

Agape Family Fellowship

Organization Documents

Agape Family Fellowship
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INTRODUCTION

We, the Covenant Community of Agape Family Fellowship, are desiring to be organized as closely as possible to the New Testament pattern of church life. We recognize the Bible as our authority, guide, and true organizational document. This document is not intended in any way to replace or add to the Word of God. It is for the purpose of clearly communicating the vision of, the beliefs held by, and the structure of Agape Family Fellowship.

VISION

Vision is a picture of what AGAPE looks like when firing on all cylinders. It is what we will see when we are in sync with God. It is completely impossible without God. At AGAPE we want to see people experience **COMPLETE FREEDOM IN CHRIST** (Luke 4:16ff, Romans 6).

Complete freedom includes freedom from...

- the philosophies of our world
- the dysfunction of relationships
- the dependence on substances or activities to ease pain
- the grip of pride and selfishness
- Anything that hinders us (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Complete freedom includes freedom to...

- Have an intimate relationship with God
- Experience Him in every area of life
- Join Him in the plans He has for us

MISSION

Mission is our part in moving toward the vision. This is the direction we head as individuals toward the vision. At AGAPE **WE WILL ACTIVELY PURSUE PERSONAL FREEDOM WITH ALL OUR HEARTS & WE WILL GENEROUSLY OFFER FREEDOM TO OTHERS WITH ALL OUR HEARTS.** We cannot offer what we do not have and others cannot receive what we do not offer.

VALUES

Values are those principles that guide us on our mission. They are the truths we embrace when things get tough and we cannot see far into the future. They keep us headed in the right direction in order to fulfill our mission and vision.

Transformational Truth (John 8:32, 2 Timothy 3:16-16)

Authentic Relationship (Acts 3:19, James 5:13-16)

Missional Journey (John 20:21, Matthew 28:18-20)

AFFILIATION

Church Venture

Agape Family Fellowship is affiliated with Conservative Baptist Northwest. We also seek to cooperate with other churches or organizations of like faith for the purposes of helping people find FREEDOM in CHRIST.

WE BELIEVE...

1. The Bible is God's letter to us. It is our source of truth and our authority for every area of life. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21)
2. There is only one God, existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 2:10-11, 13:14, John 10:30)
3. People are created for relationship with God. However, we all have desires and act contrary to Him, resulting in separation instead of closeness. (Romans 5:12, Ephesians 2:1-3, Isaiah 59:2)
4. People are eternal beings and will spend eternity with God or apart from Him. (John 14:1-3, 1 John 5:11-13, 2 Thessalonians 1:9, Revelation 14:11, Matthew 25:46)
5. Jesus Christ is God, was born of a virgin, and never acted contrary to His Father. He lived in perfect relationship with His Father. We believe His death paid the penalty for our wrong doing against God, and when we trust in Him as our Savior, we will experience the relationship we were made for. He is the only way this can happen. His resurrection guarantees our future life. We believe that He is coming back one day. (Matthew 1:18-23, 1 Peter 1:18-21, Romans 3:24-25, 4:4-5, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, Hebrews 4:14-16, John 1:12, Romans 10:9-10, John 14:6, John 14:1-3, Acts 1:11)

6. The Holy Spirit is God and lives within all those who trust Jesus Christ. He reminds us of truth and gives us victory in everyday life. As we surrender to the Holy Spirit we will see freedom in our lives. (Romans 8:9-17, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 1:13-14, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Ephesians 5:18, Romans 8:4-8, Galatians 5:16-25, 1 Corinthians 3:1-3)
7. All those who trust Jesus Christ belong to one church, the universal church, with Jesus in charge. It is also important for Jesus' followers to be committed to a local church. This is God's plan and the best environment for growth and freedom to take place. (Ephesians 1:22-23, 1 Corinthians 12:12, 18-20, 26-27, Romans 12:5, 10, 16, Hebrews 13:17, Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Timothy 5:19-20, Galatians 6:1)

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

In structuring Agape Family Fellowship we have two key desires. One is to follow the models laid out in the Bible. Two, we want the structure to be simple. That means that it is adequate to enable the church to flourish, but not so much as to restrict life.

