

ANEW CHURCH, INC.
OF ENID, OKLAHOMA
CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, AND ARTICLES OF FAITH

Whereas, it is our express purpose under God, who has called out of the world a saved people, of like mind and purpose, shall gather together as a local expression of the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Whereas, God having ordained and set into motion His universal church, joining together for fellowship, worship, discipleship, and evangelism, we shall pursue these purposes by whatever means possible.

Therefore, be it resolved that, we who have joined together and have become members of ANEW Church inc, established August 3rd, 2007 do recognize ourselves as a local assembly under the headship of our Lord Jesus Christ. We do adopt the following Articles of Faith, Constitution, and By-Laws, as the guidelines of church order.

These present Articles of Faith, Constitution, and By-Laws, supercede any, and all other Articles of Faith, Constitution, and By-Laws as guidelines for church government and incorporation.

Our Incorporation date is: **August 3rd, 2007**
Revised and approved articles 10-1-2010

signed _____


Marshall Billingslea President


Jesse Heath Vice-president


Jason Chapman Secretary / Treasurer

ARTICLE I

Name & Purpose

The name of this local body (church) shall be **Anew Church, Inc.** of Enid, Oklahoma.

The purpose of this body shall be:

- (a) To come together as a congregation or group, for the purpose of fellowship, worship, discipleship, and evangelism.
- (b) To establish a Biblical Christian church, with necessary instruction to educate, advance and encourage people to follow after the teachings of God as established in the 66 books of scripture, and to become fully devoted followers of Christ.
- (c) To work in cooperation with other ministries in the body of Christ, who share a like vision.

ARTICLE II

Form of Government:

Our final decision making process can be best described as a "Theocratic Republic". Theocratic in that we are ultimately governed by God, and His word. Republic in the sense that the selected leaders (who represent the congregation) will make decisions as a team. We will not be reduced to a Dictatorship (the rule of one) or a Democracy (rule of many by popular vote). There will not be a great divide between "clergy" and "laity". We believe in the priesthood of the believer according to 1 Peter 2:5-9. We also believe in the Leadership roles given by Paul in the New Testament. The Sr. leader (Pastor) was called by God to set things in order according to Titus 1:5, and 1 Cor. 11:34.

Official board of directors:

(a) There shall be at least 3 official (legal) officers on the board of Anew church inc. including the President, Vice- president, and Secretary/ treasurer. These officers shall serve a term of one year and may be re-instated indefinitely. They will meet quarterly or as needed to address any legal matters. These officers shall be responsible for all legal matters of the church including assets, major purchases, or borrowing money. Other board members may be added or consulted as necessary.

(b) A "Directional team" (often referred to as Deacons, or Elders in traditional churches) shall serve as department heads, policy makers and overseers of regular monthly budget and staff decisions. These team members will meet each week and serve a term of one year. They may be re-instated indefinitely. Members of this team will be mature Christians who are able to make wise decisions about church business. They must meet the requirements for Partnership according to article 3. They will be appointed by the Sr. Pastor.

ARTICLE III

Partnership:

Any person who wishes to become a partner of ANEW Church must meet the criteria as set forth:

- (a) Be a born again believer (saved) and not be a member of any other organization which requires a secret oath or is involved in subversive doctrines or action. The candidate is to present his/her testimony to either: the Pastor(s), board, or congregation.
- (b) Follow and be in agreement with the Constitution, By-Laws, and Doctrine of ANEW Church.
- (c) Financially support the ministry by giving tithes and offerings in accordance with the scriptures.
- (d) Attend the services and meetings of the church unless physically unable to do so.
- (e) Voluntarily support the church with their talents, labor, and skills when necessary, in accordance with the scriptures.

Dismissal From Membership, Partnership, or leadership role:

Sometimes it becomes necessary to dismiss or remove a member from membership or an office they are maintaining. This is a hard task to perform and very unpleasant to all who are concerned. However, it becomes necessary when the following takes place:

- (a) A member is guilty of undermining the leadership or Pastor of the church, causing division, confusion, or lack of unity.
- (b) A member is guilty of immoral acts.
- (c) A member is guilty of breaking civil laws.
- (d) A member teaches, preaches, or in otherwise utters, written or verbal statements which are contrary to the established doctrine of the congregation.
- (e) A member ceases to otherwise meet the criteria of membership as stated.

