

CONSTITUTION
IMMANUEL COMMUNITY CHURCH
1987

Article 1 Church Constitution

I. Introduction

We, the members of Immanuel Community Church do hereby constitute and organize ourselves, as closely as possible, to the New Testament principles of the church life, membership, and leadership. We desire each member to:

- Experience God's love through the fellowship of believers. Acts 2:42-47, I John 1:3-4
- Learn the application of God's Word to his/her life. II Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12
- Stimulate others to love and good works. Hebrews 10:24
- Seek to be holy. I Peter 1:15-16
- Identify and implement his/her spiritual gift(s) for serving the needs of others in the church and community. Romans 12:6-8, I Corinthians 12:4-31, I Peter 4:10

We are therefore dedicated to the scriptural idea that, "we are to grow up in all aspects into him who is the head, even Christ from whom the whole body, being fitted together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love." Ephesians 4:15-16

II. Our Identity

We are a body of people who have placed our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. Now, as His ambassadors, we desire to be a pure representation of the "universal body of believers in Christ," which is His beloved bride. We hold that every member has equal spiritual standing before God, and equal responsibility to minister to the body and community. We welcome all who seek to know and serve God, and who desire fellowship with other believers in Christ, based upon the principles and practices of the New Testament church. I Corinthians 12:12

III. Our Purpose

Our purpose is to worship and glorify God, to serve and enjoy Him forever. We resolve to "preach the Word of God, proclaiming Christ Jesus, admonishing every man, and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in him. Colossians 1:28

IV. Statement of Faith

We believe:

- A. In one God eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Deuteronomy 6:4, Jeremiah 10:10, Matthew 28:18-20, John 1:1-3, II Corinthians 13:14
- B. The entire sixty-six books of the Bible were verbally inspired by God the Holy Spirit, and are completely without error in the original manuscripts. They serve as supreme and final authority in faith and life. We do not accept any version that is not a faithful translation of the original Scriptures. II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:19-21
- C. In the person of Jesus Christ, begotten of the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin, both true God and true man, John 1:1-4, 14, Galatians 4:4; The propitiation in His blood through His sacrificial and substitutionary work on the cross, Romans 3:25, Galatians 1:4, Hebrews 9:22-28, I Peter 2:24; His bodily ascension into heaven, Mark 16:19, Acts 1:9-11, Romans 8:34; His present and continuous intercession at the right hand of the Father, Mark 16:19, Hebrews 7:25, 9:24; and His pre-millennial, personal, imminent coming for the church, John 14:3, Acts 1:11, I Corinthians 15:51-52, I Thessalonians 4:14-18; and His personal return to earth to set up His kingdom. Isaiah Chapter 11, Acts 2:29-36
- D. Man was created in the image of God. Genesis 1:26-27. He sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death which is separation from God. All human beings are born with a sinful nature and the outworking of that nature is expressed as sin in thought, word, and deed. Romans 3:10-18, 5:12-14, Ephesians 2:1-3
- E. All who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior are justified by God on basis of His blood, are born again of the Holy Spirit, and thereby become the children of God. John 1:12-13, 3:5-7, Romans 5:1
- F. In the person of the Holy Spirit, whose present ministry in each believer's life includes indwelling and empowering for service and godly living, baptizing them into the Body of Christ, and sealing them for the day of redemption. Toward the world, He convicts concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment. John 3:5-6, 14:17-18, 26-27, 15:26, 16:7-11, Acts 1:8, 5:4, Romans 15:13, I Corinthians 12:4-13, Ephesians 4:30
- G. In the eternal preservation and everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the eternal conscious punishment of the lost. Mark 9:43-48, John 10:27-30, Romans 8:1, 38-39, I Corinthians 1:4-8, Mark 9:43-48, Revelation 20:15, 22:3-5
- H. That a local church is a fellowship of believers around the person of Jesus Christ, observing His ordinances, exercising the gifts, rights, privileges, and responsibilities entrusted to them by His Word. Its officers are elders and deacons whose qualifications are clearly defined in Scripture. We hold that the local church has the absolute right to self-government in all matters pertaining to fellowship with other churches, to proper

membership, government, discipline, and missionary giving. Acts 2:41-42, Colossians 1:18

I. That Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water as an emblem of our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, symbolizing our death to sin, and resurrection to a new life. Matthew 3:16, 28:19, John 3:23, Acts 2:41-42, 8:36-39, Romans 6:3-5, Colossians 2:12

J. That the Lord's Table is an emblem of the broken body and shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. All believers walking in fellowship with Him are invited to participate. Acts 2:42; I Corinthians 11:23-28

K. That believers are subject to discipline in accordance with Matthew 18: 15-17. In addition, elders are subject to discipline in accordance with I Timothy 5:19-20. All discipline is to be exercised in the spirit of Galatians 6:1.

