

ARBUCKLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this church shall be the Arbuckle Community Church.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this church is to establish a vital community of Christian Faith, which will seek to serve a community of Christians. The goals will be to promote spiritual growth among its members and friends, Christian fellowship, to bring the impact of the Christian gospel to bear upon the social and personal needs of our day, to serve the spiritual needs of all, and to assist in spreading the gospel throughout the world.

ARTICLE III – DOCTRINE AND CONDUCT

Section 1. Statement of Doctrine:

The Arbuckle Community Church asserts its belief in the divine inspiration of Scripture and its unfailing authority in all matters.

We believe in the Trinity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

We believe in the deity and humanity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His death and bodily resurrection and His ascension into Heaven, and his future visible return to earth.

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, whose indwelling enables the Christian to live a Godly life.

We admit the sinful nature of all men and recognize that Jesus' death was the perfect sacrifice for our sin. We believe that our salvation is by grace from God through faith in Christ alone, with the promise of everlasting life to those who believe. Those who refuse to accept Christ as Lord and Savior will be forever separated from God. Because of this, we believe the ministry of evangelism and discipleship is a responsibility of all followers of Jesus Christ. Arbuckle Community Church commits itself to this mission.

Section 2. Church Covenant:

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We commit, with the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and maturity; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, 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 are committed to maintaining family and personal devotions; to educate our children in the Christian faith; to seek the salvation of our loved ones and acquaintances; to walk with God in this world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our commitments, and exemplary in our behavior.

We further commit to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to be gentle and kind in word and deed; to be slow to take offense, but always be ready to forgive and seek reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to seek it without delay.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Admission: Persons will be received into membership after the following requirements are fulfilled:

- A) All candidates for membership having made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and having experienced “believers baptism” (Mark 16:16) may submit an application for membership.

- B) Upon acceptance by the Elders Board, the applicant shall be received into full membership of this church and placed on the church roll.

Section 2. Types of Membership – members may be moved from one type of membership to another by decision of the Elders Board.

A) Active –regularly attending and participating in the activities of the Arbuckle Community Church.

1) Voting – active members age 18 and over.

2) Non-Voting – active members of the church under 18 years of age.

B) Inactive – members who have ceased to regularly attend and participate in the activities of the Arbuckle Community Church. These may be removed from the church membership list at the discretion of the Elders Board.

Section 3. Duties: Members are expected to strive faithfully to live a Christian life, to attend regularly the weekly services of this Church, and to give generously financially and of their time and talents for the organized work of the church and its missions.

ARTICLE V – CHURCH POLITY

Section 1.

We believe that the New Testament Recognizes and establishes two and only two, offices within the local church. We believe that the New Testament establishes, both in practice and teaching, that the church is to be governed by Elders. (Acts 11:30; 14:23; 15; 20:17-38; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; 5:17-25; Titus 1:5-14; James 5:14-15; 1 Pet. 5:1-5) Elders are scripturally qualified men (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9) of humble, servant character (Matt. 23:1-12; Mark 9:34-35; 10:32-45) who jointly govern the local church under Christ. These Elders, functioning as a group oversee, lead and shepherd the local congregation of God. These Elders are Christ's under-shepherds and stewards, thus the congregation is to obey and submit to their guidance, protection and care. (Heb.13:17)

WE believe that the New Testament also recognizes and establishes the office of deacon/deaconess. These are individuals who are qualified (1Tim. 3:8-13) and serve the physical needs of the church. Though the office does not appear to have been in place at the time, we believe that Acts 6:1-7 illustrates how deacons function and that the office of deacons probably grew out of the situation.

