



CONSTITUTION
OF
GEORGE COMMUNITY
CHURCH

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Preamble

We, the members of the George Community Church, which is always to be a non-denominational Bible centered church, do hereby agree to study and strive to obey the teaching of the Word of God. We will endeavor to walk together in brotherly love, seeking always to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Article I — Name

The name of this corporation shall be the “George Community Church”.

Article II — Purpose

This corporation is an evangelical and non-profit corporation. The purposes for which this corporation formed are:

1. To promote the preaching and teaching of the Holy Bible which presents the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. To provide for Christian education.
3. To promote spiritual upbuilding of the believers, to provide for the worship of God and for Christian fellowship.
4. To care for the needy and poor.
5. To license and ordain ministers and to send out and support missionaries for the furtherance of the Gospel around the world.
6. To hold title to property, both personal and real, as the need may arise, but not to engage in any business trade, avocation or profession which would result in remunerative profit for itself or its members.

Article III — Statement of Faith

1. The Bible — We believe the Bible to be the Word of God, eternal, immutable, verbally inspired (God Breathed), supreme, authoritative, authentic and infallible (unfailing) in the original manuscript. (*II Peter 1:20, 21; II Timothy 3:16, 17; Luke 24:27*)
2. The Godhead — We believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, eternal in being, equal in power and glory, having precisely the same attributes and perfections. (*Genesis 1:26; Matthew 28:19; Isaiah 48:16; Deuteronomy 6:4*)
3. Man's creation and fall — We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but then in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sin nature and consequent alienation from God and came under the judicial sentence of death. (*Genesis 1:27; Romans 5:12; Romans 3:23*)
4. The person and work of Christ — We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood on the cross. (*Romans 3:24, 25; Luke 1:34, 35; Acts 4:12; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23*)

We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His ascension into heaven, where He is now exalted at the right hand of the Father, where as high priest for His people, He fulfills the ministry of representative, intercessor and advocate. (*Hebrews 7:25, 26; Romans 8:34; I Corinthians 15:3, 4*)

We believe in the imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for the Church and His subsequent premillennial return to earth to set up His Kingdom. (*Zechariah 14:4-11; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:6*)

5. The Holy Spirit — We believe the Holy Spirit is a person of the Godhead. He bears witness to the truth regarding Jesus Christ and convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He comforts, guides and teaches the believer. (*John 16:7-15; John 3:3-7; John 14:16, 17; Ephesians 5:18; Ephesians 1:13, 14*)

He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, spiritual birth, baptizing all believers into the body (Church) of Christ, indwelling them, and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (*I Corinthians 12:13; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 4:30*)

6. Salvation and Assurance — We believe in justification by faith alone, that man is a sinner and that he can be justified before God only on the grounds of faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that this faith is manifested in works pleasing to God. (*Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 5:1; 3:28; 4:5; Hebrews 9:11-15*)
7. The Church — We believe the Church, which is the Body and Bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism composed of all born again believers, and that it is the mission of the

Church to preach the Gospel to all the world. (*Romans 12:5; Matthew 28:18-20; I Corinthians 12:12-14; Colossians 1:24-28; Ephesians 1:22, 23*)

8. The personality of Satan — We believe Satan is a spiritual being who was originally created perfect but rebelled against God and fell. He is the arch enemy of God and man, the author of sin and cause of the fall of man. He shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire. (*Job 1:6, 7; Matthew 4:2-11; Revelation 20:10; John 8:44; I Peter 5:8*)[*Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:12-19*]
9. The Eternal State — We believe the souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, do at death, immediately pass into His presence, and there remain until the resurrection of the body at His coming, when soul and body, reunited shall be associated with him forever in glory, but the souls of the unbelievers shall remain after death in conscious misery until the final judgment, when they shall stand before the Great White Throne at the close of the Millennium, when soul and body reunited, shall be punished with everlasting torment. (*Philippians 1:23; Revelation 20:11-15; 22:3-5; II Corinthians 5:8; Luke 16:19-26*)
10. Marriage/Family — We believe that God created man and woman with equal value but unique attributes and roles. God has established marriage as the lifelong covenantal union of one man and one woman, for the good of mankind and as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His Church. We believe that marriage, as defined above, is the only permissible context for intimate sexual expression, and is the foundation of the human family. *Gen. 1:26-31, 2:18-25; Rom. 1:18-32, 7:1-3; 1 Cor. 7:1-7; Eph. 5:22-33; Heb. 13:4*

Conclusion — We not only believe that this body of doctrine is a sacred trust to be preserved and taught in its purity, but we also believe that it teaches a life to be lived and a Gospel to be preached.

