
“And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world (the Gospel of Christ is not merely a western Gospel, as some claim, but is for the entirety of the world), and preach the Gospel to every creature (‘preaching’ is God’s method, as is here plainly obvious; as well, it is imperative that every single person have the opportunity to hear; this is the responsibility of every Believer).”

Mark 16:15

ARTICLE I – Officers

The officers and board of World Evangelism Fellowship shall be the officers and board of Jimmy Swaggart Ministries.

ARTICLE II – Credentials Committee

There shall be a Credentials Committee to be comprised of those persons who have been appointed to said Committee by the President of World Evangelism Fellowship. It shall have authority to issue Certificates of Ordination to approved ministers, Certificates of License to approved ministers, Christian Worker’s Certificates to approved applicants, and Certificates of Affiliation to approved churches.

ARTICLE III – Churches

World Evangelism Fellowship shall provide a basis of recognition and fellowship among sovereign, autonomous church bodies who so desire to identify with this fellowship.

Upon approval by the World Evangelism Fellowship Credentials Committee, a Certificate of Affiliation shall be issued by the Chairman of the Committee, and the applicant shall be formally recorded and listed in the Directory of World Evangelism Fellowship churches.

ARTICLE IV – Tenets Of Faith

World Evangelism Fellowship accepts the Holy Scriptures as the revealed Will of God and the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and it adopts the following statement of fundamental truths, to wit:

1. **The Scriptures Inspired.** The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the Revelation of God to man; and they are the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (I Thess. 2:13; II Tim. 3:15-17; II Pet. 1:21).
2. **The One True God.** The One True God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent “I AM,” the Creator of Heaven and Earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deut. 6:4; Isa. 43:10-11; Mat. 28:19; Lk. 3:22).
3. **The Deity Of The Lord Jesus Christ.** The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare the following:
 - a. His virgin birth (Mat. 1:23; Lk. 1:31, 35).
 - b. His sinless life (Heb. 7:26; I Pet. 2:22).
 - c. His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
 - d. His Substitutionary Work on the Cross (I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21).
 - e. His bodily Resurrection from the dead (Mat. 28:6; Lk. 24:39; I Cor. 15:4).
 - f. His Exaltation to the Right Hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 1:1-3).
4. **The Fall Of Man.** Man was created good and upright, for God said, *“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness”* (Gen. 1:26). However, man, by voluntary transgression, fell and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:17; 3:6; Rom. 5:12-19).
5. **The Salvation Of Man.** Man’s only hope of Redemption is through the shed Blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
 - a. Conditions Of Salvation. Salvation is received through Repentance toward God and Faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of Regeneration and Renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by Grace through Faith,

man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Lk. 24:47; Jn. 3:3; Rom. 10:13-15; Eph. 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

- b. **The Evidences Of Salvation.** The inward evidence of Salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Rom. 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of Righteousness and true Holiness (Eph. 4:24; Titus 2:12).
6. **The Ordinances Of The Church.** Two ordinances of the Body of Christ are set forth in Scripture:
- a. *Baptism In Water.* The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Saviour and Lord are to be baptized. Thus, they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they have also been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Mat. 28:19; Mk. 16:16; Acts 10:47; Rom. 6:4).
 - b. *Holy Communion.* The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine, is the symbol expressing the Divine Nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (II Pet. 1:4). It is a memorial of His suffering and death (I Cor. 11:26); a prophecy of His Second Coming (I Cor. 11:26); and it is enjoined on all Believers "*till He come.*"
7. **The Baptism With The Holy Spirit.** All Believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the Baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts, and the use of the gifts in the work of the ministry (Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; I Cor. 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the New Birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the Baptism with the Holy Spirit comes such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (Jn. 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Heb. 12:28), an intensified concentration to God and dedication to His Work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost (Mk. 16:20).

