

TRINITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

BY-LAWS

October 31, 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1	Name	Page 2
SECTION 2	Statement of Purpose	Page 2
SECTION 3	Statement of Faith	Page 3
SECTION 4	Covenant of Fellowship	Page 4
SECTION 5	Membership	Page 5
Section 5.1	Requirements	
Section 5.2	Procedure	
Section 5.3	Termination of Membership	
Section 5.4	Church Discipline	
SECTION 6	Worship	Page 6
SECTION 7	Government	Page 7
Section 7.1	The Members	
Section 7.2	Voting Members	
Section 7.3	Conducting Business	
Section 7.4	Pastors and Employees	
SECTION 8	Indemnification	Page 9
SECTION 9	Amendments to Bylaws	Page 9
SECTION 10	Arbitration	Page 9
SECTION 11	Dissolution	Page 11

SECTION 1

NAME AND OFFICES

1.1 Name. The name of this church will be Trinity Christian Fellowship, Inc., and is incorporated in the State of Arizona.

1.2 Principal Office. The principal office of the Church in the State of Arizona shall be located at Chandler, Arizona. The Board of Deacons may change the location of any office of the Church.

1.3 Registered Office and Statutory Agent. The Church shall maintain a registered office and statutory agent in Arizona. The registered office may, but need not, be identical with the Church's principal office in Arizona. The Board of Deacons may change the registered office and the statutory agent as needed.

SECTION 2

NONPROFIT PURPOSES

2.1 Tax Exemption. This Church is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes as specified in Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (hereinafter the "Code"), including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Code. The church or any individual in an official capacity representing the church is prohibited from engaging in for-profit transactions or political activities. Political lobbying activities are limited to the "insubstantial" guidelines as articulated by the IRS Code, as those guidelines are presently interpreted or may be interpreted in the future.

2.2 Statement of Purpose. Trinity Christian Fellowship is committed to the following priorities:

(a) Passion For The Lost. The clear purpose of Jesus was to "seek and save that which is lost". (Luke 19:10). As a church, we desire to follow His example as we attempt to bring the Good News of Christ to a lost world.

(b) Preaching of God's Word. In strongly believing that "all Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness..." (II Timothy 3:16), we desire to communicate God's Word as set forth in the Holy Bible in a clear and practical way.

(c) Participatory Worship. We promote the heart-felt expression and participation of believers in worshipping God when we assemble together.

(d) Purposeful Equipping of the Believer. Believing that our mandate from God is “for the equipping of the saints for the work of service...” (Ephesians 4:12), we strategically nurture believers toward Biblical life change and equip them to discover and employ their giftedness. (I Peter 4:10).

(e) Personal Hospitality. In our conviction that love should be expressed and hospitality shown, (I Peter 4:8-9; Hebrews 13:1,2), we endeavor to encourage our body to exhibit a sincere love for people that is demonstrated both corporately and individually.

(f) Evangelism. We embrace Christ’s command to reach the lost, starting with our local community and to the ends of the earth in missions outreach (Matt 28:19).

(g) Holiness of Believer. It is our desire to live in holiness, not in ignorance. 1 Peter 1:14-16.

SECTION 3

STATEMENT OF FAITH: MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY.

This statement of faith set forth in our Constitution at Section II does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe as interpreted and applied by our Pastors and Elders. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, infallible Word of God and the final authority concerning morality and conduct of mankind.

We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning, which is that marriage is sanctioned by God and joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, polygamy, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one’s gender, or disagreement with one’s biological gender, is sinful and offensive to God. We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church.

