

**CONSTITUTION
OF
ALL NATIONS COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF HOMEWOOD, ILLINOIS**

PREAMBLE

Whereas, foremost in the operation of this Church and its By-Laws is the Word of God as taught in Old and New Testament of the Holy Bible. All provisions herein are declared to be subject to the Word of God which is to every possible extent incorporated herein by reference as a whole and unless otherwise stated to be found in the New King James Version of the Holy Bible.

Whereas, it is the express purpose of God our Heavenly Father to call out of the world a saved people who shall contribute to the Body of Christ, built and established on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the Chief Cornerstone.

Whereas, we, the membership of All Nations Community Church of Homewood hereafter referred to as ANCC, as members of one another in Christ and called to the express and distinct purposes and directives of this congregation, do hereby recognize ourselves as a sovereign and local church body. We do hereby associate ourselves as an independent religious body, not to be bound to any centralized ecclesiastical form of government outside of our congregation nor obligated by association or fellowship that in any way impinges on our autonomy and self-determination. We do, however, recognize and participate in and with the Fellowship of Christian Assemblies for purposes of cooperation in ministry, mission, and spiritual accountability.

Whereas, the members of the Body of Christ are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God and the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament, therefore,

Be it Resolved: That we recognize ourselves a body of Christian believers working together for the common purpose of spreading the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and that under the laws of the State of Illinois we may exercise all the rights and privileges granted to religious bodies.

Be it Resolved: The term "Council" throughout this document shall refer to the Church Council of Elders and/or Deacons, said Council consisting of the Senior Pastor, Elders, and Deacons.

Be it Resolved: We hereby extend the opportunity for attendance, fellowship, instruction and worship in ANCC, to all members, with fellow believers in accordance with these By-Laws.

ARTICLE I

NAME. The name of this organization shall be ALL NATIONS COMMUNITY CHURCH OF HOMEWOOD, ILLINOIS.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSES. The corporation is organized and shall be exclusively operated for religious, charitable or educational purposes within the meaning of § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1987, as amended (or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law) and as set forth in the bylaws of the corporation.

ARTICLE III

SENIOR PASTOR. The Church finds its headship under the Lord Jesus Christ, in its Pastor. It is therefore, theocratic in government. The Senior Pastor is the communicator of God's vision to the flock.

A. Responsibility and Authority

The Senior Pastor shall be the spiritual leader of the church and shall preside over all meetings of the council of elders mentioned in this constitution and the by-laws, unless he designates otherwise. Accordingly, he shall determine the attendance, set the agenda and regulate communications for such meetings in accordance with the by-laws, applicable law and his sound discretion. He shall see that all orders and resolutions of the board of directors **are is** carried into effect, subject, however, to the right of the board of directors to delegate to any other officer or officers of the Church any specific powers, other than those that may be, in the sound discretion of the board of directors, conferred only upon the Senior Pastor. He shall oversee the execution of all deeds, bonds, mortgages, contracts and other documents **as** authorized by the board of directors. He shall be an ex-officio member on all standing committees.

In the routine functions of the Church, it will be understood that the Senior Pastor may effect expenditures in carrying out the purposes and objectives of the ministry. The board of directors shall in due course be advised of any such expenditures. Normally no expenditures in excess of \$5,000.00 will be made without prior approval of the board of directors. This does not refer to expenses incident to the day to day operations of the Church which, as stated below, should be executed by someone other than the Senior Pastor or any Pastor on staff. Expense accounts, if allowed and approved, shall be governed under separate cover and in the absence of such manifest approval will not be allowed, except for reimbursement for monies spent and documented for church purposes.

No person shall be invited to speak, teach or minister in the Church without the Senior Pastor's approval, except that the board shall be notified of, and exercise approval of, any honorarium. He may be designated attorney in-fact for the Church by virtue of his office. He shall have the authority, with prior approval of the Board, to approve, appoint or remove any associates, assistants and staff if it is deemed necessary to the proper implementation of the Lord's work. The Senior Pastor will not be responsible for the disbursement of any funds or the execution of any drafts or checks.

The Senior Pastor is a valued employee of the corporation and as such will not be a member of the board of directors. Neither will any other Pastor be such a member as they too are employees of the Corporation.

B. Selection

The selection of the Senior Pastor will be initiated by the appointment, by the board of directors, of a Pastoral Search Committee who will conduct the process for selection and will make recommendation to the board of directors of the top three candidates if plausible. If there are not three viable candidates to recommend, those that are viable shall be forwarded to the board of directors. After board consideration, which may include further interviews or presentations by the candidates before the congregation, the finalist will be presented to the congregation at a general membership meeting for ratification. The ratification will be a yes/no ballot with the members name affixed.