Article IV — Membership

1. Qualifications — Any person that has accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his own personal Savior according to *Romans 10:9-11* and gives assurance of a desire to live a consistent Christian life and who has no serious reservations to the constitution of this church, shall be eligible for membership.
2. The Elders shall be responsible to interview prospective members to be assured:
 - a. Each candidate is truly a born-again believer.
 - b. His doctrinal beliefs are compatible with the doctrine of George Community Church.
 - c. His life and conduct will bring honor to Christ.
 - d. He is in fellowship with the church.

3. Inactive membership — Failure to demonstrate active interest in the services of the church for six months, except in extenuating circumstances, shall be construed as delinquency (a sincere and prayerful effort should be made to restore such a one to active service or status). Members found delinquent by the Elders shall be placed on the inactive list and lose their voting privileges.
4. Disciplinary measures — A member found guilty of gross immorality according to the Scriptures or of willful disturbance of the peace of the church, may be excluded from fellowship or membership by a one-half (1/2) affirmative vote of the members present at a meeting called for that purpose by the Elders. Upon the recommendation of the Elders restoration to fellowship and membership shall be by a three-quarters (3/4) affirmative vote of the members present at a meeting called for that purpose. All disciplinary measures shall be handled according to the instructions found in *Matthew 18:15-18; Galatians 6:1; and Proverbs 12:1, 2.*

Article V — Church Ordinances

1. The Lord's Supper — We believe the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and should always be preceded by solemn self-examination. This ordinance will be observed by this congregation as often as is deemed beneficial by the Elders. (*I Corinthians 11:23-34; Luke 22:17-20*)
2. Baptism — We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer into water to show forth publicly, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life. (*Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:3-5*)

Article VI — Church Offices

1. Officers — The Officers shall consist of the Board of Elders including the Pastor, Board of Deacons, Board of Deaconesses, a Secretary, a Treasurer and Director of Christian Education. All officers, except the Pastor, are to be elected by ballot at the annual or quarterly business meeting. The quarterly business meeting may be used to elect an officer whose term is unexpired, except the office of the Pastor. The Church Board shall consist of the Board of Elders, Board of Deacons and Director of Christian Education.
2. Qualifications of Officers — Officers shall be active members (a non-member may serve as church secretary or treasurer if elected by a simple majority of members) of George Community Church and in good standing, and shall be men and women of honest report, full of faith and the Holy Spirit. They shall be exemplary in their Christian walk. The ministry and life of each officer shall be in keeping with the directives as set forth in the following passages: *Acts 6:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-11; 1 Timothy 3:1-13.* Any officer found guilty of gross immorality or of willful disturbance of the peace of the church may upon recommendation of the Board of Elders and by a seventy-five percent

(75%) vote of the congregation be dismissed from their respective office. In the case of an Elder, except the Pastor, the remaining Elder Board may make recommendations to the congregation and by a ninety percent (90%) vote the Elder may be asked to relinquish his position. All voting regarding the dismissal of any board member will be done by secret ballot.

3. Pastor's Election — An invitation to the office of Pastor shall be extended only to a prospective Pastor who shall have indicated that he subscribes wholly and without reservation to the articles of faith of this constitution, and upon recommendation of the Pulpit Committee. Voting shall be by secret ballot and his call must be by ratification of a ninety percent (90%) affirmative vote of the membership present at a regular or special meeting properly called with express notice (minimum seven (7) days given that the purpose of the meeting is the calling of a Pastor). Any vote on unanimity must also be by secret ballot.

The term of the Pastor shall be indefinite. The Pulpit Committee shall formulate a contract to be made with the Pastor, and present it to the Church Board for their approval or modification, which shall set forth the details of the pastoral relationship.

Upon election the Pastor and his wife shall be active members of the church. The Pastor shall be a full voting member of the Board of Elders and an ex-officio member of all other boards, but without a vote.

Termination of the Pastor — The pastoral relationship may be severed at any time upon thirty (30) days' notice, either by the Pastor or by the church, or by mutual consent in a lesser time. He may be dismissed by the church upon a majority vote by secret ballot of the voting members present at a business meeting, properly called with express notice given that the purpose of the meeting is the consideration of the dismissal of the Pastor. ("Express notice" shall mean a posting of a notice seven (7) days prior to meeting and an announcement made during a regular Sunday Service, prior to said business meeting.)

4. Board of Elders — The Board of Elders should not consist of less than three (3) qualified men. (*I Timothy 3 and Titus 1*) The term of Elder shall be indefinite. The Elders, except the Pastor, shall be selected by nominating committee and brought before the congregation for a vote at the annual or quarterly business meeting. A ninety percent (90%) vote is required for confirmation. An Elder, in evaluating his ministry, Christian walk, or for personal reasons, may request a leave of absence from the Elder Board for a period not to exceed one year. If the vacancy continues beyond the one year grace period, the Elder will forfeit his position. The vacancy will be refilled by the nominating and electoral process as set forth in this constitution. (*Galatians 2:11-19; I Timothy 5:19-25*)

The Elder Board shall have charge of the spiritual interest of the church. (*Acts 20; I Peter 5:2, 3*)

- a. Oversee the services and various activities of the church.