V. Our Organizational Structure

Our local church body, under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ, is organized as elders (overseers, shepherds, pastor-teachers), deacons (servants), and members (believers-priests, saints, proclaimers).

A. Elders (Pastor-Teachers)

1. Qualifications

Elders shall be men who are able and desire to serve God by teaching and leading His people; men whose lives meet and show consistent growth in all scriptural requirements set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9; men who have affirmed the constitution of this local church and have been members for at least one year to allow a period of mutual familiarization.

2. Authority

The ministry of Immanuel Community Church shall be under the direction of the Lord Jesus Christ through a plurality of elders who function under the authority of the Scriptures and God's Spirit. The elders, appointed by the Holy Spirit and recognized by the church body, are the decision making body. I Timothy 5:17, Hebrews 13:17, I Peter 5:1-3. Decisions made by the elders shall be based on prayer, scriptural insight, individual and corporate leading by the Holy Spirit, carefully assembled facts, and the solicited consensus of body members. Consensus of the church membership shall be solicited by personal involvement with the members, and by other means such as the Sunday bulletins, newsletters, information cards, pulpit announcements, group or congregational meetings, advisory ballots, and other appropriate means. The elders must seek and find the mind of Christ and come to unanimous agreement before deciding

matters of church business. Ephesians 4:1-6, Philippians 2:1-4

3. Duties

Within the scriptural authority of elders over the church body are the clear statements of Scripture concerning self-judgment, I Corinthians 11:31, subjection to all Christians, Ephesians 5:21, and maintaining harmony within the body through gentleness rooted in humility. Consistent with these scriptural statements, the elders shall undertake with joy the duties and responsibilities set forth in the New Testament, such as:

- Prayer ~ Acts 6:4, Ephesians 1:15-23, 3:13-21, Philippians 1:4-5, Colossians 1:9-14
- Studying the Word ~ I Timothy 4:13, II Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17
- Teaching the Word ~ Acts 20:28, I Timothy 3:2, II Timothy 2:15, Hebrews 13:17
- Guarding ~ Acts 20:28
- Oversight ~ Acts 20:28, I Peter 5:2
- Admonishment ~ Acts 20:31
- Support and rule of the household of God – I Timothy 3:2; 5:17, Hebrews 13:17
- Discipline: for the purpose of maintaining the purity of the church, and restoration of individuals. It shall be carried out in an attitude of love, and shall follow the pattern of Matthew 18:15-17 in matters such as:
 - Difficulties between members ~ Matthew 18:15-17, I Corinthians 5:5-6
 - Disorderly conduct ~ II Thessalonians 3:6-15
 - Divisiveness ~ Romans 16:17-19, Titus 3:9-10
 - Immorality ~ I Corinthians 5:1-13
 - False Teaching ~ I Timothy 1:20, II Timothy 2:17-18, Revelation 2:14-15,20
 - Any accusation against an elder shall be in accordance with the pattern of I Timothy 5:19-20
 - Wolves in the flock ~ Acts 20:29
 - Elders speaking perverse things ~ Acts 20:30

Although the Scriptures make no distinction as to rank or authority among elders, there is room for specialization of function.

- At least one elder should specialize in teaching and be designated as pastor-teacher(s).
- Other elders will direct their attention according to their giftedness to the spiritual welfare and administration of the church.

4. Recognition

Since it is really God who makes men overseers by maturing them and burdening them with such a ministry, then it is the responsibility of the church to recognize the men whom the Holy Spirit is appointing to the office of elder. Acts 20:28, I Peter 5:1-4

Members should encourage qualified men to submit their names in writing to the elders to be considered as a candidate for the office of elder. I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9,

I Peter 5:1-4

The elders, by unanimous consent, will prayerfully decide whether the man should be regarded as a true candidate for the office of elder. In determining this, the elders will contact the man himself in order to determine his assessment of God's will for him in this matter. I Timothy 3:1, I Peter 5:2 If the man desires the office under the Lord's direction, the elders will then take reasonable time to get to know the candidate. This time will provide for:

- (a) Continued prayer and fasting in order to discover God's will. Acts 14:23
- (b) A period to familiarize the man with the functions of an elder.
- (c) A sufficient opportunity for the existing leaders to develop their relationship with the person and to evaluate his spiritual depth and character as one who might share in the ministry of equipping the saints. I Timothy 5:22

During this time the candidate will usually serve with the elders, although he is not yet an elder.

