

CONSTITUTION
AND
BYLAWS



EMMANUEL
—BAPTIST CHURCH—

1314 State Route 254 • Millville, PA 17846

Amended on October 14, 2020

ARTICLE I: CHURCH GOVERNMENT2
ARTICLE II: CHURCH MEMBERSHIP4
ARTICLE III: TRANSACTING CHURCH BUSINESS6
ARTICLE IV: CHURCH POLICIES.....7
ARTICLE V: DOCTRINAL POSITION9
ARTICLE VI: POSITIONS12
ARTICLE VII: DISSOLUTION14
ARTICLE VIII: CHURCH COVENANT15

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

OUR BELIEF: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

OUR AMBITION: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth...For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.” (2 Timothy 2:15 and Acts 20:27)

OUR AIM: “...which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” (Colossians 1:27b–28)

WHAT WE ARE: The Emmanuel Baptist Church of Columbia County is an independent, Bible-believing, fundamental, separated Baptist church, preaching the whole counsel of God, stressing soul-winning, godly Christian living and earnestly contending for the faith. We highly prize the fellowship of believers of like precious faith based upon sincerity, truth and love. We invite all to come and see the difference.

ARTICLE I: CHURCH GOVERNMENT

1. **FISCAL YEAR:** The fiscal year begins on October 1st of each year.
2. **REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING:** The second Wednesday night of each quarter will be the regular meeting date for the transaction of business. This date may be changed temporarily in case of more important matters, such as evangelistic meetings, Bible conferences, etc.
3. **CHURCH OFFICES:** Church offices will consist of:
 - a. Pastor
 - b. Assistant Pastor(s)
 - c. Deacons
 - d. Church Secretary
 - e. Church Treasurer
 - f. Assistant Church Treasurer
 - g. Sunday School Superintendent
 - h. Assistant Sunday School Superintendent
4. **TERMS OF OFFICE:**
 - a. The pastor is elected indefinitely. He shall serve as long as he feels led of God to serve, and as long as he does his duty and serves efficiently.
 - b. All officers except pastor(s) and deacons shall be elected for a term of one year.
 - c. Each deacon shall be elected for a two-year term.

- d. Any officer who is elected after the regular yearly election shall serve until the next election.

5. REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICE:

- a) The pastor(s) and deacons are to meet the requirements laid down in the New Testament for each office (1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6:1–7). Only men who meet the requirements of being blameless, both he and his wife not having been divorced, and exemplifying godliness in both their character and family are to be elected to these offices. The pastor and deacons shall expect the hearty cooperation of each church member as they serve at Emmanuel Baptist Church.
- b) All the other officers of the church must meet the approval of the pastor, deacons, and the congregation. Each officer of the church, and of the various organizations of the church, must subscribe completely to this Constitution, bylaws, and the doctrinal statement, as well as be members in good standing of this local church. We believe that the New Testament places the church above any other organization; therefore, their first allegiance must be to the church.
- c) All appointments made by the pastor and deacons shall be for a period of one year.

6. **DEACONS:** The deacons shall serve as trustees for Emmanuel Baptist Church. Two deacons shall be designated to sign all official documents.

7. **TREASURER:** The treasurer will make a quarterly report of all receipts and disbursements to the church at the regular business meetings.

8. **SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS:** The pastor and Sunday School superintendent with the approval of the deacons shall appoint the Sunday School teachers.
9. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** The pastor shall appoint a nominating committee, of which he is a member, for all officers and deacons. The church may accept or reject the recommendations of this committee.
10. **MODERATOR:** The pastor shall be moderator for all church meetings, but not for all organizations of the church. He may choose someone to act in his place if he desires.
11. **SPECIAL MEETINGS:** A special meeting may be called by notifying the pastor, deacons, and the church, and by receiving a majority vote of the pastor and deacons.