SECTION 4

COVENANT OF FELLOWSHIP

As a standard of Christian conduct, each member by the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, covenants:

- (a) To walk in Christian love.
- (b) To exercise Christian care and watchfulness over one another.
- (c) To pray with and for one another, sharing our burdens, sorrows, and joys.
- (d) To be thoughtful and courteous to one another, to be slow to take offense, and to be quick to forgive and to seek forgiveness.
- (e) To guard the spiritual and Scriptural purity, and the peace and prosperity of the Church and its growth in Scriptural knowledge, love and Godliness.
- (f) To assist, as the Lord enables, in the work of the Church and to promote its usefulness as a witness to the saving grace of God in Christ Jesus.
- (g) To contribute, as the Lord directs, to the financial support of the Church, the relief of the needy, and the evangelization of all people.
- (h) To love and to pray for all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- (i) To engage regularly in corporate worship, personal Bible study, and prayer.
- (j) To bring up the children entrusted to our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
- (k) To walk worthy of our calling in the world, to practice honesty and integrity in all things.
- (l) To endeavor by example, by word and by prayer, to share with others the Good News of Jesus Christ, and be ever ready to lead someone to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

- (m) To adhere to the Constitution and these Bylaws.

SECTION 5

MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Qualifications of Membership. The Church shall have one class of members. Only individuals may become members. To become a member, the individual shall participate in a membership class and a subsequent Elder interview. No dues or assessments shall be placed on members.

5.2 Requirements of Members. Persons presenting themselves for membership in this church will be required to accept the statements of faith and purpose, the covenant of fellowship, complete all membership classes, and must agree to be governed in church affiliation by the constitution and these bylaws. An interview to screen potential members will be given prior to membership. Upon completion and acceptance as outlined above, and by accepting the certificate for membership and the right hand of fellowship, membership is granted.

5.3 Termination of Membership. Membership at Trinity Christian Fellowship may be terminated in the following ways:

- (a) By transfer – it will be the policy of this church to issue letters of transfer only upon the request of the church with which the member desires to unite.

- (b) By removal – a member's name may be dropped from the membership roll of this church upon written request of such member.

- (c) By inactivity – If the elders determine that a member has been inactive, through lack of attendance or interest in the church ministry over a period of six months, the member will be contacted by the elders or pastors and encouraged to fulfill his/her commitment of membership. Unless renewed commitment is shown, the member's name will be dropped from the membership roll of the church.

- (d) By death.

- (e) By exclusion through church discipline – as defined in Section 5.4

5.4 Church Discipline. Ongoing sin in the life of a believer obstructs higher walk with the Lord, threatens the unity and fellowship within the body, and ultimately weakens the witness of the Church to those who do not know Christ (II Corinthians 6:3; I John 1:6,7). Scripture encourages believers to be concerned with each other's spiritual well-being, and teaches them to confront in love where there is evidence of sin (II Corinthians 11:29; Luke 17:3; Galatians

6:1,2). This Section concerns ongoing sin, and not disputes between members. See Section 12, "Arbitration" for disputes between members. Regarding ongoing sin, Trinity Christian Fellowship acknowledges the following procedure for confrontation in such cases:

(a) If one has firsthand knowledge of ongoing sin in the life of a fellow believing member, he/she should go promptly and confront the individual in private, encouraging him/her to confess and repent, seeking forgiveness and reconciliation. (Matthew 18:15).

(b) If there is no expression of repentance, he/she should confirm the facts of the situation in the presence of one or two witnesses. (Matthew 18:16).

If there is still no repentance, Scripture teaches that the matter should be brought before the Church. At Trinity Christian Fellowship, the matter at this point will be brought before the Elders. The Elders will attempt to confirm the facts of the situation, the individual will be given the opportunity to respond to the accusation(s) and, if they are proven to be true, the Elders will call for confession and repentance. If there is confession and repentance, the Elders will determine and oversee a process of restoration to be followed by the individual. (2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15; 2 Corinthians 13: 5; Titus 3:10,11). If there is no confession or repentance, the membership of that person will be revoked.

(c) Any person whose membership has been revoked may, upon repentance and compliance with the disciplinary action applied in the situation, be restored to fellowship and ministry by the Elders of the Church.

It is essential that the process of church discipline be approached and carried out with an attitude of love, concern, and humility, and should be motivated by the sincere desire to see repentance and the restoration of fellowship. Reflecting God's grace and forgiveness, believers are taught to be quick to forgive when there is the genuine expression of repentance on the part of a fellow believer, (Galatians 6:1; Matthew 6:14, 15; 18:21ff; Ephesians 4:32; Luke 17:3).

