

**COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH
REPORT OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS REVIEW COMMITTEE
CONSTITUTION**

Original	Revised/Proposed	Explanation
<p style="text-align: center;">PREAMBLE</p> <p>No Preamble in previous version, however Article VI of the Bylaws, Section 1 addresses Holy Communion and Baptism as follows, "The sacrament of Holy Communion shall be conducted regularly as determined by vote of the church. The sacrament of Baptism shall be conducted in keeping with the Covenant principles and according to the needs of the constituency.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PREAMBLE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 restatement 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</p>	<p>Intended to represent our church in relationship to the spiritual heritage with which we have been blessed and is similar in text to what the Evangelical Covenant Church, as a denomination, adopted in 2002.</p>

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>This document, which is in harmony with the above Preamble, is the Constitution and Bylaws of Community Covenant Church.</p>	
<p align="center">ARTICLE I - NAME</p> <p>The name of this church shall be Community Covenant Church of Rocklin – Sunset Whitney, California.</p>	<p align="center">ARTICLE I Name</p> <p>The name of the Church shall be Community Covenant Church.</p>	<p>For a number of years the church has been identified with several different names, each of which contained “Community Covenant Church”. The church operates now consistent with the California state records as “Community Covenant Church”.</p>
<p align="center">ARTICLE III - CONFESSION OF FAITH</p> <p>This Church believes in the Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, as the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine and conduct.</p>	<p align="center">ARTICLE II Confession of Faith</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>A reversing of the order between current Articles II and III. Our Confession of Faith should stand first before we address Affiliation.</p> <p>The more common reference to the “Holy Bible” is substituted for “Holy Scriptures”.</p>
<p align="center">ARTICLE II - AFFILIATION</p>	<p align="center">ARTICLE III Affiliation</p>	<p>See explanation in box above for Article II.</p>

<p>This Church is a member of the Evangelical Covenant Church and its Pacific Southwest Conference and is pledged to work in harmony with the denomination and its decisions and to support its programs, policies and institutions.</p>	<p>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.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE IV - PURPOSE</p> <p>Sec. 1 The purpose of this church is to unite Christians in fellowship for spiritual development for the winning of persons to Christ and for the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Christian instruction, Home and World Missions, and the Institutions conducted by the Evangelical Covenant Church and its local regional conferences.</p> <p>Sec. 2 To fulfill this commitment, this church is irrevocably dedicated to religious and charitable responsibilities as its sole purpose.</p> <p>Sec. 3 In order to achieve this purpose this Church, in the unity of the Spirit, shall use the gifts that God has given it and the means of grace which God has placed at its disposal: The Word of god, Baptism, and Holy Communion.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE IV Purpose</p> <p>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 new of Jesus Christ-evangelizing the lost, ministering to those in need, and supporting missions at home and abroad.</p>	<p>A clearer or more contemporary statement taken from the Team Leadership Model which the Evangelical Covenant Church has encouraged us to adapt as a more enabling vehicle by which our Church can operate.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Membership in this church is granted upon application to those who through faith in God's Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, have been born anew to a living hope; have been baptized according to the Holy Scriptures; desire to live a Christian life; and promise to</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE V Membership</p> <p>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</p>	<p>The proposed text retains much of the current text. The statement properly retains the need for personal faith in Jesus Christ, but references the Bylaws where the new membership process is provided.</p>

<p>support the total ministry of this church, and to share its fellowship and obligations.</p>	<p>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.</p>	
<p>None</p>	<p>ARTICLE VI Governance</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Clearly establishes the congregation as the governing body and sets the foundation for the leadership model functions of the Church. Also requires that all persons engaging in primary levels of leadership as delegated by the Congregation must be members of the Church who have shown their commitment with faithful attendance.</p> <p>Not intended to discourage meaningful service in the church by persons who are not members.</p>
<p>ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS</p> <p>The corporate officers of this Church shall be its Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Financial Secretary and a Treasurer. (These officers shall be the corporate officers of the Church.)</p>	<p>ARTICLE VII Officers</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The order for officers has been moved to this Article. This meets the legal requirement for establishing officers.</p> <p>The position of financial secretary has been eliminated. It can be an appointed position.</p>
<p>ARTICLE VII CHURCH COUNCIL AND ELDERS</p> <p>Sec. 1. BOARD OF ELDERS.</p> <p>a) Responsibility for spiritual guidance and direction of the church shall be vested in a body known as the Board of Elders. In addition to supervising the spiritual life of the church, the Board shall have such powers as are granted in the bylaws.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>The Bylaws, through the Leadership team and Ministry Teams, will allow for establishing significant functions such as those served by the current Elders.</p>

