

THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF
THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH OF ALASKA

Adopted March 23-24, 1973

Amended March 2, 1984

Amended March 3 & 4, 1989

Amended March 23, 1990

Amended March 28, 1992

Amended April 12, 2002

Preamble

(Historical Statement from the Constitution and Bylaws of the Evangelical Covenant Church)

The Evangelical Covenant Church has its roots in historical Christianity, as it emerged in the Protestant Reformation, in the biblical instruction of the Lutheran State Church of Sweden and in the great spiritual awakenings of the nineteenth century. These three influences have in large measure shaped its development and are to be borne in mind in seeking to understand its distinctive spirit.

The Covenant Church adheres to the affirmations of the Protestant Reformation regarding the Holy Scriptures, the Old and the New Testament, as the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith doctrine, and conduct. It has traditionally valued the historic confessions of the Christian church, particularly the Apostle's Creed, while at the same time it has emphasized the sovereignty of the Word over all creedal interpretations. It has especially cherished the pietistic restatement of the doctrine of justification by faith as basic to its dual task of evangelism and Christian nurture, the New Testament emphasis upon personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, the reality of a fellowship of believers which recognizes but transcends theological differences, and the belief in baptism and the Lord's Supper as divinely ordained sacraments of the church. While the denomination has traditionally practiced the baptism of infants, in conformity with its principle of freedom it has given room to divergent views. The principle of personal freedom, so highly esteemed by the Covenant, is to be distinguished from the individualism that disregards the centrality of the Word of God and the mutual responsibilities and disciplines of the spiritual community.

The Covenant Church in order to accomplish its objectives has formulated and adopted a Constitution and Bylaws. This document seeks to clarify and interpret the derivation of rights and responsibilities and the proper exercise thereof and sets forth the name, confession, membership, objectives, Officers; administration, and meetings of the meetings of the Covenant. The Constitution recognizes that the highest constituted authority of the Covenant is the general assembly known as the Annual Meeting of the Covenant which assembly alone can adopt and amend the Constitution and Bylaws. Together the Articles of Incorporation of the Covenant, the laws of the State of Illinois, and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Covenant shall constitute the law governing The Evangelical Covenant Church.

Article: I
NAME

The name of this body shall be the Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska and shall be known as a regional church.

Article II
AFFILIATION

This regional church shall be a member of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Article III
CONFESSION

This regional church believes in the Holy Scriptures the Old and the New Testaments, as the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct.

Article IV
OBJECTIVES

Section 1. The objectives of this regional church shall be to propagate the Gospel in accordance with the precepts of Christ and His apostles and to promote Christ-like life among the churches and their members as well as to apply the Gospel in every area of life within the State of Alaska.

Section 2. For the accomplishment of these objectives, this regional church in cooperation with the Evangelical Covenant Church may:

- a) Formulate policies for its ministry within the State of Alaska,
- b) Organize, build, and develop local churches.
- c) Own, operate and maintain camps and other facilities for Christian education and benevolence,
- d) Own, operate, and maintain institutions
- e) Acquire and own by purchase, gift or grant such real property as may be necessary to carry out these objectives.

Article V
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Local Churches: Membership in this regional church is open to any Evangelical Christian Church which is in accord with the tradition of the Evangelical Covenant Church as stated in the Preamble of this constitution and which meets the requirements stated in this constitution.

Article VI
ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. General Administration:

- a) The general administration of this regional church shall be vested in a body known as the General Council, elected by and responsible to the official meetings of this regional church.
- b) The General Council shall consist of nine elected members. The Executive Secretary of the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism and the Field Director of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska shall also be members of the General Council.
- c) The General Council shall designate from its membership a Chairperson, a Secretary, a Treasurer and other such officers as the By-laws provide. These officers shall be the officers of this corporation.

Section 2. Administrative Boards

- a) The institutions of this regional church shall be incorporated; however, the administrative Boards of these institutions shall be appointed by the General Council who shall seek the counsel of the Annual Meeting of this regional church.
- b) An administrative board known as the Board of the Ministry shall be appointed by the General Council, in accordance with the Bylaws, which shall seek the counsel of the Annual Meeting of this regional church. The Board of the Ministry shall have general supervision over Covenant ministers residing within the State of Alaska, including ordination, license, discipline, and the maintenance of high ministerial standards.

Section 3. Committees: The General Council may appoint committees for specific responsibilities and determine the size, duties, and term of said committees.

