

CONSTITUTION OF THE ORANGE ALLIANCE CHURCH

ARTICLE I.

Name: This church shall be known as the Orange Alliance Church of Orange, Vermont.

ARTICLE II.

Confession of Faith: We believe in God the Father Almighty, The Being of absolute perfection, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of the Universe, who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, our Lord, who was in the beginning with God and was God; who became man and suffered to take away the sin of the world; in whom alone we have redemption, being justified freely through faith in his blood, who rose from the dead and ascended on high, and sits at the right hand of the Father, whence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead, when the wicked “shall go away into everlasting punishment and the righteous into life eternal.” We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, through whom alone we, being by nature children of wrath, are renewed and sanctified, by whose inspiration the Scriptures were given, who with the Father and Son, together are one, supremely to be loved and served, and alone to be adored. We believe in the Holy catholic (one true holy) church, and the communion of the saints.

ARTICLE III.

Membership: Qualification for membership shall consist of the following:

Confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, baptism into the name of the Triune God, satisfactory evidence of regeneration in the life and a Biblical lifestyle, a hearty acceptance of the doctrine as stated in Article II of this constitution, regular

attendance, and support of the church; or by letter of transfer from another church of like purity. Members who in doctrine or life no longer evidence the above qualifications for membership shall come under the discipline of the elders. There is no minimum age for membership, providing the person can satisfactorily express his faith to the elders; however, only members aged 18 or over may vote on church issues.

Any member in good and regular standing wishing to transfer his membership to a church of like purity may receive upon request a letter of transfer.

Members will be encouraged annually to review a membership covenant acknowledging the above requirements.

Members may be placed on an inactive status if there is a lack of regular involvement.

Inactive members will not be eligible to vote on church issues. If after being placed on inactive status there is no observable change within one year then names may be removed from the membership roll.

ARTICLE IV

Ordinances recognized are:

- (a) Baptism, which is entrance into the church.
- (b) The Lord's supper (communion), which shall be properly administered according to the Scriptures.
- (c) Marriage, which is the union of a man and a woman in a covenant relationship, representing the relationship between Christ and His church. Christian marriages between believing men and women are encouraged, and will be performed at the discretion of the pastor when requested.

ARTICLE V.

Officers: The officers shall be as follows: Pastors (also referred to as teaching elders), Elders, and Ministry Board. With the exception of the pastor, they shall be appointed by the incumbent board of elders and confirmed by vote of the active members, based on the qualifications given below.

(a) Pastor: The pastor is charged with the preaching and teaching of the whole counsel of God to the flock; together with the elders, he is charged with the oversight of the church; and is charged with equipping the members for ministry. He shall be called by the congregation to serve for an indefinite period. He may resign from this pastorate by giving due notice of his intentions to the congregation. The pastor may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the members of the congregation. The District Superintendent of the Christian and Missionary Alliance shall be kept informed of the calling and/or resignation of the pastor.

(b) Elders: The elders shall be members of the Orange Alliance Church, appointed to join with the pastor in the leading, governing, and discipline of the church. They shall be men who meet the qualifications of shepherd elders as defined in I Timothy 3, Titus 1, and I Peter 5, and thus be qualified to protect, lead, feed, and care for the flock. The pastor is considered a teaching elder.

Number: The biblical model requires a plurality of eldership. The incumbent board of elders will therefore seek to continue leadership, as vacancies occur or as the need arises, with men who have a strong desire to lead and who meet the

character qualities listed in the above Scripture references. This in turn places great responsibility on the incumbent board to intentionally identify and invest in future elders in order to meet the spiritual needs of the congregation.

Assignment: In evaluating candidates for elders, the incumbent elder board shall give due consideration to individuals suggested by the members. Each nominated elder shall be confirmed by the membership as follows:

~ Announcement and presentation of one or more nominated elders will be made to the church during either a Sunday morning service or a special meeting called for this purpose.