Following this period the elders, by unanimous consent, may present the name of the candidate to the congregation for consideration. The whole Fellowship will be given at least four weeks to express themselves regarding the candidate's qualifications, remembering to follow the steps in Matthew 18, if there is the prospect of a bad report. This period should also be used to express their support to the candidate. They may acquaint the elders of their reactions either in person or in writing.

Any objections concerning the candidate which might surface during this process will be worked through in a constructive manner with the man involved, so that any deficiencies or misunderstandings may be corrected.

If the elders are assured of God's direction and are also confident that any former objections have been dealt with properly, they may present the candidate to the congregation as an elder. The new elder will be confirmed by the laying on of the hands of the elders in the presence of the congregation.

5. Term

The elders shall serve an indefinite term. Any elder may be disciplined according to biblical principles, although no accusation against an elder is to be taken seriously unless there are two or three witnesses. I Timothy 5:19 When a confronted elder continues in sin, he is to be rebuked by the other elders before the whole assembly, that others may fear. I Timothy 5:20 An elder will be subject to scrutiny not only in the areas which might call for general church discipline, but also as to his continued meeting of the qualifications for eldership. When an elder ceases to meet those qualifications, he shall be asked by the other elders to step aside for a time so that he may get his life in order in that area. Such a request from the other elders shall be made only when they are in unanimous agreement. An elder may also desire to be relieved from office either temporarily or permanently, if he feels unable to serve for any reason. A decision on his possible reinstatement after a temporary leave of absence will be determined by the elders in

relation to the circumstances.

B. Deacons:

1. Qualifications

Deacons shall be men who are able and desire to be servants of the local church body, who have affirmed the constitution of the church, who have been members for at least one year to allow a period of mutual familiarization, and whose lives meet and show consistent growth in all the scriptural requirements set forth in Acts 6:3 and I Timothy 3:8-13.

2. Authority

The deacons shall be under the authority of the elders, and shall communicate regularly with the elders.

3. Duties

The deacons serve to relieve elders from any affairs that would interfere with their primary devotion to the Word and prayer. Every deacon is to be involved in conducting a specific area of service in the church, under the direction of the Lord and the supervision of the elders. Acts 6:1-2

Typical duties of the deacons are in those areas of physical and service ministries of the church such as:

- Serving the Lord's table
- Administration of the Deacons Fund
- Administration of church finances
- Oversight of buildings and property

The deacons may attend to their duties themselves, or as appropriate, they may delegate them to others under their supervision.

4. Recognition

When there is a need for a specific ministry in the church and when a member is available who has the ability and desire to meet that need in a mature and godly way, he may be presented for consideration as a deacon. Members of the church should encourage qualified men to submit their names in writing to the elders.

The elders will consider the man on the basis of his conformity to biblical qualifications and on the basis of church needs. By unanimous consent of the elders, the person may be regarded as a true candidate for the office of deacon. The man in question will then be contacted to determine his assessment of God's will for him as a deacon.

Following this period, the elders, by unanimous consent, may present the name of the candidate to the congregation for consideration. The whole fellowship will be given at least four weeks to express themselves regarding the candidate, remembering to follow the steps in Matthew 18 if there is the prospect of a bad report. They may acquaint the elders of their reactions either in person or in writing.

Any objections concerning the candidate which might surface during this process will be worked through in a constructive manner with the man involved, so that any deficiencies or misunderstandings may be corrected.

If the elders are assured of God's direction and are also confident that any former objections have been dealt with properly, they may present the candidate to the congregation for affirmation as a deacon. The new deacon will be confirmed by the laying on of the hands of the elders in the presence of the congregation.

5. Term

Deacons shall serve a term according to the specific demands of the service for which they were recognized, after which they shall be available for other ministries as needs arise and as long as they continue to qualify. A deacon will be subject to the same discipline as any other member. He may also be asked to step down as a deacon if he does not continue to meet the qualifications for a deacon. Such a request must be by the unanimous agreement of the elders. A deacon may also be relieved from office at any time if he chooses to serve no longer. A decision on his possible reinstatement at a later time will be determined by the elders in relation to the circumstances.

