

**CONSTITUTION
SHILOH COMMUNITY CHURCH
PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

As members of this church we unite to carry out the commission of our Lord Jesus Christ and do ordain and establish this Constitution and By-laws to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this church shall be Shiloh Community Church of Phoenix, Arizona.

ARTICLE II - STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Evangelical Free Church of America is an association of autonomous churches united around these theological convictions:

God

1. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

The Bible

2. We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

The Human Condition

3. We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled, and renewed.

Jesus Christ

4. We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

The Work of Christ

5. We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

The Holy Spirit

6. We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips, and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

The Church

7. We believe that the true Church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true Church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

Christian Living

8. We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor, and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

Christ's Return

9. We believe in the personal, bodily, and pre-millennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service, and energetic mission.

Response and Eternal Destiny

10. We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal, conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

ARTICLE III – PURPOSE

Shiloh Community Church exists to make disciples who love God, love His church, and show His love to the world.

ARTICLE IV - GOVERNMENT

The church is, as the name implies, “free,” that is independent or self-governing. The government of this church is vested in its membership and executed through the Elder Board.

ARTICLE V - CONGREGATION

A. The Congregation – Governance of the Church

Congregation is defined as active members of Shiloh Community Church. It is essential that each individual member of the congregation is actively involved in the work of the church by faithfully praying for the church, connecting with others in community, serving within their giftedness, and giving generously and regularly to the work of the church. Godly leadership and corporately owned mission are essential to the health of the church.

B. Authority

Authority not specifically reserved to the congregation shall be granted to the Elder Board. The following are reserved to the congregation:

1. Ratification of membership
2. Approval and dismissal of Elders
3. Approval of calling and dismissal of the Lead Pastor
4. Approval or alteration of the church’s purpose and/or core values
5. Approval or alteration of the Constitution and By-laws
6. Approval of the annual church budget
7. Approval of any purchase, sale, or encumbrance of real estate
8. Dissolution of the church

C. Membership

1. Any person shall be eligible for membership who confesses Christ as Savior, whose conduct is in accord with his confession and who subscribes to the Constitution and By-laws of this church. (I Peter 1:22-23; James 1:21-22; Ephesians 4:1-6)
2. Applicants for membership, age 18 or older, may be received into Active Membership at any congregational meeting of the church, as specified in the church By-laws.

3. Applicants may be received into Associate Membership (without voting rights) by the same procedure as Active Members if they qualify under any of the following conditions:
 - a. Temporary residents who choose to keep their full membership in another place of residence.
 - b. Active members who become non-residents.
 - c. Active members who become involved in a church plant of Shiloh Community Church.
4. Termination of membership shall be conducted as outlined in the By-laws.

ARTICLE VI – RELATIONSHIPS OF ACCOUNTABILITY

A. The congregation

1. All are accountable to Jesus Christ as the Head of the Church.
2. The congregation is accountable to the Elders in matters of church discipline (Matthew 18:15-20).

B. Officers

1. Elders are accountable to the congregation and to one another for their godly conduct as Elders and for their oversight of the church.
2. The Lead Pastor is accountable to the Elders for his godly conduct and for the execution of the purpose of the church within the context of the core values of the church.

C. Other accountabilities within the body

1. Pastors are accountable to the Lead Pastor for their godly conduct and for the equipping of the body for the execution of ministry in their areas of responsibility.
2. Deacons/Deaconesses are accountable to the Pastor or Elder overseeing them for their godly conduct and for their leadership and service of their areas of responsibility.
3. Directors are accountable to the Pastor(s) overseeing them for their godly conduct and for their leadership and oversight of their areas of responsibility.
4. Ministry Assistants, Coordinators, and other staff members are accountable to the Pastor or Director overseeing them for their godly conduct and the carrying out of their responsibilities.

ARTICLE VII – AFFILIATION

This church shall be affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America and with the designated district within the Evangelical Free Church of America. While in fellowship as a member of the Evangelical Free Church of America, it shall be independent, self-governing, and its own highest authority under Christ.

ARTICLE VIII – PROPERTY RIGHTS

- A.** This church shall have power to buy, own, and sell real and personal property in its own name.
- B.** If the church membership votes to dissolve and ceases to function as a church, or if the membership should be dissolved through some disaster, no member(s) shall be personally entitled to any assets of the church. All assets and property rights shall pass to the designated district within the Evangelical Free Church of America.
- C.** In the event that this church shall vote to unite or combine with another church which agrees with this Constitution and By-laws, it shall not be considered to have been dissolved, but rather property rights shall be retained by the new, combined church.
- D.** In the event that a division occurs in the church, the name and all property rights shall be retained by those adhering to this Constitution and By-laws.
 - 1. If a dispute as to which faction is adhering to this Constitution and By-laws, the designated district within the Evangelical Free Church of America shall review the dispute and make a decision binding on both factions.
 - 2. It is expressly prohibited by the Scriptures to take church disputes to civil courts. (I Corinthians 6:1-7)

ARTICLE IX – CORPORATE SEAL AND LEGAL SIGNATURE

The corporate seal of this church shall contain the name of the church and the date and statement of incorporation. On all legal documents requiring an official signature for the church, the signatures of the Elder Board Chairman and of the Elder Board Recording Secretary shall constitute the legal signature.