ARTICLE VI – GOVERNMENT AND OFFICERS

Section 1. Elders Board:

- A) The church shall be governed by an Elders Board in accordance with Article V.
- B) The Elders hold a permanent position unless it is the opinion of the Elders Board that an Elder should be replaced. An Elder may be replaced by unanimous vote of the Elders, excepting the Elder being considered for replacement.
 - (1) When a vacancy occurs on the Elders Board the Elders will appoint a man who is a church voting member in good standing (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9) of humble, servant character (Matt. 23:1-12; Mark 9:34-35; 10:32-45) to fill the vacancy.
- C) They are to assist the pastor in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church.
- D) The Elders are to seek to be in prayer and of one mind in all they undertake (1 Peter 3:8, 2 Corinthians 13:11, Philippians 1:27, 2:1-2, Romans 15:5-6).
- E) The Elders are to consider all applications for membership and take such actions they deem proper.
- F) The Elders are to visit the sick and distressed members of the church.
- G) In the absence of the pastor the Elders are to be responsible for a leader to conduct all regular services of the church.
- H) A member of the Elders Board is to act as the Moderator at all business meetings of the church.
- I) The Elders Board will appoint all Deacons/Deaconesses and Church Officers.
- J) Duties: The Elders shall be responsible for the management and operation of the church in accordance with the policy stated in Article III and Article V. The Elders shall act as the Board of Trustees of the Church Corporation.
- K) The Elders Board holds the final authority in the direction of the church.
- L) Meetings: The Elders Board shall meet at least once each month. Such meetings shall ordinarily be open to all members of the church; however, the Moderator may at his discretion close a meeting or any portion thereof or may limit discussion by non-Elders. The Pastor is a member of the Elders Board and will not participate in decisions regarding his position or compensation. No action shall be taken during such closed

sessions. The Elders Board shall be responsible for notifying the congregation of all major decisions made.

M) Appeal: If a member has a concern regarding any decision, made by the church he may approach an Elder and request to be heard by the Elders Board. The Elders Board will hear the issue and make a decision. If the member still has a concern he may appear before the Elders Board with witnesses and the Elders Board will reconsider the decision. If the member still believes the decision is in error then they may request a general church meeting be called to allow the membership to discuss the matter. The Elders Board will hear the membership and make a final decision. The Elders Board holds the final authority in the direction of the church.

N) Any personal accusations toward an Elder must first be brought to that Elder by the member making the accusation face to face (Matthew 18:15) and if the issue is not resolved the member and witnesses to the validity of the accusation may come before the Elders Board (1 Timothy 5:19) to present the accusation. The Elders Board holds the final authority in the direction of the church.

Section 2. Pastor:

A) Duties. The Pastor shall perform all the scriptural and necessary duties of his office. These include Bible teaching, personal and Biblical counseling, church administration, spiritual leadership, officiant at special services (weddings, baptisms, funerals, etc.), public speaking, representative to the community and preacher. The Pastor is responsible for bringing God's truth to the church and leading its members to an intimate spiritual relationship with God.

B) The pastor is to work in together with the Elders Board and to seek to be of one mind with the Elders (Philippians 1:27 and 2:2).

C) The Pastor is a member of the Elders Board and will not participate in decisions regarding his position or compensation.

D) Term of Office. The Pastor shall serve for an indeterminate period. The relationship of pastor and church may be dissolved after one month's notice by either party. Notice may be waived by mutual consent.

E) Election. The Pastor shall be elected, upon recommendation by the Elders Board. The vote to call a pastor shall be by written ballot and an affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present and voting is required. This vote shall be taken at a called meeting of the church with written notice to the membership at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 3. Officers:

A) Names and duties of officers.

- 1) The Moderator shall serve as Chairman of the Elders Board and shall preside at all church meetings. The Moderator shall be a member of the Elders Board.
- 2) Deacons/Deaconesses and Committee Chairmen shall be appointed to serve the church as the Elders see the need.
- 3) The church Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements and shall work under the supervision of the Elders Board. They will make all disbursements of current bills and other obligations authorized by the Elders Board and report monthly to the Elders.
- 4) The Financial Secretary shall be responsible for collecting and depositing all money which flows into the church treasury. He shall keep a weekly ledger of all money given by individuals and report by January 31 to them for income tax purposes. All deposits should be made as soon as possible after the collection of funds is made. Duplicate deposit slips for each deposit shall be sent to the Treasurer.
- 5) The Sunday School Superintendent shall be responsible for the general supervision of the Sunday school, he is under the direction of the Elders Board.
- 6) Other officers may be appointed as needed.

