

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Mission Community Church, in order to work for the advancement of the kingdom of Christ, do hereby join ourselves together as a body of baptized believers under the authority of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ and adopt as our constitution the following articles.

ARTICLE I: NAME- 1.001

The name of this organization shall be Mission Community Church of Franklin, County Missouri.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE- 2.001

The purpose of this organization shall be to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every way prescribed or approved by following the teachings and practice of the New Testament in worship, proclamation of the Gospel, Christian education and training, charitable work, benevolent work, missionary labor and ministry.

ARTICLE III: STATEMENT OF FAITH- 3.001

We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, without error, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and the Divine and final authority for Christian faith and life. (2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

3.002

We believe in one God, creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ), Holy Spirit. (Gen 1:1; John 1:1-18; Eph 1:13-14)



3.003

We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, death on the cross to provide for our redemption, only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, bodily resurrection and ascension into heaven, present ministry of intercession for us, and His return to earth in power and glory. (John 14:6; Luke 1:34-35; 1 Pet 2:22; Matt 4:23; John 20:30-31; 1 Pet 3:18; Acts 1:9; Heb 4:14-5:3; Rev 19:11-16)

3.004

We believe in the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit, that He performs the miracle of new birth in an unbeliever and indwells believers, enabling them to live a righteous life. (John 14:6, John 14:16-17; Gal 5:16-23)

3.005

We believe that man was created in the image of God, but because of sin, was separated from God. That separation can be removed only by accepting through faith alone God's gift of salvation which was made possible by Christ's death on the cross. (Gen 1:27; Rom 3:23; Isaiah 59:2; Heb 10:10; John 3:16)

3.006

We believe that all believers can communicate directly with God through Jesus Christ, that He calls us to become His servants to the world, ministering to each other, the poor, the lost, and living a Godly life until He returns. (Heb 4:14-16; Matt 20:25-28; 1 Pet 2:17; Gal 2:10; Acts 1:8; Matt 24:13)

3.007

We believe that the Lord's Supper and Water Baptism are ordinances to be observed by the Church during this present age. They are symbolic ordinances. (Luke 22:19; Matt. 28:19-20)



3.008

We believe in Christian stewardship and tithing. Believers are under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents and possessions. Believers are to give of their means cheerfully, regularly, and liberally for the advancement of the Gospel. (Rom 8:12; Mal 3:8-12; Luke 6:38; 1 Cor 16:2; 2 Cor 9:7)

3.009

We believe it is the responsibility of every believer to deny themselves and live for others and to try and persuade them to be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. It is also the duty of every believer to meet the physical needs of others as well as spiritual needs. (Matt 28:19-20; 2 Cor 5:11-21; Matt 25:31-46)

3.010

We believe in the resurrection of the dead; of the believer to God's kingdom of joy with the Lord, of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment (Acts 24:15; Matt 22:1-14)

3.011

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Psalm 139.)

3.012

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.



3.O13

We believe the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25). We believe that marriage between one man and one woman, for life, uniquely reflects Christ’s relationship with His Church (Ephesians 5:21-33). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

3.O14

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, or use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

3.O15

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Mission Community Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to our members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Mission Community in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by our Statement of faith. (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22).

3.O16

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

3.O17

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). 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 Mission Community Church.



ARTICLE IV: CHURCH GOVERNMENT- 4.001

This church is an autonomous body, not subject to the direction or control of any other ecclesiastical body; therefore, the government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it, under the leadership of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, according to the Holy Scriptures.

ARTICLE V: DENOMINATIONAL AND CHURCH COOPERATION-5.001

This church shall voluntarily cooperate with other denominations and churches that would be considered Christian based on the Holy Scriptures and under the authority of Jesus Christ. (Phil 4:15-16; John 17:20-26)

ARTICLE VI: MEMBERSHIP- 6.001

This church receives as members only individuals that give evidence of a repentant life toward God; acceptance of our constitution; and who have had believer's baptism. Only members may vote at business meetings and special business meetings. (Rom 10:9-10; Luke 9:23-25; Acts 2:38; Eph 4:5; Col. 2:12)

6.002

No person shall be accepted into membership who has an unbiblical view of salvation or who would deny vital Christian doctrines. (Eph 2:8-10; Titus 2:11-14; Rom 8:9-10)

6.003

Members will vote on the annual budget, purchase of land or buildings, and changes in the church constitution. Any member who has a Biblical concern concerning the government of the church shall feel free to discuss their concern with the Elders.



ARTICLE VII: TRANSFER AND TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP- 7.001

Letters of transfer to churches of like faith shall be granted to members who request them, provided such members are in good standing.

7.002

Termination will be granted upon request of the individual to a member of the Elder Board.

7.003

Termination and Exclusion is Biblical upon certain conditions; any member who holds heretical doctrines (Gal. 1:8-9), or whose character does not match up with Christian principles (2 Thes 3:6-11; 1 Cor 5:1-11), or who would cause divisions (Romans 16:17-18; Tit 3:10-11). The Elder Board will handle disciplinary action in a Biblical manner. (Matt 17:15-17; 1 Cor 5)

7.004

No accusation shall be brought against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. Then, if the accusation proves trustworthy those who have sinned are to be rebuked publicly, so that others may take warning. (1 Tim. 5:19-20)

7.005

Accusations against members will be handled in a Christ-like manner according to the principles outlined in Matthew 18:15-17.

