

CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS OF THE CENTRAL MANOR CHURCH OF GOD

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Central Manor Church of God, do establish the following articles, to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLE I

Section 1. The name of this organization is Central Manor Church of God, 387 Penn Street, Washington Boro, Pennsylvania, hereafter in this Constitution referred to as “the Church.” (Amended 7/20/2014)

Section 2. The purpose of the Church is to establish and maintain a truly Christian fellowship, with the Holy Scriptures as the sole perpetual rule for its faith and practice, and with the aim of propagating the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, both locally and throughout the world.

Section 3. Our Mission Statement is Love and Obey God, Love and Serve People. (Added 10/23/16)

ARTICLE II DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Section 1. We believe that the Holy Scriptures is the complete and verbally inspired Word of God, without error in its original manuscripts, and therefore, the supreme standard for faith and conduct. II Tim. 3:16-17, II Peter 1:21.

Section 2. We believe in one, living, eternal, and true God, existing in three persons as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Duet. 6:4, I Tim. 1:17, II Cor. 13:14.

Section 3. We believe in the absolute deity of the Lord Jesus Christ; in His virgin birth; in His perfect humanity; His vicarious death through the shedding of His blood for the forgiveness of sins; His bodily resurrection and ascension; His present High Priestly ministry, and in “that blessed hope,” the personal, imminent, pretribulation and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and His subsequent return to Earth, with His saints, to establish His millennial kingdom. John 1:1-2, 14, Luke 1:35, Rom. 3:24-25, Eph. 1:7, Heb. 7:25, Titus 2:13, Rev. 19:11-16.

Section 4. We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment, and that He is the agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. John 16:8-11, I Cor. 12:12-14, Rom. 8:9, Eph. 1:13-14.

Section 5. 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 redeem his lost condition. Gen. 1:26-27, Rom. 3:22-23, Rom. 5:12, Eph. 2:1-3, 12.

Section 6. We believe that the salvation of the sinner is wholly of grace through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that the redeemed are kept by God’s power unto everlasting life. Eph. 2:8,9, John 6:37-40, I Peter 1:5.

Section 7. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts such as the gifts of evangelist, pastors, and teachers for the equipping of the saints today. We believe that God does heal and does answer the prayer of faith, in accord with his own will, for the sick and afflicted. I Cor. 12:4-11, Eph. 4:7-12, I John 5:14-15.

Section 8. We believe the Church of Jesus Christ began at Pentecost and is the Body and Bride of Christ, a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age. We also believe in the local church as defined in the New Testament Scriptures. Eph. 1:22-23, I Cor. 12:12-14, I Tim. 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-11.

Section 9. We believe that Satan is a supernatural person, the author of sin, and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire. Isa. 14:12-17, Matt. 25:42, Rev. 20:10.

Section 10. We believe in the observance of three ordinances: Baptism of Believers by immersion, the Lord's Supper, and the Washing of the Saint's Feet, as a perpetual remembrance to all believers. I Cor. 11:23-29, John 13:14-15.

Section 11. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost. John 5:28-29, II Cor. 5:18, II Thess. 1:7-9, Rev. 20:11-15.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. All candidates for membership must be submitted to the Church Council for approval.

Section 2. Only those persons are eligible for membership in the Church:

- (a) Who have received Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and Lord, and by the power of the Holy Spirit have experienced the new birth which makes them new creatures in Christ Jesus to do God's will and pleasure.
- (b) Who concur and endorse the Church's Doctrinal Statement.
- (c) Who are willing to abide by the Church's Constitution and By-laws, and supports its program with their attendance, talents and gifts.

Section 3. New members shall be publicly welcomed at a regular Lord's Day service, and given the right hand of fellowship by the pastor and the Council.

Section 4. Persons eligible for associate membership are those serving (together with their spouse) full time in various fields of Christian service and who concur with Article II.

Section 5. Associate members are not eligible for Council or Sunday School Superintendent.

Section 6. Membership may be terminated:

- (a) by transfer. At their written request, a member in good standing shall be granted a letter of recommendation to another evangelical church. (Amended 10/23/16)
- (b) By erasure. Any member who joins another church automatically forfeits membership in this Church. Any member who, without good reason, absents himself from the Church and its services for a period of two years shall be subject to erasure from the membership.
- (c) By excommunication. Any member who continues in flagrant sin, or who deviates from Scripture teaching as expressed in the Church's Doctrinal Statement, shall forfeit the privilege of membership.