C. Tenure

As an employee of the corporation the Senior Pastor is an "at will" employee. Because of the complexity and magnitude of the office of Senior Pastor the tenure and terms will be governed by contract.

ARTICLE IV

COUNCIL OF ELDERS Elders are discerners and guardians of the church. They are not expected to oversee specific projects or ministry areas in their capacity as elders. They are overseers of the entire church. The elders evaluate the effectiveness and direction of the church according to the mission, resources and doctrine.

In light of the increased expectations imposed upon elders and their families, it is believed to be wise to choose elders who have continued in their first marriages. The only exception to this would be in the case of a widow(er) or a man person who has never been married.

A. Responsibility and Authority

The function of the Council of Elders will be primarily for the spiritual growth of the congregation. They will act in an advisory capacity to the Senior Pastor in all matters

pertaining to the church body in its spiritual life. (Acts 14:23; Acts 20:20-35; Philippians 1:1; I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-5)

The Council of Elders will provide guidance and direction as requested by the Senior Pastor, at any meetings within ANCC.

Additional duties of the Elders will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1) The examination of applicants for membership according to Article VI.
- 2) The administration of discipline according to the provisions of the By-Laws.
- 3) Assistance in ministering of the church ordinances, services, and prayer.
- 4) Ministry to the sick and those in need of spiritual need spiritual edification and encouragement.
- 5) Other duties as may be requested by the Senior Pastor for the spiritual growth of ANCC and its membership, such as teaching, visiting, evangelizing, counseling, ordaining, licensing, commissioning, etc.

B. Qualifications, Selection, and Term of Service

Elders will be appointed from the congregation and will meet the scriptural qualifications described in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1, including regular attendance, evidence of tithing, active membership, and be committed to the ministry and leadership of ANCC. The Senior Pastor will serve as Senior Elder with full voting privileges and will preside at all meetings.

There will be a minimum of six (6) Elders, exclusive of the Senior Pastor. The appointment of an Elder will be upon the recommendation of the Senior Pastor and approval by majority vote of all current Elders constituting a quorum at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose. The initial Council of Elders will be selected by the board of directors with recommendations of the Pastor from those nominated by the congregation at a general membership meeting.

An Elder shall retain his office by virtue of his moral and spiritual fidelity to Jesus Christ, to the local church, and to the duties invested in the office of Elder. Elders shall be reviewed annually as to their continuing service, their commitment to the ministry, response to the direction and leadership of the Senior Pastor, their living Godly lives, faithfully serving ANCC, giving to ANCC, and attending ANCC.

C. Removal from Office and Vacancies

Moral and doctrinal offenses by Elders will be addressed in accordance with I Timothy 5:19-20. Removal of an Elder from office may be accomplished by the recommendation of the Senior Pastor and a two-thirds majority vote of the remaining Elders constituting a quorum at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose.

Vacancies occurring because of death, resignation, or removal from office will be filled at the next or regular or special Elder meeting when a candidate can be recommended by the Senior Pastor, and according to the selection procedures described in paragraph B, above.

ARTICLE V

COUNCIL OF DEACONS Deacons are servants of the congregation and thus the Senior Pastor and spiritual leadership, who have distinguished themselves by their spiritual maturity and congregational ministry, their desire and gift of service, and membership of ANCC in good standing.

A. Responsibility and Authority

Deacons will serve as servants to the following at ANCC according to the traditions of Pentecostal church history and as described in Acts 6:1-6. Their primary emphasis will be to support the leadership of ANCC and to be committed to the spiritual and physical welfare of the congregation. The responsibilities of the Deacon include, but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Serve with Senior Pastor and Council of Elders as directed.
- 2) Ushering for each corporate service, which includes the collection of offerings and assistance in the administration of ordinances.
- 3) Participation in various lay ministry areas within ANCC, such as the care of buildings and grounds, logistical support at services, assistance at social functions, education and child care, missions and benevolence opportunities.
- 4) Leading small groups, ministering helps, networking and with community service organizations and groups, evangelism, and helping with activities which are designed to meet the temporal, secular, or social needs and concerns
- 5) Any other activities related to their calling as directed by the Senior Pastor and Council of Elders.

B. Qualifications, Selection, and Term or Service

All Deacons must be active members of ANCC and meet the scriptural standard as set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-6, including regular attendance, evidence of tithing, willingness to serve and be committed to ANCC's leadership and ministry.