ARTICLE VIII: RESTORATION OF EXCLUDED MEMBERS- 8.001

The church has the right and the responsibility to restore members that have repented of their sin at the time of their Termination and Exclusion. Exclusion is for a hope of repentance. If that is accomplished, restoration and comfort are in order. (2 Cor 2:6-8)



ARTICLE IX: OFFICERS- 9.001

The Elders shall be elected by the church from its Deacons. The vote shall be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members. The Elders will ordain men that meet the Biblical qualifications. (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5)

9.002

The Deacons shall be elected by the church from its membership. The vote shall be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members. They must first be tested. The Elders will ordain men and women that meet the biblical requirements. (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Tim 3:10)

9.003

The Pastor or Chairman shall be elected by the Elders. The vote shall be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members. He must meet the biblical qualifications. (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; 1 Peter 5:1-4)

9.004

The offices of this church shall be a Pastor or Chairman, Elder Board, Deacon Board, Secretary, and Treasurer.

ARTICLE X: DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS-10.001

The Pastor and Elder Board shall exercise general supervision over the entire church so as to coordinate all activities. They will have the responsibility of all matters which require a decision and they shall bring motions before the church that need to be voted upon. (Acts 15:1-21; 1 Tim 5:17; Heb 13:17) The vote shall be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members. These officers shall function as the general planning body of the church, setting forth the short and long range directions, and preparing an annual budget, according to the directions, that will be presented to the congregation for a vote. These officers will be responsible for deciding request for expenditures outside of the approved budget. These officers will also deal with all disciplinary matters. There shall be a review of these officers every year at the annual business meeting.



10.002

The Pastor or Chairman shall preside at all church business meetings. He shall keep order and see that all who ask for the floor receive it according to their request, and also, that none speaks out of turn or become unnecessarily lengthy. He shall control the words and actions of every speaker; so that no one casts reflections upon another's character and that all things are done relevant to the subject. He shall be an ex-officio member of all Boards, Committees, and organizations of the Church and may delegate this authority to someone on the Elder Board. He shall meet all of the Biblical requirements for being a Pastor and always remember the poor. Every year at the annual meeting this person shall be reviewed by the Elder Board for continuance or termination. This will be presented at the annual meeting. (1 Tim 3:1-7; 1 Tim 4:13-16; 1 Tim 5:17-19; Tit 1:6-9; Gal 2:10)

10.003

The Elder Board shall make sure that all worship services are held at their stated times. They shall administer the Lord's Supper and Baptism. They shall watch over the spiritual welfare of every member and all church programs. They shall be responsible for the discipleship and discipline of everyone. They shall have charge of all church property, and see that all necessary repairs are made. They shall be responsible for all legal documents and records belonging to the church. They shall not rent, loan, or sell any church property without a church decision. They shall be entrusted with such responsibilities as the laws of Missouri assign to this organization. They shall always remember the poor. They shall approve all church programs and Committees. They shall meet the Biblical requirements of being an Elder. Every year at the annual meeting each Elder will be reviewed by their Board and the Deacon Board for continuance or termination. Only men are eligible for this position. (1 Tim 3:1-7; 1 Tim 4:13-16; 1 Tim 5:17-19; Tit 1:6-9; Gal 2:10; Matt 17:15-17)



10.004

The Deacon Board shall see that needy members and needy people in our community are provided for properly. (Acts 6:1-7) They shall also take on other responsibilities that the Elders feel they are equipped for and they feel led to accomplish. Men and women must meet the Biblical requirements of being a Deacon. Every year at the annual meeting these officers shall be reviewed by the Elders for continuance or termination. (1 Tim 3:8-13; Rom 16:1)

10.005

The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all proceedings at all regular, as well as special called, business meetings. The Secretary shall preserve the minutes for future reference. This position shall be elected by the Elder Board.

10.006

The Treasurer shall receive all income to the church and see that disbursements are made in accordance with church decisions. He shall keep an accurate account of all receipts and expenditures and give a report of the same at each regular business meeting. His accounts shall be available to any board member upon request. At the close of the fiscal year, he shall have his books balanced and audited. This person shall be elected by the Elder Board.

10.007

If any officer of any board or committee neglects their duties, they shall first be kindly reminded of their obligations. If this does not bring about desired results, then, it will be brought before the Elder board who can, in turn, remove the individual from their position.



10.008

Two weeks' notice shall be considered sufficient by any paid officer in the event of a change. The Elder Board shall have the authority to terminate any paid officers duties if they see it in the best interest of the character of the church.

ARTICLE XI: PROPERTY- 11.001

This church shall have the power to receive, either by gift or purchase, and to hold such real, personal, or mixed property as is authorized by the laws of the State of Missouri and as is deemed necessary for the business of the church and shall have the power to dispose of such property by mortgage, deed, or otherwise. All such property shall be held in the name of the church.

11.002

In the case of a division of the church (from which we pray God by His mercy will preserve us), the property of the church shall belong to those who abide by its Constitution.

11.003

In case of dissolution of the church organization, the property shall be assigned to an organization or a church that would agree with our Statement of Faith. The church shall be considered dissolved if so decided by the organization, or when the church has not held an annual meeting for three years.

ARTICLE XII: RULES AND REGULATIONS- 12.001

The Elder Board shall elect certain men and women with the spiritual gifts necessary to fulfill that task. Each elected officer must meet the Biblical qualifications for their position.

12.002

The annual business meeting of the church will be held in November and will be held in conjunction with the November Business Meeting. The annual reports from Officers shall be presented at this time. Regular Business Meetings shall be held monthly.



12.003

Special business meetings may be called by the Elder Board at any time. All members must be notified of the meeting.

ARTICLE XIII: AMENDMENTS- 13.001

This constitution may be amended at any regular business meeting of this church by a three-fourths vote, provided the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous business meeting and notice is given to all the members.

ARTICLE XIV: INUREMENT OF INCOME- 14.001

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or to be distributable to, its members, directors, officers or other private persons except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered.

ARTICLE XVI: OPERATIONAL LIMITATIONS- 15.001

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