Section 4. Quorum: A majority of the members of each shall constitute a quorum of the General Council, Administrative Boards, and committees.

Section 5. Vacancies: Any office which has been vacated shall be filled by the appointment of the remaining council members at the next meeting of the General Council and such replacement shall serve until the vacated term is expired or his or her successor is elected and qualified. The appointment shall be ratified at the next annual meeting of the regional church. In the event that the appointment is not ratified, the delegates may elect a person to serve the remainder of the term of the vacated position.

Article VII
MEETINGS

Section 1. The highest constituted authority of this regional church shall be the Annual Meeting of this regional church.

Section 2. The Annual Meeting shall be held at such time and place as specified in the By-laws.

Section 3. The Annual Meeting shall elect members to the General Council, receive reports from the General Council the Administrative Boards, and committees and act upon the report from auditors of the preceding fiscal year and conduct such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 4. Special meetings may be called according to procedures specified in the By-laws.

Section 5. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the duly accredited delegates shall constitute a quorum at the Annual and special meetings of this regional church.

Article VII **PROPERTY**

In the event of schism within this regional church, from which we earnestly pray God to spare us, the title of all property, real or personal, shall remain with the group which abides by this constitution. In the event of dissolution, the property and all assets shall become the property of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Article IX **AMENDMENTS**

Amendments in harmony with this constitution and not in conflict with Covenant Principles and Policies may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) plurality of those present and voting in an Annual Meeting of this regional church, providing the proposed amendment was presented in written form at the preceding Annual Meeting of this regional church, and further providing that approval is also granted by the Executive Secretary of the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism or a designee.

BY-LAWS

Article I **MEETINGS**

Section 1. The Annual or special meetings of this regional church shall be composed of only accredited delegates whose credentials have been certified by the General Council or a committee appointed by the General Council.

Section 2. Representation:

- a) Member churches shall be entitled to two (2) delegates and one (1) pastoral delegate. They shall be members of the church they represent.
- b) Members of the General Council shall be delegates.
- c) The Executive Secretary of the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism or a designee shall be a delegate.
- d) The Field Director of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska shall be a delegate.
- e) No person may be a delegate in more than one category and no delegate may serve in such a manner that the delegate shall be entitled to more than one (1) vote.
- f) The Arctic Broadcasting Association shall be entitled to one (1) delegate.
- g) The Alaska Christian College shall be entitled to one (1) delegate.

Section 3. The time, date, and place of the Annual Meeting and special meetings of this regional church shall be as designated by the General Council not less than ninety (90) days prior to said meeting. A notification of said meeting shall be sent not less than sixty (60) days prior to said meeting to member churches and ex-officio members of this regional church.

Section 4. Special Meetings: Special meetings of this regional church may be called by the General Council provided that notification as to time, date, and place shall comply with the provision of Section 3 of this Article and, in addition said notification shall include the reason for the convention of the special meeting

Section 5. Agenda: The agenda for the annual and special meetings of this regional church shall be prepared by the General Council.

Article II **GENERAL COUNCIL**

Section 1. Elected members of the General Council shall serve for three (3) year terms and be elected in such a manner- that the terms of one-third (1/3) shall expire each year. Elected members shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.

Section 2. Working Rules: The General Council shall have the power to establish and change its working rules including the fixing of time, date, and place of its meetings.

Section 3. The General Council shall:

- a) Following the Annual meeting of this regional church, elect a chairperson, a secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers, which it deems necessary, who shall serve as the officers of this corporation.
- b) Exercise general supervision of the work of this regional church and act on behalf of it between meetings.
- c) Adopt a coordinated budget which must be ratified by the Executive Secretary of the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism or a designee.
- d) Prepare and recommend the agenda for all meetings of this regional church.
- e) Administer the property and the treasury of this regional church.
- f) Appoint the Board of Directors of all institutions of this regional church with the advice of the annual meeting of this regional church.
- g) Appoint the Board of the Ministry with the advice of the annual meeting of this regional church.
- h) Provide for an independent annual audit of the records of this corporation for presentation to the Annual Meeting of this regional church.