ARTICLE II: CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

1. **WHO MAY JOIN:** The membership consists of people who have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, who have been baptized by immersion, and who are willing to follow His commands as found in the Bible.
2. **HOW TO JOIN:**
 - a. Request membership
 - b. Fill out a membership questionnaire
 - c. Attend a membership meeting where you will be instructed concerning church doctrine, church government, and the individual member's responsibilities to this church.

- d. Meet with pastor and deacons—If approved, the candidate’s name will be presented to the church membership for a vote.
- e. The new member will be given the right hand of fellowship at a Sunday service.

3. OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP:

- a. Each member is expected to be in regular attendance at all services when possible.
- b. All members are urged to tithe and bring their tithes to the storehouse of God, which we believe is the local church.
- c. Absenteeism:
 - (a) Three–month absence: Any member who is absent from active fellowship, except for sickness or other valid reasons, for one church quarter, shall be placed on an Inactive List. He will be recognized as a member, but with a non–voting status. The member shall be informed in writing by the church secretary that this action has taken place. Active membership will be reinstated after a three–month period of faithful attendance at the regularly scheduled services.
 - (b) Six–month absence: Any member who is absent from the church for two consecutive church quarters, except for the cause of sickness or other valid reasons, shall automatically cease to be a member. If he requests a letter of transfer, it will be granted and will state the true status of the individual.
- d. Each member and officer shall be subject to the rules of this church.

4. **JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP:**

Junior membership shall consist of persons who meet the regular requirements for church membership, but who are less than 18 years of age. Junior members shall not have voting privileges. Junior membership will be automatically terminated when the junior member becomes 18 years old. Junior members who submit a request to the pastor and deacons, will upon approval of the pastor and deacons, become active members.

ARTICLE III: TRANSACTING CHURCH BUSINESS

1. Conducting normal church business:

- a. A church quorum of 33 percent must be present to transact all legal business, except when voting on a pastor, then the quorum must be 50 percent. Nonresident and shut-in members are not to be counted when figuring the percentage required for a quorum.
- b. A majority vote of members present is required for all matters except the election of pastor(s), deacons, and making changes in the constitution.
- c. Election of deacons, and making changes to the church constitution: A two-thirds vote of all members voting is required.
- d. Election of pastor(s): A three-quarters vote of all members voting is required.

ARTICLE IV: CHURCH POLICIES

1. **CHURCH CONTROL:** The church shall control all organizations within the church.
2. **OPEN BOOKS:** The books of the church and of every organization within the church shall be open to every member of the congregation.
3. **FUNDRAISING:** We believe that neither the church nor any organization within the church should use worldly practices to raise money for spiritual purposes. Instead, we will use the biblical practices of tithing and the giving of offerings (Leviticus 27:30–32; Malachi 3:8–10; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8 and 9; Hebrews 7:8).
4. **DISCIPLINE:** The following passages of Scripture plainly teach that church discipline is proper (Matthew 18:15–18; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Corinthians 2:4–8; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; Titus 3:10; 2 John 10, 11; Galatians 6:1). We believe that it is our solemn duty to obey these Scriptures if we expect to receive God's blessings.

When discipline of a member becomes necessary, a discipline committee shall be formed which will consist of the pastor(s) and deacons. This committee shall be responsible to examine accusations regarding heretical deviations from the Statement of Faith, and violations of the church covenant and constitution. If a pastor or a deacon, or their spouse or immediate family member (i.e. parent, sibling, child) is the subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a member of the discipline committee.

Members who stand accused will be asked to appear before the discipline committee. Those who are brought before the discipline committee will be sent a

certified or registered letter, no less than 10 days in advance of this meeting, notifying them of the charges levied against them, and of the date, time and place of the meeting. In the meeting, an examination of the validity of the accusations alleged against them will take place. An individual who refuses to attend this meeting will be subject to be brought before the church for removal of his or her name through discipline. An individual who attends this meeting will be given the opportunity to explain his or her actions or evidence true remorse and repentance, after which the discipline committee will determine the appropriate course of action.