C. Membership

1. Receiving

Those who indicate a desire to join Immanuel Community Church shall be interviewed personally by the elders to verify their relationship to Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, and to verify their acceptance of the church constitution. Upon satisfaction of the above provisions, they shall be presented to the congregation and welcomed as members with full privileges and responsibilities and shall be extended the right hand of fellowship by assembled church members. Galatians 2:9

2. Responsibilities

Consistent with the commands of Scripture, members shall endeavor to:

- Be responsive to authority, and maintain fellowship and unity of the spirit. Ephesians 4:3, Hebrews 13:17, I John 1:6-7
- Esteem others better than themselves. Philippians 2:3
- Teach and model God's Word in their home. Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- Be faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12
- Serve one another. Romans 12:13

- Contribute to the needs of the saints. Galatians 5:13
- Assume financial responsibility for the total ministry of the church as God directs according to one's ability. I Corinthians 9:7-14
- Be willing workers. I Peter 4:10
- Make disciples through the power of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8

Disagreements between members will be resolved in accordance with I Corinthians 6:1-4 and Matthew 18:15,17 and with cognizance of Romans 14:19.

VI. Staff

Normally the paid staff positions will be filled from within the body. If, however, a need arises that cannot be filled from within, such as for a pulpit teacher, the elders will seek with congregational consensus the best qualified candidate for the position. In the case of a pulpit teacher (prospective pastor-teacher) hired from without, he will not become an elder until he meets the established criteria as outlined in section V.A.4. The financial relationships of paid staff persons shall be ascertained by the elders in consultation and in agreement with the deacons. An elder whose pay is being reviewed may submit information and insight, but will not take part in the decision. Paid sabbaticals can be allowed at the discretion of the elders.

VII. Congregational Meetings

Congregational meetings shall be called for during the months of April and October, with October being the annual meeting. The purpose of such meetings shall be to carry on church business and for presentation of reports. Additional meetings may be called for as deemed necessary by the elders.

VIII. Constitutional Changes

Amendments to this constitution may be made upon the consensus of the membership and following the unanimous approval of the elders. Notice of any proposed amendments must be made at least four weeks prior to the date of their intended adoption by the church. During that period, any member with concern or evidence that the contemplated change is not God's will may make this known to the elders. Objections to the amendment will then be discussed openly at one or more meetings. If consensus is reached, the amendment will be adopted upon approval of the elders.

IX. Property Rights

If this corporation be dissolved, all assets shall be disbursed to non-profit Christian organizations and missionaries, as approved by the elders.

X. Epilogue

This constitution is conceived for the purpose of introducing ourselves as believers in Christ to all interested persons and to promote orderliness and understanding in our exercise of church ministries. It is intended to be an implement of scripturally based policies, embracing the spirit of God's Word. Operating procedures within specific church ministries, in the form of bylaws, shall be written as necessary by the elders for the purpose of elaborating the detailed outworking of the constitution. The constitution is acknowledged to be subject to the limited insight of its writers and may be amended as needs develop. In all cases, scripturally based principles prevail.

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Article 2 Church Bylaws

1. The principal office of the corporation shall be located at 20805 S.W. Farmington Road, Beaverton, Oregon, 97007.
2. The registered office of the corporation required by the Oregon nonprofit corporation act to be maintained in the State of Oregon may be but need not be, identical with the principal office in the State of Oregon, and the address of the registered office and registered agent may be changed from time to time by the board of directors.
3. Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, no director, officer, employee, or representative of this corporation shall take any action or carry on any activity by or on behalf of the corporation not permitted to be taken or carried on by an organization exempt under section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue code and its regulations as they now exist or as they hereafter may be amended, or by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (C) (2) of such code and regulations as they now exist or as they hereafter may be amended.
4. Except as otherwise provided by law, by the articles of incorporation, or by these bylaws, the business and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by its Board of Directors (Hereinafter "Board"). The elders of the church shall constitute the Board.
5. Each elected board member shall hold active office until he resigns or is removed as provided in these bylaws.
6. A regular meeting of the board shall be held at least annually at such place and time as the board shall provide by resolution. The Board of Directors may provide, by resolution, the time and place either within or without the State of Oregon, for the holding of additional regular meetings without other notice than

