

Constitution and By-Laws of New City Church, Wilmington, Delaware

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Preamble

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Ghost may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands; we do hereby recognize ourselves as a local assembly in fellowship with, and a part of, General Council of the Assemblies of God, and adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

Constitution

Article 1. Name

The name of this Assembly shall be: New City Church, Wilmington, Delaware

Article 2. Prerogatives

Section 1.

This Assembly shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto the perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:3,13.

Section 2.

In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, it shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be

necessary for the furtherance of its purpose; all in accordance with its Constitution and By Laws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

Article 3. Affiliation

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this Assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with assemblies of like precious faith associated in the Pennsylvania- Delaware District Council, and the General council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation.

Article 4. Tenets of Faith

This Assembly accepts the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all sufficient rule for faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God, to wit:

1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (2 Timothy 3:15-17, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Peter 1:21).

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Ghost (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal son of God. The Scriptures declare:

- A. His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31,35).
- B. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
- C. His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- D. His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- E. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4).
- F. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11, Hebrews 1:3).

4. The Fall of Man

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." However man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:26,27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

5. Salvation of Man

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

A. Conditions of Salvation

Salvation is received through the repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

B. The Evidence of Salvation

The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).

6. The Ordinances of the Church

A. Baptism in water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe in Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47,48; Romans 6:4).

B. Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements - bread and the fruit of the vine - is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (II Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "Till He Come!"

7. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Ghost come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

8. The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost

The baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10,28), but different in purpose and use.

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1,2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." (Hebrew 12:14) By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15,16). Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 6:1-11,13; 8:1,2,13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12,13; 1 Peter 1:5).

10. The Church

The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the threefold purpose of leading the Church in:

1. The evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20);
2. Worship of God (John 4:23, 24);
3. Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His son (Ephesians 4:11-16).

12. Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4, 5; Matthew 8:16, 17; James 5:14-16).

13. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the church (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Corinthians 15:51, 52).

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27, 30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21, 22; Zephaniah 3:19-20; Romans 11:26, 27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalms 72:3-8; Micah 4:3,4).

15. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

"We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness." (II Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:22).

Article 5. Membership

Membership in this Assembly shall be eligible to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith and agree to be governed by its Constitution and By-Laws as herein set forth. They shall be classified as follows:

Section 1. Voting Membership

All those who meet the Scriptural standards of membership, whose names appear on the present membership roll of the Assembly, together with those names which shall be added from time to time, shall constitute the legal voting membership of the Assembly; provided, they are eighteen (18) years of age or over, that they regularly attend the means of grace and take part in the services, that they are living consistent Christian lives, and are in agreement with our distinctive testimony.

Section 2. Junior Church Membership

Membership in this Assembly shall be eligible to all those within the ages of 12-18 years, who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith and agree to be governed by its Constitution and By-Laws.

Article 6. Officers

Section 1. Executive Officers

The executive officers of the Church shall consist of the Pastor, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

Section 2. Official Board and Board of Trustees

The Pastor and Deacons shall constitute the Official Board and Board of Trustees.

Section 3. Deacons

There shall be six (6) Deacons, sound in faith and of good report, members of the church for at least one year, who shall qualify according to scriptural standards (I Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6:1-7).

Section 4. Secretary of the Official Board

There shall be a secretary who is qualified for the office, chosen from among the Official Board.

Section 5. Treasurer of the Official Board

There shall be a treasurer who is qualified for the office, chosen from among the Official Board.

Article 7. Meetings

Section 1.

Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the Pastor and Deacons.

Section 2.

There shall be an annual business meeting of the Assembly, at which time the election of officers shall take place and the reports of all officers shall be presented. This meeting shall be held during October each year, the exact date to be decided by the Pastor and Deacons. The time and place shall be announced by the Pastor. Due notice shall be given on the two Sundays immediately prior to the date of said meeting.

Section 3.

Special business meetings of the Assembly may be called when necessary, after proper notice has been given by the Chairman or Secretary of the Official Board, provided the meeting has been agreed upon by a majority of the Official Board. Special meetings may also be called by petition having been signed by not less than one third of the voting membership of the assembly, the petition to be placed in the hands of the Chairman or Secretary of the Official Board and announcement made two Sunday's prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 4.

Quorum. No record of any special or regular business meeting of the Assembly shall be made unless one-fifth (1/5) or more voting members shall be present to constitute a quorum.

Section 5.

The Official Board shall meet as often as necessary for the transaction of routine business for the Assembly, time and place to be announced by the Pastor.

Article 8. Departments And Committees

All departments and committees shall be subordinate to the Assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the Official Board, and the Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments.

Article 9. Finances

All funds for the maintenance of the Assembly shall be provided by the voluntary contributions or the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Offerings shall be accepted by the Assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the Pastor and Deacons, and shall be administered by the Treasurer under their direction. (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; I Corinthians 16:12; II Corinthians 9:6-8).

