

The Constitution of Hanover Community Church

October 13, 1981

Preamble

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place of worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian Fellowship for those of like precious faith; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and abroad, we, whose names appear upon the assemble roster do hereby recognize ourselves as a local assembly of the Body of Christ and adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

Constitution

Article I – Name

The name of this local assembly shall be,

Hanover Community Church of Hanover, York County, Pennsylvania.

Article II – 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....until we all come in the unity of faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a 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 purposes; all in accordance with its constitution and bylaws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

Article III – Tenets of Faith (please refer to Tenets of Faith document)

Article IV – Ordinances

Section 1: The ordinance of Baptism by immersion in water shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins and who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation. Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12.

Section 2: The ordinance of the Lord’s Supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined in the scriptures. This will be an open Communion to all believers. Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 11:23-26.

Article V – 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 Bylaws as herein set forth. They shall be classified as follows:

Section 1: Voting Membership: All those who meet the scriptural standards for membership, whose names appeared on the original membership roll for the assembly at the time the assembly was first organized, together with those names which shall be added from time to time, shall constitute the

legal, voting membership of the assembly provided they are 18 years of age or over, that they regularly attend the means of grace and take part in the services and that they are living consistent Christian lives.

Section 2: Non-Voting Membership: Same as above, except those members do not expect to attend business meetings or hold church office due to health or other factors.

Section 3: Junior Membership: All those who are 14 years of age and older, who have received Jesus Christ as their Savior and who are baptized in water may apply for Junior Membership. Although voting privileges shall be withheld until their eighteenth birthday, at which time they shall be part of the voting membership of the assembly, complete participation in the business meeting is expected.

Section 4: Inactive Membership: Enrolled members who shall without cause absent themselves from services of the assembly for a period of three consecutive months or more, and who cease to contribute of their means to its support, who may be out of harmony with its teachings or its ministries, or who shall be under charges for misconduct or worldly practices, shall be considered as Inactive Members and shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship. Their standing is to be settled by the definite action of the assembly through its elected officers within one year of being placed on the Inactive Membership list.

Article VI – Officers

Section 1: The Officers: The officers of the church shall be:

Non-Elected

Chairman of the Deacons' Board (By default the Senior Pastor)

Elected

Vice-Chairman of the Deacons' Board

Official Secretary

Treasurer

Section 2: The Official Deacons' Board: There shall be an official Deacons' Board of six members **which** together with the Pastor, shall be committed to the management of the assembly. Of this board, one member must be the General Treasurer, one the Official Secretary and one the Vice-Chairman. The Pastor will function as Chairman and Associate Ministers as non-voting members.

Section 3: The Board of Trustees: The Official Deacons' Board shall constitute the Board of Trustees and shall be the custodians of all the assembly's property.

Section 4: Qualifications of Church Officers: The qualifications of an officer in this assembly shall be: Submissive to the Constitution and Bylaws, Active Membership for at least one year prior to the election, except with a letter of recommendation for a previous pastor and three month's Active Membership at Hanover Community Church, no member of his/her immediate family is already elected, has a good comprehension of the scriptural requirements for a deacon and follows them. I Timothy 3:8-13, Acts 6:1-6, I Peter 5.

Article VII – Meetings

Section 1: Meetings for Public Worship shall be held each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the Pastor and Board.

Section 2: There shall be an Annual Business Meeting at the beginning of the calendar year for members and friends of Hanover Community Church for the purpose of presenting annual ministries reports, ratifying the budget, and transacting any other business that may properly come before this meeting. Two deacons shall be elected at the annual meeting, the time and place and expired terms to be announced by the Pastor. Due notice is to be given on the two Sundays prior to the date of such meetings.

Section 3: Special Business Meetings: May be called when necessary, either by the Pastor, the Deacon's Board or by the Voting Membership (a petition requesting such signed by 1/3 of the Voting Membership, Junior Membership may participate, placed in the hands of the Pastor or Vice-Chairman for announcement). These meetings may be held immediately, so long as a proper attempt has been made to notify all voting members.

Section 4: Absentee Ballots: Are permissible on announced motions not amended at the business meeting and for election of officers. Absentee voters must place their ballot in an unmarked, sealed envelope to be opened only by the tellers. That envelope must be delivered to the Official Secretary in another envelope, signed for registry. If the absentee does not demand a secret ballot, he or she may simply submit a signed ballot.

Section 5: Quorum: No record of any special or regular meeting shall be made unless ½ or more of the Voting Membership shall be present to constitute a Quorum.

Section 6: The Official Deacons' Board: Shall meet, together with the Pastor, as the need may require for the transaction of routine business for the assembly. Time and place will be announced by the Pastor or Vice-Chairman. There shall be at least one meeting monthly, unless the Board determines otherwise.

Article VIII – Departments and Committees

Hanover Community Church shall provide for the following to whomsoever will come, Sunday School, Children's Church, Youth Services, Missionary Society, Men's and Women's Fellowships, or any such departments or committees as the needs of the work may require. All such departments shall be subordinate to the assembly and shall be under the general supervision of the Pastor and Board. The Pastor or his representative shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments of the assembly.

Article IX – Finances

All funds for the maintenance of the assembly, shall be provided by the voluntary contributions, the tithes and offerings or the members and friends of the assembly. Offerings shall be accepted by the congregation at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the Pastor and Board, and shall be administered by the General Treasurer under their direction. Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; I Corinthians 16:1, 2; II Corinthians 9:6-8.

Article X – 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, mortgaged, or otherwise disposed of without the same shall first recommended by a vote of at least two-thirds of the Voting Membership who are in attendance at a regular or special meeting which has been called for the consideration of the proposal. The Pastor and the secretary of the assembly shall certify in such conveyance. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Article XI – Amendments

This constitution may be amended or changed by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the assembly who are in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed changes shall have been made at all the services on at least two Sunday's prior to the time of such meeting.