

Constitution and Bylaws of the Imperial Community Church, INC.

Imperial California

Article I. Name and Object

This organization shall be known as the Imperial Community Church, INC. The Imperial Community Church is incorporated as an independent non-denominational assembly for the purpose of:

1. Worship of God.
2. Winning souls to Christ.
3. The edification of believers through the teaching of God's Word.
4. The world-wide proclamation of God's saving grace expressed in the shed blood and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary.
5. And the contending for the faith once for delivered to the saints.

The method of attaining these purposes shall be consistent and in harmony with God's Holy Word, The Bible.

Article II. The Articles of Faith

1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible, and God-breathed. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18)

2. The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three Persons—The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit—co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

3. The Person and Work of Christ

- a. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. (John 1:1-2, and 14; Luke 1:30-35)
- b. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice, and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Romans 3:24-25; 1 Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5)
- c. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to the heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Acts 1:9; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:24; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2)

4. The Person and Work of The Holy Spirit

- a. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (John 16: 8-11; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14)
 - b. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth, and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Holy Spirit. (John 16:13; 1 John 2:20-27; Ephesians 5:18)
 - c. We believe the Holy Spirit administers spiritual gifts to the church. We believe the Holy Spirit glorifies neither Himself nor His gifts by ostentatious displays, but He does glorify Christ by implementing His work of redeeming the lost and building up believers in the most holy faith. We believe God uses His Holy Spirit to save, teach, sanctify, and prepare His elect for His service, to bring Him glory and honor. (John 16:13-14; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 2 Corinthians 3:6-18; Ephesians 1:11-13)
5. The Total Depravity of Man
We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and that man is totally depraved and of himself utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3; Ephesians 2:12)
6. Salvation
We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sin. (Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19)
7. The Eternal Security of Believers
We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 6:37-40; John 10:27-30; Romans 8:1; Romans 8:38-39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:5)
8. Separation
We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord, and that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly lusts and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded by God. (2 Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1-2; Romans 14:13; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9:11; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 2 Corinthians 7:1)
9. Missions
We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind. (Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20)
10. The Personality of Satan
We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall. He is the open and declared enemy of God and man, and he shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:1-3)
11. The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in that “Blessed Hope”, the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones, and in His subsequent return to earth with His saints to establish His Millennial Kingdom. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 19:11-16; Revelation 20:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; Revelation 3:10-11)

12. The Eternal State

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; John 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5-13)

13. Human Sexuality

- a. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God’s gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one’s gender by surgery or appearance. (Genesis 2:24; Genesis 19:5-13; Genesis 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Deuteronomy 22:5; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)
- b. We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one biological man and one biological woman. Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, Imperial Community Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the Pastor and leadership of Imperial Community Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one biological man and one biological woman. Finally, the facilities and property of Imperial Community Church shall only host weddings between one biological man and one biological woman. (Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23)
- c. Marriage ceremonies may only be performed on Imperial Community Church grounds if the bride or groom are members of Imperial Community Church and if the Pastor of Imperial Community Church either officiates or designates an official for the wedding.

This does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For the purposes of Imperial Community Church’s faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Pastor and Elders are Imperial Community Church’s final interpretive authority on the Bible’s meaning and application.

Article III, Membership

1. Qualifications

The membership shall include those persons who are born again believers, who seek to practice faithfully their constitutional obligations to the church, who attend the public worship services of the church, and who share in the financial responsibilities of the church. Each applicant for membership shall be required to subscribe to the Articles of Faith of this church. Every member of this church, by the Grace of God, should endeavor to be faithful to Him in everything (1

Corinthians 4:1-2; Romans 12:1), be faithful to this church in attendance, gifts, time, effort, and prayers (Hebrews 10:25; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Ephesians 6:18), live a separated life, which means abstaining from questionable things, so that Romans 14:20-21, and 1 Thessalonians 5:22 will not be violated.

2. Reception

Applicants for membership shall appear before the membership committee for questioning with regard to his spiritual life and who shall in turn use their judgment in recommending his/her name to the church for final reception. Members shall be received by not less than a two-thirds vote of voting members present in a public meeting and shall sign the Articles of Faith in the church membership record book. Individuals may only apply for membership with Imperial Community Church if they have been consecutively attending worship services for no less than one year. Applications for membership will be carefully considered by the Pastor or the Board of Elders.