Dismissal procedures will be conducted if a member fails to apologize and repent. Should the member repent and apologize, he/she will maintain a good status of membership.

Dismissal Procedure:

When it comes to the attention of the Pastor(s) or leadership that a member has committed something to question his/her maintaining membership status, the person in question will be asked to appear before the Directional team either verbally or in writing and give an explanation to the charge which has been leveled against him/her.

At no time will we condone gossip or hearsay. A person who is offended must go to that individual in person and try to reconcile before making the matter public (Mathew 18:15-17)

The charge MUST be presented in WRITING as well as verbally at the meeting. The Pastor(s) will then determine if a meeting with the leadership is necessary. Should a meeting become necessary, each party will be given ample opportunity to state their case in front of each other and in the presence of the Pastor(s) and Board at the same time. The Pastor(s) and Board will then decide what action, if any, is needed in the matter.

ARTICLE IV

Leadership eligibility and appointment:

Upon the establishment of ANEW Church, the group will recognize a Sr. Pastor who will appoint officers as necessary to allow proper functioning of the church business and ministries.

Status is determined by:

- (a) A leader must be sixteen (16) years of age or older.
- (b) A leader must have attended services on a continuous or regular basis.
- (c) A leader must be in good moral standing, not choosing to live a sinful lifestyle (willing to submit to a criminal background check in some cases, especially when working with finances or children)
- (d) A leader must financially support the church.
- (e) A leader must voluntarily serve in some area of ministry.
- (f) A leader must attend regular leadership meetings.

ARTICLE V

Meetings:

- (a) The Sr. Pastor shall be the ex-officio member of all committees, departments, and groups.
- (b) There shall at no time be any “secret” meeting(s), or any meeting not called and/or attended by the Pastor(s) and /or leadership team. Any meeting of any group of individuals for the purpose of determining any legal function, policy, removal, or any decision which will effect the church in any way is divisive and illegal.
- (c) Meetings will be posted in writing for a period of at least, but no less than, one (1) week before the meeting is held. This meeting will also be announced from the pulpit by the Pastor(s) or leadership team. The time period and written notice shall be exempt when emergency meetings are necessary.
- (d) The purpose, time, date, and place for the meeting will also be stated. This is also the regulation for all departments in the church. Department leaders are responsible for meetings in their departments and a written report on the meeting shall be submitted to the church Secretary for the records of the church.
- (e) Business meetings shall be held at least one (1) time per year and will be open to all Members. The business meetings shall be Closed meetings. No visitors shall attend Business meetings.
- (f) Special meetings, or emergency meetings shall be held as necessary and called by the Pastor(s) or a Board member as described in points (a) and (b) in this article.

ARTICLE VI

Finances:

The church shall be funded by the giving of Tithes and free will offerings. All money will be collected and counted by appointed ushers. The monies will then be recorded and deposited by the book keeper. Their will always be at least two, but not more than 4 signers on the church bank account. Monthly budgets and quarterly reports will be made public to partners who contribute Tithes and offerings. An annual auditing will be conducted by a third party.

Paid staff:

The staff of the church will include but not be limited to: Sr. Pastor, assistant or associate Pastor(s), Worship leader / music minister, Children's Pastor, Church Secretary and/or treasurer, and any officer as is necessary for the operation of the church as the church designates. Independent contractors may be hired for various labor or services.

The Pastor(s):

- #1 The Sr.Pastor shall be the president of the corporation and chairman of the board.
- #2 The Sr. Pastor shall maintain spiritual and administrative over site of the church.
- #3 The Pastoral staff will provide for all services of the local church and shall arrange for all special meetings, baptisms, communion, weddings, funerals, and fellowships with other churches.
- #4 No person shall be invited to speak, pass out any kind of materials, preach, or teach without the specific permission of the Pastoral staff.
- #5 The Pastor(s) will be the Ex-officio member of any and all committees, departments, and groups affiliated with the church.
- #6 The Sr. Pastor shall have the executive option of selecting (hiring or firing) of any person to occupy any paid position (staff member) in the church.
- #7 Any and all business meetings or meetings which will effect the operation of the church shall be called and conducted by the Sr. Pastor.

