

Pahrump Community Church



**Constitution**

and

**By-Laws**

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# Pahrump Community Church

## CONSTITUTION

[Amended: October 11, 2015]

*An Oasis in a thirsty world  
offering the hope and joy of knowing Christ,  
encouraging people in the faith,  
and enabling them for ministry.*

### ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

1. **Name:** This organization shall be called the Pahrump Community Church, Inc., of Pahrump, Nevada.
2. **Purpose:** The purpose of this church shall be:
  - To maintain public worship of God.
  - To promote spiritual welfare and Christian fellowship.
  - To share in the proclamation of the Gospel at home and abroad, for the purpose of winning the lost to Jesus Christ.

### ARTICLE II. DOCTRINE

1. **Inspiration of the scripture:** We believe that the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is the verbally inspired Word and revelation of God in its original writing, and is the final authority for faith and practice.  
PSALM 19:7-11; 2 TIMOTHY 3:16; 2 PETER 1:16,21
2. **The Triune God:** We believe that there is but one true and living God, eternally existing, and manifesting Himself to us in three divine Persons: God the father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.  
JOHN 15:26; 14:26; 16:13-15; 10:30, 36; 17:22; GENESIS 1:26; 2 CORINTHIANS 13:14; PSALM 90:1,2
3. **Deity of Jesus Christ:** We believe in the virgin birth and the deity of Jesus Christ our Lord, Who is true God and true man.  
MATTHEW 1:18-25; JOHN 1:1,14; COLOSSIANS 2:9; HEBREWS 1:1,3,8-10
4. **Blood Atonement and Crucifixion:** We believe in the substitutionary atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ; that to fulfill the Old Testament He was crucified on the cross, suffered great pain, and being forsaken by God the Father, descended into hell, tasting death for every man, and that all must be born again through personal faith in His shed blood, or forever be lost.  
JOHN 3:1-19; 6:44-58; HEBREWS 2:9; 1 PETER 1:18-21; ISAIAH 53; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21; MATTHEW 27:46
5. **The Resurrection and Exaltation of Jesus Christ:** We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ; that He ascended bodily into heaven, and that He is now at God's right hand as our Mediator, High Priest, and Advocate.  
ACTS 3:12-26; JOHN 20; HEBREWS 9:24; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:28; 1 JOHN 2:1; ROMANS 4:25
6. **Second Coming of Christ:** We believe in the personal and imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
ACTS 1:11; 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18; REVELATION 19:11-21; 20:1-6; JOHN 14:1-3

7. **The Holy Spirit**: We believe in the personality and divinity of the Holy Spirit: that on the day of Pentecost he came into the world to abide; that He indwells all regenerate persons; that He instructs, helps, and purifies the body of Christ (the Church); that He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; and that He is the infallible Interpreter of the Scriptures.

JOHN 14:16,17; 16:7-15; ACTS 2:4; 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-11; ROMANS 8:26,27

8. **Man**: We believe that man was created in the image of God; that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical but also spiritual death, which is separation from God; that all human beings are born with a sinful nature.

GENESIS 1:27; 2:17; 3:6, 22-24; ROMANS 3:23; PSALM 51:5

9. **The Sacredness of Marriage**: We adhere to the Biblical witness regarding the sacredness of marriage. The term “marriage” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God, which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

(See Policy: *PCC Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality*.)

GENESIS 2:18-24

10. **Sin**: We believe in the universality and exceeding sinfulness of sin; that it is the moral transgression of the known laws of God; and that it is the lack of conformity to the will of God.

JEREMIAH 17:9; ROMANS 3:10, 23; 5:12

11. **The Church**: We believe that the true Church is the invisible body of Christ consisting of all who have been born again and baptized into this body by the Holy Spirit.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:13; EPHESIANS 1:22-23; 2:19-22; COLOSSIANS 3:10, 11

12. **Salvation**: We believe that salvation is by grace, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9; ROMANS 5:1, 9; TITUS 3:5

13. **Separation**:

- We believe that all saved persons are asked to abstain from all sinful practices.

ROMANS 12:1, 2, 21; 1 CORINTHIANS 6:19, 20; 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-17; JAMES 4:4; 1 JOHN 2:1-17

- We believe that all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ should maintain good works.

EPHESIANS 4:1; TITUS 2:11-14; JAMES 2:14-20

14. **Satan**: We believe in the personality and reality of Satan.

ISAIAH 14:12-17; MATTHEW 4:2-11; JOHN 8:44; REVELATION 12:9, 10; 20:1-15; 21:8

15. **Heaven and Hell**: We believe that heaven is a place of eternal blessedness and that hell is a place of eternal suffering.

