

**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 by-laws 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. The execution of management, administration, business, and ministries may be delegated, in turn, by the Leadership Team to the officers and to ministry teams as delineated in the Bylaws. The Leadership Team will provide spiritual guidance, vision, prayer, encouragement, and accountability for the ministry teams. All elected leadership specified in the Bylaws will 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 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 IX 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 VIII and IX may be amended only with the approval of the executive board of the Midwest conference.