

CONSTITUTION COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH

PREAMBLE

The mission of Community Covenant Church is to serve God by calling people into a lasting personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and to enable them to live as His disciples in the world through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Evangelical Covenant Church (the "Covenant") of which Community Covenant Church is a member congregation, adheres to the affirmations of the Protestant Reformation regarding the Holy Bible, the Old and New Testament, as the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct. It has traditionally valued the historic confessions of the Christian Church, particularly the Apostles' Creed, while at the same time it has emphasized the sovereignty of the Word over all creedal interpretations. It has especially cherished the pietistic reaffirmation of the doctrine of justification by faith as basic to its dual task of evangelism and Christian nurture. This includes the New Testament emphasis upon personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, the reality of a fellowship of believers which recognizes but transcends theological differences, and the belief in baptism and the Lord's Supper as divinely ordained sacraments of the Church. While the denomination has traditionally practiced the baptism of infants, in conformity with its principle of freedom it has given room to divergent views. The principle of personal freedom, so highly esteemed by the Covenant Church, is to be distinguished from the individualism that disregards the centrality of the Word of God and the mutual responsibilities and disciplines of the spiritual community.

The Covenant has its roots in historical Christianity as it emerged in the Protestant Reformation, in the biblical instruction of the Lutheran State Church of Sweden, and in the great spiritual awakenings of the nineteenth century. These three influences have in large measure shaped its development and are to be borne in mind in seeking to understand its distinct spirit.

This document, which is in harmony with the above Preamble, is the Constitution and Bylaws of Community Covenant Church.

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of the Church shall be Community Covenant Church.

ARTICLE II

Confession of Faith

We believe in the Holy Bible, the Old and New Testament, as the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine and conduct.

ARTICLE III

Affiliation

The Church is a member of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) and its Pacific Southwest Conference. It is pledged to work in harmony with the ECC and the Pacific Southwest Conference, and to faithfully support the mission, ministries, and policies of each.

ARTICLE IV

Purpose

We covenant to cultivate a community of worship committed to prayer, preaching and study of the Word of God, the celebration of the sacraments, and fellowship across age, gender, race, culture, and class. In so doing, we covenant to equip loving, giving, growing Christians to encourage the growth and use of their spiritual gifts, to reach out with the good news of Jesus Christ-evangelizing the lost, ministering to those in need, and supporting missions at home and abroad.

ARTICLE V

Membership

Membership in the church is granted as provided in the Bylaws to those who through faith in God's Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, have been born anew to a living hope through the Holy Spirit, have been baptized according to the Holy Bible, desire to live a Christian life, promise to faithfully support the mission, ministries, and policies of the church, and to share in its fellowship and obligations.

ARTICLE VI

Governance

The authority of the government of this Church is vested in its membership acting through duly called congregational meetings. The management, administration and

oversight of business and spiritual affairs are delegated by the congregation to appropriate leadership as delineated in the Bylaws. All elected leadership specified in the Bylaws shall be members of the Church who have been attending regularly for at least one year.

ARTICLE VII

Officers

The officers of the church shall be a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. All officers shall be members of the Leadership Team selected in accordance with the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII

Congregational Meetings

An Annual Meeting shall be held as near the first of the fiscal year as feasible. At the Annual Meeting, progress reports shall be submitted by the pastor(s), ministry staff, officers, and ministry teams. An independent report of financial records shall be submitted by the Treasurer for the church and each of its organizations. Election for Leadership Team members, at-large members of the Nominating Team, and at-large members of the Mutual Ministry Team shall be held. The church budget shall be submitted for action.

Congregational meetings shall be held not less than semiannually. Items as required by the Constitution and Bylaws shall be submitted for congregational action.

Notice of all congregational business meetings shall be announced at two regular Sunday services, with written notice mailed to members to the member's address of record, and in both instances to occur not less than two weeks prior to the meeting, and shall include the date, time of meeting and a proposed agenda of business to be transacted.

ARTICLE IX

Assets of the Church

The congregation shall hold title to its own assets.

In the event of schism within the church, from which we earnestly pray God to spare us, in which there are competing claims to the assets by various factions of the

membership, the title of all church property, real or personal, shall remain with the group which abides by the Constitution and Bylaws, as determined by the Executive Board of the Pacific Southwest Conference.

No action for the sale or transfer of assets may be taken when the closure of the church is under consideration without the prior approval of the Executive Board of the Pacific Southwest Conference. In the event the congregation votes to cease, or to continue upon leaving its affiliation with the ECC and the Pacific Southwest Conference, the property and all assets of the church shall become and be the property of the ECC and the Pacific Southwest Conference, shared equally for the furtherance of the mission of both in that region, primarily through church planting.

ARTICLE X

Amendments

Amendments in harmony with this constitution, the Model Constitution for Local ECC Churches, non-profit laws of the State of California, and not in conflict with ECC principles and policies may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting in an Annual Meeting of the congregation, providing the proposed amendment was presented in written form at the preceding Annual Meeting. Articles IX (Assets) and X (Amendments) may be amended only with the approval of the Executive Board for the Pacific Southwest Conference.

This Constitution was adopted at the Annual Meeting, May 22, 2011 replacing the Constitution last revised January 22, 1985.