

CONSTITUTION
of
APPLEWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH,
AN EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

Preamble

(An historical statement from the Preamble of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Evangelical Covenant Church as adopted by the Evangelical Covenant Church in 2002.)

The Evangelical Covenant Church is a communion of congregations gathered by God, united in Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to obey the great commandment and the great commission. It affirms its companionship in faith with other church bodies and all those who fear God and keep God's commandments.

The Evangelical Covenant Church adheres to the affirmations of the Protestant Reformation regarding the Bible. It confesses that the Holy Scripture, the Old and the New Testament, is the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct. It affirms the historic confessions of the Christian Church, particularly the Apostles' Creed and Nicene Creed, while emphasizing the sovereignty of the Word of God over all creedal interpretations.

In continuity with the renewal movements of historic Pietism, the Evangelical Covenant Church especially cherishes the dual emphasis on new birth and new life in Christ, believing that personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is the foundation for our mission of evangelism and Christian nurture. Our common experience of God's grace and love in Jesus Christ continues to sustain the Evangelical Covenant Church as an interdependent body of believers that recognizes but transcends our theological differences.

The Evangelical Covenant Church celebrates two divinely ordained sacraments, baptism and the Lord's Supper. Recognizing the reality of freedom in Christ, and in conscious dependence on the work of the Holy Spirit, we practice both the baptism of infants and believer baptism. The Evangelical Covenant Church embraces this freedom in Christ as a gift that preserves personal conviction, yet guards against an individualism that disregards the centrality of the Word of God and the mutual responsibilities and disciplines of the spiritual community.

The Evangelical Covenant Church has its roots in historical Christianity, the Protestant Reformation, the biblical instruction of the Lutheran Church of Sweden, and the great spiritual awakenings of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These influences, together with more recent North American renewal movements, continue to shape its development and distinctive spirit. The Evangelical Covenant Church is committed to reaching across boundaries of race, ethnicity, culture, gender, age, and status in the

cultivation of communities of life and service.

This document, which is in harmony with the above preamble, is the Constitution of the Applewood Community Church of Golden, Colorado

ARTICLE I Name

The name of this church will be the Applewood Community Church, an Evangelical Covenant Church.

ARTICLE II Affiliation

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

ARTICLE III Confession of Faith

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

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.

ARTICLE IV Mission

Section 1. The mission of this Church will be to honor God by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Section 2. With a focus on Jesus Christ, the Church will 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 3. The desired result of this ministry will 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 4. In order to achieve this mission, the Church, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, will 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.

Section 5. The Church will recognize, promote and implement seven core values in its ministries: excellence, creativity, relevance, joy, grace and truth, prayer and outreach.

ARTICLE V Membership

Membership in Applewood Community 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 Scriptures, 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 the Leadership Team as delineated in the Bylaws. All elected leadership specified in the Bylaws must be members of the church.

ARTICLE VII Officers

The officers of the church will be a Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a Financial Secretary.

ARTICLE VIII Congregational Meetings

Section 1. Congregational business meetings will be held not less than semiannually. Items as required by the Constitution and Bylaws will be submitted for congregational action.

Section 2. An Annual Meeting will be held as near the first of the calendar year as feasible. At the Annual Meeting, written progress reports will be submitted by the pastor(s), ministry staff, financial officer, leadership and ministry teams. Election for members of the Leadership Team will be held. The church budget will be submitted for action, if it has not already been approved at a congregational meeting at the end of the previous calendar year.

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

Section 4. Each church member present at a congregational business meeting will be entitled to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of the membership. All votes must be cast in person; vote by proxy will not be allowed.

Section 5. Special congregational business meetings may be called by the Leadership Team as specified in the Bylaws.

Section 6. All congregational business meetings will be open to all church members and non-member friends.

Section 7. Ten percent (10%) of the church membership, but not less than twenty-five (25) members, present and voting at a congregational business meeting properly called will constitute a quorum.

Section 8. All congregational business meetings will be conducted according to the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 9. The congregation reserves for itself final authority in any matter of its choice. A member may advance an item to the agenda of a congregational business meeting by the majority vote of the membership at that meeting, providing that the item is not in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws. An item brought to the agenda in this way will be decided by a majority vote of the membership, unless the item requires a different percentage as outlined elsewhere in the Constitution and Bylaws, in which case that percentage will be used.

ARTICLE IX

Assets of the Church

Section 1. The congregation will hold title to its own assets. Assets acquired through budgetary provisions do not need additional congregational approval. Assets acquired beyond budgetary provisions, particularly land or facility acquisition, require the approval of

the congregation by majority vote.

Section 2. In the event of schism within the church, in which there are competing claims to the assets by various factions of the membership, the title of all church property, real or personal, will remain with the group that abides by the constitution and bylaws, as determined by the executive board of the Midwest Conference.

Section 3. 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 Midwest Conference. In the event the congregation votes to cease, the property and all assets of the church will become and be the property of the ECC and the Midwest 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 non-profit laws of Colorado, and not in conflict with ECC principles and policies, may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at an annual meeting of the congregation, providing the proposed amendment was presented in written form at the preceding annual meeting. ARTICLES II, III, and VI of this Constitution may not be changed in substance or taken away. ARTICLE IX may be amended only with the approval of the executive board of the Midwest conference.