SECTION 6

WORSHIP MEETINGS

The Church shall meet regularly, on a weekly basis, on Sunday mornings and at such other times as the Elders decide for worship, prayer, fellowship, and teaching the Word of God.

SECTION 7

GOVERNMENT

7.1 The Members. The membership of this Church shall be composed of individuals who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and affirm the tenets of the Trinity Christian Fellowship Constitution, and who offer evidence, by their confession and their conduct, that they are living in accord with their affirmations and this Constitution and Bylaws, and are actively pursuing and continuing in a vital fellowship with the Lord, Jesus Christ. The membership of the Church shall have final authority in all matters of church governance, as set forth and described in the Constitution and Bylaws. The government of the Church, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, rests under the authority of the Pastors, the Board of Elders, and the Board of Deacons whose vote represents the membership of the body. Scripture clearly supports the leadership, pastoral responsibility, and direction of the Church by the Elders and Deacons. All ministries, direction, and management of the Church as outlined in the bylaws will be carried out through the application of Scripture and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

7.2 Voting Members. Voting members shall be limited to those members with a principal place of residence in Maricopa or adjoining counties of Arizona, who are fourteen years old or older. "Principal place of residence" is defined as the address used for voter registration purposes. In the event an individual is not registered to vote, the address used for federal income tax purposes shall define that individual's principal place of residence.

7.3 Conducting Business.

(a) Place – All business meetings of the members will be held at the principal place of worship of this church, unless otherwise specified.

(b) Time – There shall be an annual business meeting of the members called in the manner prescribed in the Constitution at Section

(c) Decisions that constitute debt (such as a building campaign) will be brought before the membership for discussion and vote through a duly called business meeting.

(d) Voting – A member may vote in person or by proxy. A member may in writing authorize another member to act for the member by proxy. The person or persons shall not vote or act on the proxy except for the specific meeting for which it is identified. A proxy need not follow any particular form, but must set forth the date of the meeting for which it is intended to be effective, must identify the giver and the holder of the proxy, and must be signed by the giver of the proxy. At any meeting of the congregation, a member may cast his own vote and the vote of as many as two proxies, but no more than two. A proxy is effective when

the secretary or other officer or agent who is authorized to tabulate votes receives the proxy. Proxies may be delivered to the church address, 50 S. McQueen, Chandler, Arizona. A telefacsimile or a scanned and emailed copy of a member's proxy is sufficient to confer voting rights upon the holder of the proxy. All proxies are revocable by written instrument signed by the member. Proxies are only effective when voting is by secret ballot.

e) Members Present – In all instances where voting is identified in the constitution as being by members “present,” that term shall mean the members present and voting either in person or by proxy.

(f) Resident Membership – Resident membership, as that term is used in Article IX of the constitution, shall mean the members present and voting either in person or by proxy.

(g) Rules – Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order.

(h) A detailed agenda for any congregational meeting will be published in the church bulletin at least 2 Sundays prior to the meeting.

7.4 Pastors And Employees.

(a) Job Descriptions. There shall be a job description for each employee of the church. Each job description shall be approved by the Elders and shall be available in the church office for review by any member.

(b) Oversight of Personnel. The Senior Pastor will assume the responsibility for leading the staff.

(c) Duties. The Pastors and Elders will watch over the spiritual life of this church, preach and teach the Word, administer the ordinances, and have charge of the worship services. They shall be responsible for ensuring that adult church workers who assume responsibility for the spiritual well being of the children of the congregation, whether as paid clergy or as volunteers, have agreed to abide by and are abiding by these bylaws and the Children's Ministry Policies and Procedures. A copy of the Children's and Youth Ministry Policies and Procedures shall be available in the church office for review by any member.

(d) Candidates. A candidate for employment will be considered only after he/she has agreed to the doctrinal statement and bylaws of Trinity Christian Fellowship.