Each year, the Council of Elders and the Senior Pastor will act as a Nominating Committee, presenting Deacon candidates on which active members will vote. Suggested nominations may also be received ahead of time from active members for the Council of Elders and Senior Pastor consideration.

Deacons must be recommended by the Senior Pastor and will be elected to office by a simple majority vote of the active members of ANCC constituting a quorum at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose.

There will be a minimum of three (3) elected Deacons serving rotating terms of three (3) years each, and who may not succeed themselves to office. Each year, one-third of the positions will expire and election will be held according to the provisions above. Any additional Deacon positions will serve comparable terms of office.

Deacon positions may be created or eliminated upon the recommendation of the Senior Pastor and confirmed by the majority vote of the Council of Elders constituting a quorum at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose.

C. Removal from Office and Vacancies

A Deacon may be removed from office, with or without cause, upon the recommendation of the Senior Pastor and a two-thirds majority vote of the Council of Elders constituting a quorum at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose.

Vacancies occurring because of death, resignation, or removal from office will be filled as soon as feasible by election at a regular or special meeting of the Council of Elders, with the new Deacon resuming the remainder of the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VI

MEMBERS. Any person who subscribes to the Statement of Faith, as set forth in Article X of this constitution, abides by this constitution and the bylaws of the corporation and amendments thereto, and satisfies all other requirements for membership as the Senior Pastor, council of elders and the board of directors may establish, may become a member of the corporation subject to the submission of their application by the council of elders, approval by the board of directors and final approval by the Senior Pastor.

ARTICLE VII

BOARD COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS. The policy-making powers of the corporation shall be vested in the **board council** of directors, which shall have charge, control and management of the policies, property, affairs and funds of the corporation, deferring where business, legal and fiduciary responsibilities permit, to the vision of the Senior Pastor. They shall determine compliance with the corporation's stated purposes, and shall have the power and authority to do and perform all acts or functions not inconsistent with applicable law, this Constitution or the By-Laws of the corporation, and shall have all other powers and duties set forth in the By-Laws of the corporation.

ARTICLE VIII

ADVISORY COUNCIL. The advisory council shall advise the board of directors on matters relating to the policies, property, affairs and funds of the corporation and on any additional matters on which the council of directors requests advice in accordance with, and as provided by, the By-Laws of the corporation.

ARTICLE IX

OFFICERS. The officers of the corporation shall be established in accordance with the By-Laws of the corporation.

ARTICLE X

STATEMENT OF FAITH. The programs and activities governing the form of worship of ALL NATIONS COMMUNITY CHURCH OF HOMEWOOD, INCORPORATED shall be based upon, and at all times shall be consistent with, the following creed and beliefs:

A. THE SCRIPTURES. The Bible is the inspired Word of God, the product of Holy Men of old who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. The New Covenant, as recorded in the New Testament, we accept as our infallible guide in matters pertaining to conduct and doctrine (*II Timothy 3:16; I Thessalonians 2:13; II Peter 1:21*).

B. THE GODHEAD. Our God is One, but is manifested in three persons—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (*Philippians 2:6; Matthew 3:16-17*).

God the Father is greater than all; the Source of the Word (*Logos*) and the Begetter (*John 14:28; John 16:28; John 1:14*).

Jesus is the Son of God, One with the Father, the Word flesh-covered, the One Begotten, and has existed with the Father from the beginning (*John 1:1; John 1:18; John 1:14; John 10:30*).

The Holy Spirit proceeds forth from both the Father and the Son and is eternal (*John 15:26*).

C. MAN, HIS FALL AND REDEMPTION. Man is a created being, made in the likeness and image of God, but through Adam's transgression and fall, sin came into the world. "*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*" "*As it is written, there is none righteous, no not one.*" Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was manifested to undo the works of the devil, give His life and shed His blood to redeem and restore man back to God (*Romans 5:12; Romans 3:23; Romans 3:9-10; I John 3:8; Galatians 3:13,14*).

Salvation is the gift of God to man, separate from works and the law, and is made operative by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, producing works acceptable to God (*Ephesians 2:8*).

D. ETERNAL LIFE AND NEW BIRTH. Man's first step toward salvation is godly sorrow that worketh repentance. The new birth is necessary to all men, and when fulfilled produces eternal life (*II Corinthians 7:10; I John 5:12; John 3:3-5*).

E. WATER BAPTISM. Baptism in water is by immersion and is a direct commandment of our Lord, and is for believers only. The ordinance is a symbol of the Christian's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (*Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; Acts 8:36-39*).

The following recommendation regarding the Water Baptismal formula is adopted, to wit: "On the confession of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and by His authority, I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Ghost, Amen."