Pastoral Accountability:

- #1 The Sr. Pastor shall maintain legal ministerial credentials of license or ordination with a Biblically based Christian (501 c 3) entity.
- #2 The Sr. Pastor will meet with the directional team weekly and the board of directors quarterly. Major decisions will not be made independently, secretly, or without team consultation.
- #3 Networking with other Pastors and regular meetings with other ministry leaders outside of our church on a regular basis is mandatory.
- #4 The Pastor(s) term of office shall be annually confirmed by the leadership team.
- #5 Should the Pastor, or the leadership team decide his/her ministry is ineffective, he/she may resign after giving a one month notice in writing.

Pastor(s) Provisions:

The following are considerations the church body will pursue.

- (a) The Pastor(s) shall have an allotment for housing, if there is no parsonage, (rent, utilities, telephone (cell phone), and vehicle expenses.
- (b) The Pastor(s) shall be expected to attend conventions, revivals, mission trips, minister meetings, retreats, and other events which may enhance, refresh, or promote the ministry of the Pastor(s). These are not counted as vacation time.
- (c) The Pastor(s) shall be paid a salary which is comparable to but not limited to the wage average of the over all community. (This information can usually be found at the Chamber of Commerce Office.)
- (d) The church will provide a monthly expense account for the Pastor(s).

ARTICLE VII

Aquiring Assets and property:

- (a) Real property (land, buildings, etc) will be approved for purchase and use by the board of directors.
- (b) Upon purchases of assets, the church shall keep inventory of all property and list serial numbers when available for insurance purposes.
- (c) Any property or equipment on loan to the church will be the responsibility of the owner of that property.

Disposition of Property:

- (a) In the case of organic division (church split) of the membership of the church, the property of the church shall belong to the division of those members who abide by these by-laws regardless of majority.
- (b) Should a condition arise at any time in the future when, for any reason the church should not be able to continue ministry, the church assets, property, equipment, and/or monies, shall be sold. All indebtedness shall be paid with the funds which have been accumulated by the sale of said properties, equipment, monies, and/or assets.
- (c) Any funds in excess of the indebtedness shall be donated to a non-profit organization that is engaged in furthering the ministry of Christ. This will be determined by the Pastor(s) and leadership team at the time of dissolution.

ARTICLE VIII

Doctrines of faith:

What We Believe

Anew Church is built on a core set of beliefs that we call our Essential Beliefs. These are the beliefs in which we have unity and on which we base our fundamental decisions.

God

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are coequal and are one God.

Genesis 1:1,26,27,3:22 Psalm 90:2 Matthew 28:19

1 Peter 1:2 2 Corinthians 13:14

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is coequal with the Father and Holy Spirit. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven and will return again someday to earth to reign as King.

Matthew 1:22,23 Isaiah 9:6 John 1:1-5,14:10-30 Hebrews 4:14-15

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 Romans 1:3-4 Acts 1:9-11 1 Timothy 6:14-15 Titus 2:13

About the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is coequal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer spiritual gifts when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily.

Acts 1:8 1 Corinthians 3:17 John 16:7-13,14:16-17 Galatians 5:25

1 Corinthians 2:12,3:16 Ephesians 1:13,5:18

About the Bible

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs about living. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without error.

2 Timothy 3:16, 1:13 2 Peter 1:20-21 Psalm 119:105, 160, 12:6

Proverbs 30:5

About Human Beings

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". Sin separates us from God and causes many problems in our life.

Genesis 1:27 Psalm 8:3-6 Isaiah 53:6a

Romans 3:23 Isaiah 59:1-2

About Salvation

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

Romans 6:23 Ephesians 2:8-9 John 14:6, 1:2

Titus 3:5 Galatians 3:26 Romans 5:1, 10:9-10

About Eternity

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated

from God is hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life in Heaven. Heaven and hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16, 14:17 Romans 6:23, 8:17-18

Revelation 20:15 1 Corinthians 2:7-9

In addition to Essential Beliefs, we uphold the following:

In Non-Essential Beliefs, we have liberty. Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls... So then each of us will give an account of himself to God... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.

In All our Beliefs, we show charity. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

Romans 14:1,4,12,22 1 Corinthians 13:2

ARTICLE IX

Additions and Deletions:

Amendments shall be made to the constitution and by-laws by the leadership team at public meetings. All who are concerned with the changes shall be notified in writing by the church Secretary.