~ Following a period of at least two weeks, which allows for consideration and the opportunity for members to provide feedback to the elders if appropriate, the active members may indicate by silent ballot, in a church meeting held according to Article VII, their willingness to follow the leadership of the nominated elder(s) (Hebrews 13:17).

~ If evidence of unwillingness to follow occurs, the incumbent elders shall determine the validity of the objection(s).

~ If it is determined that the nominated elder is unqualified to serve, the nomination shall be set aside.

Duration: Once appointed, an elder may serve one or two three-year terms. After two terms, he will be required to take a minimum of one year off before being eligible for re-election. An elder who is filling out the term of another elder who has stepped aside may still serve an additional two terms before leaving the board. An elder's term may end before the completion of the three years if any of the

following occurs:

- ~ membership in the Orange Alliance Church ceases for any reason;
- ~ he voluntarily resigns the position of elder;
- ~ the other elders unanimously agree that he has failed to uphold the qualifications listed above such that his spiritual leadership is affected;
- ~ he is removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the members of the congregation.

If an elder needs time away from the responsibilities of the position for personal reasons, he may do so at any time with the concurrence of the remaining elders.

Evaluation: Each elder, including the pastor, will be evaluated by the other elders on an annual basis, to identify and address issues which could affect the man's leadership.

- (c) Ministry Board: The ministry board shall be the corporate directors of the church, overseeing budget, finances, and major policies under the leadership and direction of the Board of Elders. The ministry board shall consist of representatives of major ministries, including but not limited to: Elders, Deaconate, Trustees, Missions, Discipleship Committee. This board shall also include the Clerk, Treasurer and/or Assistant Treasurer, and two elected members-at-large. This board will also be responsible for the appointing of an auditing committee to audit the funds of the church annually. Any individual unbudgeted expenditure of funds by the Ministry Board in excess of one and a half percent (0.015) of the general fund fiscal year budget must be approved by the congregation.

ARTICLE VI

Administrative Officers: The congregation shall elect the following officers, according to the gifts of helps, to assist in the administration of the church:

Clerk

Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer

These shall be nominated by a nominating committee appointed by the elders. All nominations will be confirmed by the elders prior to being presented for election for a term of one year at the annual meeting of the congregation.

- (a) Clerk: The clerk shall keep the minutes of the church congregational and trustees' meetings, the membership roll, and shall conduct the correspondence of the church under the direction of the elders and trustees. His records shall be the property of the church.
- (b) Treasurer: The treasurer shall receive all monies of the church except those funds separately established and maintained for specific purposes. He/she shall pay all bills on the order of the elders and/or Ministry Board. He/she shall keep an accurate record of all receipts, payment of bills and any other transactions he is directed to make. The treasurer's records shall be the property of the church, and shall be audited annually by a committee appointed by the ministry board.
- (c) Assistant Treasurer: The assistant treasurer will aid the treasurer as needed and act as treasurer in his/her absence.

Committees:

- (a) Trustees: The board of trustees shall consist of no fewer than three members elected for a term of three years at the annual meeting of the congregation, and such other members as appointed by the above-constituted board. Terms should be staggered to provide continuity within the board. The trustees shall be custodians of all properties both real and personal. The trustees shall compose and submit a proposed trustees' budget to the Ministry Board to be included with the full church budget to be acted upon at the annual meeting of the congregation. Their work shall be under the direction of the congregation.
- (b) Deacons and/or Deaconesses: The deacons and deaconesses shall have charge of the charities of the church and will be responsible for disbursing funds designated for that purpose. These distributions may be both internal (for church members/attendees) and external (for members of the local community not attending the church). Policies for disbursing funds to non-members/attendees shall be jointly determined by the deacons/deaconesses and the elders. Deacons/deaconesses must be members of the Orange Alliance Church who meet the qualifications of ministry and leadership as defined in I Timothy 3. They shall be nominated by the nominating committee, and all nominations will be confirmed by the elders prior to being presented to the congregation for election for three-year terms. No deacon/deaconess shall serve more than two consecutive terms without taking at least one year off. Terms should be staggered to provide continuity within the board.
- (c) Missions Committee: The missions committee shall consist of a pastor or an elder and no fewer than three members at large elected by the congregation at the