F. BAPTISM IN THE HOLY GHOST. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost and Fire is a gift from God as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to those who are believers in this dispensation and is received subsequent to the new birth. This experience is accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit Himself gives utterance (*Matthew 3:11; John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:38-39; Acts 19:1-7; Acts 2:4*).

G. SANCTIFICATION. The Bible teaches that without Holiness no man can see the Lord. We believe in the doctrine of sanctification as a definite, yet progressive work of grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation (*Hebrews 12:14; I Thessalonians 5:23; II Peter 3:18; II Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 3:12-14; I Corinthians 1:30*).

H. DIVINE HEALING. Healing is for the physical ills of the human body and is wrought by the power of God, through the prayer of faith, and by laying on of hands. It is provided for in the atonement of Christ, and it is the privilege of every member of the church today (*Mark 16:18; James 5:14-20; I Peter 2:24; Matthew 8:17; Isaiah 53:4-5*).

I. RESURRECTION OF THE JUST AND THE RETURN OF OUR LORD. The angels said, "*This same Jesus shall so come in like manner.*" His coming is imminent. When He comes, "*The dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.*" (*Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:16-17*).

Following the tribulation, He shall return to earth, as King of kings and the Lord of lords, and together with His Saints, who shall be kings and priests, He shall reign a thousand years (*Revelation 20:6*).

J. HELL AND ETERNAL RETRIBUTION. The one who physically dies in his sins without Christ is hopelessly and eternally lost in the lake of fire and, therefore, has no further opportunity of hearing the Gospel or for repentance. The lake of fire is literal. The terms "eternal" and "everlasting" used in describing the duration of the punishment of the damned in the lake of fire, carry the same thought and meaning of endless existence as used in noting the duration of joy and ecstasy of the saints in the presence of God (*Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 19:20; Hebrews 6:1-2*).

K. COMMUNION — THE LORD'S SUPPER. We partake of the Lord's Supper to show the Lord's death till He comes (*I Corinthians 11:23-31*). The bread symbolizes the Lord's broken body (*Isaiah 53:5; I Cor. 11:24*). The cup represents the new covenant in His blood which provides us forgiveness and relationship with God (*Hebrews 9; I Corinthians 11:25*). We judge ourselves and realize that this is our salvation and receive it (*I Cor. 11:28-30*) for if we receive it unworthily—without giving it honor as our salvation—we are guilty of the body and blood of the Lord (*I Cor. 11:27*).

L. LAYING ON OF HANDS. A simple belief that power or anointing or any other necessary quality can be transmitted from one person touching another. Laying on of hands was practiced by the Levitical Priesthood. Jesus practiced it in *Mark 10:13-16* as a blessing, and it is our grounds for baby dedication instead of baptism. Laying on of hands for healing (*Mark 5:22,23 and 41; Mark 5:28-31; Acts 28:8; Acts 19:11,12*); laying on of hands to confer office (*Acts 6:2-6*); laying on of hands to receive the Holy Ghost (*Acts 8:16-18*); laying on of hands to believe words spoken, to receive anointing and to cultivate the anointing (*I Timothy 4:14*); laying on of hands for ordination to consecrate and receive the necessary ministry tools (*I Timothy 4:14*).

M. TITHES AND OFFERINGS. The practice of tithes and offerings as taught in the Holy Scriptures, according to *Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; I Corinthians 16:1-2; II Cor. 9:6-8*.

N. THE CHURCH. The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a body of believers who assemble to worship, carry forth the Great Commission, and minister as the Holy Ghost leads them.

The believers should seek, as the early disciples did, to practice a separated life from the world and to Christ, will not practice or lead a life of sodomy, and to produce standards of conduct which will exalt our Lord and His Church.

The local church has a right to govern itself under the Lordship of Christ Jesus and, where it deems best for the life of the church and testimony of the Lord, may discipline in the Spirit of Love any member who departs from the principles set forth in the articles or whose conduct is contrary to the Spirit and practice of this body (*II Corinthians 6:17; Ephesians 5:11; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:17; Romans 12:1-3; Matthew 28:18-20; Eph. 1:22; Eph. 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23; Matt. 18:15-17; II Cor. 13:5-8; Rom. 1:18-32; Col. 3:5-17; I Cor. 3:16,17; I Cor. 5:7, 9-13, 6:1-20*).

ARTICLE VIII

EFFECTIVE DATE. The effective date of this constitution shall be October 19, 1987, the last amendments having been approved on May 27, 2008.

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS. This constitution may be amended only by the affirmative vote of a majority of directors in office at any regular or special meeting of the board of directors.