Article 10. Property

All-property of the Assembly shall be deeded to the Assembly and held in its name. No property of the Assembly shall be sold, leased, or mortgaged or otherwise disposed of without the same shall have first been recommended by a vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the voting membership who are in attendance at a regular meeting or a special meeting of the Assembly which has been called for the consideration of the proposal. The Chairman and Secretary of the Official Board shall certify in such conveyance, lease or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote of the Assembly. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Article 11. Amendments

Amendments to this constitution may be made by a two- thirds (2/3) vote of the voting membership of the church in any of its regular or special Church Meetings.

By-Laws

Article 1. Duties Of Officers

Section 1.

The Pastor shall be considered as the spiritual overseer of the Assembly and shall direct all of its activities. He shall be the Chairman of the Official Board and shall act as Chairman of all the business meetings of the Assembly and of the Official Board. He shall be ex-officio member of all committees or departments. He shall provide for all the services of the Assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings, conventions or revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the Assembly without his approval.

Section 2.

The Deacons shall act in an advisory capacity with the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the Assembly in its spiritual life and in the ministry of its ordinances. They shall act in the examination of applicants for membership and also in the administration of the discipline of the Assembly. The Pastor and a majority of the Deacons shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Official Board provided, all of the members have been notified to be present. In the event the Assembly is temporarily without a Pastor, the Deacons shall be empowered to provide for their own Chairman of the Official Board from their own membership in order to transact business for the Assembly.

Section 3.

The Board of Trustees shall be the custodians of all the property of the Assembly, and shall be responsible for the maintenance of same. They shall meet for the discharge of their duties as necessity may demand, upon the request of their Pastor.

Section 4.

The Secretary shall keep minutes of the official meetings of the Official Board and of the annual and special business meetings of the Assembly. He shall keep a record of the voting membership of the Assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his duties. He shall be the custodian of all legal documents and be in possession of the Corporate Seal.

Section 5.

The Treasurer shall be entrusted with all the finances of the Assembly which may be committed to him. He shall deposit all funds in a responsible bank in the name of the Assembly and shall disburse the same by check, as authorized by the Pastor and Official Board. The Treasurer shall keep an itemized account of the receipts and disbursements. His accounts shall

be audited annually prior to the annual business meeting, under the direction of the Official Board.

Section 6.

The Executive Committee shall function in matters demanding immediate attention when it is impossible to call a meeting of the Official Board. It shall report all of its proceedings at the regular meeting of the Official Board.

Article 2. Elections And Vacancies

Section 1.

The Pastor shall be nominated by the Official Board recommendations may be made to them by any member of the Assembly. Election shall be by secret ballot at the annual business meeting of the Assembly or at a special meeting called for that purpose. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting membership present shall be required to constitute an election.

Section 2.

At the discretion of the Chairman of the Official Board of any meeting of the Church the manner of election herein prescribed may be suspended and any method consistent with Parliamentary Law may be substituted at the request of the majority present and voting.

Section 3.

The Deacons shall be chosen from the voting membership of the Assembly and shall be elected by a majority vote by secret ballot and shall be elected to serve two years. The first three (3) members who are elected, or those three (3) receiving the largest majority vote at the annual election shall be elected to serve for a period of two (2) years. The three (3) receiving the smallest majority shall be elected for a period of only one (1) year. After the first year, only three (3) men shall be elected at any annual meeting and shall serve for two (2) years. After two (2) full consecutive terms of service, a year of rest shall be necessitated by that member.

A. Members elected for a 1-year term

In the event there is a member elected for a period of one (1) year, and after that one-year term of service is complete, that deacon has the option, at their discretion and upon invitation from the majority of the Deacon Board, to remain on the Deacon Board for a subsequent two-year term of service. This decision would negate the need for their name to be featured on the Nomination List at the Annual Election. The only exception to this would be for the fulfilling of the remainder of a vacancy on the Deacon Board.

Section 4.

A nominating committee shall be appointed by the Pastor with the aid of the Official Board, not less than one month before the annual business meeting. Representation on this committee shall be two (2) deacons and three (3) members from the Official Church Roster. The Pastor shall serve as Chairman of this committee. Such nominations are to be posted in the church at least two (2) weeks prior to the annual meeting and shall consist of at least three (3) names as nominees for the office of Deacon. Deacons shall be spirit-filled men of mature Christian experience. They shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age, and shall have been a member of the church for at least one year prior to their election. They shall meet the Scriptural standard of I Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6:3.

Section 5. Term of Office:

(a) The term of Pastor's office shall be for an indefinite period; term to expire upon thirty days notice given either by the resignation of the Pastor or by action of the church;

(b) All Pastoral Staff and church employees shall be appointed by the Pastor with the approval of the Official Board.

