

**TAPESTRY COMMUNITY CHURCH  
CONSTITUTION  
November 13, 2013**

PREAMBLE

*Jesus Christ, as King, has given to His Church officers, oracles, and ordinances; and has ordained His system of doctrine, government, discipline, and worship, all of which are either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary inference may be deduced from it; and to which things He commands that nothing be added nor subtracted. This constitution shall preserve and secure these principles and govern this body in accordance with God's Holy Word, and shall contain enduring ecclesiastical matters related to Tapestry Community Church. (Deut 12:29-32; Mal 1:6-13; Mtt 15:9; John 4:23-24; 1 Cor 4:6; 1 Pet 2:4-5)*

ARTICLE I. PURPOSE

The purpose of Tapestry Community Church is to glorify God by striving to keep the Two Great Commandments; namely, by seeking to make disciples of all nations through evangelism and missions, the faithful preaching and teaching of the whole counsel of God, through corporate prayer, by the encouragement of one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, and through mutual accountability.

ARTICLE II. MISSION

The mission of Tapestry Community Church is to glorify God by establishing a body of believers who find their greatest delight in Him, have a palpable love for their neighbor, have a passion for reaching the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, have an unwavering faith in the trustworthiness of God's word, and an unyielding belief in the sovereignty of God over all things.

ARTICLE III. STRUCTURE

Section 1. Name: The name of the church shall be Tapestry Community Church, hereinafter referred to as "TCC".

Section 2. Headship: The Lord Jesus Christ is the sole head and ultimate pastor of the Church in both its universal and local expression. As the Head of the Church, all direction, guidance, control, and authority comes from and eternally resides in Him. (Eph 1:22, 23; Col 1:18; Heb 13:20; 1 Pet 5:4)

Section 3. Polity: The government of TCC is vested in the body of believers who compose its membership. The membership exercise their governing power in their choice of those whom Christ has qualified for the church offices of Elder and Deacon. (Mtt 18:15-17; Acts 1:23-26; 6:2-3; 13:1-3; 14:23; 15:22; 20:28; 1 Cor 5:4-5; Eph 4:11)

Section 4. Authority: The supreme source of authority for TCC regarding all matters of faith and practice shall be the Holy Scriptures as contained in the sixty-six books of the Bible. *Of the Old Testament*: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I & II Samuel, I & II Kings, I & II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi. *Of the New Testament*: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, I & II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, I & II Peter, I, II, & III John, Jude, Revelation. (Deut 8:3; 12:32; Mtt 4:4; Lk 11:49-51; Acts 5:29; 20:29-30; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Jude 1:3)

Section 5. Worship: Since the Holy Scriptures are the only infallible rule of faith and practice, the principles of public worship must be derived from the Bible, and from no other source. Minimally, the Bible teaches that the following are proper elements of public worship: reading of Holy Scripture, singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, the offering of prayer, the preaching of the Word, the presentation of offerings, and observing the Sacraments. (Deut 12:29-32; Mtt 15:8-9; Jn 4:23-24; Acts 2:42; 20:7 [cf. 1 Cor 10:16; 11:20-26]; 1 Cor 4:6; 16:2; Eph 5:18-19; Col 3:16; 1 Tim 2:1; 2 Tim 4:1-2)

Section 6. Doctrine: The Elder(s) as appointed leader(s) of the church shall confirm and protect the doctrine of TCC under the direction of the Holy Spirit, guided by the Word of God, and in agreement with the charter and confession of faith of TCC. The purpose of adhering to a doctrinal statement is to protect the local assembly by more precisely setting forth the doctrine of this church so that the church might be of one common faith true to His inspired Word. (Acts 15:2, 6, 23; 20:17, 28-32; Eph 4:11-14; 1 Thes 5:12-13; 1 Tim 3:2; 2 Tim 4:1-4; Titus 1:9; Heb 13:17)

Section 7. Cooperation: TCC shall be subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but recognizes the benefits of mutual counsel and cooperation with churches and associations of like faith and practice, and reserves the right to engage in such counsel and cooperation. (Acts 11:27-30; 15:1-2; 21:17-19; Rom 15:22-33; 1 Cor 16:1-4; 2 Cor 8:1-5; 9:1-5; Phil 4:14-16)

Section 8. Church and State: TCC shall operate in accordance with federal and state laws, and the handling of property shall be in accordance with such laws. Adherence to federal and state laws shall be described in the Bylaws. This section shall be subservient to Article III, Sections 2-7. (Luke 20:22-25; Acts 4:19-20; 5:29; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Tim 2:1-2)

#### ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section 1. The primary officers of TCC shall be Elders and Deacons.