8. **The Evidence Of The Baptism With The Holy Spirit.** The Baptism of Believers with the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4; 10:45-46; 19:6). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (I Cor. 12:4-10, 28), but is different in purpose and use.
9. **Sanctification.** Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil and of dedication unto God (Rom. 12:1-2; I Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of *“holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord”* (Heb. 12:14). By the Power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: *“Be ye holy; for I am holy”* (I Pet. 1:15-16). Sanctification is realized in the Believer by the Believer recognizing his identification and union with Christ in His Death and Resurrection, by relying daily in faith upon that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the communion of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6:11, 13; 8:1-2, 13; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 2:12-13; I Pet. 1:5).
10. **The Church.** The church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with Divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each Believer, born of the Spirit is an integral part of *“the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in Heaven”* (Heb. 12:23; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:22).
11. **The Ministry.** Divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for a twofold purpose: 1. The edifying of the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:11-13) and 2. The evangelization of the world (Mk. 16:15-20).
12. **Divine Healing.** Divine healing is an integral part of the Gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the Atonement and is the privilege of all Believers (Isa. 53:4-5; Mat. 8:16-17; James 5:14-16).
13. **The Blessed Hope.** The Second Coming of Christ includes the Rapture of the Saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His Saints to reign on Earth for one thousand years (Zech. 14:5; Mat. 24:27, 30; Rev. 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This Millennial Reign will bring the Salvation of Israel (Ezek. 37:21-22; Zeph. 3:19-20; Rom. 11:26-27)

and the establishment of universal peace (Ps. 72:3-8; Isa. 11:6-9; Mic. 4:3-4).

14. **The Final Judgment.** There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. He whose name is not found written in the Book of Life will be consigned to everlasting punishment, together with the Devil and his angels and the false prophet, in *“the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”* (Rev. 21:8; Mat. 25:46; Mk. 9:43-48; Rev. 19:20; 20:11-15).
15. **The New Heavens And The New Earth.** “We, according to His promise, look for new Heavens and a new Earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (II Pet. 3:13; Rev., Chpts. 21-22).
16. **Marriage and Sexuality** We believe that because God our Creator established marriage as a sacred institution between one natural-born man (hereinafter “man”) and one natural-born woman (hereinafter “woman”), the idea that marriage is a covenant only between one man and one woman has been the traditional definition of marriage for all of human history (“Traditional Definition of Marriage”). In Genesis 2:18-24, the Lord God specifically made Eve (woman) to be the help meet for Adam (man) and created the first Marriage Union. Upon receiving his help meet, Adam said, “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife.” This fundamental principle of marriage is found again in Matthew 19:4-6 where in speaking about marriage Jesus referred to the fact that “He which made them at the beginning made them male and female.” Because of the longstanding importance of the Traditional Definition of Marriage to humans and their relationships and communities, and, most importantly, the fact that God has ordained that marriage be between one man and one woman, as clearly conveyed in God’s inerrant Scriptures, the Church hereby creates this policy, which shall be known as the “Marriage and Sexuality Policy.”

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Church’s Marriage and Sexuality Policy and conduct

themselves accordingly. Under this Church's Marriage and Sexuality Policy, the Traditional Definition of Marriage is the only definition of marriage that will be recognized or accepted. No elder, officer, employee, servant, agent, volunteer, or any person, corporation, organization, or entity under the direction or control of this Church shall commit any act or omission, or make any decision whatever, that would be inconsistent with, or that could be perceived by any person to be inconsistent with, full support of this Church's Marriage and Sexuality Policy and strict adherence to the Traditional Definition of Marriage rather than any alternative to the Traditional Definition of Marriage.

WEF's Marriage and Sexuality Policy specifically prohibits acts or omissions including but not limited to permitting any Family Worship Center Church (Church) assets or property, whether real property, personal property, intangible property, or any property or asset of any kind that is subject to the direction or control of the Church, to be used in any manner that would be or could be perceived by any person to be inconsistent with this Church's Marriage and Sexuality Policy or the Traditional Definition of Marriage, including but not limited to permitting any church facilities to be used by any person, organization, corporation, or group that would or might use such facilities to convey, intentionally or by implication, what might be perceived as a favorable impression about any definition of marriage other than the Traditional Definition of Marriage. Further, use of any of the Church assets and/or property (as described above) for the purpose of hosting any marriage ceremony and/or related gatherings (i.e., showers, receptions, etc.) is limited to active members of the Church only. Active membership in the Church shall be determined based at least in part upon the individual's regular attendance at Church services and functions as well as his/her tithing.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of this Church.

We believe this Fellowship's Marriage and Sexuality Policy is based upon God's Will for human life as conveyed to us through the Holy Scriptures, upon which this Church has been founded and anchored, and this Marriage and Sexuality Policy shall not be subject to change through popular vote; referendum; prevailing opinion of members or the general public; influence of or interpretation by any government authority, agency, or official action; or legal developments on the local, state, or federal level.