In cases of erasure and excommunication, the Council shall investigate and take action according to biblical guidelines. (Amended 10/23/16)

Section 7. A resident member of the Church who is negligent of his Church vows and who fails to support the Church with his presence and financial means for a period of one year shall be recorded as inactive.

ARTICLE IV THE CONGREGATION

Section 1. The Congregation of the Church shall have the final vote in the determining of major policies of the Church, the adoption and amending of the Constitution and By-laws, the expansion or contraction of the Church's staff, the purchase or sale of real estate and fixed properties, and the construction of additions to the Church's edifice, or of new buildings. Single expenditures exceeding \$15,000.00 must be authorized by the Congregation. (Amended 7/20/2014)

Section 2. Only members of the Church in good standing, fifteen years old and over, may vote in Congregational Meetings.

Section 3. An annual business meeting of the Church shall be held at least one month prior to Conference every year, the date to be determined by the Council, at which time new officers of the Church shall be elected to replace those whose terms are expiring, or to fill any vacancies.

Section 4. Special business meetings of the Church may be called at any time by the president of Church Council, or upon the petition in writing of twenty percent of the voting members of the Church, provided the request specifies the purpose for which the special meeting is desired.

Section 5. At least fourteen days notice shall be given of the time and place of all business meetings of the Church by public announcement.

Section 6. The voting members present at any Congregational Meeting, called in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and By-laws of the Church, shall be considered a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 7. All matters brought before the Congregation, except as otherwise specifically provided for in this Constitution, shall be decided by a majority vote of the voting members present.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH AND THEIR ELECTION

Section 1. The officers of the Church shall be the pastor (or pastors), a Council of three to five elders and seven deacons. (Amended 7/20/2014)

Section 2. The elders and deacons shall be elected at the annual business meeting of the Church, by vote of the members present.

Section 3. Both elders and deacons shall be elected for a term of two years, except when filling unexpired terms. A person is eligible for only three consecutive full terms on the Council. After three consecutive full terms, a person must remain off the Council for one year before they are eligible for election. (Amended 7/20/2014)

Section 4. In case of some elders or deacons being elected for less than the normal two-year term, in order to adjust the Council to the requirements of Section 3, those elected with the larger number of votes shall serve the full terms, and those elected with fewer votes, the shorter term. (Amended 7/20/2014) In order to more equitably distribute the number of elders and deacons elected or re-elected, the Council may designate some elder positions and some deacon positions to be one-year terms. (Added 10/23/16)

Section 5. After soliciting input from the Congregation, the elders shall recommend candidates for elder and deacon, having biblical qualifications with minimum membership of three years. The Council shall approve every candidate and provide a list of candidates to the Congregation in the Annual Report. (Amended 10/23/16)

Section 6. (Eliminated 10/23/16)

ARTICLE VI THE PASTOR

Section 1. The Pastor shall be called by recommendation of the Council and the Commission on Church Vocations with the approval of at least three-fourths majority of the voting members present at a Congregational Meeting constitutionally called for this purpose. (Amended 7/20/2014)

Section 2. The pastor shall be in charge of the spiritual affairs of the Church. This includes the regular worship and preaching services, the ministrations of the ordinances, all special services other than business meetings, and the general oversight of the spiritual life of the Church.

Section 3. The pastor shall serve in this capacity until such time as he chooses to resign from this office, or upon the request of Council and Congregation for his resignation.

Section 4. The pastor shall give to the Church a minimum of sixty days notice in advance of his resignation. This notice shall be presented to Council, and in turn shall be read to the Congregation.

Section 5. In the event that the Council and Congregation request the pastor's resignation, he shall be given a sixty-day notice.

Section 6. An additional pastor or other personnel may be called by the Church with three-fourths majority of the voting members present at a Congregational Meeting duly called for this purpose.

Section 7. Pastor, assistants, or other personnel should command the support of at least sixty percent of the congregation.

Section 8. The pastor (or pastors) shall be an ex-officio member (or members) of the Council, and of all committees.

ARTICLE VII THE COUNCIL

Section 1. The Council shall assist the pastor in the spiritual ministry and act with him in behalf of the Church in all matters of Church discipline.