- such resolution, except the notice required for alteration, amendment, or repeal of bylaws as provided for within these bylaws.
7. Special meetings may be called by the president, or upon written request by any board members. The person or persons authorized to call special meetings of the board may fix any place either within or without the State of Oregon, as the place for holding any special meeting of the board called by them.
 8. Notice of any special meeting shall be given at least three days previously thereto by written notice delivered personally or mailed to each board member at his business or residential address, or by telegram. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be given when deposited in the United States mail so addressed, with postage thereon prepaid. If given by telegram, such notice shall be deemed given when left at the telegraph office for transmittal. Any board member may waive notice of any meeting. The attendance of a board member at a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where a board member attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any special meeting of the board need be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of such meeting, except alteration, amendment, or repeal of bylaws as provided within these bylaws.
 9. A majority of the number of board members then holding office shall constitute a quorum of the transaction of business at any meeting of the board, but if less than such a majority is present at a meeting, a majority of the board present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.
 10. The act of the majority of the board present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the board. Each board member shall have one vote. Board members shall not vote or sign board members' resolutions by proxy. Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the board may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken without a meeting shall be signed by all of the board entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof. Such consent shall have the same effect as a unanimous vote.
 11. New board members are elected by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining board.
 12. A board member of the corporation who is present at a meeting of the board at which action on any corporate matter is taken shall be presumed to have assented to the action taken unless his dissent shall be entered in the minutes of the meeting or unless he shall file his written dissent to such action with the person acting as the secretary of the meeting before the adjournment thereof or shall forward such dissent by registered mail to the secretary of the corporation

- immediately after the adjournment of the meeting. Such right to dissent shall not apply to a director who voted in favor of such action.
13. Any board member may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Chairman or the Secretary of the Corporation. Such resignation, which may or may not be made contingent on formal acceptance, shall take effect on the date of receipt or at any later time specified therein. Any Board Member who fails to attend three consecutive Board meetings without being excused therefrom by the Chairman shall cease to be a member of the Board, and may be replaced or reinstated by action of the board.
 14. Directors may participate in a meeting of directors by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time, and participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.
 15. The Officers of the Corporation shall be a President, Secretary, Treasurer and such Vice Presidents as determined appropriate or necessary by the Board. The President shall be designated by the Board to carry out the duties and responsibilities as outlined in these bylaws. Any two offices may be held by the same person, except the offices of President and Secretary.
 16. All officers of the Corporation shall be elected by the board and except as otherwise provided in these bylaws shall hold office until his successor is elected. The officers shall have such duties, in addition to those expressed herein, as the board shall specify from time to time.
 17. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the President or to the secretary. Such resignation, which may or may not be made contingent on formal acceptance, shall take effect on the date of receipt or at any later time specified therein. Any elected or appointed officer may be removed at any time by the board.
 18. The President shall be the principal corporate officer of the Corporation and shall preside at all meetings of the board.
 19. The Secretary shall provide for the keeping of the minutes of all meetings of the board, shall send or cause to be sent appropriate notices and prepare agenda for all meetings of the Board, and shall act as custodian of all records and reports, and shall in general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the president.
 20. The Treasurer shall keep or cause to be kept correct and accurate accounts of the property and financial transactions of the Corporation and in general perform all duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the President.

21. The Board may employ such personnel as are necessary to carry on the purposes of the Corporation, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.
22. The Board may authorize any officer or officers, agent, or agents, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the corporation, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.
23. No loans shall be contracted on behalf of the corporation and no evidence of indebtedness shall be issued in its name unless authorized by a resolution of the Board. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.
24. All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidence or indebtedness issued in the name of the corporation, shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the corporation and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board.
25. All funds of the corporation not otherwise employed shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the board may select.
26. Whenever any notice is required to be given to any Board Member of the corporation under the provisions of these bylaws or under the provisions of the articles of incorporation or under the provisions of the Oregon Nonprofit Corporation Act, a waiver thereof in writing, signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.
27. The Corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall keep minutes of the proceedings of its board.
28. These bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed and new bylaws may be adopted by the board at any regular or special meeting of the Board, but only if a notice, stating the alterations, amendments, or repeal of bylaws will be considered at the meeting, has been given at least three days in advance of such regular or special meeting by written notice delivered personally or mailed to each Board Member at his business or residential address, or by telegram.
29. To the extent of its assets the Corporation shall indemnify any Board Member or Officer or former Board Member or Officer of the Corporation against claim, liabilities, expenses and costs necessarily incurred by him in connection with the defense, compromise or settlement of any action, suit or proceeding, civil or criminal, in which such person is made a party by reason of being or having been such director or officer, except in relation to matters as to which such person shall be adjudged in such action, suit or proceeding to be liable for negligence or

misconduct in the performance of duty to the corporation, to the extent not otherwise compensated, indemnified or reimbursed by insurance.

30. The Corporation shall have the right to retain all or any part of any securities or property acquired by it in whatever manner, and to invest and reinvest any funds held by it, according to the judgment of the Board, without being restricted to the class of investments which a board member is or may hereafter be permitted by law to make or any similar restriction; provided, however, that no action shall be taken by or on behalf of the corporation if such action is prohibited transaction or would result in the denial of the tax exemption under section 501 (C) (3) of the internal revenue code and its regulation as they now exist, or as they may hereafter be amended.

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