17. **The Message of the Cross.** We believe that the Message of the Cross—faith continually exercised in Jesus Christ and Him crucified for salvation and sanctification—is the new covenant. This message, originally given to the apostle Paul, is supported by these four elements of biblical truth:
 - a. Jesus Christ is the source of all things that believers receive from God (Jn. 1:1, 14, 29; 14:6, 20; Col. 2:10-15).
 - b. The Cross of Christ is the means by which all of these things are given to believers (Rom. 6:1-14; Gal. 6:14; Col. 2:14-15).
 - c. The Cross of Christ must be the believer's object of faith (I Cor. 1:17, 18, 23; 2:2).
 - d. The Holy Spirit, who works exclusively within the parameters of the finished work of Christ, superintends this entire process in the believer's life. (Rom. 8:1-14; Eph. 2:13-18).
18. **Alcohol.** We believe that every Christian should be opposed to the consumption of alcohol in any form or amount. Believers, especially those called to ministry, should desire to set a good example before the world and take a public stand against any and all use of alcohol. Isaiah 28:7 says, *“But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way*

through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.” (See also Prov. 20:1, 23:29-32; Isa. 5:11,22, 28:1,7; Hab. 2:15-17).

ARTICLE V – Ministry

Section 1. *Ministry Described.* Christ’s gifts to the Church include Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers (Eph. 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders, and helpers (Rom. 12:7-8). In terms of maturity of ministry, three classifications of ministry are recognized. These are: the Ordained Minister, the Licensed Minister, and the Christian Worker. Ministers holding Certificates of Ordination and License to Preach are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacradotal functions) of the Church.

Section 2. *Basic Qualifications.* The following qualifications pertain to all applicants for ministerial recognition:

- A. Testimony of having experienced the New Birth (Jn. 3:5).
- B. Testimony of having received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit-filled life will enable him to fulfill the threefold mission of the Church.
- C. Clear evidence of a Divine Call to the ministry, evidenced by personal conviction and confirmed by the Work of the Holy Spirit and the testimony of fellow ministers.
- D. A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are without (I Tim. 3:7).
- E. A thorough understanding of, and agreement with, our doctrinal position as contained in the Tenets of Faith (see Article IV of these Bylaws).
- F. An active loyalty to our Bylaws agreement and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of their brethren.
- G. Any level of formal academic achievement (diploma or degree) shall not be a requirement for credentials; however, it shall be required of applicants that they demonstrate adequate knowledge of: 1. The Bible; 2. World Evangelism Fellowship doctrine; and, 3. Ministerial practices by having completed courses of study recommended by the Credentials Committee.

Section 3. Levels of Ministry. There shall be three levels of ministry recognized by World Evangelism Fellowship:

- A. *Christian Worker.* Efficient helpers in Gospel work who devote a part of their time to Christian service and, whenever possible, remain under the supervision of a pastor, may be recognized as Christian Workers. Eligible candidates shall be actively engaged in some aspect of ministry, except in case of ill health or infirmity.
- B. *License.* Persons who demonstrate clear evidence of a Divine Call, have practical experience in preaching, together with an evident purpose to devote one's time to preaching the Gospel, and who are actively engaged in some aspect of the ministry are eligible for license.
- C. *Ordination.* Qualifications for ordination are outlined in the New Testament Scriptures (I Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9). In addition:
 - 1. The applicant shall give evidence of maturity in character.
 - 2. The applicant must have met all the requirements in making application and in completing the prescribed application form of World Evangelism Fellowship.
 - 3. No person may be ordained to the ministry until he shall have held a License to Preach and shall have been engaged in active work as a Pastor, Evangelist, or some other recognized and proven full-time ministry for a period of time which shall indicate full proof of his ministry.
- D. *Ministers From Other Organizations.* If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with World Evangelism Fellowship, the Committee is under no obligation to accept the applicant's previous ministerial status, but will judge each candidate on his or her own merits as to the level of credentials to be granted. Such applicants shall be required to:
 - 1. Conform to World Evangelism Fellowship criteria for recognition.
 - 2. Complete an application(s) for ministerial recognition.
 - 3. Submit a recommendation(s) for ministerial recognition.
 - 4. Meet the Credentials Committee, if requested.

All persons who have been previously ordained shall not be reordained. Those who are being upgraded in their credential from License to Ordination shall be ordained by the laying on of hands.