ARTICLE X – OFFICERS

A. Jesus Christ - Head of the Church

Jesus Christ is the head of the Church (Ephesians 1:9-10, 22-23; 4:15; 5:21-33), and all leadership falls under His rule and authority. It is absolutely vital that we submit ourselves first to His headship and oversight.

B. Lead Pastor – Executive Leader of the Church

1. The Lead Pastor is the spiritual and visionary leader of the congregation and the executive employee of the church. The Lead Pastor is responsible within the context of the job description as established by the Elder Board to develop and lead the Pastoral Team to execute the purpose of the church. As the leader of the Pastoral Team, the Lead Pastor serves as a bridge between the Elder Board and the Pastoral Team to ensure connection between the development and the execution of the purpose as stated in Article III. The Lead Pastor is either pursuing ordination or has been ordained through the Evangelical Free Church of America.
2. Authority is reserved to the Lead Pastor to achieve the church's corporate purpose and organizational outcomes in the following areas:
 - a. Initiate process to call or dismiss Pastors
 - b. Propose salaries and benefits
 - c. Propose corporate initiatives
 - d. Approval of hire or dismissal of Directors, Coordinators and other ministry staff
 - e. Propose and oversee maintenance of fiscal and administrative policies

C. Elders – Overseers of the Church

1. Elders are leaders of the church who are chosen for their ministry according to the biblical requirements laid out in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. They are identified by the congregation and/or the Elders for consideration, evaluated by the Board of Elders, and approved for service by the congregation. Elders at Shiloh Community Church are responsible to oversee the corporate purpose, doctrine, and overall health of the church.
2. Elder Board
 - a. The Lead Pastor will serve as an Elder. All other Elders will be elected annually to a 1-year term and can serve up to four consecutive years. Service beyond four years requires a one-year break. The Elder Board will follow the nomination process resulting in the recommendation of Elder candidates for approval by the congregation.
 - b. The total number of Elders on the Elder Board, including the Lead Pastor, is not to exceed thirteen.
 - c. Authority not specifically reserved to the Elder Board shall be granted to the Lead Pastor. The following authority is reserved to the Elder Board:
 - i. Presentation of prospective members to the congregation
 - ii. Identification and recommendation to the congregation of future Elders
 - iii. Approval of corporate initiatives
 - iv. Approval of fiscal and administrative policies
 - v. Approval of calling or dismissal of Pastoral Staff as well as salaries and benefits

ARTICLE XI– CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNICATION

A. Congregational Meetings

1. There will be an annual congregational meeting of this church for the election of Elders, for the presentation and approval of the annual church budget, and other church business.
2. All congregational meetings and agendas must be announced at all church services for two (2) consecutive weeks prior to the actual meeting date.
3. Other congregational meetings may be called at any time by a majority of the Elder Board, according to need.
4. Quorums
 - a. A quorum of one-third (1/3) of the active membership, and 75% approval of that quorum, is required for calling or dismissal of the Lead Pastor; amendments to the church's Constitution; purchase, sale or encumbrance of church real estate; or the dissolution of the church.
 - b. A quorum is not required to conduct other church business. The majority of active members present at a sanctioned congregational meeting can conduct such business.

B. Other communications

Other forms of communication will be used as described in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS

- A. Amendments to the church Constitution may be offered at any congregational meeting.
 1. Amendments shall be in writing and must be received by the Elder Board at least sixty (60) days before the intended meeting.
 2. The amendment(s) shall be announced in writing to the congregation at least thirty (30) days before the intended meeting.
- B. Amendments will be presented in the form of a motion and discussion on the proposed amendments will ensue.
- C. Following discussion of the amendment, the motion shall be tabled until the following congregational meeting
 1. The following congregational meeting must be scheduled at least two (2) weeks after the initial meeting where a motion was presented and discussed.
 2. Proposed amendments will be made available upon request during this period of time.
- D. Presented amendments may be approved at any congregational meeting.
- E. Approval of presented amendments is subject to the requirements of a quorum and approval guidelines as stated in this Constitution.

(End of Constitution)
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