Section 4. The General Council may:

- a) Purchase from time to time such real or personal property as may be required for the work or activities of this regional church and its institutions, as determined by decision of a meeting of this regional church or by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the General Council and ratified by the Executive Secretary of the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism or a designee.
- b) Participate in the financing of any project as may be required for the work and activities of this regional church including the giving of a mortgage or deed of trust as collateral for said indebtedness, provided that this action is ratified by the Executive Secretary of the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism or a designee.
- c) Sell and convey, with full power and authority, any and all real estate or personal property belonging to this corporation which is not necessary for corporate purposes for such price and at such terms as the General Council may deem proper and for the best interest of this regional church. This authorization shall include the execution of deeds of conveyance and all other documentation as may be necessary or required to convey good title to real or personal property sold by said General Council. The above authorization is granted provided said action has been approved by a meeting of the regional church or by a two-thirds (2/3) plurality of the members of the General Council and ratified by the Executive Secretary of the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism or a designee.
- d) Establish and appoint the membership of Administrative Boards and committees which it deems necessary for the administration of the affairs of this regional church.
- e) Employ and fix compensation for such persons as may be necessary to carry on the affairs of this regional church.

Article III
OFFICERS

Section 1. Tenure: The term for each corporate office shall be one (1) year, however, each officer may serve a maximum of three (3) successive terms in the same office. Each officer shall serve until a successor is elected.

Section 2. Chairperson: The Chairperson shall preside over meetings of this regional church and its General Council. Duties include the signing and imprinting of the corporate seal on all official and/or legal documents that require the signature of the chief executive officer of this corporation.

Section 3. Secretary: The Secretary shall perform the duties of a corporate secretary. Duties are to : record and preserve the proceedings of all meetings of this regional church and its General Council, and to sign and imprint the corporate seal on such official and/or legal documents as they require the Secretary's signature. The Secretary shall give official notice of meetings of this regional church and it's General Council. Upon the expiration of the Secretary's term of office, the secretary shall surrender and deliver all records in possession to the successor of this office.

Section 4. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall perform the duties of a corporate treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and have custody of all funds and securities of this regional church and make disbursements as authorized. The Treasurer shall keep full and accurate accounts and shall deposit all funds in such financial institutions as the General Council may direct. The Treasurer shall render a comprehensive annual report to the annual meeting of the regional church and submit for audit the records and reports as the General Council shall require. Upon expiration of the Treasurer's term of office, the treasurer shall surrender and deliver all records in the office's possession to the successor.

Article IV
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS

Section 1. General Provisions

- a) Although the institutions of this regional church such as the Arctic Broadcasting Association shall be incorporated, the administrative boards, which may be called Boards of Directors, of these institutions shall be appointed by the General Council which shall seek the counsel of the Annual Meeting of this regional church.
- b) The Administrative Boards shall consist of six (6) members, except those of the Arctic Broadcasting Association which shall have ten (10) members. Members appointed by the General Council shall be appointed in such a manner that the terms of not more than sixty percent (60%) shall expire in any year and shall serve for terms of two (2) years. The chief executive officer of each institution shall serve as an ex-officio member of the respective administrative board. The Field Director of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska and the Executive Secretary of the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism or a designee shall be ex-officio members of each administrative board.

- c) Each administrative board shall secure the ratification of the General Council for the employment of the Chief Executive Officer of the institution for which it is appointed. The administrative board shall fix the compensation and conditions of employment of its employees except that of the Chief Executive Officer which shall be ratified by the Executive Secretary of the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism or a designee.
- d) Each administrative board shall submit a budget to the General Council which shall have full authority to accept, reject, or modify the budget thus submitted for inclusion of the coordinated budget of this regional church.
- e) Each administrative board shall organize as it deems appropriate.

Article V **COMMITTEES**

Section 1. The General Council may appoint committees and structure said committees, as the General Council may deem appropriate.

Section 2. All committees shall cease to exist at the next subsequent Annual Meeting of this regional church except that said Annual Meeting may choose to expressly extend the life of a committee. No Annual Meeting, however, may extend the life of a committee beyond the next subsequent annual meeting.

Article VI **FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year shall be determined by the General Council in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism or a designee.

Article VII **RULES OF ORDER**

The proceedings of meetings of this regional church, its General Council, its administrative boards, and its committees shall be governed by and conducted in accordance with the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order except as otherwise provided herein.

Article VIII **AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to these By-laws shall be submitted in writing to the General Council not less than ninety (90) days prior to an annual meeting of this regional church. The General Council shall submit these amendments in writing to the members of this corporation not less than sixty (60) days prior to said annual meeting and shall provide comment and recommendations together with

notification regarding the proposed amendments. All amendments shall require the ratification by the Executive Secretary of the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism or a designee.