# The Constitution
# of
# Hanover Community Church

***December 5, 2010***

## 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 sheet)

### 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: Qualifications of Church Officers

The qualifications of an officer in this Assembly shall be: submission to the Constitution and Bylaws; active membership for at least one year prior to election, except with a letter of recommendation from a previous pastor and three month's active membership at Hanover Community Church and a good comprehension of the scriptural requirements for a Deacon. A candidate must not be a family member of an employee of HCC nor may an employee of HCC serve as a Board member (with the exception of the Pastor). I Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6:1-6

### Section 2: The Official Deacons' Board

There shall be an official Deacons' Board of seven members. Of this Board, one member must be the General Treasurer, one member must be the Official Secretary, and one member must be the Vice-Chairman. The Pastor will function as Chairman and is a permanent member of the Board.

## Article VII: Employees

### Section 1: Pastors

Pastors and Assistant Pastors will be nominated for employment in accordance with the Bylaws.

### Section 2: Other Employees

Other candidates for employment will be submitted to the Board whereupon the Board, by a two-thirds vote of the full Board, is authorized to hire, or fire, said candidate.

## Article VIII: Meetings

### Section 1: Public Worship Meetings

Meetings for public worship shall be held each Sunday and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the Pastor and Board.

### Section 2: The Deacons' Board Meetings

The 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 because of an extraordinary condition.

### Section 3: Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an Annual Business Meeting prior to 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 4: Special Business Meetings

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 5: Absentee Ballots

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 a sealed envelope with their printed name and signature for membership verification, and deliver said envelope to the Board Secretary to be opened only by the tellers.

### Section 6: Quorum

No record of any special or regular meeting shall be made unless one-half or more of the Voting Membership shall be present to constitute a Quorum.

## Article IX: Departments and Committees

Hanover Community Church shall provide for all ministry areas 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 X: Finances

All funds for the maintenance of the Assembly shall be provided by voluntary contributions, tithes, and offerings of 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 XI: Property

All real property of the Assembly shall be deeded to the Assembly and held in its name. No real property of the Assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise disposed of without the same shall first be 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 Official Secretary, or any other Board Member in the Secretary's absence, shall certify in such conveyance. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

## Article XII: 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.