MATTHEW 6:20; 25:41; REVELATION 21:8; 20:1-15; 21:1-4; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-4

16. **Resurrection**: We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting.

JOHN 11:25, 26; 6:39; 5:28-29

- The doctrinal statements above do 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 purposes of this organization’s faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Board of Deacons and Senior Pastor is our final interpretive authority on the Bible’s meaning and application.

## ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this organization shall consist of regenerate persons who have publicly confessed Christ as their personal Savior, who accept heartily the doctrinal statement of this church, and who enter joyfully into the spirit of our church covenant. Members shall be received upon confession of their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. Those wishing to retain membership in their former churches may do so and also be members of this church. The pastors and their wives shall be members by virtue of office in the church, and shall be received into the fellowship, as are other members. Applicants for membership will attend membership training classes directed by the pastor, to acquaint them with the principles and practice of this church.

## ARTICLE IV. COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, we do now, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one in the body of Christ. We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of the church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship (by attending its services), ordinances, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations. We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions (MATTHEW 6:6), educate our children in the spiritual life, seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances, be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and be an example of Christ-likeness in our conduct. We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress, to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech, to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the commands of our Savior, to secure it without delay. We moreover engage, that when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

## ARTICLE V. GOVERNMENT

1. **Control:** This church is autonomous and shall be not controlled by any corporation, organization, or persons. It is independent and sovereign in all respects as far as human government is concerned. The church shall have a congregational form of government. The pastor, assistant pastor(s), deacons, trustees and treasurer shall be responsible for prayerfully formulating church objectives, goals and plans and submitting them annually in the form of the Annual Operating Report for approval by vote of the membership.
2. **Officers:** the officers of this organization shall be
  - Pastors
  - Treasurer
  - Three or more Trustees
  - Three or more Deacons
  - Sunday School Superintendent
3. **Congregation:** The congregation shall consist of all members in good standing, but only those who are sixteen (16) years of age and above shall be entitled to vote in business matters of the church. Young people who are twelve (12) years of age may become members of the church.

4. **Discipline:** The congregation shall have the right at any time to dismiss from its membership any member, or dismiss from office any pastor or officer who may be found out of harmony with the doctrine and standards of the church. The procedure in case of discipline shall be according to the principle set forth in MATTHEW 18:15-17. Restoration shall always be the aim of discipline. All discipline shall be in the spirit of 2 CORINTHIANS 2:5-11. Three (3) months of unexplained absence from services and non-support shall forfeit the right of any member to vote in business matters of the church. One (1) year of unexplained absence and non-support shall forfeit the right of active membership, and be sufficient ground upon which to deny a church letter.

#### **ARTICLE VI. ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY**

All organizations of this church shall be part of the church. The officers of the church shall be members. This church shall exist as one organization with all departments in harmony with the constitution. The church congregation shall have the right to legislate in any department of the church. This entire article applies to the Board of Deacons, Trustees, Sunday school, men's organizations, women's groups, music department, youth groups and any committee pertaining to the church. No office may be filled unless there is a qualified candidate.

#### **ARTICLE VII. FINANCIAL POLICY**

This church shall be supported by free-will offerings of the people. This method only shall be followed. Gifts may be received from any source at the discretion of the pastor and deacons, but under no circumstances shall this church resort to fund-raising activities. This should not be construed to limit the organizations of the church.

#### **ARTICLE VIII. INCORPORATION**

This church shall be incorporated with this constitution at the nearest opportunity in accordance with the laws of the state of Nevada.

#### **ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of the congregation usually held in October, or at the April business meeting. Amendments to, or replacements of this constitution shall require approval of 2/3 of the people entitled to vote present at the aforesaid meeting. Every person entitled to vote residing in this vicinity shall be notified by mail, or by announcement from the pulpit two (2) successive Sundays prior to the special called meeting, or annual meeting. The amendment shall be read from the pulpit the Sunday preceding the meeting at which it will be voted on.

#### **ARTICLE X. ADOPTION**

This constitution was adopted on June 12, 1969.