Article 3. Membership

Section 1. The standard of Membership of this Assembly shall be:

- (a) Evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration (the new birth) John 1:12, 13; 3:3-8; I Peter 1:18-25;
- (b) Evidence of a consistent Christian life. Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; Romans 13:13, 14; Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1, 2, 15; I John 1:6, 7;
- (c) To fully subscribe to the tenets of faith as set forth in the Constitution:
- (d) Willingness to contribute regularly to the support of the Assembly according to his or her ability.

Section 2. Reception of Membership:

- (a) Persons desiring to become members of the Assembly shall make the facts known to the pastor. The Pastor will examine the applicants according to the standard for membership after they have completed the recommended membership class.
- (b) The Pastor shall present the names of those who apply for membership with his recommendation to the Official Board, who shall act upon said recommendation and render final decision. All persons who shall have met the membership requirements and have been passed on favorably shall be received into the Assembly publicly at any of the regular services and their names inscribed on the roster.
- (c) The following covenant and pledge shall be required by all who are received into membership:

Covenant

We whose names are underneath having been baptized upon profession of faith, do hereby covenant that we will endeavor to walk in union with Christ, and to preserve the unity of the body, the church of which Christ is the head, and we, members in particular.

Having accepted the Bible as our rule of faith and practice, we shall seek through the guidance of the Holy Spirit to apprehend the whole truth as therein revealed, and by God's grace conform our lives thereto.

We also covenant together that we will help to maintain the church by attending its regular and special services, as far as possible, and by contributing to its financial support bringing tithes and offerings as taught in the Word.

We will also seek to promote the deepening of spiritual life in believers, to extend the Gospel both at home and abroad, and to this end we devote ourselves to the service of God.

We engage, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, avoiding gossip, backbiting, tale bearing and all appearance of evil, exercising brotherly love and sympathy toward all the members.

We humbly trust that through the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, we shall be "kept from falling" and "preserved blameless" unto the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom be the power and glory. Amen.

Section 3. Discipline

(a) Any member of the Assembly who willfully absent himself from the regular services for a period of two

(2) consecutive months and who cease to contribute to its support, or who shall be under charges, shall be temporarily suspended from voting membership pending investigation and final decision in his case resides with the Official Board.

(b) Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith held by this Assembly shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member.

Matthew 18:15-18; Romans 16:17, 18; I Corinthians 5:11; Galatians 1:8, 9; Titus 3:1-11.

(c) Officers:

(1) Any office may be declared vacant by an act of a majority of voting membership at any regular or special business meeting.

(2) Grounds for such action shall be:

(a) Unscriptural conduct;

(b) Doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith;

(c) Incompetency in office.

(3) Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a fair hearing of his case before the Assembly if he so desires.

Section 4.

Members in good standing, who may wish to sever their relationship with the Assembly, or who may desire to be transferred to some other congregation, may apply to the Secretary of the Official Board for a letter, which shall be granted on the approval of the Pastor and Deacons, said letter to be signed by the Pastor and Secretary of the Official Board.

Section 5.

The Pastor and Official Board shall be authorized to revise the membership roll of the Assembly annually, and to remove from the list of voting members all names of those who may have deceased during the year, together with the names of those who may have withdrawn from the fellowship, or who may have fallen into sin and whose lives may have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of the Assembly. If a name is removed for cause, the one whose name is removed shall be notified of the action of the Official Board through the Pastor and Secretary of the Official Board. Appeal can be made to the Official Board for reconsideration. The final decision in this case resides with the Official Board. Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 16:17, 18; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15.

Article 4. Departments Of The Church

Section 1.

There shall be a Christian Education Department, Youth Department, and such other departments as may be needed to further the work of the church.

Section 2.

All these departments shall be under the general supervision of the Pastor and shall be amenable to the church.

Section 3.

All the Departments may operate under their own policy within the framework of the Church Constitution and By-Laws.

Article 5. Property Rights

Section 1.

All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred or conveyed in the corporate name of the Assembly.

Section 2.

No real or chattel property of the Assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated without the same shall have been authorized by at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the voting membership.

Section 3.

The Chairman and Secretary of the Official Board shall certify in such conveyance, lease or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized by the voting membership. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Section 4.

In case the church shall be divided by doctrinal views, or for other causes, the members who have remained faithful to the original tenets of faith, standards and practices, as set forth in the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri, regardless of majority, shall retain title to the property.

In the event the Assembly ceases to function as a church body, the property shall revert to the Pennsylvania-Delaware Council of the Assemblies of God. The said Pennsylvania- Delaware Council of the Assemblies of God shall forthwith have the authority to use or dispose of the property at their discretion. In the event of the sale of the property or its temporalities, by the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council, the proceeds, after all indebtedness has been satisfied, shall be used by said Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council, in the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ in the District.

Article 6. Amendments

The By-Laws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the Assembly by a majority of the voting membership present; provided, the proposed amendment has been announced publicly two (2) Sundays prior to the date of meeting, announcement to be made by the Pastor or Secretary of the Official Board.

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