annual meeting for terms of three years (less than three years when necessary to maintain staggered terms), and such other members as appointed by the above-constituted committee. Their purposes shall be: the appropriation of mission monies to selected organizations; to inform the congregation of general missionary enterprise and needs; to promote the personal call for missionary involvement; to engage the church in local evangelistic outreach; and to respond to particular needs within the community consistent with the spirit of the Great Commission.

The missions committee shall maintain its own financial records and correspondence, and submit a budget at the annual meeting in cooperation with the church treasurer, having chosen from among the committee a clerk and treasurer, excluding the pastor and elder.

(d) Discipleship Committee: The role of the Discipleship Committee is to oversee the ministries of the Church whose goal is the building up of the adults, teens, and children of our congregation spiritually. They are to work with the elders in the development and administration of such ministries. This committee should consist of representatives of all existing discipleship ministries (e.g., youth ministry, Christian Life and Service School – C.L.A.S.S.), and a Pastor or Elder. All leaders and teachers should be members in good and regular standing and their names shall be submitted to the elders for approval. The nominating committee shall nominate, and the elders shall approve, the appointment of the Discipleship Director.

ARTICLE VII.

Government: The elders are the duly ordained ruling officers in the church and shall conduct the work of the church. There shall be an annual meeting of the congregation to hear reports of officers and organizations, to elect officers as listed in Article VI, to adopt the annual budget and to conduct any other business to properly come before the congregation.

A Quorum, which shall consist of 50% of those members eligible to vote, shall be necessary to conduct any business at a congregational meeting. All members in good and regular standing 18 years of age and older are entitled to vote on all issues.

A special meeting of the congregation may be called for a specific purpose by the elders, ministry board, or trustees, or 5% of the membership. Written notice of all congregational meetings must be given to the members at least 10 days in advance. Such notice shall state the date, time and place of the meeting and in the case of special meetings, the specific purpose.

ARTICLE VIII.

All organizations or committees within the administrative or spiritual function of the church shall be accountable to the elders and responsive to the congregation. The leadership shall be approved or appointed by the elders. The existence and task of such is subject to and in conformity to the teaching of Scripture. Non-elected leadership roles, excluding the officers as defined in Article V, may be filled by members of Orange Alliance Church, or of any Alliance church which has the same standards of membership screening as this one. The elders and/or congregation shall be periodically informed of activities and programs.

A Policies and Procedures Manual shall be maintained by the Ministry Board which will provide specifications and guidelines for the various administrative officers and committees. All additions and changes to this manual shall be reviewed and approved by the Ministry Board. All members shall be provided with the original document and with subsequent changes.

ARTICLE IX.

Property: This Church may acquire, own, dispose of, improve, encumber and convey property, real and personal, for Church purposes, in conformity with the laws of the State.

ARTICLE X.

Amendments: This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the active members of the congregation.

ARTICLE XI.

Bylaws: Bylaws not in conflict with the provisions of this Constitution may be adopted by the annual meeting of the church.

Adopted January 17, 1977, to become effective February 1, 1977, with the exception of Articles VI, Article VI(b) and Article VIII.A which were amended May 8, 1985, and Article VI(d) which was added May 8, 1985. Also Article VI, Article VI(b), (c), and VI(d) which were amended May 6, 1992. Also Article V(b) and Article V(c) which were amended May 5, 1993. Articles III, V, VI(b), VII, and VIIIA amended May 23, 2002. Article VI(d),(e) amended April 14, 2009. Article IV(c) amended April 14, 2010. Article VIII and VIIIA amended October 23, 2011. Articles III, V, VI, VII, and VIII, as well as other miscellaneous changes, amended February 17, 2013.