

TRINITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

CONSTITUTION

June 19, 1968

Amended: November 22, 1981

October 28, 1984

January 25, 1987

October 15, 2000

January 25, 2009

October 31, 2010

PREAMBLE

Trinity Christian Fellowship exists for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place to worship Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to expound the Word of God; to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ; to honor and be led by the Holy Spirit; to provide for Christian fellowship, education, and spiritual growth; to baptize and to celebrate The Lord's Supper; to equip members for ministry and serving; to develop Christian leadership and provide for commissioning, licensure, and ordination; to obey Jesus' command in Matthew 28:19-20 to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you."

Article I NAME

This church shall be called TRINITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, Chandler, Arizona, and is incorporated under the laws of the State of Arizona.

Article II STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1. Our faith is as expressed in "The Apostles' Creed":

"I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and earth.

"I believe in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified dead and buried. He descended into Hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

"I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen"

Section 2. Doctrinal Statement:

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice. (II Timothy 3:15-17; I Peter 23:25; Hebrews 4:12; John 20:31)
2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19; 3:16-17; Luke 1:35; I John 5:7; II Corinthians 13:14)
3. We believe in the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:1, 2; 10:30; 14:9); in His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23); in His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15); in His miracles (John 2:11; Luke 1:1-4); in His atoning death through His shed blood (Romans 3:23-26; I Corinthians 15:3; Colossians 1:14; I John 1:7; Hebrews 10:19); in His bodily resurrection (Matthew 28:6; Romans 1:4; I Corinthians 15:4); in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, where He ever lives to make intercession for us; and in His being the giver of and baptizer in the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:50-51; Acts 1:9-11; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 4:14; 8:1); and in His future personal return in power and glory (Acts 1:11; Titus 2:13).
4. We believe that through the personal acceptance of Jesus Christ by faith, a person becomes a Christian (John 1:12, Revelation 3:20) and his relationship as a child of God is restored. The acceptance of Christ assures us that Christ comes into our life, sins are forgiven, one becomes a child of God, new life with Christ begins, and we are assured of eternal life. (Revelation 3:20; Colossians 1:14; John 1:12; II Corinthians 5:17; John 10:10; John 11:25-26; 17:3).
5. We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and make Him real to men. We believe that Holy Spirit convicts and convinces, gives new life, indwells, guides, instructs and empowers the believer to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit, the greatest of these being love. We believe the Holy Spirit unites believers with one another in the body of Christ and equips members with gifts and ministries, including prophecy, healing, tongues, etc. (I Corinthians, Chapter 12), that the Church may do the works of Jesus.
6. We believe in the healing of the whole man, including the ministry of laying on of hands and anointing with oil, with prayer (James 5:14-15).
7. We believe in the resurrection of both the Christian and non-Christian; the Christian to everlasting life; the non-Christian to everlasting punishment (John 5:24-29; I Corinthians 15:20-28; Revelation 20:11-15).
8. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church and that every local church has the right, under Christ to decide and govern its own affairs (Romans 13:1-5; I Peter 2:13).

Article III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in the congregation shall be open to all who willingly affirm this personal commitment: “I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God and have accepted Him as my own personal Savior and Lord. I promise to be a faithful member of this congregation, praying for and serving other members of this part of the Body of Christ”; are in agreement with the Statement of Faith and other parts of the Constitution; have completed a membership training class; and have received approval for membership by the elders.

Section 2. Termination

Termination of membership will be for the following reasons:

- (A) By death.
- (B) By transfer to another church.
- (C) By request of the member.
- (D) By action of the elders in cases of discipline or failure to live up to the membership commitment.

Article IV LEADERSHIP

The Head of the Church is the Lord Jesus Christ. Under Him and in submission to Him, leadership of the congregation shall be provided by elders, deacons, and persons elected by the congregation to serve in an area(s) of ministry in accordance with the Scriptures. Along with carrying out the various duties listed below, all leaders shall encourage and equip church members of their own individual ministries within and outside the local Body.