Section 2. The Council shall elect from their own number a president, a vice-president, and a secretary, following the election of new Council members at the annual business meeting. The term of office for each of these officers shall be one year. The treasurer and financial secretary shall be appointed at the same time by Council for a term of one year. These persons need not be members of Council but must be members of the Church. (Amended 10/14/1990)

Section 3. In the event of the death, resignation, or removal from office of the president, the vice-president shall succeed to the president's office until annual reorganization.

Section 4. The Council shall meet regularly every month, the time and place to be determined by the Council. A majority of members present will constitute a quorum for official action.

Section 5. Special meetings of the Council may be called at any time by the president, or shall be called by him upon petition in writing of two deacons, provided the petition states specifically the purpose for which such special meeting is desired. In case the president shall refuse or neglect to call such special meeting, then it may be called by the three Council members desiring that such special meeting be held. (Amended 10/23/16)

Section 6. The secretary of the Council shall serve as clerk of the Church, as such shall attend all business meetings of the Church and Council, and shall keep record of all transactions at the meetings in a book belonging to the Church and kept for that purpose.

Section 7. The secretary shall see that due and proper notice is given of all business meetings of the Church and of the Council, and shall be the custodian of the Church Records and the Church Seal, and shall perform all other secretarial duties as may be required by the Council.

Section 8. The treasurer shall render his account monthly to the Council and annually to the Congregation; submit his books at any time for auditing prior to the annual meeting and at such other times as may be required; and turn over to his successor all monies and financial records of the Church.

Section 9. The Financial Secretary shall account for all offerings and other receipts to the Church and submit a report monthly to the Council and annually to the Congregation; shall promptly deposit those funds in the Church's bank accounts; and shall issue documentation to the donors. (Added 10/23/16)

Section 10. The Council shall create committees including but not limited to: Evangelism, Missions, Youth, Christian Education, Music, and Building and Grounds. (Amended 10/23/16)

Section 11. The chairman of each committee shall be appointed by Council. Each committee shall have a Council member as a committee member. Each committee shall consist of approximately five members who have been approved by the Council. All officers shall be members of the Church. Subordinate positions may be filled by non-members if necessary. (Amended 10/14/1990)

Section 12. In case of a petition from the Congregation requesting a Congregational Meeting in accord with Article IV, Section 4, it shall be the duty of the Council president to call such meeting. Should he refuse or neglect to do so, the duty falls on the vice-president.

Section 13. If the pastor is accused of heresy or of conduct unworthy of his office, the Council shall make careful inquiry into the case according to I Timothy 6:19-20 and shall contact the Executive Director of the Eastern Regional Conference for guidance and direction. (Amended 10/23/16)

ARTICLE VIII EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES

Section 1. Educational agencies of the Church shall be considered as the church at work in the field of Christian Education, providing a program of systematic Bible study, spiritual growth, and leadership training. The purposes and procedures of these agencies shall be consistent with this Constitution.

Section 2. Educational agencies of the Church include:

1. The Sunday Bible School
2. Children's Churches
3. Vacation Bible School
4. Other such groups as may be formed with concurrence of the Council.

Section 3. Appointments as assigned teachers or assigned substitute teachers, and officers of the Sunday Bible School and leaders and advisors of other agencies shall be with the approval of the pastor and the Council. All such persons shall be in harmony with the Church's Doctrinal Statement in Article II of this Constitution and pass a standard background screening. (Amended 10/23/16)

ARTICLE IX MARRIAGE

Marriage is a biblical institution established by God as clearly described in the Scriptures. Central Manor Church of God recognizes that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Accordingly, this Church, its pastors and staff will officiate marriages only between one man and one woman. Likewise, its buildings and grounds shall not be used for same-sex marriages. (Added 7/20/2014)

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Article II of this Constitution may be amended by a 90% majority vote by ballot of the voting members present at a constitutionally called business meeting, provided that a copy of such proposed amendments or revisions has been mailed to each voting member of the Church and posted in a prominent place in the Church edifice at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Section 2. All other articles of this Constitution may be amended or revised by a two-thirds majority vote by ballot of the voting members present at a constitutionally called business meeting, provided that a copy of such proposed amendments or revisions has been mailed to each voting member of the Church and posted in a prominent place in the Church edifice at least two weeks prior to the meeting.