- b. Assist the Pastor in the observance of the ordinances of the church.
 - c. Have the authority over the use to which the church property may be put.
 - d. Review yearly, before the annual meeting, the membership roll to determine if any members are not in good standing and the action to follow.
 - e. In the absence of the Pastor supply the pulpit with men in accord with our doctrinal statement.
 - f. Take charge of all matters pertaining to the call of an Ordination council and act for the church in the ordaining of men to the Gospel ministry.
 - g. They shall oversee evangelism, discipleship and spread the Gospel by visitation.
 - h. Interview prospective members and upon approval present them to the church.
5. The Board of Deacons — should not consist of less than three (3) men. The term of Deacon shall be indefinite. The Deacons shall be selected by the voting membership and confirmed by the Board of Elders. (*Acts 6:1-6*) The Deacon Board shall have charge of the physical interests of the church. (*Acts 6*)
- a. They shall be responsible in making sure physical needs of the church body are met.
 - b. They shall represent the church in all legal matters and hold title to church properties on behalf of the church.
 - c. They shall assume full charge of church property and be responsible for its care and maintenance and arranging for needed repairs and additions.
 - d. They shall obtain the approval of the Church Board when these repairs and additions total more than \$200 in a given month. Due to inflation, this may be adjusted by the Church Board. In the event of an emergency requiring immediate repair of the church facility, a majority of the Board of Deacons is authorized to expend as necessary within the constraints of the church budget to address the urgent situation. This emergency expenditure must be reported to the Church Board within 30 days, with an explanation of the nature of the emergency.
 - e. Deacons shall present an annual budget to the church for the approval of the congregation.
 - f. The Deacon Board shall elect its own chairman.
6. Deaconesses — The church should not have less than three (3) Deaconesses when qualified women are available. Their selection and term shall be the same as the Deacons. (*Acts 6; Romans 16:1, 2; 1 Timothy 3:11*)
- a. They shall welcome visitors.
 - b. They shall prepare the communion table.
 - c. They shall provide flowers for the church.
 - d. They shall visit the sick.
 - e. They shall perform services to those of their own sex that could with more propriety be done by them than by the Deacons or other male members.
 - f. They shall develop the spiritual life of the women and girls of the church for the best possible Christian service.
 - g. They shall arrange for entertainment of guest speakers when necessary.

7. The Secretary — shall be selected by the voting membership and confirmed by the Elders for a term of one year.

The duties of the Secretary shall be to take minutes, type bulletins, and preserve records of business proceedings and all other papers belonging to the church.

8. The Treasurer — shall be selected by the nominating committee, confirmed by the Elders and voted on at the annual or quarterly business meeting. The term for treasurer is one year.

The duties of the Treasurer shall be to receive and care for all funds of the church and make all disbursements; to keep an accurate record of all such transactions; and to hold the books open for inspection by the members of the church. All bills should be paid by check.

The Treasurer shall prepare an itemized statement of income and expenditures showing the current balance with the annual and quarterly business meetings. Copies should be made available for each voting member. An audit of the books shall be made yearly.

9. The Christian Education Director — shall be selected by the Nominating Committee and voted on by the congregation and confirmed by a seventy-five percent (75%) vote. The term is for one year.

Responsibilities

1. Meet monthly with all teachers (Sunday School and Junior Church staff).
2. Be an example to teachers and students in appearance, attitude and attendance.
3. Oversee operation of Junior Church and Sunday School.
 - a. Communicate regularly with teachers.
 - b. Assist and encourage teachers in the following areas as appropriate:
 - faithful attendance
 - lesson preparation
 - contacts with students
 - memory work
 - c. Order curriculum and materials.
 - d. Make sure accurate attendance records are kept.
4. Recruit teaching staff as needed.
5. Arrange for teacher training/training materials.
6. Shall assist the Elder Board in securing and recruiting VBS coordinator and staff.

Relationships

1. Reports to the Pastor and the Elder Board.
2. All teachers and substitutes are responsible to the Director of Christian Education.

