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Constitution and By-Laws

Paulden Christian Fellowship

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Preamble

In order to affirm and preserve the principles of our faith, to guarantee that this body may be governed in an orderly and efficient manner consistent with the Scriptures, and for the purpose of preserving the unity of this church, the liberties inherent in each individual member and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith, we do declare and establish this constitution.

Article I Name

This organization shall be a corporation under the laws of the State of Arizona and shall be known as Paulden Christian Fellowship. This church is complete in itself and has full power to perform all the functions and do all the work, which Christ has committed to His Church on earth. It thus controls the formation of its doctrinal statement; the election of its officers and the admission, discipline, and removal of its members.

Article II Object

The object of this church shall be the worship of God, the preaching of the Word of God, the winning of the Lost to Christ, the building up of believers in the

Christian Faith and practice, the administration of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the evangelization of the world through the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ.

Article III Statement Of Faith

1. We believe that there is One living and True God, eternally existing in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory; that this triune God created all, upholds all, and governs all. Mat 28: 18-20, John 1: 1-5, 10:30. 14:16,17, 2 Cor 13:14.
2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, fully inspired, without error, and the infallible rule of faith and practice. Mat 5:18, 2 Tim 3:16,17, 2 Pet 1:20-21.
3. We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love; that He concerns himself mercifully in the affairs of men; that he hears and answers prayer, and that he saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. We believe that salvation is the free gift of God by grace through faith, that our eternal salvation is sealed in heaven and that we will never be separated from the love and presence of God. Mt 5:28, Rom 9:15, 10:9, John 3:16,17, 2 Pet 3:9.
4. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in his virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings, his substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for his people. We believe in the personal, visible return of Christ to earth and establishment of his kingdom, in the resurrection of the body, and the final judgment and eternal blessing of the righteous and endless suffering of the wicked. Luke 1:26-33, John 5:24. Rom 1:4-26, John 17:9-12.
5. We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment and to regenerate, sanctify and empower for ministry all who believe in Christ. We believe the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ, and that he is an abiding helper, teacher and guide. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and in the exercise of all biblical gifts of the Spirit. John 16:7-15, Acts 1:5-8, 2:38-39.

6. We believe that all men are sinners by nature and are therefore under condemnation, but because of God's love for the world, those who repent of their sins and accept Jesus Christ as their savior and Lord are saved and that the believer is a new creation by God. We believe that we are baptized with the Holy Spirit by Jesus Christ and in Him we have new life. We believe that Satan is real and is the ruler of this world; that his purpose is to kill, steal, and destroy' but that Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil and that Jesus Christ defeated him on the cross. Rom 3:10. 5:18, 6:1-9, John 3:16. 2 Cor 5:17. Acts 1:4,5.
7. We believe in the universal church, the living spiritual body, of which Christ is the Head and all regenerated persons are members. Col 1:18.
8. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe in water baptism by immersion and communion open to all believers. Acts 2:38. 1 Cor 11:23-30, Luke 3:3.
9. We believe in laying on of hands for the empowering of the Holy Spirit, for receiving gifts of the Spirit, for healing, and for recognition and empowering of those whom God has ordained to lead and serve the church. Acts 13:3. Mark 6:5, 1 Tim 4:14, 2 Tim 1:6.

Article IV Membership

Section 1 Qualification, Reception, and Duties of Members

The membership of this organization shall be open to any believing and confessing Christian, who acknowledges and accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who is willing to subscribe to the policies of this organization, and who has been in regular attendance at this church for at least 3 months. Applicants for membership shall apply for membership to the Board of Elders, be interviewed by the Elders and then be recommended to the church by the Pastor and/or Elders, and shall be received by a majority vote of the

membership. Members should be faithful in support and /or actively involved with the ministries of the church.

Section 2 Termination of Membership

A. Dismissal

Members who no longer find themselves in agreement with the policies of this church or who are regularly disruptive in church meetings shall quietly withdraw or face dismissal from membership. All dismissals from membership shall be made upon recommendation of the Pastor and /or Elders and shall be dismissed by a majority vote by the membership.

B. Letter of Recommendation

Any member in good standing may obtain a letter to another church in like faith and practice and shall be removed from membership.

C. Other membership

Any member, who unites with another church without a letter, shall be automatically dropped from membership.

Article V Government

Section 1 Autonomy

The government of this church is vested in its membership. No ecclesiastical body outside itself shall dictate its policies.

Section 2 Officers

All officers shall be members of the church and shall be responsible to the church through the avenue of authority established by this constitution. The membership shall elect such officers as are necessary for the effective ministry. Leadership shall be vested in persons whose personal and spiritual qualities conform to Scriptural standards.

A. Elders

1. Qualifications

Elders shall be men of mature judgment, unquestioned Christian character, loyal to the Lord Jesus Christ who meet the Scriptural qualifications for this office as listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9

2. Duties

The Board of Elders, which shall include the Pastor, shall have general oversight of the business and spiritual affairs of the church.

3. Election

There shall not be more than seven or less than three Elders while the number of voting members of the church is less than one hundred. Thereafter, the membership may elect as many more qualified Elders as it deems necessary. The term of office is for life after one year of probation period.

4. Dismissal from office

The Elder's term of office shall terminate automatically and immediately if they fail to meet the requirements of qualification for their office or be guilty of misconduct. In such an instance, on the testimony of at least two witnesses, they shall be removed by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership present at a special meeting called by the Board of Elders.

B. Pastors

1. Qualifications

The qualifications of the Pastor(s) are those given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. They must be spiritually and educationally qualified to preach, to train, and to provide leadership to carry out the spirit and letter of God's Word.

2. Duties

The Pastor shall earnestly carry on a preaching and teaching ministry with the aim of bringing each member to a place of spiritual maturity, set an example in Christian living and dedication, and oversee the administering of the ordinances.

3. Calling

Whenever a vacancy occurs in the Pastoral office, the Board of Elders shall bring to the church for consideration the person whom they feel led by God to recommend as pastor of the church. The candidate shall have opportunity to preach and shall be considered and voted upon before the candidate is called. Voting shall be by ballot at a special meeting with two weeks' notice called by the Board of Elders and an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those members present and voting shall be necessary for the call of a pastor.

4. Term of Office

Pastors shall serve for an undesignated period of time. They shall give sixty days notice to the church or be given ninety days notice by the Board of Elders whenever it is desired to terminate the pastoral relationship. By mutual consent this period may be shortened.

5. Dismissal from office

The Pastor's term of office shall terminate automatically and immediately if they shall violate their pastoral office by misconduct or false teaching. In such an instance, they shall be removed by a majority vote of the membership present at a special meeting called by the Board of Elders.

C. Deacons/Deaconesses

1. Qualifications

Deacons/deaconesses shall meet the Scriptural qualifications for the office listed in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

2. Duties

They shall ensure that that church conforms to all civil laws, they shall be responsible for the maintenance and repair of all church property and are authorized to spend up to \$100 per project for necessary maintenance and repairs. Projects which exceed this amount must be approved by vote of the

membership. They shall assist the Board of Elders and become involved in planning and projects.

3. Election

The membership shall elect as many Deacons as it deems necessary upon recommendation by the Board of Elders. The term of office is for life after one year probation period.

4. Dismissal from Office

The Deacon/Deaconess term of office shall terminate automatically and immediately if they shall fail to meet the requirements of qualification for their office or by misconduct. In such an instance, they shall be removed by a majority vote of the membership present at a special meeting called by the Board of Elders.

D. Clerk

The church clerk shall be elected from the membership for a two- year term and shall be responsible for the following:

1. An accurate record of all church business.
2. Accurate and up-to-date records of church membership, both a chronological and alphabetical list.
3. A record of all persons baptized.
4. Keeping a copy of the church constitution.
5. Conducting correspondence for the church.

E. Treasurer

The church treasurer shall be elected for a two year term to receive from the Financial Secretary and disburse all funds as authorized by the Board of Elders. The records shall be open at all times to the Board of Elders, the auditing committee or a public auditor.

F. Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary shall be elected for a two year term to receive all monies, appoint money counters, keep a record of contributions, and give to the treasurer a record of receipts and their proper designation.

G. Sunday School Superintendent

The Sunday School Superintendent shall be elected for a two year term to have charge of all administrative, supervising, planning and promoting the work of the Sunday School. Applicants must submit to a background check.

H. Corporation Officers

Annually, the Treasurer, Clerk, and one or more Elders shall be elected to act as the Trustees of the corporation in accordance with the laws of the State.

I. Appointed Officers

Such officers as are deemed necessary for the efficient operation of this church may be appointed by the Pastor and Elders. Appointed Officers shall be a temporary position until an election by members.

J. Employed Officers

When the need becomes apparent the church may employ such staff as are necessary to promote the efficiency of the church's ministry.

K. Removal from Office

An officer of the church, elected, appointed, or employed may be removed upon recommendation of the Board of Elders and a majority vote of the membership present at a special meeting called by the Board of Elders.

Section 3 Leadership Boards

A. Officers of the Corporation

The Officers of the Corporation are the legal trustees of the corporation in accordance with State regulation. The responsibilities of the Corporation Board are: 1. To make sure all legal forms are filed annually, and 2. To answer any legal questions regarding the non-profit status of the church.

B. Church Board

All activities and affairs of the Church shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Church Board which consists of the officers of the Corporation, elders, deacons, and deaconesses. The Church Board shall meet quarterly. The responsibilities of the Church Board are:

1. To work as a team to shepherd the flock
2. To establish policies for the Church
3. To establish a yearly budget and monitor disbursement of funds.
4. To form committees to care for the operational aspects of the church. Committees answer directly to the Board.

Article VI Meetings

Section 1 Worship

- A. Public services shall be held regularly.
- B. The Lord's Supper shall ordinarily be observed once a month.
- C. Other meetings may be held for the purpose of evangelism, Bible Study, missionary work, etc.
- D. Due to special circumstances, the Board of Elders may alter temporarily any of the above meetings.

Section 2 Business

A. Church Board Meetings

The Church Board will meet quarterly for spiritual and physical care of the flock.

B. Annual Business Meetings

The annual business meeting will be held during the third week in March unless another date is set with the proper notice given. At this annual meeting the annual reports shall be presented, officers elected, and other business transacted. The fiscal year of the church shall begin on the first day of May. Newly elected officers shall succeed to office immediately following the annual meeting.

C. Membership Meetings (also called business meetings)

1. Quarterly business meetings shall be held, unless another date is specified for the purpose of receiving reports and the

transacting of other business as may be specified in the notice of meeting or as authorized in the Constitution.

2. Special meetings may be called by the Board of Elders, the Pastor, or upon request of ten or more voting members, provided that notice is given the previous Sunday of the time and place of the meeting and the business to be transacted. NO other business shall be transacted except that for which the special meeting was called. Members may be received or dismissed at any regular service of the church.
3. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the resident voting membership shall constitute a quorum at any business meeting of the church. A simple majority of those present and voting at any meeting shall be sufficient to carry a motion or any other action unless otherwise specified in the Constitution.
4. Members in good standing sixteen years of age or older shall have voting privileges in accordance with this Constitution and the laws of the State.
5. The membership may form committees as the need arises.
6. Absentee ballot or proxy shall be made available to any members.

Article VII Financial Policies

The Scriptures shall establish the financial policies of this church.

Article VIII Affiliations

Section 1 Autonomy

This is an autonomous church, independent of external ecclesiastical control.

Section 2 Giving

The membership shall decide the beneficiaries of church tithes, donations and giving. A Benevolent Fund shall be established and administered by the Board of Elders.

Article IX Ordination and Licensing

Section 1 Candidates

The membership shall ordain and license those candidates to the ministry who after an examination by the Pastor and Elders meet the conditions of Scripture.

Section 2 Procedure

The Pastor and Elders shall recommend suitable candidates to the membership for ordination and licensing.

- A. The church may issue a license to preach to all suitable candidates who are not ordained.
- B. Before ordaining a suitable candidate, the Elders shall call an ordination council, this council shall examine the candidate and give their recommendation to the membership. The right to ordain rests entirely with the membership

Article X Amendments

This Constitution may be amended or changed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at any business meeting, provided the notice of said changes shall have been published in a conspicuous place at least four weeks prior to the meeting. And announced publicly from the pulpit at least four Sundays prior to the meeting.

Article XI Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of this corporation, the assets not otherwise disposed of, after payment of all legal debts, shall be distributed exclusively, to one or more legally recognized non-profit organizations incorporated in the State of Arizona.