Section 4. *Action Of Credentials Committee.* All credentials shall be granted by and/or shall be under the jurisdiction of the World Evangelism Fellowship Credentials Committee.

Section 5. *Certificates.* All certificates shall be issued by the World Evangelism Fellowship Credentials Committee – Christian Worker, License, and Ordination. Certificates shall be accompanied by annual fellowship cards.

Section 6. *Credential Renewal and Reinstatement.* The following procedures will be followed for credential renewal and/or reinstatement.

- A. *Expiration Date.* All fellowship certificates are valid only until January 31 of the next year and must be renewed annually. The renewal fee is \$100 per year. The renewing of credentials is the responsibility of the individual minister. In the event that a minister has not received his or her renewal form by January 1, said minister should notify the World Evangelism Fellowship office.
- B. *Delinquent Renewals.* All renewal forms received by World Evangelism Fellowship which are not postmarked on or before January 31 shall be considered delinquent. Those renewing credentials that are delinquent will be required to pay a late fee of \$25 in addition to the \$100 renewal fee.
- C. *Reinstatement of Lapsed Credentials.* Ministers whose renewal applications are not postmarked on or before February 28 shall be recorded as lapsed as of the expiration date of January 31. Such individuals must make application for reinstatement and pay a fee of \$50 in addition to the \$100 renewal fee.

Section 7. *Restoration.* No charges against any credentialed minister of World Evangelism Fellowship shall be entertained by the World Evangelism Fellowship Credentials Committee unless the procedures as outlined in Matthew 18:15-17 are adhered to in totality.

- A. The offended party/parties shall go privately to the minister in question and shall endeavor to resolve the problem.

- B. If this does not result in resolution of the problem, the offended party and/or parties shall take with them one or two others that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.
- C. If this fails to bring about resolution of the problem, the charges shall be presented by written affidavits signed by three or more persons to the World Evangelism Fellowship Credentials Committee according to I Timothy 5:19-20. If the Committee determines that the charges are valid and warrant dismissal from the Fellowship, every effort will be made to restore the party to the Fellowship according to Galatians 6:1.

Section 8. *Official List.* An official list of all Ordained and Licensed Ministers, Christian Workers, and affiliated churches shall be compiled by the Credentials Committee of and published for the convenience of the Fellowship, with the understanding that it is not to be used for the purpose of solicitation. This official list shall be re-vised in a timely fashion and shall contain the names of those who are engaged in active ministry and whose certificates of fellowship have been renewed by the issuance of a fellowship card for the current year.

Section 9. *Ministerial and Church Relations.* The relationship between World Evangelism Fellowship and affiliated ministers and churches will be as follows:

- A. Credentialed ministers acknowledge by their signed application and acceptance of said credential that they submit to the Credentials Committee and the Articles and Bylaws of World Evangelism Fellowship in all matters pertaining to their credential relationship with World Evangelism Fellowship. Further, the signed application is a contractual indemnification of World Evangelism Fellowship by the credentialed minister in any and all matters of public and private liability, including malpractice or any other matters arising out of the ministry of actions of the credentialed minister.
- B. Any credential with World Evangelism Fellowship shall be interpreted to mean that World Evangelism Fellowship recognizes the Call of God on that person's life and the level of preparation by the individual to pursue that Call.
- C. Endorsement by World Evangelism Fellowship is limited to the conditions that World Evangelism Fellowship has examined

the applicant's stated doctrines and finds them consistent with World Evangelism Fellowship's standards for ministry, and that limited observation of the applicant's personal life reveals no prohibiting problems.

- D. The credentialed minister agrees, upon application, that all matters pertaining to his/her credentials with World Evangelism Fellowship will be determined by ecclesiastical process defined herein, and not by secular law and jurisprudence.
- E. Use of the "*World Evangelism Fellowship*" name, its logo, names and logos of its varying ministries and outreaches, or use of any other related copyright or trademark held or used by World Evangelism Fellowship is by permission only, with a contractual commitment to cease using names, logos, et cetera if the relationship between World Evangelism Fellowship and affiliate is terminated.
- F. World Evangelism Fellowship will exercise the following relationship with churches:
 - 1. World Evangelism Fellowship will not be involved in the internal management or operations of relating institutions.
 - 2. World Evangelism Fellowship shall have the right and full authority to exercise necessary control and involvement in the internal management and operations of all institutions in which it has a vested interest. World Evangelism Fellowship will relinquish all such control of said institutions at such time as they become fully independent and autonomous.