

TRANSITIONAL RULES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2019 STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. Districts:

Upon Conference approval of a revised Statement of Faith, each District of the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA) shall adopt the revised Statement of Faith as its Statement of Faith. Each District shall formally adopt the revised Statement of Faith no later than December 31 of the second year following the year in which the Conference approves the revised Statement of Faith.

Example: If a revised Statement of Faith is adopted by the Conference in June 2019, each District will be required to adopt the revised Statement of Faith as part of its Articles and/or Bylaws no later than December 31, 2021.

2. Existing Member Churches:

Even though existing member churches will not be required to adopt the revised Statement of Faith, the Conference expects that every church will seriously consider the desirability of adopting the revised Statement of Faith out of a spirit of commitment to the EFCA and to each other. This would be in keeping with the intent of the EFCA Bylaws, which state that all Evangelical Free churches have a common Statement of Faith (Article I.1).

3. Admission of New Churches:

The revised Statement of Faith will be an *acceptable* doctrinal standard immediately for the admission of new churches, whether planted or adopted, and will be the *only* doctrinal standard applied for the admission of new churches upon adoption of the revised Statement of Faith of the District in which the church is located, or after December 31 of the second year following the year in which the Conference approves the revised Statement of Faith, whichever occurs first. This is in accordance with the requirement in Article I.1 of the EFCA Bylaws that individual Evangelical Free churches “adopt the Statement of Faith in Article III of the Articles of Incorporation of the EFCA.”

4. Credentialing of Ministry Personnel:

In the credentialing of EFCA ministry personnel, the revised Statement of Faith will be an *acceptable* doctrinal standard immediately and will be the *only* doctrinal standard applied after December 31 of the year in which the Conference approves the revised Statement of Faith. This is in accordance with Article III.C.4 of the EFCA Bylaws, under which the districts “assist local churches and the Board of Ministerial Standing in the administration of credentialing, discipline and restoration” and in accordance with Article V.C.3.a of the EFCA Bylaws, which states that the Board of Ministerial Standing “shall seek to standardize the expectations of candidates for credentials throughout the EFCA.”

5. Reaffirmations of Statement of Faith:

Letters are sent from the EFCA to credentialed ministry personnel every five years seeking their continued affirmation, without mental reservation, of the Statement of Faith.

A. Ministry Personnel Credentialed Under the 1950 or 2008 Statement of Faith:

After December 31 of the year in which the Conference approves the revised Statement of Faith, ministry personnel who were originally credentialed under the 1950 Statement of Faith or the 2008 Statement of Faith may **elect** to base their written reaffirmations **either** upon the 1950 Statement of Faith, the 2008 Statement of Faith or the revised Statement of Faith.

B. Ministry Personnel Credentialed Under the Revised Statement of Faith:

After December 31 of the year in which the Conference approves the revised Statement of Faith, ministry personnel who have become credentialed under the revised Statement of Faith must base their written reaffirmations upon the revised Statement of Faith.

These provisions are in accordance with Article V.C.3.a of the EFCA Bylaws which speaks to the issue of preserving the doctrinal integrity of the Evangelical Free Church of America.

6. ReachGlobal:

In the commissioning of missionaries for service, the revised Statement of Faith will be an *acceptable* doctrinal standard immediately and will be the *only* doctrinal standard applied after December 31 of the year in which the Conference approves the revised Statement of Faith. This is in accordance with the policies and practices of ReachGlobal which require that all commissioned missionaries must agree to and sign, without mental reservation, the Statement of Faith of the EFCA.

7. EFCA Offices, Boards and Committees:

The revised Statement of Faith will be the only doctrinal standard applied after December 31 of the year in which the Conference approves the revised Statement of Faith. This is in accordance with applying the requirement in Article VII.A.1 of the EFCA Bylaws that persons elected, confirmed or appointed to the offices, boards, and committees of the EFCA “shall agree to and sign, without mental reservation, the Statement of Faith in Article III of the Articles of Incorporation of the EFCA.” The revised Statement of Faith will be the only doctrinal standard applied after December 31 of the year in which the Conference approves the revised Statement of Faith and shall apply to all District Superintendents.