All accusations of a legal nature will be promptly reported to the appropriate civil authorities as required by local, state and federal law.

5. **EACH MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITY:** Each member, before being received into the church, is required to subscribe to the aforementioned principles and rules and adhere to the church covenant. If, after becoming a member, he should change his mind, we ask that he promise to have his name withdrawn from the membership roll.
6. **SUPPORTING OTHER MINISTRIES:**
(see also doctrinal section on Separation)
 - a. No unscriptural groups or movements will be allowed to preach, teach or entertain in this church.
 - b. All special speakers, missionaries, visiting groups and other organizations must meet the approval of the pastor and deacons. Those performing the pastoral role of preaching must meet the qualifications of a pastor or deacon as detailed in Article I: Requirements for Office.

- c. No other Bible except the King James version will be used from which to preach or teach in this church.
- d. No outside literature, books, pamphlets or tracts will be used or distributed within this church without first being approved by the pastor and deacons as to content and soundness.

ARTICLE V: DOCTRINAL POSITION

1. **CONCERNING THE SCRIPTURES:** We believe in the verbal, plenary (full) inspiration and authority of the Scriptures. We believe that the Bible reveals God, the fall of man, the way of salvation, and God's plan and purpose in the ages (2 Peter 1:20–21; 2 Timothy 3:16–17). We also maintain that the King James Bible is the best representation of the original Scriptures in the English language today, and therefore the very Word of God.
2. **CONCERNING GOD:** We believe there is one God eternally existent in Three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16–17; Matthew 28:19; 1 John 5:7).
3. **CONCERNING JESUS CHRIST:** We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His shed blood for the atonement of sin, His bodily resurrection, and His bodily ascension into Heaven to be our Intercessor (John 1:1; John 10:30; Matthew 1:21–23; Hebrews 10:10; Luke 24:39; Acts 1:10–11; Hebrews 7:25).
4. **CONCERNING THE CREATION AND FALL OF MAN:** We believe that God created man in His own image and that man came into the world by direct creation of God and not by the process of evolution. We believe that man was created in innocence, but that by voluntary

transgression he fell. We believe that all men are by nature and choice sinful and lost and have within themselves no possible means of salvation (Genesis 1:26–28; John 3:18–19).

5. **CONCERNING SALVATION:** We believe that salvation is by the grace of God apart from the works of man—the conditions are repentance and faith (Ephesians 2:8–9; Acts 4:12; Hebrews 6:1).
6. **CONCERNING JUSTIFICATION:** We believe that men are justified by faith alone and are accounted righteous before God only through the merit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).
7. **CONCERNING SATAN:** We believe in the existence and personality of Satan (Job 1:6–7; 1 Peter 5:8).
8. **CONCERNING THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST:** We believe in the visible, personal, pre-tribulational, pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:10, 11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–17).
9. **CONCERNING HEAVEN AND HELL:** We believe in the everlasting conscious punishment of the wicked in Hell and the everlasting conscious blessedness of the saints in Heaven (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:11–15).
10. **CONCERNING THE LOCAL CHURCH:** We believe that the local church is a group of born-again, baptized believers joined together for the purpose of carrying out the great commission (Matthew 28:19–20).
11. **CONCERNING THE ORDINANCES:** We believe that the two Scriptural ordinances given to the local church are baptism by immersion of believers only, and the Lord's Supper to be partaken by obedient Christians (Acts 8:37–39; 1 Corinthians 11:23–24).