<p>b) The Board shall consist of at least four (4), as specified in the bylaws, including the senior pastor, who shall be a member ex-officio.</p> <p>Sec. 2 CHURCH COUNCIL</p> <p>a) The general administration of the church shall be vested in a body known as the Church Council. In circumstances or where law requires action(s) by "Trustees", this Council shall be known as the "Board of Trustees" and the members of it as "Trustees."</p>		<p>The Church Council will be renamed to the Leadership Team.</p>
<p>ARTICLE VIII BUSINESS MEETINGS</p> <p>Sec. 1 Congregational business meetings shall be held at least semi-annually. The Annual Business Meeting shall be held as near the close of the fiscal year as feasible.</p> <p>Sec. 2 The annual meeting shall adopt a budget for the ensuing fiscal year.</p> <p>Sec. 3 At another business meeting written progress reports shall be submitted by the pastor and by each administrative committee of the church. Audited financial reports shall be submitted by the treasurer for the church and each of its organizations. Members of the Church Council shall be elected by secret ballot.</p> <p>Sec. 4 Notice of all congregational business meetings shall be mailed to members not less than two weeks prior to the meeting and shall include the date, time of meeting and an annotated agenda of business to be transacted.</p>	<p>ARTICLE VIII Congregational Meetings</p> <p>An Annual Meeting shall be held as near the first of the fiscal year as feasible. At the Annual Meeting, written progress reports shall be submitted by the pastor(s), ministry staff, officers, and ministry teams. Reports on an independent review 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.</p> <p>Congregational meetings shall be held not less than semiannually. Items as required by the Constitution and Bylaws shall be submitted for congregational action.</p> <p>Notice of all congregational business meetings shall be announced at two regular Sunday services, with written notice mailed to members, 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.</p>	<p>While retaining much of the current Constitution, it clarifies rules for notice, including written notice of congregational meetings to the members and requiring the inclusion of the proposed agenda.</p> <p>The Congregation will also vote on persons offered by the Nominating Committee.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE IX PROPERTY</p> <p>In the event of schism within the church, from which we earnestly pray God to spare us, the title of all church property, real and personal shall remain with the group which abides by this constitution. In the event of dissolution, the property and all assets of the church shall become and be the property of the Evangelical Covenant Church and the Pacific Southwest Conference; if it is then in existence and exempt under Section 501 c)(3); but if not then in existence or exempt, to another organization which is organized and operated exclusively for "charitable and religious" purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501 c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE IX Assets of the Church</p> <p>The congregation shall hold title to its own assets.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Identifies that all church property is owned by the congregation. Addresses the effect of a split within the church or intended withdrawal of the congregation from the Covenant. A more meaningful due process through the Executive Board of the Pacific Southwest Conference is introduced.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS</p> <p>Amendments in harmony with the constitution and not in conflict with Covenant principals and policies must be adopted by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting in</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE X Amendments</p> <p>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</p>	<p>An effort to remedy the confusing and outdated portions of the current Article. The congregation should have the ability to change its name and revisit its confession of faith where further understanding under the guidance of the spiritual leaders and pastors of</p>

<p>an annual meeting of the church, providing the proposed amendment was presented in written form at the preceding annual meeting, Articles I, III, IX and X cannot be changed.</p> <p>When this church receives appropriation aid from the regional conference and/or the denomination through subsidy or loans, proposed amendments must be also approved by the regional conference board and the executive secretary of Covenant Home Missions.</p>	<p>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 to Constitution) may be amended only with the approval of the Executive Board for the Pacific Southwest Conference.</p>	<p>the church is provided.</p> <p>Approval of the Executive Board of the Conference only for the assets and constitutional amendment portions will be required. We avoid the need for Conference approval on any other proposed amendments to the Constitution because we have a Conference or Denominational loan (i.e. the current National Covenant Properties loan).</p> <p>The Department of Home Missions no longer exists. It has been replaced by the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism.</p> <p>Any proposed Amendment as before must be presented to a Congregational annual meeting that precedes the annual meeting where a vote on the Amendments to the Constitution is to be called for.</p>
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