It was amended on the following dates:

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| October 31, 1971 | October 9, 1985  |
| April 9, 1975    | October 8, 1986  |
| October 7, 1981  | October 9, 1991  |
| October 5, 1983  | October 11, 2015 |

# Pahrump Community Church

## BY-LAWS

[Amended: October 11, 2015]

*An Oasis in a thirsty world  
offering the hope and joy of knowing Christ,  
encouraging people in the faith,  
and enabling them for ministry.*

### ARTICLE I. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. **The Pastor** shall be the spiritual leader of the church, and paid overseer of all church organizations, programs and functions. He shall be responsible for building up the church body through evangelistic outreach, shepherding the flock, supplying the pulpit, visiting the sick, and preparing members for the same works of service (as in EPHESIANS 4:12-16). He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and organizations of the church. He shall join with the deacons and Sunday School Superintendent in appointing Sunday School teachers. Together with deacons, he shall appoint all committees and make other such appointments as may be necessary. Together with the deacons and in consultation with assistant pastors, the pastor shall supervise, meet with, instruct, guide, evaluate and counsel assistant pastors, and will insure their professional development as well as continuous effective church operations.
2. **The Assistant Pastor(s)** shall be paid assistant overseers of church organizations, programs and functions. They shall be responsible to the pastor. Their duties shall be assigned by the pastor, together with the deacons, taking into account their talents and desires, their needs for professional development, and the needs of the church. They shall through performance of assigned duties assist the pastor in building up of the body through evangelistic outreach, shepherding the flock, supplying the pulpit, visiting the sick, and/or preparing members for the same works of service. They shall be ex-officio members of church committees and organizations, particularly in areas for which oversight has been delegated to them by the pastor and deacons. In those areas, they shall be involved with the pastor and deacons in supervision, appointments and other such activities.
3. **The Treasurer** shall receive all offerings and contributions, be responsible for having two (2) people count each offering, pay all church expenses, keep a complete record of all receipts and disbursements, handle all special funds (unless otherwise directed by the congregation); shall give a financial report at each business meeting, and a complete financial report to the congregation annually in February; shall submit the records for audit as requested.
4. **The Trustees** shall be official representatives of the church. They shall be responsible to the congregation to insure that the church constitution and by-laws are upheld. They shall participate with the Deacons in legal, financial and other business matters of the church. They shall not take any independent action which deviates from the constitution, by-laws, or historical church methods of operation, or which would incur expense or involve transfer of church property in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) assuming availability of funds. Where such action is contemplated, the matter shall be taken before the pastor, assistant pastor(s), deacons, trustees and treasurer for formulation of recommendation(s) to be presented at the appropriate business meeting for vote by the congregation. They shall have the responsibility of the upkeep of the church building(s) and property. Any church property sold shall be sold on a cash basis only. The Board of Trustees shall elect a chairman annually following election of church officers. The Board of Trustees shall meet at least once each quarter, and at the call of the chairman prior to any unscheduled financial transactions.

5. **Deacons** shall be official representatives of the church in all spiritual, conceptual, legal, and financial matters. They shall be responsible to the congregation to insure that the church constitution and by-laws are upheld in all spiritual, conceptual, legal and financial church activities. They shall be responsible to the congregation to insure that church doctrine (Article II, Constitution) is not violated, and that no inappropriate material is presented in any church service, class or meeting. They shall insure that the church constitution and by-laws are upheld in all church activities, and shall not take any independent action, which deviates from the constitution, by-laws or historical church methods of operation. Where such action is contemplated, the matter shall be taken before the pastor, assistant pastor(s), deacons, trustees and treasurer for formulation of recommendation(s) to be presented at the appropriate business meeting for vote by the congregation. They shall be responsible for ushers at church services, and shall assist the pastor(s) in communion service and other such services as may be required. They shall join with the pastor(s) in formulations and assignment of pastoral duties for assistant pastors, and in appointment of Sunday school teachers. The Board of Deacons shall elect a chairman annually, following the election of church officers. The Board of Deacons shall meet at least once each quarter. The chairman or, in his absence, another deacon shall preside at all business meetings of the congregation.
6. **The Sunday School Superintendent** shall have general supervision of the Sunday Bible School, and shall work in harmony with the pastor in upholding the doctrine of the church.

## ARTICLE II. TERMS OF OFFICE

1. **The Pastor(s)** shall not be limited to a specific term of office. Salary basis shall be adjusted to suit both the pastor(s) and church, and may be changed at any time agreeable to both. Thirty (30) day's notice by either church or pastor(s) shall be required, unless otherwise agreed, to dissolve the pastoral relationship.
2. **The Treasurer, and Sunday School Superintendent** shall be elected to serve terms of one year each.
3. **The Deacons** shall be elected for terms of three (3) years. At least one (1) being elected each year.
4. **The Trustees** shall be elected for terms of three (3) years, at least one (1) being elected each year.
5. **Unexpired Terms of Office**
  - a. Pastoral vacancy – a special meeting of the congregation shall be called to decide what action is to be taken.
  - b. Other officers – to be appointed by the pastor and deacons.
  - c. Failure to serve – in case any officer fails to serve, or becomes incapable of serving, the pastor and deacons will ascertain that this is so, and will appoint another to fill that office.
6. **Effective Date of Office** – Elected officers assume office immediately after election.