Section 1. Elders

There shall be no set number of elders and no defined term of office. Elders shall be active members of the congregation, men of mature judgement and experience. Candidates for eldership are to be proposed by the Nominating Committee to the existing elders and, upon securing their approval, to the congregation for election. (See Acts 14:23). Annually the Nominating Committee shall review the eldership (in consultation with the elders) and shall recommend to the Annual Meeting of the congregation or another meeting of the congregation called according to the provisions of Sections 2 and 3 of Article V the continuation or discontinuation of each elder’s office. An elder’s active service may also be terminated at any time by resignation or by consensus of the other active elders.

Qualifications: I Timothy 3:1-7, 5:16; Titus 1:5-9

Duties: Acts 6:2,4: 20:28; I Timothy 5:17; John 21:15-17; I Peter 5:1-4; Titus 1:8-9; James 5:14

Prayer, ministry of the Word (preaching and teaching), overseers to shepherd the flock, guardians of the truth – these scriptural provisions shall include directing and leading public worship, including approval of all special speakers, musicians, etc., invited to minister; providing encouragement, counsel, exhortation, admonition, pastoral care for the membership; development of leadership and of the ministry of every member; oversight of everything that is taught in the life of the congregation, including personnel and content (curriculum); receiving and dismissing members; acting in matters of discipline; evangelism and outreach; missions – local, national, world-wide; directing all programs of the congregation and leadership involved, such as music, youth, men’s and women’s groups, discipleship, leadership training, etc.

Shall meet regularly (at least once a month) to carry out responsibilities and shall provide counsel and direction for the Board of Deacons and the congregation as a whole.

Section 2. Deacons and Deaconesses

The Board of Deacons shall be composed of not less than nine members. Nominations shall be made by the Nominating Committee, after receiving approval by the elders, and shall be elected by the congregation at the Annual Meeting or another meeting of the congregation called according to the provisions of Sections 2 and 3 of Article V. Deacons and deaconesses shall serve rotating three-year terms. When a person has served a full three-year term, that person shall be eligible for re-election to the same office. A deacon’s active service may also be terminated at any time by resignation or by consensus of the elders.

Deacons and deaconesses shall be active members of the congregation, men and women of mature judgment and experience.

Qualifications: Acts 6:3, I Timothy 3:8-13; Romans 16:1-2

Duties: The Board of Deacons shall serve as the administrative board of the church, responsible for running the business of the congregation and ministering to the needs of the congregation. The Board shall elect annually its own officers:

Chairman, a man who shall also chair meetings of the congregation.

Vice-chairman, who shall assist the chairman and serve as chairman in his absence.

Secretary, who shall serve the congregation in the same capacity and be responsible for recording and preserving minutes of meetings.

The board shall annually appoint a church treasurer and a financial secretary, who shall be active church members but not necessarily members of the Board of Deacons.

Other duties include: directing the finances of the congregation; maintenance of all buildings and grounds owned or leased by the congregation; selection and supervision of personnel employed by the congregation, in consultation with the

elders; serving the congregation by encouraging fellowship, visitation, assistance in cases of emergency, financial need, illness, death, etc.

Shall meet as often as necessary in order to conduct its business, but no less than six times a year. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum. Each year the Board of Deacons shall organize itself into committees necessary to carry out its duties and priorities. The only set committee shall be the Committee of Trustees, which shall be composed of at least three members of the Board of Deacons and shall elect its own chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary who shall serve as the corporate officers of the congregation.

Members of the congregation may be asked to serve on committees of the Board of Deacons, but the chairman of each committee shall be a member of the Board of Deacons.

Section 3. Pastor

The congregation shall, by proposal of the elders and deacons and approval by a majority attending a properly-called meeting of the congregation, call a pastor(s) who, with the elders, shall be the spiritual overseer of the congregation. He shall be a man of mature experience, in agreement with the doctrinal statement of the congregation, and possessing the same qualifications as listed in "Section 1. Elders" above. He shall be free to preach and teach the Word of God according to his conscience and the leading of the Holy Spirit. His duties shall include those of the elders, for whom he shall provide leadership. He shall also be an ex-officio member of all boards, committees, and departments of the church, and shall work closely with the Board of Deacons, especially its chairman, in its serving as the governing board of the church and shall oversee the maintenance of accurate up-to-date records of active church membership, baptisms, and other necessary statistics in the life of the congregation.