12. **CONCERNING THE FREENESS OF SALVATION:** We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel. This rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation (John 5:39–40; 3:18–19; 1 Timothy 2:3–4).
13. **CONCERNING THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER:** We believe the Scriptures teach “once saved, always saved,” but that this does not mean the believer has the freedom to live as he pleases. We believe that all who are genuinely saved will live a life which distinguishes them from the world because they are kept by the power of God unto salvation (John 10:27–29; Romans 8; 1 Peter 1:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17 –18).
14. **CONCERNING BIBLICAL SEPARATION:**
- a. From Sin: Each born–again Christian has been called to holiness and godly living for fruitful service before the Lord (Romans 12:1 –3). We, therefore, determine to maintain a life-style that is separated from sinful and worldly practices (1 John 2:15–17) as being necessary for true discipleship and biblical fruitbearing (Matthew 13:8, 23; John 15:2, 5, 8).
 - b. From Religious Modernism and Apostasy: We recognize that we are in the “last days” before the Lord’s return and are, therefore, engaged in a great spiritual struggle (Ephesians 6:10–18). To maintain the purity of Bible doctrine and the Body of Christ, the Church, we earnestly determine by God’s grace to remain separate from all organizations, denominations, and movements associated with or affiliated with the National and World Councils of Churches and the National Association of

Evangelicals. We, furthermore, maintain that we cannot have any true fellowship nor make common cause with the unscriptural movements of today. They include the Pentecostal, Charismatic, Ecumenical, and Neo–Evangelical movements (Romans 16:17; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14; 1 Timothy 6:3–5).

ARTICLE VI: POSITIONS

1. **POSITION ON THE LORD’S DAY:** We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord’s Day and is to be kept sacred for Christian purposes by abstaining from all secular labor, except works of mercy and necessity (Matthew 12:1-12; Mark 2:27; Hebrews 10:25).
2. **POSITION ON INTOXICATING BEVERAGES:** We believe that the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and also the manufacture and sale of the same for that purpose, are contrary to Christian morals, injurious to personal piety, and a hindrance to the Gospel (Proverbs 20:1; Proverbs 23:29–30).
3. **POSITION ON PERSONAL SEPARATION:** We believe that the Bible teaches that a Christian is to be separated from the world. The grace of God teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world (Titus 2:11-12). The practical outworking of this principle means that Christians are expected to refrain from the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life (1 John 2:15-17), and that they should govern their entertainment choices by this principle whether it comes from television, music, movies, the internet or printed literature. Believers are expected to refrain from any sinful or questionable activities (i.e. gambling, tobacco, drug or alcohol use etc.).

4. **POSITION ON SECRET SOCIETIES:** We disapprove of Christians connecting themselves with secret, oath-bound societies which are construed by many as a substitute for salvation and church fellowship, as being needless, profitless, and an offense and grief to many good people, and not conducive to piety or Christian usefulness (2 Corinthians 6:14).

5. **POSITION ON MARRIAGE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY:** We believe that the institution of marriage was created and blessed by God (Genesis 1:26-28). According to the example of marriage found in Genesis, as well as the confirmation of God's design throughout the rest of the Bible (Romans 1), we believe that the marriage union is reserved for one man and one woman, and is meant to be a lifelong commitment as long as both the husband and wife shall live. All those who teach and preach within this church should acknowledge that God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16). Although the Scriptures regulate divorce, and permit it on the grounds of fornication (Matthew 19:9) and abandonment by an unbelieving spouse (I Corinthians 7:13-15), God's design for marriage is to be a permanent joining of a husband and wife for life (Matthew 19:4-6).

Furthermore we believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication (sexual relations prior to marriage), homosexuality, bisexuality, pedophilia, bestiality, incest, polygamy or any attempt to change one's gender is sinful and offensive to God. Anyone participating in any forms of immorality will not be permitted to join Emmanuel Baptist Church in membership, and any members committing such acts, and unwilling to repent, will be removed from the church membership through discipline.

ARTICLE VII: DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the church, the voting members shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the church, dispose of all the assets of the church to such organizations formed and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the members shall determine by majority vote of active members. Assets may be distributed only to tax-exempt organizations which agree with the church's Statement of Faith.

ARTICLE VIII: CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, His holy angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one Body of Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and to the spread of the Gospel throughout all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drink as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of the Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feelings and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with another church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.