## ARTICLE III. BUSINESS MEETINGS

1. **Monthly Meetings.** The congregation shall meet monthly on the second Wednesday unless otherwise announced. The October meeting will be the annual meeting. Special meetings of the congregation may be called at any time by the pastor, deacons, or upon written request of ½ of the voting members of the church. Special meetings shall be announced from the pulpit one (1) Sunday in advance and each person having a vote and shall be notified by mail at least three (3) days in advance.
2. **Annual Meetings.** The congregation shall meet annually in October during the regular monthly business meeting (unless otherwise duly announced), to elect officers, hear and act upon reports (financial and otherwise) from all organizations and departments of the church, decide all other business of major importance, and discuss and decide matters of controversy and discipline.



3. **A Quorum** consists of seven (7) members who are entitled to vote.
4. **Conduct.** Meetings shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order, a copy of which shall be supplied by the church to the senior deacon.
5. **Prerequisite.** All who are entitled to vote shall read the constitution and by-laws prior to the annual meeting.
6. **Annual Operating Report.** The pastor, assistant pastor(s) deacons, trustees and treasurer shall meet during the period immediately following each annual meeting to formulate the Annual Operating Report. As a minimum, this report shall include the previous fiscal year's budget report, current church financial status, immediate church financial status, immediate church goals and plans, long-term objectives, and the proposed church budget for the following fiscal year. The church treasurer shall assist in the preparation of budget information. Annual reports from church departments shall also be used in future planning. The report will be mailed in draft form so as to reach each member at least one week prior to the following December business meeting, when it will be presented for congregational approval. The finalized report shall become the annual church operating document unless amended by further vote of the congregation. Amendments may be made by vote of those present entitled to vote at any business meeting, provided proposed amendment(s) have been agreed upon by a majority of the pastor, assistant pastor(s), deacons, trustees, and treasurer and then read from the pulpit the Sunday preceding the business meeting. The pastor, assistant pastor(s) deacons, trustees, and treasurer may meet at any time.
7. **Annual Audit of Financial Records.** Three (3) auditors shall be appointed at the October business meeting to verify compliance with collection procedures for offerings, and for receiving tuitions for Preschool and Academy. They will report and make recommendations in writing to the Deacon Chairman, which will be reviewed by the Pastor(s), Deacons, Trustees and Treasurer and a resulting report will be included in February business meeting.

#### **ARTICLE IV. RECEPTION OF MEMBERS**

Members shall be welcomed into this fellowship in accordance with Article III of the constitution.

#### **ARTICLE V. NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

A nominating committee shall be appointed by the Deacon Chairman no less than two months prior to the annual meeting. The nominating committee shall consist of three (3) persons entitled to vote. The committee shall carefully and prayerfully select one or more candidates for each office to be filled, and shall present these names of candidates at the annual meeting. All voting in election of church officers shall be by ballot, except when there is only one nominee. A majority vote of those entitled to vote and present shall be decisive.

#### **ARTICLE VI. ORDINANCES**

The church shall practice the two ordinances: The Lord's Supper and water baptism.

#### **ARTICLE VII. SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The Sunday school shall be an integral part of the church. Direction of the Sunday school is delegated to the Sunday School Superintendent. Sunday School funds and offerings shall be received by the church treasurer. Teachers shall be appointed annually to serve a term of one year by the Sunday School Superintendent in council with the pastor and deacons.

## **ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES**

All standing committees shall be appointed at the annual meeting to serve a term of one (1) year. Special committees may be appointed when needed at the business meetings. Any person not fulfilling his duties may be replaced at the discretion of the church.

## **ARTICLE IX. USE OF CHURCH PROPERTY**

The church property, both real and personal, is dedication solely for the service of the Lord. Permission for its use by other groups such as fraternal, political, sects, or cults shall not be granted. Requests for use for weddings and funerals shall be considered only for those who will uphold the purpose for which this property is dedicated at the discretion of the pastor and deacons.

## **ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS**

At any business meeting, amendments may be made by 2/3 vote of those present entitled to vote, providing the proposed amendments have been read from the pulpit the preceding Sunday.

## **ARTICLE XI. ADOPTION**

These by-laws were adopted June 12, 1969.

They were amended on the following dates:

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| October 31, 1971  | October 8, 1986  |
| April 9, 1975     | October 9, 1991  |
| September 7, 1977 | October 13, 1993 |
| October 7, 1981   | May 18, 2008     |
| July 11, 1984     | October 11, 2015 |
| October 9, 1985   |                  |