The congregation shall call an individual(s) as pastor(s) in accordance with a position description, which includes definition of the area(s) of ministry in which that person is to function. A pastor shall serve as head of staff when written into the position description.

The pastor(s) may be invited to serve the congregation for an indefinite term or for a period of time which shall be determined by the congregation at the time of invitation. Such items as salary and other benefits shall also be determined at the time of invitation and reviewed annually.

Termination of a person's ministry according to the above may come through resignation or through action taken by the elders and Board of Deacons and approved by a majority vote of the church membership.

Section 4. Other Ministries

The congregation shall, by proposal of the elders and deacons and approval by a majority attending a properly-called meeting of the congregation, invite to share in the leadership of the congregation in addition to a pastor(s) one or more persons called to a full-time, financially-supported ministry according to Ephesians 4:11-13 and 1 Corinthians 12:28 (apostle, prophet, evangelist, teacher, helper, administrator, etc.).

The congregation shall call an individual(s) to minister in accordance with a position description, which includes definition of the area(s) of ministry in which that person is to function.

Such individual(s) may be invited to serve the congregation for an indefinite term or for a period of time, which shall be determined, by the congregation at the time of invitation. Such items as salary and other benefits shall also be determined at the time of invitation and reviewed annually.

Those called in accordance with the above shall possess the same qualifications as elders and shall be team members with and co-workers among the elders. They shall also be resource persons for and co-workers with the deacons.

Termination of a person's ministry according to the above may come through resignation or through action taken by the elders and Board of Deacons and approved by a majority vote of the church membership.

In addition to the above, the elders and deacons may secure the employment of church staff (part-time in a ministry capacity or part-or full-time in an occupation such as secretary, custodians, etc.) as long as financial compensation falls within amounts designated in the congregation-approved budget.

Section 5 Commissioning, Licensure, and Ordination

In recognition of the call of God on an individual's life and the confirmation of such call in the person's Christian walk, service, gifts, and ministry, the congregation has the right to commission and to grant licensure and/or ordination as a minister of Trinity Christian Fellowship.

Commission, licensure, and ordination shall be initiated and recommended by the elders and pastor and approved by the Boards of Deacons, acting on behalf of the congregation.

Commissioning is the setting apart of an individual or group for a particular ministry, task, or mission outreach. This can involve serving the congregation in an official capacity over a long period of time or representing the congregation on a short-term assignment. The duration and scope of the commission shall be stated at the time of commissioning; in the case of an open-ended appointment, the commissioning shall be reviewed once a year.

Ordinarily, licensure will precede ordination, except for persons employed full-time by Trinity Christian Fellowship and will be considered only after an individual has been a member of Trinity Christian Fellowship for a minimum of one year and has clearly demonstrated God's call into ministry.

Except for persons employed full-time by Trinity Christian Fellowship, ordination may be recommended only after an individual has been a member of Trinity Christian Fellowship for a minimum of three years and has held license with Trinity Christian Fellowship for a minimum of one year.

Licensure and/or ordination as a minister of Trinity Christian Fellowship may be revoked at any time, following counsel and prayer with the individual concerned, by the elders and pastors meeting as a body.

Article V MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION

Section 1. The annual Congregational Business meeting will be held on or before the 4th Sunday of January each year, unless otherwise determined and announced by the Board of Deacons.

Section 2. Special congregational meetings may be called by a majority vote of the elders or Board of Deacons or by petition by not less than one-third of the active membership of the church.

Section 3. All congregational meetings of the church, regular or special, shall be publicly announced on the Sunday prior to the date of the proposed meeting. The purpose of a special-meeting shall be stated in the announcement, and no business may be considered other than stated in the announcement. A quorum shall be one-fourth of the membership of the church, for any congregational meeting.

Section 4. Annual Congregation Meeting

(A) The annual Congregational Meeting of the church shall follow this order unless the Chairman requests a change, with approval by a majority of those present:

1. Opening prayer and devotions
2. Reading of minutes, and approval
3. Reports
4. Election of officers and Nominating Committee
5. Unfinished Business
6. New Business
7. Adjournment
8. Closing prayer

(B) A quorum shall be one-fourth of the membership of the church.

