

# Policy Manual of Freedom Bible Church

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# **Policy Manual of Freedom Bible Church**

## **Article 1 Church Name and History**

The official and legal name of this church shall be Freedom Bible Church, of Sutherland's River, Pictou County, Nova Scotia.

The church was founded in 1990 by Jim and Mary O'Connor, with the vision of establishing a Bible preaching and gospel reaching church in the eastern Pictou County area. It began meeting in the Sutherland's River Community Center and was officially incorporated in 1993. In 1998, by the grace of God, the church purchased the Reid farm in Sutherland's River. Renovations were begun to the barn and the first service was held in April 2000. Further renovations to the worship area were completed in October 2004. The original vision God gave the O'Connors has been realized and along the way the Lord has added many souls through the ministry.

## **Church Authority and Affiliation**

Freedom Bible Church is an independent and self-governing New Testament local church, which recognizes the Holy Scriptures as the only source of authority for faith and practice. It is independent in its policy and shall not be under the control of any outside body. Its relation to other churches of like precious faith or convention of churches shall be for the purpose of fellowship, and in what ever way the church deems to co-operate by corporate act. We are a Conservative Evangelical church, fundamental in doctrine, with a blend of the contemporary and traditional in practice. The church became affiliated with Village Missions of Canada in 1994, for the purpose of providing the church with full time pastoral leadership, and reaching out with the gospel to the Pictou County area.

## **Article 2 Church Covenant**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God,  
to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior,  
and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,  
we do now in the presence of God, angels and this assembly,  
most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another,  
as one body in Christ.

We recognize that we are the children of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We agree with the Word of God that we have the position in Christ,  
of freedom from sin by the grace of God.

We understand that we are sanctified or set apart by God  
to live for Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We therefore agree to accept one another as the saints of God,  
and to encourage one another to faithfulness in our Christian walk.  
We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love;  
to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and service;  
to promote its prosperity and spirituality;  
to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines;  
and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry,  
the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor  
and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions;  
to educate our children in the Christian faith,  
to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances,  
to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings,  
faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our conduct;

To avoid all gossip, slander and excessive anger,  
to go directly to others when we have issues with them,  
to honor our bodies as the temple of the Holy Spirit,  
to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior,  
and to give Him pre-eminence in all things.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love,  
to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress,  
to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech,  
to be slow to take offence but always ready for reconciliation,  
and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that should we leave this place,  
we will as soon as possible unite with some other church  
where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant  
and the principles of God's word.

### **Article 3   Statement of Faith**

#### **1. The Holy Scriptures**

We believe in the verbal and plenary inspiration of all 66 books of the Bible, which is the infallible, preserved written Word of God, communicated by the Holy Spirit to the prophets, inerrant in the original manuscripts, and that it is our final authority for all matters of faith and practice. (Mt.5:18, 2Tim.3:16, 2Pet.1:21)

#### **2. The True God**

We believe in one God, the creator of heaven and earth, manifesting Himself in three equal persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Dt.6:4, Mt.28:19, Ep.4:4-6)

### 3. The Lord Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is very God and very man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, died on Calvary's cross making a vicarious and voluntary atonement for our sins, rose bodily the third day, ascended bodily to

Heaven where He acts as the believer's Advocate and will return bodily, visibly and pre-millennial to reign over the earth.

(Jn.1:1-2, Col.2:9, Heb.1:8, Mt.1:23, 1Cor.15:3-4, Ac.1:9,11, 1Jn.2:1, Rev.19:11-16)

### 4. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the absolute Deity and personality of the Holy Spirit, who convicts unbelievers of sin, righteousness and judgement. At the moment of salvation the Holy Spirit regenerates, baptizes, indwells, seals, and sanctifies. The Holy Spirit thereafter illumines, comforts and empowers the believer in Christ. We further believe that there is no baptism of the Holy Spirit evidenced by speaking in tongues.

(Jn.14:16-17, Jn.16:8-11, Ti.3:5, 1Cor.12:13, Ep.1:13-14, Ro.15:16, 2Th.2:13)

### 5. Man

We believe that mankind was divinely created male and female, body, soul and spirit in the image of God but fell into sin, becoming guilty before God, resulting in total depravity, thus born with a sinful nature, thereby incurring physical and spiritual death. (Ge.1:26-27, Ro.3:23, 5:12-19, 6:23)

### 6. Satan

We believe that Satan is a personal being, a fallen angel, the god of this age, the adversary and accuser of the brethren, whose seeks to blind and ensnare, whose end is the lake of fire.

