

Having been brought by God's grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give ourselves up to him, and having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant with each other, as one body in Christ.

We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

We will walk together in Christian love; exercise an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other; and faithfully warn, rebuke, and admonish one another as occasion may require.

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor neglect to pray for ourselves and others.

We will endeavor to raise the children under our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and seek the salvation of our family and friends by a pure and loving example.

We will rejoice in each other's happiness and bear each other's burdens and sorrows.

We will seek to live carefully in the world, with God's help, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and remembering that, as we have been buried with Christ in baptism and raised with him through faith, so there is now on us a special obligation to lead a new and holy life.

We will work together to continue a faithful evangelical ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrine.

We will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of this ministry, the expenses of this church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We will, if we move from this place, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

Article 5

Status

This church shall be free and autonomous. However, recognizing a biblical pattern of interdependency, we may choose to affiliate with other churches or an association of churches which are like-minded.

Article 6

Amendments

An amendment to this constitution may be made at any business meeting of the church at which a quorum of members (50% + 1) is present.

1. Proposed amendments will be made available to members in written form at least three (3) weeks prior to the business meeting at which it will be considered.
2. The intention to consider an amendment must be announced at two (2) Sunday morning services prior to the business meeting at which it will be considered.
3. The proposed amendment must be presented in written form and discussed at the business meeting.
4. Amendments to this constitution must be approved by a seventy-five percent (75%) affirmative vote by the membership present at the business meeting.

Article 7

Provisions for Bylaws

A document known as the Bylaws supplements this constitution.

A revision to the Bylaws may be made at any business meeting of the church at which a quorum of members (50% + 1) is present.

1. Proposed revisions will be made available to members in written form at least three (3) weeks prior to the business meeting at which it will be considered.
2. The intention to consider a revision must be announced at two (2) Sunday morning services prior to the business meeting at which it will be considered.
3. The proposed revision must be presented in written form and discussed at the business meeting.

4. Revisions to the Bylaws must be approved by a seventy-five percent (75%) affirmative vote by the membership present at the business meeting.

Article 8

Property Rights and Dissolution

If a division should occur in this church (may God prevent this), the name and all the property are to be retained by those adhering to this Constitution and to the Statement of Faith provided herein. If the church and its incorporation are dissolved, the property and all assets shall be donated to a church planted by this church or another church so designated by the remaining corporate officers prior to dissolution, for the purpose of furthering the gospel. No rights or any financial compensation will accrue to any individual member.

I, the undersigned clerk of Sojourn Church, do hereby certify that the above Constitution was adopted on _____ by the members and that this Constitution is current and in operation as of that time.

Church Clerk

Date