Agape Family Fellowship will function as a body in unity and love. It will be lead by a ministry team. This team includes the following parts: Pastors, Elders, and Ministry Leaders.

PASTOR – A pastor is a man who lives out 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. He is a man who is day by day growing closer to God. Further, he must have a calling by God which is a very high personal sense of having been summoned by God for this task. (Acts 20:28, 1 Timothy 1:12, Colossians 1:25) His responsibility

is to serve, leading both with his life and his words. He must be able to teach, to protect, and to encourage all those who are under his care. He is also responsible for developing leaders within the church family. The pastor is accountable ultimately to God, but also to the other elders. He is himself also an elder.

Should a new pastor be needed, the elders will do careful research and pray fervently before selecting someone. They will then ask the Covenant Community to affirm that person.

ELDER – The ministry of Agape Family Fellowship is to be under the direction of the Lord Jesus Christ by means of the Elders. Just as the Pastor, he is a man who lives out 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. The elders are to oversee the whole of AGAPE and must be fervent about God's word, prayer, and shepherding. They must be students of God's word and able to teach it. Teaching can take place in large groups or on an individual level. They must be devoted to prayer. They must be committed to the good of the AGAPE family. They step in when there are struggles, especially of the disunity kind. The elders live the kind of lives others in the family can model and imitate. There is mutual submission and accountability to the other elders. (Acts 6:4, 1 Peter 5:1-4)

When a new elder is needed or desired a candidate is selected by the pastor, affirmed by the elders, and then affirmed by the AGAPE Covenant Community. This will take place with much prayer. There is no term limit for an elder. They can serve as long as they have the desire, as long as they are able to serve effectively, and they continue to be qualified.

If any accusation is brought against an elder concerning a moral charge or other serious character or behavioral problem, it will

be addressed with the existing elders and the person bringing the charge. They will then make the necessary decisions regarding the situation. (1 Timothy 5:19-20, Galatians 6:1, Matthew 18:15-17) Any crucial information will be communicated to Covenant Community. If there are larger issues that need to be addressed, the elder board will invite the Jefferson Baptist Church elder board to help in oversight.

MINISTRY LEADER – This is someone who is directly involved in leading ministries. These will meet the standards in 1 Timothy 3:8ff. They will “shepherd” the areas within their responsibility. The Pastor will provide assistance in whatever ways possible, but he will encourage them to have vision for their ministry and plan how to make it happen. (Acts 6:4)

AGAPE COVENANT COMMUNITY

At Agape Family Fellowship we believe once a person has trusted Christ, they are a child of God, and therefore a member of His family. We also believe that we cannot find freedom by going through life alone. That is why we encourage each person to be a part of the AGAPE Covenant Community.

Every year will present the opportunity for anyone to sign this covenant. By signing this covenant a person expresses their desire to be fully invested in AGAPE Family Fellowship. They embrace the values as their own and seek to live them out. They pursue the TRANSFORMATIONAL TRUTH of the Bible. They are committed to AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIP with God and others. They fight for unity, consistently pray, and engage in Home Groups. They invest in the MISSIONAL JOURNEY

God has put us on. This includes the investment of time, energy, gifts, money, etc.

By signing the Covenant, they are also expressing their desire for the Covenant Community to embrace them and look out for them. This could be meeting physical needs. This could be speaking the truth in love. This could be providing opportunities to serve. Covenants are a two way agreement.

When there are decisions that need to be affirmed, such as elder selection or a new pastor, a letter will be sent out to the Covenant Community to get their input. The elders will then use this input in their decision making process.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

This organizational document may be amended when the need for change is recognized by the elders. Through prayer and wise council they will make the necessary changes. Key changes will be affirmed by the Covenant Community.

PLACEMENT OF ASSETS

Should the AGAPE Family Fellowship cease to exist, all property and assets will go directly to Jefferson Baptist Church.

Elders:
