

CCC Constitution

September 11, 2016

Article I

Name and Organization

1. The name of this organization shall be: Christ Community Church, Inc.
2. Organization took place:
Date: May 7, 1989
Place: Fredonia, New York
3. Incorporation:
This organization was incorporated in the State of New York

Article II

Aim and Purpose

1. The aim and purpose of this organization shall be to preach the Gospel, to administer the ordinances of the New Testament, to minister to the spiritual needs of its members and all people everywhere, to train Christian workers for the Lord's work and to further the evangelization of the world by converting people to a living faith in Jesus Christ expressed by love in action.
2. To take, secure, accept, hold or acquire by gift, purchase, legacy or otherwise, real and personal property, whenever it may deem the same proper, necessary and expedient in the work and purpose for which this body was organized and incorporated, and to hold, lease, encumber, give, exchange, or sell and transfer and dispose of the same, in part or whole, when it deems such action expedient, necessary or beneficial in promoting and advancing the work and purposes for which this corporation is formed and to do or accomplish such acts as this body shall deem necessary or incidental thereto; all such acts to conform to the laws of this State.

Article III

Doctrinal Statement

(as amended by the Baptist General Conference in 1998)

1. THE WORD OF GOD

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

2. TRINITY

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection; and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

3. GOD THE FATHER

We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of each person, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

4. JESUS CHRIST

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people and personal visible return to earth.

5. THE HOLY SPIRIT

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 all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.

6. REGENERATION

We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

7. THE CHURCH

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

8. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others; that their conduct should be blameless before the world; that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.

9. THE ORDINANCES

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

10. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; and that, therefore, Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.

11. CHURCH COOPERATION

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether it is the conference or a district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary independent basis.

12. THE LAST THINGS

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH: The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teachings of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members. All literature, whether print or electronic, used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith.

Article IV ***Affiliation***

This church shall maintain fellowship with Converge Midatlantic/Converge Worldwide

Article V – Meetings

Section A. Worship Services

1. The Church shall meet regularly each Lord's Day for Christian instruction, worship and the preaching of the Gospel, except as authorized by the Elders.
2. The Lord's Supper is open to all believers in Christ and shall be observed regularly as authorized by the Elders.
3. The ordinances of baptism shall be observed as necessary.

Section B. Business Meetings

1. The Annual Meeting shall be held on a date determined by the Trustees in cooperation with the Elder Board. This date will be near the end of the fiscal year of the church and shall include the following items of business:
 - a. Election of Officers
 - b. Adoption of proposed budget
 - 1). The above proposed ballot and budget shall be posted and copies made available in the lobby at least two (2) weeks before the Annual Business Meeting, at which time, they will be voted upon.
2. Special Business Meetings may be called by the by the Trustees in cooperation with the Elder Board provided that the purpose of the meeting be stated in writing and brought to the attention of the Church two (2) weeks in advance. This action is exclusive of voting to receive or dismiss members.
3. Any ordinary business requiring action by the church may be presented and acted upon at a Sunday morning worship meeting of the church.
4. A quorum at any business meeting of the church shall be one third of the regular membership, except when considering amending the constitution and bylaws, the purchase, sale or transfer of church property or the calling or dismissal of a pastor, when a quorum shall include two thirds of the regular members.
5. The church board/teams shall meet as needed, generally monthly.

6. In all Board/Team meetings a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum except as otherwise herein provided.

Article VI ***Membership***

The membership of this Church shall consist of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, who accept the Bible as the Word of God, and the New Testament as the standard for faith and conduct, who have been baptized, who are in basic agreement with this Constitution and who have completed the membership process.

Section A Qualifications for Regular Membership

1. Must confess faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
2. Must give satisfactory evidence of regeneration and of walking in fellowship with God.
3. Must accept in letter and in spirit the views of faith and practices held by this church as set forth in this Constitution.
4. Must be baptized.
5. Must be at least eighteen years of age.

Section B Youth Membership

Young people, ages 12 to 17, may, upon consultation with their parents, join this church as youth members by meeting all the regular qualifications. Youth members are expected to fulfill all rights and responsibilities of the church with the exception that they may not vote in church business or be counted as part of a quorum when vote is taken. However, they are welcome to attend and participate in any church business meeting.

Section C Admission into Membership

1. Procedure of Admission

- a. Instruction – All persons requesting to unite with this Church by any of the methods listed must attend a membership class to become acquainted with the faith and practice of our Church.
- b. All candidates for membership in the Church shall be interviewed by an Elder Board designate. The Elders shall make their recommendations to the church for final action at any regular or called meeting of the church. A majority vote of those present and voting is required for acceptance.

Section D Responsibility of Membership

1. Members of this Church are expected to attend its meetings, to work of its edification and growth, to represent their Lord and Church fittingly in the community and to contribute regularly, cheerfully, and according to the ability for the support of its local and outreach ministries.
2. All Regular Members shall have equal rights. Members of this Church have no property rights and upon termination of membership shall be entitled to no interest in the assets.
3. No persons holding office in the Church, or being members of any organization within the Church, shall be personally or individually liable for any error or mistake, act of omission, for or on behalf of the church occurring within the scope of their official authority, or in line with their duties of holding such a position excepting for their own willful misconduct or violation of the law.

Section E Discipline of a Member:

1. There shall be a discipline committee consisting of a Pastor and the Board of Elders. These individuals shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statement of Faith. If the Pastor or an Elder is the subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a member of the discipline committee. The Pastor and Elders shall be entitled to the same steps as other church members and be subject to the same discipline.
2. Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for others. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders the spiritual growth and testimony of an individual in the local church or the body as a whole, he is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.

3. If reconciliation is not reached, a second member, either an Elder or the Pastor, is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.

4. If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (2) and (3) have been taken, the discipline committee, as the church representatives Biblically responsible for putting down murmuring, shall hear the matter. If the matter is not resolved during the hearing before the discipline committee, the committee shall recommend to the members of the church that they, after self-examination, make an effort personally to go to the offending member and seek that member's restoration.

5. If the matter is still unresolved after the steps in subsections (2), (3) and (4) have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the church upon a majority vote of the membership present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering disciplinary action. The member subject to disciplinary action is not entitled to vote on his/her own discipline.

6. No matter may be heard by the discipline committee or the church unless the steps outlined in subsections (2) and (3) have been taken, except in the case of a public offense.

Section F Dismissal: Regular Members of this Church may be dismissed as follows:

1. Whenever a regular member joins another church, his/her regular membership is automatically terminated.
2. Membership will be reviewed annually or as deemed necessary by the board of Elders. Those who fail to maintain favorable contact with the church within the past year, who habitually neglects church obligations, or who are guilty of conduct unworthy of a Christian shall be contacted and counseled. If restoration is impossible, they will be dismissed by the Board of Elders.
3. Death

Article VII
Officers

1. Officers of the Church

- A. Lead Pastor
- B. Clerk

- C. Financial Secretary
- D. Treasurer
- E. Board of Elders
- F. Trustees

2. Election Procedure: (For all except the Pastor and Elders)

- A. The majority of votes cast shall be necessary for election to an office. Elders require a 75% vote.
- B. At the annual Meeting the Elder Board, in cooperation with the Pastor and Trustees, shall present a slate consisting of qualified candidates for each office to be filled for the ensuing year. Only qualified candidates will be presented, even though all offices may not be filled. All nominees shall be chosen from the church membership. Relative to the definition of “qualified candidates”, the following Scriptures will be the basis of the definition: I Timothy 3:1-3; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-4.
- C. All Pastoral-level Staff, Elders and Trustees are expected to be generous, proportional and consistent givers.
- D. All officers elected shall assume their new duties immediately.
- E. Whenever vacancies occur in any of the church offices between the annual elections, the Elder Board will present possible candidates to the Church at a special business meeting for election. These candidates will fill such vacancies until the next election when the church shall elect those necessary to fill the unexpired term(s).
- F. No member shall hold more than one church office at one time except as otherwise defined in the Constitution.
- G. Officers who cannot fill an office in a satisfactory manner should tender their resignations in writing, giving two (2) weeks’ notice, so that the work of the church can be continued effectively.

3. Slate of Officers

- A. Elders – 1 (one) year term
- B. Trustees – three (3) year term (minimum of three (3) Trustees; one rotating off every year)
- C. Clerk – one (1) year term
- D. Financial Secretary – one (1) year term
- E. Treasurer – one (1) year term

4. Lead Pastor Duties and Responsibilities:

A. The Lead Pastor shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him. He shall administer the ordinances of the church, act as a moderator at church meetings for the transaction of church matters, supervise the teaching ministries of the church and tenderly watch over the spiritual interest of the membership.

B. Subject to appropriate budgetary allowance, and on the condition that they shall become a member of the church upon assuming their duties, the Lead Pastor may hire and dismiss associates and assistants to assist him in carrying out his God-given responsibilities. This is to be done in communication and cooperation with the Elders and Trustees.

C. All church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the Lead Pastor, who has the sole authority to dismiss them. No employee or volunteer, whose responsibilities include; teaching or leadership, shall be hired, appointed, or retained who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Doctrinal Statement.

D. The Lead Pastor is a voting member of the Elder Board.

Article VIII ***Pastoral Call***

The Lead Pastor shall be elected or dismissed by a three-fourths vote, by secret ballot, of the regular members present at a called meeting of the church, attended by the required quorum, of which proper notice in writing, stating the object thereof, shall have been sent to the entire church membership.

The calling of the Lead Pastor shall be upon the recommendation of a Search Committee. The term of the pastor shall be unlimited, but the relationship may be terminated by a three-month's written notice submitted by the Lead Pastor to the Board of Elders or by the Church to the Lead Pastor. The pastorate may be terminated at any time by the mutual consent of Church and Lead Pastor.

Article IX

Disposition of Church Property

1. Division:

In case of irreconcilable differences which result in organic division of the church membership, any church property shall belong to those members who abide by this constitution and attached bylaws.

2. Dissolution:

Distribution of any property will be done according to the New York State law.

3. Consolidation:

Should conditions arise such that this church decides that consolidation with another church of the same denomination is advisable, the Trustees shall be authorized by the church to negotiate the terms of such a consolidation in so far as the property is concerned.

Article X Designated Contributions

From time to time, the church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. All contributions to these funds shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature and shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the Pastor, Elders, and Trustees. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of its tax-exempt purposes.

Article XI Amendments

This Constitution may be amended at any business meeting of the Corporation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members voting, provided that a month's notice shall have been given of such

proposed amendment, that the notice shall set forth in writing the section to be amended, and that a quorum is present.

ADOPTION

This Constitution was adopted by a two-third majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the church in which a quorum was present.

This Constitution supersedes any other Constitutions of Christ Community Church.

September 11, 2016

Marg Alaimo

Date

Church Clerk