3. Removal

- a. Members may be removed from the roll by vote of the church on recommendation of the membership committee but only after reasonable efforts have been made by the membership committee to renew his fellowship with the Lord and carry out his constitutional obligations. Any member who for one-year absents himself from participation in the life and service of the church without good reason satisfactory to the Elders shall automatically be dropped from the church membership. Persons so removed may be restored to membership by vote of the church on recommendation of the membership committee after giving the committee satisfactory evidence of their renewed interest and spiritual restoration.

4. Teachers and Speakers

- a. All teachers and speakers during church activities and functions must be regularly attending members of Imperial Community Church or specially approved by the Pastor or the Board of Elders.

5. Leaders

- a. All ministry leaders in the church must be regularly attending members of Imperial Community Church or specially appointed for a limited time by the Pastor or the Board of Elders.

Article IV, Officers and Official Bodies

1. Officers

The officers shall consist of the Pastor, not more than seven Elders, five Corporation Directors (Trustees), not more than seven Deacons, a Clerk, a Treasurer, and the general Sunday School Superintendent.

2. Qualifications

All officers shall be members of this church in good standing and shall be men and women of honest report, full of faith and the Holy Spirit. They shall be exemplary in their life and deportment and abstain from those things which will hurt their influence and thereby hinder

the work of God. Each officer shall promise to fulfill the duties of the office to the best of his ability as the Lord leads, be faithful in prayer, in Bible study, and testimony.

3. Election of Officers

The Elders and Deacons shall be elected for a three year term. They shall be eligible for election to the same board at the end of their term of office. The boards shall elect their own chairman annually. All other church officers, except the Pastor, shall be elected for a term of one year, and shall assume their duties at the beginning of the church year. The church may, at any regular or special meeting, by a two-thirds vote of voting members present, elect to the office of honorary elder anyone who has given long and faithful service either on the Board of Elders or as an ordained minister.

4. Pastor

The Pastor shall be elected for an indefinite term, the relation to be dissolved by mutual consent or after one month's notice. The call or dismissal of a pastor may come before the church at a regularly called business meeting, providing written notice of such meeting and its purpose shall have been sent to members two weeks previous, and shall require a two-thirds vote of voting members present. The Pastor shall be the leader of the church in all of its activities in cooperation with the official boards and advance the spiritual interests of the church and congregation. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or boards.

5. Elders (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)

a. The Elders shall:

- i. Provide for the ordinance of baptism
- ii. Provide for the Lord's Supper
- iii. Minister to the necessities of the needy and sick
- iv. Aid the pastor in his visitation
- v. Serve with the Pastor as the membership committee
- vi. Revise the membership list annually in December
- vii. And superintend all affairs of the church not in charge of other officers
- viii. They shall act as a pulpit committee
- ix. They shall jealousy guard the spiritual interests of the church
- x. They shall assist the Superintendant of The Sunday School and shall approve and appoint the teachers, officers and department heads recommended by the Superintendant and Pastor.
- xi. Pastor and Elders shall be authorized to expend such funds as are contributed to the Elders Fund for the accomplishment of the above described duties.

6. Corporation Directors

They shall fulfill all duties required by the Corporation laws of the State of California.

7. Deacons (1 Timothy 3:8-13)

- a. The Deacons shall have the care and custody of all property of the church and make all ordinary repairs and improvements
- b. They shall recommend any extraordinary expense to the Official Board for its approval
- c. They shall arrange for the care of the church and provide ordinary supplies
- d. They shall set all salaries.

8. Clerk
 - a. The Clerk shall keep the minutes of the Official Board and of all congregational business meetings
 - b. Keep a registry of the membership
 - c. Preserve documents, papers and letters
 - d. And issue such letters as directed by the church.
9. Treasurer
 - a. The Church Treasurer shall receive all funds paid into the church
 - b. All money received shall be deposited at the bank designated by the Official Board.
 - c. All expenditures approved by the Board of Deacons shall be paid promptly
 - d. And a correct account of all money received and paid out shall be kept
 - e. A monthly report shall be given to the Board of Deacons for approval and for posting
 - f. Quarterly and annual reports shall be given at regular congregational business meeting.
10. Sunday School Superintendent

The Sunday School Superintendent shall have the general oversight of the Sunday school in cooperation with the Pastor and the Board of Elders.
11. Official Board
 - a. The Official Board shall consist of the Pastor, the Elders, the Deacons, the Clerk, the Treasurer, and the Sunday School Superintendent.
 - b. They shall elect their own chairman annually
 - c. The Official Board shall act as a working cabinet of the Pastor, advising with him upon all matters pertaining to the general policy of the church and the various organizations within the church
 - d. Any serious difficulty shall be referred to the Official Board and all important matters of business shall be brought to the attention of the membership for approval
 - e. Meetings may be called by the Pastor or the chairman and must consist of at least two-thirds of the members of the Official Board
 - f. The chairman shall preside at congregational business meetings unless other designation is made by the Official Board.

