

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
of
APPLEWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH
AN EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH**

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

(A historical statement from the Preamble of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Evangelical Covenant Church of America, as revised in 1957.)

"The Evangelical Covenant Church of America 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 distinctive spirit.

The Covenant Church adheres to the affirmations of the Protestant Reformation regarding the Holy Scriptures, the Old and the New Testaments as the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine and conduct. It has traditionally valued the historic confession 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, 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 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, is to be distinguished from the individualism that disregards the centrality of the Word of God and mutual responsibilities and disciplines of the spiritual community."

This document, which is in harmony with the above preamble, is the constitution and bylaws of Applewood Community Church, an Evangelical Covenant Church, of Lakewood, Colorado.

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

The name of this church shall be Applewood Community Church, an Evangelical Covenant Church, of Lakewood, Colorado.

ARTICLE II
AFFILIATION

The Church is a member of the Evangelical Covenant Church and its Midwest conference and is pledged to work in harmony with the Covenant and its decisions and to support its programs, policies and institutions.

ARTICLE III
CONFESSION OF FAITH

This church desires to be governed by the supreme authority of the Living God as He is known through the Bible and through the continual work of His Holy Spirit, and especially as He has made Himself known through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The 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.

ARTICLE IV
MISSION

SECTION 1. The mission of this Church shall be to honor God by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. With a focus on Jesus Christ the Church shall seek to Celebrate God through worship, Commit to serving through ministry, Cultivate spiritual growth through discipleship, Care for one another through fellowship, and Communicate the Good News through evangelism, by means of Christian formation, home and world missions and the institutions conducted by the Evangelical Covenant Church and its local regional conferences.

SECTION 2. The desired result of this ministry shall be to send out each one from our fellowship of believers into the world as messengers and witnesses of our hope and belief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to support and send out other believers as missionaries to multiply our impact in building the Kingdom of God.

SECTION 3. In order to achieve this mission, the Church, in the unity of the Holy 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.

ARTICLE V
VALUES

The Church shall recognize, promote and implement seven core values in its ministries: excellence, creativity, relevance, joy, grace and truth, prayer and outreach.

ARTICLE VI
MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Church is granted on application, when approved as specified in the Bylaws, 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 support the mission (ARTICLE IV) of Applewood Community Church and to share its fellowship and obligations.

ARTICLE VII **OFFICERS**

The officers of the church shall be a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary, a financial secretary and a treasurer.

ARTICLE VIII **COUNCIL OF DEACONS**

SECTION 1. The general administration of the church shall be vested in a body known as the Council of Deacons. In circumstances or where law requires action(s) by "Directors" the Council of Deacons shall be known as "the Board of Directors" and the members of it as "Directors". The Council of Deacons shall also supervise the spiritual life of the Church, as stated in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

SECTION 2. The Council of Deacons shall consist of the officers of the Church (chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, financial secretary and treasurer) and other members as specified in the Bylaws. The Senior Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of the Council of Deacons. All members of the Council of Deacons shall be members of the Church.

SECTION 3. The Council of Deacons shall be organized, including the election of church officers, in a manner specified in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX **CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETINGS**

SECTION 1. Congregational business meetings shall be held at stated intervals but not less than semi-annually as determined by the Council of Deacons.

SECTION 2. An Annual Congregational Business Meeting shall be held as near to the first of the year as feasible. At the Annual Meeting:

- a) Written progress reports shall be submitted by the Senior Pastor and by each Administrative Committee, as named in the Bylaws.
- b) Officers of the Church and members of the Council of Deacons for the ensuing year shall be elected by ballot in a manner specified in the Bylaws.
- c) Financial reports shall be submitted by the Treasurer of the Church as stated in the Bylaws. Financial reviews or audits of church finances shall be performed on a regular basis as stated in the Bylaws.
- d) The church budget shall be submitted by the Council of Deacons for approval by the Congregation.

SECTION 3. Notice of all Congregational business meetings shall be published in the bulletin not less than two weeks prior to the date of the meeting and shall include the date, time and place of the meeting.

SECTION 4. Each church member present at a Congregational business meeting shall be entitled to one vote for each elective office and on other matters submitted to a vote of the membership.

SECTION 5. Special Congregational business meetings may be called by the Council of Deacons as specified in the Bylaws.

SECTION 6. All Congregational business meetings shall be open to all church members.

ARTICLE X
PROPERTY

In the event of schism within the Church, from which we earnestly pray God to spare us, the title of all church property, real or personal, shall remain with the group which abides by this Constitution, as determined by the Executive Board of the Midwest Conference. 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 Midwest conference.

ARTICLE XI
AMENDMENTS

Amendments in harmony with this Constitution and not in conflict with Covenant principles and policies may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at the Annual Congregational Business Meeting, provided that the proposed amendment was presented in written form at the preceding Annual Meeting. When the Church receives appropriation aid from the regional conference and/or the Covenant through subsidy or loans, proposed amendments must also be approved by the Regional Conference Board and the Executive Minister of the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism. Articles III, IV, VI and X of this Constitution may not be changed in substance or taken away.