Article VII — Church Business Meetings

1. The Annual Business Meeting — of the church shall be held at a time which shall be selected by the elders during the month of January, at which time reports shall be submitted by all departments of the church and auditing reports submitted and other business discussed as should naturally come before the congregation. Those who have been elected as new officers will assume office the first week after their election.
2. Special Business Meeting — may be called by the Board of Elders at any time.
3. Quarterly Board Meeting — A regular board meeting made up of the Board of Elders, Board of Deacons and Director of Christian Education shall be held on the 2nd Sunday of January and every 3rd month thereafter to transact the business of the church. The Secretary and Treasurer shall attend the quarterly board meeting and other meetings as requested. Special board meetings may be called to transact church business.
4. Moderator of Meetings — All board and business meetings shall be chaired by a member of the Board of Elders. He shall be called the Moderator.
5. Procedures for Nomination —

Note: All the open positions that need to be selected by the congregation shall be elected after the following procedures are met:

- a) The congregation, by secret ballot, delivers the names of possible candidates over to the elders.
 - b) The elders notify each person nominated to see if they are interested in the position. They will have one week to consider and pray over their possible service in this area.
 - c) If they believe the Lord is calling them to serve in this position they will then have their names presented to the congregation for a vote.
6. Manner of Voting — Voting shall be by secret ballot or raised hand. Voting by proxy will not be allowed. Absentee voting will be accepted if dated, signed, sealed and in the hands of the Moderator at the time of voting. The Moderator shall cast the ballot.
 7. Quorum — A quorum to transact business at a congregation meeting shall consist of those members present but must include two-thirds (2/3) of the officers. “Roberts Rules of Order” shall be the parliamentary guide for transaction of business.

Article VIII — Committees and Societies

1. Pulpit Committee — shall consist of five (5) qualified members elected by the church as the need may arise. Among them shall be at least one Elder, one Deacon, and one Deaconess (or another female member). Someone representing the younger members should be included, if feasible such as the Christian Education Director, the Youth Director or the like. They shall elect their own chairman and may invite the outgoing Pastor to sit with them, but without vote. They shall prayerfully seek and consider candidates for the office of Pastor. They shall evaluate a candidate's credentials, permit him to speak at any mutually convenient time, make any investigation deemed necessary, and recommend a candidate to the church in such a manner that the church will consider only one candidate at a time. The candidates must indicate wholly and without reservations, their agreement with the articles of faith included in this constitution and be confirmed by the Board of Elders before they can be considered to speak before the congregation. The Board of Elders shall cooperate in scheduling so that the candidate may be heard by the church. The candidate shall be considered according to the regulations laid down in the section regarding election of a Pastor. After such recommendation, the church should have at least three (3) opportunities to meet and hear him speak prior to any meeting to elect him.
2. Christian Education Committee — shall consist of the Christian Education Director who will be its chairman, an Elder selected by the Elder Board, the Pastor and one or more persons as determined by the Church Board from the congregation at large. They shall provide supervision and guidance for the various Christian educational activities of the church.
3. The Nominating Committee — shall consist of one Elder, one Deacon, appointed by their respective committees, and the Director of Christian Education.

The Nominating Committee shall present the names of one or more candidates for each office to be filled and submit these names for a congregational vote at the annual or quarterly business meeting. Other names may be placed in nomination from the congregation.

The Nominating Committee shall be formed at the time when any vacancy occurs within the Church Board.

4. Other Committees — The church may from time to time elect such other committee's as may be desired either standing or special, may determine and alter regulations governing them and may at its discretion dismiss them.
5. Societies — No organization shall be formed or considered a part of the Church activities before the sponsors have submitted their plans to the Elder Board for their approval.

6. Officers of Societies — All officers of any organization sponsored by the church, must be a member of the church and in good standing with the church.

Article IX — Licensing & Ordination

1. Any member of the church expressing a desire to be a licensed minister of the Gospel, who in the judgment of the church, gives evidence by his Christian life, zeal and aptness to teach; that he is called of God to the work of the Ministry, may be given a license to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ provided two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members at any regular or called meeting agree thereto.
2. Any member of the church expressing a desire to be ordained, who in the judgment of the Elder Board and upon two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members present, and possesses the scriptural qualifications and training for ordination, shall have the Board of Elders call a council of ministers and lay members to examine the candidate. After receiving a favorable report from the council, the Board of Elders shall consider the time and place for the ordination service.

Article X — Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a three-quarter (3/4) majority vote of the voting members present and voting at any regular or special meeting, provided the proposed amendment has been announced to the congregation at each regular Sunday morning service for three (3) Sundays preceding said meeting, and provided an exact copy of the proposed amendment has been posted conspicuously in the church on the three (3) Sundays preceding said meeting.

Article XI — Dissolution

In the event that this corporation be dissolved, all assets, after all obligations and liabilities of the corporation have been paid, satisfied, discharged, or adequate provision made therefore, shall be distributed to the Lower Columbia Sunday School Fellowship, if not in existence, then to InFaith or their successors or assigns.