B) Qualifications and Terms of Office.

- 1) All officers shall be active adult members of the church nominated by the Elders Board.

2) Terms of Office.

- a) Deacons/Deaconess and officers shall serve annual terms and may be reappointed by the Elders without limit.

C) Vacancies.

- 1) Termination: Upon written request to the Elders Board, a Deacon/Deaconess or church officer may resign. No person shall continue to be a Deacon or church officer if he ceases to be an active member of this church. Upon failure of a Deacon or church officer to attend regular meetings, or to perform conscientiously the duties, an Elder shall confer with the person regarding his responsibilities in an effort to correct the situation or to persuade the person to resign.
- 2) Vacancies shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term by the Elders Board.

Section 4. Special Committees:

- A. The Elders Board may appoint committees as it sees fit.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meeting: The annual meeting of the church shall be during the month of January. Officers elected /appointed at this meeting shall take office at the meeting. Reports shall be presented at this meeting covering all aspects of church life. A budget for the coming year shall be presented and adopted.

- A) All reports given at the annual meeting shall be for the calendar year, January 1 to December 31. All officers continue in their office until after the annual meeting when a new slate has been elected. All books shall be turned over to new officers in good order and balance.

Section 2. Special Meetings: A special meeting of the membership may be called at any time by the Moderator with the agreement of the Elders.

Section 3. Rules and Procedures:

- A. The rules of parliamentary practice as stated in Robert's Rules of Order are adopted for the government of business meetings, except as here in modified.
- B. Upon the request of any member a written ballot shall be used.
- C. No ballots may be cast except by voting members present.
- D. Any motion presented from the floor which has not had the prior consideration of the Elders Board will not be considered.
- E. One week's written notice shall be given for all church meetings. Unless otherwise specified.

ARTICLE VIII – AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

The church regards as integral parts of itself all organizations formed for the purpose of carrying out any of the church activities. All auxiliary organizations shall be under the direction and supervision of the Pastor and the Elders Board, and shall submit such reports as the Pastor or the Elders Board direct.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended at the annual church meeting, providing written notice is given two weeks previously that such action is to be introduced at such meeting. It requires a three-fourths majority vote to adopt an amendment. Amendments must be studied by the Elders Board prior to presentation.

ARTICLE X – ARBUCKLE COMMUNITY CHURCH TRUST

This Trust was established July 1971 for the investment and safekeeping of all assets received from the sale of land given by the estate of Emily H. White. The original deed states, "to the trustees of the First Baptist Church of Arbutle, California for the express purpose of giving support and aid to preaching the gospel". Deed is recorded in Book of Deeds 105 page 341, Colusa County Court House.

The present Trust formed in July 1971 established the fact that the trustees named should be a self-perpetuating directorate. They are required to give a

complete and detailed report of the previous year's activities, in writing, at the annual meeting.

The Trustees, Church, Elders Board and Deacons/Deaconess Board shall abide by all rights, duties, and limitations set forth in the trust agreement, a copy of which is on file with the church clerk.

ARTICLE XI

Discipline of Church Members:

The Elders Board shall be responsible for the discipline of church members. All discipline of church members shall be conducted by the Elders of the church in accordance with Matthew 18:15-20. All discipline shall be conducted with prayer and the goal of reconciliation.

ARTICLE XII

Section 1. Marriage

- A. We believe that every person is a creation of God and worthy of love and respect. We also believe in the institution of marriage as designed by God our Creator, to be a lifelong union between one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:18,20-24, 1Cor. 5:1, Heb. 13:4, Mal 2:14-16, Matt. 19:1-6)
- B. We do not recognize and will not solemnize same sex marriages. No church officers or members will perform same sex marriage. Use of church property or resources to participate in, celebrate, recognize or perform same sex marriages or relationships is not allowed. (Lev. 18:10-13, Gen. 19:5,13, Rom. 1:26-32)

Adopted January 25, 2015