- (C) A majority vote of those present shall constitute an election unless otherwise specified in the Constitution.
- (D) All items of business shall be submitted to the Chairman at least two weeks prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting of the church.

Section 5. Special Congregational Meetings

(A) Special meetings shall follow this order:

1. Opening prayer and devotions
2. Special business
3. Adjournment
4. Closing prayer

(B) A quorum shall be one-fourth of the membership of the church

(C) A majority vote of those present shall constitute an election unless otherwise specified in the Constitution.

Article VI
FINANCES

Section 1. All funds for the church shall be provided by voluntary contribution of tithes, offerings, and other gifts, bequests or trusts by members and friends (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8) or from sale or rental of church property.

Section 2. All salaries to be paid shall be established by the Board of Deacons with the consent of the elders and approved by majority vote at each Annual Meeting of the congregation.

Section 3. Offerings for projects, programs and missionaries may be given through the church. All designated funds will be used in accordance with the designated intent of the donor, provided that it is part of the present or prospective ministries of Trinity Christian Fellowship and proper in accordance with its exempt purpose. Any funds collected that do not meet this qualification shall be returned to the donor in accordance with policies established by Trinity Christian Fellowship.

Section 4. Disbursements shall be made in accordance with policies and budgets established by the Board of Deacons and approved at a congregational meeting.

Section 5. The church shall be free to support materially, spiritually, and physically ministries, missionaries, schools, programs, and projects of its choosing, providing they are in essential agreement with the Statement of Faith in Article II.

Section 6. An annual audit shall be made and a financial report given at the annual congregational business meeting of the church.

Article VII
PROPERTY

- Section 1. All property of the church shall be deeded to the church and held in its name.
- Section 2. No real estate or building belonging to the church shall be sold, leased, or mortgaged or otherwise disposed of until such action shall have been approved by a majority vote of the Board of Deacons and ratified by a majority vote of the membership of the church.
- Section 3. The Chairman and Secretary of the church corporation shall certify in such conveyance, lease or mortgage, that the same has been authorized by the Board of Deacons and ratified by the membership.
- Section 4. In event of dissolution of Trinity Christian Fellowship, following the payment of all debts all property assets shall be given to a non-profit organization or organizations, approved by the Internal Revenue Service, and approved by the Board of Deacons, and ratified by a majority vote at a congregational meeting.

Article VIII
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A Nominating Committee shall be selected at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to serve as a standing committee for one year for the purpose of placing nomination at each Annual Meeting or another meeting of the congregation called according to the provisions of Section 2 and 3 of Article V, the names of church members to serve as elders and deacons, and to place in nomination at specially-called congregation meetings the name of church members to fill vacancies on the Boards of Deacons, if such should seem advisable.

- (A) The Nominating Committee shall have seven members
Two (2) elders, one as chairman
Two (2) deacons
Three (3) members from the congregation-at-large
- (A) The Nominating Committee shall announce a slate of nominees to the congregation at least three weeks prior to the annual congregational business meeting of the church or another meeting of the congregation called according to the provisions of Sections 2 and 3 of Article V.
- (B) Nominations from the floor may not be made. Members of the congregation are encouraged to give their suggestions to the Nominating Committee, in writing.
- (C) Election shall be by a majority vote at the annual congregational business meeting of the church or another meeting of the congregation called according to the provisions of Sections 2 and 3 of Article V.

Article IX
AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the resident membership of the church, provided that the proposed change is set forth in writing and made available in church services at least four weeks prior to the meeting.

Article X. BYLAWS
Constitutional Amendment

Trinity Christian Fellowship shall adopt a set of bylaws that shall set, supplement, explain and elaborate on the manner in which the church shall govern itself. Prior to presentation to the membership, the initial set of bylaws shall first be approved by the elders and the deacons, by a majority vote of the members present. The initial set of bylaws shall be made available to the membership in written form at least four weeks prior to the meeting at which the vote will take place. The initial set of bylaws shall be adopted if approved by three-fourths of members present and voting at a meeting, which may be the annual meeting, or a meeting called for that purpose. The bylaws may thereafter be amended in the same manner as set forth herein for the adoption of the initial set of bylaws.