

## MISSION COMMUNITY CHURCH 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 St. Louis, 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 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)

**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 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. 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. 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) 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 of those members present, 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 XV: LEGISLATIVE OR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES-** 15.001 No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and the corporation shall not participate in or intervene (including the publishing or distribution of statements) in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

**ARTICLE XVI: OPERATIONAL LIMITATIONS-** 16.001 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).