##### A. Elders

1. General: The eldership of this church shall ordinarily consist of a plurality of elders. They are equipped by the Holy Spirit, evidence their divine qualifications by doing the work of an elder, and are recognized as elders by the membership of the congregation. The number of elders is determined by the number that God raises up and grants the necessary spiritual gifts to fulfill the office. The biblical terms used interchangeably for this office are “elder” (*presbuteros*), “pastor” (*poimen*), and “bishop/overseer” (*episkopos*). (Acts 14:23; 15:2, 6,

22-23; 20:17, 28; Eph 4:11; Phil 1:1; 1 Thess 5:12; 1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5, 7ff.; 1 Pet 5:1-3)

2. Qualifications

- a. Scriptural standards: Those who aspire to the office of Elder must meet the standards set forth in 1 Tim 2:12; 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.
- b. Spiritual gifts: The minimum spiritual gifts necessary for accomplishing the work of an elder are teaching, exhortation, and administrations. (1 Tim 3:2; 2 Tim 2:2; Titus 1:9; 1 Cor 12:28)
- c. Agreement: Elder candidates must be in agreement with the TCC confession of faith and constitution. (Acts 15:36-41, cf. 13:13)

3. Tenure: The tenure of an elder shall be perpetual.

4. Appointment: To be appointed as an elder, a candidate must:

- a. Meet the qualifications in Article IV, Section 1.A.2. above.
- b. Be nominated by the Elder(s) of the church. (Acts 20:28; Titus 1:5)
- c. Complete the TCC Eldership Questionnaire. (Acts 20:28; Titus 1:9; Heb 13:17; James 3:1)
- d. Complete an oral theological examination by the Elder(s). (Acts 20:28; Titus 1:9; Heb 13:17; James 3:1)
- e. Present at least two (2) sermons to the congregation within thirty (30) days of each other (For full-time pulpit ministry only). (1 Tim 3:2; 2 Tim 4:1-2; Titus 1:9)
- f. Complete a Question-and-Answer session before the voting members. (Acts 6:3; 15:22; 1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:7)
- g. Receive at least a 4/5 majority vote of a quorum of the voting members of the church at a quarterly or special meeting considering his candidacy. (Acts 6:3; 15:22; 1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:7)

5. Termination:

- a. An elder may be relieved of duty for the following reasons: voluntary termination; church discipline after the congregation has followed the procedures of Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Tim 5:19; mental incapacitation, or physical death.
- b. Should an elder undergo any level of church discipline the Elder(s) of the church may remove him from office. (1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:7)
- c. (For staff members) It is the prerogative of the Elder who is also a staff member to dissolve his responsibilities to the church by giving at least thirty (30) days notice to the Elder(s) of TCC.
- d. An elder may be relieved of duty with a vote of “no confidence” by a 1/2 vote of a quorum of the voting members of the church at a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting. Procedures for removing an elder by vote of “no confidence” shall be described in the Bylaws. (Mtt 18:15-17; Gal 6:1; Col 3:16; 2 Thes 3:14-15; 1 Tim 5:19-20)

6. Compensation: The church shall provide adequate remuneration to those who provide pulpit ministry and to those who contribute significant time to the ministry of the church. (Mtt 10:9-10; 1 Cor 9:7-14; Gal 6:6; 1 Tim 5:17-18)

a. Salary and benefits

- i. The salary and benefits package of those who provide pulpit ministry and who contribute significant time to the ministry of the church shall be determined by the Elder(s), reviewed and revised as appropriate, and



him from office.

6. Responsibilities: Deacons are co-equally responsible for:
  - a. Ministering to the physical needs of the congregation. (Acts 6:1-6)
  - b. Accounting for, supplying, and maintaining the material interests of the church (such as buildings, land, physical property, etc.), and making recommendations to the Elders in such matters.
  - c. Superintending church finances in accordance with the Bylaws.
  - d. Overseeing administrative functions of the church (such as greeters, Lord's Supper preparation, offertory, etc.).
  - e. Assisting in the spiritual work and growth of the church.
  - f. Meeting at least monthly for prayer and planning.

Section 2. Church Council: In order to adhere to biblical wisdom, the Elder(s) shall appoint no less than three (3) council members to serve as an advisory board and as assistants to the Elder(s). Council members shall be appointed annually with no term limits. Council members shall serve at the discretion of the Elder(s) with a 50% approval vote by the congregation. In the event the church is without an Elder or Deacon, the Church Council shall assume leadership of the church, being re-elected annually by the membership, until such time a qualified Elder can be appointed. (Prov 11:14; 15:22; Acts 18:24-26; Rom 13:1; Gal 2:11-14)

Section 3. Additional Staff: TCC shall have additional paid and volunteer staff as wisdom and the Holy Spirit may direct as necessary for the carrying on of the work of the church. Such staff shall be appointed and serve at the discretion of the Elder(s).

## ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. General: The membership shall consist of those who profess faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The principle practiced at TCC is to accept into membership all those whom Christ has accepted. Church membership is required for those involved in church ministry (guest ministry excepting, see Article III, Sec. 7) and for active participation in business meetings or special meetings. (Mtt 18:17; 1 Cor 5:1-5; 12:12-13, 2 Thes 3:6, 14)

Section 2. Requirements: Conversion and baptism based on one's own profession of faith are prerequisite to the privilege of church membership. Those who are believers in Christ but have not been baptized shall be requested to do so when joining the church. Those who have been baptized as believers, though the mode of baptism was not immersion, will not be required to be re-baptized, since the New Testament only recognizes one baptism for believers. (1 Cor 12:27; Acts 2:38, 41; 8:35-39; Eph 4:4-5; Mt 28:19; Acts 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:14-15; 16:33; 18:8).

Section 3. Acceptance: Any person desiring to become a member of TCC shall schedule a meeting with an elder (in the absence of an elder, then a deacon; in the absence of a deacon, then the church council). The Elder shall inquire into the applicant's profession of faith and baptism. If the applicant is or has been a member of another church, special effort will be made to determine the person's standing in that church and his or her reasons for leaving. The applicant will be left in abeyance no longer than thirty (30) days so that all information concerning the applicant will be made known to the Elder(s). Upon approval, the new member shall be announced to the church

body during a Sunday morning worship service. (Matt 18:17; Acts 20:28; 1 Cor 5:2, 5, 11; Heb 13:17)

Section 4. Responsibilities: Members are expected to live a life worthy of the gospel calling, to submit to the Elder(s) of TCC, to be faithful in all duties essential to the Christian life, to attend the services of this church, to give of their finances for its support and cause, and to share in its organized work. (Mtt 10:9-10; Acts 11:27-30; Rom 12:1-15:13; 15:22-29; 1 Cor 9:7-14; 12:7; 12:12-31; 16:1-4; 2 Cor 8:9-15; 9:6-11; Gal 6:6; Eph 4:1-3; 1 Thes 5:12-13; 1 Tim 5:17-18; Heb 10:24-25; 13:7, 17; James 2:14-26; 1 Pet 4:8-11)

Section 5. Membership of children: Children of members will be considered under their parents' authority for membership purposes until they reach the age of eighteen (18) or upon entering into marriage or upon entering into the United States military. (Ex 20:12; Luke 2:51; Eph 6:1-4; Col 3:20)

Section 6. Termination: Church membership shall be terminated for the following reasons:

1. Physical death
2. Voluntary termination
3. Relocation, after six (6) months have lapsed since departure
4. Disciplinary dismissal

Section 7. Discipline: The members of TCC who fall into moral or doctrinal error may be subject to church discipline. The biblical process of church discipline is:

1. Private rebuke by a member of the church (Mt 18:15)
2. Private rebuke by two or more members of the church (Mt 18:16)
3. Public rebuke before the church body, carried out by the Elders (Mt 18:17)
4. Excommunication from the Lord's Supper and church membership, carried out by the Elders (Mt 18:17b; 1 Cor 5:1-13; 1 Tim 1:19-20)

NOTE: Excommunication from the Lord's Supper and dismissal from church membership does not necessarily mean the disciplined person is not saved. However, excommunication should serve as a solemn admonition for those individuals to examine themselves to see if they are in the faith. Unrepentance shall be the sole cause for excommunication.

## ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

Section 1. Worship Meetings: In accordance with Article II, Section 5, the church body shall meet each Sunday for the worship of God, our Creator, and for edifying the Saints through preaching, teaching, fellowship, prayer, exhortation, collection of offerings, administering of the Sacraments, and discipline. (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2; Eph 4:11, 12; 2 Tim 4:1, 2)

Section 2. Quarterly Business Meetings: The quarterly business meeting is a means for both the leadership and the voting membership of the church to exercise their responsibilities to govern the church in accordance with Scripture. Business meetings shall be held during the months of January, April, July, and October.

Section 3. Special Meetings: The purpose of special meetings is to conduct business that would not ordinarily be conducted at a quarterly business meeting or cannot be postponed until the next scheduled quarterly business meeting. Special meetings shall be conducted as prescribed in the TCC Bylaws.

#### ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Any member of the church may propose an amendment to the Constitution by submitting the proposed amendment in writing to the Elder(s) for review and approval. Upon approval by the Elder(s), the proposed amendment must be approved by 3/5 majority vote of a quorum at a regularly scheduled quarterly business meeting.

Section 2. This constitution shall not be altered, only amended.

Section 3. This constitution shall not be amended in a way which contradicts the Charter Statement of Tapestry Community Church.

#### ARTICLE VIII. DISSOLUTION

In the event that Tapestry Community Church should dissolve, all liquid and material assets shall be donated to a not-for-profit organization that is in agreement with the church's core doctrines.

#### AMENDMENT I

A quorum shall be defined as 25% of the voting membership of the church or 8 members, whichever is greater. A quorum shall be required at all "Quarterly Business Meetings" and "Special Meetings".

#### AMENDMENT II

In fulfillment of the requirements of Article III, Section 6, and Article IV, Section 1, subsections A.2.c and B.2.d, elder and deacon candidates shall ascribe their signature to a copy of the statement of faith of Tapestry Community Church in affirmation that they are in complete agreement with the church's confessional standard.