SECTION 8

INDEMNIFICATION

When Indemnification is required, permitted and prohibited. The Church shall indemnify a Director, officer, committee member, employee or agent of the Church who was, is or may be named defendant or respondent in any proceeding as a result of his or her actions or omissions within the scope of his or her official capacity in the Church. For the purposes of this Section, an agent includes one who is or was servicing at the request of the church as a Director, officer, partner, venturer, proprietor, trustee, partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, trust, employee benefit plan, or other enterprise. However, the Church shall indemnify a person only if he or she acted in good faith and reasonably believed that the conduct was in the Church's best interests. In a case of a criminal proceeding, the person may be indemnified only if he or she had no reasonable cause to believe that the conduct was unlawful. The church shall not indemnify a person who is found liable to the Church or is found liable to another on the basis of improperly receiving personal benefit. A person is conclusively considered to have been found liable in relation to any claim, issue or matter if a court of competent jurisdiction has adjudged the person liable and all appeals have been exhausted.

SECTION 9

AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

Amendments to these bylaws may be made at any business meeting, upon the recommendation of the Elders, provided that notice of the change(s) has been made at least four (4) weeks before said meeting, upon the vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the members present, and voting in accordance with section 7.3(d).

SECTION 10

ARBITRATION

10.1 Peacemaking. Although it is appropriate for one or both parties in a dispute to seek advice on how to implement peacemaking responses, members should normally try to resolve their differences one-on-one before asking others to intervene in the dispute.

(a) Overlook an offense. Many disputes are so insignificant that they should be resolved by quietly and deliberately overlooking an offense. *"A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense"* (Prov. 19:11). Overlooking an offense is a form of

forgiveness, and involves a deliberate decision not to talk about it, dwell on it, or let it grow into pent-up bitterness or anger.

(b) Reconciliation. If an offense is too serious to overlook or has damaged our relationship, we need to resolve personal or relational issues through confession, loving correction, and forgiveness. *"[If] your brother has something against you ... go and be reconciled"* (Matt. 5:23-24). *"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently"* (Gal. 6:1; see Matt. 18:15). *"Forgive as the Lord forgave you"* (Col. 3:13).

(c) Negotiation. Even if we successfully resolve *relational* issues, we may still need to work through *material* issues related to money, property, or other rights. This should be done through a cooperative bargaining process in which the parties seek to reach a settlement that satisfies the legitimate needs of each side. *"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others"* (Phil. 2:4).

10.2 Dispute Resolution. If the parties cannot resolve a dispute through personal peacemaking, they should pursue one of the *assisted responses*. This will require that they seek help from other people in their church or community.

(a) Mediation. If two people cannot reach an agreement in private, they should ask one or more objective outside people to meet with them to help them communicate more effectively and explore possible solutions. *"If he will not listen [to you], take one or two others along"* (Matt. 18:16). These mediators may ask questions and give advice, but they have no authority to force you to accept a particular solution.

(b) Binding Christian Arbitration. When the parties cannot come to a voluntary agreement on a material issue, they may appoint one or more arbitrators to listen to their arguments and render a binding decision to settle the issue. *"If you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church"* (1 Cor. 6:4).

(c) Accountability. If a person who professes to be a Christian refuses to be reconciled and do what is right, Jesus commands his or her church leaders to formally intervene to hold him or her accountable to Scripture and to promote repentance, justice, and forgiveness: *"If he refuses to listen [to others], tell it to the church"* (Matt. 18:17).

10.3 All legal claims by members, Deacons, officers and employees against the Church shall be resolved in binding Christian arbitration where all other attempts at reconciliation or mediation are unsuccessful. All participants in any dispute agree to this method of resolution and waive any rights of access to

courts or litigation, except where such waiver is impermissible by law. 1
Corinthians 6: 1-8.

The board of elders shall be the sole authority in all matters of doctrine, practice and interpretation of scripture, and questions of church governance. All members agree to be bound by the board's interpretation and decisions in any dispute

SECTION 11

DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding Section of any future Federal tax code. The Board of Deacons is directed to distribute such assets to non-profit entities consistent with the nature of Trinity Christian Fellowship, and specifically to entities that have as their primary purpose the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Any assets not so disposed shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is located. Disposal shall be made exclusively for exempt or public purposes consistent with the mission of Trinity Christian Fellowship, or be made to such organization or organizations as the court shall determine to be organized exclusively for such purposes.