Article V Government

1. Business meetings
 - a. Business meetings will be held as needed and will be determined by the Official board. Each business meeting will be held at a date and time that is determined by the Official Board.
 - b. The annual business meeting will be held in January of each year, at a date and time to be determined by the Official Board. The election of board members and church officers will occur during the annual business meeting.
 - c. There will be four Official Board meetings per year, to be held at a date and time to be determined by the Official Board members. When applicable, an Official Board Meeting will precede a business meeting by at least one day.

2. Nominations

A Nomination Committee consisting of five voting members shall be appointed by the Board of Elders on or before the first of December. The Nominating Committee shall carefully and prayerfully select one or more candidates for each office to be filled and shall report the names of candidates at the annual election of the church in January for consideration and election. Further nominations may be made from the floor but all persons so nominated must consent to run and their nomination receives a second in order to be valid.

3. Elections

All voting in election of church officers shall be by ballot unless otherwise moved and unanimously carried. Two-thirds vote of voting members present shall be decisive in the election of all church officers. Only members 18 years of age or older shall be allowed to vote in any business meeting.

4. Parliamentary procedure

In all matters of business, including measures of discipline, the method of voting shall be in keeping with standard parliamentary rules, and a two-thirds vote of voting members present shall be decisive.

5. Auxiliary organizations and committees

The Official Board, acting in conjunction with recommendations from the Pastor, shall at the January Official Board meeting, or as soon thereafter as possible, appoint such appointive officers and standing committees as it deems necessary and shall prescribe the duties of each. All young people's activities shall be under adult sponsorship; sponsors being appointed by the Official Board shall be members in good standing of the church and subscribe to the Articles of Faith. All other activities such as Men's Brotherhood, Women's Organization, shall function under church auspices and be subject to approval of the Official Board of the church. President, Vice President, and other officers of all such groups shall be members of the church.

6. Removal of officers

The church shall have the right at any time to dismiss from its membership or recall from office any pastor, officer, or member who may be found guilty of willful violation of the Constitution, By-Laws, or Articles of Faith. The procedure in case of discipline shall be according to the form set forth in Matthew 18:15-17.

7. Vacancies

If for any reason any office shall become vacant, it shall be filled by appointment of the Official Board and person appointed shall serve for the remainder of the church year.

8. Ordination

This church may ordain or license men to the Gospel ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ in accordance with Titus 1:5, Acts 12:2-3, and the authority given by the laws of the State of California.

9. Facility Use Policy

The facilities of Imperial Community Church were provided through God's benevolence, and His .grace. This Church desires that its facilities be used for the fellowship of the Body of Christ and to bring Him glory. Therefore the use of the facilities of Imperial Community Church will be restricted to activities directed by church members only (including but not limited to Bible

studies, AWANA Clubs, prayer groups etc.) This policy applies to all church facilities, regardless of whether the facilities are connected to the church sanctuary, because the church sees all of its property as holy and set apart to worship God (Colossians 3:17)

Article VI

This constitution may be amended at any business meeting, providing notice of such change is presented in writing to the membership and has been announced from the pulpit two previous Sundays, and the change is agreed to by two-thirds of the voting members present.

The above and foregoing Constitution was adopted by two-thirds vote of the voting members present of the Imperial Community Church assembled at Imperial, California at the quarterly business meeting of the church on April 2, 1962, notice having been given from the pulpit on two previous Sunday's of the purpose of such meeting, and cancels or supersedes any Constitution previously adopted by said church.

General Amendment

Replace all instances of the word "director" with the Biblically accurate word "deacon" throughout the church constitution, except with regards to the legal Board of Corporation Directors (Trustees), pages 8 and 10.

The following amendments and changes were made to the Imperial Community Church Constitution according to a two-thirds majority vote by the membership present on Sunday, January 24, 2016.

1. Article II, Section 13 B, 13 C
2. Article III, Section 2
3. Article V, Section 1 A, 1 B, 1 C, and Section 9
4. A summary statement found at the end of the Articles of Faith.