(Isa.14:12-15, Ezk.28:12-19, 1Pet.5:8, 2Cor.4:4, Rev.12:10, 20:10)

### 7. The Eternal State

We believe in the everlasting blessedness of those saved by faith in Jesus Christ in Heaven, in the presence of God, and in the everlasting punishment in Hell, the Lake of Fire, of those lost because of impenitence and rejection of God's offer of salvation.

(Jn.14:2, 2Cor.5:6-8, Mt.25:41,46, Rev.20:12-15; 21:8)

### 8. Salvation

We believe that there is only one way of salvation which is entirely by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation is the gift of eternal life and is the work of God in election, calling, justification, regeneration, and glorification and those truly born again cannot lose their salvation. Salvation is made possible only through the atoning blood sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation is received by repentance from sin and placing our personal faith and trust in the Jesus Christ as our substitute. (John.3:3,7,15-18; 5:24; 14:6; 20:30-31; Acts 4:12, Rom.3:25; 10:9-13)

### 9. Creation

We believe the Genesis account of creation is the literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God without any evolutionary process. All mankind are descended from the historical Adam and Eve. (Gen.1-2, Col.1:16-17)

#### 10. The New Testament Local Church

We believe that the church is a company of born again believers called out from the world and separated unto Christ, voluntarily associated for the ministry of the word, edification of its members and propagation of the gospel. It is a sovereign, independent body exercising divinely appointed gifts and precepts under its head Jesus Christ. Its officers are elders (including the pastor) and deacons.

(1Cor.12:12-27; Ep.1:22-23, 4:4-6, 11-12, Ac.2:41-47)

#### 11. The Ordinances

We believe there are only two ordinances for the church: baptism, which is the immersion of the believer in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to identify with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection and the Lord's Supper, which is the partaking of the symbols of bread (Christ's body) and the cup (Christ's blood), remembering and proclaiming Christ's death until He comes.

(Matt.28:19-20, Acts8:36-39, Rom.6:3-5, Matt.26:26-29, 1Cor.11:23-28)

#### 12. Separation

We believe in ecclesiastical separation from all who deny the inspiration of the Scriptures and Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, and God commands us to live lives set apart from worldly and sinful practices. (Rom.16:17, 2Cor.6:14-17, 1Jn.2:15-17)

#### 13. The Lord's Day

We believe Sunday is the divinely appointed day for worship, and Christians have the freedom to worship on other days. (Acts20:7, 1Cor.16:2, Rom.14:1-6)

#### 14. Christian Stewardship

We believe it is the voluntary giving of time, talent and offerings to the work of the Lord, support of the church and spread of the gospel. (Gen.14:20, 2Cor.9:6-7)

#### 15. Civil Government

We believe it is divinely appointed for our good by God, to be prayed for and obeyed, except when opposed to the will of Jesus Christ. (Rom.13:1-5, 1Tim.2:1-2, Acts 5:29)

#### 16. Theological Statement

We are a church based on the historical positions of Dispensation theology. We are Pre-Millennial regarding the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, Pre-Tribulation regarding the Rapture of the Church, and believe in a literal 1000 year Millennial Kingdom of Christ on this earth after His Coming.

(Gen.12:1-3, Heb.1:1, Rev.20:4, 1Thes 4:13-5:11, 2Thes 2:1-12)

#### 17. The Church and Israel

We believe that the church has not superseded or replaced Israel in the program of God. Rather, we believe that God will fulfil the Old Testament prophecies to restore Israel to her rightful land and that as a nation Israel will accept Jesus Christ as Messiah at His Second Coming. We believe the Jewish people need to be saved in the same way as any other, by personal repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom.9:4-5, Rom.10:1,9-10, Rom.11:1, 25-26).

#### 18. Marriage and Sexuality

We believe that God created us as male and female, and that God designed human sexuality to be practised in marriage between a husband and wife to the exclusion of all others, and that all other kinds of sexual expression, including homosexuality, are not the will of God. We do not advocate any manner of promotion of hatred against any group we disagree with, and we do not compromise on our belief in what God has ordained regarding sexuality. We also uphold the rights of the unborn.

(Gen.1:27, Gen.2:24-25, Lev.18, Mt.19:4-6, Rom.1:26-27, 1Cor.6:9-11).

#### **Article 4   Amendments**

This Policy Manual may not be amended except by 100% vote of the Elders, and then recommended to the Church, where a 75% vote of a quorum of 50% of the active Church membership shall be required.